

Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

October 2010, Number 193

Desert Plants for San Diego

SEE PAGES 3 AND 5

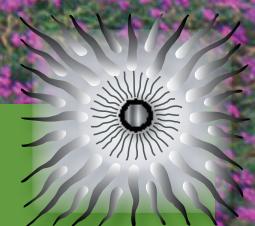
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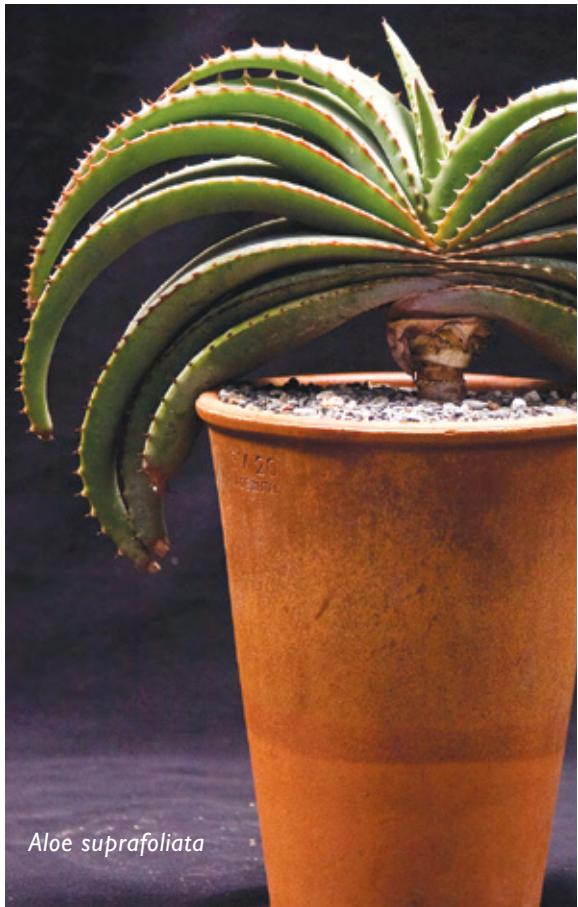
CAN YOU ID THIS PLANT?
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On the Cover: Arid zone plants



SAN DIEGO
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER MEETING PHOTOS BY JANINE FREE



Aloe suprafoliata



Cardiospermum halicacabum



Melaleuca sp. (bonsai form)

Continued on page 19

SDHS SPONSOR

The advertisement features the Gardner & Bloome logo at the top left, which includes the text "NATURAL • ORGANIC" and "GARDNER & BLOOME Health • Serenity Environment". Below the logo is a colorful illustration of various fruits and vegetables. The main headline reads "Introducing our NEW OMRI Listed NATURAL & ORGANIC FERTILIZERS FOR BEAUTIFUL BLOOMS & BOUNTIFUL CROPS". A paragraph below explains the benefits of their fertilizers. The OMRI Listed logo is present at the bottom left. On the right side, there is a red background with the text "Available in a variety of sizes!" above eight different fertilizer bags. The bags are labeled: "All Purpose Fertilizer", "Bud & Bloom Fertilizer", "Starter Fertilizer", "Rose & Flower Fertilizer", "Tomato, Vegetable & Herb Fertilizer", "Fruit Tree Fertilizer", "Rhododendron, Azalea & Camellia Fertilizer", and "Palm, Tropical & Hibiscus Fertilizer". The bags feature various floral and fruit illustrations. At the very bottom, there is a decorative border featuring various fruits and flowers.

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INSERTS: California Native Plant Society Plant Sale, Cuyamaca College, Calendar/Resources/Ongoing Events

COVER IMAGE: This Phoenix planting is by landscape architect Steve Martino. His designs incorporate unique architectural elements (usually brightly colored to offset the desert plantings), with various forms ranging from shark fin-like structures to fountains and wavy walls. Wendy Proud will have, "more photos to show how important it is to allow your imagination to be the only limit to creating amazing landscapes."

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 Jim Bishop at (619) 293-0166.

FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS IN 2010

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| October 17 | New Member Orientation, Poway (watch for an e-mail invitation) |
| October 30 | Pomegranate & Persimmon Picking, Valley Center
(watch for an e-mail invitation) |
| November 8 | From the Ground Up: Improving Your Soil (panel of experts) |
| December 13 | James Nieh on Communication Patterns of Bees |

www.SanDiegoHorticulturalSociety.org

Next Meeting: October 11, 2010, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

Topic: WENDY PROUD ON “DESERT PLANTS FOR SAN DIEGO

**Meeting is open and everyone is welcome. Admission: Members/free, Non-Members/\$10. Parking is free.
Meeting Place: Del Mar Fairgrounds, Surfside Race Place, Del Mar; Info: (760) 295-7089**

Join horticulturist Wendy Proud as she shares the newest group of drought tolerant plants to hit the market. Learn how desert-adapted plants can be the perfect solution to some of the most difficult situations and at the same time offer amazing beauty. With increasing water prices and limited supply, desert-adapted plants are a smart choice for landscapes in San Diego and throughout many parts of California. Come see the amazing diversity of desert-adapted plants for the San Diego landscape, from strong structural forms to soft, ferny textures. This presentation will discuss plant specifics, planting techniques, the importance of hydro-zoning, and examples of plant combinations, and will be followed by an opportunity drawing featuring very special plants.

Wendy was born and raised in southern California where she developed her passion for plants and gardening. At a very early age she enjoyed exploring the family garden of unusual cacti and succulents and many avocado trees. She has a degree from Cal Poly, Pomona and twenty years of experience in the retail and wholesale nursery business. Her career began at Nurseryland and continued at Colorama Nursery, specializing in perennial and annual bedding plants. She worked with Monrovia Growers and became a Grower in the production department, where she managed 125 acres, 100 employees and 300 plant varieties. Wendy also co-owned and operated a landscape design and installation company that promoted proper plant selection and organic gardening practices. While at Roger's Gardens she shared her knowledge of plants through seminars and a weekly cable show. Most recently, Wendy joined Mountain States Wholesale Nursery as their California Sales Representative. She hopes to continue to inspire others about the beauty and diversity of desert adapted plants from the Southwest and other desert like environments. Throughout her career, Wendy has done many plant presentations and is a past president of the Los Angeles chapter of the California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers.

To learn more visit www.mswn.com/index2.htm and see page 5. ☺



The Mission of the San Diego Horticultural Society

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

ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER 1994

SDHS BOARD MEMBERS

Jim Bishop – Membership Chair; Tour Committee

Judy Bradley – First Vice President,
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Mark Collins – Finance/Budget Committee

Carol Costarakis – Member at Large

Julian Duval – San Diego Botanic Garden representative

Susan Oddo - Publicity Coordinator

Ida Rigby – Tour Coordinator

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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@sdhortsoc.org

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

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BECOME A SPONSOR!

Do you own a garden-related business?

SDHS sponsorships have high recognition and valuable benefits, including a link to your website, discounts on memberships for your employees, and free admission to SDHS events. This is a wonderful way to show your support for the SDHS. Sponsors help pay for our monthly meetings, annual college scholarships, and other important programs. Sponsorships start at just \$100/year; contact Jim Bishop at sponsor@sdhortsoc.org. Sponsors are listed on page 9; those with ads in the newsletter have the words **SDHS Sponsor** above their ads. We thank them for their extra support!

Important Member Information

ATTENTION VISTA, BONSAI AND FALLBROOK GARDENERS

The Tour Committee is considering Vista/Bonsall/Fallbrook for our spring 2011 tour of members' gardens and SDHS sponsor nurseries. Please e-mail Ida Rigby at zchitalpa@gmail.com if you would like to have us preview your garden. We would love to visit you. If you have photos that would be great, or just write a short description. Include your name(s), address, phone number and e-mail and Ida will be in touch.

VOLUNTEER NEEDS: Events & Outreach Committee

Share your passion for plants! We are seeking a committee chair and also volunteers to help plan and participate in exciting events. Help us promote horticulture and the society at the San Diego County Fair, Spring Home/Garden Show, and elsewhere. There are rewarding opportunities for gardeners of all skills and interest levels. Please call Susi Torre-Bueno ASAP at (760) 295-7089 and let's talk!

Membership Committee

Express your outgoing nature, or overcome your shyness, by meeting new people in a very friendly setting! Volunteer about ONE to THREE HOURS A MONTH as a greeter at meetings, visit nurseries and provide membership brochures for their customers, or help with community outreach programs. Please contact Jim Bishop at jimbishopsd@gmail.com or (619) 293-0166.

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 zchitalpa@gmail.com.

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 about three times a year. Please contact Judy Bradley at (619) 792-6715. ☺

**See page 13 to
order your
SDHS nametag**

SDHS SPONSOR 



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www.evergreennursery.com



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

To Learn More...

DESERT PLANTS

By Ava Torre-Bueno

This is mostly a pictorial tour of this month's subject. First go to Google and click on "Images." Then put in the words "desert plants" and you'll get dozens and dozens of pictures of succulents from all over the web.

www.blueplanetbiomes.org/desert_plant_page.htm
takes you to an informative page with pictures and descriptions of fourteen common desert plants.

Our own San Diego Museum of Natural history is planning a permanent exhibit on the desert:

www.sdnhm.org/exhibits/future/rainshadow.html

And there are some images I left out of last month's article. Herb Knufken is a docent at Torrey Pines State Reserve and an amazing photographer. Here are two sets of his Torrey Pines wildflower pictures:

www.pbase.com/herblrm/wildflowers__torrey_pines_state_reserve_2008_and

www.pbase.com/herblrm/wildflowers__torrey_pines_state_reserve
but because he's also an amazing wildlife photographer also go to:

www.pbase.com/herblrm/torrey_pines

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>.

Native Plant Horticulture and Design: Free Talks at Tree of Life Nursery

Take a pleasant drive to San Juan Capistrano (it's closer than you think!) and take advantage of a wonderful series of FREE talks at Tree of Life Nursery. You've been hearing about the advantages of using California native plants... this series will help you to "learn more about native plant combinations, design ideas and getting inspiration for working with native plants in your newly inspired Water Smart and habitat friendly landscapes. Tree of Life Nursery is pleased to announce our "Expert Guest Speaker Series" on Saturdays at 10 AM this October and November. In keeping with our dedication to the best, we are very excited to have the privilege of hosting long time experts and authorities on native plant horticulture and garden design. All of these valuable workshops are offered to you for FREE! Don't miss all of this enriching information for both casual gardeners and landscape professionals alike."

A list of speakers is below – for details go to www.californianativeplants.com.
Oct 2 - Opening Day! - Tour of Gardens and 10% Discount on Plants!
Oct 9 - Alrie Middlebrook - lecture and book signing; author of *Designing California Native Gardens*; founder of California Native Garden Foundation (CNGF)
Oct 16 - Bob Perry - lecture and book signing; author of *Landscape Plants for California*; landscape architect
Oct 23 - Barbara Eisenstein - Picking Native Plants for a Carefree Garden; former Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden Hotline Mavis; blogger, photographer
Oct 30 - Bob Allen - Creating a Native Butterfly Garden; curator Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden's Butterfly Pavilion; professor, photographer, author
Nov 6 - Greg Rubin - Firescaping with Native Plants; landscape designer and contractor; owner of California's Own Native Landscape Design
Nov 13 - Pat Overby - Design Principles for California Native Landscapes; landscape designer, educator

From The Board

By Susi Torre-Bueno

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

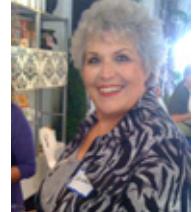
At our September board meeting several new members were added to the board, and I'm delighted to share information about them with you and to welcome these dynamic folks to the board.

Susan Oddo, our new Publicity Coordinator, joined SDHS for just over a year, and has jumped in with both feet; many members met her because the Volunteer Appreciation Party this summer was held at her beautiful Elfin Forest home. When she joined the P.R. Committee a year ago Susan set up our Constant Contact account to allow us to send out attractive e-mails, and began using this format to issue our quarterly press releases; she also taught me to use it to send out my once-monthly e-mails to our members. Susan has an impressive volunteer background: Co-founder of Elfin Forest Garden Festival (and very active in other Elfin Forest groups), Board Member and Co-Chair of Community Outreach for North County Concerned Citizens; Publicity Team of Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce; Therapy dog team partner.



When asked why she wanted to serve on our board Susan replied, "The SDHS has a long history of providing a forum for people who love plants to continue in their quest to learn more about them, bring in a wide range of top experts to speak, generates an environment that fosters getting to know other 'plant people,' and creates wonderful opportunities to connect with others outside the San Diego area. In the year that my husband, Frank, and I have been members, we have come to deeply value the open and welcoming persona of this organization. As a strategic planner and communications strategist by background, I know that this happens only when there is a dedicated leadership that stays true to its mission, executes its vision actively, and has a clear set of values that are held personally and lived daily. It would truly be an honor to serve with such leadership and offer my services in any way that can help to further these goals."

Carol Costarakis, a new Member at Large, has been a member of SDHS for three years, and you may have met her when we had a Coffee in the Garden at her University City house in June. She's a ball of fire and we're lucky to have her joining us! Carol has been active for many years in the Mission Hills Garden Club and is their Chair of Special Events. Semi-retired from her interior design business, she stays very busy. In addition to her extended family, tutoring in her local school, traveling, Mingei Museum docent training, art projects and entertaining, she still enjoys gardening! Carol says, "I am a careful listener, a direct communicator, and a creative processor." She's looking forward to serving on the Board.



The Real Dirt On...

NATHANIEL LORD BRITTON

By Joan Herskowitz



Nathaniel Lord Britton (1857-1934) was an American botanist who helped found the New York Botanical Garden and built it into a premier research institution. He was also a prolific author, writing hundreds of scientific papers and several important books on plant taxonomy.

Britton was born in 1857 in Staten Island, New York, and attended the Staten Island Academy, where his interest in the natural world was nurtured. He began his undergraduate study in geology, mineralogy and botany at Columbia College and, while there, joined the Torrey Botanical Club. The Club (the oldest botanical society in America) was started in the 1860s by colleagues of the botanist John Torrey and promotes the exploration and study of plant life in the New York City metropolitan area. It proved to be of enormous importance to Britton, as he published his botanical findings in its bulletin, led the club toward affiliations with New York's scientific community, and used the Club to launch the project of planning and creating a botanical garden.

Upon graduation in 1879, Britton became a professor at Columbia, and in 1885 married Elizabeth Knight, one of the foremost bryologists in the country. They were so inspired by their visit to England's Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, that they and other members of the Torrey Botanical Club were determined that New York should also have a great botanical garden. A magnificent 250-acre property was selected in the northern section of the Bronx, part of which had belonged to the vast estate of tobacco merchant Pierre Lorillard. Britton had previously visited other potential sites, but knew instantly that this one was his choice, as it included the Bronx River, a 50-acre old growth forest, and a varied topography with rock outcroppings and a number of old farms and estates. In 1891 the land was set aside by the New York Legislature for the creation of a public botanic garden in the City. Prominent civic leaders and financiers, including Andrew Carnegie, Cornelius Vanderbilt, and J. Pierpont Morgan, agreed to match the City's commitment to finance the garden, initiating a public-private partnership that continues today. In 1896, the New York Botanical Garden appointed Britton as its first director, a post he held until his retirement in 1929. In addition to creating a beautiful escape in the middle of the City, the Garden has become a major educational and research institution, with extensive live and dried collections and 50 curated display gardens. It is considered one of the great botanical gardens in the world, and is designated as a National Historic Landmark.

Britton's other accomplishments include the principal authorship of *An Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States and Canada*, at one time the major guide to plants of this region. He published many papers on the flora of the West Indies, and was coauthor of the four-volume, illustrated monograph *The Cactaceae of the World*, which reorganized the antiquated taxonomy of the cactus family. A number of flowering plants bear his name, as does *Brittonia*, the journal of plant taxonomy published by the New York Botanical Garden.

Member Joan Herskowitz worked as a Biologist for many years, including time spent on staff at the County of San Diego Department of Planning and Land Use. Now retired, she is a docent at the San Elijo Lagoon and at San Diego Botanic Garden. ☺

Free Workshop With Greg Rubin: California Natives Vs. Drought Tolerant Landscapes

Southwest Boulder & Stone will host native plant expert Greg Rubin in a FREE 90-minute workshop on Saturday, October 9 in the gardens at their Fallbrook stone yard. Greg shows you how to create truly breathtaking native landscapes with year round color and interest that will be the pride of the neighborhood, and he'll inspire you a much deeper appreciation of our native flora. Lose the mow and blow guy and high water bills, and gain tons of birds, butterflies, color, and fragrance in a tranquil setting.

Greg Rubin, owner of California's Own Native Landscape Design, started working with native plants back in 1985. Although educated and subsequently employed in a successful engineering career, Greg maintained a fascination with natives and began landscaping for friends and family on weekends and holidays. By 1993 he started his successful landscaping business and has since designed over 500 native landscapes in Southern California. Greg has been featured in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Los Angeles Times*, *San Diego Union Tribune*, *Sunset*, *Kiplinger's*, *San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles*, *Pacific Horticulture*, and *California Gardener*. He's appeared on most San Diego TV stations and is a repeat guest on NPR.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 9th, 9:00–10:30am. Meet in the patio gardens at Southwest Boulder & Stone, 5002 2nd St., Fallbrook (off Old 395 at 2nd, East side of Hwy 15). For reservations call (760) 451-3333 Ext 718, or register at www.southwestboulder.com. ☺



Horticulture Professional Seminar

Grangetto's will be holding its 7th Annual Horticulture Seminar on October 27th at the Wild Animal Park. This event is open to all Horticultural Professionals and offers a full day of fun and education, breakfast, lunch and beverages while listening to engaging speakers discuss Pest Management & Best Practices. Take the Journey Into Africa TramTour, listen to All NEW Speakers, visit Vendor Displays and enter the Opportunity Drawing. Continuing Education units applied for; 5.0 "other" and 2.0 "law" for QAC, QAL, PCAs, PAs. ISA hours requested for Tree Workers & Arborist CEUs.

To register or get more information visit www.grangettoss.com or email events@grangettoss.com. ☺

Plants that Produce

KIWIS AND PASSION FRUIT, THE MONSTER VINES

By Richard Frost

Ripe passion fruits have been available on the vines for several months now, but September is typically the peak harvest time in our climate. Kiwi fruits are on the vine, too, and will be ready to harvest in November. Besides both of these plants being tropical to subtropical in nature, they also can expand over huge areas. A minimum span of 20 feet wide and 6 feet high is recommended. A single plant left unchecked is capable of covering 100 feet of chain link fence.

Kiwis: The fuzzy brown-skinned and green-fleshed Kiwi fruit most commonly available in U.S. markets is a cultivar of the species *Actinidia deliciosa*. The plants are native to the eastern China province of Zhejiang and also inland for several hundred miles along tributaries of the Yangtze River.

These Kiwis (*Actinidia deliciosa*) are one of those unusual species that have male and female flowers on separate individuals. Fruit only forms on female plants whose flowers have been fertilized with pollen from a male plant. Commercially we plant one male for each 4 to 6 females, but for a typical backyard this will occupy way too much space! One female and one male is plenty. Plant them 4 or 5 feet apart and allow a total space of at least a 20' wide and 6' high for the two of them. Prepare the soil and irrigation as you would for a subtropical fruit tree.

There is another species of Kiwi vine, *Actinidia arguta*, which is self-fruitful. In comparison to the common variety it is smaller, has a smooth edible skin, and is both sweeter and tarter in flavor. The preferred cultivar of this plant is sold as 'Issai Hardy Kiwi'. I recommend you taste this fruit prior to devoting space to grow it in your garden.

For you fruit collectors who can never have enough fruiting plants (hi, Carl) I will mention that there are several other species of edible Kiwis with specialized needs and/or tastes. The world expert and Southern California source for these plants is Roger Meyer, who can be reached (with patience) at xotcfruit@yahoo.com.



Kiwis will thrive in any climate where citrus is grown and in some colder areas as well. The cultivar 'Vincent' is preferred for warm-winter areas with "chill" of less than 300 hours[†]. A good pollinator for this plant is 'Tomuri', which blooms during the same period. For cooler winter areas the cultivar 'Hayward' is recommended, with either male pollinator 'Chico' or 'All-Purpose Male'. The self-fruitful 'Issai Hardy Kiwi' is ironically both cold-hardy (to about 20°F) and low-chill, requiring about 300 chill hours.

Passion Fruit: The most common error with Passion Fruit is growing an ornamental (no fruit) or inedible (hollow fruit) variety. Nurseries commonly misplace the ornamentals with the fruiting and vice versa. The next most common error is settling for a generic variety or seedling of a plant. The variety to grow is 'Frederick'. It is a prolific producer of 3- to 4-inch great tasting fruits and is hardy to 30°F, having easily withstood brief encounters with 25°F during the freeze of 2007. If you are homesick for Giant Granadilla or want to try growing this rugby-ball size fruit, then ask your nursery for the species *Passiflora quadrangularis*. I recommend a location with winter lows above 40°F because in my experience it perishes below 35°F.

[†]For details about "chill hours", please see the November 2008 article "The Bare Essentials, Part II".

For more information go to these downloadable Fruit Facts pages from the California Rare Fruit Growers:
www.crfg.org/pubs/ff/kiwifruit.html and
www.crfg.org/pubs/ff/passionfruit.html.

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

WHIPS, NOT SHACKLED AND CAGED

By Robin Rivet

As promised, my October column investigates "How to select a nursery tree," which translates into, "What NOT to pick..." When purchasing a perennial, one might appropriately seek out pleasing flower colors or mature stature, but not so for trees. Although visual clues can be helpful, a little detective work improves chances of locating a prime sapling.

Since October is the best time in San Diego to plant a tree, it is vital to know what to look for when tree nursery shopping. Now brace yourself. The best trees in containers may appear as nothing more than whips, resembling a "pencil in a pot." This is especially true if seeking very fast-growing species like Eucalyptus, Mulberry, Sycamore, Elm, Locust and many Ashes. Ideally, rapid growth species should have minimal, or no branching at the time of purchase. This will ensure a root system undaunted by the size of the one-gallon containers recommended. When planted from whips, many saplings will nearly bolt out of the ground with enthusiasm. Some native trees like Oaks and Pines also prefer small beginnings, since they often resent transplanting.

When considering deciduous trees with moderate to fast growth, five-gallon containers can be desirable. For our popular Jacaranda, Koelreuteria, Liquidambar, Chinese Pistache or Tipu, it is best to locate specimens with one central leader (not two), and it should be relatively straight. For these species, look for natural branching that spreads around the trunk, preferably down to the ground. At this age, nature knows best and five-gallon trees should be strong enough to stay upright without stakes.

Avoid saplings with shackled leaders and scarred bark, or any sign of topping. Saplings with this natural form photosynthesize best, since foliage flushes the whole tree, not just the top. Once planted, these smaller saplings tend to grow more rapidly than comparable 15-gallon versions of the same species. Later on, you may prune unwanted lower branches. If the specimen looks large for the container, do not be fooled into imagining you just found the nursery "deal of the day." Caged too long, roots begin a death spiral inward, and seldom fully compensate when liberated later.

Moderate growth, broadleaf evergreens like Bottlebrush,

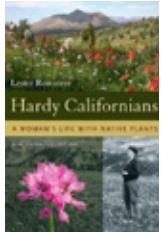
Continued on page 18

Book Review

HARDY CALIFORNIANS: A WOMAN'S LIFE WITH NATIVEPLANTS

By Lester Rowntree

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh



(Gertrude Ellen) Lester Rowntree was an original. She was born in England but came to America in 1889 when she was ten years old. Reportedly, she had an urge to wander almost from birth. She came into her own when she and her husband divorced in 1931. She spent the rest of her long productive life wandering California eight months of the year, from Death Valley to the top of the Sierras, photographing and collecting native plants and seeds. You probably have many of those plants in your garden because of her efforts.

Her book was originally published in 1936, but it went out of print because the publisher sacrificed the bookplates to the war effort. Now the University of California has reprinted it with several additions.

I don't like to fill up a review with long quotes, but there's a paragraph in the biographical addition to this book that, I think, really gives you a sense of Rowntree.

"The plant stalking business is not all beer and skittles. Fatigue brings moments when you are drenched in gloom. Intense heat, severe cold, attacks of loneliness, the limited diet, thunder and lightning swooping above you as you cling to the crest of some bald mountain, all carry with them times of profound misery. Dust and ants get in your food, burrs and stickers in your clothes, snakes in your sleeping bag, insects sting, water runs low, definitely marked trails dwindle into deer tracks, and bears raid the food supply. None of these discomforts are so great that the spirit of enthusiasm cannot surmount them."

Rowntree published close to 1,000 articles and six books between 1928 and 1959, including children's books, so I guess we shouldn't be surprised that her writing is so good.

The main body of the book describes one of her annual trips through the biogeographical areas of California, sleeping in her car when it rained or snowed and on the ground otherwise. She lived on beans and bread much of the time. She often had to use a donkey to carry her heavy photographic equipment. She'd set up and then wait for the wind to let up and the light to be right. She carried a set of "lady clothes" for when she ran short of money. She'd stop for a while, give one or more talks, and head back for the life she loved in the wilderness.

Even more interesting to me than her descriptions of the plants were her descriptions of the places she went. It led me to think, with longing, about the way California used to be before it became so densely populated and paved.

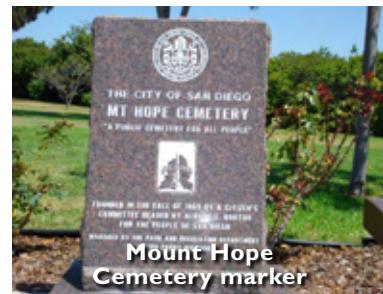
Hardy Californians (ISBN-13: 978-0-520-25051-2) is published by the University of California Press. It's paperbound, 391 pages, and includes the original text of the book and 64 of Rowntree's photos plus a biographical essay, an essay on her contributions to horticulture, an index, and an updated list of plant names. You can find it at your local bookstore for \$21.95 or order it from www.ucpress.edu. [You can read more about Lester Rowntree in the April 2008 newsletter.] ☺

Community Outreach

PEACEFUL, LOVELY, AND QUIET... CEMETERY GARDENS

By Linda Johnson

Some of the most beautiful gardens in the United States are found in cemeteries, with a rich history beginning in "America's first garden cemetery," the Mount Auburn Cemetery of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Widely acknowledged as the catalyst for the "garden cemetery" movement, where landscaped parks became an alternative to burial in church graveyards, Mount Auburn has become the model for cemeteries nationwide and inspired the creation of America's public parks. In 1831, General Henry A. S. Dearborn, president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, along with Alexander Wadsworth, a civil engineer and surveyor, plus others, created Mount Auburn Cemetery. The tranquil and beautiful landscape not only honors the dead, but provides enjoyment, succor, and inspiration for the living as well.



In San Diego we are fortunate to have many beautiful garden cemeteries, including Mount Hope Cemetery, founded in 1869 by a citizen committee led by Alonzo Horton, who is widely regarded as the father of modern San Diego. Opened in 1871, it is City owned and located for health purposes on what then were the "outskirts of town" (3751 Market Street). The nonprofit cemetery, maintained by San Diego's Park and Recreation Department, is the final resting place for thousands of San Diegans, including many prominent citizens. With beautiful tree-shaded grounds and lush rolling hills, the Cemetery contains historically significant monuments to Alonzo Horton, George and Anna Marston (involved with establishing Balboa Park), Kate Sessions (San Diego's pioneering horticulturist) and Gertrude Gilbert (instrumental in saving the exposition buildings in Balboa Park). Mount Hope Cemetery continues to provide all San Diego citizens interment options at reasonable costs. Visit www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/general-info/mthope.

An historic cemetery, the Presidio of San Diego was founded by Father Junipero Serra in 1769 for interment of early settlers as well as Mission Indians, with the last recorded burial in 1849. Following years of neglect of the Presidio, George Marston bought Presidio Hill with an interest to preserve the site. He built a private park and museum in 1925 and then donated the park to the city in 1929. Presidio Park is now an horticultural delight, flourishing with native and non-native species along the two miles of trails, and in the surrounding 40 acres of beautiful grounds. Enjoy palm and eucalyptus groves, sweeping views of the city, the ocean, and the San Diego river valley below. Also maintained by the Park and Recreation Department, the Park is located at 2727 Presidio Drive, San Diego 92103. For hours and special events visit www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/presidio.



Alonzo Horton monument

Within Presidio Park is Mission Hills Park, also known as Pioneer Park, which was one of the first cemeteries in San Diego. With a history starting in the late 1800's, the Park began as a resting place for early San Diego pioneers. Large grassy areas and playgrounds are the main features. Behind the tombstones, there is a nature trail that goes into one of the many canyons of Mission Hills, and winds down to Washington Street. Located at 1521 Washington Place, San Diego 92103; visit sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/presidio/missionhills. ☺

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:

Daniel Barger & Torrey Neel	Barbara & Ken Kubarych
Patricia Berkenfield	Margaret Landrum
Marycatherine Bowell	Anna Mitchell
Jeffery Broussard	Ruth Moon
Sophia Charnov	Leslee Newton-Reed
Simona Cherlin	Carolyn Perkins
Willa Gupta	Laird Plumleigh
Jack W. Hazelton & Bobbie J. Hazelton	Sandra Scherf
Susan Huff	Shoshana Stein
Clarice & Joe Isom	Sandra Stencil
	Britt & Guy Zeller

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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:

Kimberly Alexander (1)	Lorie Johansen (2)	Bill Nugent (1)
Ken Blackford (1)	Tami Joplin (1)	Susan Oddo (1)
Debbie Boston (1)	John Keeler (2)	Gayle Sallee (1)
Pat Cowl (1)	Patti Keyes (3)	Diane Scharar (2)
Linda Fiske (1)	Simone Mager (2)	Jan Spooner (1)
Connie Forest (2)	Susan Marchetti (1)	Susi Torre-Bueno (2)
Cheryl Hedgpeth (1)	Susan Morse (1)	Cathy Tylka (1)

Discounts For Members

Get a 15% discount at Briggs Tree Co. (see page 11; 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.

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	Westward Expos

LIFE MEMBERS

*Horticulturist of the Year

Chuck Ades* (2008)	Penelope Hlavac
Walter Andersen* (2002)	Debbie & Richard Johnson
Norm Applebaum &	Lois Kline
Barbara Roper	Vince Lazaneo* (2004)
Bruce & Sharon Asakawa* (2010)	Jane Minshall* (2006)
Gladys T. Baird	Bill Nelson* (2007)
Debra Lee Baldwin	Tina & Andy Rathbone
Steve Brigham* (2009)	Peggy Ruzich
Wayne Carlson	Susi & Jose Torre-Bueno
Laurie Connable	Don Walker* (2005) & Dorothy Walker
Julian & Leslie Duval	Lucy Warren
Edgar Engert* (2000)	Evelyn Weidner* (2001)
Jim Farley	Pat Welsh* (2003)
Sue & Charles Fouquette	Betty Wheeler

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

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

New E-Mail? New Street Address?

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What's Up at San Diego Botanic Garden?

EXOTIC PLANTS FOR SALE AT THE SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN ORCHID SALE AND SHOW

San Diego Botanic Garden is proud to once again host the Annual San Diego International Orchid Fair, October 1 – 3. (See hours below.) Countless orchids will grace the grounds – some in exhibits, others for sale. Many orchids can be grown outside in San Diego and would add beauty and interest to any patio. One example is the *Cymbidium Kiwi* Midnight Geyserland FCC/AOS, AD/CSA, S/CSA, the darkest cymbidium that has been flowered. Clones will be available in spike for sale at the Fair. When this was first judged, the judges commented that, "the color was darker in sunlight than inside under artificial light." This is an AOS sanctioned judging event with local and international vendors and ongoing lectures on culture and care of orchids. To register your plants for judging, and for a 50% off admission coupon, visit www.SDBGarden.org/orchid.htm.

FALL PLANT SALE

Don't miss one of the Garden's most popular events of the year – the Fall Plant Sale, October 16 and 17. Donations from over 100 local growers, wholesalers, retail nurseries, and individuals make this one of the most interesting and diverse plant sales in San Diego County. Plant selections include California natives, cacti, succulents, bromeliads, fruit trees, and sub-tropicals. Also for sale are garden-related items, used books, and homemade foods and jams. Enjoy an opportunity drawing and the popular Bakery Shoppe. Bring your own wagon to carry your prized purchases!

Larabee and Benefactor Society Members Pre-Sale, Oct 16, 8 - 9 am

Members at basic levels may renew early and upgrade to the \$125 Steward level to enjoy the best selection. To renew by phone call 760/ 436-3036 x217

Members Only Pre-Sale:

Saturday, October 16, 9 – 11 am

General Admission:

October 16 and 17, 11 am – 4 pm

San Diego International Orchid Fair

October 1, 1 pm – 5 pm

Saturday, October 2, 9 am – 5 pm

Sunday, October 3, 9 am – 4 pm

Fall Plant Sale

Saturday, October 16, 11 am – 4 pm

Sunday, October 17, 11 am – 4 pm

Call 760.436-3036 x204

www.SDBGarden.org

Bugs, Bats, Birds and Beasts



SDHS members are invited to visit the Anstine-Audubon Nature Preserve in Vista on October 23rd from 4 to 8pm for the third annual "Autumn at Anstine" Festival. This year's theme is Bugs, Bats, Birds, and Beasts and continues our emphasis on unappreciated animals.

Festival activities include a Bug Chase at sunset with Eric Piehel, field researcher for The SD Natural History Museum. Join in the Bat Chat at 4:30pm with Cindy from Project Wildlife. Listen to presentations or view displays on coyotes, tortoises, reptiles, and of course, birds. There will be a variety of activities and presentations for the young and the young at heart!

The 11-acre Anstine-Audubon property is managed by the San Diego Audubon Society as an open space area, according to the wishes of John and Lois Anstine who owned and occupied it from the late 1940s to the late 1990s. Trails lead through three native plant communities within the boundaries of the Preserve - Coastal Sage Scrub, Southern Willow Riparian Forest, and Coast Live Oak Woodland. Non-native and disturbed conditions are also present as a result of habitat removal, construction, and other human activities on and off site. Habitat restoration projects are in progress. Since 1999 more than one hundred species of plants, five species of reptiles, 9 species of mammals, and nearly one hundred species of birds, have been recorded on the site. Many make the Anstine-Audubon Nature Preserve their permanent home.

Come enjoy the Autumn Festival, RSVP recommended but not required. You can visit Anstine-Audubon Nature Preserve on Saturdays from 10am to 4pm at 2437 Hutchison Street, Vista, CA 92084; see the map at www.sandiegoaudubon.org/anstinebrochure.pdf. For more information contact Becky Wilbanks at (760) 295-1548 or beckywilbanks@cox.net.

UCR Botanic Gardens Fall Plant Sale

Don't miss the 28th annual Friends of U.C. Riverside Botanic Gardens Fall Plant Sale coming just in time for the fall planting season. The sale will take place Saturday, October 23, from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. and will continue Sunday, October 24 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For the very best selection, do what your editor does and join the Botanic Gardens "Friends" and arrive by 9:00am on Saturday for the Friends' preview sale. This beautifully organized sale is so popular that the rarest items sell out quickly. You can even plan your shopping in advance by selecting your must-have items from the plant on-line list of plants for sale. Bring a wagon to hold your plants for the most efficient shopping experience – and look for Susi when you get there (but there's no point in talking to her until she's satisfied her plant lust and selected her purchases!).

Take advantage of our cool fall weather. Plants established during fall and winter grow faster in spring and require less water next summer. You'll find nearly 10,000 plants, including many rare and unusual varieties, as well as some old favorites. Choose from colorful, heat-loving trees and shrubs, flowering perennials, miniature roses, rare cacti and other succulents, lots of herbs, patio and houseplants, orchids, wildflower seeds and much more. A special selection of showy, water-efficient and California native plants will also be available for the fall planting season. Botanic Gardens T-shirts, the full color Subtropical Trees of California and Hummingbird Garden posters will be for sale. If the crop is good, there will also be a selection of pumpkins from Sims Tree Learning Center available.

Most of the plants for sale will have a detailed information sign and color photo to help you make your selections. U.C. Master Gardeners, Gardens' staff and volunteers will be available to answer your questions. For more information on the sale or on joining the Friends of the Botanic Gardens, contact Steve Morgan at the Botanic Gardens at 951-784-6962, e-mail ucrbg@ucr.edu, or visit www.gardens.ucr.edu.

The Botanic Gardens cover more than 40 acres and feature nearly 3500 plant species from around the world. Enjoy beautiful vistas and numerous scenic trails, including gentle pathways graded for wheelchair access. A wide array of blooming plants can be seen year around. With local freeway construction occurring, be sure to verify current directions by calling or by visiting the website as the date approaches. Parking for the sale is free. For freeway map and color brochure call 951-784-6962, or email ucrbg@ucr.edu.

Thanks So Much!

Photos (by Barbara Raub) of the most recent Coffee-in-the-Garden events are on page 23. Thanks to the host gardeners and the volunteers who made these relaxing and fascinating garden visits possible. If you'd like to hold a Coffee in your garden, or you want to volunteer for a Coffee, please contact Jim Bishop at jimbishopsd@gmail.com.

Invitations are included in Susi Torre-Bueno's monthly e-mail to members, which is usually sent the 2nd Sunday or Monday after our monthly meeting. This e-mail has info on upcoming meetings, the newest password to read the newsletter on-line, details about the next Coffee-in-the-Garden, and more. We've been asked why invitations to this monthly event are sent only by e-mail. The answer is simple – with over 1300 members there is no way to handle the volume of requests except with a computer. If you don't have e-mail and want to attend, ask a SDHS friend who does have e-mail to let you know when the invitation arrives.

The August Coffee at Meredith French's Mission Hills charming garden included these swell volunteers: Louise Anderson, Scott Borden, Cathy Tylka and Susi Torre-Bueno. This beautiful home is for sale, and for details visit <http://www.redfin.com/CA/San-Diego/3145-Brant-St-92103/home/5376785>.

The September Coffee at Helen DiZio's home in Rancho Santa Fe, where her low-water garden was greatly enjoyed, was possible with the help of Scott Borden, Ida Rigby, Evey Torre-Bueno and Susi Torre-Bueno.

HATS OFF to Paula Verstraete for organizing our information table at the Fall Home/Garden Show in September. We signed up some new members, sold tree books, and answered a number of garden questions. Big hugs to Paula and our other Show volunteers: Kimberly Alexander, Marilyn Guidroz, John Keeler, Neal & Hilda King, Jane Morton, Linda Shaw, Kim Walker, Nancy Woodard. Special thanks to Sue Ann Scheck for donating succulent plants as gifts for new members! ☺

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SHARING SECRETS

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

The question for October was: Can anyone ID this plant? Send us a high-resolution photo and a brief description of your unknown plant and we'll put it in the October newsletter for other members to identify. (Thanks to Sue Fouquette for suggesting this.)

Karen Cassimatis wrote, "This is sort of a zucchini/crookneck with a vine like a pumpkin. I thought we bought the plant at City Farmers, but they say it's not theirs. I'd like to know what it's called so I can get another next year."

Karen's mystery vine showing leaves, squash and flower



Close-up of Karen's mystery squash

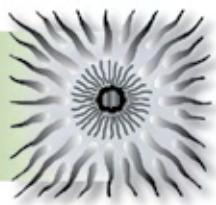


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ORNAMENTAL TREES FOR MEDITERRANEAN CLIMATES



Sue & Charley Fouquette sent the photo here and said, "We have had this Coral Tree for maybe 20 years and it finally bloomed this summer for the first time. It has a very long cool season dormant period. The two bloom spikes are 5" long and are bare now (in September). The largest leaves are larger now than in photo, over 4" wide by almost 4" long, with 3 leaves per stem. The height of the three trunks is 30" from the caudiciform base. It is in a 12" clay pot."

Mystery coral tree flower



**BRING A PLANT
TO THE PLANT FORUM
AT THE
OCTOBER MEETING**

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Secrets Continued from page 13

Jolanta Lewak says, "I do not have this plant but saw it in Balboa Park outside one of the international Cottages. It was in bloom in June." [Your editor thinks this might be something in the ginger family.]

Close-up of Jolanta's mystery plant



Bill & Linda Teague have a mystery perennial: "This is a plant that Bill bought at Green Thumb Nursery in Santa Cruz about 10 years ago. It looks like a large columbine until the flowers come out – they are similar to Queen Anne's lace. The name was quite unusual. We need help. It is about 2 feet tall and wide, it blooms now (August to October); no scent; reseeds but not invasive. Snails love it, but they are easy to remove from big leaves."

The Teague's mystery plant – entire plant



Close-up view of the flowers



Continued on page 16

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Secrets Continued from page 15

Katrin Utt has an interesting low-water mystery plant: "It's a succulent (or a cactus) that grows in shade and needs very little water. The plant has blue flowers. My neighbor has one and she never waters it. I would love to know what it is."

Katrin's mystery plant



The question for next month is:

What low-water or drought-tolerant plant are you growing now that you think should be more widely grown by other gardeners? (Thanks to Penny Hlavac for suggesting this.) Send your reply by October 5 to info@sdhortsoc.org. ☺

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Low Water Plant Marriages

The on-line version of the newsletter has this photo in glorious color! Helen DiZio has paired the colors of an orange tree and nearby orange-flowered bougainvillea with various shades of green foliage in several different leaf shapes and textures for an inspiring composition.



PHOTO: BARBARA RAUB

Succulent Container Gardens

This wheelbarrow of succulents was one of many exceptional planted containers at Helen DiZio's Rancho Santa Fe garden. More photos of her garden are on pages 16 and 23. To learn more about creating unique gardens like this buy Debra Lee Baldwin's gorgeous book, *Succulent Container Gardens*.



PHOTO: BARBARA RAUB

These five containers at Helen DiZio's garden are made of the same material (clay) and have very similar colors but different shapes and forms. The empty pots are an interesting counterpoint to the planted ones. ☺

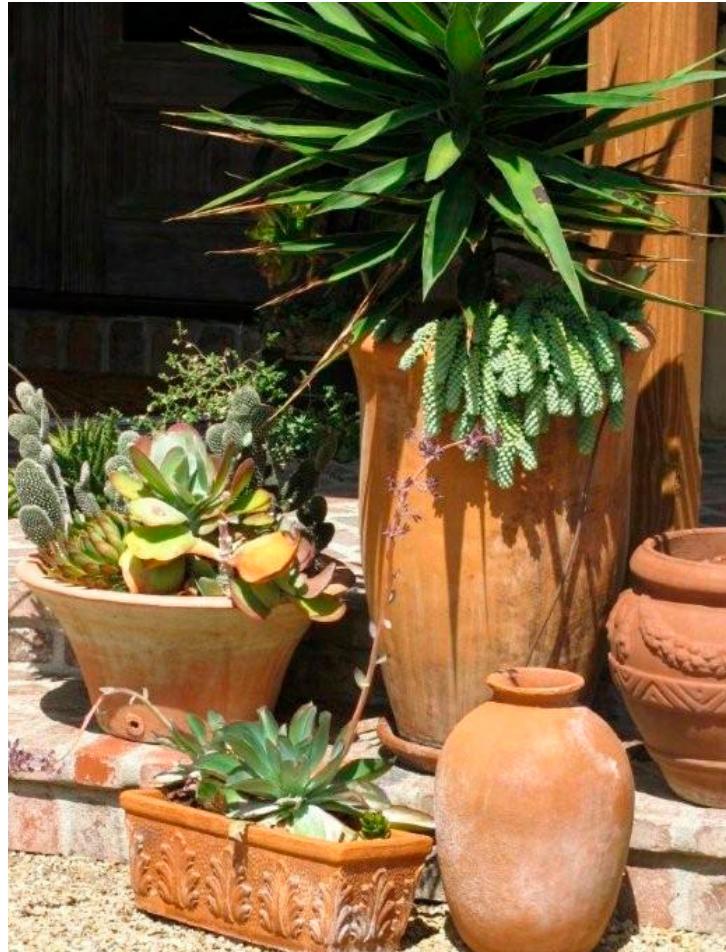


PHOTO: BARBARA RAUB

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September Plant Forum

By Susi Torre-Bueno

What is the Plant Forum?

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

Agave nizandensis (Agaveaceae) Mexico (Oaxaca)

A recently described green-leaved species, and one of the smallest species in this genus, it “was named after the village of Nizanda where it was first discovered in 1951. It is one of the smallest agaves, its soft and fleshy leaves have an attractive central stripe, and although quite rare, it is well worth looking for.” It is tender to frost (some sources say keep it above 35-40° F). [Learn more at www.desert-tropicals.com] (Ron Vanderhoff, Newport Beach, 9/10) – S.T.B.

Aloe suprafoliata (Asphodelaceae) South Africa (KwaZulu-Natal, Swaziland)

The tubular flowers of this late-fall-to-winter-blooming South African aloe have been described as “pinkish-red,” “rose/mauve,” and “red,” so it certainly isn’t the more common orange that many aloes exhibit. One on-line comment notes that, “The leaves are an attractive deep turquoise, tinged with red in cold or deep sun. Color of leaves tends to fade a bit to blue-green as plant ages and becomes mature shape. The leaves are spiny, but not terribly dangerous.” Probably because it grows in the wild on rocky slopes from about 990’ to 5300’, it is able to withstand temperatures down to about 25°F. One very interesting feature is that on young plants the leaves are distichous (growing in two planes only), but older plants has the more frequently seen spiral rosette form. [A useful reference is *Guide to the Aloes of South Africa*, by Ben-Erik van Wyk and Gideon Smith.] (Ron Vanderhoff, Newport Beach, 9/10) – S.T.B.

Mammillaria matudae THUMB CACTUS (Cactaceae) Mexico

The specimen displayed was eleven years old, and was grown in the Inland Empire. This small (to about 12" tall) cylindrical cactus is very spiny and doesn't appreciate temperatures below 25°F. It is drought-tolerant and does well in pots (with good drainage). The distinctive ring of small purplish-pink flowers appears in the spring, about one inch below the top of the plant. [To learn more go to www.mammillarias.net. To see a 45-second time-lapse film of the flowers opening as the sun touches them, go to http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R8O_7m2HW0M] (Steven Mediano, San Diego, 9/10) – S.T.B.

Thanks to Mary McBride for doing a great job – with no prep time! – as the September Plant Forum Host. We hope many more people will bring in plants in October. In addition to the plants described above, those below were also displayed.

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

Can you spot the phony plant this month? The phony plant in the August newsletter was *Hoya carnauba* CAR WAX FLOWER.

Bauhinia galpinii (syn. *B. punctata*) RED BAUHININA

(Sheila Busch, Escondido, 9/10)

3 *Cardiospermum halicacabum* LOVE-IN-A-PUFF

(Sheila Busch, Escondido, 9/10)

3 *Cardiospermum wolfii* I'LL-HUFF-AND-I'LL-PUFF
(Big Bad Wolfe, Escondido, 9/10)

Melaleuca sp. (bonsai form, in training 5 years)
(Phil Tacktil, Solana Beach, 9/10)

Pedilanthus bracteatus TALL SLIPPER PLANT
(Jolanta Lewak, Del Mar, 9/10)

Senecio talinoides (crest form)
(Ron Vanderhoff, Newport Beach, 9/10)

HOW TO READ THE PLANT FORUM ENTRIES

[!] ***Pastryus dulcis*** [?] ‘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.] ☺

Trees Continued from page 7

Camphor, Magnolia, Melaleuca, Peppermint, Podocarpus or Strawberry Trees grown in well-maintained 15-gallon containers can be suitable. However, as container size increases, it is ever more important to avoid root bound or severed leader specimens. Additionally, 15-gallon trees are nearly always staked, which causes reduced trunk taper and weakened vigor. Another observation to reject is a buried root crown. This sometimes occurs in older container trees, when someone errantly adds excess fresh soil into an old pot.

Finally, some naturally multi-trunked trees like Acacia, Crape Myrtle, Mimosa, Olive and Redbud and others, may have been “standardized.” This process removes basal growth and side shoots to promote a central leader. Ironically, this “lollipop styling” often generates insufficient foliage, so nurseries may subsequently “top prune” the central leader forcing a “witches broom” growth spurt. This can result in a long-term pruning nightmare for an unsuspecting buyer. Educate yourself before buying a tree; less may truly be more!

Typically grafted fruit trees sold bare root, may change this general advice.

Coming up next issue: “Order great deciduous fruit trees for your home; what, where, when, how and why.”

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[www.treesaregood.org/treecare/topping.aspx](http://treesaregood.org/treecare/topping.aspx)

Member Robin Rivet is an ISA Certified Arborist, serves on the Environmental/Sustainability Commission for the City of La Mesa, San Diego Regional Urban Forestry Council, California Rare Fruit Growers, and UCCE Master Gardeners. She welcomes public inquiries and rebuttals. ☺



Senecio talinoides (crest form)



Pedilanthus bracteatus

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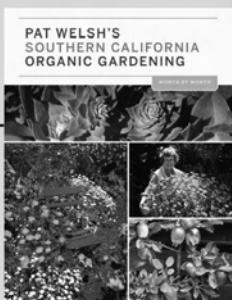
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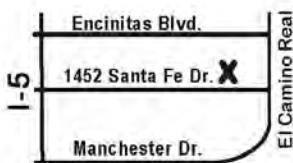
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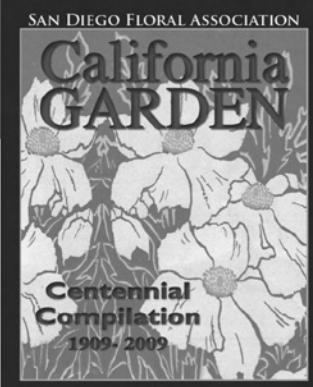
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September Meeting Report

What does our September speaker, Margaret Fillius, especially like about the native plants of Torrey Pines State Reserve, which she spoke so enthusiastically about? She "admires their beauty and resilience," and is on a mission to introduce them to more local gardeners. Many of these plants, which survive in the Reserve on rainfall alone, are excellent in the home garden, and since some are also endangered, adding them to your garden could help preserve these worthy species.

Margaret's talk featured excellent photos of dozens of plants, and she pointed out the traits that made almost all of them good candidates for adding to our own gardens. The Reserve's many microclimates promote a diversity of indigenous plants, and Margaret also noted that San Diego County has the largest number of plant taxa (1600+) of any county in the U.S. For a complete list of the plants found at the Reserve go to www.torreypine.org/plants/plant-list.html. If you'd like to study Margaret's handsome book of photos of plants, *Native Plants: Torrey Pines State Reserve and Nearby San Diego County Locations*, you may borrow a copy from the SDHS library. Also, the California Native Plant Society San Diego chapter has pdf files on their website that people can refer to for information about plants; visit [www.cnpssd.org/plantlistlinked.html](http://cnpssd.org/plantlistlinked.html)



The six main plant communities at Torrey Pines include the Torrey Woodland, where the Torrey Pine (*Pinus torreyana*) grows. This is the rarest pine in North America, and is found only here and on Santa Rosa Island (one of the Channel Islands). The tree has needles that are 10" long, and its tremendous

lateral roots allow it to seek out water a great distance from the trunk. The image of the pine cone shown here is from the original 1858 description of this very precious tree.

While this is the only tree native to the Reserve, there are a number of large, mostly evergreen shrubs, many of which are excellent in home gardens. Blue Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*, syn. *Sambucus mexicana*) is a handsome deciduous shrub or small tree (15' to 25' tall) with scented white flowers from March to September. The evergreen Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) grows 6' to 25' tall and gets its other common name, Christmas Berry, from the bright red berries appearing from October to January.

Plants from the Reserve's Southern Maritime Chaparral area include smaller evergreen shrubs that take well to pruning by home gardeners. They also make excellent habitat to attract our native birds. Laurel Sumac (*Malosma laurina*, formerly *Rhus laurina*), which is a 10'-15' tall shrub in the cashew family, has summertime white flowers followed by white berries that are very attractive to birds. Its cousin, Lemonadeberry (*Rhus integrifolia*) has thick, shiny leaves and reddish fruits with a tart skin. The Reserve boasts a few different California Lilacs (*Ceanothus* sp.), whose blue flowers adorn the shrubs for many months from winter through spring. Blue Ceanothus (*C. tomentosus*) blooms from March through May and can grow 6'-9' tall; flower color ranges from blue to nearly white. When the black seeds are ripe they open with an audible pop.

Other shrubs include the deciduous White-Flower Currant (*Ribes indecorum*), which has white blooms November through March and red fruits that hummingbirds love. The Fuchsia-Flower Currant (*Ribes speciosum*) is a good "defense plant" due to its spiny stems; the bright red flowers appear January to May and are followed by attractive red fruits. The endangered Del Mar Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glandulosa* ssp. *crassifolia*) produces fruit that looks like little apples.

There are hundreds of salvia species from all over the world that thrive in San Diego – how about adding some of our native salvias to your garden soon? One important species is Cleveland Sage (*Salvia clevelandii*), with attractive blue flowers appearing late spring through summer, and strongly-scented gray-green foliage that looks good all year long. White Sage (*Salvia apiana*) has silvery-green leaves and sends up spikes of white flowers that can grow 6'-10' tall – what a statement in the spring/summer garden!

The Reserve's Dudleyas are succulent perennials that look great in rock gardens and need excellent drainage - try planting them on a slope. Lance-Leaf Dudleya (*Dudleya lanceolata*) grows about one foot tall and wide, with green foliage and yellow-red flowers from April to July. Chalk Dudleya (*Dudleya pulverulenta*) is a real knockout, with chalky-white leaves is a charming rosette and silver stalks of small red flowers that are hummingbird magnets from May to July. Both are hardy to about 20°F.

Springtime brings on a stunning display of annual wildflowers, many of which are readily available in both seed mixes and as separate species. Among these is our state flower, the California Poppy, which is now available in many shades of yellow and orange plus, white, pink and near-red forms. Chinese Houses (*Collinsia heterophylla*) sends up 20" tall spikes of violet and white flowers from March to June. Tidy Tips (*Layia platyglossa*) has bright yellow springtime flowers tipped with white.

Many kinds of bulbs call the Reserve home, and some are common elsewhere in the County as well. Among them are Blue Dicks, Golden Stars, Wild Onions, several kinds of Mariposa Lilies, and Blue-Eyed Grass. Most of these are summer-dormant, but provide a vivid display in the spring with no effort at all.

Ornamental grasses continue to increase in popularity, and quite a few grasses are found in the Reserve. Two of the best for gardens are Purple Needle Grass (*Nassella pulchra*) and Giant Wild Rye (*Leymus condensatus*). Another great grass not found on the Reserve, but worth a spot in your garden, is Deergrass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*).

Most of us probably don't associate ferns with San Diego native plants, but the Reserve boasts a number of handsome native ferns. These two require a fair amount of shade, and are summer deciduous, but they're definitely worth a try: California Polypody (*Polypodium californicum*) and California Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum jordanii*).

Thanks, Margaret, for sharing your passion for these native plants with us. We also thank the San Diego chapter of the California Native Plant Society (www.cnpsd.org) for donating the over two dozen native plants that were very popular at our Opportunity Drawing, ☺

A complete list of the plants Margaret talked about is on our website; go to www.sdhortsoc.org/water_3.htm



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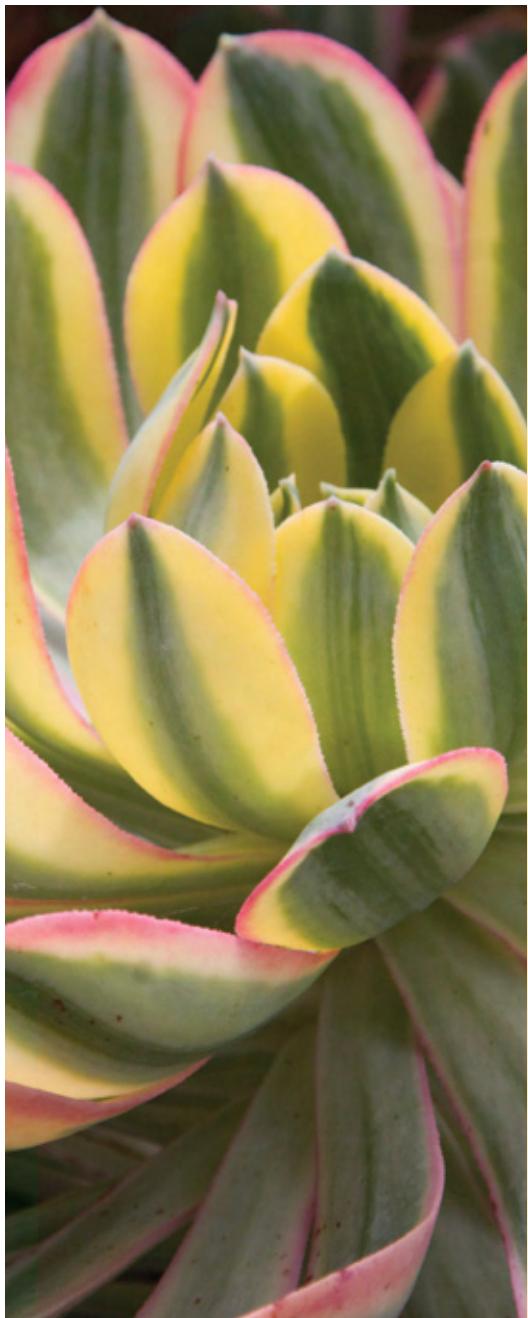
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What's Happening? for October 2010

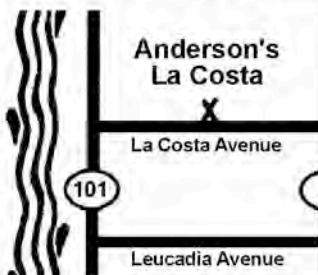
The SDHS is happy to publicize items of horticultural interest. See other side for resources & ongoing events.
Send calendar listings by the 10th of the month before the event to calendar@sdhortsoc.org.

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Hello to all and welcome to our October 2010 garden tips and update:

What's New:

- ❖ We got all of our fall décor including gourds, pumpkins and other fun stuff. The Secret Garden and gift shop (with lots of creepy, scary stuff) have evolved into Halloween Central. Also, to complete our entrance into fall we have loose Narcissus Paperwhite bulbs and pre-planted Amaryllis bulbs.
- ❖ Lots of cool season bedding plants for you – Pansies (of course) in Yellow, Blue, Lilac, Orange, Black and the popular Orange 'Jack O'Lantern' mix. Also Snapdragons, Violas, Sweet Peas, Coreopsis, Sunflowers, Portulaca, Nemesia, Poppies, Primroses, Gaillardia and Mums - all of the beautiful fall shades.
- ❖ Cyclamen now here in 2", 4" and 6" in 'all' the colors.
- ❖ Ornamental Peppers – yellow, orange, purple – a great "mood" plant for the fall.
- ❖ In the Secret Garden all the cool season veggie starters are in full flow - Sugar Snap Peas, Snow Peas, Lettuce (Mesclun Mix, Arugula, Italian Gourmet to name a few). Also Onion, Kale, Swiss Chard, Runner Genovese Beans, Cherokee Beans, Chives, Malabar Red Stem Spinach for starters.
- ❖ We're getting on to Azalea and Camellia time and we'll be seeing substantial deliveries of both this month, especially the Sasanqua Camellias.
- ❖ In the greenhouse the first Cymbidiums are here, and some of them are fragrant. From the time that the first flower bud opens, the sprays will remain in bloom for the next 2 - 3 months.
- ❖ Lots of nice Asclepias – essential food for any Fritillaria and Monarch butterfly caterpillars looking for a food source.
- ❖ This is the time to plant Sweet Peas. We have starter 6 packs and seeds. Annual climbers bearing clusters of fragrant flowers in a wide variety of colors including red, pink, blue, white and lavender. The flowers look like butterflies. They have a long season of bloom and make excellent cut flowers – and the more you pick them the more they bloom.

PS – we are now on Facebook. If you want to get even more timely nursery tidbits we'd love you to sign up!



Continued on other side

The Water Conservation Garden (see other side for address)

- Oct. 2, 9am-12pm, Water Smart Landscape: Principles of low water landscaping. \$25. Call 619-660-4350.
- Oct. 3, 1:30-2:30pm, Ask the Horticulturist Tour: Enjoy an informative walk through the garden. FREE.
- Oct. 3, 6:30-8:30pm, Designing Landscapes with Native Plants: Proper care and placement of drought tolerant natives. Member \$20, non-member \$30.
- Oct. 14, 6:30-8:30pm, Principles of Landscape Design: Learn the secrets of professional landscape design. Member \$20, non-member \$25.
- Oct. 16 10:00-12pm, Rainwater Collection for the Homeowner: Rainwater harvesting. Member \$15, non-member \$25.
- Oct. 17, 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
- Oct. 23, 10am-12pm, Water Smart Edibles in your Landscape: Fruit for a water conserving landscape. Member \$20, non-member \$30.
- Oct. 23, 10am-12pm, Home Composting Workshop: Free. To register call 760-436-7986, x 217 or visit www.solanacenter.org.
- Oct. 30, 10:00-1pm, Dazzling Color Combinations for Outdoor Space: Member \$20, non-member \$30.

Saturdays, 10:30am, Garden Tour: Docent led tour of the Water Conservation Garden. Meet at the main gate at the Garden entrance. No reservations required.

San Diego Botanic Garden (see other side for address)

- Oct. 1 (1-5pm), 2 (9am-5pm), 3(9am-4pm), San Diego Botanic Garden: 16th Annual Orchid Show and Orchid Sale. Free with admission to the Garden or with membership. For info see sdbgarden.org/orchid.htm
- Oct. 16 &17, 11am-4pm, Annual Fall Plant Sale: one of the most interesting and diverse plant sales of San Diego County. Free with admission to the Garden or with membership. Special hours for members of the Larabee and Benefactor Society: October 16 starting at 8am.

Walter Andersen Nursery FREE Saturday Classes:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <u>9:00am Point Loma Nursery</u> : | <u>9:30am Poway Nursery</u> : |
| Oct. 2, Ferns: Tall, Short & In-Between | Fall Rose Care, with David Ross |
| Oct. 9, Fall Lawns, Getting Ready for Winter | Container Veggies, with Jen Merzigan |
| Oct. 16, Fall & Winter Veggies | Dormant Fruit Tree Spraying |
| Oct. 23, Camellias, varieties & care | Rose Show Prep Class |
| Oct. 30, Dormant Fruit Tree Spraying | 1st Annual Fall Rose Show, no class |
- Details at www.walterandersen.com; addresses in ad on page 17

Evergreen Nursery Seminars (see page 4)

13650 Carmel Valley Road, San Diego/Carmel Valley
3231 Oceanside Blvd, Oceanside
12460 Highland Valley Rd, Escondido

October 2, 10am, Fall Is The Time For Planting: Tour the nursery and look at the plants that are featured in our Annual Million Dollar Fall Sale and give you suggestions on how to use them in your landscape

Details at www.evergreennursery.com/seminar-schedule-2010

Cedros Gardens Saturday 10am classes:

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

Oct. 2, 8:30am-3:30pm, Master Gardener Association Home Gardening Seminar: Marina Village Conference Center 1936 Quivira Way. pre-registration fee is \$15-\$20 per class. Call (858) 694-2860 or see mastergardenerssandiego.org

Oct. 2 &3, 10am-4pm, American Begonia Society Plant Show and Sale: Spectacular foliage and blossoms of the Begonias will be on display. There will be many beautiful begonia plants for sale. Room 101 of Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Free. For info call Marla Keith (760)753-3977 or email marla.keith@cox.net

Oct. 2, 10am-noon, Grangetto's Winter Pruning and Dormant Sprays: Learn how to prepare your trees for winter dormancy. Free. 1105 W. Mission Ave, Escondido. www.grangettoss.com, (760) 745-4671 or e-mail events@grangettoss.com

Oct. 2, 12:30-4pm, East County Rose Show: Ronald Reagan Community Center, 195 East Douglas Ave, El Cajon. Info: (619) 463-6977, mirrose@cox.net or eastcountyrosesociety.com/pictures/2010 East County rose schedule 7-15.pdf

Oct. 9, 10am-noon, Grangetto's Winter Pruning and Dormant Sprays: See Oct. 2 description. 29219 Juba Rd, Valley Center. For info see grangettoss.com, call (760)749-1828 or e-mail events@grangettoss.com.

Oct. 9, 9-10:30am Southwest Boulder & Stone California Natives vs. Drought Tolerant Landscapes Workshop: Detailed examination on how to capture Nature's beauty in your home landscape. Free. 5002 2nd St, Fallbrook. For Reservations call (760) 451-3333 Ext 718, or on line at www.southwestboulder.com.

Oct. 9, 1-4pm, Cactus and Succulent Society: Oh, Oaxaca 101, the Majorca Room, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. See sdcss.net.

Oct. 9 &10, 10am-4pm, Fullerton Arboretum California Native and Fall plant sale: Many uncommon and hard-to-find plants. Yorba Linda Blvd. and Associated Road, Yorba Linda. Members preview sale will be held on October 8, 10am to 2pm. For info call (657) 278-4010 or visit fullertonarboretum.org.

Oct. 10, 9am-1:30pm Gardeners 4 Peace Work Party: 9-11am, garden and harvest, 11-noon, vegetarian pot-luck (please bring a dish), noon-1:30, 2 classes (Zero Carbon Gardening, and Composting). 3850 Westgate Place. See www.350.org/zero-carbon-gardeningcomposting-peace.

October 11, 6:00pm
Desert Plants for San Diego Gardens
See page 3

Oct. 12, 10am, Dos Valles Garden Club: Container Gardening With Succulents. St. Stephen Community Hall, 31020 Cole Grade Road, Valley Center

Oct. 13, 10am, Point Loma Garden Club: Italian Renaissance Gardens. Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal, SD. Free, See www.plgc.org, or contact Toni Munsell, at tonimunsell@cox.net or (619)223-2051

Oct. 13, 10:30am, Poway Valley Garden Club: Australian Plants for Mediterranean Climates. Templars Hall, Old Poway Park 14134 Midland Road, Poway, For info see powayvalleygardenclub.org

Oct. 13, noon, Ramona Garden Club: The beneficial properties of the moringa tree with a potluck lunch. 524 Main Street Ramona (Woman's Club). Call (760) 789-8774 or see RamonaGardenClub.com

Oct. 14, 7:30pm, Southern California Horticultural Society: Landscape Plants for California Gardens. Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles. Members free, non-members \$5. See www.socalhort.org or call (818) 567-1496.

Oct. 16, 11am, California Native Plant Society: Fall Plant Sale. Casa del Prado Theater Courtyard Balboa Park. Open to CNPS members at 10am. See cnps.org

Oct. 18, 7:30pm, San Diego Rose Society: Feature Cliff Orent guest speaker. Rm 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. sdrosesociety.org/sdrs_calendar.htm#oct

Oct. 19, 7pm, California Coastal Rose Society: The Importance of Roses in History, Art and Religion. Free. 2650 Garfield Street Carlsbad. See californiacoastalrose.com.

Oct. 19, 7pm, California Native Plant Society: The Goldspotted Oak Borer; A New Non-Native Pest. Room 101 or 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park.

Oct. 21, 1pm, Bernardo Gardeners Garden Club: RB Swim & Tennis Club, 16955 Bernardo Oaks Dr, Rancho Bernardo. Free. bernardogardeners.org or 858-672-2454

Oct. 23, 10am-noon, Grangetto's Waterwise Without the Compromise: See various plant types that are drought tolerant, but also look great! Free. 1105 W. Mission Ave, Escondido. grangettostos.com, call (760)745-4671 or e-mail events@grangettostos.com.

Oct. 23 (12-5pm), 24 (10am-4pm), San Diego County Orchid Society Show: Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. See sdorchids.com

Oct. 23, United Voices for Healthier Communities: Will be planting 315 trees in Escondido. Volunteers contact Jan McLean at 760-839-4628 or jmclean@escondido.org

Oct. 26, 2pm, Lake Hodges Native Plant Club: Ocean Friendly Gardens. Rancho Bernardo Public Library, 17110 Bernardo Center Dr. See lhnpco.org

Oct. 30, 9am to 4pm, Koi Club Pond and Garden Tour: Nine coastal north County ponds and gardens. Start at: 4444 Vista de la Tierra, Del Mar or 7173 Obelisco Circle, Carlsbad. \$15/Adult, \$5/children (8-15). After Oct. 17 see koiclubsandiego.org

November 6, 8:45-1:30pm, Growing Macadamias in California: They make excellent back yard trees, and can be grown in tubs on your patio. 6686 Via de la Reina, Bonsall. \$20. See macnuts.org/fieldday.htm, call (760) 728-8081 or e-mail russelfarms@Roadrunner.com

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 ELIJAH 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.

October is a great planting month, especially for permanent landscape plants and Ca. natives. We have some great varieties of Ceanothus, Mimulus and many other Ca. natives. If you have a special variety of plant you are searching for we can special order it for you from the many growers we work with in northern and southern California.

October in the Garden:

❖ October is when we see our first true days of autumn and a **peak month for planting our cool-season flowers and vegetables**. It is also a great month to shop for trees and shrubs as they're showing their true colors at the nursery.

❖ It's easy to forget about watering duties in the middle of fall, but **proper moisture** now is key to your plants' successful survival over the colder winter months. Although it is time to cut back the watering on deciduous trees to help them remember to go dormant.

❖ **Slugs** don't slow down as the weather gets cooler; use whatever measures you prefer: salt, slug bait, or saucers of beer to eliminate slugs.

❖ **Keep staying ahead of weeds** this month - they serve as homes for pests and bugs and destroying them before they flower and seed will save you work in the future.

❖ Fall is the best time to plant permanent additions to your landscape except for tender subtropicals and bare root plants. Fall is also the best time to **add California Native plants** to your garden.

❖ Plant cool-season vegetables such as broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, kale, kohlrabi, mustard, lettuce and other greens.

❖ After **evergreen daylilies** have finished blooming renew plants by cutting back the leaves to 4" and divide over-crowded daylilies this month.

❖ To encourage re-growth during the winter cut back garden **geraniums** (*Pelargonium hortorum*) by half.

❖ Early in the month **feed roses** for the last time this year. Give roses up to 1 inch of water twice a week unless it rains.

❖ If you planted **sweet peas** last month thin them out and pinch them back to force branching.

❖ The **fungus that causes petal blight** in azaleas and camellias over-winters in fallen flowers, leaves and old mulch. To decrease the chances of blight remove all the debris under the plants and apply new mulch.

❖ **Birds of Paradise:** Cut off dead leaves. After flowers fade pull out bloom stems. Small plants can be divided with a sharp knife. Left alone these plants will eventually make such large clumps that the only way to easily divide them is to use a chain saw and replant salvageable sections.

❖ **Amaryllis Belladonna:** *Amaryllis belladonna* (Naked Ladies) eventually form big clumps that push up out of the ground and need dividing. You want to divide these plants after they bloom but before new roots and foliage have begun to grow. If the bulbs are transplanted during this brief period of dormancy, next year's flowering will not be interrupted. If you did not divide large clumps in September because they were in bloom, do so this month as soon as the flowers fade.

❖ Throughout the fall and winter months you can **plant or transplant both evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs**.

❖ One last effort at **weeding** will help to improve the appearance of your garden throughout the winter. Any weed that you can eliminate from the garden this fall will possibly prevent thousands of weed seeds from sprouting in the garden next spring!

❖ This month **remove all fallen fruit** from around fruit trees and any fruit that has mummified on the trees. Such fruit will harbor over-winter pests and disease organisms.