

Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

April 2011, Number 199

The Pleasure Garden

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On the Cover: Garden art by Jeffrey Bale



**SAN DIEGO
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY**

MARCH COFFEE IN THE GARDEN

Judy Bradley and Dave Mitchell's Del Mar garden has a wealth of low-water plants in a wide range of foliage colors, forms and textures, plus lots of fun garden art (like the giant frog and ceramic totem pole seen here).



SPRING HOME/GARDEN SHOW



Above: Congratulations to Ryan Prang and Bret Belyea of Falling Waters Landscape, Inc., who created this stunning award-winning display garden. They used permeable surfaces, water-thrifty ornamental grasses, and a wall of recycled wood scraps. The awards for the Show are shown on page 11.

Below: This charming sunken sitting area was in the award-winning garden designed by Shellene Mueller of Designs by Shellene.



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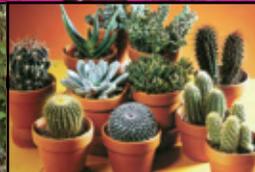
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COVER IMAGE: The cover image is by April speaker Jeffrey Bale of his home garden; see more images at www.jeffreygardens.com. Prepare to be delighted when you attend Jeffrey's April 11 talk and be inspired to make your own landscape more of a Pleasure Garden.

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 – 8:30 Announcements, Hot Hort Picks, speaker, opportunity drawing
8:30 – 9:00 Plant display; 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 or Jim Bishop at (619) 293-0166.

FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS 2011

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| April 9 | New Member Orientation, University City |
| April 23 | Coffee in the Garden, Poway – Linda Bresler |
| April 30 | Hypertufa Container Workshop, Kearny Mesa (with Master Gardeners) |
| May 9 | Bob Perry on The Alchemy of Plants and Gardens: Source of Life and Inspiration |
| May 21 | Coffee in the Garden, Olivenhain – Jennifer Axelrod |

www.SanDiegoHorticulturalSociety.org

The Pleasure Garden

A Special Evening with fascinating JEFFREY BALE

Monday, April 11, 7:00PM (doors open 6:00 pm)

Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds

Jeffrey Bale is one of today's most exciting garden creators!

His work is found in movie stars' homes, expansive estates, and more modest gardens, too. He will suggest ideas that will help you create a garden that brings you greater pleasure. You'll see examples of some of the loveliest paradise gardens around the world, and his interpretations of why they work. See how *your* garden can become more of a sanctuary for you to enjoy and love. Begin to indulge your senses, relax, and let go, experiencing your garden on a level you may not have known before. His gorgeous book 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

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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 8; those with ads in the newsletter have the words SDHS Sponsor above their ads. We thank them for their extra support!

Important Member Information

VOLUNTEER NEEDS:

1 – APRIL 23 BOOK SALES

We'll be selling our tree book and giving out membership information from 10am to 11:30am on April 23 when Marilyn Guidroz and Steve Jacobs will be giving talks about trees at two Evergreen Nursery locations (Oceanside and Carmel Valley – see ad at right). If you can help for 2 hours with book sales please call Susi at (760) 295-7089 and let's talk!

2 – FACEBOOK UPDATES

Did you know that SDHS has a Facebook page? We do, and we need a volunteer to keep it updated with info about upcoming events, etc. This should take just a few minutes a month. If you can help call Susi at (760) 295-7089 and let's talk!

3 – MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Express your outgoing nature 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 coffee in the garden events. Contact Jim Bishop at (619) 293-0166.

THANKS SO MUCH!

Thanks to Judy Bradley and her husband, Dave Mitchell, for hosting our March Coffee-in-the-Garden at their lovely Del Mar garden. A photo is on the inside front cover. We also appreciate the volunteers who help at all of our monthly coffee events.

See page 16
to order your
SDHS nametag

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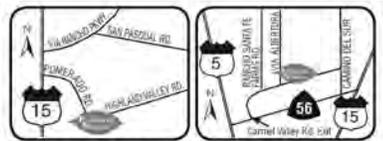


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Fall/Winter HOURS

Monday-Saturday...7:30am-4:30pm
Sunday.....9:00am-4:30pm

To Learn More...

MOSAIC PLEASURE GARDEN

By Ava Torre-Bueno

To get a taste for what this month's speaker, Jeffrey Bale, has in mind for the garden, go to his blog at:
jeffreygardens.blogspot.com/2010/11/permeability-in-garden.html

This article from the *New York Times* includes a slide show of Bale's work in several gardens:
nytimes.com/2009/12/24/garden/24mosaic.html?_r=2

Locally, and in a different style, we have Kim Emerson doing mosaic work in public and private spaces:
kimemersonmosaics.com/index.html

Betsy Schulz's Del Mar library mural (with co-creator Pat Welsh) and Fletcher Cove mosaics are familiar to many:
adesigngarden.com/fletcher_cove_murals.html

See what Pat Welsh has to say about the Del Mar library mural at:
patwelsh.com/gallery.html

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 sandiegofriendscenter.org/volunteers.htm. 🌿

FREE Talks on Trees & More

Terrific Trees for San Diego County Gardens will be the topic of FREE talks at 10:00AM on Saturday, April 23 at two Evergreen Nursery locations (see page 2 for maps). Participants could win a \$25 nursery gift certificate, too! Landscape designers (and SDHS members) Marilyn Guidroz and Steve Jacobs will give these lively and helpful talks about tree selection, installation, irrigation, maintenance, and much more. Find out about how to estimate the cost of



From The Board

By Susi Torre-Bueno

COUNTING THE DAYS UNTIL APRIL 11TH!

I wrote last month about our April 11 Special Evening (see page 1), when we host the awesome landscape designer Jeffrey Bale, who creates art using stone as his medium. To get an idea of what he's done, visit www.jeffreygardens.com. Jeffrey will have just returned from his winter travels – he spent about 4 months in Northern Africa and Spain. If you follow him on Facebook you've been enjoying the marvelous photos of his exciting travels. We'll hear all about **pleasure gardens**, and how to make our own gardens more passionate and personal. Don't miss this rare opportunity to hear Jeffrey and enjoy his lively comments about the things that fascinate and inspire him... and why you should bring more of these sumptuous feelings to your own landscape.

WHY WE DO IT

In 1996 I purchased bulbs of a curious South African native called *Ferraria crispa*, which has gorgeous (but foul-smelling) flowers. The outside edges of each petal look like ruffled petticoats, and these undulate margins are absolutely mesmerizing. The diminutive bulbs were happy in a 4" pot for years, but when they didn't break dormancy about two years ago I thought they had succumbed to old age. I dumped the pot full of soil into another pot that needed topping off. Last week the *Ferraria* flowers I had given up for dead appeared in the new pot, completely surprising me.

In early February I noticed over a dozen identical plants popping up all over my back garden. They started blooming in March and I was delighted to see that they were Dutch Iris, which I had planted in my labyrinth three years ago. My guess is that the @#\$\$%^ squirrels dug up the bulbs and replanted them many yards away.



These enchanting surprises have kept me gardening for 50 years, and I suspect that many of you garden for the same reason: every day brings something new! The other thing that keeps me gardening is all the treasured friends I've met in the 16 years I've been a member of SDHS. I'm bashful by nature, but when I can talk plants with like-minded folks I don't feel shy at all, and I know other people feel the same way.

So... I encourage you to strike up a conversation with other members, to ask about what they're growing and how and why. It's a superb way to make new friends and expand your gardening horizons at the same time. It's not often that you have the opportunity to spend time with so many people who enjoy the very same thing you do, so take advantage of our meetings, coffee-in-the-garden events, and garden tours to reach out and make new friends. 🌿

The Real Dirt On...

ERNEST HENRY WILSON

By Joan Herskowitz



Ernest Henry Wilson (1876-1930) was a legendary plant hunter of the early twentieth century who introduced over 1,000 garden-worthy species to Western horticulture from his worldwide expeditions. The most notable of his plant discoveries were obtained on his trips to China, earning him the nickname "Chinese" Wilson. In *China - Mother of Gardens*, which he wrote in 1929 (and reissued in 1971), he describes his plant collecting experiences in China,

and his view that China was the foremost source of garden plants, citing forsythias, magnolias, peonies, roses, azaleas, primroses, peaches, oranges, lemons and grapefruits.

Born in 1876 in the Cotswold Village of Chipping Camden, Wilson had a love of plants from an early age. After apprenticing at a local nursery at age 16, he worked as a gardener in the Birmingham Botanic Gardens and then went on to work at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. He studied botany in a technical school and was considering becoming a teacher; but was offered a position with the English firm of James Veitch & Sons to work as a plant collector in China. Early reports of Chinese plants tantalized nurserymen, as the monetary rewards were significant for nurseries that were first to sell new and unusual garden plants. In 1899 Wilson began his travels to China and was directed to seek out the dove tree, *Davidia involucrate*. The dove tree is a medium-sized deciduous tree best known for its flowers that have long white bracts that flutter in the wind. Wilson collected plants for two years on this trip, traveling over difficult terrain and returning with propagules of 906 plant species, including the dove tree.

On his return, he married, and within 6 months Veitch sent him out again, this time with the yellow Chinese poppy, *Meconopsis integrifolia*, as his main objective. He returned to China a number of times, and in 1903 discovered the Regal lily, *Lilium regale*, an attractive plant with large trumpet-shaped fragrant lilies on a 3-4 foot stalk. On a subsequent trip to collect more lily bulbs, his leg was crushed during an avalanche of boulders, as he was carried in a sedan chair. The plant was successfully introduced into cultivation in the U.S. and he described his disabling walk as his "lily limp."

In 1906, Wilson joined the staff of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University in Boston, which had been established in 1872. He continued his plant expeditions to China and other parts of Asia, and became a good friend of the Arboretum director, Charles Sprague Sargent, who was the director for more than 50 years. In 1919, Wilson was appointed assistant director and, in 1927, Wilson succeeded Sargent as director. However, in 1930, his career was cut short when Wilson and his wife were killed in a car accident in Massachusetts.

Among the many plants Wilson brought back from his explorations, which were popular in Western gardens, were the paper bark maple, the kiwi fruit (a wild plant known to the Chinese as yang tao, with commercial plantings only beginning in New Zealand in the 1940's), clematis, wintergreen barberry, holly, candelabra primrose and jasmine. In the Village of Chipping Camden, a Wilson Memorial Garden was established in 1984; it is planted exclusively with species that Wilson introduced to western horticulture.

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. ☘

Going Wild With The Natives:

MAGICAL MANZANITAS

By Greg Rubin

I can't think of a group of plants more underappreciated than our native manzanitas. The genus *Arctostaphylos* encompasses an astonishing array of plant habits and habitats. The bulk of them occur from British Columbia down to Central America and west to Colorado, with the center of concentration in California. The bear-



berries or kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) have adapted to northern climates and occur in all circumpolar regions of the world, including Europe and Asia. Typical of the genus, all forms share satin-red bark, evergreen foliage, and red, edible (often delicious) berries that resemble small apples, even down to a tart aftertaste.

Some *Arctostaphylos* are drought tolerant enough to naturalize without any supplemental irrigation; others would be happy planted next to a lawn! Many make wonderful groundcovers only inches high; other form beautiful, stately small trees up to 20 feet tall. We have a number of species native to San Diego, including Rainbow Manzanita (*A. rainbowensis*), Eastwood Manzanita (*A. glandulosa*, with lots of sub-species), Bigberry Manzanita (*A. glauca*), Mexican Manzanita (*A. pungens*), Otay manzanita (*A. otayensis*), and Pinkbract Manzanita (*A. pringlei drupacea*). Many of these local wild species have considerable landscape value, though they can be more demanding of conditions similar to where they occur.

In addition to the local native varieties, there is a whole slew of hybrids and cultivars that have been proving their worth in native landscapes for years. The following examples are categorized by size:

Tree Forms: 'Austin Griffith' and 'Dr. Hurd' are two of the best known larger manzanitas. They top out at 12-20 feet tall and make wonderful accent and patio trees. The leaves of 'Dr. Hurd' are so large that it somewhat represents a Madrone (but is much easier to grow in Southern California). Both varieties are quite landscape tolerant and can grow three to four feet per year.

Medium Shrub Forms: 'Sunset' Manzanita is one of my all time favorites; it is a 4-6' shrub whose tips are colored in every warm tone of the setting sun. It is tolerant of a wide variety of conditions and soil types. 'Howard McMinn' is another variety that is equal in size and cultivation but green in color. 'Louis Edmunds' is upright to 8' with strong branching structure and very tolerant of clay soil. 'Ian Bush' and 'Mama Bear' are also nice upright varieties with good structure.

Groundcover Forms: The old stand-by in this class is *A. uva-ursi* 'Emerald Carpet', which likes water and is less than 6" high. Other beautiful forms of this species include 'Wood's Compact', 'Point Reyes', and 'Radiant' (my personal favorite). These would be great under an olive tree, for example. 'Pacific Mist' is a gray, sprawling form that makes a nice color contrast with the greens. 'John Dourley' is an immensely

Continued on page 12

Trees, Please

DON'T BARK UP THESE TREES

By Robin Rivet



Eucalyptus deglupta – Rainbow Gum
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Have you ever looked closely at tree bark? Like our skin, bark protects trees from physical damage and invasion by pests and disease, but it has many other uses. Although you may already appreciate bark for its intrinsic external beauty, it may surprise you to learn that bark thickness varies from a mere fraction of an inch up to two feet on a Giant Sequoia. Most importantly, tree bark overlays its water and food transportation system. If compromised, trees will quickly decline.

If you seek out the unusual in a landscape, red and purple barks can be real attention getters in your garden. Standouts include several plants from the Ericaceae family. In particular, I recommend *Arbutus* 'Marina' or the 'Marina' Madrone tree. With smooth or sometimes peeling bark the color of rich, red clay, this highly ornamental tree is a garden tolerant hybrid of the native species *Arbutus menziesii* (Pacific Madrone) and the smaller *Arbutus unedo* (Strawberry Tree). In this same plant family, deep cabernet-colored bark occurs in our native California manzanitas.

Not to be overlooked are some new *Prunus* species, which sport striking, shiny, purplish-red bark. Lucky for us, these new, low-chill edible cherry trees prosper even in mild San Diego. Look for 'Minnie Royal' and 'Royal Lee' cultivars, and enjoy delicious fruit while admiring their gorgeous bark. However, you may need to cover that bark with diluted latex paint to protect their thin skin from California sunburn, at least until the tree canopy matures.

One of San Diego's most impressive trees is *Eucalyptus deglupta*, or the aptly named Rainbow Gum, from the island of Mindanao. With its lime green, rose, blue, purple and orange peeling bark, it stands out as a large specimen tree. Australian eucalyptus round out this palette, and include smooth, shaggy, stringy and fissured barks. One in particular, *Eucalyptus sideroxylon* (Red Ironbark), is so naturally blackened, it appears to have survived a forest fire.

More important to society might be the medicinal value of some tree barks. Of major note is salicylic acid, derived from bark of willows and poplars, and used to formulate aspirin. A modern anesthetic called tubocurarine originates from a South American tree that ancient

Continued on page 12

Pittosporum undulatum Is Blooming In The Park

By Alice Lowe

When you live in Southern California, especially near the coast, you learn to appreciate the subtle signs of the seasons. Japanese Maple and Liquidamber give us a little fall color, and at the height of winter, when mid-day temperatures plummet to the 50s, our spirits are lifted by the brilliant display of succulents with their orange, coral, and yellow spikes and bells. These southern hemisphere natives are mostly dormant in summer, exhibiting their rainbow hues against our pale winter sky.

Like a train whistle approaching the station, *Pittosporum undulatum* announces the upcoming spring with its bursts of tiny white blossoms and sweet pungent fragrance – often you can smell it before you see it. It seems distinctive, but I probably couldn't distinguish it from jasmine in a blind test, unlike someone more in the know – more in the nose?

We compare it to the scent of orange blossom, which is why we call it Mock Orange. I pointed it out early one year to Geri, a friend who hailed from New York, Pennsylvania and Connecticut, and in her sweetly officious tone she sniffed, "That's not mock orange." It turns out that there is a deciduous shrub called Philadelphus (wouldn't you know it) that is the mock orange of the East coast; it, too, has white flowers and a heady perfume.

P. undulatum – also known as Victorian Box, Australian Cheesewood or Native Daphne – can be a smallish shrub or a tree upwards of twenty feet tall. They're numerous in my San Diego neighborhood, and I start to notice them on my morning walks in February – first by the smell, which I then trace to its source. My favorite one is at the Western entrance to the Balboa Park bridge. It shoots up from the freeway verge below, indistinguishable from the rest of the greenery until those sweet blooms put out their call.

Geri, who was a master gardener when she lived in the East, had a magic touch in seemingly impossible conditions. She put a *P. undulatum* in a five-gallon tub on her North-facing deck, but when she saw that it was failing from lack of sun, she offered it to me. It lived on my deck for two seasons, with a Southern exposure that's blocked out much of the year by towering eucalyptus in the adjacent canyon. Each year it put on some tender new growth the color of young celery and sprouted a few blooms; I had to squat in front of it and stick my nose into them for just a whiff of fragrance. Clearly this wasn't going to work either – it needed to be putting its roots down into rich soil in a bright sunny spot, and I passed it on to another friend who had the right conditions for it.



I respect the idiosyncrasies of growing things; I don't take it personally if they don't perform for me. I'm happy to adore and admire from afar the beloved varieties of flora with which I've tried and failed, to find and enjoy them where they're happy. And so I light up when *P. undulatum* first greets me from around a corner or in the park, and my sniffer is at the ready for the remaining weeks of their generous display.

Member Alice Lowe is a freelance writer, a succulents-in-containers gardener, and a Community-Supported Agriculture aficionado (since she can't grow her own vegetables). 🌱

Book Review

THE GARDENS OF JEFFREY BALE

By Jeffrey Bale

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh



It's difficult to say whether Jeffrey Bale, our speaker this month, is more an artist or a gardener. I think I'd probably describe him as an artist who uses the garden as his canvas.

His medium is stone. He builds stone walls, paths, and patios. Many of them are nice. A terrible word "nice."

It says nothing and so much at the same time. But you won't look at this book for his "nice" walls. What's **spectacular** about his work is the pebble mosaics that he integrates into his other stone work.

He learned about pebble mosaics in Spain and Portugal, but seems to have been most influenced by the designs of Southeast Asia.

The book has minimal text. You could skip the text entirely if you wanted to. The important part is the photos. And they show unique work.

As you do with any artist, you'll probably like some of what's presented and feel neutral or dislike some. The first pages had works that were less interesting to me, but I persevered, and it paid off. I came across a photo of a spiral mosaic that stopped me. It's made of blue water-washed stones. It's hard to guess at scale in a photograph, but it might be six feet in diameter. It's calming and exciting at the same time. The facing page has further examples of spirals that he made in other gardens, not as spectacular, but still worth seeing.

Those were my favorites until I saw the mosaics that looked like Oriental carpets, and another one that made me think of Picasso, and another one that looked like a three-abreast line of ants climbing down a rock wall and across a patio. And then... But you'll find your own favorites.

This book is not without problems. For me, there's not enough text. I wanted to know more about Bale, his goals, and his techniques. He writes that this book is the first step toward another to be published later. I hope he follows through with that. I'd like to read it.

The second problem is that the book is too crammed. Many of the pages had four photos cheek to jowl. He could have left some out and separated the others with a little white space so that you could get the full effect of each without being distracted by its neighbor.

Finally, there's an "Index of images," actually a table of contents, in the back, listing the page number of each of the images, but the book's pages are not numbered. An oversight, I guess.

The Gardens of Jeffrey Bale is self-published, hard-bound, and 119 pages. Bale has not included an ISBN. The book is available at blurb.com/bookstore/detail/1424928 for \$57.95 (\$64.95 in hardcover). You can also find out more about Bale's work at jeffreygardens.com.

[Editor's note: Jeffrey will be selling his book when he speaks to us on April 11. He's got fascinating stories to share, and this colorful and exciting book, which I eagerly purchased the first time I heard him speak, is an excellent addition to my collection of inspiring garden books. For me, he makes rock sing, and I want images of all his garden artworks! You can also borrow a copy from the SDHS library.]

Community Outreach

SUPPORT GREAT CAUSES: ATTEND GARDEN TOURS AND OTHER EVENTS

By Linda Johnson

In addition to the early April tours and events featured in the March Newsletter, here are more April (and some early May) events that also support community fundraising.



Friends of East County Arts Garden Tour

Friends of East County Arts Garden Tour

April 30 ~ 9am-3pm

Six spectacular gardens representing a wide range of creativity and geography let you experience everything from a tropical paradise (see photo) to cottage style gardens, serene hillsides, western motifs and panoramic vistas. Enjoy havens for butterflies, birds...and gardening enthusiasts, too! Organic approaches and drought tolerant plantings are featured. Applecrate vendors will be at one location along with refreshments and a light lunch at another site. Sponsored by Friends of East County Arts, Inc., a non-profit organization devoted to furthering the development and growth of the performing and fine arts in East County; proceeds will benefit these programs. Tickets: \$15 in advance or \$18 at any garden the day of the tour. Visit www.friendsofecarts.org.

Ramona Garden Club Tour

April 30 ~ 9am-3:30pm

Five great local gardens are available to visit and enjoy along with plant sales, garden-related vendors, and a raffle. Proceeds benefit scholarship funds and community improvement projects. Purchase tickets (\$10) at 1315 Main St. (Bank of So. Cal.) on the day of the event or pre-purchase at Ramona Interiors 707 Main St., Ramona. Visit www.ramonagardenclub.com.

Alpine Sage and Songbirds Garden Tour and Festival

May 6, 7, 8 ~ 10am-4pm

Tour features five beautiful home gardens filled with botanical treats, birds & butterflies, plus a raptor rehabilitation facility. Plant sales include butterfly host plants, nectar plants, and other unique botanicals available exclusively to garden tour attendees. Tickets: \$15 (valid all 3 days; one visit per garden).

Continued on page 13

Ways to Celebrate Earth Day 2011



By Linda Johnson

EARTHFair IN BALBOA PARK

April 17 ~ 10am-5pm

The annual EarthFair in Balboa Park is the largest free environmental fair celebrating Earth Day in the world. Sponsored by EarthWorks, a volunteer organization that provides opportunities for individuals to take direct action to support healthy ecosystems, EarthFair 2011 is their 22nd annual event. Expected to draw over 60,000 visitors, and powered by over 400 volunteers, EarthFair features over 350 exhibitors, food pavilion, kids' activities, entertainment, Children's Earth Parade, and the Cleaner Car Concourse. Exhibitors will showcase goods, services and causes that address the environment and quality of life, including: conservation organizations, wildlife preservation groups, natural/organic products, organic gardening information, water conservation resources, ecotourism, health care products/services, clean air and clean water products, rainforest preservation groups... surely something for everyone! And, FREE admission! Visit www.earthdayweb.org.

EARTH DAY 2011: A BILLION ACTS OF GREEN®

To recognize the power of individual actions, Earth Day 2011 includes A Billion Acts of Green®: personal, organizational and corporate pledges to live and act sustainably. With a goal to register one billion actions, the website quantifies "acts of green" via an online registration tool. Add YOUR pledge to the millions of people, corporations and organizations that have already made commitments to improve the environment. Visit www.earthday.org/earth-day-2011.

EARTH DAY FESTIVAL AT ALTA VISTA GARDENS

By Bryan Morse, President of Alta Vista Gardens

On April 23rd, Alta Vista Gardens in Vista celebrates our Earth Day Festival. This year promises to be bigger than ever as new attractions are being added to our schedule.

Of special interest to the horticultural community: this year our featured speaker is Mariko Gifford, the owner of Moringa for Life.com, an organization dedicated to growing and promoting the Moringa tree (and its byproducts) as a food source and medicine for people and animals. Mariko's workshop will be followed by a Moringa tree planting ceremony as we add this valuable plant to our fast growing collection.

Another item of special interest: this year we are joined by the Duchy of Brandenburg, who will host a Medieval Village west of our Garden house. This group is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to the study and re-enactment of Western European culture between the years 1066 and 1603. They will be displaying the costumes, arts, skills and tools of this time period, a period in our history in which man was much more in harmony with the Earth. This was a period before chemicals, when sustainability was enforced by

nature on man. They also talk about the uses of medicinal herbs and tell entertaining stories related to that time period.

As usual, there will be a full day of children's activities and games. Artists will be offering their crafts for sale. Alta Vista Gardens will be selling plants, as will various nurseries and plant societies. There will be dance performances, Eco-vendors, and a children's recycled art contest with a Haro bike as the prize. In addition, our new docents will be leading Garden and Garden Art tours. Of special interest is our Labyrinth and substantial Cycad collection.

The Amigos de Vista Lion's Club is sponsoring an expanded food court menu and beer garden staged from our new outdoor kitchen area.

For more information and for directions to Alta Vista Gardens, visit our web site at www.altavistagardens.org. We hope to see you there.

✿



Marriott and Succulent Plantings

By Art Cooley

The San Diego Chapter of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America will host the national convention in late April. When our representatives, including members of the Green Committee, met with the staff of the Mission Valley Marriott where the convention will be held, we suggested that cacti and succulents should be planted in the flower beds rather than more delicate and water thirsty plants. The Marriott agreed to consider our suggestion. When I contacted them some weeks later to see if management had agreed, I was told that the plantings were already done.

We had argued that cacti and succulents would reduce water use and decrease the frequency of replanting the beds, saving money. The Marriott agreed with these reasons but, more importantly, we have learned that they are very pleased with the looks of the plantings. We are hopeful that the convention attendees will also be pleased with the effort that Marriott has expended to not only have a greener convention but also to have very attractive planters.

[Reprinted with permission from *Espinas & Flores*, the newsletter of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society.]

The Cactus & Succulent Society of American 2011 Convention will be April 24-29 at the Marriott Hotel in Mission Valley. Details are at www.cssainc.org. Speakers will include Debra Lee Baldwin (SDHS life member) and Dr. Jon Rebman, the SDHS 2011 Horticulturist of the Year. ✿

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:

Johanna Anderson	Deanna McHose
Brenda Archer	Barbara Mollure
Alyson Breathed	Karen Montijo
Carol Brown	Veronica Nuncio-
Denise Carriere	Ramirez
Lorna Cullen	Rachel Olguin
Mathew Doerr	Jacque & Barry
Abby Esty	Rechtovich
Kathy Esty	Jennifer & Ken Shelton
Amy & Mike Ferre	Mr. & Mrs. M Sherman
Devonna Hall	Rebecca Simpson
John Harmeier	Betty Spagnola
Pat Harrison &	Shelly Sult
Bruce Mutz	Laura Walker
Fred & Gita Khoroushi	Sharon Ward-
Margaret Kirtland	McCalmont
Jerry & M'Liss Klein	Carol & Dennis Wilson
Robert Martin Jr.	

NEW ADVERTISERS:

ENCINITAS GARDEN FESTIVAL & TOUR (INSERT)
GREEN THUMB NURSERY (INSIDE FRONT COVER)
SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY SHOW (PAGE 11)
SAN DIEGUITO ART GUILD ART & GARDEN TOUR (PAGE 10)

HORT BUCKS ARE GREAT!

Kudos to the members below who brought in new members in 2011 and as a result got 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 us your name when they join.

Ann Beckett (1)	Eva Heuser (1)
Jim Bishop (1)	Barbara Komur (1)
California Mycorrhiza (2)	Sue Ann Scheck (1)
Chris Drayer (1)	Susi Torre-Bueno (1)
Margaret Grasela (3)	

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Get a 15% discount at Briggs Tree Co. (see page 9; 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.

SEE THESE ADS FOR MORE DISCOUNTS: Aristocrat Landscape, Barrels & Branches, Botanical Partners, Buena Creek Gardens, Cedros Gardens, Courtyard Pottery, IGS, Pacific Horticulture, Solana Succulents, Southwest Boulder & Stone and The Plant Man.

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	Pat Welsh
	Westward Expos

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	Jon Rebman* (2011)
Laurie Connable	Peggy Ruzich
Julian & Leslie Duval	Susi & Jose Torre-Bueno
Edgar Engert* (2000)	Don Walker* (2005) & Dorothy Walker
Jim Farley	Lucy Warren
Sue & Charles Fouquette	Evelyn Weidner* (2001)
	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?

ASIAN ARTS IN THE GARDEN

April 16, 9 am – 5 pm
April 17, 9 am – 4 pm

San Diego Botanic Garden will celebrate the art of Asian horticulture with outstanding displays, lectures, and demonstrations. The La Jolla Chapter of the Ohara School of Ikebana will have floral arrangements created by members, led by Sensi Yaeko Ohta who has been the backbone of this organization for 30 years. The Ikebana art form can be traced back to the mid-sixth century when Buddhism was introduced to Japan and monks would create arrangements for temples.

A Bonsai Show in the Walled Garden will feature styles of bonsai from Japan, China, Vietnam, and the West. There will be displays of Tray Landscape, Saikei, Kusamono, Penjing, Hon Non Bo, Suiseki, and Scholar Rocks. The organization supporting the display is Bonsai and Beyond, whose members study these art forms.

On Sunday, the Shokenji Taiko, a Japanese style drumming group from the Vista Buddhist Temple, will perform at 2 pm. Experts with international recognition will be available all weekend to answer questions and give lectures and demonstrations. Free with admission or membership.

GOURD & BASKET WEEKEND IN THE GARDEN

April 30 & May 1

Sponsored by San Diego Botanic Garden
 Presented by the Misti Washington Gourd & Basket Guild

This exciting event will include over 30 basket and gourd art workshops taught by well-known artists from across the nation, artists exhibits, supply vendor booths, a teachers' market and self-guided basket-makers' tour. Classes include furniture caning, gourd carving, as well as a wide variety of basketry techniques including coiling, twining and twilling using both traditional and modern materials. Examples of some of the classes being offered: willow basket, pine needles on gourds, woven beads and brooches, wire mesh jewelry, beading on gourds, mini wire basket, and a variety of sculptural pieces.

View the catalog of class descriptions and print out a registration form at www.baskets-gourds.com. Pre-registration is highly recommended. Walk-in registrations will be welcome for unfilled classes between 8:00 - 8:45 am both days.

Classes at the Garden

To see a list of our many and varied classes coming up, visit www.SDBGarden.org/classes.htm.

New E-Mail? New Street Address?

Please send all changes (so you will continue to receive the newsletter and important notices) to membership@sdhortsoc.org or SDHS, Attn: Membership, PO Box 231869, Encinitas, CA 92023-1869. We NEVER share your e-mail or address with anyone!

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Spring Home/Garden Show Awards

Congratulations to all the Garden Masters for the beautiful gardens they designed for the Show! We're proud that so many of them are SDHS members (members are shown in **BOLD**).

Best of Show: First Place; Best Interpretation of Theme;
Best Water Feature

Vineyard Retreat, Jeremiah Turner,
Turner Landscapes

Best of Show: Second Place; Award for Design Excellence; SD Water Authority Water Smart Award; Pacific Horticulture Award for Horticultural Excellence; Best Use of Hardscape

Garden Social, Ryan Prang and Bret Belyea,
FALLING WATERS

Best of Show: Third Place; Judges' Choice; Best Intimate Garden
Past to Present, Shellene Mueller;

DESIGNS BY SHELENE

Most Educational; Most Appealing to Children
For Your Enjoyment, Jason Chen,

CEDROS GARDENS

Most Dramatic; Most Creative Use of Space
California Living, Brian Best, Garden Spirit

Best Specialty Garden; Best Compatibility of Plant Materials
Cool and Unusual, Jeff Moore,

SOLANA SUCCULENTS

Best Combinations of Plant Materials
The Spot, Kristi Beach, **AKANA DESIGN**

Best San Diego Adapted Garden
Vizcaino Mirage, **REBECCA SIMPSON**,
Bradley Landscape Development

Best Topiary Feature
"I Dos" in the Garden, Paige Perkins,
GARDEN CHAT

Best Use of Recycled Material
Beyond the Ordinary, Emma Almendarez,
GLORIOUS GARDENS

Perfection in Nomenclature
The Spot, Kristi Beach, **AKANA DESIGN**

For Your Enjoyment, Jason Chen,
CEDROS GARDENS

Beyond the Ordinary, Emma Almendarez,
GLORIOUS GARDENS

Garden Party, Donna J. Tylor, Donna J.
Tylor Landscape and Irrigation Design

From the Mountains to the Deserts, Scott Ensign,
Scotty's Plantscape

Shades of Green, Morgan Vondrak, Argia Designs



Thanks Show Volunteers and Supporters

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with our information table and plant cutting display at the Spring Home/Garden Show. We appreciate the efforts of the Events & Outreach Committee: Kimberly Alexander and Kim Walker helped with setup and takedown, and Sue Ann & Bill Scheck potted up plants and made cuttings to give to people who joined at the Show. Thanks to Jeff Moore (of Solana Succulents) for lending us his crested beauty of an Aeonium! The folks who staffed our table were terrific: Jim Bishop, Cielo Foth, Margaret Grasela, John & Maria Keeler, Sheldon Lisker, Cathy McCaw, Jane Morton, Linda Shaw and Cathy Tylka. We also had help from Sue Kelly-Cochrane, Jane Morton, John & Serena Noble (they judged for the plant nomenclature awards), and Marcia Van Loy. Finally, thanks to Paula Verstraete for organizing the volunteers. 🌿

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Wild With Natives Continued from page 4

colorful low growing form that I have been using extensively and love. And finally, the amazing *A. hookeri franciscana* (now extinct in the wild) is a wonder saved for cultivation that is low, fast, tight, and adaptable.

Try manzanitas in your garden. Plant them without amendments or fertilizer. Water them occasionally with a hose. You should be pleasantly surprised.

Member Greg Rubin is the founder and owner of California's Own Landscape Design, Inc. (www.calown.com) and a popular speaker. A specialist in the use of native plants in the landscape, he has designed over 500 native landscapes in San Diego County.✂

Trees, Please Continued from page 5

peoples used to use for poisoning hunting arrows. Apparently, the numbing effect can't cross mucus membranes in humans, but I would not recommend chewing on one of those hunting arrows. Today there is research to use tree bark to combat types of lung and ovarian cancer, as well as evidence that derivatives from the Scotch Pine tree may fight arthritis.

Although eating bark sounds like a stretch, true stick cinnamon comes from Sri Lankan tree bark, and Angostura tree bark distills to "bitters," which my grandmother used to pour into her Manhattan cocktails. No discussion about bark is complete without mentioning cork. *Quercus suber* (Cork Oak) is an underused tree in our Mediterranean climate. Harvested for centuries to plug wine bottles, Cork Oak has a fascinating thick, spongy bark, which many people seem to find irresistible to carve. Please don't.

No discussion about bark, can omit the infamous birch tree. Although not especially a dry climate tree, the white Paper Birch, *Betula papyrifera*, was famous in America for making canoes, and once made a suitable surface to record early writing, as it peels off like sheets of paper. More suited to our climate, with equally impressive papery bark, is the columnar *Melaleuca quinquenervia*, (Cajeput Tree), with alluringly soft, spongy and peeling papery bark.

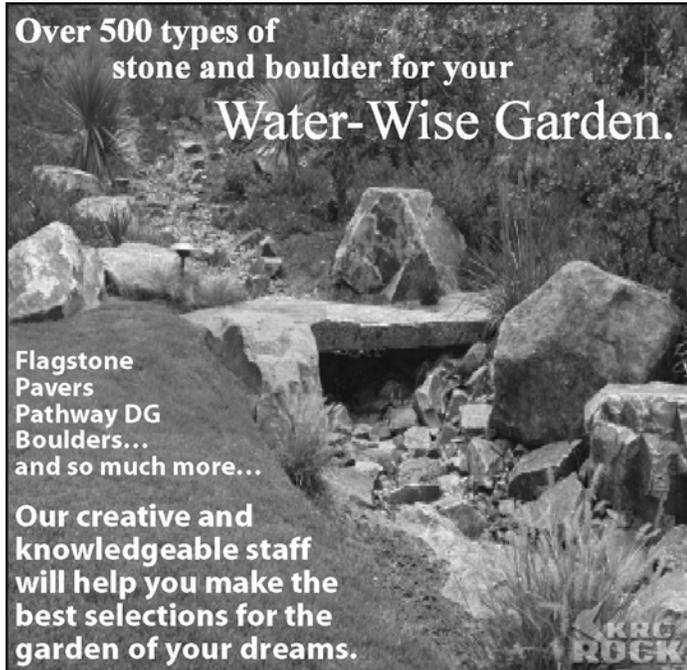
A cardinal sin for arborists is to see bark disgraced by errant weed whacking. If you have a tree growing in a lawn be sure the drip-line of your tree has mulch instead of weeds, and keep string trimmers away from the root crown. Many a city tree suffers needlessly from "lawnmower blight."

For more tree bark and care information see these websites:
ufei.org
tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/nonpwdpubs/young_naturalist/plants/tree_bark
backyardnature.net/treebark.htm
gardeningknowhow.com/trees-shrubs/repairing-tree-bark-damage.htm
extension.iastate.edu/Publications/SUL3.pdf
aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-1255/ANR-1255.pdf

Member Robin Rivet is an ISA Certified Arborist, UCCE Master Gardener and member of the San Diego Regional Urban Forestry Council. She serves on the Community Forests Advisory Board for the City of San Diego, and the Environmental/Sustainability Commission for the City of La Mesa. She welcomes public inquiries and rebuttals.✂

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Community Outreach Continued from page 6

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Clairemont Town Council Garden Tour

May 7 ~ 10am-4pm

Enjoy amazing drought tolerant gardens, tropical paradises and entertainer's delights in this 15-garden tour, including front and backyard landscapes. Proceeds benefit the Clairemont Town Council's efforts in supporting Clairemont community organizations, schools and events. Tickets: \$15 in advance or \$20 the day of tour. Visit www.clairemontonline.com to purchase tickets, or the UPS Store (4809 Clairemont Dr.) or the Sandwich Emporium (3054-1/2 Clairemont Dr.).

Don't forget to celebrate **National Arbor Day** on April 29, 2011 by planting a tree (or two)... and purchasing the S.D. Horticultural Society's renowned book, *Ornamental Trees for Mediterranean Climates*. Featuring optimum trees for the San Diego area, this must-have beautiful book, designed for anyone who loves trees, showcases 260 of the best trees for our climate, and is available for a limited time at a deeply discounted price of ONLY \$20. Purchase at the monthly Hort meetings or visit www.sdhortsoc.org/treebook.htm.

MARCH GARDEN TOUR

Many thanks to our "Take A Botanical Odyssey" garden tour volunteers (their names will be in the next newsletter). The marvelous hosts who shared their gardens with us are Dan Townley & Nancy Mueller, Jim Helms, Wanda Mallen & Gary Vincent, and Dan & Eloise Kinnard. We very much appreciate our sponsors (below) and the other businesses that also offered special discounts to tour attendees: Pura Vida Tropicals, Garden Glories, Buena Creek Gardens, Briggs Tree Company, and KRC Rock.



GRANGETTO'S – SEE PAGE 21



SOUTHWEST BOULDER & STONE – SEE PAGE 10



BOTANICAL PARTNERS – SEE PAGE 17

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SHARING SECRETS

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

The question for this month was:

What materials have worked best for your hanging baskets and why? Member Portia Harloff relined her epi baskets with coir preformed basket liners and last spring the birds have robbed every basket at least half way down and some even more. Perhaps you have some alternatives to suggest.

Louise Anderson had a good secret: "I use a pot inside the basket. There are some plastic ones that are shaped like a basket and they hold the water better."

Joyce Berry had, "the same problem with my baskets. The birds took less of the coir so far. Need to just get them planted soon."

Vivian Blackstone shared two ideas: "If the basket is plastic I use my own mixture of homemade compost, veggie scraps, leaves, and dirt, thinned with #3 perlite. (I've work my soil for 25 years, but you can buy compost. If the basket is wire I line it with 2"thick moss and then add my compost with is thinned with perlite."

Carol Costarakis replied: "I have long epi baskets mounted on my fence. The lining next to the soil is coco matt, covered by 'exotic black plastic' (cut from bags) on the outside – perforated, of course. Seems to be working"

Ann Forseth-Smith had a good solution: "My yard is a listed Habitat Garden. A lot of birds come to visit. Several years ago I repotted all my hanging baskets using a plastic dish-shaped planter from Big Lots. Cheap solution. You don't have the look of the moss but so far the birds haven't taken a liking to the plastic either. It's also more water efficient as they don't dry out as fast."

Lorie Johansen told us: "With two acres to manage, I have very few hanging baskets. The Epidemdrum orchids I have are in square wooden pots and fare well in spite of my neglect. Maybe Portia can line the baskets with a gunny sack-like material which somewhat resembles coir but much less expensive. However, if she has mice and rats, they like to tear that up for their nests. Those birds are a bit greedy! "

Britta J. Kuhlow said: "I've been using a product called Magnimoist that I found on the internet at www.thinkmint.net. It is a densely woven product from a plant called kanaf which is being sustainably grown to replace the use of trees in papermaking. Read about kanaf at www.visionpaper.com. The birds don't seem to like it as I have not had any problem with them robbing my baskets."

Dave Richmond had some interesting suggestions: "I assume the birds are stealing the coir from exposed exterior sides/bottom of the epi baskets. I have some wire baskets that would leave about 99% of the surface area of a liner exposed. If birds are stealing the coir, one could sit out there with an air rifle and harass the birds, or build an aviary for the epis that excludes the birds, but those are kind of extreme approaches. If you have grape vine prunings you could weave a basket from them, or weave them into your wire baskets before

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inserting coir liners. I assume you want something that is esthetically pleasing. A simple thing would be to line basket with window screen before adding coir liner. The coir would still be visible, although it might look a little matted. I've seen various plastic fencing materials at Home Depot and Lowes, some of which would probably serve as a decent pre-liner. I have some baskets that would leave probably less than 50% of the surface area of a liner exposed. I don't think birds want to work that hard to get at it, which brings up another idea: I'll bet the environment that these epis are in is so neat and tidy that there's a lack of materials for the birds to build nests. Make the birds an offering of straw or similar materials."

Cindy Sparks doesn't do hanging baskets "due to water requirements. I sparingly do hanging pots but lining is not necessary. I also add a little dripper so each pot gets watered automatically. We do a lot of travel, and while it is not the most efficient way to do it, it works for me."

Katrin Utt wrote: "I use green chicken wire to keep the birds and rabbits away from new seedbeds or pots. I layer it flat in circles in my veggie beds. Rabbits hate to step on it. Home Depot has it in small rolls, and I always keep one in my garage. Very handy stuff."

Pat Welsh shared these insights: "Years ago when I was still lining hanging baskets with sphagnum moss, birds pulled out much of the top part beneath the tightly rolled edge which they were not able to get. At the time I was having my Senegal date palm (*Phoenix reclinata*) pruned and the tree men pulled off a good deal of palm fiber from the base of the fronds. Using sharp grass shears and clippers I cut off sheets of this and used it to mend my baskets, I also used some to keep soil from sifting through old mortarless stone walls. It's very tough and birds had trouble pulling it out."

Tynan Wyatt said: "Luckily, I haven't had a problem with birds stealing the coir from my baskets, because that is the only thing I use so far. These were my thoughts: 1) Papier-mâché might work in place of coir, or 2) maybe a hypertufa hanging basket if that's possible based on thickness and weight (I have limited experience with hypertufa). On the bright side, at least Ms. Harloff knows the birds like her garden."

Stephen Zolezzi wrote: "Using sphagnum moss or coir are either expensive or don't last. My solution is floor scrubber pads found at the Janitorial supply store or Smart & Final in the floor scrubber/polisher dept. These pads are sold in varying thicknesses, colors and diameters – can be cut to fit larger sized baskets or pared down for smaller. They last forever!"

The question for next month is:

Rose lovers – how about some tips for growing great roses and then treating them properly for long vase life?

Send your reply by April 5 to info@sdhortsoc.org.

Order your tickets online now for the April 11 Special Evening with Jeffrey Bale (see page 1) and avoid the wait at the check-in table. Go to www.SanDiegoHorticulturalSociety.org and use any major credit card.

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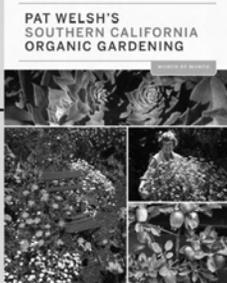
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California Native Plant Week

Last September the California State Assembly and Senate established the 3rd week of April, each year, as California Native Plant Week, beginning April 17-23, 2011. This measure encourages community groups, schools, and citizens to undertake appropriate activities to promote the conservation, restoration, and appreciation of California's native plants. The resolution was sponsored by the California Native Plant Society, and garnered the support of horticulturalists, conservation organizations, and nurseries throughout California. It recognizes the vital historic, artistic, and economic contributions California's native plants have made to our State, and points out that California native plant gardening and landscaping have tremendous positive impacts to our watersheds, to habitat recovery, and to curbing catastrophic wildfires. In particular, the resolution recognizes that home landscaping and gardening with native plants can cut residential water use from 60 to 90% over conventional gardening.

The non-profit California Native Plant Society's mission is to conserve California's native plants and their natural habitats, and increase understanding, appreciation, and horticultural use of native plants. Formed in 1965, CNPS has nearly 10,000 members with expertise on native flora. The San Diego chapter meets in Balboa Park – see www.cnpssd.org for details about their upcoming meetings and events.

San Diego is celebrating California Native Plant Week with a variety of events. The results of our local Art Contest will be published and shown off at the CNPS Chapter Meeting April 19th. We have also organized walks and talks – check www.cnpssd.org for details on these events:

- April 16, 9:30 AM, Tour of native plant area at the Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon.
- April 16, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Lost Valley on the PCT, Hike with Volunteer Naturalists Paul Larson and Hank Barber approximately 7 miles on a beautiful wooded section of the Pacific Crest Trail that offers views of boulder-dotted hills while passing through Coulter pines, oak trees and chaparral., Anza Borrego Foundation, Warner Springs Fire Station on Hwy 79, BORREGO SPRINGS, 92004
- April 17, 2:00 PM, Buena Vista Native Plant Garden Tour in old Oceanside, Walking tour of over a dozen gardens, led by local designers and experts at the use of native plants.
- April 17, 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM, Black Mountain Open Space Park Miner's Loop, Hike through chaparral to view the remains of an old arsenic mine. Wild flowers should be plentiful on this moderately challenging hike.



Photo: Greg Rubin

Native garden at the Aqua Hedionda Lagoon Discovery Center in Carlsbad, designed by Greg Rubin (see page 3).

- April 19, 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM, Butterfly Habitats and Native Gardens talk, Clayton Tschudy will discuss connections between the native butterfly realm and native gardens., Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101 or 104.

Our sponsor **Tree of Life Nursery** in San Juan Capistrano is "ambitiously setting out to have at least one event a day... It's going to be a great week to come out to the nursery to enjoy all of these FREE events and to get familiar with California Native Plants!" Their kick-off will be on Saturday April 16, at 9 AM with the Grand Opening of their new Butterfly Garden and a Butterfly Gardening talk. The week's events end on April 23, with a "Native Cultures" event "that is sure to be crowd pleasing. The event will be focused on the contemporary use of Native American foods implemented in our lifestyle today - cooking demos and tastings using California native plants." For complete details see www.CaliforniaNativePlants.com or call (949) 728-0685. 🌿

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March Plant Display

By Charley & Sue Fouquette and Susi Torre-Bueno

What is the Plant Display?

Each month members bring in plants, cuttings or flowers and put them on our display tables. What a great way to see what plants grow well in our area. 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 Display tables.

Echium candicans (formerly *E. fastuosum*)

PRIDE OF MADIERA (Boraginaceae) Madeira Islands

This plant is a 5'-6' tall evergreen shrub with 6"-10" wide hairy gray-green leaves. Spikes of clusters of 1/2" bluish-purple flowers appear in late winter and spring. A dramatic and bold garden accent. (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 3/11) – S.F.

Gladiolus splendens (Iridiaceae) South Africa

A beautiful drought-tolerant scarlet-flowering corm. The small flowers are borne on stems 2'-3' tall. A nice cut flower, it blooms in February to March. (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 3/11) – S.T.B.

Homoglad hybrids (Iridiaceae) South Africa

These corms were purchased in 2010 from Annie's Annuals. Here's what their website (anniesannuals.com) says: "This is a beautiful early spring bulb with large flowers and slender foliage. The blooms are variable-some will be pale yellow with some darker brown streaks on the top petals, while others will be more flushed with color. In evening they are fragrant. These are a cross between *Gladiolus tristis* & *Homoglossum watsonium* (which has now been renamed *Gladiolus watsonium*). *G. tristis* gives this hybrid its fragrance & *G. watsonium* gives it its coloring. The flowers occur on long stems & sometimes will fall over so underplanting with another plant is sometimes helpful." My flowers are very pale yellow and look nearly identical to *G. tristis*, but smaller. (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 3/11) – S.T.B.

Masdevallia Machu Picchu 'Crown Point'

(Orchidaceae) Hybrid

The Peruvian Andes is the ancestral home of *Masdevallia* orchids, and they're fascinating plants. They are a cross between *Masdevallia ayabacana* and *Masdevallia coccinea*. The specimen displayed (with deep purple flowers) is grown outside under cool conditions with bright indirect light. (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 3/11) – C.F.



Scilla peruviana PERUVIAN SCILLA, GIANT SCILLA, PORTUGUESE SQUILL, CUBAN LILY (Hyacinthaceae) Mediterranean

A beautiful low-water Mediterranean bulb with bright dark blue/violet flowers in late winter to spring. It will go dormant in summer if not irrigated, and the dark green strap-shaped leaves (to about 10" long) will re-appear in the fall. Easy to grow with good drainage and fairly lean soil. Despite the common name, this bulb is not from Peru. One website (paghat.com) notes that, "It was first described by the pioneer taxonomist Linnaeus (1707-1778) as a native of southern Spain, named after the first ship to bring bulbs to England, The Peru.

Continued on page 18

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Scilla peruviana (Reprinted with permission from www.EasyToGrowBulbs.com, where the plant displayed was purchased.)

Plant Display Continued from page 17

It was later additionally called Caribbean or Cuban Lily by right of having naturalized on Caribbean islands, especially Cuba, reinforcing the mistaken notion that it is a South American species." (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 3/11) – S.T-B.

In addition to the plant described above, those below were also displayed.

What's that in front of the plant name? Plants marked 3 are fully described in the *Plant Forum Compilation*. See www.SDHortSoc.org for details on how to order this valuable reference tool. Can you spot the phony plant this month? The phony plant in the March newsletter was *Phygellus xrectus* 'Sardine Splash'.

- 3 *Abutilon palmeri* INDIAN MALLOW (Pat Pawlowski, El Cajon, 3/11)
- 3 *Ceanothus* 'Concha' CALIFORNIA LILAC (Pat Pawlowski, El Cajon, 3/11)
- 3 *Centradenia grandifolia* CREEPING PRINCESS FLOWER (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 3/11)
- Corydalis* sp. or cv. (Walt Meier, Carlsbad, 3/11)
- Dendrobium kingianum* 'Mauve Queen' (Walt Meier, Carlsbad, 3/11)
- Dendrobium queenianum* 'Mauve King' (Garden Lover, Carlsbad, 3/11)
- Dyckia* 'Silver Superstar' (Cindy Sparks, Point Loma, 3/11)
- 3 *Eschscholzia californica* CALIFORNIA POPPY (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 3/11)
- 3 *Geranium maderense* (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 3/11)
- 3 *Melianthus major* HONEY BUSH (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 3/11)
- Penstemon parryi* PARRY'S PENSTEMON (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 3/11)
- Phymaspermum acerosum*, syn. *Athanasia acerosa* COULTER BUSH (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 3/11)
- Pleurothallis aculeata* (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 3/11)
- 3 *Salvia africana-lutea*, syn. *Salvia aurea* BROWN SALVIA, GOLDEN SAGE (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 3/11)
- 3 *Salvia xjamensis* (pink form) AUTUMN SAGE (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 3/11)
- Sophronitis* Arizona (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 9/07)
- 3 *Sparaxis tricolor* HARLEQUIN FLOWER (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 3/11)
- Spiraea* sp. or cv. (Sheila Busch, Escondido, 3/11)
- 3 *Watsonia (laccata?)* (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 3/11)

HOW TO READ THE PLANT DISPLAY 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.] ✍

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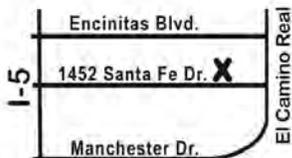


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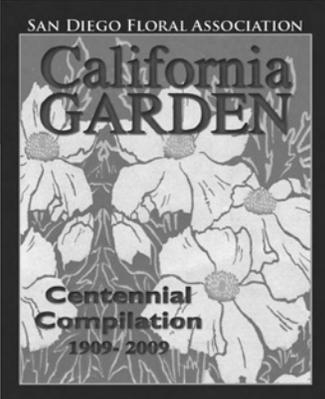


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March Meeting Report

The two Hot Hort Picks – outstanding plants briefly described by Mark Collins of Evergreen Nursery, which sponsors this component of our meetings – this month were *Coleonema pulchellum* 'Sunset Gold' and *Agonis juniperina*. The first plant is a charming dwarf shrub from South Africa with chartreuse foliage and light pink flowers from winter to spring. The *Agonis juniperina* is a drought-tolerant Australian evergreen tree to 20' tall (less if kept in a container) with small white flowers. Thanks, Mark for donating these plants to our Opportunity Drawing.

Speaker Jim Mumford presented an in-depth look at what goes into creating green roofs, with many images of the various stages of installation. He's had a number of years to practice various techniques, and it was very interesting to see both successful projects and ones which had failed over time (primarily due to lack of maintenance). In Germany, green roofs have been used on city buildings since 1962, and elsewhere they are found in primarily rural areas going back for centuries.

There are some very compelling reasons to install a green roof, including energy savings (by reducing air conditioning costs), longer roof life (if properly installed), increase in property values, reduction in landfill waste (from replacing old roof), and rainwater capture. Of course, it's crucial to work with an engineer to be sure your roof can support the increased weight, and also to obtain the appropriate permits and to work with a reliable and experienced contractor and installer. Each roof is different, and another professional you'll want to include is a green roof consultant, who can help with designing a green roof that will maintain the structural integrity of your building, ensure intact and functioning waterproofing, and also ensure the long-term health of the plants you use.

Here in Southern California we need to provide irrigation for the plants on roofs. The water source can be stored rainwater, gray water from the building, municipal water, and/or air conditioner condensate. It is both hotter and windier on a roof than at ground level, and plants need to be chosen to meet those challenges. Sedums of many kinds are one commonly (and successfully) used plant. Plants can be purchased as small plugs, hydroseeded, or bought in pre-grown modular trays. Whatever plants you use, on-going maintenance is important, including appropriate watering, weeding and fertilization. As we saw from the images of unsuccessful green roofs, these plantings will become brown roofs in the absence of care, especially in our climate with rainfall only in the winter and spring months. Costs can range from \$15 to \$40 per square foot.

Numerous competing systems are available for green roofs, or a custom design can be done for pretty much any building with a strong enough roof that has up to a 40% slope. An *extensive* roof can have up to 6" of grown media, but it won't support foot traffic. One good example of this is the roof on the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco – go to www.calacademy.org/academy/building/the_living_roof to learn more about this extensive roof. Closer to home, you can see a green roof at the San Elijo Lagoon Visitor Center in Cardiff-by-the-Sea (visit www.sanelijo.org/naturecenter.html). Several buildings at the San Diego Botanic Garden also have green roofs. An *intensive* roof can have over 6" of growing media and can be designed to take foot traffic. Some nearby examples are the UCSD library and the Anza-Borrego park visitor center.

Living walls have become popular in recent years, and there are a number of pre-made systems to build them. A green façade is basically

a trellis system, while a living wall is a modular system with hydroponic cells of living plants. Whatever system you use, you'll need to set it up with an automatic drip watering system unless it is extremely small. Costs for a living wall can be as low as \$50 for a Woolly Pocket (www.woollypocket.com) to \$150 per square foot for a high-end system.

Jim showed many examples of living walls, including an 85' long green wall he has installed at the Thomas Jefferson School of Law. Visit www.tjssl.edu/news-media/2011/2395 for some terrific pictures of this fascinating project. Another living wall Jim did was for a Hollywood restaurant owned by famous chef Mario Batali – this wall was planted with edibles! Images of this (and some of Jim's other projects, including the roof on his own headquarters building in Kearny Mesa) are at www.greenscapedbuildings.com/portfolio.

Thanks so much, Jim, for showing us the pros and cons of green roofs and living walls. See page 16 for the names of those who generously donated plants and other goodies for our Opportunity Drawing and Door Prizes. ☺

Free Talks Continued from page 3

trees you're interested in, when to buy blooming trees, and the best ways to care for the trees you already have. Copies of the SDHS book, *Ornamental Trees for Mediterranean Climates*, will be available at the sale price of \$20. Steve will speak at the Oceanside Nursery: 3231 Oceanside Blvd., 760-754-0340. Marilyn gives her talk at the Carmel Valley Nursery: 13650 Carmel Valley Rd., 858-481-0622. No registration required – join us, and invite your friends!

On Saturday, April 2 join Southwest Boulder & Stone (see page 10) and Greg Rubin of California's Own Native Landscape Design for a discussion on **how to prevent wildfires from damaging your home**. Greg, a highly respected expert and longtime SDHS member, will walk you through the steps converting regular landscapes into wildfire barriers using native California plants and a little know-how. Sometimes the only difference between coming home to a pile of ash and a home is a properly landscaped yard. This FREE workshop will be held at Southwest Boulder & Stone's Rainbow yard at 10:30AM on April 2. For more information or to RSVP, visit www.southwestboulder.com, call (760) 451-3333 ext 709, or email seminar@southwestboulder.com. Please be sure to specify which workshop you will be attending.

Waterwise Without the Compromise is the topic of a FREE workshop from 10:00AM to noon on Saturday, April 9 in Escondido at Grangetto's Farm & Garden Supply (see page 21), 1105 West Mission Ave., (760) 745-4671. Tom Jesch will give the workshop the waterwise garden he previously installed on site. Learn about the plant materials and state-of-the-art irrigation technology used in the design. No need to register – just show up and have fun.

Hear from member Lynlee Austell Slaytor, a UC Davis-trained sustainable landscape expert and UCCE master gardener, who will surprise you with energy-saving best management practices that range from no-cost procedural changes to complete landscape makeovers. This FREE workshop is called **Tips from a Pro: Sustainable Landscape Practices - Low Cost/High Impact**, and is offered on April 14 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Register ASAP at www.energycenter.org/forestry; for more info contact Robin Rivet at (858) 634-4741 or robin.rivet@energycenter.org. Workshop address: 8690 Balboa Ave., Suite 100 Learning Center 3, San Diego. ☺

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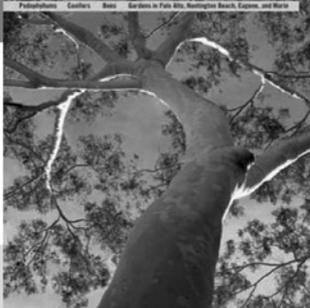
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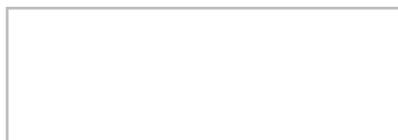
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What's Happening? for April 2011

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 Neal King at calendar@sdhortsoc.org.

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Hi to all and welcome to April –

also known as National Gardening Month. It is just fantastic outside as I am working on the newsletter – made prettier by all the great blooms, scents and colors outside the office. Now that we are “officially” into spring I intend to enjoy every minute of it. More plants will be in bloom this month than any other time of the year & we will try to have all of them.

What's new at the nursery:

- ❖ **Bougainvilleas** making a strong appearance including Camarillo Festival and Rosenka.
- ❖ **Wisteria sinensis** in full bloom (purple & white). Wonderful scent – deciduous in winter. Try planting with a companion vine like Pyrostygia (Flame Vine) for year round interest. Pyrostygia blooms in winter when not much else is in bloom.
- ❖ Lots of **flowering vines** arriving including Clematis (the evergreen ‘Avalanche’), Passion Flower, Thunbergia (orange, lemon/yellow), *Solanum jasminoides* (Potato Vine), Lavender Trumpet Vine, Senecio.
- ❖ The **Hydrangeas** have arrived – pink, white & blue including the popular ‘Endless Summer’ variety.
- ❖ The **Clivia** are really fabulous – orange, peach & yellow.
- ❖ Lots of **bedding perennials and annuals** – too many to even begin to list but some that will catch your eye as you come in: Marigolds, Columbine (Rose/White & Yellow), Nemesia (huge blooms), Petunias (the Lilac ones are my favorite – also have the Red, White & Blue six packs), Anemone Poppies, Argyanthemum (Marguerite Daisy), Cosmos, Zinnia.
- ❖ Instant fabulous color in **hanging baskets** – Lotus, Petunia combos, Scaevola, Diaschia & Superbells combo, Osteospermum (Yellow & Orange).
- ❖ Some beautiful indoor **Hydrangeas** in our greenhouse in 4, 6 & 8” sizes. Great color for your Spring decorating.
- ❖ **6” Mums** – pretty pastels – long lasting.
- ❖ **Spring Cactus** in 2”, 4” and 8” hanging. The 2” make great table decorations.
- ❖ **Lots of Fuchsias** in 4”, 6” & 8” sizes (upright, hanging AND Patio Trees) – heavily budded.



We're on Facebook! “Like” us for info and news as it happens. You'll find us under Andersons La Costa Nursery.

Continued on other side

The Water Conservation Garden

Details & registration at (619) 660-0614 or www.thegarden.org
 April 3, Noon, Free Ask the Horticulturist Tour
 April 9, 9am-4pm, Spring Garden Festival
 April 11 (El Cajon) & 14 (Fallbrook), 6:30pm, After the Lawn is Gone
 April 16, 9-10am, Water-Smart Edibles in your Landscape
 Saturdays, 10:30am, Docent-Led Garden Tour

San Diego Botanic Garden

See back cover and page 8 for more upcoming events
 Details & registration at www.sdbgarden.org or (760) 436-3036
 April 2, 10am-noon, Composting Workshop
 April 13, 6-7pm, Low Water Use Plant Pairing
 April 28, 6-9pm, Growing and Landscaping with Orchids Outdoors

Walter Andersen Nursery FREE Saturday Classes:

9:00am Point Loma Nursery:	9:30am Poway Nursery:
April 2 Container Plants & Hanging Baskets	Spring Rose Care
April 9 Herbs, How to Grow & Use Them	Container Veggies
April 16 Azaleas & Other Shade Plants	Monrovia: What's New
April 23 Cactus & Succulents	Citrus & Avocados
April 30 Tomatoes	Water Conservation/Sprinklers

Details at www.walterandersen.com; addresses in ad on page 15

Evergreen Nursery FREE Seminars

April 2, 10am – Starting a Vegetable/Herb Garden
 April 23, 10am – Ornamental Trees for San Diego (see page 3)
 Carmel Valley and Oceanside Nurseries (see map on page 2)
 Details at www.evergreennursery.com/seminar-schedule-2011

Cedros Gardens, Saturday 10am classes:

Details at www.cedrosgardens.com; address in ad on page 17.

Grangetto's Farm & Garden Supply

FREE Workshop & BBQ: April 2, 10am – noon, How to Grow Your Veggie Garden, 29219 Juba Road, Valley Center
FREE Workshop: April 9, 10am – noon, Waterwise Without the Compromise (see page 19)
 Details at www.grangettos.com; see ad on page 21.

Master Gardener Spring Home Gardening Seminar

Apr. 2, 7:30am-3:15pm, A FABULOUS LEARNING EXPERIENCE; only \$15/class, \$40/3 classes
 See mastergardenerssandiego.org/seminar/index.php

April 1, 1:30pm, Vista Garden Club: All about the Flower Show. 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista. See vistagardenclub.org.

April 5, 6:30pm, San Diego County Orchid Society: Orchids of Columbia FREE. Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Info: sdorchids.com.

April 9, 9am-4pm, Cuyamaca College Spring Garden Festival: Plant sale, expert design advice, and more. Free. 900 Rancho San Diego Parkway, El Cajon. See cuyamaca.edu/springfest.

April 9, East County Rose Society: ARS Horticulture Judges School. \$40 (includes a light breakfast and lunch). Contact Sally Long at (619) 588-8893 or sally.long@gmail.com.

April 13, noon, Ramona Garden Club: Unusual container gardens. 524 Main St., Ramona. See RamonaGardenClub.com or call (760) 789-8774.

April 11, 7:00pm

SDHS Special Evening with Jeffrey Bale The Pleasure Garden

See page 1

April 14, 5:30-7:30pm, Center for Sustainable Energy Workshop: Sustainable Landscape Practices, Low Cost/High Impact. See page 19.

April 14, 7:30pm, Southern Calif. Hort. Society: Jeffrey Bale, The Pleasure Garden. Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Dr., L.os Angeles. Non-members \$5. See socalhort.org.

April 16, 7:30am-5pm & April 17, 10am-4pm, Coronado Flower Show and Plant Sale: Dig, Design and Dine. Show starts at 1pm Saturday 601 Orange Ave Coronado. \$5, under 12 and CFA Members free. For info see coronadoflowershow.org

April 16, 10am, Lake Hodges Native Plant Club Garden Walk: Guided tour of the Nativescapes garden (about a 30 minute walk from entrance) at the San Diego Safari Park. Free with park admission. See lnpc.org.

April 16, 9am-3pm, Poway Valley Garden Club Flower Show: Entries received April 14, 5-7:30pm, and April 15 7:30-9:30am. Templars Hall Old Poway Park 14134 Midland Road, Poway, Info: powayvalleygardenclub.org or call (858) 748-1025.

April 16, 10am-4pm, Point Loma Garden Club's Plant Sale: Plants for sale at very reasonable prices, Garden Boutique, guest speaker at noon, a program for kids, and more. Free. 3598 Talbot St., Point Loma. For info see plgc.org or contact Toni at tonimunsell@cox.net. (619) 223-2051.

April 16, noon, Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society: Joslyn Senior Center, 724 N. Broadway, Escondido. Info (760) 741-7553.

April 16 & 17, 10am-4pm, Fullerton Arboretum Green Scene: Garden event with bulbs, succulents, organic vegetables, accessories and more. Info: fullertonarboretum.org or (657) 278-4798.

April 18, 2pm Lake Hodges Native Plant Club: Solving Landscape Problems with Native Plants. 17110 Bernardo Center Drive, San Diego. See lhnc.org or call (858) 487-6661.

April 23, 10am-3pm, Alta Vista Gardens Earth Day Festival: Plant Sales, garden tours, Gardening Demonstrations, and more. Free. 1270 Vale Terrace Drive Vista. See altavistagardens.org or call (760) 945-3954.

April 23, 9am-4pm, California Rare Fruit Growers Rare Fruit Plant Sale: Sale makes available unusual and rare fruit trees to the public. Free admission, payments by cash or checks. Casa del Prado at Balboa Park. Info: JMGallego@CRFGSanDiego.org, (858) 876-2734, or see crfgsandiego.org.

April 29 & 30, 9:30am-5pm, Del Mar Rose Society Rose Show: View a wide assortment of beautiful specimens that are grown in the San Diego area. Judging on April 28. Del Mar County Library, 1309 Camino del Mar, Del Mar. For info contact Jan at janfillion@aol.com or Linda at lindagluckman@att.net.

April 30, 2-5pm, & May 1, 10am, 4pm, Vista Garden Club Flower Show: Amateur gardeners are encouraged to enter. Entries will be received April 29, 4:30-7pm and April 30, 7-9am. Plant Sale opens Saturday 12:30pm. 1200 Vale Terrace in Vista. See vistagardenclub.org.

1 May, 11am-2:30pm, May Day Garden Party: Brunch, plant sale, silent auction, raffle, and live music, for the **Bill Teague Memorial Garden** at the new Beach Safety Center in Del Mar. \$30 (15 April deadline). See FriendsOfThePowerhouse.org or call (858) 792-6406.

Garden Tours (more tours described on page 6)

April 15, 10am-3pm, Lake Hodges Native Plant Club Spring Garden Tour: Four Poway gardens and a garden on a Rancho Bernardo golf course. \$15. See lhnc.org or call Linda Bresler at (858) 486-8733.

May 7, 10am-4pm, Mission Hills Garden Club Garden Walk: Tickets on Sale April 1. \$25 in advance, \$30 day of walk. See missionhillsgardenclub.org.

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

Canyonner 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.

The warmer weather is bringing out the vines – here's a couple of picks:

❖**Stephanotis 'Madagascar Jasmine'** – likes a little shelter from the hot sun, such a fragrant flower.

❖**Pithecoctenium crucigerum** (Monkey-comb) - In late spring there is a short but beautiful bloom of creamy white flowers with yellow throats. As the flowers mature they darken so that each flower is entirely yellow. Plant in full sun or part shade, with moderate watering.

❖**Passiflora edulis 'Frederick'**. The premier fruit producing Passion Vine. The flowers are fragrant and large. The fruit has a purple skin and delicious pulp when ripe. The fruit should never be picked, it must fall from the vine naturally. If it is allowed to wrinkle a bit after collecting, it becomes sweet ambrosia.

And now we head on out to get going.....

April in the garden means warmer weather and longer days with no fear of frost. Does it get any better?

❖**Fertilize** — Plants grow at a phenomenal rate in the spring. Feed lawns, roses, shrubs and trees (just about everything) with a balanced fertilizer. Use an acid fertilizer on azaleas, gardenias and camellias after they flower.

❖**Pinch/Prune** — Pinch annuals and perennials for dense growth and more bloom. Prune spring-flowering shrubs when they finish blooming.

❖**Hedges and shrubs** start growing quickly now. Shrubs that have a growth to over 6' need frequent pruning during the warm months to keep as a shrub. For flowering shrubs – prune after flowering rather than before.

❖**Azaleas:** April is the best month to plant azaleas. Most are in bloom now which means their roots are dormant and therefore the safest time to disturb the roots in planting. Plant azaleas in tubs or the ground in partial shade and keep evenly moist.

❖**Bulbs:** Do not cut off the leaves of your finished spring flowering bulbs until the leaves are completely yellow – fertilize as they die back with Bone Meal or Bulb Food. Plant around them and look forward to seeing them again next early spring.

❖**Water:** Check and program your irrigation system. Fix clogs and broken sprinklers and adjust spray heads. Begin watering as weather warms. Apply a fresh layer of organic mulch to conserve moisture.

❖**Controlling Spring Weeds:** Weeds always seem to get an early jump on you in spring. Before you know it they're competing with desirable plants robbing them of light, water and nutrients. They also look terrible!! Here is my favorite way to control weeds - **Add Mulch** - a thick layer of organic mulch will smother weed seeds preventing young weeds from reaching the surface and weeds that do get through will be easier to pull.

❖**Spring Feeding:** For plants spring is a time of vigorous growth and renewal but if the proper nutrients are not available in the soil all plants can get off to a slow start and grow poorly through the rest of the year.

❖**Thin fruit on young trees:** Deciduous fruit trees will often produce a heavy crop the second and third years after planting. The fruit should be thinned while the trees are young as this will produce larger fruit, promote foliage growth and generally strengthen the tree.

❖**Feed and Water Roses:** To keep roses blooming and healthy over a long period after each cycle of blooming occurs cut the spent flowers, fertilize and water thoroughly.

❖**Prune Shrubs:** Check shrubs and ground covers this month to see if they need pruning. Hedges in particular make rapid growth this month and should be sheared back before they get out of control. Azaleas can be cut back when they are finished blooming.

Pest control:

❖**Spray for caterpillars** - they are now becoming wide awake and hungry. BT (a product from Safer) will affect caterpillars but no other insects. Spider mites are most active in the warmer weather. Spraying with chemical sprays can make your problem worse as this will also kill the beneficial pests that help keep the ones you do not want under control. Insecticidal soaps are the least harmful.