

Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

December 2011, Number 207

Growing Proteas in Your Garden

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On the Cover: Proteas in a garden setting.

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November Fruit Pick



Scott Borden and Jim Bishop were the gracious hosts for the November Pomegranate & Persimmon Picking at Borden Ranch. Nearly 100 members attended and picked many bags of yummy fruit. More photos are on our Facebook page.



Photos Jim Bishop



Scott Borden, far left, instructing eager fruit pickers.

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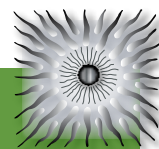
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SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Our Mission 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.



SAN DIEGO
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Details on membership are on page 20 and at www.sdHORTSoc.org
For questions contact membership@sdHORTSoc.org or
Jim Bishop at (619) 296-9215.

MEETING SCHEDULE

5:00 – 6:00 Meeting room setup

6:00 – 6:45 Vendor sales, opportunity drawing ticket sales, lending library, plant display

6:45 – 9:00 Announcements, Hot Hort Picks, speaker, opportunity drawing

MEETINGS & EVENTS IN 2011-2012

December 3	Coffee in the Garden, Leucadia
January 9	Scott Calhoun on Provocative Succulents: A Rollicking Trip into the World of Cactus and Succulents
February 13	Robin Rivet on Trees of Ill Repute: Shifting From Malignant to Benign
March 12	Susan Heeger and Jimmy Williams on From Seed to Skillet
March 31	SDHS Tour – Gardens of La Mesa
April 9	Susan Krzywicki on Fitting California Natives into California-Style Gardens
May 14	Lorene Edwards Forkner on Small is the New Big
May 17-20	SDHS Tour – Gardens of the San Francisco Area (see page 5)

COVER IMAGE: The big yellow blooms of this protea (photographed by our December speaker) look great in a water thrifty planting bed with succulents and cycads. Find out how to achieve this exotic look in your garden at our December 12th meeting. We'll be selling tickets to win a gorgeous protea floral arrangement to last through the holidays!

www.SanDiegoHorticulturalSociety.org



Next Meeting: DECEMBER 12, 2011, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

Topic: BEN GILL ON "GROWING PROTEAS IN YOUR GARDEN"

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: (619) 296-9215



For December we welcome Ben Gill, founder of California Protea Management and Founding Director of the California Protea Association. Ben will speak about the magnificent members of the proteaceae family, which traces its lineage back 300 million years and provides among the most stunning plants and cutting flowers in gardens today. Hear about Australian banksias, grevilleas, hakeas and isopogons, plus South African leucadendrons, leucospermums and proteas. He will discuss how to grow proteas: location, soil preparation, variety selection, irrigation, fertilization and mulching, shaping, pruning, and harvesting. Ben will share important observations and fascinating experiences accumulated during his extensive international projects and travels.

Gill has been involved with the protea business for over 33 years and has helped develop farms in California, Mexico, Chile, Colombia and China. He has contributed many articles to trade journals, magazines and newspapers, been an expert consultant to television and horticultural news programs. He has participated in the Del Mar Fair as a speaker, display designer, and builder. In 1989 Ben was awarded the Don Diego Trophy. He offers consultation services on development and growing techniques, and serves as Director of the California Association of Flower Growers & Shippers, Director of the San Diego County Farm Bureau, and Founding Director of the Palomar College Arboretum.

For more information visit www.californiaproteamgmt.com and see page 3. 🌿

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Established September 1994

BOARD MEMBERS

Jeff Biletnikoff – Meeting Room Coordinator
Jim Bishop – President, Membership Chair
Judy Bradley – Co-Chair-Program Committee
Linda Bresler – Member at Large
Mark Collins – Finance/Budget Committee
Julian Duval – San Diego Botanic Garden Representative
Mary James – Member at Large
Dannie McLaughlin – Tour Coordinator
Susan Oddo – Publicity Coordinator
Stephanie Shigematsu – Member at Large
Susi Torre-Bueno – Newsletter Editor, Past President
Cathy Tylka – Treasurer
Don Walker – Past President
Nancy Woodard – Volunteer Coordinator
Lucy Warren – Secretary

Let's Talk Plants!, the SDHS newsletter, is published the fourth Monday of every month.

Editor/Advertising: Susi Torre-Bueno;
(760) 295-2173; newsletter@sdhortsoc.org

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

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☛New Email? 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 email or address with anyone!

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



IMPORTANT MEMBER INFORMATION

ARE YOU READING THIS IN COLOR???

In our monthly eblast we send everyone the password to read this newsletter in digital format – and over 1/3 of our members now get the digital version exclusively. It has all color images, all live links, you can enlarge each page as much as you like for easy reading, and you can print out the pages you want to keep. You can also find back issues on our website for easy access without cluttering up your bookcase. To switch to the digital edition send an email saying "online only" to membership@sdhortsoc.org.

EVENT PLANNERS NEEDED

Share your passion for plants! Our five-person Events & Outreach Committee needs a second co-chair and more volunteers to plan exciting events. This committee organizes our outreach tables at the Spring and Fall Home/Garden Shows, helps with our display at the San Diego County Fair, creates workshops (see page 3) and special events. For more info contact Susi Torre-Bueno at (760) 295-2173.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Susan Oddo is looking for a Public Relations email list assistant. She would like the help of someone who will maintain contact with PR persons at garden clubs, plant societies, and the garden press to keep our publicity database of email addresses current. You will manage the names and email addresses in an Excel sheet for Susan's monthly PR emailings about upcoming speakers and events. Contact her at: soddod@earthlink.net.

THANKS SO MUCH!

Many thanks to Scott Borden and Jim Bishop for hosting our November 5 Pomegranate & Persimmon Picking at the Borden Ranch. It was a fun change of pace from our usual monthly Coffee event, and folks had a fine time picking bags of gorgeous ripe fruit – see photos on the inside front cover and on our Facebook page.

Also, thanks to Dannie McLaughlin and Linda Johnson for staffing our information table at the Fall Garden & Home Festival at The Water Conservation Garden.



Our new Facebook page gives us more options to grow and share and replaces our old Facebook group. Join our community of mad gardeners, share your garden questions, and get to know fellow Hort members. You can LIKE us at our new page by going to:

www.facebook.com/#!/pages/San-Diego-Horticultural-Society/169836313077520

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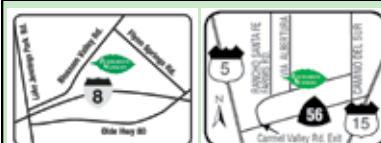
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Sunday..... 9:00am-4:30pm

Activities Committee

We are organizing an Activities Committee to select topics, work with presenters, and conduct educational classes and hands-on workshops for our members. This year we had three very successful workshops: the Hypertufa Workshop, the Pebble Mosaic Workshop, and the Debra Lee Baldwin Succulent Container Design Workshop. We already have a list of ideas from our membership to get you started. We are looking for a committee chair and two volunteers. A terrific incentive, aside from this being a very fun committee, is that committee members who help out at an activity get to attend it for FREE!

You will work with the Events & Outreach Committee to help identify presenters and set dates. The Public Relations Committee will create and send out email invitations and set up online registrations for each activity. The Activities Committee will handle the logistics to make the magic happen!

If you have good organization skills and would like to be in on the ground floor of launching this exciting committee, email Jim Bishop at info@sdhortsoc.org.



TO LEARN MORE...

By Ava Torre-Bueno

Proteas Galore!

Protea, the subject of this month's presentation, are OLD plants! "The Proteaceae family to which proteas belong is an ancient one. Its ancestors grew in Gondwanaland, 300 million years ago."

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protea>



The California Protea Association has many pages of information:
<http://californiaprotea.org/>

Next year you can go to Chile for a conference on Protea. Why not?!
<http://www.ishs.org/news/?p=1785>

Protea Newsletter International (a trade paper) apparently only had one volume in 2008, but you can read it here:

http://www.ishs.org/sci/protea_1_1.pdf

See page five for interesting agricultural information about San Diego County.

And to see hundreds of pictures of this exotic and wonderful plant, put "Protea" into Google and then click on "images." The plant shown above, photographed by Stan Shebs, is *Protea cynaroides*.

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. ☘



FROM THE BOARD

By Jim Bishop

2012 Events and Activities

As 2011 draws to a close, we look forward to a new year filled with outstanding speakers and events so be sure and participate in some of the great San Diego Horticultural Society activities in 2012. And, as always, we will need volunteers to help make all of these events a success.

The **Spring Home & Garden Show** is March 2, 3, and 4 at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. We will have a booth again this year. Contact me if you'd like to be involved in the planning for this event.

Our **Spring Garden Tour** is March 31 and will feature gardens in and around Mt. Helix and La Mesa. Tour Coordinator Dannie McLaughlin and her committee members have confirmed outstanding gardens in this unique part of San Diego. This is the first local garden tour of 2012 and definitely not to be missed.

Our **Gardens of the Bay Area** tour is scheduled for May 17-20 (see page 5). It's our tour to the top public and private gardens and nurseries in the San Francisco Bay Area. We'll be staying in Walnut Creek, near the Ruth Bancroft garden. While our days will be filled touring the East Bay, North Bay, and the City, the evenings are yours to sample the wonderful restaurants in downtown Walnut Creek (www.walnutcreekrestaurants.com). Or, if you have energy left after a full day of garden touring, our hotel is located next to BART, providing easy access to the East Bay and San Francisco. I recently completed a scouting tour with trip leader Scott Borden of Sterling Tours, and am very excited about the stops we will be making. This tour is for SDHS members only and space is limited so first come, first served. Visit <http://www.sterlingtoursltd.com> for more information and to reserve your space.

New Membership Brochure

We have a new membership brochure! Rachel Cobb did a great job designing and giving it an up-to-date, professional style. Scott Borden and Susan Morse are shown here displaying the new brochure at our booth at the Master Gardeners Fall Tour – the brochures were a big hit. Be sure and pick some up at a meeting to share with your friends, a local nursery or garden club.



Monthly Email

If you aren't receiving our monthly email message you are missing out! The monthly email includes:

- Link and password to the newsletter online. All members have access to the online newsletter even if they are also receiving the printed copy.
- Information about events and speakers.
- Information and registration for Coffee in The Garden. This is the only way to reserve your space for the very popular monthly coffees.

To let us know your email address, or if you have a new email address, send an email message that includes your name to info@sdhortsoc.org. Your email address will only be used to send email from SDHS. We never share your email address with anyone. ☘



THE REAL DIRT ON...

By Joan Herskowitz

The John Tradescants

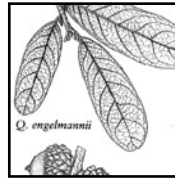
John Tradescant the Elder (1570-1638), shown here, and his son, John the Younger (1608-1662), are considered the first great gardeners and plant hunters in British history. They were responsible for introducing so many new trees, shrubs, herbaceous and climbing plants into England that they are thought of as the founders of English gardening.

Tradescant the Elder began his career as head gardener for the Earl of Salisbury, and then went on to design gardens on the site of St. Augustine's Abbey in Canterbury, and at New Hall, Essex for the Duke of Buckingham, among others. During this time he was also able to travel on plant collecting trips throughout Europe and to Russia, Algiers, Turkey and the Middle East. He returned from these trips with many new plants, including the apricot, gladioli, horse chestnut, lilac (*Syringia persica*), cherries, tulips, and anemones. He also collected various curiosities of natural history and ethnography, such as fossils, gems, rare birds, coins, poison arrows and other cultural treasures. In 1625, Tradescant leased an estate in Lambeth, and it was here that his collection, augmented by the efforts of his son, became the most extensive in Europe and the first accessible to the general public. It was referred to as "Tradescant's Ark" and then became known as the *Musaeum Tradescantianum*. The surrounding gardens became the premier horticultural nursery in the country. Tradescant's career reached its peak with his appointment to Charles I in 1630 as Keeper of His Majesty's Garden.

The younger Tradescant assisted his father, and in 1638, upon his father's death, he succeeded him in his royal service. He carried on the Tradescant tradition of plant collecting and on one occasion traveled to Virginia, where he collected trees, including magnolia, bald cypress and tulip trees; and garden plants such as phlox and asters. In his declining years, the younger Tradescant decided to leave the collection to the University of Oxford, but wanted his wife to have the income during her lifetime. He had become friendly with Elias Ashmole, a scientist, also a collector of curiosities, and founder of the Royal Society. However, the friendship ended when Ashmole persuaded Tradescant, in a moment of weakness, to sign the collection over to him. Tradescant immediately regretted the gift but the court ruled in Ashmole's favor. In 1691, Ashmole gave the collection to Oxford for the founding of the Ashmolean Museum. A part of the Tradescant's collection of artifacts from around the world can still be seen there.

The Tradescants are buried in the churchyard of St. Mary at Lambeth, which is now home to London's Garden Museum. The museum was set up in 1977 to rescue the church from demolition, and it continues to house exhibits and events on gardening and garden design. The burial tomb is located at the center of a knot garden planted with flowers that grew in the Tradescants' London garden four centuries ago. The genus *Tradescantia*, which contains the New World spiderworts, was named in their honor. *Tradescantia gigantea* is shown at the top left of this article.

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

By Greg Rubin

Ravishing Rhamnus

There are few native shrubs more elegant than our native coffeeberry (*Rhamnus californica*). This is one of those plants that really messes with people's paradigm of what a native plant looks like. With its luscious evergreen leaves, red stems, and large, multi-colored berries, it is worthy of a place in any type of garden. One of my favorite uses is as a foundation plant in Japanese gardens. This is a shrub that can easily substitute for many ornamentals, like escallonia, raphiolepis, and especially cotoneaster. The popularity of this last one never ceases to amaze me, given that we have a native plant that is as lush and fruitful as this European favorite. Not to mention its natural attractiveness to local bird species.

Coffeeberry can be used in a variety of situations. Although it is highly drought tolerant once established, it can endure some moisture, heavy soils, and fairly heavy shade. The only unsuitable condition appears to be saturated, hot soil. Better to use it in shady conditions in poorly draining, inland sites.

Its leaves are usually dark green, leathery, and ovate. There are some varieties with gray leaves as well. In fact, there are so many foliar types that it would be fun to devise a garden of just coffeeberry in all of its forms. There is that much contrast in texture, color, and form. This is an excellent shrub to use for the backbone of the garden. It also makes an excellent hedge and screen. It never looks dormant. It's the kind of plant that would look beautifully appropriate outside of an English Tudor (in Britain!). And it stays that way with almost no pruning.

Most natural forms of coffeeberry are large shrubs up to 15 feet tall. However, a number of selections and varieties are available for all types of situations. Here are some of the more popular varieties of *Rhamnus californica* for use in the native garden:

'Seaview' is the lowest growing form of coffeeberry. I have never used it and have not been able to find it locally. However, I am anxious to find it because a groundcover form of this plant would be beautiful as a foreground element and as a slope covering. Coffeeberries are quite fire-resistant when hydrated.

'Mound San Bruno' or 'San Bruno' is a smaller shrub form of coffeeberry, although I have seen it grow to 6 feet or more in the shade. It has smaller leaves and berries and would be excellent as a bonsai subject. It is very adaptable and refined.

'Leatherleaf' is also a somewhat compact form with curled, exceptionally dark leaves.

'Eve Case' is a very popular variety that is densely foliated with thick leaves and grows to about 8 feet. It is wonderful as a background shrub or screen. As with all coffeeberries, the large ½" fruit go from green to yellow to red to black; different colored berries are carried at the same time.

'Tranquil Margarita' is a selection introduced by Las Pilitas nursery that has remarkably shiny, green leaves that are reminiscent of citrus or natal plum. It is quite formal looking.

'San Gabriel' has wide, flat, serrated leaves with exceptionally large berries. These bright green, toothed leaves are quite distinguishable from most other varieties.

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

By Robin Rivet

When it's Cold, Red is Hot

As winter descends on San Diego, some transplanted die-hards may reminisce about frigid weather – recalling naked trees dressed only in bold, red berries. Envy is short lived though, as our winter trees not only sport ruby-colored berries, they wear scarlet flowers, have tasty, rosy-red fruit, and charm all year with merlot-toned foliage and ruddy-red bark.

Do you like tradition? Think holly. Yes, the *Ilex* genus is alive and well in San Diego, and it is anything but naked. Wilson's holly is one of the hardiest, small-scaled trees for Southern California, yet it produces large clusters of bright, red berries from fall to spring. Its glossy, dark evergreen leaves have sharp spines, which make it a double-delight bird haven, protecting our feathered friends from predators, while offering them winter food. A variegated form called *Ilex x altacelerensis* 'Wilsonii Golden King' will add a bold, yellow accent to the red/green tones, for those who dare to place this pyramidal wonder in their gardens. Better yet, no yard should be without our native evergreen "California holly", also known as Toyon - *Heteromeles arbutifolia*. For non-conformists, there is another variety *H. a. var. cerina* 'Davis Gold', which has canary-yellow berries. These small-statured native trees are winter winners for wildlife habitat.



For trees that bloom rosy in cooler months, one of the most glamorous on all counts is the floss silk tree shown here, recently botanically re-classified as *Ceiba speciosa*. There is a specimen tree in Los Angeles reputed by some to be the most beautiful flowering tree in the whole country. Largely unknown is that there are four distinct varieties encountered

in California, with the *C. s.* 'Arcadia' cultivar the one most likely to bloom into winter, while others bloom much earlier. Another exotic winter showstopper is the Firewheel tree, *Stenocarpus sinuatus*, having scarlet, pinwheel-shaped inflorescences with yellow tips (see top left image). A member of the protea family, this Aussie rainforest import is a dazzler.

If fruit is your passion, red winter delights include pomegranates and citrus. Both ripen as cold weather ensues, with highly ornamental pomegranates considered true jewels of winter. Eating their succulent, but delightfully messy red arils - epitomizes holiday season fun. More remarkable is the blood orange. It ripens right around December, and although its rind varies in color, the flesh drips blood red, with a taste reminiscent of raspberries.

Do you want a winter surprise? Try growing the Jamaican cherry, *Muntingia calabura*. If you have never eaten one of these fruits, you are missing a truly unique taste sensation. With a flavor evocative of cotton candy, this sub-tropical but surprisingly hardy tree can produce up to two crops per day (yep, that's not a typo!) in mild winters.

In San Diego, many trees remain clothed all winter, and cold weather intensifies the burgundy foliage of purple hopseed bush, *Dodonea viscosa* 'Purpurea' as well as the peppermint tree, *Agonis flexuosa* 'Jervis Bay Afterdark', which also has cabernet-toned leaves. However, if you seek red trim in your garden all year long, nothing competes with the mahogany-red bark and nearly year-round fruiting

Continued on page 16

SDHS GARDEN TOUR GARDENS OF THE BAY AREA

May 17-20, 2012

By Scott Borden



Scott Borden

Join fellow Hort Society members on our spring tour of the San Francisco Bay area, visiting top private and public gardens and select nurseries. Gardens of the Bay Area, scheduled for May 17-20, 2012, is an action-packed tour visiting some of the best horticultural attractions in the East Bay, North Bay and the City. Our headquarters hotel is the Embassy Suites Walnut Creek, an all-suite hotel located adjacent to a BART station and offering complimentary breakfast and happy hour each day. Public garden visits include the UC Berkeley Botanical Garden, the Ruth Bancroft Garden, and the San Francisco Botanical Garden. Nursery stops feature Annie's Annuals (above is my recent photo of president Jim Bishop with Annie) and the Flora Grubb Gardens. In between we will see extraordinary private gardens.

Our private garden visits will give us exclusive access to truly wonderful gardens such as Jana Olson's Berkeley garden. Built into a stunning canyon, with a year-round creek running under the house and through the garden, her garden is filled with a bounty of plant life and sculptures. Enjoy a myriad of sights: the kitchen garden with chickens, the Grotto of Santa Basura, and a 2-ton granite head in the creek. A wild and woodsy garden, it is topped by the large rustic house dubbed "Camp Shasta" by its occupants, who feel as though they are at home in a park.

On our East Bay day, we'll tour the estate garden of landscape designer Margaret Majua, featuring a mini orchard, cacti, succulents and an inviting pool. Katherine Greenberg's 1.3 acre native garden has been featured in many publications and received a Garden Design Green Award in 2010. Located in Lafayette, the garden features natives, plants that adapt to the local microclimate and California bay trees almost two hundred years old.

Our venture into the North Bay includes the Wave Garden and its spectacular vista of San Francisco Bay. Then we're off to Marin County to visit Roger and Mary Greenberg's exceptional garden in Tiburon. On our way we'll have a private lunch at Jason's Restaurant (opening just for us!), featuring California cuisine with Asian and Italian fusion. We'll end our day of touring with wine and cheese at the garden of Raul Zumba, a huge garden with interesting hardscape, great water features and various sitting areas and garden rooms. Raul maintains the garden beautifully, and his house is small but spectacular.

Our last day is in the City of San Francisco and features a visit to the San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum (their Japanese Tea Garden is shown here). We're also including several private gardens plus a stop at the amazing Flora Grubb Gardens to see some unique displays and enjoy some shopping.

Space is limited so plan to sign up early. For more information and reservations, visit www.sterlingtoursltd.com or contact Sterling Tours at (800) 976-9497 or info@sterlingtoursltd.com. ☺



Scott Borden



BOOK REVIEW

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh

We Made A Garden

By Margery Fish



Every once in a while you have one of those weeks when one good thing leads to another, and I just did. I read in the newspaper that Crown Books, a company that specializes in selling remaindered books (unsold books returned to the publisher) at rock bottom prices, had moved into the space recently vacated by Borders in Mission Valley.

I dropped by Crown and found four great garden books for under twenty dollars total. And three of them involved one of my favorite authors, Michael Pollan. The real prize, however, was finding out that Pollan is editor for a series of garden books published by Modern Library Gardening.

The series includes *We Made a Garden* and nine others: *The Secret Garden*, by Frances Hodgson Burnett; *The American Gardener*, by William Cobbett; *A Garden of Earthly Delights*, by Joyce Carol Oates; *Green Thoughts*, by Eleanor Perenyi (reviewed here in July 2008); *My Summer in a Garden*, by Charles Dudley Warner; *In the Land of Blue Poppies*, by Frank Kingdon Ward; *The Gardener's Bed-Book*, by Richardson Wright; and *The Gardener's Year*, by Karel Čapek. That last name may ring a bell with you. Čapek, the late Czech writer, coined the word "robot" when he wrote a play called "R.U.R. (Rossum's Universal Robots)."

I wouldn't normally burden you with such a long list, but if they're good enough for Michael Pollan, I know they're worth reading.

The first one I read, *We Made a Garden*, is a small book, only 129 pages, originally published in England in 1956. Margery Fish tells about working with her husband, Walter, to create a garden at a country house they purchased in Somerset.

Walter knows a lot more about gardening than Margery does and does not hesitate to tell her so. If they'd been a modern American couple, Margery would probably be writing her memoir from prison after having whacked Walter with a spade. But he seems to please her, and anyway, she has the ultimate revenge. She outlives him and remakes the garden the way she wants it.

They start out by trying to improve the soil. Discovery number one: the soil is heavy clay and rocks. Discovery number two: the area has been used as a rubbish dump – no trash pickup in those days. As they dug and leveled they found, "old beds, rusty oil stoves, ancient corsets, pots, pans, tins and china, bottles and glass jars, and some big lumps of stone which may at one time have been used for crushing grain."

They persevere and triumph to the point that the cover text describes Mrs. Fish as one of Britain's leading gardeners. Ultimately thousands of visitors came to see her garden.

Her chatty discussion of her work gently teaches the reader about the basics of good garden design and technique. She was opinionated, and Walter was, too, but it all works to our advantage.

Note: Crown Books is what is called a pop-up store. They'll be in that location until the first of the year. They hope to stay longer, but there's no guarantee. There are three others in San Diego County.

Note to my readers: I've spent nine years recommending books on gardening and plants to you. I'd love to know if you have any to recommend to me. If so, send them to me at carobil.1@netzero.com. ☺



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

By Linda Johnson

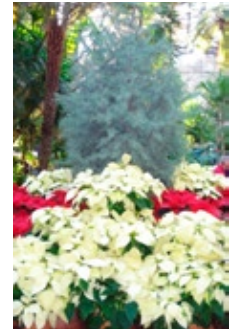
Lots of Events to Celebrate the Holidays

We need someone to take over writing this column ASAP. Please contact Susi Torre-Bueno at 760-295-2173 if you'd like to learn more. Thanks so much, Linda, for a great 3-year run!

San Diego Floral Association – Balboa Park December Nights – Dec. 2 and 3

Enjoy the annual tradition "Festival of Trees" during December Nights at Balboa Park. This year's theme of "Through the Eyes of Children" will highlight the magic of the season as reflected in 20 beautifully decorated trees designed and contributed by garden clubs and plant societies throughout the county. To share the joy of the season, all of the trees are later donated to retirement and assisted living facilities. There will be traditional gingerbread cookies, creative floral designs by the Flower Arrangers Guild, and protea stems for sale, benefiting San Diego Floral Association projects. **Location and times:** Balboa Park Casa del Prado, Room 101, on Friday, Dec. 2, 5:00-10:00 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 3, noon-10:00 p.m. FREE. Contact the San Diego Floral office at (619) 232-5762 for information or visit www.sdfloal.org/events.htm.

And, don't miss the 25th annual poinsettia display in the Botanical Building in Balboa Park (photo is from the 2010 event). Hours are 10am-4pm daily (closed on Thursdays), all during the holiday season.



Palomar District's Floral Design Forum – Dec. 5

Attend a presentation by Gudi Kimmel on "Christmas Designs For Your Home" An award-winning floral designer, Gudi has presented floral design programs at various California garden clubs and is a Master Flower Show Judge for garden clubs nationally. Be prepared for some unique design ideas and to have fun while you learn. The fee is \$12 for garden club members, \$15 for guests. **Location and time:** December 5, 12:30 p.m. at the Joslyn Senior Center, 213 Park Avenue, Escondido. For more information call Marcia Townsend at (760) 749-4976.

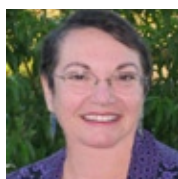
Village Garden Club of La Jolla Holiday Meeting – Dec. 8

Attend "Tis the Season to Decorate for the Holidays" by Sharon McGukin and learn how to decorate with garden treasures. **Location and time:** Dec. 8, 10:00 a.m., Torrey Pines Christian Church, 8320 La Jolla Scenic Drive North, La Jolla. For information call (858) 454-4117 or visit <http://www.villagegardencluboflajolla.com>.

Point Loma Garden Club Annual Holiday Bazaar – Dec. 14

The Annual Tea and Holiday Bazaar offers great garden-related holiday shopping and a lovely tea with other gardeners. **Location and time:** Dec. 14, 10:00 a.m.- noon, Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego 92106. For information visit <http://www.plgc.org>.

Continued on page 16



THANKS FROM THE EDITOR

By Susi Torre-Bueno

Our monthly newsletter is one of the biggest benefits of membership, and some folks join specifically to get the newsletter and never come to meetings. I couldn't do such a high quality publication without lots of help, and each December I'm delighted to thank these fine volunteers who share their expertise and enthusiasm with all of us. My sincere thanks and a big hug to each of you. I've enjoyed working with you and look forward to your continued participation.



These faithful contributors meet deadlines every month for on-going columns: Jim Bishop (From the Board and My Life With Plants), Linda Bresler and Joan Herskowitz (The Real Dirt On...), Linda Johnson (Community Outreach), Neal King (calendar), Caroline McCullagh (book reviews), Robin Rivet and Tim Clancy (Trees, Please), Pat Pawlowski and Greg Rubin (Going Wild with the Natives), Trudy Thompson (proofreading), and Ava Torre-Bueno (To Learn More...). Many thanks as well to all the folks who supplied comments for the Sharing Secrets and Plant Display columns.

Each month a bunch of cheerful volunteers come to my home to prepare the newsletter for mailing. Catherine and John Swan haul hundreds of newsletters to the post office each time – a hefty feat indeed! If you'd like to join the fun call me at (760) 295-2173.

Rachel Cobb, our graphics editor, does an awesome job of turning my raw text files and photos into the handsome magazine you're reading right this minute.

Mailing Crew:

Louise Anderson, Joyce Berry, Pat Crawl, Freddie Cusak, Susan D'Vincent, Doris Engberg, Linda Freithaler, Gail Greco, Rosemary Hokanson, Susan Morse, Barbara Raub, Diane Scharar, Catherine Swan, John Swan, Evelyn Torre-Bueno, Cathy Tylka, Sandy Wiksten and Nancy Woodard.

Authors & Photographers:

Scott Borden, Pat Crawl, D. Gail DeLalla, Marilyn Guidroz, Mary James, Walt Meier, Bryan Morse, Al Myrick, Susan Oddo, Barbara Raub, Ida Rigby, and Lucy Warren.

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MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

Help with the monthly coffee in the gardens: scout, contact and qualify potential gardens, work with hosts on garden description and photos for inclusion in online invitation. This is a terrific way to visit wonderful gardens. Additional volunteer opportunities: answering questions from new members, setting up the new member orientation events (twice a year), etc. To find out more about how to participate contact Jim Bishop at membership@sdhortsoc.org.



MY LIFE WITH PLANTS

By Jim Bishop

This is a continuing series of articles that chronicle Jim Bishop's experiences with plants and the effect they have had on his life.

On Halloween night of 1961 our family arrived at our new home in Plantation, Florida, a fast growing suburb of Fort Lauderdale. To keep up with the growing population and demand for air conditioning, Florida Power and Light was building what was at the time the largest power plant in the world at the Port of the Everglades, and my father would be the general construction manager.

This was the first new house that anyone in my family had ever lived in. Due to devastating hurricanes in the 1950s, building codes were very strict. All outside walls of the house were made of reinforced concrete block. The roof was heavy ceramic tile that required a conveyor belt to lift the tile to the roof. To keep from being blown in, all doors and windows opened out. The house had no air conditioning and everything was painted white to reflect the heat of the tropical sun. There was no landscaping and the yard and neighborhood was entirely sand. We were in paradise.

Most of the lawn was "sprigged" with Saint Augustine grass, *Stenotaphrum secundatum*. Tiny plugs of grass were placed every foot or so and runners from the plugs would fill in the open areas. But before it could fill in, *Cenchrus echinatus* (common name Southern sandspur, but we would come to know it as *stickers*) invaded and almost took over the yard. Stickers produce a seed pod that has a row of burrs about the size of a caper. When the seeds are dry the burrs stick in clothing, shoes, bare feet, socks and just about anything else and are difficult and painful to remove. My parents paid my brothers and me a penny for each sticker plant we pulled and we quickly had more spending money than we knew what to do with.

Unusual for my parents, they had the front part of the house professionally landscaped. I still remember all of the plants and how they were placed to create a tropical garden. In the corner where the driveway and front walkway formed a right angle, a coconut palm was planted and leaned out from the house. On either side, smaller, more tropical looking palms were placed. Where the curved planting bed met the front lawn a neat row of Mondo Grass, *Ophiopogon japonicus*, bordered the garden. Behind was a groundcover area of bronze and burgundy *Ajuga reptans*. Behind the ajuga was the slightly taller *Tradescantia pallida purpurea*, commonly called Wandering Jew. (After a 40-year hiatus of growing *Tradescantia*, I recently added it and a few deep burgundy bromeliads to a planting bed of mostly succulents. I associated this plant with tropical Florida and thought it required generous water. I was pleasantly surprised to discover it grows well with succulents.) Taller still and towards the back came two clumps of oyster plants, *Tradescantia spathacea*. Under the overhang from the house and lining the walkway from the carport to the front door were planted various types of crotons, and between the two front windows was planted what my mother called an umbrella tree,



Tradescantia spathacea

Continued on page 16



PLEASE LEAVE MY LEAVES (ALONE!)

By Sally Sandler

One Gardener's Eccentric but Fruitful Plea

I must confess I've got a thing about leaves. Certainly the leaves on trees, plants and flowers — green ones, gold, burgundy, and silver — but also leaves that have fallen to the ground. In fact, while I enthusiastically collect various types of bulbs, succulents, and perennials, you might say I'm also a collector of leaves. Realizing this is a bit eccentric and that most Southern California gardeners rake and get rid of their fallen leaves, I wouldn't trade this habit for anything. These fallen leaves are my garden gold. And, for that matter, so are grass clippings and vegetable leavings. I guess it's true that "One man's trash is another man's treasure." In my case, these leaves, grass and leftover produce are priceless. They nurture and protect my garden and ultimately feed my soul.

This habit began while as a docent/volunteer gardener at San Diego Botanic Gardens I became a mulch junkie. When the mulch gods smile upon us and deliver fresh yards of the precious dark sweet smelling stuff to our overflow parking lot, I jump for joy. However, at home in Del Mar, I've grown tired of paying for and hauling bags and cans of mulch to my grass-free backyard, which like many in this neck of the woods is down several staircases on a sloping hillside property. Always looking for ways to save money, I am happy to cultivate what natural mulch is already available for free right here instead.

Rather than raking leaves off my yard, I rake them on. I know they make excellent mulch, feeding the soil with their organic nutrients, blanketing plant roots, preventing weed growth and holding in moisture, even though it takes a while for them to decompose. But just observe any ancient forest and ask yourself, "Isn't this exactly what nature had in mind?" I love that my backyard is somewhat on the wild side because of this. There's plenty of demand for manicured gardens elsewhere, but here at home, I delight in doing the opposite, and I seek out fallen leaves to move around my yard whenever possible.

Over time I've discovered certain leaves are definitely better than others. My Gold Medallion trees (*Cassia leptophylla*) make excellent mulch. The leaves are small, decompose quickly and are available in bulk when the trees go semi-dormant in the summer. I've discovered that the top deck of my grandson's play structure is a hidden treasure chest of just this sort of garden gold. Today I climbed up there and repurposed buckets of leaves to scatter in piles elsewhere in the landscape. I watch my Ornamental Plum trees (*Prunus cerasifera*) and wait for them to drop their rich burgundy leaves in the fall. These I can spread a distance under and around the various shrubs and roses nearby. My Tree Fern leaves (*Dicksonia antarctica*) are terrific. And yes, I've even been known to bring home a burlap bag of leaves from the Botanic Garden. For example, common Myrtle (*Myrtus communis*) growing in the Herb Garden makes terrific leaf mulch and smells good, too. These borrowed leaves are a real bonus but come at a small price: My Subaru Outback has spider webs in the rear cabin spaces.

On the other hand, some leaves just don't make the cut. At SDBG,

the leaves of the Mysore Fig (*Ficus mysorensis*) in the Herb Garden are despicable. They take years to decompose, create an eyesore in the meantime, and are my nemesis as the volunteer caretaker of that space. Rotting leaves under a scented geranium are not much good, either. Yellowing strappy leaves from Lily of the Nile (*Agapanthus africanus*) and trimmings from Bird of Paradise (*Strelitzia reginae*) are definitely wrong and beg for removal.

My reputation as a homeowner has taken a slight beating from my collecting habit. I believe I've become "that woman"—you know, the cranky one, like the much maligned librarian of old who warned, "No talking in the library," but instead beseeches of the arborist trimming my trees, "Please don't take my leaves." This is anathema to most of the paid grass cutters in the neighborhood. They do a first rate and very necessary job maintaining and cutting grass, but are prone to raking the bare ground to its death. My friend deplores the fact that her ground is rock solid and nothing will grow there. For some reason, she is not persuaded by my lecture about how her gardener has raked and removed all that is organic and good for creating soil. Nature would like to feed her earth, I tell her, but alas, the gardeners won't allow it. Cleanliness probably ranks right up there next to godliness as far as they're concerned, so I'm letting that argument drop for now.

Did I mention that I also collect grass clippings? Indeed, I maintain a supply of black plastic trash bags in my car and when Monday morning comes I am not opposed to stopping at a neighbor's house and in my broken Spanish asking the gardeners to deposit the grass clippings

in my bag. Usually they are delighted, though exactly what it is that they say to one another in Spanish after I leave, Heaven only knows. For me this is like trick or treating on Halloween, only better. These clippings have transformed the soil in my raised planter boxes. Whereas it can quickly become used up, dried out dirt, a thick layer of grass clippings mixed in and mulched on top in those boxes is the first step in restoring the water holding capacity, turning the dirt to dark soil, and improving the texture immeasurably. I read that healthy soil

should resemble and feel like chocolate brownies crumbled in your hand. (But who would do that with brownies, really??!) After a thick blanket of grass clippings, mine is much closer to that description.

And, yes, my husband and I save even the tiniest of fruit and vegetable leavings for our small but mighty barrel tumbler composter. Doesn't that feel just so virtuous? Making compost is akin to making a stew: You add a bunch of things to the pot, and when you have the right mix, those red worms appear, it truly smells savory sweet in there, and everything turns to just the right dark, albeit heavy organic mixture my garden hungers for.

In my past life—the one in which I wore designer suits to work each day—I lingered around places like Nordstrom and the mall for pleasure and relaxation. Now I'm delighted to stand at the foot of my backyard stairs and gaze at the piles of leaves and grass that stay back there. They aren't budging as long as I am sentinel. For the most part my satisfaction comes from the things I believe I can grow, from looking forward to spring, from the earthworms, the bright happy blooms, the reduced need to water... and, well, you know the rest.

Member Sally Sandler is the website coordinator for SDHS, as well as a docent and volunteer gardener at San Diego Botanic Garden. At home she is transforming her backyard to a sustainable "cutting garden" to create bouquets for friends and family. 🌿



Myrtus communis



PACIFIC HORTICULTURE SPRING TOURS

By Scott Borden

The San Diego Horticultural Society is proud to be a sponsor of Pacific Horticulture Society, whose 2012 tour season begins in March with the sold-out Gardens & Historic Houses of Savannah & Charleston.

Space is still available for April's **Mallorca & Menorca: Gardens, Art and Cuisine**, led by former PacHort president Katherine Greenberg. The phenomenal itinerary includes visits to top private gardens, country estates, art galleries and more. A local guide provides insight into the history and culture of these fascinating Spanish islands.

In May, noted garden photographer Allan Mandell hosts **Kyoto: More than Gardens**. Guests stay in a traditional Japanese ryokan and spend their days visiting rustic Shinto shrines, serene temple gardens and a pottery village – even a lesson with an ikebana master.

Natural History of Santa Cruz Island is scheduled for June, with guests staying at the University of California research station and taking guided day trips by foot and 4-wheel drive vehicle to view the unique flora and fauna of the island.

Currently under development is **Gardens of Oahu and Kauai**, slated for autumn 2012, which will include visits to top public and private gardens and perhaps a visit to the late Doris Duke's Shangri La (shown here). 🌿



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S. D. County Fair Flower & Garden Show Job Opening

Position Title: Flower and Garden Show Assistant Coordinator

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Call Jayna Wittevrongel at 760-809-6327 or e-mail your resume to jwittevrongel@sdfair.com.



CNPS CONSERVATION CONFERENCE IN SAN DIEGO

By Stephanie Shigematsu

The California Native Plant Society Conservation Conference held every three years will be happening this January 12 - 14 at the Town and Country Resort in San Diego. The public is invited to attend Public Day workshops for all ages on Saturday, January 14th. You can get full details at www.cnps.org/2012.

One way you can personally contribute to California's conservation efforts is by donating to the CNPS conference silent auction. The last conference raised \$10,000 to help support wonderful conservation efforts throughout the state. Plant-themed and handmade items like pottery, fiber arts, jewelry, and plein air paintings are always popular. Perhaps you have a cabin in the country you could offer for a weekend getaway? If you are interested in donating simply go to the website www.cnps.org/2012 and fill out the donation form; instructions are on the website. All donations are greatly appreciated. If you have any questions please contact me at silentauction2012@cnps.org. 🌿



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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS We encourage our 1300+ members to be active participants and share in the fun; to volunteer see page 2. A warm hello to these new members:

We welcome Carts On The Go - Garden Carts & Wagons as our newest sponsor (www.cartsonthego.com).

Lasley Biven	Al Hansen
Liz Butler	Jane Hunt
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HORT BUCKS ARE GREAT!

Kudos to these members whose friends joined in 2011; they earned Hort Bucks worth \$5 towards Opportunity Drawing tickets, name-tags, Plant Forum CDs or dues. To get your Hort Bucks ask your friends to give your name when they join.

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



Throughout the month of December, after the sun goes down, the San Diego Botanic Garden will be transformed into a dazzling winter wonderland for our Garden of Lights event. Thousands of people will visit the Garden during this time to experience the holiday magic of horse-drawn wagon rides, roasting of marshmallows, carolers, crafts, snow and discovering a natural world beyond their wildest imagination. This event is so cherished, that for many, it has become a holiday tradition to attend.

Garden of Lights is by far our longest event, running for a total of 21 nights from 5 to 9 pm. From family activities, live music, and hot mulled wine service to admissions and parking, this event needs a lot of manpower to keep it running.

We cannot forget who really makes this event so successful and keeps our Garden beautiful: our volunteers. In fact, it takes a whopping 500 of them to make it happen. Our volunteers help with everything from preparations right down to the cleanup.



Our volunteers are the backbone of the Garden. We have welcomed over 120 new volunteers this year alone to help with various projects. Tasks include running the gift shop, garden beautification and clean-up, outreach events, administrative opportunities and much more. This is a wonderful time to commend our volunteers for their hard work and dedication to the Garden. They allow visitors from all over enjoy everything we have to offer and we couldn't ask for a better group of people.

So leave the hustle and bustle of the malls behind and enjoy a relaxing evening strolling through the lighted Garden. Start a new tradition this year with your loved ones to cherish. And the next time you visit, thank a volunteer. We wouldn't be here without them. Happy and joyful holidays from San Diego Botanic Garden.

Want to volunteer in an urban oasis? The next Volunteer Orientation will be January 28. Call us at (760) 436-3036 ext 206. ☺

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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. **You can find copies of previous Sharing Secrets on our website at www.sdhortsoc.org/sneak_peek_3.htm.**

The question for this month was:

Are you one of those folks (we know you are!) who can't resist a free plant? What is the BEST plant you rescued from someone else's trash or otherwise got for FREE, and why do you like it so much?

Louise Anderson replied that she got a free alstroemeria: "Peruvian lily was the first free plant I got when I moved down here from Orange County. It's been a constant bloomer and requires minimum care. I especially like that it stays a long time after being brought inside. I'm in the market for more right now."

Debra Lee Baldwin found an agave: "I was fluffing the garden for a party and had a gap where no irrigation reached. I saw a small (basketball-sized) *Agave americana* on the curb with a neighbor's trash. It had no roots, so I figured it would be just a temporary garden enhancement, and I tossed it in the trunk. (Yes, it was fanged and pointy, but I keep garden gloves in the car. One never knows.) I placed the agave in the gap, and it looked great. If someone had accidentally kicked it, it would have rolled down the slope. That was spring. By summer, as expected, the agave's leaves were beginning to shrivel at the tips. By fall it looked pretty bad. Winter rains revived it. A landscaper friend advised, 'Debra, you'd better remove it, because in a few years it'll be so big it'll encroach on a pathway.' But the agave had become a sculptural focal point in the garden, and had earned my admiration and respect. I replied, 'When that happens, I'll move the pathway.'"

Steve Brigham said, "When someone gives me a plant, it always seems to grow successfully (unlike some purchases I've made). And over the years, it's amazing how many plant gifts went on to become majorly popular plants that we all enjoy today. But this year, my favorite plants in my garden were not only free—I didn't even have to plant them! It was the Blue Jays that planted my Sunflowers, from seed that they got from their feeders. And the amazing thing was that their sense of placement was near-perfect (I only had to edit out a couple of seedlings), which made the sunflowers work into the garden as a

PACIFIC HORTICULTURE

You may not be aware that SDHS is a sponsoring society of the Pacific Horticulture Society (PHS). The Society publishes the full-color quarterly magazine *Pacific Horticulture*. Written by and for gardeners on the West Coast, *Pacific Horticulture* presents passionate and informed articles written by gardeners familiar with the opportunities and constraints of gardening in a mostly Mediterranean climate. SDHS members receive a 36% discount (\$10 off) on Pacific Horticulture Society membership. To take advantage of this great membership benefit, you can join PHS online on our website at www.sdhortsoc.org/ordernow.htm; scroll down to "Pacific Horticulture membership and magazine" to place your order...🌱

whole so well! Now, the ripe seedheads are mounted on the fence, and everyone is enjoying this convenient buffet. It was the least I could do for the Blue Jays, since this year, they've proven that they're better planters than I am!"

Linda Chisari has two favorite discards: "I actually have two plants which originally came from someone else's trash cans, on different occasions, and that I love for the same reasons: Epidendrum and Calandrinia. Both have gorgeous flowers that attract hummingbirds; both are drought-tolerant; both have withstood the attempts by my golden retriever puppy to destroy them!"

Susan D'Vincent got a plant from another member: "Many years ago I was the lucky recipient of a Canary Island Sage from Susi Torre-Bueno. It has been such a tough, yet beautiful plant. I have planted its progeny throughout the yard. It's relatively fast growing and makes a great screen with little to no additional water."

Irina Gronborg loves spider plants: "Among the hundreds of free plants and cuttings we have collected from friends and trash cans, I most love common variegated spider plants. They are always sleek, clean, and robust; they glow, lighting up our increasingly shady back yard. They grow vigorously, they cascade, they multiply, they throw out streams of little tiny rooted babies with abandon and exuberance. I can't remember watering them or babying them in any way. Although Erik complains about what they do below, taking over the underground with their giant fleshy tubers, I haven't noticed that to be a problem, and my chickens love them, but more as salad than design."

Marilyn Guidroz saved some cuttings: "We moved into a rental house in Valley Center to find that it had the original landscaping from the 50's. Silk Oaks, Arborvitae, old Camellias, Orange Trees, Cape Honeysuckle as big as a house, Oleanders, Pomegranate, Geraniums, Aloes and Jade. During the course of the year I had trimmed back some of the Jade and threw the branches in a pile off to the side. As we were packing up to move I saw those same cuttings just sitting there so in a moment of garden compassion (which we have for all living plants) I took them along. I just stuck them in the ground along a fence line. I looked at them back in Sept. and they looked dried up and dead. I thought, 'Oh well, they were free.' After this recent amazing Fall rain I looked again and 80% of them are all puffed out and green again. Now that is a survivor!"

Candace Kohl is another succulent lover: "My first answer would have to be succulents. They are so easy to grow, share and save when someone is tearing them out. I also have some wonderful plants that people have given me over the years from rose bushes that grow too big for their yards, to curly leaf *Encephalartos ferox*, to wild collected *Bursera*. Plant people are the best and most generous bunch."

Cheryl Leedom has a favorite gift plant and a rescue: "Several years ago my neighbor cut back his poinsettia plant growing in his garden after it finished blooming and was headed for the trash with the cuttings. I rescued them from the trash and stuck them in the ground to see what would happen. Apparently they're happy in the new spot because every year the plant grows to about 8 to 10 feet tall and is covered in blooms from November to January. I cut it back to the ground every February and it starts going again. Another favorite is an *Echeveria* from a cutting a friend gave me in 1973 to plant in my first garden. The friend is long gone, but this hearty succulent lives on. It's a favorite and it's hard to say who enjoys it more – the scores of hummingbirds it attracts or me. Over the years, each time I've moved I've taken some offsprings with me and planted them at the new garden. I've also given cuttings to friends, along with this story, so this lovely plant is my friend's legacy."

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Susan Morse got a great bulb: "Due a random act of kindness I provided to a plantsman, he graciously reciprocated by giving me one of his *Urginea maritima* bulbs (Giant White Squill,) a \$25 value for this 10 pound bulb. I was stunned to receive this gift. This year I lifted the bulb, divided it and now I have three of these big guys. It is the gift that keeps on giving."

Susan Oddo got plants that really did fall off the truck, "When Frank and I moved in to our new home there was nothing but native brown grass on the whole three acres. There was still a landfill in Elfin Forest and one day we followed a landscape truck toward the landfill. It was piled high with cut sections of *Yucca gloriosa*, many of which kept falling off throughout the valley. We stopped and picked each one up with a final count of 10-15 starts. The wonderful gloriosas on our property all trace back to those free cuttings. Since then, though, so many people have shared from their gardens – billbergias from Susi, bromeliads from Joann, tillandsias from Jim, agaves from Lisa, pachypodium from Wanda, and Carol's cactus ... How can we pick one over another? They are all THE BEST!" [To see some of Susan and Frank's swell garden, visit their website: <http://birdsongbotanicgarden.com>.]

Una Marie Pierce credits two other members with some of her free plants: "I have some rally neat Sansevieria under the stairs in the back yard that LOVE it there. I picked them up alley walking/trash picking on my way home from the library a few years back. I also have some sweet Tilandsias I got from James Wright and lots of succulents from my friend Krista Mills. The Bulbine *frutescens* that she gave me are growing like weeds and look beautiful. If anyone wants to come dig some out, be my guest!"

Barbara Raub got her roses from her mother: "My favorite recent free plant is the cutting(s) I got from Susi's famed fuchsia-colored geranium plant that was a gift to HER from a special person to her who had passed on. Only 2 of them made it (my thumb is not looking very green...) but I can't wait for the friendship blooms to follow! My favorite free plants from the past are my roses that have been here 32 years which my Mom started from cuttings from HER roses... some dating all the way back to the home I grew up in. Every time we/she made a move she took some with her... she had the GREENEST thumb, and saliva.... she could literally spit out an apricot pit and a tree would sprout. Must have been her Saroyan blood... her brothers were all fruit growers in the Fresno area."

Diana Scharar shared this story: "One memorable plant I rescued from a yard being redone was a 50-pound *Agave victoria-reginae*. It is growing in my yard right where I dropped it because it was too heavy to carry any further. It had many off shoots that are living all over San Diego."

Ruth Sewell has a scented treasure: "A *Gardenia thunbergia* given to me by a neighbor. It took a long time to mature, but oh my, what a heavenly fragrance!"

Cindy Sparks rescued an orchid: "My best pass-along plant was a cymbidium, and it taught me two things as a very novice gardener. First, any plant that can stand to have kitty litter dumped on it must be tougher than I thought. I can understand there is good nitrogen there, but... yuck! The last owner routinely did that with her plants. Second, it's fun to get a plant and nurse it back to health. I guess I like a challenge. That plant put out new growth and eventually bloomed regularly, and it started me on a love affair with orchids. They are so pretty! The moral is: don't turn down a frog who might just become a prince."

Gerald D. Stewart writes "that there are two free plants that are 'best' because they are souvenirs of the past. While at Cal Poly/San

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Luis Obispo he admired a pink-flowered plant of a neighbor. They dug some dirt and split their plant. Every time *Zephyranthes grandiflora* (Pink Rain Lily) blooms it reminds him of Charles and Jo Holden. Mr. Holden taught him how to read critically (especially the *Berkeley Barb* and *LA Free Press* he read to balance *Time* and *Newsweek* magazines in the days of the Vietnam War), and to appreciate wines. Mr. Holden was the last winemaker employed by Safeway. The second is *Pelargonium x hortorum* 'Irma'. In about 1964 Mrs. FitzGerald down the street gave him a slip. A descendent of that plant now blooms in the front entry shrub bed at New Leaf. When the Pink Rain Lily blooms on the back porch it brings back memories of the Holdens, and when Irma blooms in the frontyard it brings back memories of growing-up when the entire street was a safe playground for a child."

Susi Torre-Bueno cherishes her Nana Lola Geranium: "Almost 4 years ago, a few months before our son got married, we went to visit his fiancée's grandmother when she was quite ill in the hospital. Nana Lola spoke almost no English, and our Spanish is pretty negligible, but she was a charming and gracious woman and clearly very fond of our son. Nana was the loving and very much beloved matriarch of Nathaly's family, and in the short time we spent with her, and despite the language barrier, it was easy to see why everyone was crazy about her. Sadly, Nana died the next day, but I took a couple of cuttings of her favorite magenta-flowered Martha Washington Geranium and it is a thrill in full bloom in the spring. Each year I give away numerous cuttings of Nana's geranium, and I always tell people about how special she was. I have a great many more unusual plants, but this remains one of my very favorites because of who it reminds me of."

Cathy Tylka has gotten "many plants for free. Right now my favorite one is a bright red geranium that can be used in hanging baskets. I'm not sure where I got it, but know it was free. I add it to other containers with succulents and it is happy to blend in and put on a show of color, and ever so easy to care for...or not care for."

Katrin Utt got a free rose: "In 1990 I visited Poway Nursery and fell in love with their gigantic red climbing rose "Dortmund." Lawrence Smith, the then owner, gave me a cutting which has grown to be an eye stopper in my garden. It started me in my quest for roses, but no other rose puts on a more spectacular display in my garden."

Marilyn Wilson had a mom who rescued plants: "I have rescued quite a few plants in my time. It's a family tradition. My Mom used to dumpster dive (before it was called that) in back of the Ben Franklin 'five and dime' in Prairie Village, Kansas when I was still in high school. My two best rescues were a huge old Brunfelsia ("Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow") from the next door neighbor of a gardening buddy. The woman wanted a shrub and didn't know how to prune it. I was happy to get a small tree. Alas, it lives still in Rancho Bernardo but I live now in Vista. The second best rescue was an *Agave victoria-reginae* the size of a soccer ball from the magnificent backyard succulent garden of a recently sold house. The new owner had small dogs and didn't want anything with sharp edges – he wanted GRASS."

Sandy Yayanos said, "That is an easy one: *Agave attenuata*. Why? Carefree, fire break, easy to root, pest free, no massive rhizomes, looks tidy, and has a beautiful floescence. Then there are the pups to give away."

The question for next month is:

What's plant in your garden is now among the largest, but was very small when you got it? (Thanks to Sue Fouquette for inspiring this question.)

Send your reply by December 5 to
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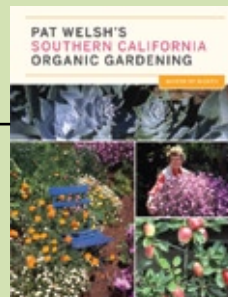
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■ **Trees Please** Continued from page 5

habit of the Strawberry Tree, Arbutus 'Marina'. Remember, no matter how you like it hot, red is cool.

Websites for more information about cited trees:

Wilson's holly: <http://www.forestfarm.com/product.php?id=2466>

Famous floss silk: <http://www.pacifichorticulture.org/articles/65/4/trees-of-san-diego-floss-silk-trees/>

Floss silk varieties: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmJNyWDUSPw&noredirect=1>

Jamaican cherry: http://www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/morton/jamaica_cherry.html

Blood orange: <http://www.clausennursery.com/trees/oranges>

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

■ **Community Outreach** Continued from page 6

Ikebana International Chapter Holiday Demonstration – 12/21

Enjoy a special demonstration of holiday arrangements designed by teachers from the various forms of Japanese floral design. **Location and time:** Dec. 21, 10:00 a.m., Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park. For information contact Keiko Schneider at (858) 759-2640 or visit <http://www.ikebanasandiego.org>.

Note to readers: As mentioned in the November newsletter, this will be my last Community Outreach article. While I have thoroughly enjoyed writing about so many great non-profit organizations across San Diego County, after three years it is time to take on some different activities. I will be helping with the San Diego Horticultural Society Annual Garden Tour in 2012 (featuring La Mesa gardens for the first time) and as always, at other events throughout the year. Hope to see you there! And Happy Holidays!

■ **My Life with Plants** Continued from page 7

Schefflera actinophylla. Mother would add in Elephant Ear, Colocasia and Caladium bulbs in the open spots between the shrubs.

To screen the carport from the neighbors, a row of small-flowered pink hibiscus was planted. Dad liked to tease my mom by calling them hot biscuits. In front of the house, as a foundation planting under the windows, was a dense row of some sort of bushy vine that had very fragrant white flowers and dark green leaves. Besides being plants that I was unfamiliar with, this was the first professional landscape I'd ever known. I would spend hours looking at the different plants and how they grew and changed and occasionally bloomed; trying to understand why this area looked so neat and tidy and organized compared to the rest of our landscape. The front garden was the first garden I'd ever seen composed mostly of foliage plants that used colored foliage and textures to create a landscape. The design of this garden would influence my design style many decades later. The curve of the front bed, the massing of plants, a variety of leaf shapes and textures, taller accent plants and using plants with a similar tone are garden design elements that I frequently use today when creating a garden.

Jim Bishop is a garden designer and President of San Diego Horticultural Society.



NOVEMBER PLANT DISPLAY

By 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. **Join the fun and bring something from your garden for the December 12 meeting.**

Origanum 'Bristol Cross' BRISTOL CROSS OREGANO

(Lamiaceae) Cultivar

This evergreen perennial was purchased from Pearson's Gardens (www.PearsonsGardens.com, see ad page 18) as a 4" plant in early 2008 and has performed admirably since then with almost total neglect and a little water once a week. Digging Dog Nursery (www.DiggingDog.com) notes that "... the very slender blooms feature small, deep rose and chartreuse bracts that resemble decorative braids. Tipped with tiny purple flowers, the clustered bracts are held at nearly right angles to upright and reddish leafy stems." It grows to about 6-8" tall and spreads 18-14" wide in full sun. (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 11/11) – S.T-B.

Salvia flocculosa 'Curtis Blue' (Lamiaceae) Ecuador

This evergreen shrub with silvery green leaves will grow to about 3' tall and wide in full sun. It was purchased in Oct. 2011 at the U. C. Riverside Arboretum plant sale, and they report that it has "1-2 in., aromatic, dull green leaves & spikes of many tiny, deep purple blue, two-lipped flowers with two conspicuous white marks on the lower lip." Information about this plant has been hard to find, and perhaps it is a recent name change: one website (www.salvias.org.au) notes that: "*S. cruckshanksii*... is now *S. flocculosa*." Another says it was previously misidentified as *S. cruckshanksii*. In either case, this is a relatively uncommon *Salvia* and worth a try. Some web sources say it blooms summer to fall, others from fall to spring. It probably is frost-sensitive, so you might need to protect it if you live inland. (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 11/11) – S.T-B.

Tecomaria capensis 'Apricot' CAPE HONEYSUCKLE

(Bignoniaceae) South Africa

This water-thrifty evergreen shrub grows about 6-10' tall and as wide. It should bloom from fall through winter (perhaps longer) with soft apricot-hued tubular flowers. It grows quickly in sun (or light shade) and prefers well-drained soil. From a 1-gal plant purchased in 2008 from Briggs Tree Company (see page 11, www.briggstree.com) the specimen displayed is now about 6' tall and 5' wide. (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 11/11) – S.T-B.

Continued on page 18

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■ **Plant Display** Continued from page 17

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 November newsletter was *Salvia miscolor* HOMEY SAGE.

3 *Callistemon citrinus* 'Jeffersii' BOTTLEBRUSH
(Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 11/11)

Cyrtanthus montanus hybrid (Sheldon Lisker, Temecula, 11/11)

3 *Encelia californica* BUSH SUNFLOWER
(Pat Pawlowski, El Cajon, 11/11)

3 *Epidendrum ibaguense* cv. REED STEM ORCHID
(Louise Anderson, San Marcos, 11/11)

3 *Haemanthus albiflos* PAINTBRUSH, BLOOD LILY
(Marilyn Wilson, Vista, 11/11)

Mentha suaveolens 'Variegata' PINEAPPLE MINT
(Cathy Tylka, Escondido, 11/11)

3 *Montanoa leucantha* DAISY FLOWER
(Susan Morse, Vista, 11/11)

Narcissus tazetta 'Paper White' PAPER WHITE
NARCISSUS (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 11/11)

3 *Psidium guajava* GUAVA (Marsha Bode, Vista, 11/11)

3 *Rhus ovata* SUGARBUSH
(Pat Pawlowski, El Cajon, 11/11)

3 *Rhus splendens* SUGAR SUBSTITUTE BUSH
(Garden Lover, El Cajon, 11/11)

3 *Tagetes lemmonii* MEXICAN MARIGOLD,
MOUNTAIN MARIGOLD
(Pat Pawlowski, El Cajon, 11/11)

3 *Teucrium fruticans* 'Azureum' BUSH GERMANDER
(Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 11/11)

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NOVEMBER MEETING REPORT

By Susi Torre-Bueno

Once a year we recognize someone for her or his outstanding contribution to horticulture in Southern California, and this year we honor the richly deserving Dr. Jon Rebman of the San Diego Natural History Museum.

After his outstanding presentation at our November meeting, I'm awed by the scope of Jon's achievements. In our last two newsletters Jon told us something about the important work he's been doing on our native plants – to read the entire article go to www.sdhortsoc.org/speakers_past.htm.

Dr. Mick Hager, the Executive director of the Museum, who hired Jon in 1996 to fill the Curator of Botany chair endowed for him by benefactors Mary and Dallas Clark, introduced him. Jon has concentrated intensely on the flora of San Diego County and Baja, California. Ours is the botanically richest county in the entire U.S., with over 2400 native plant species and significant habitat diversity, some of which is increasingly being challenged. For example, 99% of our rare vernal pools are gone, and the remainder are now found mostly on military lands. Our urban canyons have a huge diversity of flora – in a one-block area there can be 250 kinds of plants including many rare natives. The our Coast Cholla cactus are a natural hybrid of two species from Baja, and they have an extraordinary stamen aberration seen in only one other plant species in the world!

Jon noted that our very diverse chaparral areas have up to 13 manzanita species, plus about 20 interesting root parasites. The recent wildfires have taught us much about "fire ecology" and the habits of "fire follower" species and plant adaptations. Sadly, most of the sugar pines in our mountains were killed off in these fires. Our deserts, too, are fascinating for their vast fields of wildflowers in years with good winter rainfall, although invasive species are presenting a serious threat in some areas.

There are many threats to our native flora, and the Plant Atlas Project that Jon started in 2003 was created to document what we have now. Over 600 trained volunteers have brought in 55,000 plant specimens for identification and preservation. Jon does all of the IDs himself, and has added two new species to science and found many that were never before documented locally. These specimens provide invaluable data – read about this important and fascinating project at www.sdplantatlas.org. You can search for plants in many different ways and see a vast number of images, maps, etc. Jon encourages you to become a fan of the Museum's Botany Department facebook page, too.

Jon shared with us his breakthrough work in Baja, where "with the help of locals and colleagues, 22 new plants have been named in the last 10 years." Recently, on an arduous mule trek, he found three plants that were last seen in 1889 that were thought to be extinct. After the 2009 hurricane he and colleagues saw plants that aren't usually seen but which had done well due to the extra rain. To learn more, visit www.bajafloora.org. Recently, Jon has completely updated the *Baja California Plant Field Guide*, first written in 1989; it will be available for sale soon.

If you missed Jon's intriguing talk you can borrow the video of it when you attend an upcoming meeting. 🌿



Mick Hager, left, with Jon Rebman and Jim Bishop.

Michael Buckner

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To these generous donors
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www.EasyToGrowBulbs.com
Master Gardeners
Evergreen Nursery (see page 2)
and to Laird Plumleigh for a ceramic art tile
(www.lairdplumleigh.com)

Thank you to Grangetto's (see page 21)
for donating door prizes.

YOUR MONTHLY MEMBER EMAIL

Two weeks after our monthly meeting we send all members an email with important information. If you haven't been getting this it means we don't have a current email address for you, so please send that address to membership@sdhortsoc.org. We never share your email address with anyone!

The email always has these items of interest:

- Password for the digital newsletter (changes every month)
- Invitation to Coffee-in-the-Garden events (register ASAP – they usually fill up in under 24 hours!)
- Details about the talk at the next meeting
- Description of volunteer opportunities

RENEW NOW

(or share with a friend)

Please complete the form below.
Make check payable to SDHS and mail to:
San Diego Horticultural Society
Attn: Membership
P.O. Box 231869, Encinitas, CA 92023-1869

Name (s): _____

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	ONLINE NEWSLETTER	PRINTED NEWSLETTER
Individual 1 year	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> \$42
Individual 2 years	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$74
Individual 5 years (includes free Plant Forum CD)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120	<input type="checkbox"/> \$180
Family 1 year	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
Family 2 years	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> \$84
Family 5 years (includes free Plant Forum CD)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$140	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200
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760/ 436-3036
www.SDBGarden.org

ADMISSION:

Members \$6

Non-members \$12

Seniors, Military & Students \$8

Children 3-12 \$4

**There will be additional fees
for some activities.**





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***The California Native Plant Society invites YOU to the
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SAN DIEGO Jan. 10-14, 2012

CNPS 2012 CONSERVATION CONFERENCE Calendar

- Jan. 10-11: (14) Pre-conference Workshops
- Jan. 12-14: Over 225 speakers in 22 Sessions
Photography and Botanical Art Exhibitions
Poetry and Music
- Jan 14: Horticultural session
Free Public Day events: (10:30-3:00 pm) - Including
horticultural presentations, workshops, and panel discussions

Pre-Register online through January 9th at www.cnps.org/2012
Come for a day, or come for all five days. We hope to see you this January in San Diego!

CNPS has long demonstrated a strong commitment to all areas of plant conservation, including the important role native plant horticulture plays in the conservation of California's rich flora. As part of this exciting conference, many horticultural elements of conservation will be featured- including two pre-Conference workshops, one full conference session on horticultural science entitled "*Horticulture - Part of Conservation is Growing*", and public day workshops. Featured speakers Dr. Bruce Pavlik and Dr. Peter Raven both have positions at major botanic gardens and Dr. Louise Jackson will speak on the preservation of biodiversity in agricultural landscapes. San Diego Horticultural Society's Horticulturalist of the Year, Dr. Jon Rebman, is speaking in 3 sessions: *Plant Science: San Diego County Plant Atlas: Building Resources To Better Understand And Conserve A Threatened Flora*; *Rare Plants: Field Explorations And Discoveries: A Panel Discussion On The Significance Of Field Botany And Herbarium Collecting In California*; and *Baja: New Discoveries For The Flora Of Baja California*.

Special sessions and workshops of interest to Southern California plant lovers: *Starting a Native Plant restoration nursery* workshop; regional sessions including Southern CA, Transmontane (deserts), Baja California; and special sessions on Fire and Native Plants, and Restoration.

The public engagement day will hold a variety of workshops and demonstrations. Planned workshop topics include: 1) *Maintenance of Native Plant Gardens*; 2) *Native Plant Propagation Workshop*, and 3) *Starting and maintaining Native Plant Gardens in the Schools*. The goal of the Public Engagement Day is to provide native plant programming of interest and educational value to the general public, in particular: children and families, teachers, as well as professional and home gardeners.



CALIFORNIA
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Info / Register: www.cnps.org/2012

MIRACOSTA COLLEGE

HORTICULTURE / SPRING 2012

www.miracosta.edu/hort



Horticulture Associate Degree or Certificate Program

At MiraCosta College, you can earn an associate degree or a certificate in a variety of programs including irrigation technology, landscape architecture, landscape management, nursery production, wine technology and more. Some certificates take as little as two semesters to complete!

To receive a spring course schedule with complete details and enrollment information, call **760.795.6615**. For more information about MiraCosta College's Horticulture Program, call **Claire Ehrlinger** at **760.795.6704**.

Spring classes at MiraCosta College start January 23

Community colleges are still California's best buy in higher education. Enroll now!
See back for courses offered this spring.

Horticulture Department Open House

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2012, 5-7 PM

MiraCosta College Horticulture Building, Room 7001

1 Barnard Drive, Oceanside

Parking available in lot 7A and 4C, no permit required.

Join us for our Open House and find out how our program can get your life moving in a new direction. Come meet our professors; tour our facility; and learn about career, internship and scholarship opportunities. Everyone is welcome, including prospective and current students!

For more information contact **Jason Kubrock**,
760.757.2121, x6482 or jkubrock@miracosta.edu

Holiday Poinsettia Sale

*Premium quality Poinsettias grown by the
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MiraCosta College, Oceanside Campus

1 Barnard Drive, Oceanside, CA 92056

MiraCosta College, San Elijo Campus

3333 Manchester Avenue, Cardiff, CA 92056



MiraCosta College Credit Courses / Spring 2012

Class #	Days	Time	Instructor	Units	Room #	Class #	Days	Time	Instructor	Units	Room #
HORT 110 Introduction to Sustainable Horticulture This course introduces sustainable horticulture principles and practices in gardening, landscaping, nursery management, and floriculture. Students are required to attend field labs and field trips. CSU; UC pending						HORT 130 Advanced Irrigation Design Students will design and manage sprinkler systems for larger settings such as athletic fields, golf courses, parks, or other commercial/public areas. Hydrostatic problems for large-scale systems as well as drip irrigation design will be addressed. CSU PREREQUISITE: HORT 126.					
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS 2928 T 10:00am-2:50pm FAIRLEIGH M 3.0 OC7001						OCEANSIDE CAMPUS 2506 TH 5:00pm-9:50pm CONGER D 3.0 OC7051					
HORT 115 Soil Science This course examines the physical, chemical, and biological properties of soil with an emphasis on solving issues related fertility, salinity, pH, high calcium, specific toxicities, and physical problems. Students are required to participate in field labs and trips. CSU; UC						HORT 131 Computer-Aided Irrigation Design Introduction to the application of computer-aided drafting (CAD) for the landscape irrigation student or professional. CSU ADVISORY: HORT 126.					
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS 2609 M 10:00am-2:50pm FAIRLEIGH M 3.0 OC7001						OCEANSIDE CAMPUS 2611 W 5:00pm-9:50pm STONE R 3.0 OC7051					
HORT 116 Plant Science This course covers the basic principles of plant science pertaining to food and ornamental plants and addresses plant taxonomy and nomenclature. Students are required to attend field labs and field trips. CSU; UC						HORT 134 Plant Pest Control Students examine common pests of ornamental plants in Southern California (weeds, insects, and diseases). The course emphasizes diagnosis, control, laws and regulations, and preparation for state licensing exams or continuing education. CSU					
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS 1573 MW 12:30pm-3:20pm KINNON C 4.0 OC7053 1575 TTH 12:30pm-3:20pm MESSINA J 4.0 OC7053						OCEANSIDE CAMPUS 1589 T 5:00pm-9:50pm KINNON C 3.0 OC7053					
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS/ONLINE 1577 ONL 5:00pm-7:50pm EHLINGER C 4.0 ONLINE &W +3 hours weekly online. &MESSINA J OC7053						HORT 140 Subtropical Fruit and Plant Production Covers the production of subtropical fruits primarily grown in San Diego and neighboring counties including citrus, avocados, and exotic fruits. All aspects of production will be discussed. CSU					
HORT 117 Plant Identification: Trees, Shrubs, and Vines This course covers the identification, growth habits, culture, and ornamental use of plants found in Southern California landscapes. It emphasizes botanical and common names, plant family relationships, and environmental adaptations. Students are required to attend field trips both on and off campus. CSU; UC						OCEANSIDE CAMPUS 2930 M 5:00pm-6:50pm BENDER G 3.0 OC7053 &S 8:00am-10:50am OC7053					
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS/ONLINE 1579 ONL 1:00pm-3:50pm EHLINGER C 3.0 ONLINE &F +2 hours weekly online. OC7051						HORT 145 Sensory Analysis of Wines (Material Fee: \$85.00) This course surveys the history and development of winemaking and grape varieties produced in the world's major wine-producing regions. It covers tasting techniques and a wide variety of wines. Students must be 21 years old to enroll and pay a lab fee. They are also required to attend field trips to local wineries. CSU; UC					
HORT 121 Landscape Management This course introduces landscape management practices, including pruning, fertilization, irrigation, turf management, soil preparation, transplanting, fire safety, and pest management. Participation in field trips and field labs is required. CSU						SAN ELIJO CAMPUS IN CARDIFF 2944 W 6:30pm-9:20pm COLANGELO D 3.0 SAN406					
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS 1581 M 5:00pm-7:00pm FAIRLEIGH M 3.0 OC7051 &S 8:00am-10:50am &GARZA D OC7051						HORT 147 Wines of California (Material Fee: \$85.00) This course introduces the wines and major wine producing regions of California. Students must be 21 and are required to attend field trips. CSU ADVISORY: HORT 145.					
HORT 126 Landscape Irrigation Covers site analysis, design, engineering, installation, and maintenance of landscape sprinkler and drip systems. CSU						SAN ELIJO CAMPUS IN CARDIFF 2945 F 6:30pm-9:20pm COLANGELO D 3.0 SAN406					
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS 1583 T 5:00pm-9:50pm EHLINGER C 3.0 OC7051						HORT 149 Vineyard Production and Management This course covers vineyard management responsibilities, including vineyard development, budgeting, grape selection, and care. Students are required to attend field trips to local vineyards. CSU					
HORT 127 Landscape Design Principles of design for residential projects. Students will prepare a site analysis, plot plan, presentation drawings, and budget for a typical residential site. CSU						OCEANSIDE CAMPUS 2613 M 7:00pm-8:50pm STEHLY A 3.0 OC7053 &S 11:30am-2:20pm OC7053					
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS 1585 W 10:00am-2:50pm FAIRLEIGH M 3.0 OC7051						HORT 299P(3.0) Occupational Cooperative Work Experience (Paid) This course is for students employed in a job directly related to their major who seek to learn new skills or improve existing skills at work under the instruction of a MiraCosta faculty-mentor. CSU COREQUISITES: Employed in a position related to major; complete 75 hours of paid work per unit. Enrollment Limitations: Instructor & dept. chair approval; may not co-enroll in any combination of work experience and/or internship studies. +2442 ARR STAFF 3.0 NOTE: Go to www.miracosta.edu/dataform or the Career Center in Building 3700, Oceanside campus, to complete an employer contact information form. THIS IS A LATE-START CLASS, (02/06-05/25).					
HORT 129 Beginning Computer-Aided Landscape Design Students use software to develop landscape designs, perspective/elevation drawings, and cost estimating on personal computers. CSU											
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS 1587 W 5:00pm-9:50pm STONE R 3.0 OC7051											



Landscape & Nursery Technology

Southwestern College

Spring, 2012 Schedule of Courses



Classes begin January 9, 2012

LNT 70	Pruning Fruit Trees & Vines (6 week course Jan 11 – Feb 25)	Lect: Thur . 6:15 – 8:00 pm Lab: Sat 3:30 – 5:15 pm	Room 1802 (Lab: 1/14,1/21,1/28,2/4,2/11,2/25)	1 unit	Del Hotal
LNT 100	Plant and Horticultural Science Lecture: Tuesdays Lab: Various Saturdays	6:15 – 9:15 pm 8:00 am to 2:00 pm	Room 1802 (Lab: 1/21,2/4,2/25,3/10,3/24,4/21,5/5)	4 units	Staff
LNT 102-104	Plant Identification: Trees Tuesday & Thursday	4:30 – 6:00 pm	Room 1802	1 unit each section	
LNT 103	Conifers and Palms	(1/10 – 2/16)			Staff
LNT 104	Broadleaf Trees	(2/21 – 3/29)			Staff
LNT 102	Deciduous Trees	(4/10 – 5/17)			Staff
LNT 106-108	Plant Identification: Herbaceous Plants Tuesday & Thursday	4:30 – 6:00 pm	Room 1802	1 unit each section	
LNT 110	Annuals & Perennials 1	(1/10 – 2/16)			Staff
LNT 111	Annuals & Perennials 2	(2/21 – 3/29)			Staff
LNT 112	Vines & Ground Covers	(4/10 – 5/17)			Staff
LNT 120	Landscape Design 1 Tuesday and Thursday	6:00 – 10:00 pm	Room 503	4 units	Landis
LNT 129	Sustainable Landscape/Water Auditor Wednesdays	6:15 – 9:15 pm	Room 1802	3 units	Homyak
LNT 132	Turf Management Lecture: Wednesdays Lab: Various Saturdays	4:00 – 5:50 pm 8:00 am to 2:00 pm	Room 1802 (Lab: 1/14,1/28,2/11,3/3,3/17,4/14,4/28,5/12)	3 units	Homyak
LNT 136	Plant Pest and Disease Mondays	5:30 – 8:35 pm	Room 1802	3 units	Staff
LNT 138	Floral Design I Tuesdays	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Room 1802	3 units	Del Sol Supply fee required
LNT 140	Floral Design II Mondays	5:30 – 10:30 pm	Room 1801	3 units	Del Sol Supply fee required
LNT 147	Wedding Design and Event Planning Wednesdays	5:30 – 9:20 pm	Room 1802	2 units	Del Sol Supply fee required
LA 200	Introduction to Computer-Aided Landscape Design Mondays	5:00 – 10:00 pm	Room 501	3 units	Homyak

Call (619) 421-6700 ext. 5371 for more information, or email whomyak@swccd.edu
To enroll, visit the college website at www.swccd.edu and click on Apply Online.

What's Happening? for December 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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Hello to all and welcome to our December garden tips update.

December marks the beginning of winter here in Southern California. The days grow cooler and shorter. Normally December fulfills its winter role with cold and rain although it can sometimes bring a heat wave that makes you swear that August has returned. So if the weather brings hot drying winds, be prepared to hand-water your plants.

As our gift to you - come by and get a free 4" Poinsettia with any purchase - while stock lasts.

Also check out our monthly online newsletter for different specials every couple of weeks – you can sign on online at andersonslacostanursery.com.

Remember, all San Diego Hort Society members receive 10% discount on all purchases (except items already on sale). And we'd love to have you join us on our Facebook page for updates on interesting plants as they appear here at Anderson's La Costa Nursery.

New at the Nursery:

- ❖ Some great gifts and décor ideas throughout the nursery and of course in our gift shop:
- ❖ Lots of holiday themed gifts and some gifts just plain elegant.
- ❖ Plenty of gift ideas...Ranee has done a fantastic job this holiday season.
- ❖ Consider a perfect indoor plant in the perfect pot as a gift from the sweetest 2" African Violet to a fabulous Star Pine.
- ❖ Fresh Garland and Wreaths are arriving weekly. Create an elegant, fragrant statement on your door, fireplace, table or stairway with fresh greens.
- ❖ We have some fabulous succulent wreaths – says festive and California all in one package.

Poinsettias of course are perfect for December cheer.

- ❖ 2" with or without self-watering containers so cute & in all colors (even Winter Rose).
- ❖ 4" reds, whites, pinks all very full and many new colors this year.
- ❖ 6" and 8" reds, whites, pinks, 'Marblestar', bright pink, burgundy, 'Country Quilt', 'DaVinci', 'Cinammon Star' plus 'Monet' & 'Jingle Bells' & Winter Rose trees.

Continued on other side



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

Alta Vista Gardens

See <http://www.AltavistaGardens.org> for upcoming events.

San Diego Botanic Garden

See page 10 for more upcoming events
Details/registration at www.sdbgarden.org or (760) 436-3036

December 8-23, 26-30, 5-9pm, Garden of

Lights: Check out the 100,000 sparkling lights illuminating the Garden. Live music 6-8pm. Members, \$6, Non-members \$12, Seniors/Military/Students \$8, Children 3-12 \$4, Children 2 and under FREE. See www.sdbgarden.org/lights.htm.

The Water Conservation Garden

Details/registration at www.thegarden.org or (619) 660-0614
Dec. 4, noon, Ask The Horticulturist Tour: Enjoy an informative walk through the Garden. Free.

Dec. 18, 9:30am, Special Access Tour: Special tour is offered monthly 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.

Cedros Gardens, Saturday 10am FREE classes:

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

City Farmers Nursery FREE Classes

Dec. 4: Solar Cooker Workshop

Dec. 11: Sourdough Sarters

See www.cityfarmersnursery.com or call (619) 284-6358

Evergreen Nursery FREE Seminars

None in December – come select a Christmas Tree!

Carmel Valley and Oceanside Nurseries (see map on page 2)

Details at www.evergreennursery.com/seminar-schedule-2011

Grangetto's Farm & Garden Supply FREE Workshop

Details at www.grangettos.com; see ad on page 21.

Walter Andersen Nursery FREE Saturday Classes:

Point Loma, 9am

Dec. 3 Winter Color for your Yard

Dec. 10 Pruning Peach, Nectarine Trees

Dec. 17 Bare Root & New Roses

Dec. 31 Pruning Apples & Pears

Poway, 9:30am

Winter Veggies

Rose Pruning

Fruit Tree Pruning

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

Dec. 1, 9:30am-12:30pm, San Diego Floral Association Create Herbal-Scented Wreaths: Bring cuttings to share, gloves and clipper. Wreath backing, fasteners and hangers will be provided. Keep cuttings to about 6". \$20, \$15 for SDFA members. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, room 104. Register see www.sdfloal.org, or mail your check and phone number to SDF 1650 El Prado, #105, San Diego, CA 92101.

Dec. 2 (5-10pm), 3 10am-10pm, San Diego Floral Society Decorated Christmas Trees: See 20 beautifully decorated trees contributed by garden clubs & societies. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, room 101.

Dec. 2, 1:30pm, Vista Garden Club: Soil: The real beginning of garden knowledge. Gloria McClellan Senior Center, 1400 Vale Terrace in Vista. See www.vistagardenclub.org.

Dec. 3, 8am-1pm, Dos Valles Garden Club: Plant and poinsettia sale FREE. Martin Gang Ranch, 28933 Cole Grade Road, Valley Center. For info call (760) 749-4976 or www.dosvallesgardenclub.org.

Dec. 4, 9am-noon, California Native Plant Society Plant Sale: Tecolote Canyon. Learn plant lore in Tecolote Canyon. Meet at the Tecolote Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road. Free. Heavy rain cancels. See www.cnpssd.org.

Dec. 10, 10:00 am, Fruit Tree Pruning Demonstration: Hands-on pruning demonstration of dormant and winter fruit trees held at the garden following the regularly scheduled clean up day events. Register at www.energycenter.org/forestry. For info contact Robin at (858) 244-1177 events@energycenter.org.

Dec. 10, 10am-2pm, San Diego Peace Garden Holiday Peace Bazaar: Come check out the guava jam, pumpkin pie mixes and more. Donated items can be dropped off the day of the event between 9-10am. You can arrange drop off by emailing info@sdpeacegarden.org. Mid-City Gateway 43rd & Landis St. See www.peacebazaar.net or www.sdpeacegarden.org.

Dec. 14, 10am, Point Loma Garden Club Holiday Tea and Bazaar:
Shop for fresh and dried decorations, crafts, and home-made treats, while enjoying yummy refreshments. Free. 2818 Avenida de Portugal. See www.plgc.org.

December 15 or 16, 9am-4pm, Eucalyptus Workshop: Receive working knowledge of Eucalyptus trees, including identification, ecological traits, and physical characteristics. \$100. Register at baobabbotanical.com or email Matt at mritter@calpoly.edu. For info see www.energycenter.org.

Resources & Ongoing Events

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

BALBOA PARK:

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

Happy
Holidays!!!

- ❖--Christmas Cactus (always a favorite) in 2, 4, 6, and 8" sizes AND sporting some new color choices this year.

Continue to water your **over-wintering outdoor plants** unless the rains keep the soil moist. Irrigation should be reduced - not stopped, as plant photosynthesis slows down and cold weather dries