

# Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

February 2011, Number 197

## Waterwise Old-Fashioned Favorites

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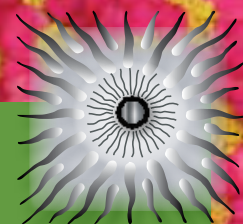
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SAN DIEGO  
HORTICULTURAL  
SOCIETY

On the Cover: Favorite garden plants



## MARCH GARDEN TOUR SNEAK PEAK (SEE PAGE 7)

The labyrinth (below left) is from one of the gardens on our March 26 tour. The metal angel (below right) at the entry to this same garden is made from scraps of burned trailers left behind after recent wildfires.



Both Photos: Ida Rigby

## JANUARY COFFEE IN THE GARDEN



The photos below are from Patrick Anderson's and Les Olson's garden, and we thank them so much for opening their beautiful garden for us. Many photos of this garden can be seen in *Designing with Succulents* (by SDHS member Debra Lee Baldwin) and *Desert Gardens* (by Gary Lyons and Melba Levick).

Both Photos: Jim Bishop





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**COVER IMAGE:** The cover photo (by February speaker Aenne Carver) shows just two of the low water plants she'll be featuring in her talk. Learn more at our February meeting about how your garden can have lovely flowers that won't need much water.

## The San Diego Horticultural Society

### MEETINGS

The San Diego Horticultural Society meets the 2nd Monday of every month (except June) from 6:00pm to 9:00pm at the Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd. Meetings are open and all are welcome to attend. We encourage you to join the organization to enjoy free admission to regular monthly meetings, receive the monthly newsletter and numerous other benefits. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

### MEETING SCHEDULE

- 5:00 – 6:00 Meeting room setup
- 6:00 – 6:45 Vendor sales, opportunity drawing ticket sales, lending library
- 6:45 – 8:30 Announcements, Hot Hort Picks, speaker, opportunity drawing
- 8:30 – 9:00 Plant display; vendor sales, lending library

### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

To join, send your check to: San Diego Horticultural Society, Attn: Membership, P.O. Box 231869, Encinitas, CA 92023-1869. Individual/one year—\$30, two years—\$50, five years—\$120; Family/one year—\$35, two years—\$60, five years—\$140; Group or Business/one year—\$50; Students/\$16 (w/proof of enrollment); Contributing/\$90 or more; Life/\$700. For membership questions contact [membership@sdhortsoc.org](mailto:membership@sdhortsoc.org) or or Jim Bishop at (619) 293-0166.

### FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS IN 2010 & 2011

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>February 19</b> | Coffee in the Garden, Mission Hills - Jim Bishop & Scott Borden |
| <b>March 4-6</b>   | Spring Home/Garden Show   |
| <b>March 14</b>    | Jim Mumford on <i>Green Roofs and Living Walls</i>              |
| <b>March 19</b>    | Coffee in the Garden, Del Mar – Judy Bradley                    |
| <b>March 26</b>    | Spring Garden Tour – see page 7                                 |
| <b>April 11</b>    | Jeffrey Bale on <i>The Pleasure Garden</i>                      |

[www.SanDiegoHorticulturalSociety.org](http://www.SanDiegoHorticulturalSociety.org)

## Next Meeting: February 14, 2011, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

### Topic: AENNE CARVER ON “NEW WATER-WISE LOOK WITH OLD-FASHIONED FAVORITES”

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



Bring your special Valentine to our February 14 meeting and enjoy a lively talk by Aenne Carver, “The Thrifty Gardener,” who will present old-fashioned flowers and plants that are lush but also drought-tolerant. These vintage plants offer charm but, more importantly, they thrive despite water restrictions. Discover from yesteryear the vines, annuals, biennials, bulbs, and perennials that can give you the coveted cottage garden look without a big water bill. Carver will share money-saving ideas for propagating these old fashioned favorites for spectacular water-wise gardens. As always, Carver will weave in her signature elements of plant lore, cooking, floral design, and crafts.

Aenne is a UCCE Master Gardener, and has appeared as a garden expert on TV and radio. She also is an author, lecturer, floral designer and craft instructor. Aenne currently gardens in Lakeside. She'll be providing a handout and special plant for our Opportunity Drawing.

To learn more visit her website [www.thethriftygardener.com](http://www.thethriftygardener.com) and see page 3. 🌿

## The Mission of the San Diego Horticultural Society

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

ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER 1994

### SDHS BOARD MEMBERS

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**Let's Talk Plants!**, the newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society, is published the first Monday of every month.

**Editor/Advertising:** Susi Torre-Bueno; (760) 295-7089; newsletter@sdhortsoc.org

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

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## BECOME A SPONSOR!

### Do you own a garden-related business?

SDHS sponsorships have high recognition and valuable benefits, including a link to your website, discounts on memberships for your employees, and free admission to SDHS events. This is a wonderful way to show your support for the SDHS. Sponsors help pay for our monthly meetings, annual college scholarships, and other important programs. Sponsorships start at just \$100/year; contact Jim Bishop at sponsor@sdhortsoc.org. Sponsors are listed on page 8; those with ads in the newsletter have the words SDHS Sponsor above their ads. We thank them for their extra support!

## Important Member Information

### VOLUNTEER NEEDS:

#### I - Spring Home/Garden Show

Sign up now to help out at our information tables at the Spring Home/Garden Show (March 4-6). It's a great way to share your love of plants and meet potential new members. Please contact Paula Verstraete at pverstraete@cp-sandiego.com.

#### 2 - March 26 Garden Tour

Our "Take a Botanical Odyssey" Garden Tour needs volunteers at each of the gardens in Fallbrook and Vista. You're in for a treat when you get to spend time in these gardens! Please contact Paula Verstraete at pverstraete@cp-sandiego.com.

#### 3 - APRIL 23 BOOK SALES

We'll be selling our tree book and giving out membership information on April 23 when Marilyn Guidroz and Steve Jacobs will be giving talks about trees at two Evergreen Nurseries (Oceanside and Carmel Valley). If you can help with book sales please call Susi at (760) 295-7089 and let's talk!

### GOT CLIPPINGS?

Our historian, Ida Rigby, maintains scrapbooks about SDHS members and events. If your garden has been featured in a magazine or newspaper, or you've written an article, please mail a copy to Ida at 14031 Saddlewood Dr., Poway, CA 92064. We'd love to include you!

### THANKS SO MUCH!

Thanks to member Patrick Anderson and his partner Les Olson for hosting our January Coffee-in-the-Garden at their fabulous Fallbrook garden. Their world-class collection of aloes and succulents has been seen in several books and articles, and seeing it in person was a great treat. Photos are on the inside front cover. ☘

See page 16  
to order your  
SDHS nametag

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### Fall/Winter HOURS

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

## To Learn More...

### HAPPY GARDEN, HEALTHY HOME

By Ava Torre-Bueno

This month's speaker, Aenne Carver is a Master Gardener. Check here for what San Diego Master Gardeners are up to and how you can become a master gardener: [www.mastergardenerssandiego.org](http://www.mastergardenerssandiego.org)

This month's talk is about using drought-tolerant old-fashioned flowers and plants in the garden. Go to Google Images and search on the phrase "old fashioned flowers" to see many lovely pictures. Then go to the *New York Times* for an article called In Praise of the Old-Fashioned Perennials: [query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9B0DEEDD143BF932A35750C0A961948260&pagewanted=1](http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9B0DEEDD143BF932A35750C0A961948260&pagewanted=1)

Another interest of this month's speaker is using natural ingredients to clean your home. There are so many thrift reasons, and so many more health reasons to stop using commercial products that I highly recommend *Better Basics for the Home* to everyone: [www.betterworldbooks.com/better-basics-for-the-home-id-0609803255.aspx](http://www.betterworldbooks.com/better-basics-for-the-home-id-0609803255.aspx)

Another book about using natural products—ones you grow yourself—is called *Grow Your Own Drugs: Easy Recipes for Natural Remedies and Beauty Fixes*, at: [www.betterworldbooks.com/grow-your-own-drugs-id-1606521071.aspx](http://www.betterworldbooks.com/grow-your-own-drugs-id-1606521071.aspx) Enjoy!

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](mailto:gardeners4peace@hotmail.com) and visit <http://www.sandiegofriendscenter.org/volunteers.htm>. 🌿

## GARDENS, PLANTS, FUN! Spring Home/Garden Show

By Lucy Warren

Spring is the season for renewal and fresh starts, and the Spring Home/Garden Show will provide visitors with everything they need to save time and money improving, refreshing or remodeling their home and outdoor surroundings. If you love plants, great garden design, and a chance to learn more about gardening, don't miss the show from Friday, March 5 to Sunday, March 7 at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. As an SDHS member, you get the best discount for admission – see ad in the March newsletter for details.

San Diego Horticultural Society members have a vested interest in the Spring Home/Garden Show because we've made it ours. It is one of our biggest shows for public outreach to share our love of plants. Those who help at the show get free admission and SDHS will reimburse your parking – see page 4.

Twenty dramatically-lit display gardens will be designed and created specifically for this show in the Bing Crosby Building. With an emphasis on water-smart gardens, Garden Masters put their best efforts into creative new ideas for wonderful gardens for the San Diego climate. See the creativity and style of top designers and horticulturists, all in one place.

Our seminar series is always informative and packed full of ideas. This year will emphasize the "Water Smart" theme. Debra Lee Baldwin will be speaking on succulents each day and will lead daily tours of the Garden Master displays. Other great speakers include: Shellene Mueller, Aenne Carver, Pat Welsh, Evelyn Weidner, Greg Rubin, Cindy Benoit and more. And the lectures are free for the price of admission. (Now, let's see, if you are a volunteer, that means completely

*Continued on page 19*

## From The Board

By Susi Torre-Bueno

### WHO GOT YOU STARTED?

None of us was born with a spade in one hand and a seedling in the other. For many members, our introduction to gardening was because of the enthusiasm of someone who shared their love of plants with us: a doting grandmother; the guy next door who grew the best apples in town, perhaps a teacher in middle school. Every single one of us owes this person a debt of gratitude for bringing the joy of gardening into our lives. What better way to repay that debt than to share YOUR enthusiasm with other potential gardeners? You can do this by volunteering for the Spring Home/Garden Show (see the article at left), where thousands of future (and current) gardeners will be in attendance. To volunteer DURING the show contact Paula Verstraete at [pverstraete@cp-sandiego.com](mailto:pverstraete@cp-sandiego.com) and tell her which day(s) you can help. To volunteer BEFORE the show (with planning and setting up our display) contact me ASAP at (760) 295-7089 and let's talk!

### NEW MEETING LOCATION

Nearly 400 people attended our January meeting at our new first floor location. Actually, we met in this room previously from about 2000 to 2004, so this change is more of a return. We're still fine-tuning how we use the space, and would welcome your comments and suggestions. From the audience response at the January 10 meeting we're very close to having all the kinks worked out.

### REALLY DO IT THIS YEAR!

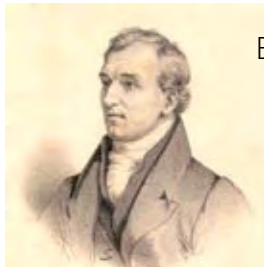
You've been meaning to go to "see the wildflowers" for years, so make it a point to really go THIS year! With our good rainfall this winter it should be an excellent year for blooms. Our calendar lists the Desert Wildflower Hotline and also the Wildflower Hotline. Call or e-mail these places for tips on where to go, and when. And while you're in or near Borrego Springs you must take some time to see the amazing rusty iron sculptures of prehistoric animals that used to live in the area. The sculptures were commissioned by Dennis Avery and sit on land he owns and allows the public to use – Galletta Meadows. For details go to [gallettameadows.com](http://gallettameadows.com).

If you're looking for wildflowers closer to home, check out the local lagoons; most have weekend docent-led walks. The San Elijo Lagoon is just south of Manchester Avenue (west of Hwy. 5) between Solana Beach and Encinitas; the Lagoon Conservancy website is [www.SanElijo.org](http://www.SanElijo.org). Slightly north of there in Carlsbad you'll find the Batiquitos Lagoon; visit [www.batiquitosfoundation.org](http://www.batiquitosfoundation.org) for information about this beautiful spot just east of Hwy. 5. The next lagoon to the north is Agua Hedionda Lagoon (on Cannon Road east of Hwy 5), with an excellent native garden (designed by Greg Rubin) outside their Discovery Center; details are at [www.aguahedionda.org](http://www.aguahedionda.org). Lots more information is available on the extensive website of the San Diego chapter of the California Native Plant Society: [www.cnpssd.org](http://www.cnpssd.org). 🌿



# The Real Dirt On...

## DAVID DOUGLAS



By Joan Herskowitz

David Douglas (1799-1834) was a Scottish botanist, naturalist and plant explorer whose name is associated with hundreds of western North American plants that were introduced into Britain. The best known is the Douglas fir, the iconic tree of the Pacific Northwest. In addition, his detailed field notebooks and sketches provide baseline information about Pacific Northwest landscape and culture during the period of initial European contact.

Douglas was born in the village of Scone, northeast of Perth in Scotland. After attending school for a few years, at age eleven he began his botanical career by working under the supervision of the head gardener on the estate of the Earl of Mansfield. After seven years, he completed his apprenticeship, and found work on another estate where he tended a variety of plants from around the world and had access to a botanical library. In 1820, Douglas obtained an appointment at the botanic garden at Glasgow University where he attended botany lectures and became acquainted with William Joseph Hooker, who was a professor of botany and later became the Director of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew.

After two years under Hooker's tutelage, Hooker recommended Douglas to the Royal Horticultural Society of London. The Royal Society was looking for a skilled gardener and collector to send to America in search of promising nursery plants. In 1823, Douglas was selected and sailed to New York where he made important botanical connections with the botanists John Torrey and Thomas Nuttall, and collected seeds and cuttings from plants in the northeast.

The secretary of the Horticultural Society was impressed with the quality of his collections and in 1824 the Hudson's Bay Company sponsored him for a collecting trip on the Columbia River in the Pacific Northwest. He landed at Fort Vancouver and traveled south of the river and north through the interior of British Columbia, on and off major river routes, displaying a remarkable zeal for collecting plants, as well as minerals and animals. From this expedition, he introduced into cultivation the Douglas fir, Sitka spruce, sugar pine, western white pine, ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, Monterey pine, noble fir and other conifers that transformed the British landscape and timber industry. He also sent back and introduced many garden shrubs and herbs, such as the flowering currant, salal, lupin, penstemon, and California poppy. Altogether he introduced 240 species to Britain.

Predominately self taught and having considerable accomplishments to his credit, Douglas' life came to an untimely end at age 35. He had gone to Hawaii for a few months in 1834, and died from an accident while climbing Mauna Kea on the Island of Hawaii, where he was buried. In his honor, over 80 species of plants and animals have douglasii in their scientific names, and, in addition to Douglas fir, common names of other plants, e.g., Douglas maple, Douglas spirea, Douglas water hemlock, and Douglas aster, have been named after him.

[Editor's note: There is still mystery surrounding the exact circumstances of Douglas' death. Could it have been murder? Read more about this at [www.coffeetimes.com/daviddouglas.htm](http://www.coffeetimes.com/daviddouglas.htm).]

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:

## BLADDERPOD

by Pat Pawlowski

[Editor's note: This month we proudly introduce a new column by native plant expert (and longtime member) Pat Pawlowski. It will include info about native plants and the insects who love them.]

And now for something completely different. Here's a plant with a really funky name: Bladderpod, or *Cleome isomeris* (*Isomeris arborea*).

Call it what you will – it's a great native shrub to put in your yard. "What's so great about a plant whose name reminds me of a body part?," you might ask. Well, the tubular flowers are a pretty yellow, the shade of a ripe banana. However, this shrub does not smell like a banana. The attractive blue-green leaves have an, uh, distinctive aroma. But nobody is perfect, and after all, you are not going to stick your nose into the middle of the bush, are you?

As landscaping plants go, bladderpod is par excellence (that's French). It is evergreen; it is handsome; it has a long blooming season; it ranges from three to six feet tall and wide, which makes it suitable for smaller yards. Best of all, it is extremely drought tolerant. It laughs at neglect. It is not bothered by the buniculas that swagger around the garden, just waiting for a young tender plant to sink their teeth into. Bladderpod is used to a life of hard knocks.

There's more, especially if you like garden life to be interesting. Birds appreciate the shelter and shade and seeds this plant provides. And wait until you hear about the other visitors the plant is likely to be hosting. (And, in one instance I do mean hosting: bladderpod is a host plant for the Becker's White Butterfly.) Others who come to sip nectar from the plentiful tubular flowers include hummingbirds, butterflies and bumblebees.

Or, how about a bladderpod flower taco? According to a reputable ethnobotany blog, all you do is boil the flowers for about four hours to take out the bitterness, and then add them to an already sautéed mixture of onion and a bit of flour. Fill a freshly made tortilla with the mixture and- voilà! (that's another French word) – lunch.

Others who might drop by for lunch on bladderpod are insects like harlequin bugs and spittle bugs. Before you wrinkle your proboscis, let me explain. These insects may do a bit of snacking and such, but they pay for it by being colorful and fascinating. I have a bladderpod that has been visited by harlequin bugs in the nymphal stage that are cute as buttons (Tinkerbell-size buttons).

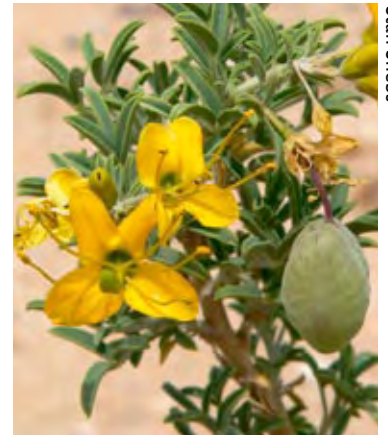
But wait until you hear about the spittlebugs!

Some time ago, friends of mine visited, and we took a walk up to the back area. Among the lovely blooms of the bladderpod, clinging along a few of the branches, appeared a frothy white substance that looked like spittle. Had I angered the garden gods somehow? No, it turns out that the froth was manufactured by a little insect as a way of protecting itself from its enemies. "So what?," you say. Well, my friends' little child was enraptured.

Sometime later in the year, when the friends again were visiting, the first thing the little girl asked was, "Where are the spit bugs?" So you see, every creature has its admirers.

I, for one, certainly admire bladderpod.

Pat Pawlowski is a writer/lecturer/garden consultant who likes to chase butterflies.☺



Stan Shebs

# Trees, Please

## WHAT TREE, WHAT PLACE?

By Robin Rivet

As an arborist, one of the most common questions I am asked is, "What tree should I plant? When people do not receive adequate advice, they frequently plant only water-craving lawns, leaving our cities bereft of vital tree canopies that help clean our air, reduce storm water runoff and provide energy saving shade. With deep financial challenges, our local municipalities are even less equipped to fill in the resulting vacant spaces.

Attuned gardeners like Horticultural Society members usually comprehend the basic concepts behind "sustainable landscaping," but landscape trees are typically the "elephant in the room." Worse, you may have inherited someone else's "freebie" planted long ago. Now you try to work around it, brutally prune it, or ultimately remove it as creating more trouble than value. Haphazard or volunteer trees abound, even in some very spectacular gardens.

Although drought tolerant perennials, vines, groundcovers and shrubbery are also vital, they are easier to replace if selected without significant forethought. If you are like me, you tend to visit a nursery, bring home a pretty plant, then wonder where to put it. We are all guilty. You know this is not good planning, and although you may get away with this strategy some of the time, it will not work with trees. They are the ugly ducklings of the plant world. Young trees do not (and should not) resemble their mature parents. At purchase, nursery specimens might be totally leafless and dormant, or even downright ugly. Ironically, "ugly" can be a very wise choice. Smart nursery selection frequently translates into "the wimpier the better," as life in a container soon begets roots compromised by limited space, ultimately affecting long term tree health.

So how can we get more "Right Trees in the Right Place?" It sounds easy enough, but it should not be a quick, ho-hum decision to make good choice that is unique to your space. There is too much at stake. A perfect pick might become a community landmark, adding up to 20% to your home or your neighborhood's value, but the wrong one frequently gives all trees bad press and costs everyone in maintenance dollars and lost management time. Unfortunately, most people give

more time and thought to purchasing a living room sofa, than a tree. Why is this? Imagine if you had to select a new couch that grew larger every year. You just might forego buying one at all.

Topical information about the relative virtues of regionally appropriate tree species is not easy to find. Worse yet, some nurseries often tell you only what they wish to sell you. In America, where the average age for an urban tree hovers around thirteen years, this needs to change, especially if we are to create vital and sustainable cities for future generations. The irony is that despite having a lot of good information available much of it is not reaching the appropriate decision makers.

As a state-funded public service, the non-profit California Center for Sustainable Energy is now developing an Urban Forestry Advice and Technical Assistance Center, called "ATAC." The goal is to become a hub of tree knowledge for residents, municipalities, schools, nurseries and commerce. ATAC will also provide professional resources and referrals for arborists, landscape architects, designers, students, educators and tree maintenance workers. If we begin to make wiser choices when selecting, planting and maintaining our urban trees, we can stem the tide of universal tree loss, which is occurring at the alarming rate of 3-4 trees removed, for each new city tree planted across America.

There is an effort underway to merge the traditional vision of trees as decoration to trees as urban infrastructure. Research suggests that the enormous natural beauty of trees reduces the stress in all our lives and also significantly affects public health. When you view the subtler benefits about how trees store the carbon linked to climate change, increase our vanishing wildlife habitats, or how they encourage shoppers to linger longer along tree-lined streets, bolstering our faltering economy, it becomes easier to see why every tree we plant makes a collective difference.

Please accept an invitation to utilize this new service and recommend it to others. A grand opening is scheduled later this spring, and the lending library already has many new or hard-to-find horticultural and tree books to borrow, just for the asking. If you would like more information about this outreach effort, please contact CCSE at (858) 244-1177. Additionally, organizations in need of sustainable urban forestry advice or assistance are welcome to propose collaborative workshops, events or partnerships.

Transitional Webpage for Urban Forestry Advice and Technical Assistance Center: [www.energycenter.org/ATAC](http://www.energycenter.org/ATAC)

Trees & Public Health: [www.milliontreesnyc.org/html/resources/faq.shtml](http://www.milliontreesnyc.org/html/resources/faq.shtml)

Trees & Energy: [www.americanforests.org/graytogreen/energy/](http://www.americanforests.org/graytogreen/energy/)

Trees & Pollution: [www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/publications/urban2.html](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/publications/urban2.html)

Trees & Commerce: [www.coloradotrees.org/benefits.htm](http://www.coloradotrees.org/benefits.htm)

Trees & Water: [jane-in-orbit.blogspot.com/2009/01/planting-trees-to-save-water.html](http://jane-in-orbit.blogspot.com/2009/01/planting-trees-to-save-water.html)

Trees & Habitat: [www.nrdnet.org/nrd\\_programs/trees.html](http://www.nrdnet.org/nrd_programs/trees.html)

Trees & Crime: [www.treehugger.com/files/2010/11/big-trees-may-make-communities-safer-says-study.php](http://www.treehugger.com/files/2010/11/big-trees-may-make-communities-safer-says-study.php)

Member Robin Rivet is an ISA Certified Arborist and Urban Forester for ATAC, California Rare Fruit Grower and UCCE Master Gardener. She serves on the San Diego Community Forest Advisory Board, La Mesa Environmental/Sustainability Commission, and the San Diego Regional Urban Forests Council. She welcomes public inquiries or rebuttals. ☞

## San Diego Wild Mushroom Fair



The San Diego Mycological Society is sponsoring a Wild Mushroom Fair on Sunday, February 20, at Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 101. From 10:30 am to 3:30 pm there will be cooking and growing demonstrations, food for purchase, and slide shows and lectures. The Fair is Free (donations greatly appreciated), and you

may bring your unknown mushrooms to the Fungus Fair for identification. You'll also be able to enjoy:

- Locally collected native wild mushrooms on display
- Fair vendors: fresh wild mushrooms, cultivation kits, books, clothing, posters, & other mushroom-centric items available
- A chance to join your local mycological society!

For more information visit [www.sdmyco.org](http://www.sdmyco.org).

### ***BIZARRE BOTANICALS: HOW TO GROW STRING-OF HEARTS, JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT, PANDA GINGER, AND OTHER WEIRD AND WONDERFUL PLANTS***

By Larry Mellichamp and Paula Gross

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh



I just happened to drop by a bookstore, and I just happened to be walking down the aisle by the garden books, when a book called my name. Really. Truly. That's the way it happened. I wouldn't have bought this book otherwise. Would I lie to you?

This book is just plain fun. Part of the fun is that some of the plants the authors mention we already have in our gardens – mother ferns, staghorns, Dutchman's pipe, passion

flowers, and others – so we get to feel a little superior that someone would think what we have in our gardens is worth writing about.

But then there are the other plants, plants I would never have imagined. Have you ever heard of the blue oil fern (*Microsorium thailandicum*)? Neither had I. Its strappy (not ferny) leaves are a rich iridescent cobalt blue. Looking at the photo, all I can say is, "Wow!"

What about clubmoss (*Lycopodium*)? Do you remember seeing photos of old-time photographers who held up a tray of flash powder to illuminate the scene they were photographing? That flash powder was made up of the explosive spores of lycopodium.

How about the black bat plant (*Tacca chantrieri*)? It puts out clusters of shiny black fruit that look very much like sleeping bats.

Many of the plants are bizarre in their looks; some are in their behavior. For example, spear sansevieria (*Sansevieria cylindrica*). Its erect cylindrical leaves look more like stems, but the stems actually grow underground as rhizomes.

Have I tempted you yet? There's a lot more where that came from. This book will not disappoint you.

The authors have a breezy, accessible style that adds to the pleasure of the book, and we can even forgive their occasional puns. And this is a practical book. Besides the 114 knock-your-socks-off color photos, they give you growing characteristics and tips on light required, hardiness, moisture required, and growing medium. They also rate each plant on a scale of one-to-three on how difficult it is to grow. They're gardening in North Carolina, however, so some plants that are difficult for them grow easily for us.

*Bizarre Botanicals* (ISBN-13: 978-1-60469-076-7) is published by Timber Press. I haven't looked at their catalog in a while, but I will, to see what other treasures I can find for you. The book is hard-bound, 283 pages, covers 78 plants, and includes a hardiness zone chart, bibliography, and index. It's \$24.95 at your local bookstore or from Timber Press, [www.timberpress.com](http://www.timberpress.com).

I went on line to see what others are saying about it. One reader gave it a low rating. He bought it to learn how to grow tillandsias, and this book had nary a one. He warned you against buying it, proof positive that there are as many weird people in the world as there are plants. I recommend it to you. You'll enjoy it. ☺

### **COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS NEED YOUR HELP**

By Linda Johnson

Whether volunteering, donating funds, or recycling gently-used items, San Diegans can contribute to many non-profit organizations that need help in fulfilling their mission statements. Volunteers and donors know how mutually rewarding these experiences can be, and that help is needed ALL year long. Here are some suggestions on ways to contribute to the community that are related to horticulture.

**San Diego Horticultural Society:** Opportunities include staffing information tables at various events, including the Home/Garden Shows. See page 2 in this newsletter for areas of need.

**Volunteer at events:** As spring approaches, numerous organizations are gearing up for their annual garden tours and plant sales. Volunteers are needed to assist with registration, information, logistics, tour coordination, plant sales, and other areas. Many organizations provide free tour tickets to thank volunteers! Just a few examples of upcoming events:

- Bernardo Gardeners Garden Tour ([bernardogardeners.org](http://bernardogardeners.org))
- Bonita Valley Garden Club Tour ([sweetwatervalleyca.org/BVGC](http://sweetwatervalleyca.org/BVGC))
- Clairemont Town Council Garden Tour ([clairemontonline.com](http://clairemontonline.com))
- Community Resource Center's North County Garden Tour ([crcncc.org](http://crcncc.org))
- Coronado Garden Tour ([crownsgardenclub.org](http://crownsgardenclub.org))
- Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Garden Tour ([elfinforestgardens.info](http://elfinforestgardens.info))
- Lake Hodges Native Plant Club Tour ([lhnp.org](http://lhnp.org))
- Pt. Loma Garden Walk ([pointlomagardenwalk.com](http://pointlomagardenwalk.com))
- St. Madeleine Sophie's Center Morning Glory Jazz Brunch ([stmcs.org](http://stmcs.org)).

**Donate funds:** In addition to tour proceeds, all monetary donations are welcome and appreciated (and may be tax-deductible). Funds are used to offset tour expenses and to directly support the various charitable causes of each organization. The San Diego Botanic Garden, for example, accepts tax-deductible donations to the Bill Teague Scholarship Fund (which honors our own cherished Bill Teague and will be used to provide a stipend for SDBG interns).

**Donate gardening-related items:** Have unneeded gardening supplies cluttering up your yard/garage/storage areas? Hoses, tools, wheelbarrows, plastic pots, etc. can be recycled by donating to organizations involved in horticulture, including:

- community gardens ([sandiegoroots.org/comm\\_gardens](http://sandiegoroots.org/comm_gardens))
- community college gardens (Cuyamaca College and The Water Conservation Garden – [www.thegarden.org](http://www.thegarden.org), Southwest College/ South Bay Botanic Garden – [www.southbaybotanicgarden.org](http://www.southbaybotanicgarden.org), San Diego City College/Urban farm – [www.seedsatcity.com](http://www.seedsatcity.com))
- school gardens (contact [diana.bergman@rcdsandiego.org](mailto:diana.bergman@rcdsandiego.org) or 619-562-0096 x106).

**Volunteer in community programs:** To directly participate in programs that promote and preserve native horticulture, habitat, and other causes visit:

- Habitat Stewards ([sandiegohabitatstewards.org](http://sandiegohabitatstewards.org)), Audubon Society ([sandiegoaudubon.org](http://sandiegoaudubon.org))
- school gardens (contact [diana.bergman@rcdsandiego.org](mailto:diana.bergman@rcdsandiego.org) or 619-562-0096 x106 for more information)
- California Native Plant Demonstration Garden (CNPDG) restoration in Balboa Park/Florida Canyon (contact David Varner at [confluence.dv@gmail.com](mailto:confluence.dv@gmail.com))
- Cuyamaca Conservation Garden/docent program; San Diego City College/working in Urban Farm. ☺



# First Garden Tour of the Year!

The San Diego Horticultural Society Presents "Take A Botanical Odyssey"

Saturday, March 26, 2011, 9 AM to 4 PM

Four Gardens and eight garden businesses and nurseries in the Vista/Fallbrook/San Marcos area

This spring garden tour will visit four gardens in the Fallbrook/Vista area that feature the amazing diversity of plants that we can grow in the San Diego area. Expect to see everything on your tour ~ exotic equatorial tropicals, a stunning array of succulents and cacti from around the world, and a wide ranging palette of hardy West Coast natives that add beauty and support our local creatures. You will find whimsical and lovely garden art enhancing the landscapes and expressing the owners' joy in their gardens. You will also be able to visit eight SDHS member specialty nurseries and garden businesses in Fallbrook, Vista and San Marcos that will offer special discounts for that day only exclusively to garden tour ticket holders.



One of the gardens, designed by Scott Spencer, features rockwork, mixed Mediterranean shrub borders and textural compositions using grasses and grass-like plants. Steel, stainless steel, and distressed aluminum sculptures are interspersed throughout the garden. A focal point is the Standing Man, created by the sculptor homeowner, in the center of a spectacular large labyrinth.



Another, enchanting garden, located on 3.5 acres, includes a large variety of succulents, cactus, tropicals, tropical fruit, bromeliads, cycads, flowering plants and trees. In your walk through the magical gardens you will discover many botanical gems, hidden art objects, mosaic tile compositions, and canyon vistas across the garden's vast native hillsides. Sequestered areas include perfectly matched unique pots and botanical treasures.



The third garden is a botanic wonderland of conifers, palms, cycads, Australian natives, cactus and succulents. An extensive collection of agaves, aloes, echeverias, euphorbias and aeoniums is displayed in the ground as well as in containers. There are cool, shaded areas for tropical beauties and a custom-built greenhouse for prized caudiciform succulents. A whimsical use of color and garden ornaments, including strategically placed bird houses, speaks to the owners' sense of fun. Winding paths take you through this plant-lover's paradise.



The fourth garden is an amazing botanical garden designed by Tom Piergrossi. This lovely garden features plants from five Mediterranean zones. You can also wander a subtropical slope including bananas, pineapples, dragon fruit, and passion fruit. The orchard includes over 50 different fruits. As you wander you will enjoy the fragrant flowers, Koi pond, succulent garden, and vegetable garden, all installed and maintained by the homeowners.

Advance purchase tickets for members will be \$16, non-members \$20. Day of tickets will be \$25 for all. Tickets may be purchased beginning in January 2011

- For online go to the San Diego Horticultural Society website for registration information. [www.sdhortsoc.org](http://www.sdhortsoc.org).

Online ticket sales will close on March 23 at midnight.

- Mail orders must be postmarked by March 10. Include a SASE and mail to Ida Rigby, 14031 Saddlewood Drive, Poway, Ca 92064
- Advance tickets will be available at Walter Andersen Nurseries through March 23 (for addresses see [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com))
- Day of tickets will be available at Grangetto's, 1105 W Mission Ave, Escondido, 9AM to 1PM

No tickets will be mailed. You will receive a map with instructions. Your name(s) will be at each garden

Questions? contact Ida Rigby at [tours@sdhortsoc.org](mailto:tours@sdhortsoc.org) or 858-748-9189



Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Member Tickets @\$16.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Member Tickets @\$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Payment by check payable to SDHS

*By purchasing a ticket I understand that I will tour these gardens at my own risk. Host gardens and San Diego Horticultural Society assume no liability whatsoever. This tour is not handicapped accessible. No pets are allowed.*

## Welcome New Members!

We now have over 1300 members! Hope to see all of you at upcoming meetings. We encourage you to become active participants and share in the fun; to volunteer see page 4. A warm hello to the following folks who have joined recently:

### We welcome LandscapingNetwork.com as our newest sponsor.

Harry Benedict  
Beverly Christianson  
Davey Tree Expert Company  
William J. Davis II  
Mary Dilligan  
Shirley Elswick  
Joni Goar  
Kim Johnson  
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### NEW ADVERTISERS:

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### HORT BUCKS ARE GREAT!

Kudos to members who bring in new members - we send them Hort Bucks worth \$5 towards raffle tickets, name-tags, Plant Forum CDs or dues. To get your Hort Bucks just ask your friends to give us your name when they join.

### Discounts For Members

Get a 15% discount at Briggs Tree Co. (see page 9; tell them to look up the "San Diego Hort Society Member" account).

For the Grangetto's Preferred Program discounts go to [www.Grangettos.com](http://www.Grangettos.com).

Take 10% off membership fees at San Diego Botanic Garden.

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

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(names in bold have ads)

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[LandscapingNetwork.com](http://LandscapingNetwork.com)  
Legoland California  
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**Moosa Creek Nursery**  
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The Yard Fairy  
Tree of Life Nursery  
**Walter Andersen Nursery**  
**Weidners' Gardens**  
**Pat Welsh**  
Westward Expos

## LIFE MEMBERS

\*Horticulturist of the Year

Chuck Ades\* (2008)  
Walter Andersen\* (2002)  
Norm Applebaum & Barbara Roper  
Bruce & Sharon Asakawa\* (2010)  
Gladys T. Baird  
Debra Lee Baldwin  
Steve Bringham\* (2009)  
Wayne Carlson  
Laurie Connable  
Julian & Leslie Duval  
Edgar Engert\* (2000)  
Jim Farley  
Sue & Charles Fouquette  
Penelope Hlavac  
Debbie & Richard Johnson  
Lois Kline  
Vince Lazaneo\* (2004)  
Jane Minshall\* (2006)  
Bill Nelson\* (2007)  
Tina & Andy Rathbone  
Jon Rebman\* (2011)  
Peggy Ruzich  
Susi & Jose Torre-Bueno  
Don Walker\* (2005) & Dorothy Walker  
Lucy Warren  
Evelyn Weidner\* (2001)  
Pat Welsh\* (2003)  
Betty Wheeler

## CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

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

## What's Up at San Diego Botanic Garden?

### THROUGH THE EYES OF AN ARTIST - FEBRUARY 12

To celebrate the unique artistic creations of Sculpture in the Garden, we are offering a special day of tours, discussions and more. This is a unique exhibition of talented artists displaying their sculptural creations throughout our lush and natural 37-acre setting. Through April 18, 2011, sixteen artists are displaying a range of sculptures set against the beautiful backdrop of dragon trees, fruit gardens, bamboo groves, and many more unique garden areas as part of *Sculpture in the Garden*.

- Hourly tours of the sculptures in the Garden. 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
- For kids and the young-at-heart: Make a community sculpture using recycled materials. 10 am - 2 pm
- **Panel Discussions:**  
**Session One:** 11:00 am – 12 noon  
Artists: Alber De Matteis and Charles Bronson  
Garden Designers: Debra Lee Baldwin and Patrick Anderson  
**Session Two:** 2:00 – 3:00 pm  
Artists: Becky Guttin and Cheryl Tall  
Garden Designers: Peter Jones and Bobbi Hirschhoff
- Music provided by Willowood
- Lunch from the Garden's Coffee Hut
- 10 am - 4 pm. Free with admission or membership. [www.SDBGarden.org](http://www.SDBGarden.org)

### Plan Ahead for the March 19-20 Herb Festival, Spring Plant Sale and Tomatomania®

Susan Belsinger is our honored guest at this year's Herb Festival. Susan is a culinary herbalist, educator, food writer, and photographer whose articles and photographs have been widely published. She has co-authored several best-selling, award-winning cookbooks. There will also be on-going speakers on garden and herb-related topics, guided tours of the Herb Garden, Herb Festival Market-place, the A-Z or Herbs information booth, and the SDBG Spring Plant Sale with a multitude of vendors.

Back by popular demand is Tomatomania® with lectures on culture and care and plenty of tomato seedlings.

**For Kids: Now, That's a Horse of a Different Color.** Kids can learn about the Herb of the Year for 2011, the noble horseradish. Make potpourri "saddle bags" with herbs from the garden. Construct a "horse," naturally, and help make a community sculpture with recycled materials. Saturday and Sunday, 11 am – 2 pm.  
10 am - 4 pm. Free with admission or membership. 🌱

### New E-Mail? New Street Address?

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



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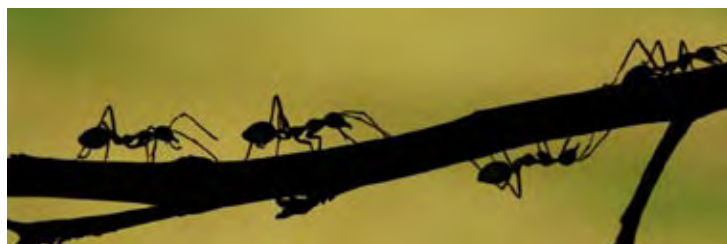
the trees of san diego



Photographs by Don Walker  
Text by Steve Brinkman

## Amazingly Effective Ant Trap

By Ava Torre-Bueno



Ants will be showing up in your garden soon if they aren't there already. Here's a recipe for an ant trap that will kill off an entire ant colony in about 10 days to two weeks. [Editor's note: I tried this and it works better than any commercial ant poison I've ever used!]

In a lidded container, mix about equal parts of sugar syrup (Karo syrup is good for this) and diatomaceous earth (pool filter powder). Add about half as much water to make a somewhat runny goo. Track your ant trail to as close to the nest as you can get. Sometimes this is to the floorboard the ants are coming out under, or it may be outside. Put about a tablespoon of the goo in a semi-circle around where the ants are starting to trail (you can also put the goo in a small open container). They will go for it immediately. Then, especially in dry weather, add a few drops of water twice a day to keep the trap moist. Every couple of days, add a bit more goo on or around the first goo. In two weeks, when there are no more ants, just use plenty of water to clean up the trap. This is completely organic and harmless to pets and kids. ☺

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**Call For Bids**

*Flower and Garden Show*



We are soliciting proposals to design the  
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This display is for educational and  
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Flower and Garden Show theme, Riding In  
Style, which complements the Fair Theme,  
Race to the Fair.

The display area is ~30' x 40'.

Proposals should not exceed \$15,000.

Please contact Jayna Wittevrongel at  
760-809-6327 for details.

Proposals must be submitted by April 1.

The contract will be awarded by April 8.



# Cocoa Mulch Hazard?

By Susi Torre-Bueno

I've received an e-mail warning that Cocoa Mulch, which smells like chocolate, contains an ingredient called Theobromine and is said to be lethal to dogs and cats. As with many e-mail warnings, this one is partly true.

Whenever I get any e-mail warning I go to snopes.com, an invaluable resource for checking ALL the e-mail warnings you get (almost all are untrue or, worse yet, hoaxes). In the last 8 years or so I've found that virtually all the warnings I get are *not* true and shouldn't be forwarded.

Chocolate IS poisonous to dogs and cats, so don't feed it to your pets, as even small quantities can make them ill. In this case, however, while cocoa mulch may be hazardous, most dogs won't eat enough of it to get seriously ill, and only one dog is certain to have died from ingesting cocoa mulch. I urge you to read all about it at snopes.com/critters/crusader/cocoamulch.asp.

Bottom line in my opinion: If your pets have access to your garden you might want to avoid cocoa mulch just in case. Some brands claim they have removed the theobromine, so those brands might be ones you want to investigate further. 🌿

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**MANAGEMENT:** Looking for entry level trainee to assist General Manager in day to day operations. Experience running a crew helpful. General knowledge of ornamentals a plus. Applicant must possess self-discipline, the ability to work with minimal supervision and have the ability to work as a team player. Fluent English and Spanish required. Send resume and salary requirements to: [Alissa@BriggsTree.com](mailto:Alissa@BriggsTree.com).

**SALES:** Looking for both inside and outside sales people. General knowledge of Southern California ornamentals and basic landscape practices necessary. Experience required. Applicant must possess self-discipline, the ability to work with minimal supervision and have the ability to work as a team player. Submit resume and salary requirements to [Alissa@BriggsTree.com](mailto:Alissa@BriggsTree.com). 🌿

## California Urban Forests Council

By Robin Rivet



San Diego Horticultural Society Members: Please consider becoming a member of the California Urban Forests Council. For information on FREE membership visit: [www.cauhc.org/Membership](http://www.cauhc.org/Membership). And to see their facebook page go to [www.facebook.com/pages/California-Urban-Forests-Council/173306846](http://www.facebook.com/pages/California-Urban-Forests-Council/173306846)

California needs your advocacy to prioritize funding for urban forestry. We can no longer rely on the relatively small numbers of professional arborists to speak up, but ordinary home gardeners need to be heard as well. Because trees affect energy use, air and water quality, storm water runoff, public health, commerce and wildlife habitat, as well as many other aspects of urban life, no single agency wants to take sole responsibility for their planting and management.

To this end, the California Urban Forests Council has waived its membership fees, trying to encourage a grass roots effort of concerned citizens to show our state government just how many people care about green spaces, environmental foresight and educational awareness. They are urging this effort be tackled by interagency cost-sharing and collective responsibility. If all public agencies cooperated, we could get many more trees and sustainable landscapes planted. 🌿

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## Community Volunteer Board Assumes Operations of the Water Conservation Garden

A new group of dedicated community volunteers, Friends of the Water Conservation Garden, is now governing and operating the Water Conservation Garden.

"We are convinced of the vital importance of the Garden to San Diego's and Southern California's long term quality of life," stated President, Michael Grisdale. "Water conservation is essential for this region, and the Garden is leading the way to a beautiful and sustainable environment by successfully promoting significant changes to people's landscaping behavior."

Grisdale is the Principal of Operculum Consulting. Other board members include Richard Wright, a retired SDSU professor; Eleanor Hugus, C.E.O. of N.N. Jaeschke; Damian Esparza, Principal and Reserve Specialist of Barrera and Company; Chuck Hansen, Vice President of Community Relations for Viejas Enterprises; Deanna Weeks, retired C.E.O. and President of the East County Economic Development Council; Darin Handley, Vice President and Market Growth and Development Consultant, Wells Fargo Bank; Brenda Martin, Nursery Manager for Cuyamaca College; and Mark Weston, General Manager of the Helix Water District, representing the Water Conservation Garden Authority.

The Garden was managed successfully through December 31, 2010 by the Water Conservation Garden Authority, a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) composed of the San Diego County Water Authority, the Helix Water District, the Otay Water District, the Sweetwater Authority, the City of San Diego, and the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District. The JPA continues to support the Garden financially, and together with the Friends put together a new management agreement that all agree is in the best interests of, and will open significant new opportunities for; The Garden.

"The Garden staff members are delighted with the talents and dedication of our new governing board, stated Executive Director Marty Eberhardt. "We believe that we can build on the superb foundation laid by the JPA, and, through our exhibits, classes, events, and outreach programs, can serve as the educational epicenter for conservation in the landscape."

Opened in 1999, the Garden is dedicated to promoting water conservation in the southern California landscape through excellent exhibits and programs that educate and inspire the public. The Garden is supported by memberships, donations, grants, and water agency support. For more information, please visit [www.thegarden.org](http://www.thegarden.org) or call (619) 660-0614x10. ☺

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## SHARING SECRETS

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

The question for January was:

What are the ripening times for your home-grown fruit, and what are you doing to get fruit all season long? (Thanks to Tynan Wyatt for suggesting this question.)

**Walter Andersen** grows several fruit varieties: "I have a 'Cara Cara' Navel Orange ripening about now (Feb.). I also have a Satsuma Tangerine that is just finishing; it usually starts with ripe fruit about the first of December and goes for about 6 weeks. I just planted a 'Tango' Tangerine; it is supposed to be late spring, also seedless; too young for fruit this year, maybe in 2012. I planted a 'Green Gage' Plum for June ripening and have a 'Meyer' Lemon that goes for 12 months, producing lots of lemons. More trees will go in soon, this is the best time to plant, especially deciduous fruit trees."

**Patty Berg** wrote, "Our peach tree is 'Eva's Pride' – a very early yellow peach that was ready to pick around the 25<sup>th</sup> of May last year. The nectarines (white, provenance unknown) come in heavy for three weeks in mid-July. Apples 'Dorsett Golden' and 'Anna' are ready in June. 'Burgundy' plum was late July. 'Eureka' lemons fruit all year. We extend the harvest by sharing our excess with friends and neighbors who reciprocate with whatever overabundance they have. The only thing better than the farmers' market fruit is right out in the backyard."

**Joann Dossett** doesn't have a long fruit season: "Sadly, I don't get enough sun to have fruit all season long. Happily, however, I do get enough sun for my passion vine to produce passion fruit in the fall."

**Susan D'Vincent** has many choices: "I have been adding fruit trees and bushes the last few years to try and cover the whole season. The season starts with blueberries in February. The blueberries continue (provided they are covered to keep off the birds) and overlap at the end of May with the white peach, Tropic Snow. Then beginning of June Flavor Delight Aprium kicks in followed closely by an old apricot that was here when we moved in (Blendheim?). Towards the beginning of July the Nectaplum with its delicious white fruit comes in and lasts until the end of July. Double Delight nectarine also comes in then, but its production is feeble because it's on Citation rootstock and it isn't as vigorous as the other peaches on good Nemagard rootstock. Sweet Dorsett Golden apple is a late June producer. My Burgandy plum also starts producing in beginning of July. By the third week in July I have the wonderful August Pride Peach coming in to production and at the same time my toothsome Flavor Grenade (full of flavor but a bite like apples, note to people with impaired incisors like me). Flavor Grenade hangs on the tree getting softer and better until mid Sept. By this time I'm hoping for my ambrosial White Garnsey fig, which was very late last year due to the cool summer. A new Black Jack Fig should be coming in now too. Then we get into the apples in September and October; Pink Lady and Fuji. My Fuyu persimmon is starting to produce in October and by picking the fruit November or December to ripen on the counter, I'm still eating them now in January! Wonderful pomegranates come in in November; which we're still eating (in mid-January). By the end of November, we have satsuma tangerines, meyer lemons and bearss limes. Now I see the buds swelling on the Tropic Snow peach and the season begins again."

**Charlotte Getz** said, "I get fruit almost all summer with a variety of peaches, nectarines and apples. The varieties all ripen from early

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season, mid-season to late season. I chose the varieties specifically to have fruit ripening all during the summer months. Peach tree varieties - White Babcock, Saturn and Red Baron. Nectarine - Panamint. Apples - Anna and Gala. The Anna apple tree produces 2 or 3 crops of apples a year. The tree has apples on it right now (in early January). It is one of the best apple tree varieties for the coast and has a low chill hour requirement (150 - 200 chill hours). Strawberry Guava - fruit ripens in November and December. Because I live in Encinitas all the fruit tree varieties have low chill hour requirements. I do two dormant winter sprayings of the stone fruits each year to prevent leaf curl."

**Jack Hazelton** grows persimmons: "My main back yard fruit is hachiya persimmon. Persimmons start to set fruit towards the end of February and can continue setting fruit for three months. Individual pieces of fruit will start to ripen in October and continue to ripen through December. This gives you a three-month harvest period. Individual persimmons are ready to be harvested when color (other than green) extends up under the calyx. At this point, non-astringent persimmons, Fuyu types, can be eaten as you would an apple. Astringent persimmons, hachiya types, however, are only ready to be processed for dehydration. Hachiya (astringent) persimmons need to be soft and mushy like a thin skin full of thick jelly before they can be eaten out-of-hand. Water-soluble tannin is the pucker part of persimmon. As an astringent persimmon ripens the tannin converts to water insoluble, no longer dissolves in your mouth, and leaves you with a mouth full of wonderful sweet and coveted persimmon. The drying process also converts the tannin from water-soluble to water insoluble. More information is available at my web site, [www.seedtosupper.com](http://www.seedtosupper.com) or in my book *Persimmons (Kaki) from seed to supper*.

**Ann Hoepfner** had home-grown tomatoes for Christmas! "Our apricot comes in around July 4th. We eat as much as we can and freeze the rest. The oranges ripen in December and January, sometimes lasting through May. July is the peak for tomatoes. Lemons are on the bush all year. This year, I have had rhubarb all year as well, thanks to the cool wet summer on the coast, and a good location that gets afternoon shade. To extend tomato season, I plant some sets very early, in February, hoping for a warm spring that will bring me fruit by late May. (That clearly did not work this year.) Then the usual April planting, and again in late July or August. This year, I found the warmest, most sheltered part of my yard that gets winter sun, and planted some foot-tall Home Depot tomatoes in mid-October. I had fruit for Christmas, with more still on the vine."

**Melody Huelsebusch** had a fascinating avocado story: "Your question makes me chuckle because of my on-going saga with my avocado tree. Over 12 years ago I purchased the property adjacent to my home in Old Carlsbad, which was so over-grown with 'native plants' (aka weeds) and unpruned trees that it took me six weeks of outdoor cleaning to realize what trees were really on the property. The house was equally as daunting. The house was framed in 1926, which must have been close to the birth of the majestic avocado tree that stood guard over the back yard and a garage it camouflaged. This tree had fruit as large and round as a softball. It took me three years to learn that they were Reed avocados. It took me another five years to figure out when they might be ripe and ready to eat. I know to wait until the stem end falls off and begins to darken but even that is not a foolproof indicator. Since the skin of these Reeds is rather thick, the gentle squeeze test doesn't work. It is still a mystery to me about when they are ready to harvest. I originally thought it was October but I still get good fruit in May. May is the time my two golden retrievers put on about 10 pounds each year from devouring the fruit that falls to the ground. They sure are delicious! I must confess that I am still playing the guessing game on when the avocados are at their peak to



eat. I have the same dilemma knowing when my navel oranges are at their peak. Any pointers on this would be appreciated.

The only fruit I am harvesting at this time of the year are my macadamia nuts. The heavy winds the last few days has helped me immensely since I need to wait for the nuts to fall from the tree before I can begin the harvesting process--and a process it is. It starts with the race to retrieve the nuts from the ground before the crows, squirrels and other rodents begin their feast and ends with me standing over my gargantuan macadamia nut cracker opening one nut at a time, diminishing 10 pounds of nuts into one pound of nut meat. Without mentioning the three other harvesting steps in between I thoroughly understand why these nutritious nuts are so expensive."

**Lorie Johansen** said, "At Casa Vista, we always manage to have something to nibble on while we are in the garden. Two trees are too young to produce: Loquat and pomegranate. So we have those to look forward to in a few years. We just planted a 'Double Delight' nectarine in December; another delight to enjoy years to come. In the winter the citrus is full on: Oro Blanco grapefruit, Kishu mini mandarins, Satsuma mandarins, Honey tangerines, Navel oranges, Pink Lemonade lemons, Kaffir limes, and Fuerte avocados. I would like to add a Palestine Lime as they are so fragrant. In the spring we enjoy the early bearing peaches, Surinam cherries, plums, nectarines, and the tomatoes that the birds plant for us. In the summer, we delight in the baseball size Reed avocados, more peaches, Anna apples, bananas, Valencia oranges, and more tomatoes. In the fall, we welcome Asian pears, figs, jujube 'Li' and more tomatoes. After a full day of pruning the dormant trees and getting ready to spray, my hands are a bit weary but happy to know that next year's crop will be even better!"



Lorie and home grown fruit

**Annie Morgan** suggested calling the Master Gardeners for advice. You can reach their hot line at (858) 694-2860.

**Ida Rigby's** fruits follow this ripening schedule: "Pomegranates in November through December; persimmons, November; concord grapes September; apples spring and fall; stone fruits summer; pineapple guavas for a dose of vitamin C in the fall; loquats in spring. For my fruits, the secret to enjoying them all year is making jams and freezing."

**Jim & Barbara Russell** extend their harvest this way: "We dry our persimmons (both fuyu and hachiya), lemons and mulberries using a homemade dehydrator that we made for our macadamias."

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## Secrets Continued from page 15

**Nan Sterman** shared her selections: "I select fruits that ripen through the year so we have only a few months without fruits: May through July - Nectarines (several kinds), Kumquats, June - Apricots (several kinds), July/August - 'Dapple Dandy' Pluot, Later summer - tomatoes, *Eleagnus philipensis*, End of summer - 'Black Mission', 'Long Yellow' and 'Panachee' figs; grapes, Early fall - pineapple guava, surinam cherries, limes, Mid to late fall - tropical guavas, limes, Halloween to Thanksgiving - Pink Lady and Sundowner apples, Winter - Pomegranates, grapefruits, mandarins "

**Lyn & Jim Stevenson** wrote, "The main thing we have done to get fruit all year long is to plant 39 different varieties of citrus and several varieties of fruit (which we admit seems like a bit much). Satsuma mandarins come on at Christmas, followed by nine varieties of mandarins (with the Encores as late as August), then three varieties of Navels (including Cara Cara), Valencia oranges in late summer, then Rio Red Grapefruits and Late Lane Navels... with some Moro and Sanguinelli blood oranges thrown in along the way. The finale is the switch to Fuji apples and Flavor Grenade Pluots in November...and pretty soon the Satsumas are ready again. "

**Gerald D. Stewart** "isn't sure when his relatively newly-planted Gay Glade of fruit trees and grapes will actually ripen, but to get fruit all season he did some research. For grapes he found that there is a long season if the correct cultivars can be located: Perlette ripens early compared to others, Flame is an early midseason, Thompson Seedless and Concord Seedless (yep, there's a seedless sport of Concord) are midseason, Ruby Seedless is late midseason, and Crimson Seedless ripens late in the season. Theoretically there should be fresh-from-the-vine lusciously-ripe grapes from July or August through November. There was mention in the newspaper recently that a seedless sport of Muscat (late midseason) should be available in the near future. Pride peaches are a low-chill series that offers early, mid, and late season ripening (last year there were bareroot trees available at Walter Andersen Nursery with all three on the same tree). Last summer the Mid Pride peach planted the year before was allowed to set six fruit. They were huge, wrapped in small paper bags as they neared maturity so the fruit beetles and birds wouldn't eat them, and ripened to sweeter-than-candy total juicy peachiness in July. Last year every type of tomato found at retail was planted (about 40 different ones). The absolute standout was Jaune Flamme (quart pot planted about March 20th), purchased at Green Thumb in San Marcos. The tasty smallish orange fruit were the first to set and ripen (in May), and the most prolific in the cool summer that followed (many others never produced much at all in the chill)."

**Ramona Valencia** had some advice: "It seems that ripening times vary from season to season, most especially citrus. Best way to check is to taste... best way to vary ripening times is to research the varieties before purchasing, check for early harvest, etc."

**Marilyn Wilson** said, "I have two different varieties of peaches (in the same hole) in my backyard. One ripens about three weeks before the other. WHEN exactly do they ripen? About four days after the squirrels have eaten/stolen/ruined every single peach!"

### The question for March is:

What are some ways to change or set up a new garden for handicapped or elderly people who still want to participate in some form of gardening? Do you use pots, special equipment, very tall raised beds, or other? (Thanks to Lenore Morines for suggesting this question.) Send your reply by February 5 to [info@sdhortsoc.org](mailto:info@sdhortsoc.org). ☘



# January Plant Display

By Pat Pawlowski and Susi Torre-Bueno

Members are encouraged to bring in plants or cuttings to display.

## 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 Forum tables.

**Cleome isomeris** (= *Isomeris arborea*) BLADDERPOD (Capparaceae) Arizona, California; northern Baja California (Mexico)

This adaptable drought-tolerant evergreen shrub (native to San Diego and most of California) makes a good landscaping plant and attracts hummingbirds to your garden. Butterflies and bees also take nectar from the abundant flowers. For a complete description see page 4. (Pat Pawlowski, El Cajon, 1/11) – P.P.

**Platynerium bifurcatum** STAGHORN FERN (Polypodiaceae) Australia, New Caledonia, New Guinea, Indonesia

If you have the right place to display them (they require bright, indirect light), few ferns are more breathtaking than a large specimen of the staghorn fern. Mounted on a wooden board attached to a wall or strong fence, or hanging from a sturdy chain in a shady section of your garden, large staghorns can be three feet wide and weigh over fifty pounds. These epiphytic ferns grow without having their roots in the ground; in nature they grow on other plants but don't take any nourishment from them, using them only as anchors. The staghorn makes two types of fronds: sterile fronds are flat, pale green turning tan with age; fertile fronds are pale green, forked and resemble deer antlers (source - [plantoftheweek.org/week117.shtml](http://plantoftheweek.org/week117.shtml)). For a very helpful free tip sheet of info about growing and mounting these ferns is available from the Walter Andersen Nursery website: [walterandersen.com/garden-tips](http://walterandersen.com/garden-tips). (Walt Meier, Carlsbad, 1/11) – S.T.B.

**Polypodium californicum** CALIFORNIA POLYPODY (Polypodiaceae) California; northern Baja California (Mexico)

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This *Polypodium californicum* was photographed at the San Elijo Lagoon (between Solana Beach and Encinitas). Reprinted with permission of the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy, [www.SanElijo.org](http://www.SanElijo.org). Check out their website for lots more excellent photos and information about this valuable local site - a great place for a native plant walk. On the second Saturday of each month trained naturalists offer free guided bird and nature walks to the public.

Continued on page 18

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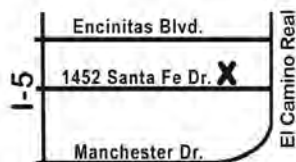
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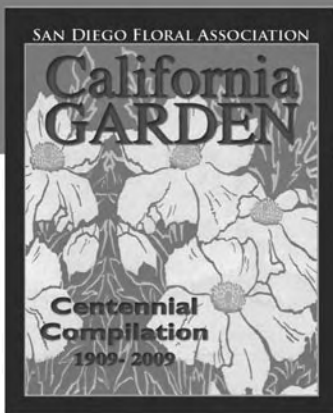


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## Plant Display Continued from page 17

heat and drought because that's when it is dormant. When the fall rains begin you'll see the 4" to 12" fronds emerge. This fern needs good drainage and, according to *California Native Plants for the Garden* (an excellent reference book!), it is good for growing "on slopes in rock gardens, in the cracks of stone walls or steps, in rock outcrops, or in any shady, seasonally moist but not wet portion of the garden." While in most places the fern's aboveground fronds die by early summer, it "may be nearly evergreen" near the coast. The book also notes that deer, wood rats, squirrels, scrub jays, raccoons or gophers rarely bother ferns, although thrips can be an insect pest, "especially in coastal gardens." Best of all, it tolerates clay soils (as long as they dry out in summer). (Walt Meier, Carlsbad, 1/11) – S.T-B.

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](http://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 January newsletter was *Rossioglossum petite*, syn. *Odontoglossum petite* KITTEN ORCHID.

*Cymbidium Splurge 'Shopping Spree'* ORCHID  
(Plant Lover, Carlsbad, 1/11)

*Cymbidium Splurge 'Solana Beach'* ORCHID  
(Walt Meier, Carlsbad, 1/11)

*Euphorbia* sp. or cv. (Sue Martin, Point Loma, 1/11)

*Iris* cv. REBLOOMING IRIS (Marilyn Wilson, Rancho Bernardo, 1/11)

3 *Paeonia californica* CALIFORNIA PEONY  
(Pat Pawlowski, El Cajon, 1/11)



*Paeonia californica*

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## HOW TO READ THE PLANT DISPLAY ENTRIES

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

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

[2] Cultivar ['Cheerio']

[3] Common Name [DONUT PLANT]

[4] Family [Pastryaceae]

[5] Distribution [7-Eleven to Vons]

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

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

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



# January Meeting Report

As announced in your January newsletter, instead of the Plant Forum at the end of each meeting we are now having a segment called Hot Hort Picks at the beginning of the meetings. An expert from Evergreen Nursery (which is sponsoring this meeting segment this year) will talk about an exciting plant or two for five minutes. Thanks to board member Mark Collins, owner of Evergreen Nursery (see page 2) for donating these plants to our Opportunity Drawing. For our first Hot Hort Picks Mark described *Anigozanthus* 'Regal Velvet', a new Kangaroo Paw with bloom stalks almost five feet tall, and a dwarf olive tree, *Olea europaea* 'Little Ollie'. Thanks, Mark for getting our first meeting of the new year off to a lively start.

After December's fascinating talk about honeybees, our January meeting focused on imaginative garden art made from repurposed found materials – some of which incorporated habitats for stingless native solitary bees. The focus of Greg Corman's lively talk was about garden art and its uses, with an emphasis on functional garden art. Greg, an artist and landscape designer, defines functional art as, "Any artistic object that has a function other than aesthetic," and he had beautiful examples to show us, both in his presentation and displayed in the meeting room. As Greg mentioned, art in the garden has multiple uses. It adds amenities for humans and other creatures, created focal points and plant complements, and also brings the owners' personalities into the garden.

Some outdoor art can be used for seating, heating or eating. Greg had images of seats made of tile and colored concrete – very nice, but not too comfortable to use in the chill of winter. Teak and other woods can be used to make simple (or complex) benches, and carved cantera stone from Mexico is popular for both seating and purely decorative objects. Seats made of simple boulders are perfect in naturalistic gardens, and all benches benefit from being placed in a slightly secluded spot which affords a sense of some privacy or at least is a bit out of the way. Among the many photos was one of a pair of blocky wooden chairs, built and painted a bright blue by SDHS member Erik Gronborg. In fact, Greg had a number of images of Erik & Irina Gronborg's enchanting garden taken during his visit there shortly before his talk. Another striking example of garden art was an outdoor gas fire set in a blue tile surround, with an adjoining colored concrete bench and bright accent wall – designed by SDHS member Amelia Lima. Greg noted that, "Garden art can be the tendons pulling a plant collector's garden together," which should be inspiring to so many of our members who, like me, collect only one plant of everything.

Paths in the garden can be an opportunity to "throw in a surprise element," by including unexpected objects in the ground plane. Concrete walkways are greatly improved by having a simple design incised in them, and the Gronborgs' paths form a "ground plane transition from their brick patio to narrow brick paths that lead to more private areas." Garden art can also be nurturing to plants when used as containers or, in one unexpected example, when rusty bedsprings are used as plant supports for vines. Today there is a wide array of pot styles available, including many from durable concrete.

Greg suggests using garden art, which can include many things made from recycled materials, to define outdoor spaces. We saw bedsprings used as fences, old saw blades for a security barrier atop a concrete wall, amusing gates made from wire formed into abstract faces, and heavy-duty wire boxes (gabions) filled with stone for thick retaining walls (and lizard habitats). Additionally, art can be used in a ritual way, as shown in Greg's design for a client of large stones for

a medicine wheel, animals carved from wood used in Madagascar as grave markers, and carved dead trees used in a public garden.

Looking for some projects you can do for your own garden? Greg had photos of decorative lights made with found metal, trunks of Christmas trees with the branches cut short used as outdoor hangers, and outdoor showers made of 9' tall old surfboards which have been decorated and plumbed. A candelabrum can be made from old jars and glass teacups – perfect for adding a touch of candlelight under a gazebo.

Greg's own art is often a habitat for mason bees, leaf cutter bees, and other native, solitary stingless bees. These very passive bees won't sting, and live in 3" to 7" deep tunnels he drills into his wooden artwork. Using a drill bit (holes range from 1/8" wide to 5/16", depending on the bee species), Greg makes short tunnels in art usually made from thick, recycled boards and mounts these habitats at least 18" above ground level.

Siting and lighting outdoor art is important, and Greg offered some good guidelines to success. First, provide a neutral backdrop (especially for dainty or complex art) so the art stands out. Repeat elements to pull the garden together. Water is very good in the garden because of the reflections it offers. Combine art with plants (stunning images of an installation of sinuous Dale Chihuly art glass at the Tucson Botanical Gardens left us wanting to see more). Use soft lighting (low voltage is best) and get help to make the light subtle and effective. Big art pieces need large spaces, so site them accordingly.

Thanks so much, Greg, for a marvelous talk on a topic sure to increase the pleasure we derive from our gardens. To sign up for Greg's free monthly newsletter (back issues include complete instructions for making your own native bee habitats) go to [www.gardeninginsights.com](http://www.gardeninginsights.com). See page 16 for the names of those who generously donated plants and other goodies for our Opportunity Drawing.

Outdoor art will be a feature at three of the gardens on the SDHS garden tour – see page 7 for details. And don't miss the current Sculpture in the Garden display throughout the San Diego Botanic Garden (see page 8), which includes magnificent lanterns by SDHS member Laird Plumleigh and panel discussions on Feb. 12 featuring four SDHS members (Patrick Anderson, Debra Lee Baldwin, Bobbi Hirschkoff, and Peter Jones). 🌿

## Spring Home/Garden Show Continued from page 3

free!) Come by our SDHS booth for quick tips and demonstrations throughout each day.

You'll see interesting and unusual plants that will tempt your wallet. Top growers and specialty nurseries are all located together, so you can find just the right plants without all the driving. Talk to these people; they have expertise to share with you about how to make their plants thrive in your garden.

Many of our members especially love to help out at the Spring Home/Garden Show because they get to meet and interact with other society members. What could be more fun than sharing good times with people with similar interests? Come. Enjoy. The 2011 Spring Home/Garden Show. 🌿

## Classified Ads

**FREE** TO MEMBERS;  
call Susi at  
(760) 295-7089 for details.

Marilyn Wilson is eager to see a Brazilian Grape Tree (Jabuticaba/Jaboticaba aka Myrciaria cauliflora). Do you own one? Do you know where one is growing in the San Diego area? Can you tell her if they thrive here? (858) 676-1891

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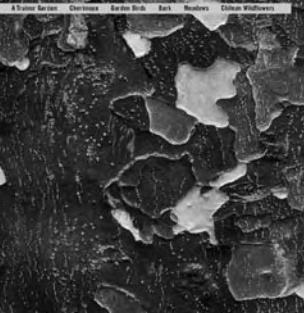
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# Through the Eyes of an Artist

**Saturday, February 12, 10 AM – 4 PM**

***Celebrating Sculpture in the Garden, an exhibit running to mid-April***

## **Panel Discussions**

Recognizing the Value of Art in the Garden

## **Session One: 11 AM – 12 NOON**

Artists: Alber de Matteis and Charles Bronson  
Garden designers: Debra Lee Baldwin and Patrick Anderson

## **Session Two: 2 – 3 PM**

Artists: Becky Guttin and Cheryl Tall  
Garden Designers: Peter Jones and Bobbi Hirschhoff

## **Tours of the Sculptures 10 AM – 3 PM**

Music Provided by Willowood  
Lunch from the Garden's Coffee Hut

**For Kids 10 AM – 2 PM** (and the young at heart): Make a community sculpture using recycled material, inspired by Rodney McCoubrey of Rodrigo's Recycled Art.

**Cost: free with admission or membership**

**[www.SDBGarden.org](http://www.SDBGarden.org)**

230 Quail Gardens Drive  
Encinitas, CA • 760-436-3036



**Cheryl Tall**

PHOTO: HERB KNUIKEN

PHOTO: BECKY REEB



**Becky Guttin**

PHOTO: BECKY REEB



**Alber de Matteis**



**Charles Bronson**

PHOTO: BECKY REEB



# SUSTAINABLE URBAN LANDSCAPE CONFERENCE

## 6 great reasons to Attend the Conference

### 1. STAY INFORMED

Storm water runoff and retention is a primary focus of regulators in San Diego County impacting both new and existing properties. Our panel will discuss the major contaminants, sources of concern, the costs and benefits of low impact development.

### 2. PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING

Meet old friends and make new contacts to build your business or discover new career opportunities.

### 3. INDUSTRY AWARENESS

What actions do we need to take now to provide vigorous urban forests in the future? Just one of many questions that landscape pros must consider as they plan and plant trees for the future.

### 4. BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

As government responds to emerging challenges in water conservation, business opportunities are being created and many are funded by tax rebates.

### 5. GET "GREEN" OPTIONS

Discover first-hand how both residential and commercial developments have answered the call to merge "green" practices and policies into their business model.

### 6. FIND SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES

Sustainable product and service vendors will be available to answer your questions.



## Sustainable Practices in Action Thursday, March 10, 2011

Performing Arts Theater at Cuyamaca College  
900 Rancho San Diego Parkway, El Cajon, CA 92019

The Cuyamaca College Horticulture Program, in conjunction with the University of California Cooperative Extension Service and the Cuyamaca College Botanical Society, is proud to present the third annual Sustainable Urban Landscape Conference. The conference theme for this year is Sustainable Landscapes in Action, and we have a full program dedicated to presenting examples of how Diego area are responding to the environment. Highlighting our **Bob Perry**, Landscape Architect Poly Pomona, and author of *Gardens*, and **Nan Sterman**, an of the *California Gardener's* landscape professionals in the San needs of a changing landscape list of distinguished speakers are and Professor Emeritus from Cal *Landscape Plants for California* award-winning writer and author *Guide, vol II*.



The speakers and audience at the 2011 conference will include active professionals encompassing the broad "green industry" spectrum of landscape architects and contractors, landscape maintenance pros, educators, many city and county representatives from water districts and local government. Please see the following pages for more details about sponsorships and exhibitor opportunities, or contact conference coordinator, **Don Schultz**, by phone at 619-660-4023 or by email at [Donald.Schultz@gcccd.edu](mailto:Donald.Schultz@gcccd.edu).



C U Y A M A C A  
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FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER ONLINE VISIT:  
[www.cuyamaca.edu/ohweb](http://www.cuyamaca.edu/ohweb)

## CONFERENCE AGENDA MORNING

MORNING TOPICS	TIME	PRESENTER	MORNING TOPICS	TIME	PRESENTER
Registration & Continental Breakfast	6:30 AM		BREAK	9:30 AM	
Introduction & Welcome	7:30 AM	Don Schultz & Dr. Cindy Miles	Residential Sustainability	10:00 AM	Nan Sterman
Measuring the Sustainability of Plants and Landscapes	8:00 AM	Bob Perry	Landscape Renovations for Commercial Landscapes	10:45 AM	Glen Schmidt Eric Jencks
Is Urban Forestry Sustainable?	9:00 AM	Mark Wisniewski	LUNCH	12:00 PM	

# SUSTAINABLE URBAN LANDSCAPE CONFERENCE

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Seating is limited so please register as soon as possible to be assured of a space.

ATTENDEE(s): please indicate one or more # \_\_\_\_\_

Registration For (Thursday, March 10, 2011) \$90 \_\_\_\_\_

Registration **After March 1, 2011** \$100 \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Information: Visa MasterCard Discover American Express  
(Purchase orders accepted)

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Fax to: **(619) 660-4408**

Mail to: **Cuyamaca College Botanical Society**  
**Sustainable Urban Landscape – O.H.**  
**900 Rancho San Diego Parkway**  
**El Cajon, CA 92019 - 4304**

Please complete this form, print and fax it to (619) 660-4408 or attach and send it via email to O.H. Technician, John Thomas at [John.Thomas@gcccd.edu](mailto:John.Thomas@gcccd.edu). You will receive a confirmation by email. **Thank you for your support.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER ONLINE VISIT: [www.cuyamaca.edu/ohweb](http://www.cuyamaca.edu/ohweb)



## Our Venue

*The beautiful Performing Arts Theatre on the Cuyamaca College campus offers the perfect conference setting. With state-of-the-art acoustics and a wide range of presentation options, every member of the audience is assured a premier experience.*

**free parking, a continental breakfast, lunch, and break refreshments are included with your registration fee**

## CONFERENCE AGENDA AFTERNOON

AFTERNOON TOPICS	TIME	PRESENTER	AFTERNOON TOPICS	TIME	PRESENTER
Panel Discussion Storm Water Regulations in the Region: What are they and how will they affect you?	1:30 PM	Moderator - Mike Lee Panel - Bill Harris Kathy Garcia Gabriel Solmer	Drip Irrigation Realities	3:30 PM	David Shaw
BREAK	2:30 PM		The Future of Sustainable Landscaping	4:00 PM	Nick DeLorenzo
Current Trends in Sustainable Operations	3:00 PM	Brian Maynard	RECEPTION & REFRESHMENTS IN THE LOBBY	4:30 PM	



# Winter Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale

Presented by:

*The San Diego Cactus And  
Succulent Society*

**February 12, 2011**

**At The Casa Del Prado,  
Room 101,  
Balboa Park**

**10:00am to 4:00pm**

**Strange and exotic plants from the far  
corners of the world gathered together  
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**Sale of choice specimen plants for the  
novice and collector as well as hand-  
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9:00am to 10:00am**

**For additional information visit: [www.sdcss.net](http://www.sdcss.net)**



*Mark your calendar now!*

# CSSA 2011 CONVENTION



**April 24 - April 29, 2011**

Marriott Hotel - Mission Valley

San Diego, California

**Watch for future updates**

[www.cssainc.org](http://www.cssainc.org)

**Hosted by the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society**

## **World-renowned speakers**

Debra Baldwin	Todd Masilko
Dr. Rudi Dorsch	Dr. Matt Opel
Tom Glavich	Jackie Poole
Andrew Hankey	Dr. Jon Rebman
Tom Knapik	Guillermo Rivera
Julia Etter/Martin Kristen	Gideon Smith
Marlon Machado	Karen Zimmerman

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plants—pottery—books—artwork

## **Rare plant auction**

**Wonderful San Diego weather**

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## **Eleven Day Trips and Tours**





# MARCH PLANT MADNESS!

## At The Water Conservation Garden

### Saturdays in March, 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Each Saturday during the month of March, the Garden will offer hour-long seminars followed by specialized plant sales to help you make the most of your water-wise spring garden.

#### Member Discount Madness

Saturday, March 5, 20% Discounts All Day in the Nursery

All Garden members receive a 20% discount on garden art and any plants purchased from the Garden's nursery (Walter Parkola's plants excluded). Not a member?

Become a member on March 5th and enjoy this day of discounts.

#### Designing with Succulents

Saturday, March 5, Presentation 9:00-10:00 am

Plant Sale 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Join the Garden Docents for an informative and fun presentation on these beautiful and drought tolerant plants that are easy to propagate and great for creative container gardens. The presentation will be followed by a sale of succulents propagated by the Docent team. *Presentation free to Members, \$5 Non-Members*

#### Australians and South Africans:

##### Drought-tolerant exotics from around the world

Saturday, March 12, Presentation 9:00-10:00 am

Australian/South African Plant Sale 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Learn how to grow and care for the protea species when Walter Parkola of Blossom Valley Protea discusses these exotic-looking plants, including the stunning pincushion and a favorite of hummingbirds, the unusual grevillea.

Walter's one-hour presentation will be followed by a sale of gorgeous plants from his nursery. *Presentation free to Members, \$5 Non-Members*

#### Grow Heirloom Tomatoes with the Tomato Queen

Saturday, March 19, Presentation, 9:00-10:00 am

Tomato Plant Sale 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Want to grow bushels of succulent heirloom tomatoes? Join Master Gardener Karan Greenwald as she shares her proven organic tomato growing strategies. Karan will share the attributes of different heirloom tomatoes, which will be for sale following her presentation. *Presentation free to Members, \$5 Non-Members*

#### Vegetable Gardening the Organic Way!

Saturday, March 26, Presentation 9:00-10:00 am

Vegetable Plant Sale 9:00 am-12:00 pm

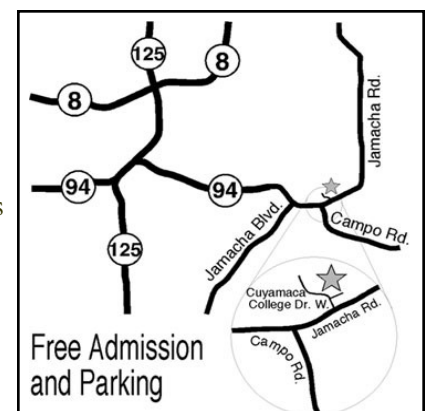
Learn the ins and outs of raising healthy organic vegetables with Garden Horticulturist David Yetz. David will briefly discuss building a raised bed, organic methods for preparing your soil, what to plant together and when, adding nutrients to the soil, and managing pests. A vegetable seedling sale will follow Dave's presentation. *Presentation free to Members, \$5 Non-Members*

The Water Conservation Garden is located on the Campus of Cuyamaca College

12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. W., El Cajon, CA 92019

Visit our Website at [www.TheGarden.org](http://www.TheGarden.org)

(619) 660-0614



# What's Happening? for February 2011

The SDHS is happy to publicize items of horticultural interest. See other side for resources & ongoing events.  
Send calendar listings by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month before the event to Neal King at [calendar@sdhortsoc.org](mailto:calendar@sdhortsoc.org).

## ▼ SDHS Sponsor

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## February 2011 – Welcome to (almost) spring:

The nursery is getting really stocked up – we see spring just on our radar. Check out our website [www.andersonslacostanursery.com](http://www.andersonslacostanursery.com) or join us on Facebook for current specials and timely tips.

Here's a few great plant ideas that are great to plant now as a superb addition to your garden:

### Aloes in bud and bloom....here's just a few

- ❖ Aloe 'Blue Elf' - A tight clumping aloe that grows to 18" tall by 2' wide with narrow upright gray-blue leaves that contrast well with spikes of orange flowers that appear from early winter to early spring and attract hummingbirds.
- ❖ Aloe 'Yellow Torch' (Yellow Torch Aloe) - A shrubby succulent with upright gray-green leaves and torch like clusters of yellow flowers in late fall through late winter. Full sun along the coast to light shade inland. Grows to about 6' x 8'.

### Got to love the ornamental Cherry trees in the Spring:

- ❖ Japanese Weeping Cherry trees. *Prunus subhirtella* 'Pendula' gets to 30' tall and 20' wide. Dark, dark green foliage and long lasting pink flowers in spring.
- ❖ *Prunus serrulata* 'Snow Fountains'. Another Weeping Cherry with cascading habit and compact growth make this a truly magnificent specimen tree. Slow-growing dwarf has graceful branches that bend to the ground. Each spring the Snow Fountain Weeping Cherry Tree dons a floral cloak of pure white so beautiful it rivals any flowering ornamental. Ultimately reaches a height of 12-15' and spreads 6-8'. Very hardy, disease and insect resistant.

### Plenty of less common shrubs:

- ❖ *Melaleuca decussata* 'Totem Poles'. This is a quick-growing small multi-stemmed shrub with upright stems and slightly pendulous branch tips, typically grows to a height and spread of 6' to 9' but can be found in Australia to nearly 20' tall. The leaves are bright green to bluish, narrow. The bark is brown and shredded. Lavender flowers appear in late spring through summer. This is a good plant to use as a screen or small tree. It will stand some neglect, and is frost hardy to about 20 degrees F.



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

Continued on other side

### The Water Conservation Garden (see other side for address)

Visit [www.thegarden.org](http://www.thegarden.org) for classes & events

- Feb. 2, 6:30-8pm, After the Lawn is Gone:** How to create a beautiful, low water landscape without a lawn. Free; register online or call (629) 660-0614x10.
- Feb. 5, 10am-12pm, Home Composting:** Learn the basics of composting, how to compost with worms. Free. To register call (760) 436-7986, x225.
- Feb. 12, 10am-12pm, Plant Propagation Made Simple:** Everything you need to know about how to make new plants from cuttings. Members: \$30; Non-Members \$40. Online pre-registration and payment is required.
- Feb. 15, 6:30-8:30pm, Water Smart landscape:** Learn 7 principles of low water landscaping, and discuss plant selection and planting techniques. Members: \$15; Non-Members \$25. Online pre-registration and payment is required.
- Feb. 26, 10am-noon, Vegetable Gardening the Organic Way:** Preparing soil, when and what to plant, pests and much more. Members: \$20; Non-Members \$30. Online pre-registration and payment is required.
- Feb. 27, 10am-noon, Toss the Turf:** tips for evaluating soil, tuning up your irrigation system, and creative ideas for a beautiful, low-water-use landscape in lieu of lawn. Members: \$20; Non-Members \$30. Online pre-registration and payment is required.

### San Diego Botanic Garden (see other side for address)

**February 26, 10-11am: Hummingbirds in Your Garden.** Members \$10, non-members \$12, register by February 23

### Walter Andersen Nursery FREE Saturday Classes:

9:00am Point Loma Nursery:	9:30am Poway Nursery:
Feb. 5 Cymbidium Orchid Care	Container Gardening
Feb. 12 Spring Bulbs	Camellias and Azaleas
Feb. 19 Winter & Spring Bedding Plants	Staghorn Fern Remounting
Feb. 26 Interior Plants	California Friendly Color

Details at [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com); addresses in ad on page 15

### Evergreen Nursery FREE Seminars (see page 2)

TOPIC: Feb. 5 – Weeds, gophers, bugs & fertilizers.

13650 Carmel Valley Road, San Diego/Carmel Valley  
3231 Oceanside Blvd, Oceanside

Details at [www.evergreennursery.com/seminar-schedule-2011](http://www.evergreennursery.com/seminar-schedule-2011)

### Cedros Gardens Saturday 10am classes:

Details at [www.cedrosgardens.com](http://www.cedrosgardens.com); address in ad on page 17.

**Feb. 1, 6:30pm, San Diego County Orchid Society:** Orchid pests / Miniature orchid species. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Info: [sdorchids.com](mailto:sdorchids.com).

**Feb. 4, 1:30pm, Vista Garden Club:** Many uses of gray water. Senior Center, 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista. See [vistagardenclub.org](http://vistagardenclub.org).

**Feb. 5, noon-4pm, Feb. 6 10am-4pm, Camellia Society Show:** Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado Room 101. Info: Dean Turney (760) 942-1919.

**Feb. 5, 11am-1pm, Grangetto's Workshop & BBQ:** Tools & Fertilizers Free. 1105 W. Mission Ave., Escondido

**Feb. 5, 11am, San Diego County Cymbidium Society:** Annual Orchid Auction. San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. For info contact chairperson at (760) 732-0055 or [orchldy@mac.com](mailto:orchldy@mac.com).

**Feb. 8, 10am, Dos Valles Garden Club:** General Meeting. 31020 Cole Grade Road, Valley Center. See [dosvallesgardenclub.org](http://dosvallesgardenclub.org).

**Feb. 9, 9am, Poway Valley Garden Club:** General Meeting followed by field trip to Patrick Anderson's garden. Templars Hall, Old Poway Park, Poway. For info see [powayvalleygardenclub.org](http://powayvalleygardenclub.org) or call (858) 672-0459.

**Feb. 9, 10am, Point Loma Garden Club:** Jeff Rossman, Cooking with local organic foods. Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal, SD. Free, See [www.plgc.org](http://www.plgc.org), contact [tonimunsell@cox.net](mailto:tonimunsell@cox.net) or (619) 223-2051.

**Feb. 9, noon, Ramona Garden Club:** Ornamental Grass varieties. 524 Main Street, Ramona. See [RamonaGardenClub.com](http://RamonaGardenClub.com) or call (760) 789-8774.

### Winter Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale

Feb. 12 – See Insert

**Feb. 12, 10:30am, Sunshine Gardens Talk:** Herbs make the Difference. Free. 662 Encinitas Blvd, Encinitas. See [sunshinegardensinc.com](http://sunshinegardensinc.com).

**Feb. 13, 1:30pm, American Begonia Society:** All You Wanted To Know About Begonia Culture. Olivenhain Meeting Hall, 423 Rancho Santa Fe Road Encinitas. Info (760) 815-7914.

**Feb. 13, 1pm, Southern California Plumeria Society:** Gabriel Mitchell on the care of plumerias. Balboa Park Recital Hall (near Aerospace Museum). See [southerncaliforniaplumeriasociety.com](http://southerncaliforniaplumeriasociety.com) or (619) 390-2926.

**February 14, 6:00pm – SDHS Meeting**  
**New Water-Wise Look**  
**with Old Fashioned Favorites**  
**See page 1**



**Feb. 15, 6:30pm, California Native Plant Society:** Edible Natives with Greg Rubin. Also: What the Heck is a List I.B Species? The rare of the rare. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room. 104. Info [cnpssd.org](http://cnpssd.org) or (619) 282-8687

**Feb. 17, 1pm, Bernardo Gardeners Garden Club:** Trip to Silvermink Protea Ranch. RB Swim & Tennis Club, 16955 Bernardo Oaks Dr., [Bernardogardeners.org](http://Bernardogardeners.org) or (858) 672-2454.

**Feb. 22, 2pm Lake Hodges Native Plant Club:** Wildfire effects on birds. 17110 Bernardo Center Drive, San Diego. See [lhncp.org](http://lhncp.org) or call (858) 487-6661.

**Feb. 23, 6pm, Mission Hills Garden Club:** Monthly meeting. First Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw, San Diego. For info See [missionhillsgardenclub.org](http://missionhillsgardenclub.org) or call (619) 260-1588.

**Feb. 23, 7pm, California Rare Fruit Growers:** Deciduous Grafting and Propagation by Cuttings. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Rm 101. See [crfgsandiego.org](http://crfgsandiego.org)

**Feb. 24, 7pm, Del Mar Rose Society:** Know your Bugs, The 'Speed Freak,' good bugs and not so good bugs. Powerhouse Community Center 1700 Coast Blvd, Del Mar. For info call (619)203-1534 or see [delmarrosesociety.org](http://delmarrosesociety.org)

**Feb. 26, noon, Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society:** Joslyn Senior Center, 724 N. Broadway, Escondido. Info (760) 741-7553.

**Feb. 26-27, Ohara School of Ikebana Show & Bazaar:** Saturday Noon–4:00 p.m., Sunday 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, information: (858) 672-7850.

**Feb. 28, 7:30pm, San Diego Rose Society:** Growing Roses in San Diego by Jim Wright. See [sdrosesociety.org](http://sdrosesociety.org). Rm 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park.

March 10, Third Sustainable Urban Landscape Conference:  
See INSERT and [cuyamaca.edu/ohweb](http://cuyamaca.edu/ohweb).

# SDHS Garden Tour

## *Take a Botanical Odyssey*

March 26 – 9am to 4pm

See page 7 and order tickets ASAP!

### Resources & Ongoing Events

**SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN (formerly QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS):** Open daily 9-5 (closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day); 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas. Fee: \$12/adults, \$8/seniors, \$6/kids; parking \$2. Free to members and on the first Tuesday of every month. (760) 436-3036; [www.SDBGarden.org](http://www.SDBGarden.org) .

**WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN:** Open 9-4 daily, free. Docent-led tours every Saturday at 10:00am. 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, (619) 660-0614 or [www.thegarden.org](http://www.thegarden.org)

**MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK:** Guided hikes Wed., Sat. & Sun. Visitor Center open 9-5, off Mission Gorge Rd., San Carlos, (858) 668-3275.

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

**SAN ELIJO LAGOON CONSERVANCY:** Free 90-minute public nature walk 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month start at 9:00 am. Call (760) 436-3944 for details.

**DESERT WILDFLOWER HOTLINE:** Anza-Borrego Desert State Park: (760) 767-4684. For information, events, road conditions, etc. call (760) 767-5311 or visit <http://desertusa.com/wildflo/wildupdates.html>.

**WILDFLOWER HOTLINE:** March to May call the Theodore Payne Foundation hotline: (818) 768-3533 for info. on blooms in So. California and elsewhere; visit <http://theodorepayne.org>

**BALBOA PARK:**

**Offshoot Tours:** Free 1-hr walking tour in Balboa Park every Sat., 10am. Meet at Visitors Center; canceled if rain or less than 4 people. (619) 235-1122.

**Botanical Building** is one of the world's largest lath structures, with 1200+ plants and lavish seasonal displays. Open Friday–Wednesday, 10am to 4pm.

**Botanical Library.** Room 105, Casa del Prado, Mon.-Fri. and first Sat., 10am-3pm, (619) 232-5762.

**Japanese Friendship Garden:** Tues. to Sun., 10-4. Fees: free 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday; \$5/family; \$2/adult, \$1/seniors/students; (619) 232-2721, [www.niwa.org](http://www.niwa.org)

**Canyoneer Walks:** Free guided nature walks Saturday & Sunday. (619) 232-3821 X203 or [www.sdnhm.org](http://www.sdnhm.org)

**Balboa Park Ranger Tours:** Free guided tours of architecture/horticulture, Tuesdays & Sundays, 1pm, from Visitors Center; (619) 235-1122.

**S.D. Natural History Museum:** Exhibits, classes, lectures, etc. (619) 232-3821; [www.sdnhm.org](http://www.sdnhm.org)

**S.D. Zoo:** Garden day 3rd Friday of every month from 10am. Pick up schedule at entry. Info: (619) 231-1515, ext 4306; [www.sandiegozoo.org](http://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](http://lifestyletalkradio.com). GardenLife shows are also archived at [lifestyletalkradio.com](http://lifestyletalkradio.com)

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

- ❖Cassia artemesiodes 'Feathery Cassia'. Evergreen, upright, rounded, feathery shrub. Profuse yellow flowering bloomer December thru May. Delicate texture branches, silver when young maturing to gray. An Australian native, low water, long bloomer. Gets 4 to 6ft tall and wide.
- ❖A nice selection of Salvias, including:
  - Guatemala Sage (salvia urica)
  - Salvia karwinskii, rosy red flowers
  - Salvia blepharophylla 'Eye Lash Sage'
  - Salvia mellifera 'Terra Seca', 'Prostrate Trailing Honey Sage'. This sage is in the Black Sage family. This variety is a CA native, gets 1.5ft tall and 4 to 6ft wide. Blooms white and produces a good nectar for honey.
  - Salvia elegans 'Pineapple Sage' – Hummingbirds absolutely love this plant !!

**We have a wide selection of 4” Sedums, a great drought tolerant ground cover.**

- ❖Album 'Coral Carpet' – 3” to 5” tall by 12” to 18” wide. White flower in summer
- ❖Furfuraceum – pinky/white flower
- ❖Acre aureum 'Gold Moss Sedum'. 2 to 5” tall amd 12 to 18” wide. Yellow flowers in summer
- ❖Angelina (of course)
- ❖Spathulifolium 'purpureum'. 3 to 5” tall and 12 to 18” wide, yellow flowers in summer
- ❖Album nigra. 2 to 5” tall and 8 to 12” wide, whiter flowers in summer

**Well that's just a small selection, here's some tips....**

February in the San Diego area usually brings us exceptional gardening weather. Between rains there are plenty of clear, mild days that we can enjoy in the garden. There is a huge selection of plants that may be planted this month. If you haven't completed dormant pruning and spraying of deciduous fruit trees do it right away before they leaf out.

**Azaleas & Camellias:** Camellias and azaleas are best planted while in bloom not only because you can see what colors you are adding to your garden but also because you can take advantage of the post-bloom growth spurt.

**California Native Plants:** This is your last good month for planting most of these and still having success. California native plants like to be planted in the cool fall and winter months.

**Spring Annuals:** Fill in bare spots by planting spring annuals such as snapdragons, calendulas, primroses, pansies, and stock.

**Avocado:** If you live near the coast (or any frost-free area), start fertilizing your avocados this month. If you live inland, wait until March (to avoid frost damage).

**Citrus Trees:** Now is a good time to clean up your citrus and take steps to prevent citrus pests. Start by pruning any branches that touch the ground to help close off access to ants. Clean the tree with a spray of soapy water made with insecticidal soap (according to package instructions).

**Deciduous Trees:** If rains are light be sure to water deciduous trees as this is the time that they put out new leaves and blossoms.

**Roses:** Apply your first feeding to roses when the new growth is about four to six inches long. Granular, well-balanced, organic fertilizers work especially well for roses and most of these will encourage beneficial soil life. Watch for the earliest signs of diseases like powdery mildew or rust.

**Cannas:** Cut all stalks that have bloomed down to the ground now to encourage new stalks to grow and make plants look as good as new.

**Wisterias:** Big fat flower buds should be developing now and with close observation can be distinguished from the smaller more slender leaf buds - no pruning now or you may interfere with the blooms.