

Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

June 2011, Number 201

See us at the Fair

SEE PAGES 1 & 7

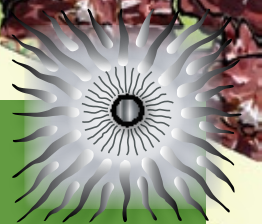
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Let Your
Water Budget
Drive Your
Plant Choices



SAN DIEGO
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

On the Cover: Our display garden at the Fair!

APRIL COFFEE IN THE GARDEN



April hostess
landscape designer
Linda Bresler.

Garden view framed by
Eucalyptus macrocarpa.

Photo: Barbara Raub

Photo: Pat Crowl

San Diego Bromeliad Society



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www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html

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COVER IMAGE: This concept drawing by Jim Bishop is a teaser for what you'll see at our display garden at the San Diego County Fair. See below and on page 7 for more details.

The San Diego Horticultural Society

MEETINGS

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

MEETING SCHEDULE

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

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS 2011

June 10 to July 4 San Diego County Fair – Visit the SDHS display garden

June 25 Coffee in the Garden, Bonsall – Proven Winners

July 11 Maureen Gilmer on Plant Tales of Early California

August 8 Lynlee Austell-Slayter on Creating and Keeping a Sustainable Landscape

www.SanDiegoHorticulturalSociety.org

SPECIAL EVENT: *SDHS Night at the Fair Gardens*

Monday, June 13 SPECIAL TIME: 5:45 – 7:45 PM

SPECIAL LOCATION: Del Mar Fairgrounds, Flower & Garden Show Outdoor Display Area

FREE PARKING! FREE ENTRY!

Enjoy a **private night** at the San Diego County Fair's Flower & Garden Show! The Fair will be closed to the public, and SDHS members can stroll at leisure around the outdoor garden show exhibit, meet some of the display gardens' talented designers, and enjoy the relaxing music of the Palomar String Quartet. The displays will be fresh and at their best since it will be only three days after the Fair opens.

This very special evening is for SDHS members only and replaces our regular monthly meeting. (Memberships will be sold at the event if you'd like to bring a friend.)

Parking instructions: Enter the main parking lot off Jimmy Durante Blvd. (the 2nd driveway on the right if you turned left at Via de la Valle). Continue on the main parking lot road and park near the main Fair entrance (near the big Don Diego statue). The flower show is located behind O'Brien Hall (to your left). There is map of the Fair at www.sdfair.com/index.php?fuseaction=maps.map



The Mission of the San Diego Horticultural Society

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

ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER 1994

SDHS BOARD MEMBERS

Jim Bishop – Membership Chair, First Vice President

Judy Bradley – Co-Chair-Program Committee

Mark Collins – Finance/Budget Committee

Carol Costarakis – Member at Large

Julian Duval – San Diego Botanic Garden representative

Neal King – Member at Large

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Paula Verstraete – Volunteer Coordinator

Don Walker – Past President

Lucy Warren – Secretary, Liaison to H&G Shows

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

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

SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

As we go to press there are still some openings for volunteer Horticulturists of the Day to staff our display garden (and that of the San Diego Botanic Garden) at the San Diego County Fair Flower & Garden Show, and we'd love to have you participate. Read more about our display garden at the Fair on page 7. You'll answer questions about both our display gardens, about other gardens at the Fair, plus general garden questions (to the best of your knowledge). The Fair runs from June 10 to July 4. There will be handouts to help you with this, and we'll be doing a training on Monday, June 13th at the Fair. To learn more and to volunteer for a shift please contact Pat Hammer, SDBG Director of Operations, at phammer@sdbgarden.org.

WHAT WORKSHOPS WOULD YOU ENJOY?

We'd love to offer you more tempting workshops. Some possibilities are: garden design, hardscape, irrigation basics, pruning trees, plant propagation, pest control, and using native plants. Send an e-mail to Susi Torre-Bueno (at info@sdhortsoc.org) about workshops you would attend and if you have someone in mind to teach the workshop (including yourself). And if you'd like to be part of the action and can help organize workshops and other activities, tell me to add your name to the Events and Outreach committee – it's a great way to share your expertise and enthusiasm with other members.

ON-LINE MEMBERSHIP & NAMETAGS

Thanks to some late night hours by our graphic artist Rachel Cobb, it's now easier than ever to renew your membership on-line. You can also order nametags and gift certificates! Just go to www.sdhortsoc.org/ordernow.htm and see how simple it is.

THANKS SO MUCH!

Thanks to Jennifer Axelrod for hosting our May Coffee-in-the-Garden at her charming Olivenhain garden. We'll post a photo of this garden in the July newsletter. If you haven't attended one of our Coffee events yet, try to register for the next one – they're lots of fun and a great way to meet up with other SDHS members in a relaxing garden. ☺

See page 8 to order your SDHS nametag

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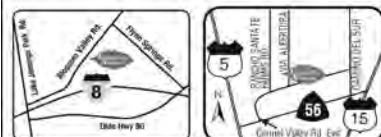
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Friday-Saturday 7:30am-6:00pm
Sunday..... 9:00am-5:00pm

To Learn More...

LOW WATER GARDENING

By Ava Torre-Bueno

Our June meeting will be replaced by a members-only night at the Fair's Flower & Garden Show. The SDHS Fair display garden focuses on water wise gardening, so let's start by recognizing that over the next decade, the water outlook is bleak for California agriculture:

<http://www.calclimateag.org/water-outlook-bleak-for-california-agriculture/>

Because 50% to 70% of our own water is used in landscaping, it behooves us to become incredibly efficient gardeners. One good local source of web-links about water-wise gardening is:

<http://www.bewaterwise.com/knowledge01.html>

Another helpful source of information is the web site of Brad Lancaster, a SDHS speaker last year:

<http://www.harvestingrainwater.com/>

Volume 2 of his book Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands and Beyond is an excellent resource for rethinking and restructuring your garden.

To see pictures of low water gardens, go to Google Images and enter "water wise gardening."

Here is a 30-minute film (in three parts) on low water gardening in our area by the San Diego County Water Authority, with Julian Duval of the SD Botanical Garden:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbosXPslgZ0>

One way to hold precious rainfall in your garden is with a rain garden:

http://www-csgc.ucsd.edu/BOOKSTORE/Resources/GS3%20Rain%20Gardens_8-10-09.pdf

Another way to conserve is by using ceramic ollas:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PlzJlWz-s4&feature=related>

You can buy ollas at our sponsor Tree of Life Nursery in San Juan Capistrano (their display gardens of California native plants are worth the drive!)

<http://www.californianativeplants.com>

Last year, National Geographic had a whole issue on the worldwide water crisis, which is now on-line at:

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2010/04/table-of-contents>

A recent book about the current and future water crisis is The Big Thirst:

http://www.amazon.com/Big-Thirst-Secret-Turbulent-Future/dp/1439102074/ref=sr_l_5?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1304224428&sr=1-5,

but look at any bookstore site you like for "water conservation" and see how much there is to read on this topic!

Continued on page 12

From The Board

By Susi Torre-Bueno

GOT CLIPPINGS?

SDHS members are an exciting and creative bunch! Your gardens appear in newspapers and magazines. You write books and articles. You're quoted in the media sharing information that people need to be the best possible gardeners. We'd love to have clippings of all these things for our history archives. So, send clippings of these articles to our historian, Ida Rigby at 14031 Saddlewood Drive, Poway, CA 92064. We'd love to include you.

OVER A MILLION!

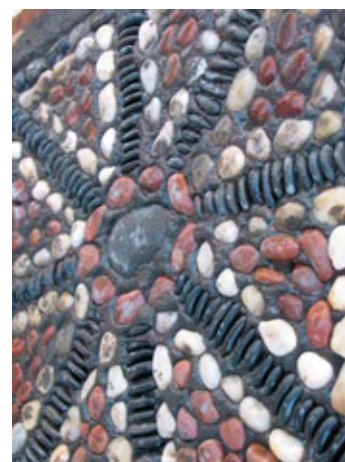
Last year a whopping 1,338,500 visited the San Diego County Fair, the highest attendance in history. As I mentioned last month, three of our talented landscape designer members, Marilyn Guidroz, Jim Bishop, and Vero Boyer, produced a stellar design for our display garden at the Flower & Garden Show. Turn to page 2 to volunteer and to page 7 to read more about the garden. This year the San Diego County Water Authority is co-sponsoring our garden, which was designed to showcase water-thrifty plants. In April we had a workshop to produce a pebble mosaic carpet for the garden, and 30 members spent hours making something very special on a sweltering afternoon. On June 13, SDHS members be able to visit all the outdoor display gardens for FREE (including FREE PARKING) and without the crowds – details are on page 1. We hope you'll come and see the final result of all this planning and effort. 🌿



Above: Members working on a pebble mosaic.

Right: Nearly finished section of our pebble mosaic.

Both Photos: Barbara Raub





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The Real Dirt On...

JOHN BARTRAM

By Joan Herskowitz



John Bartram (1699-1777) was an early American botanist, plant explorer and collector. Although self-taught, he earned a reputation as one of the leading scientists of his day due to his explorations in the colonies and collection of rare and useful plants, his dissemination of seeds to European and American gardeners,

and his correspondence, with eminent scientists of his time, on his travels and observations.

Bartram was born into a Quaker farm family in colonial Pennsylvania in 1699. He had no formal education beyond the local school and made his living from farming. However, he had a keen intellect and curiosity about plant life, which his son later partly attributed to his use of herb medicines in treating neighbors who were too poor to travel to Philadelphia doctors. In 1728, Bartram bought a small house and 107 acres in Kingsessing, on the bank of the Schuylkill River, about three miles from Philadelphia. There he began his famous botanical garden, frequently cited as the first true botanic collection in North America. Bartram was visited there by the great figures of his time, including Benjamin Franklin and George Washington, who were frequent guests.

A few years later he began a long distance relationship that lasted for 36 years with Peter Collinson, a wealthy London merchant. Collinson had a strong interest in American plants, and was willing to pay for seeds, bulbs and cuttings from Bartram's field work, whereas Bartram greatly benefited from the money, but also from the advice, encouragement, and supply of books on natural history that Collinson provided. Each year after the fall harvest, Bartram would go into the wild collecting plants to bring back to his garden and for his English patron. Word spread in Europe of his collecting activities and Collinson acted as Bartram's agent for important subscribers that numbered up to 50, including the Swedish taxonomist Carl Linnaeus.

In 1765, Bartram's work received official recognition in the form of an appointment as botanist to King George III, with an annual stipend of 50 pounds. This enabled Bartram, and his son, William, who later became a famous botanist and botanical illustrator, to make a collecting expedition through the Carolinas and Georgia, to Florida, then under British control. Bartram is believed to have been responsible for the introduction of between 150 and 200 new American plants to Europe. His most famous discovery was the exquisite Franklin tree, *Franklinia alatamaha*, found in southeastern Georgia in 1765 and named for Bartram's friend Benjamin Franklin. The tree, 10-20 feet tall, with striking 3-inch white flowers and brilliant fall foliage, was found in only one small grove along the Alatamaha River. Although trees descended from those propagated by Bartram are available from nurseries and still exist in gardens in many states, including California, the trees have not been seen in the wild since 1803.

The family business in North American plants was continued after the American Revolution by Bartram's two sons, and in the mid-1850's the 45-acre property was purchased for preservation by the industrialist Andrew Eastwick. In 1891, the City of Philadelphia bought the property for use as a public park and historic site, and the non-profit John Bartram Association was formed to assist in its care. Active garden restoration was begun in 1923 with plantings limited to those grown by John and William Bartram. The John Bartram House and Gardens has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is open to the public. To learn more visit www.bartramsgarden.org.

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:

SUBLIME CEANOTHUS

By Greg Rubin

There are still a few old-timers amongst us who remember when Mission Valley was BLUE! Every spring the valley walls would erupt into shades of cobalt, cerulean and white. When you encounter the word "Lilac" in a local place name, know that it is in reference to this defining native genus, the Wild Lilac, or Ceanothus. Richard Halsey, the well-known fire ecologist, says, "if you can't remember the word Ceanothus, then think 'See and Notice Us,'" which aptly describes the floral show put on by this amazing plant every spring.

Interestingly, genetic studies have shown that all California species of Ceanothus are descended from one East Coast species, *Ceanothus americanus*, which is a small white-flowering deciduous shrub commonly known as New Jersey Tea. Its common name hints at a very significant role in American history: the colonists used this plant to substitute for English Tea during the Boston Tea Party! Amazing that all our tough, drought tolerant, multi-colored and varied forms come from this one eastern plant.

Ceanothus plants resemble lilacs but do not belong to that family. I describe their memorable fragrance as "honey-licorice." Counter to conventional wisdom, Ceanothus species can survive upwards of 50 years in the wild. Their short-lived reputations stem more from ornamental horticulture than innate brevity. Better to plant them in lean soils with good drainage and infrequent (less than once per week) overhead irrigation. Water (in the morning when the soil is coolest) lightly during the summer; just enough to moisten leaves and mulch but not saturate warm soil. Large branches (over ¾" diameter) should not be cut during rainy weather, which might carry pathogens to infect open wounds. One can use sealer to paint over the cuts; otherwise the whole plant may die. These plants are susceptible to scale and root aphids, which results in partial die-back or total death. Check for ants, which should be eliminated.

There are wild species in the county that have varying degrees of success in landscapes. Lakeside Wild Lilac (*Ceanothus cyaneus*) is rarest but also the most magnificent. It is brilliant green in color and blooms with large 12" long clusters of pendulous purple flowers in May. It is fast growing to 15'+ high and fairly easy to grow as long as it is not overwatered. Another native species is Warty Stem Lilac (*Ceanothus verrucosus*), which is an early flowering white variety much prettier than the name suggests! The Ramona and Hairy Leaf Lilacs (*C. tomentosus olivaceus* and *C. oliganthus*) are other indigenous species that can do well in dry landscapes.

Here are dependable varieties that have proven themselves in landscapes:

- Large Screening and Tree Forms: Species - *C. arboreus*, *C. cyaneus*. Cultivars - Ray Hartman, Frosty Blue, Mountain Haze, Remote Blue, L.T. Blue, South Coast Blue, and Snow Flurry. Put them together to

Continued on page 12



Photo: Rachel Cobb

Ceanothus 'Ray Hartman'

Trees, Please

TO STAKE OR NOT TO STAKE, THAT IS THE QUESTION

By Robin Rivet

Much like a doctor, tree stewardship involves a promise to “first do no harm.” Unfortunately, many well-meaning intentions go sour quickly. Far too frequently, urban trees are compromised from improper staking or worse, strangled from braces left on too long. The irony, of course, is trees that appeared on earth well before humans and somehow managed to grow strong and straight – without us tampering to keep them upright.

Outside of forests where trees grow from seeds, this urban dilemma begins early. Grouped closely, container-grown nursery trees often have limited light and air circulation. This combination can be devastating, frequently producing weak and spindly trunks. Further exacerbating this plight is the common nursery practice of removing all, or most low branches – in order to butt them ever closer for more efficient watering. This reduces the amount of foliage available to photosynthesize sugars from sunlight, thereby depriving healthy root development. Worse yet, the narrow walls of containers inhibit lateral root growth, ultimately responsible for stabilizing a tree. In general, roots need as much horizontal room (or more), than what is seen above ground. A final indignity occurs when an otherwise perfectly good, but sparsely foliated specimen has its leader “topped.” Although this common practice stimulates a heady flourish of green growth, it imbalances the natural pace at which trees mature and their innate branching structure is compromised.

So, how can we do better? Poor nursery stock largely results from consumer ignorance, since businesses willingly supply whatever the public demands. Most of these issues are avoided by purchasing younger specimens before they end up with hacked branches, cramped roots and a top-heavy hairdo. Why buy a tree that needs crutches from the get-go? A healthy tree trunk should stand erect and be visibly tapered, larger at the zone where the root ball meets the air and gradually becoming thinner above. A seemingly sparse specimen with low branches intact (but lacking a nursery stake) is actually a good choice; and circumvents the “lollipop syndrome” common to so many nursery trees.

If you’ve already purchased a tall, lean tree that topples easily, you ought to first consider selecting another specimen. If that is not an option, stake it loose enough to gain strength as it sways in the wind. Frankly, there are conflicting recommendations (even among experts) about where and how to place tree stakes – most suggest none at all. If you must stake, focus just a few inches higher from where your fingers can hold the tree straight. Two stakes are better than one; and wide, soft fabric ties reduce the chance of bark injury. *I have found that nylon stockings make durable, inexpensive and effective strapping.* Their flex allows trees to sway, but not snap in wind. Keep in mind that wind patterns change, and all staking should be removed as soon as possible, hopefully after no more than one season.

Regardless of method, the central nursery stake is always removed at planting time. Remember – “First do no harm.”

Websites for information about growing & staking trees:

treesaregood.com/treecare/tree_planting.aspx
mccog.net/Tree_Seminar_Powerpoint.pdf
treesforyou.org/Planting/TreeCare/Healthy/Planting/staking-2.htm
joa.isa-arbor.com/request.asp?JournalID=1&ArticleID=3059&Type=2

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

Free Workshops, Etc.

SUSTAINABLE FRUIT TREES: BEST PRACTICES FOR HOME AND SCHOOLS, JUNE 2

Enjoy a workshop by Tom Del Hotal, an ISA Certified Arborist & Nurseryman, Southwestern College adjunct faculty member and chairman of the California Rare Fruit Growers, San Diego chapter. He will provide an overview of what fruit trees do best in our region and some tips on getting the best results from your choices. This FREE workshop is offered on June 2 from 5:30 - 7:30 pm in Kearny Mesa by the California Center for Sustainable Energy. Register ASAP at www.energycenter.org/forestry; for more info contact Robin Rivet at (858) 634-4741 or robin.rivet@energycenter.org.

The California Center for Sustainable Energy (www.energycenter.org) is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the energy performance of homes, schools and businesses. They administer a number of incentive and outreach programs for communities across California, including the Advice and Technical Assistance Center (ATAC) for Urban Forestry. ATAC offers advice and technical assistance for individuals, businesses and municipalities to explore the relationship between urban forestry and sustainability. In addition to featuring a different educational live tree each week, they conduct workshops and outreach events, offer a free horticultural lending library and maintain a community-based website online.

HORTICULTURE SEMINAR & TRADE SHOW, JUNE 9

Grangetto's will be holding its 8th Annual Horticulture Seminar & Trade Show on June 9 at the San Diego Safari Park. This event is open to all Horticultural Professionals. Attendees will enjoy a day of fun and education, breakfast, lunch and beverages while listening to engaging speakers discuss Pest Management & Best Practices. Visit vendor displays and enter the Opportunity Drawing. Continuing Education units applied for; 5.5 “other” and 1.0 “law” for Qualified & Private Applicators, Certified Crop & Pest Advisors. Continuing Education units have been requested for Certified Tree Workers & Certified Arborists. To register or get more information visit www.grangettos.com or email events@grangettos.com.

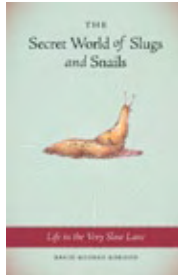
MANAGE CITRUS PESTS THE HEALTHY WAY, JUNE 18

Managing landscape and home garden pests is a challenge that faces every home gardener. The University of California and the Healthy Garden – Healthy Home program invite you to attend a free workshop on managing backyard citrus pests the safe and healthy way. This workshop will be held at the Ramona Community Center, 434 Aqua Lane in Ramona from 10:00 - 11:30 AM on Saturday, June 18. The 90-minute workshop will give participants information on how to properly care for citrus trees, how to identify good and bad bugs on your plants, why maintaining healthy plants can help reduce pests and pesticide use, and much, much more. A free pest management gift will be given to the first 50 participants. For more information about this or future community workshops, please contact the Healthy Garden/Healthy Home Program at 858-694-2184. The Healthy Garden/Healthy Home Program is administered by the University of California Cooperative Extension, San Diego County and the Farm and Home Advisors Office of San Diego County and sponsored by the County of San Diego's Watershed Protection Program. ☘

Book Review

THE SECRET WORLD OF SLUGS AND SNAILS: LIFE IN THE VERY SLOW LANE

By David George Gordon
Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh



I've just met my new worst nightmare. It's the warty jumping-slug. It can actually only jump about a half inch, but still, what's this world coming to? I guess I can't complain. The warty jumping-slug and its relatives are mollusks of the order Pulmonata. The three thousand or so species of Pulmonates have been around for 260 to 350 million years. Maybe they've earned the right to jump.

David George Gordon brings us a surprising and even entrancing book. There are so many things I had to read twice because I didn't believe them the first time. The largest snail on record? A giant Ghana tiger snail measured 15-½ inches from head to tail and weighed more than two pounds. (Another reason why we're glad we live in San Diego.) The smallest snails are less than 1/20th of an inch long, and the majority of snails in the world are less than 1/5 of an inch long.

Snails can sleep for years. A snail shell was glued to a piece of cardboard and put on display in the British museum. Four years later, the curator was surprised to find an irritated snail crawling around in the display. He'd just settled down for a little nap, and then look what happened.

Slugs are just as interesting. Some slugs have as many as twenty-seven thousand sharp backward-pointing teeth. (Don't ask me how they counted them.) Like sharks, they replace worn out teeth every day. And slug slime is so astonishing that scientists are studying its properties. If you read to the end of the review you'll be rewarded with a useful fact about slime.

Many of the worst offenders in our gardens are invasive introductions, not native fauna. Some snails were even released deliberately by people who wanted to raise their own escargot. Native snails and slugs, for the most part, are not interested in the kinds of plants we raise.

Gordon has created a scientific book, but he's used a light hand, so you don't get overwhelmed with technical terms. You're drawn on. You want to find out the next fascinating fact.

He also gives us a nice selection of poetry about snails – sorry, none about slugs. I would never have guessed that so many poets would find snails so interesting. It really is a treat.

Gordon's wife, Karen Luke Fildes, has provided the attractive line drawings that illustrate the book.

I found *The Secret World of Slugs and Snails* (ISBN 13: 798-1-57061-611-2) in the interesting catalog from Sasquatch Books. Check them out at sasquatchbooks.com. The book is paperbound, 150 pages, and costs \$14.95.

Now, the fact about slug slime: Slug slime is hydrophilic, that is, it likes water. If you get slime on your hands, don't wash with water. You'll just get slimier. Instead, rub the slime off as you would rubber cement. Roll it into a ball and drop it in the trash. Then wash. Please. ☺

Community Outreach

SUMMERTIME OFFERS GARDEN ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

By Linda Johnson

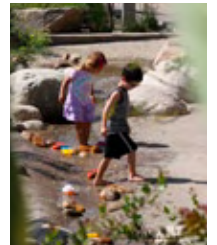
Summer in San Diego County provides numerous ways to introduce your kids and grandkids to the world of gardening. Whether for fun, education, skills building, contributing to the community, or other reasons, children can participate in a wide variety of activities related to horticulture and nature. And, many of the activities are **FREE!** Here are just a few possibilities.

Audubon Society Nature Awareness and Habitat Walks

Suitable for any age group, with outdoor adventures geared towards locations selected by the teacher including: open-spaces, parks, canyons, lakes, creeks, bays, or beaches. Children can explore wonders along the trails while searching for flora and fauna of the area, with a hand-lens provided to each child for up close and personal encounters with nature. **FREE!** Visit www.sandiegoaudubon.org.

Children's Programs at San Diego Botanic Garden

Garden Art Safari Camp: For ages 7 – 11, SDBG is offering Abrakadoodle Art Camps, where kids spend time exploring the beauty of the gardens and connecting with nature through art. Kids create paintings, drawings, sculptures and lots of other multi-media artwork inspired by daily safaris throughout the gardens. Camp weeks: July 11-15, and July 25-29, 9 am-2 pm. For registration, member discounts, or more information, call 760-731-0555 or visit www.abrakadoodle.com/ca07.html.



Visit www.sdbgarden.org for these other programs: Toddler Tales and Tunes (Pre-school); Garden Arts and Crafts (Ages 1-6); Trains, Paints and Plants (Ages 1-6); Tours and Fieldtrips (Ages 6-12). And, Thursdays are Family Fun Nights when the Garden will stay open until 8 pm, from June 2 – September 1. Enjoy the beautiful grounds, children's activities, and entertainment in the Lawn Garden from 6:00 – 7:00 pm. **FREE** with admission or membership.

Children's Ethnobotany Garden at the WorldBeat Center in Balboa Park

This unique organic herb, fruit, and vegetable garden honors the memory of George Washington Carver, and is dedicated to teaching young people about the importance of plants in society. Gardening classes are available to schools, youth programs, individuals, and families by appointment or on Sundays at 11:30 a.m. **FREE!** Call 619-230-1190 or visit www.worldbeatcenter.org.

Mission Trails Regional Park Nature Walks

For all ages, explore and learn about the wonders of nature and the people who once lived on this land. The Visitor and Interpretive Center and Museum offer kids of all ages the opportunity to learn about the history, geology, plants, animals and ecology of the park. Join a MTRP Trail Guide on a guided nature walk to three trails including a small oak woodland with majestic coast live oaks and rare Engelmann oaks; coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and riparian woodland habitats; a Native Plant Garden; and archaeological sites where Kumeyaay Indians ground acorns on the rocks for food. Bird Walks and Family Discovery Days are scheduled throughout the summer also. **FREE!** Visit www.mtrp.org.

Other Resources

Children & Nature Network: www.childrenandnature.org

Gardening Education: www.botanyforkids.com

National Gardening Association for Kids: www.kidsgardening.org ☺

SDHS 2011 San Diego County Fair Exhibit

It is Fair time again! Summer is right around the corner and the 2011 San Diego County Fair opens to the public on June 10th. The SDHS traditionally installs one of the largest display exhibits in the Paul Ecke Jr. Flower and Garden Show each year. This year the theme of the Show is "Riding in Style" to complement the Fair's theme of "Race to the Fair." The challenge is to incorporate anything related to automobiles or automotive racing in the displays.

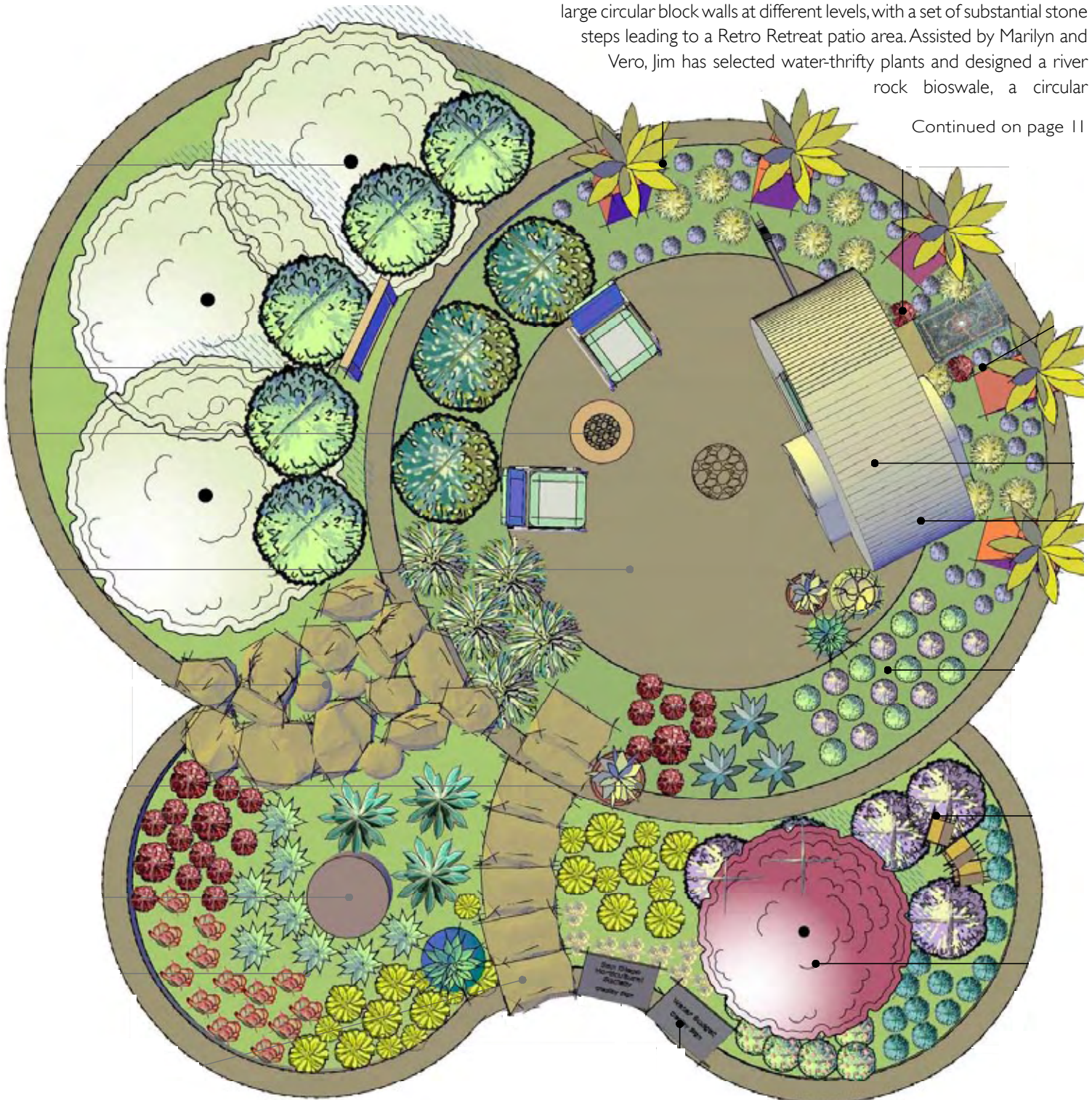
Three SDHS members have been enthusiastically working together for months to create a display garden sure to win the hearts of the over one million people expected to attend the Fair. We are hugely

fortunate to have these three talented professionals donating their time and expertise. Jim Bishop, an accomplished landscape designer, is the SDHS Vice President and our Membership Chair, the organizer of our Coffee-in-the-Garden events, and he will be our next president starting in September (see www.bishopgardendesign.com). Landscape designer Marilyn Guidroz, who works mostly in the North County area, designed our award-winning display garden for the 2010 Fair (see www.marilynsgarden.com). Vero Boyer is a landscape designer here in San Diego and also a licensed architect in Mexico (see www.ecodesignsd.com).

Jim has designed a stylish exhibit for the SDHS this year. He is using large circular block walls at different levels, with a set of substantial stone steps leading to a Retro Retreat patio area. Assisted by Marilyn and

Vero, Jim has selected water-thrifty plants and designed a river rock bioswale, a circular

Continued on page 11



Growing Alta Vista Gardens

By Bryan Morse

"Bringing Together People, Nature and Art"... Have you visited Alta Vista Gardens recently? Enter and experience quiet transformation. Breathe in the peace and tranquility as the aromas of spring surround you. If you have the gift to feel it, I believe that A.V.G. is an Earth Energy Point. Be still and experience it.

The past twelve months have seen an evolutionary transformation at Alta Vista Gardens. In one short year the Gardens have grown tremendously - from wishing that we might become a beautiful and dynamic garden to actually being one. Yes, we went through struggling with the growing pains that a Garden and its organization goes through. However, as public attendance doubled and then doubled again, as events were added, and then more still, as overhead costs skyrocketed brought on by the need for so much more maintenance and so much more irrigation; so far we have been able to keep up with the expansion. With donations and membership growing we are on the rise.

Over the past year thousands of plants have been installed in every part of the Gardens. The trail system at A.V.G. is four to five times longer today than it was just twelve months ago. During that same period Alta Vista Gardens made a commitment to become a certified wildlife habitat and to ban the use of any chemical fertilizers or insecticides in the Gardens. In addition, A.V.G. committed to becoming a butterfly habitat and initiated an extensive planting program to supply the core plants necessary for a thriving butterfly and bird population. As part of



Photo: Ivy Bodin

Leading a tour of local artists and art enthusiasts during April's 'Artist Reception and Walkabout,' board president Bryan Morse explains his thoughts while showing off his artistic flagstone patio named 'I Raggi Crescenti di Amore' (the Expanding Rays of Love).

that, in the past year at least thirty new varieties of fruit were added to the Garden collection.

This year Alta Vista Gardens has become a significant destination for Vista residents and visitors from all over. It grew so fast and in so many directions all at once that people began to pay attention. Finally, after almost a decade, some of those who had joined the original vision for Vista Botanical Gardens under Dr. Darian are coming back to join in the development of the new vision that is Alta Vista Botanical Gardens. Serious plant enthusiasts and collectors in Vista and San Diego County at large are coming more and more to offer their expertise, to donate plants and to help grow the Garden even faster. A few weeks ago we received a truckload of donated rare tropical fruit trees from a gentleman in Chula Vista. Every six weeks or so, we receive a truckload of interesting plants propagated by a gentleman who is 96 years old, but he still loves to propagate. His passion is our bounty.

Alta Vista Gardens is being built and managed by volunteers, so that as much of our budget as possible may be invested in building the Garden. With the influx of so many new visitors every month, we now feel the necessity to staff the Garden during our hours of operation. As such, A.V.G. is seeking a hundred new volunteers to help staff the Garden, interact with our visitors and watch over things to enhance security for all.

If you love being in a dynamic Garden atmosphere, please donate your time and sign up to help staff Alta Vista Gardens, share our vision and educate the public. For more information and to become a volunteer visit www.altavistagardens.org or write to info@altavistagardens.org.

Bryan Morse is President of the AVG Board. He is a landscape designer and environmental artist/contractor. ☘

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Welcome New Members!

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

Gloria Alexanderson	Kelly Mooney
Mollie Allan	Jenny Parker
Karen Baccei	Donna Payton
Meilly Dun	Sally & Robert
Andrea Ferber	Prendergast
Maureen Flores	Renee Robbins
Harold Frank	Dan Ryan,
Diane Gallen	Premier Outdoors
Janet M. Harris	Mary Tuller
Anne M. Lambrecht	Roy Wilburn
Krista Mills	Karen Wright

NEW ADVERTISERS:

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INSIDE FRONT COVER

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society
INSERT

**San Diego County Fair Flower
& Garden Show – INSERT**

San Diego Master Gardeners – INSERT

Southwestern College – PAGE 3

HORT BUCKS ARE GREAT!

Kudos to the members below who brought in new members in 2011 and as a result got Hort Bucks worth \$5 towards raffle tickets, name-tags, Plant Forum CDs or dues. To get your Hort Bucks just ask your friends to give us your name when they join.

Ann Beckett (1)	Eva Heuser (1)
Jim Bishop (1)	Pat & Willey Humphrey (1)
California Mycorrhiza (2)	Barbara Komur (1)
Zephyr Carlyle (1)	Susan & Frank Oddo (1)
Pat Crowl (1)	Paige Perkins (2)
Cuyamaca College (1)	Sue Ann Scheck (1)
Chris Drayer (1)	Susi Torre-Bueno (1)
Kathy Esty (2)	Una Pierce (1)
Margaret Grasela (3)	

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.

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

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The Wishing Tree Company

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Pat Welsh

Westward Expos

LIFE MEMBERS

*Horticulturist of the Year

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

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

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

What's Up at San Diego Botanic Garden?

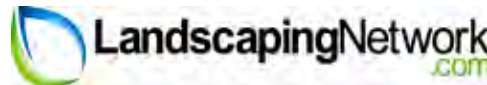
SUCCULENTS!

Succulents are amazing plants. They are structurally beautiful and yet so forgiving. When stressed they often turn a deep color that can take your breath away. Instead of feeling guilty because of your neglect you can rejoice at the beauty created. Then you get hooked – how could you not? – and want more and more in your garden. One of the best ways to grow your succulent collection is to acquire a nice variety and then propagate them. Need guidance? Come to a class taught by Debra Lee Baldwin on June 4 at San Diego Botanic Garden.

In "Succulent Reproduction, A Gardener's Guide to Taking Pups and Cuttings" you will learn how to rejuvenate old plants and start new ones as Debra explains the growth habits of agaves, aloes, and other succulents, and what to do when they produce offsets, become leggy, and bloom (or don't). She also will touch on the fascinating world of plant hybridizing, and how San Diego is on the cutting edge of new cultivars. Then, using succulents from her own garden and those donated by Oasis Water Efficient Gardens, Debra will demonstrate beheading and depupping, and give design and cultivation tips. Attendees are welcome to bring succulents in need of TLC.

Debra knows her subject well. An award-winning garden photojournalist, she authored *Designing with Succulents* and, later, *Succulent Container Gardens*, both bestsellers. Her specialty is showing how to use architectural, waterwise, and easy-care succulents in a wide variety of lovely and creative applications.

This class is sponsored by LandscapingNetwork.com, where you can find design ideas, landscapers in your area, products, photos, videos, and a calendar of landscaping training and events.



Succulent Reproduction A Gardener's Guide to Taking Pups and Cuttings

by Debra Lee Baldwin

Saturday, June 4, 10 am – 12 noon

Cost: Members \$30, non-members \$35.

To pre-register visit www.SDBGarden.org or call 760/ 436-3036 x206

New E-Mail? New Street Address?

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

patio of stone pavers with a decomposed granite border, and mulch ground cover for the sustainable aspects of the exhibit.

The San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) has partnered this year with SDHS to educate the public on low water use in the landscape. They have asked us to provide a display where the homeowner will be able to see lush planting and good practices to use in their own home landscape. SDCWA will be training our docents on Waterwise principles to share with everyone who comes to visit the Garden Show. The name of our display is "Let Your Water Budget Drive Your Plant Choices." "We will be selecting as many of the SDCWA "Nifty 50 Plants for Water Smart Landscapes" as possible. Examples of plants that use less water but can still keep a garden bright and colorful are available in the Water Authority's Nifty-Fifty plant brochure available at www.sdcwa.org/manage/pdf/Conservation/Nifty50.pdf.

So, what are we doing with the Automotive theme? Jim has come up with some ingenious ideas! Our display garden will feature a 50's Roadster built entirely of found and recycled material by the metal artist Rick Hartner (see note). Another non-plant highlight is a Retro Teardrop Camper Trailer that will double as a retreat lounge. We intend to decorate it in a Moroccan style with lots of bright colors and fabrics. Jim's concept drawings on the front cover and the one on this page don't include the roadster (which will be on the top level), but they do give you an idea of what to expect.

Our garden will also include many features from recent SDHS guest speakers topics, such as the pebble mosaics of Jeffery Bale, the living walls of Jim Mumford, the water harvesting bioswales of Brad Lancaster and the edible gardens of Pat Welsh, just to name a few. For a sneak preview of the pebble mosaics see page 3.

A special open house for SDHS members to tour the garden displays will be held on Monday June 13th from 5:45pm to 7:45pm (see page 1 for details). It'll be an evening you won't want to miss! Training for the docents will be held the same evening, with a presentation from the SDCWA beginning at 5pm.

We need many hard working volunteers NOW to help install this display garden (work on this started in May) as well as docents (we call them "Horticulturists of the Day") during the Fair to answer questions. At the end of the Fair on July 5th we will again need volunteers to help break it all down. If you have some time and would like to be a part of the Fair Display team, please call Marilyn Guidroz ASAP at (760) 224-9188. See page 2 to contact Pat Hammer about being a Horticulturist of the Day during the Fair.

NOTE: Rick Hartner's handsome and whimsical roadster sculpture will be sold through a **silent auction** – check our website in June for details on how to place your bid. Rick's 4' tall frog and garden screen were featured in our first Fair display garden (designed by the late Bill Teague) in 2004. In 2005 Rick's Rube Goldberg-style fountain was a hugely popular feature of our garden. His 15' long metal dragon and other garden art were also featured in our display gardens in subsequent years. A former Vista resident, Rick still has strong ties to San Diego (his work has been shown several times at the San Diego Botanic Garden), and you can see examples of Rick's fascinating garden art at www.SittingDuckStudio.com. 🐸

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SHARING SECRETS

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

The question for this month was:

Summertime often means travel, and what could be more fun than seeing gardens in other climate zones? Please tell us about 1-2 great public gardens you've seen, where they are, and why you love them. Thanks to member Louise Anderson for suggesting this idea. (She liked the Harry P. Leu Gardens in Orlando, Florida.)

Jim Bishop shared three gardens with us:

Van Dusen Botanical Garden is located in a neighborhood in Southern Vancouver, Canada. The neighborhood bought the local golf course to prevent it from being developed. The water hazards became lily ponds, the fairways strolling lawns...think landscaping on a giant scale. It is a 55-acre horticultural delight loaded with plants we can't grow in San Diego (but be sure and check out the greenhouses full of things we can easily grow here). Plan to spend the day and don't miss tea in the on-site restaurant.

The rose garden at the Bagatelle near Paris. [Also see Pat Welsh's comment below.] Roses in all their various sizes, forms, colors

More Continued from page 3

To understand that it is not just how we garden that uses water, see this article about how much water goes into the manufacture of most things we use (blue jeans, hamburgers, wheat, bed sheets, etc):

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/anne-phillips/3000-gallons-of-water-jea_b_546420.html

And finally, save water, save the landfill, save the planet, by waking up to the ridiculousness of bottled water:

http://thewaterproject.org/bottled_water.asp?gclid=CPGlvNLKxagCFQsGbAodyW7gpw

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

Wild With Natives Continued from page 4

form a Monet Painting effect!

- Medium and Small Shrub forms: Cultivars - Concha, Wheeler Canyon, Blue Jeans, Skylark, Snowball, Julia Phelps, and Santa Ana.
- Groundcover forms: Species: *C. hearstiorum*, *C. thyrsoiflorus repens*, *C. prostratus*. Cultivars: Yankee Point, Joyce Coulter, Anchor Bay, and Mills Glory.

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

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and scents presented in the formal style of a French garden. It was still in full bloom in early July. Even if you don't like roses you'll be overwhelmed. Should you, however, tire of the roses, there are some pretty amazing clematis in the garden, too. And the whole garden is surrounded by a giant city park...we were too exhausted to take it all in and will have to go back.

Just about anywhere in **the historic part of Seville**. The best garden is in the Alcazar, but the public park just outside has plenty of Spanish tile and fountains and almost no crowds. A bit further out is Parque de María Luisa created for the 1929 Ibero-American Exposition. To get there on foot, you pass the Torre de Oro on the Rio Guadalquivir, where Columbus sailed past on his journeys to the Americas, and Spanish galleons returned loaded with New World gold. You'll also see the El Cid statue (there is a copy in Balboa Park). The park has some great gardens (although the plant pallet is pretty limited compared to California), but the best part is the renaissance revival architecture. Plaza de España has a moat and one of the finest displays of tile to be found anywhere. Each province of Spain has its own alcove that tells its history (or should I say near-history) in tile. OK, I admit it: I'm a tile nut and plantaholic. Go in the fall...it was still very warm in mid-October. However, don't make the mistake we did and arrive on Columbus Day, Sevilla takes Columbus Day very seriously and everything but the bars were closed.

Ken Blackford pointed us to gardens up north: "In the San Francisco Bay area there are several notable and very well known public gardens ...but here are 2 that are perhaps less so, but definitely worth a visit for those traveling to the Bay Area:

Tilden Regional Park Botanic Garden, situated in Wildcat Canyon of the park bearing the same name, just East of Berkeley, has a fantastic and esthetically displayed collection of California Natives from every region of the state. A great source of info for us visitors from San Diego seeking info on natives. Website: ebparks.org/parks/vc/botanic_garden.

Another Bay Area garden, actually a private garden but open to visitation by the public with reservation, is the **Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek**. This garden was the inspiration for, and the first private garden sponsored by, the Garden Conservancy. Ruth Bancroft, now over 100, has collected and assembled a beautiful collection of xerophytic plants adaptable to Walnut Creek's hot-summer Mediterranean climate (and also suitable to most areas of our own San Diego County!) Of course, as a former docent volunteer I am prejudiced, but the RBG should be a must-see for any San Diego gardeners visiting the Bay Area. More info can be found at their website: ruthbancroftgarden.org.

Steve Brigham selected two fascinating gardens: "Of the many, many botanical gardens I have visited worldwide, there have been (believe it or not) just two that truly stand out in my mind more than the rest – these are the places where my first visit there was (unexpectedly) a truly mind-bending and transcendent experience, right from the time I went through the front gate. Maybe it was all just the right place at just the right time, but these two botanical gardens are very near and dear to my heart --somehow, in my life, they stand out above all the others. One is the **Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden**, just north of Hilo, which I first visited in 1998. In a word, Heliconias (I visited in September) – but so much more, as well. Besides the most

Continued on page 14

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incredible tropical forest plant display imaginable, it's also the setting, the layout, the feel of the place. Unsurpassed, for me – except for one fateful day in 1977. The place was called **Quail Botanical Gardens**, a San Diego County Park on a little rutted road just east of I-5 in Encinitas. More kinds of plants in one compact package than I ever could imagine! Absolutely magical! It's an extremely unique place that has incredible power. You know the rest of the story."

Jo Casterline loved "The fabulous Chelsea Flower show. We were fortunate to see it 3 times! More than a garden it is a show to end all garden shows."

Carol Costarakis told us to visit: "Beautiful **Butchart Gardens in Victoria, Canada**. It was developed from an exhausted limestone quarry – what a delight!" Visit butchartgardens.com – read more on this garden below.

Bea Erickson recommends the "very lovely **Heritage Rose Garden in San Jose, California**. This is truly a beautiful garden. I feel it might be of interest to people because it has no kind of a spray program." Learn more at www.heritageroses.us.

Charlotte Getz wrote about two gardens, "A wonderful garden we visited in Colorado a few years ago was the **Betty Ford Alpine Garden just outside Vail**. One of my most favorite gardens we visited two years ago on a trip to Williamsburg and Washington, D. C. was the **Vegetable Garden at Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's home in Charlottesville, Virginia**. The garden evolved over many years, beginning in 1770 when crops were first cultivated along a slope. Terracing was introduced in 1806. The garden plateau was carved on the side of the mountain with slave labor. The garden was recreated in 1979 and today it is a 2-acre garden. The recreation tried to show the garden as it was in 1807 - 1814 to reveal Jefferson's experiments in horticulture and landscaping as well as collecting the 19th century vegetable varieties. The halfway point of the garden is a pavilion with double sash windows, Chinese railing and a pyramidal roof; Jefferson used it as a quiet retreat where he could read in the evening. In 1984 it was reconstructed based on Jefferson's notes. It overlooks an 8-acre orchard of 300 trees, two vineyards and Monticello's berry squares, which are plots of figs, currants, gooseberries and raspberries. It was a fascinating and most educational garden to visit. If your travels take you to the Virginia area, be sure to include a visit to Monticello. A good reference book for more information on Jefferson's gardening pursuits is *Thomas Jefferson's Garden Book* by Edwin Betts published in 1944 by the Philadelphia American Philosophical Society."

Julie Hasl had a Seattle garden to suggest: "The **Center For Urban Horticulture (CUH) in Seattle** is one of the best kept secret gardens. In particular, visit The Soest Herbaceous Display Garden, which is a tiny gem. It has eight separate beds and each bed is unique to its location in the garden re: shade, sun, water needs, soil composition, compatible plants etc. The garden publishes a booklet containing plant lists and a planting diagram for each bed that is readily available within the garden. An added benefit is that it is in immediate proximity to the fantastic Elisabeth C. Miller Library, which itself is housed in a green building complete with a succulent roof. The CUH (Soest Garden) is a small part of the **University of Washington Botanic Garden**. Check it out at <http://depts.washington.edu/uwbgbg/visit/cuh.php>."

Hilda King replied about Canadian gardens, "Two gardens that Neal and I loved were in **British Columbia**. Victoria's **Butchart Gardens** was spectacular. We took the ferry from Vancouver and visited Butchart Gardens which was originally a quarry. When they finished using the property as a quarry, Mrs. Butchart told her husband they couldn't leave it the way it was and they turned the area into one of the most spectacular gardens we've ever seen. On the way back to Vancouver on the ferry we got to see some whales, which made it even a more special trip. The other garden we loved was at the **University of British Columbia in Vancouver**."

Mary McBride was enthusiastic about "the **Phoenix Botanic Garden**. Innovative everything- including energy efficiency. A house on the site is rented by lottery to the public. Great garden!"

Anne Murphy loves two British gardens: "**Hidcote Manor and Gardens** are a favorite of mine. These are located near Chipping Camden in **Gloucestershire, England**. They were created by Lawrence Johnston, a plantsman with a great sense of design. This has a wonderful set of garden rooms containing great designs and rare plants. Almost next door is **Kiftgate Court Gardens**, another garden destination."

Al Myrick pointed us towards Hawaii: "In Kawai, the very best we think is Allerton Gardens, aka National Tropical Botanical Garden. It is on the south end of the island. The variety of tropicals is bewildering and the setting and layout is incredibly beautiful. I seem to recall that it was a coffee plantation or something and that the owner was a collector. On the Big Island, the most tropical of tropical collections is Hawai'i Tropical Botanical Garden north of Hilo and a little off the main highway at the beach. Seventeen or something acres of huge, robust plants of all kinds: a tree fern that must be 20' tall and 30' wide, unbelievable orchids, bromeliads, and stuff that wears your eyes out! Maybe the best, little known garden that we stumbled upon on the Big Island was near Volcano on the south end; a 5-acre garden at a bed and breakfast place called My Island Inn. Easy to walk in a few hours and a glorious collection of plantings and jungle! Of course, if one wants to take a whole day and is staying on Oahu, you can take a city (Waikiki) bus to Lyon Arboretum and find yourself in another, maybe most expansive collection of tropical collections ever to be seen in one place near civilization. It includes most of the Hawaiian natives too!"

Katie Pelisek recommends a Florida garden: "I recommend a stop at **Leu Gardens in Orlando, Florida**. I especially love the mature live oaks, with moss hanging from the branches, which create a canopy for their incredible collection of mature camellias."

Ida Rigby suggested a trip to **Chicago**, which, "has had a program of introducing prairie wildflowers in public spaces. Notable are the **prairie garden in Millennium Park** and the strip of **wildflower islands in Lincoln Park**."

Cindy Sparks likes a place in Mexico: "My favorite faraway garden is the **Vallarta Botanical Garden just outside of Puerto Vallarta, Mexico**. I visited there a few years ago, while we were cruising Mexico. My visit came just after Pat Hammer had been there with her mother. I chatted with the Director and got a great tour, and he was amazed that I knew Pat, and at how tight the horticultural community is. Shortly after, I believe Charley and Sue Fouquette sent

Continued on page 16

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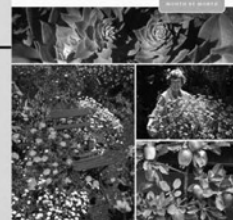
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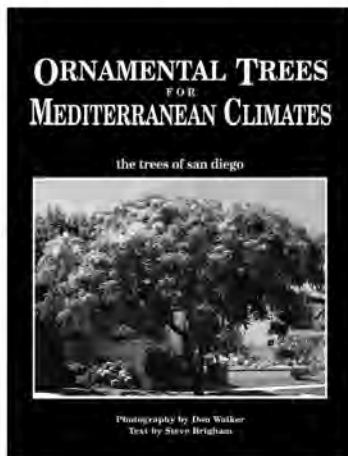
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Secrets Continued from page 15

him a load of orchid handling equipment for the Garden. The garden was young even then, but they were building a wonderful orchid collection along with a collection of indigenous plants and all lovely tropical things that do well in that climate zone. They have a beautiful theme building with a charming restaurant. I sat out on the balcony to enjoy a light lunch. The wind was blowing and to ward off the chill, one of the servers brought me a big furry blanket wrap so I could be comfortable while enjoying the stunning view out on the high veranda. It was so memorable that I want to go back to Puerto Vallarta just to see the garden again. The shopping in the little gift shop was good, too. And everything there is bi-lingual, of course. Check out Carretera Puerto Vallarta a Barra de Navidad Km 24, Las Juntas y los Veranos, Cabo Corrientes, Jalisco C.P. 48447, MÉXICO; 011 52 322 223-6182; info@vallartabotanicalgardensac.org."

Gerald D. Stewart writes: When I was 2 or 3 my parents took me to **Mobile, Alabama** to visit Dad's family. Nearby in Theodore is **Bellingrath Gardens**, which we visited. I don't remember it, but I do have the photo of me and my Great-Aunt Mabel in the garden. In 1962, on another trip, we visited the gardens again. I have vague memories of that visit, but again, it's the photos that tell the story (I have all of the old family photos, slowly being cataloged and scanned for distribution). In 2002 my father couldn't reach his brother, so Mom & I went to Mobile to check on him (Dad is too frail to travel; it turned-out Uncle Edward had been warehoused in a county facility after being abandoned by his family). We went to Bellingrath Gardens while there. I have vivid memories of that visit. In the early part of the twentieth century the man with the Coca-Cola franchise started building his home and gardens. The plant palette is completely different from our Mediterranean climate—if not in the plant itself, it's in the way it grows. How about coleus hedges 5' tall?! Or hundreds of square feet of coleus as a mosaic ground cover...those of you who know me know how manic I am over coleus. I was in heaven. Here's their website address: www.bellingrath.org."

Sue Toeniskoetter said, "If you are in **New York City** don't miss a chance to visit the **High Line** on the west side of Manhattan. It's an enchanting urban garden created along an old elevated railroad track in the meatpacking district, with interesting views of the city and plantings that are inspired by the kinds of plants that would have self-seeded there originally."

Ava Torre-Bueno had a fun idea: "Last summer I traveled in England and went to a 'mecca' for me; **Charles Darwin's home, Down House, and its gardens**. The gardens aren't striking or spectacular but they have some lovely touches. First, Emma Darwin designed her own flower gardens, which was not common for Victorian ladies. They have been reproduced and are overplanted and rowdy, also not typically Victorian. The kitchen garden seems bizarrely enormous until you remember that the Darwins had eight living children, and domestic staff and their families to feed. I went inside the hothouse where Darwin studied many kinds of plants over the decades. There were several kinds of carnivorous plants growing in profusion there. Surrounding the garden is the 'sand walk,' a path where Darwin walked each day and did his amazing thinking about the origin of species and which visitors can walk too, hoping for inspiration. Here is a link to the English Heritage site about the gardens: www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/home-of-charles-darwin-down-house/garden, and here's a link to a book I haven't read yet but will soon about Darwin's garden: www.amazon.com/Darwins-Garden-House-Origin-Species/

dp/1582434719. Down House is just an hour from central London by train and bus and a ¼-mile walk."

Susi Torre-Bueno has very fond memories of these gardens: "In Portland, Oregon go see the **Lan Su Chinese Garden** (www.portlandchinesegarden.org), a fascinating garden unlike any I've ever seen, with amazing stone mosaic pathways, painstakingly-crafted pavilions, and intricately formed rocks. The **Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden** (www.rsabg.org) in Claremont, California is an inspiring 86-acre treasure of California native plants. In Santa Barbara, California be sure to visit **Ganna Walska Lotusland** (www.lotusland.org), the passionate garden of a passionate woman; well worth the \$35 entry fee."

Cathy Tylka mentioned the "**Fullerton Arboretum**. It's lovely and peaceful, and has lots of native and succulents. One can walk a little or a long way and it's not far from San Diego. You can also sit and watch the ducks. It's a perfect place to spend a little time."

Katrin Utt told us, "My favorite garden is the **Santa Barbara Botanic Garden**. It offers 78 acres of fabulous trails with amazing trees, wildflowers and native plants. We visit there at least once a year. Although there was a lot of damage from the big fire, nature is healing the landscape at a fast rate. They also have a great selection of natives for sale."

Lucy Warren suggests a capitol garden: "**U.S. Botanical Garden on the mall in Washington, D.C.** Last time I was there they were opening their new outdoor gardens. That area was many years in the making and is full of beauty, variety, and information."

Pat Welsh wrote about a Paris garden: "If you are in Paris, don't ever miss the **Bagatelle garden**. It is one of the great secrets of Paris that people don't seem to know about. It is in the Bois de Boulogne. You can walk to it but it's a long walk. Personally, I take a taxi there. Here is what you say: 'Bon jour, Monsieur, S'il vous plait, les Jardins des Roses de Bagatelle dans the le Bois de Boulogne.' That will get you there but for God's sakes don't omit saying, 'Bon jour, Monsieur,' or he will take you God knows where! And the entrance is always muddy and looks like not much. You may think this is not it, but—just wait!—inside the unimpressive entrance (no fee!) the garden is divine. First you go through the iris garden. There is a wall covered with clematis on the right as you enter—an exhaustive array of varieties. Then go to the roses beyond. Actually, I think you should see them first. Best time to see the roses is June. Mind blowing display of roses on pergolas and grown in swags on ropes and up onto obelisks. —Incroyable! Formidable! — It is like a fairy land especially since there are often children running about enjoying the place. The overlook was planned by Marie Antoinette, as I recall. (It's on the left.) Go up and have a look from there (however, I like it better from below). If you miss the roses because you aren't there in June, it's fun also to see elegant Parisians studying the iris collection and taking notes in their little notebooks and whispering to each other about this or that one they plan to purchase next. The fine looking ladies are in high heels and elegant suits. The gentlemen wear impeccable coffee-colored jackets with striped shirts and boutonnieres. I feel so plebeian in my jogging shoes and wish my French were good enough to explain: Pardon!—Sorry—replaced knees!"

The question for next month is:

It's summertime, and the living is... HOT! What kind of shade structures do you have to provide cooling relief in your garden? Send your reply by June 5 to info@sdhortsoc.org. ☘

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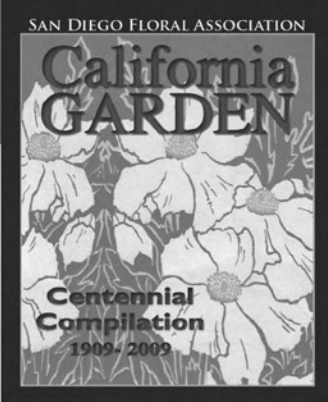


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MAY PLANT DISPLAY

By Sheldon Lisker and Susi Torre-Bueno

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Each month members bring in plants, cuttings or flowers and put them on our display tables. What a great way to see what plants grow well in our area. All plants are welcome – EVERYONE is invited to participate. We encourage you to write descriptions similar to those below, and put them with the plant on the Plant Display tables.

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

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

Can you spot the phony plant this month? The phony plant in the April newsletter was *Dendrobium queenianum* 'Mauve King'.

3 *Alstroemeria* hybrids: 'Canyon Pink', 'Casa Blanca', 'Jupiter', 'Kyt', 'Marmalade', 'Meyer Hybrids' (pink), 'Mikey', 'New Beginnings', 'Princess Diana' (= A. 'Zapridapal'), 'Princess Julietta' (= A. 'Zaprijul'), 'Princess Oxana' (A. 'Staprioxa'), 'Princess Sara' (= A. 'Staprisara'), 'Staprivina' (= A. 'Zavina'), 'Rachel', 'The Third Harmonic' (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 5/11)

3 *Amaryllis* cv. (Darlene Villanova, El Cajon, 5/11)

3 *Calochortus* mix MARIPOSA LILY

(Sheldon Lisker, Temecula, 5/11)

Clarkia unguiculata MOUNTAIN GARLAND, CLARKIA

(Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 5/11)

Dendrobium Frosty Dawn 'Wings of Gold'

(Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 5/11)

Dendrobium Green Lantern (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 5/11)

Dendrobium Green Mist (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 5/11)

Dendrobium 'Little Green Apples'

(Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 5/11)

Epiphyllum 'Ruth' REED STEM ORCHID (? , 5/11)

Erica sp. or cv. (Jo Casterline, Poway, 5/11)

Hunnemannia fumariifolia MEXICAN TULIP POPPY

(Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 5/11)

Oleo europea (bonsai form, in training 20 years) OLIVE TREE

(Phil Tackill, Solana Beach, 5/11)

Papaver somniferum OPIUM POPPY, BREADSEED POPPY

(Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 5/11)

3 *Romneya coulteri* MATILJA POPPY

(Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 5/11)

Romneya trichocalyx MATILJA POPPY

(Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 5/11)

3 *Salvia clevelandii* 'Pozo Blue' CLEVELAND SAGE

(Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 5/11)

3 *Salvia dorisiana* FRUIT-SCENTED SAGE

(Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 5/11)

3 *Salvia orangina* JUICE-SCENTED SAGE

(Garden Lover, El Cajon, 5/11)

May Meeting Report

Our May meeting wasn't what I had expected... it was better and more personal. Speaker Bob Perry, whose most recent book, *Landscape Plants for California Gardens*, is destined to become a must-have bible for serious gardeners, has an impressive set of credentials and over three decades of hands-on garden design. From the description in the last newsletter ("Bob will discuss the world of plants and gardens as a source of endless discovery and wonderment."), I was expecting to hear about the interplay of plants and garden design. What Perry shared with us was his tremendous passion for the ways in which plants can enrich our lives and make the garden experience something special on such a deep level that it brings to mind an almost magical connection between the garden and the gardener. To be fair, the program description also included the phrase, "Alchemy often comes to mind to explain these qualities of plants and gardens." And it was the alchemy aspect of his talk that I found most enjoyable, illuminating and, in a real sense, the most encouraging.

One of our members (Hi, Carl!) wrote that he was curious about why Bob had chosen to, "invoke the medieval term, alchemy," and referred me to the Wikipedia definition of alchemy: "Alchemy is an ancient tradition, the primary objective of which was the creation of a fabled elixir, known as the Philosopher's Stone, capable of turning any base metal into gold or silver; the same also acting as a universal medicine said to indefinitely prolong youth and keep one from death." Wikipedia goes on to note that, "Today it is widely believed that the alchemical processes were allegorical as metaphors for a spiritual discipline, akin to a technique for the obtainment of enlightenment." While enjoying Bob's talk I felt that he was using alchemy in this latter sense, and beautifully so.

Bob began by noting that, "alchemy connotes mystery and magic and something very special," and also that, "plants continue to surprise me and challenge me." Before we got to the magic part, however, the first half or so of his talk was devoted mostly to the science of plants. "Every pound of biomass produced stores a half-pound of carbon," and this is important because the process of photosynthesis (which is what produces that biomass) also stores a pound of carbon in combination with oxygen. The process, "releases a pound of oxygen into the atmosphere," without which life on Earth as we know it would be impossible. So... it is crucial that we have, "respect and great appreciation for the chain of life that plants set in motion."

This scientific part of Bob's talk included information about how leaves capture sunlight and carbon dioxide and convert that to organic energy. We heard about the importance of each part of the plant (leaf, stem, roots). The tremendous variety of plant species represents, "wonderful and diverse expressions of life" and adapt to a vast array of growing conditions. This plant diversity, "means that there is more than one way to survive drought," a very good thing indeed. Plants do best in communities where there are, "multiple species and stages and levels of growth." Knowing all this is critical, Bob said, to his work in designing gardens.

The second half of Bob's talk was about the design aspect of his work and about how, "the experience of plants and landscapes can enable reflection and feelings about body and soul." Bob described his process thus: "Designing a garden means listening to the client, using plant knowledge and imagining a landscape as a beautiful expression of this." I liked this take-away message... do your homework to learn about the plants you want to use, then using your imagination place the plants in the garden to create the mood you want to set.

To illustrate his ideas, Bob showed lots of photos of his own garden in Claremont, CA, including photos taken before he got rid of a huge ash tree that dwarfed his home and dominated the standard front lawn. His garden now combines California natives and water-thrifty plants from other Mediterranean climates. The "diversity of plant cycles keeps the garden interesting," because having a wide plant palette is like "my kids – they have their own personalities." The annuals "represent the youth of this world – very magical and ephemeral," and they embody hope as they "shout out with color and energy their enthusiasm for life." Biennials, such as Tower of Jewels (*Echium wildpretii*, from the Canary Islands) and *Geranium maderense* (from the Madeira Islands), are slower to be showy, as if to say, "I'll take 2-3 years and really show you how to do it." Some of the plants come from his previous homes, providing a nice dose of continuity.

In the backyard there is an extensive cutting garden, a chicken coop, and a thriving vegetable garden. Some materials have been repurposed: a walkway of broken concrete was once in the front garden where the ash tree broke it up. His backyard studio has a wonderful view of the garden, of course. A Zen garden of potted plants and succulents edges a large decomposed concrete area with an s-curve made of flat rocks set in the ground.

"Sitting quietly in a garden you can learn to listen to your soul," Bob said. His deep plant knowledge and keen eye for design have combined in his garden, as they have in his clients' yards, to create a truly magical space that perfectly suits his needs. Isn't this what all of us want out of our own gardens?

The SDHS library owns a copy of his newest book, *Landscape Plants for California Gardens*, and we encourage you to borrow it if you don't own a copy of this exceptional reference tool. You can also order it from Bob's website, www.landdesignpublishing.com (where you can download part of his book for free!).

We thank you, Bob, for reminding us of the scientific reasons why plants are so important and the aesthetic considerations that come into play when creating a personal space that is a nurturing refuge for both people and plants. See page 16 for the names of those who generously donated to our Opportunity Drawing and Door Prizes.

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Photo: Jorge Hempel

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San Diego County Fair

Presents Paul Ecke Jr. Flower & Garden Show



JUNE 10 - JULY 4, 2011
WWW.SDFAIR.COM



Beautiful Landscape Displays & Gardens
Floral & Interior Design Vignettes
Container Plants
Specimen Blooms and
Floral Design Competitions

Daily Flower Show Stage Speakers and Demonstrations:

- Lawrence O'Leary Tuesday June 14
- Betty Patterson – del sol June 23 & July 1st
- Many **San Diego Horticultural Society** Members

2nd Annual
Floral Design Competition, Sunday June 26
Open to all floral designers
Guest Designer - Rene Van Rems
Master of Ceremony – David Root

Paul Ecke Jr
2011 Flower & Garden Show

Sponsored by 
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Saturday, June 18 10 am - 3 pm

**Master
Gardener**

Plant Sale

**Room 101
Casa del Prado
Balboa Park**



Great plants at great prices. Choose from natives, tropicals, staghorn ferns, bromeliads, heirloom and unusual veggies, fruit trees, bulbs, herbs, succulents, annuals and perennials.



Garden marketplace. Shop for hand-crafted bird houses, protective gauntlets, hypertufa pots, crystal totems, tool sharpeners and more!



Expand gardening know-how. Learn from exhibits on sustainable gardening, water conservation, invasive plants, citrus care and pest control. Get answers to garden questions from Master Gardeners.

Park in nearby lots and take a free tram to the sale. Plant holding area provided. Drive-up zone for plant pick-up.

Details are at
www.MasterGardenersSanDiego.org
Visit us on Facebook for plant sale updates.



San Diego County Master Gardeners present



Autumn in the Garden Tour & Market

Saturday, October 1, 2011

10 am - 4 pm



Tour the gardens of Master Gardeners

TICKETS ON SALE AUGUST 1

www.MasterGardenersSanDiego.org/gardentour

2011 Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale

Presented by: *The San Diego Cactus And Succulent Society*

JUNE 4th and 5th

At The Casa Del Prado, Room 101 and
Patio, Balboa Park

**Strange and exotic plants & books from
the far corners of the world gathered
together for your viewing amazement!!**

Courtyard sale of choice specimen plants
for the novice and collector as well as
handmade stoneware planters and pots!!

Potting service will be available along with
cultural information

SHOW HOURS:

Saturday, June 4: 10am to 3pm

Sunday, June 5: 10am to 4pm

(Judging will be after 3pm Saturday)

SALE HOURS:

Saturday, June 4: 10am to 5pm

Sunday, June 5: 10am to 4pm

SDCSS Members only shopping on Saturday from 9
to 10

For additional information please visit:

www.sdcss.net

If you have trouble finding a parking spot use the Balboa Park
TRAM The free tram provides access to Balboa Park's museums
and attractions. You can park in the Inspiration Point lot and wait at
Tram Central, a shady arbor with benches. The tram will deliver you to
into the heart of Balboa Park. Trams pick up from Tram Central every 810
minutes. Riders may also board at one of the designated pick-up areas
around the Park. The tram operates seven days a week: 8:30am - 6:00pm.





PAUL ECKE JR. FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW

AT THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR

2011 STAGE SCHEDULE

- 6/10 11:30 **Hot NewTrends**, Curtain Call - *Beverly Hawkinson*
 1:00 **Easy Rose Care**, Garden Writer - *Dick Streeper*
 2:30 **Sustainable Gardening**, UCCE Master Gardener - *Cindy Sparks*
 4:00 **Water Gardening**, Santa Fe Nursery - *Ed Simpson*
- 6/11 **Youth Oratorical Contest**
- 6/12 **San Diego Epiphyllum Society**
 11:30 **Epiphyllum Flowers/Plants**, San Diego Epiphyllum Society - *Ron Crain*
 1:00 **Epiphyllum Flowers/Plants**, San Diego Epiphyllum Society - *Jerry Moreau*
 2:30 **Epiphyllum Flowers/Plants**, San Diego Epiphyllum Society - *Ron Crain*
 4:00 **Epiphyllum Flowers/Plants**, San Diego Epiphyllum Society - *Jerry Moreau*
- 6/14 11:30 **Propagation of Stag Horn Ferns**, UCCE Master Gardener - *Charles T. Robinson*
 1:00 **Using Your Roses to Create Beautiful Arrangments**, Del Mar Rose Society - *Walt Kilmer*
 2:30 **Time Release Water for Native plants**, Dri Water - *Lawrence O,Leary*
 4:00 **Living Walls**, Good Earth Plants - *Jim Mumford*
- 6/15 11:30 **30 Great Drought Tolerante Plants**, Great Gardens Landscape Design - *Doug Kalal*
 1:00 **Floral Bouquets for Weddings and Homes**, The Dutch Flower - *Jolene DeHoog Harris*
 2:30 **Feng Shui in the Garden**, Direction, Balance, and Inspiration - *Kristina Ming*
 4:00 **"Green Trends"**, Curtain Call - *Beverly Hawkinson*
- 6/16 11:30 **Starting a Veggie Garden**, UCCE Master Gardener - *Karan Greenwald*
 1:00 **Growing Citrus on a Patio or Balcony**, Mission Hills Nursery - *Tiger Palafox*
 2:30 **Heirloom Tomatoes**, UCCE Master Gardener - *Karan Greenwald*
 4:00 **Small Space Solutions**, Curtain Call - *Beverly Hawkinson*
- 6/17 **San Diego Dahlia Society**
 11:30 **How to grow Dahlias**, San Diego County Dahlia Society - *David + Sharon Tooley*
 1:00 **Growing Citrus on a Patio/ Balcony**, Mission Hills Nursery - *Tiger Palafox*
 2:30 **Growing Dahlias**, San Diego County Dahlia Society - *Steven Nakamura + Max Turner*
 4:00 **Native Plants Gardening**, California,s Own Native Landscape Design - *Greg Rubin*
- 6/18 **Enviro Fair**
- 6/19 **Father's Day**
 11:30 **Let Worms eat Your Food Waste**, Vermicoast - *Shelley Grossman*
 1:00 **How to Save Money & Conserve Water in Your Landscape**, Nature Landscape Designs - *Steve Jacobs*
 2:30 **Soil a Tool for Saving Water**, Agri Service - *Sharon May*
 4:00 **Aquering to get the best Trees & Shrubs For Home**, Professional Tree Care Association - *Kurt Peacock*
- 6/21 11:30 **Fruit Trees Selection and Care**, UCCE Master Gardener - *John Marsh*
 1:00 **Market Bouquets from Market to Table**, Dos Gringos - *Suzy Long*
 2:30 **Small Space Solutions**, Curtain Call - *Beverly Hawkinson*
 4:00 **Understang Organic Nitrogen In Soils.**, California Organic Fertilizer - *Jim Verner*
- 6/22 11:30 **30 Great Drought Tolereant Plants**, Great Gardens Landscape Design - *Doug Kalal*
 1:00 **Dreaded Insects in San Diego**, Department of Agriculture Weights & Measures - *DR. David Kellum*
 2:30 **Understang Organic Nitrogen In Soils.**, California Organic Fertilizer - *Jim Verner*
 4:00 **Understanding & Growing Orchids**, San Diego Orchid Society - *Charley Fouquette*



PAUL ECKE JR. FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW

AT THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR

2011 STAGE SCHEDULE

- 6/23 11:30 **Drip Irrigation and Install**, DIG - *Rita Robles*
 1:00 **Wedding Flowers, Easy, Fast & Fabulous**, Floral Design Instructor - *Betty Patterson del Sol*
 2:30 **Drought Tolerant Gardening**, UCCE Master Gardeners - *Cindy Sparks*
 4:00 **Orchid Repotting Demonstration**, Sunset Valley Orchids - *Fred Clarke*
- 6/24 **International Day**
 11:30 **Let Worms eat Your Food Waste**, Vermicoast - *Shelley Grossman*
 1:00 **TBA** - *Alex Carrasco*
 2:30 **Hon Non Bo**, Hon Non Bo Society - *Von Mok*
 4:00 **TBA** - *Rudy Lime*
- 6/25 11:30 **How to Save Money & Conserve Water in Your Landscape**, Nature Landscape Designs - *Steve Jacobs*
 1:00 **Blooming Bromeliads**, San Diego Bromelids Society - *Nancy Groves*
 2:30 **Removing Lawn w/ Organic Vegetable Gardening**, Urban Plantation - *Karen Contreras*
 4:00 **San Diego Local Sustainable Materials**, Envision Landscape Studio - *Navid Mostatabi*
- 6/26 **San Diego Floral Competition**
- 6/28 11:30 **The Perfect Partnership Plants & Their People**, - *Kathryn C. Taylor*
 1:00 **Fun with Market Bouquets**, Dos Gringos - *Suzy Long*
 2:30 **Cultivating & Propagating African Violets**, Carlsbad African Violet Society - *Barbara Conrad*
 4:00 **Bonsai Succulents**, The Plant Man - *Michael & Joyce Buckner*
- 6/29 11:30 **Drip Irrigation and Install**, DIG - *Rita Robles*
 1:00 **Summer&fall Fruit Tree Care**, California Rare Fruit Growers - *Tom del Hotal*
 2:30 **Super Foods**, California Rare Fruit Growers - *Dave Yetz*
 4:00 **New Varities of Decidous & Subtropical Trees**, California Rare Fruit Growers - *Dave Archer*
- 6/30 **Del Mar Rose Society**
 11:30 **Denali Gold - "Growing with Denali Gold Alaskan Humus" / Worm Gold Plus - "Earthworms"**,
 Del Mar Rose Society - *Tim Felegny, George Hahn*
 1:00 **Growing Roses Organically**, Del Mar Rose Society - *Jerry Littieri*
 2:30 **Favorite Roses**, Del Mar Rose Society - *Virginia Holt*
 4:00 **"How to Grow Beautiful Roses"**, Del Mar Rose Society - *Kathy Reed*
- 7/1 11:30 **Drip Irrigation and Install**, DIG - *Rita Robles*
 1:00 **Trees Please: We need more of these**, I S A Certified Arborist - *Robin Rivet*
 2:30 **Wedding Flowers, Easy, Fast & Fabulous**, Floral Design Instructor - *Betty Patterson del Sol*
 4:00 **Planting Combos or balcony Gardens**, Designs by Shellene - *Shellene Mueller*
- 7/2 11:30 **How to Save Money & Conserve Water in Your Landscape**, Nature Landscape Designs - *Steve Jacobs*
 1:00 **Let Worms eat Your Food Waste**, Vermicoast - *Shelley Grossman*
 2:30 **Native Plants Gardening**, California's Own Native Landscape Design - *Greg Rubin*
 4:00 **What would 100 Trees do in San Diego**, Mission Hills Nursery - *Fausto Palafox*
- 7/3 **Floral Design Specimen Bloom Awards Ceremony**
- 7/4 11:30 **Feng Shui in the Garden**, Direction, Balance, and Inspiration - *Kristina Ming*
 1:00 **American Style**, Curtain Call - *Beverly Hawkinson*
 4:00 **Living Fire break in Urban Areas**, Elm Goats - *Johnny Gonzales*

What's Happening? for June 2011

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

▼ SDHS Sponsor

Anderson's La Costa Nursery & Garden Design Center

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- ♦ Large Selection of Pottery & Statuary
- ♦ Benches & Trellises
- ♦ Professionals to Answer Your Questions
- ♦ Exquisite New Gift Shop

.....Expect the Unusual



www.AndersonsLacostaNursery.com

Hello to all and welcome to our June & Father's Day garden tips update.

We hope everyone had an enjoyable Memorial Day Weekend and a good start to the month of June. So much is happening in and around the nursery I'm not sure where to start so I'll plunge right in. June usually features mellow weather (and maybe some of that old June gloom) in our area and the mild conditions are just right for getting plants off to a good start. Note that many flowers and vegetables should be planted from bedding plants this month rather than seeds because time is growing short for warm weather plants to fully mature. Remember - now that the weather is warmer you can conserve water by watering at cooler times of day to prevent quick evaporation.

What's New:

- ❖ Plumeria – more & more coming in green and budded out.
- ❖ Hydrangeas – Mopheads & Lacecaps - In White, Pinks and Blues – simply gorgeous.
- ❖ For long lasting low growing yellow flowers check out Texas Sundrops (*Calyophus drumondii*). Great in a hot, dry spot in the garden.
- ❖ Gaura – becoming more popular each year. Why? Sports abundant pink flowers above dense burgundy tipped green foliage. Grows to 2' x 2' mounds with very long lasting blooms.

In our greenhouse:

- ❖ Orchids were fully replenished after Mother's Day rush. Some are also fragrant. The Paphiopedalum are amazing.
- ❖ Sensitive Plants (kids just love them). When you touch the leaves they fold up like shy little flowers (or like my cat).

Vines including:

- ❖ Beautiful blooming Clematis, *Mandevilla* 'Alice duPont' (they are really enjoying the hot sun that popped out as I am typing this). Also – Guinea Goldvine, *Lonicera* 'Gold Flame' (so fragrant) and *Dalechampia* 'Purple Wings'.

Continued on other side



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

The Water Conservation Garden

Details & registration at (619) 660-0614 or www.thegarden.org
June 4, 9-11am, Succulent Craft Class: Members/\$10, Non-Members/\$20. Online pre-registration and payment is required
June 5, noon, Ask the Horticulturist Tour: FREE
June 11, 10am-noon, Water Smart Edibles in your Landscape: Members/\$20 Non-Members/\$30. Online pre-registration and payment is required.
June 16, 6-8pm, Water Smart Landscape: Members/\$15 Non-Members/\$25. Online pre-registration and payment is required.
June 19, 9:30am, FREE Special Access tour on a shuttle; reservations required call (619) 660-6841.
June 25, 1-3pm-noon, Toss the Turf: Members/\$20 Non-Members/\$30. Online pre-registration and payment is required.

San Diego Botanic Garden

See page 10 for more upcoming events

Details & registration at www.sdbgarden.org or (760) 436-3036
June 4, 10am-noon, Succulent Reproduction: Guide to taking pups, cuttings, rejuvenating old plants, etc. Members \$30, non-members \$35. Register by June 1.
June 11, 1-4pm, Hemerocallis Show & Sale: Southwest Hemerocallis Society showcases their best daylilies. Free with admission or membership.

Alta Vista Gardens

See page 8 for more info.

Details & registration at www.avgardens.org or (760) 945-3954
June 21, 6-8pm, Summer Solstice Celebration: Walk the labyrinth! Info/registration contact Penny Stephens, (769) 390-3072.

Walter Andersen Nursery FREE Saturday Classes:

	<u>9:00am Point Loma Nursery:</u>	<u>9:30am Poway Nursery:</u>
June 4	Attracting Birds & Butterflies	Plant Propagation
June 11	Low Water Use Plants	Summer Vegetable Care
June 18	Children's Gardens	Summer Fruit Tree Care
June 25	Tropical Fruit Trees & Vines	Container Color for Summer

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

Evergreen Nursery FREE Seminars

June 4, 10am – All About Roses
Carmel Valley and Oceanside Nurseries (see map on page 2)
Details at www.evergreennursery.com/seminar-schedule-2011

Cedros Gardens, Saturday 10am classes:

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

Grangetto's Farm & Garden Supply FREE Workshops, etc.

June 4, 10-noon, Irrigation for your Edible Landscape
June 9, 7am-3pm, Horticulture Seminar – **SEE PAGE 5**
June 11, 10am-2pm, Any & All Things Edible in Your Landscape
June 25, 10-noon, Summer Fruit Tree Pruning
Details at www.grangettos.com; see ad on page 21.

June 2, 5:30-7:30pm, Center for Sustainable Energy Workshop: Sustainable Fruit Trees. **SEE PAGE 5**. Free. 8690 Balboa Ave., Ste 100, San Diego. Register at www.energycenter.org/forestry. For info contact Robin at (858) 244-1177 or events@energycenter.org.

June 3, noon, Vista Garden Club: Plant Portraits and installation of the new board. Bring your camera and learn how to make a plant picture a plant portrait. 1200 Vale Terrace in Vista. See vistagardenclub.org.

June 4 (10am-5pm), & 5 (10am-4pm), Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale: Open for members at 9am Saturday. Show area closes at 3pm Saturday for judging. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado Room 101. Info: sdcss.net or call (858) 382-1797.

June 9, 7:30pm, Southern Calif. Hort. Society: Carol Bornstein, Dave Fross, and Bart O'Brien on Reimagining the California Lawn. Note: The June meeting will be at the L.A. Zoo. See socalhort.org.

June 11&12, 10am-4pm, Bromeliad Society Show & Sale: Balboa Park, Casa del Prado Room 101. Info: bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html.

June 11, 4:30pm, South Bay Botanic Garden: Palms for Your Home: Room 1802, 900 Otay Lakes Rd., Chula Vista. Free parking in Lot E. Donation of \$3 is suggested. For info call Meredith at (619) 421-6700, x5371.

June 12, 12:30pm, American Begonia Society: Tour Ades Gish Nursery and plant sale. 2222 Twin Oaks Valley Road, San Marcos. For info call Michael at (760) 262-7535.

June 13, 5:45 – 7:45pm
SDHS Night at the Fair
See the display gardens without the crowds!
See page 1

June 18, 10am-3pm, Master Gardeners Plant Sale: Plants, trees, shrubs and garden items for sale. Balboa Park Casa Del Prado, Room 101. See mastergardenerssandiego.org.

June 20, 7:30pm, San Diego Rose Society: Plant pathology. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado Room 101. Info: sdrosesociety.org.

Southwestern College Classes

See ad on page 3 and swccd.edu

June 21-August 4, Horticulture Equipment, Care and Operation: Learn the proper and safe operation of the equipment used in the horticultural trades.

June 22-August 3, Pond Design, Installation, and Care: Learn how ponds can be relatively low in maintenance.

June 22-August 1, Tree and Shrub Production: Designed to take you on to the next step after plant propagation.

June 25, 8am-1pm, Dos Valles Garden Club Plant Sale: Martin Gang Ranch 28922 Cole Grade Rd. Look for signs on right side of Cole Grade Road coming from Valley Center Road. See dosvallesgardenclub.org or contact DosVallesGC@vcweb.org.

June 25, noon, Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society: Joslyn Senior Center, 724 N. Broadway, Escondido. Info: (760) 741-7553.

June 25, 4:30pm, South Bay Botanic Garden: Poisonous Plants of the Garden. Room 1802, 900 Otay Lakes Rd., Chula Vista. Free parking in Lot E. Donation of \$3 is suggested. For info call Meredith at (619) 421-6700, x5371.

Resources & Ongoing Events

ALTA VISTA BOTANIC GARDENS: Open Monday-Friday 7:00-5:00 ; 10:00-5:00 on weekends. 1270 Vale Terrace Drive, Vista. For info see avgardens.org or call (760) 945-3954.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BALBOA PARK:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

S.D. Zoo: Garden day 3rd Friday of every month from 10am. Pick up schedule at entry. Info: (619) 231-1515, ext 4306; www.sandiegozoo.org.

Garden TV and Radio Shows

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

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

- ❖Water plants arrived as I write this. Lots of Water Lilies in bud & bloom in pinks, cream, yellow, peach and blue – just gorgeous.
- ❖Also other aquatic plants – Horsetail Reed, Yellow Snowflake, Water Cress, Pink Pickerel, White Fairy Lily.
- ❖*Calandrinia spectabilis* – great rock garden plant. Grey/green succulent type leaves with a gorgeous magenta flower on a long stem. Blooms on & off thru Spring, Summer & Fall (that's the "spectabilis" part).
- ❖Euphorbia martini & Euphorbia Rudolph – fabulous lime green & chartreuse (there's that color again) flowers respectively.
- ❖Lots of Phormiums (Flax). We have more than normal varieties in the smaller 1 gallon sized – Amazing Red, Tom Thumb, Dusky Chief and Jack Spratt. Drought tolerant and low maintenance.
- ❖*Mandevilla laxa* 'Chilean Jasmine' - Very fragrant white showy flowers – should stay green all year here.
- ❖Rose Champion (*Lychnis coronaria*) – silvery foliage and bright magenta flowers. To 2.5ft tall and 1ft across, blooms spring through late summer. Don't plant beside anything red – it will clash.

Some things to keep us occupied in June:

June Bloom: Fuchsia, hydrangeas, lantana and zinnia are at the height of bloom in June. Fuchsias and hydrangeas need plenty of water. Lantana is one of the easiest full sun, drought-resistant plants to grow. Irrigate plants at ground level. Zinnias should not be sprinkled or watered overhead.

Bougainvilleas – Transplanting & Care: Choose plants with the color and growth habit you want. Choose a spot in full sun and dig a hole twice as wide and the same depth as the container. Cut out the bottom of the pot and plant to allow root spreading downwards and wait 2 years to cut out the surrounding pot to minimize transplant shock. Add some more soil to make the top of the root ball level with the ground and add organic Dr Earth all purpose fertilizer and water in.

Keep Container Plants Well Watered - During the summer plants need to be thoroughly watered not just sprinkled. Pay careful attention to plants growing in containers as their water needs are much greater than plants grown in the soil.

Citrus Care: Unlike deciduous fruit trees most citrus trees don't require yearly pruning. However you can often revitalize older citrus trees if you remove the dead branches and twigs from the interior of the tree. Keep citrus and avocados well-watered--deeply every two or three weeks--and add a three-inch-thick layer of mulch to maintain uniformly cool temperatures. Feed fruit trees approximately every three weeks during their growing season.

Plant palms, cacti, and succulents. Let the soil dry between watering and provide light shade during the hottest portion of the day for the more sensitive ones.

Prune or sheer hedges so the top is slightly narrower than the base.

Lightly prune, feed, and water roses on a weekly or bi-weekly basis to encourage them to flower continuously into the late fall.

You can use less water and still have a beautiful lawn - water early in the morning (preferably before 7 a.m). Water deeply once a week (but not more than twice a week) to promote deep rooting and reduce evaporation. Proper mowing helps grass grow deeper roots and encourages much side-branching for a thicker carpet.

Feed all plants with a balanced slow release fertilizer containing micronutrients in addition to the basic nitrogen, phosphorous, and potash/potassium (N- P-K).

Water the garden deeply every week or two depending on how consistently hot the weather has been and whether plant roots have grown deep into the soil.

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