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October Coffee in the Garden & New Member Orientation

Susan & Frank Oddo (shown here) were the gracious hosts for the October Coffee and also the New Member Orientation. They created the garden art from old metal parts and a very special container. More photos are on our Facebook page.

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• Must present printed coupon to cashier at time of purchase
• Offer does not include sod • Limit 1 coupon per household
• Coupon expires 11/30/2011 at 6 p.m.
**Next Meeting: November 14, 2011, 6:00 – 9:00 PM**

**Topic:** JON REBMAN on “San Diego Plant Atlas Project” and Horticulturist of the Year Presentation

Our November speaker, Dr. Jon P. Rebman, of the San Diego Natural History Museum, will talk about the exciting work being done to identify the plants of San Diego County and about his explorations in Mexico. Jon is the lead botanist on the San Diego Plant Atlas Project, which is improving scientific knowledge through better documentation of the flora of San Diego County. The project fosters public awareness and respect for local natural history; increases our scientific collections of regional flora; and provides essential data on the distribution, variation, and diversity of local plants. We will be honoring him as our Horticulturist of the Year (see page 7).

Dr. Rebman also heads the Museum’s project of bringing together all of the floristic data on plants of the Baja peninsula, Mexico. He is updating and rewriting the 1989 book by Norman Roberts, Baja California Plant Field Guide, and preparing a new Checklist of the Vascular Flora of Baja California, including the literature, synonymy, endemism, and English and Spanish common names of the Baja flora. Jon is active in public education on botany, teaching classes, and leading field trips, as well as participating in organizations for plant enthusiasts and professional botanists. He earned his Ph. D. in Botany from Arizona State University.

For more information visit www.sdnhm.org/research/botany/rebman.html and see pages 3 and 7.

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**San Diego Horticultural Society**

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

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

**Meeting Schedule**
5:00 – 6:00 Meeting room setup
6:00 – 6:45 Vendor sales, opportunity drawing ticket sales, lending library, plant display
6:45 – 9:00 Announcements, Hot Hort Picks, speaker, opportunity drawing

**Meetings & Events in 2011-2012**

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<td>December 12</td>
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<td>Robin Rivet on Selection and Care of Trees for So. Calif. Landscapes</td>
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<td>March 12</td>
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<td>Susan Krzywicki on Fitting California Natives into California-Style Gardens</td>
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<td>SDHS Tour – Gardens of the San Francisco Area (see page 5)</td>
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**Cover Image:** No, this isn’t a tree from a Dr. Seuss book! This bizarre form of the Boojum Tree (Fouquieria columnaris) was photographed in Baja California by our November speaker.

www.SanDiegoHorticulturalSociety.org
Important Member Information

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

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

Event Planners Needed

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

Public Relations Committee

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

Thanks So Much!

We had an exceptional information display at the Fall Home/Garden show in mid-September thanks to Jim Bishop, the folks on the Events & Outreach Committee, and volunteers during the event: Kimberly Alexander, Diane Bailey, Anne & Bill Beckett, Julie Hasl, Chris Herman, Linda Johnson, Sue Kelly-Cochrane, Neal & Hilda King, Cheryl Leedom, Sherrill Leist, Miriam Machell, Jane Morton, Anne Murphy, Sue Ann & Bill Scheck, Susi Torre-Bueno, Paula Verstraete, Darlene Villanueva and Kim Walker. A big thumbs up to Chicweed (http://chicweed.com) in Solana Beach for donating an extremely popular succulent container-planting demonstration and to Courtyard Pottery (see page 15) for loaning us some lovely ceramic pots. Big hugs to Susan & Frank Oddo for hosting a double-header on October 2nd – a morning Coffee-in-the-Garden AND an afternoon New Member Orientation. Both events were tons of fun – see photos on the inside front cover. It was so exciting to see how the Oddos have enhanced their fascinating garden with the roadster sculpture that was in our Fair exhibit this summer (they had the winning bid in our silent auction for this original piece of garden art).

On October 1st we had a vendor table during the Master Gardeners’ first Autumn in the Garden Tour & Market event. Thanks to Jim Bishop, Susan Morse and Paula Verstraete for setting up and staffing the table. Members Cindy Sparks and Lynlee Austell had their gardens featured on the tour.

Become a Sponsor!

Do you own a garden-related business? SDHS sponsorships have high recognition and valuable benefits, including a link to your website, discounts on memberships for your employees, and free admission to SDHS events. This is a wonderful way to show your support for the SDHS. Sponsors help pay for our monthly meetings, annual college scholarships, and other important programs. Sponsorships start at just $100/year; contact Jim Bishop at sponsor@sdhortsoc.org. Sponsors are listed on page 10; those with ads in the newsletter have the words SDHS Sponsor above their ads. We thank them for their extra support!
From The Board
By Jim Bishop

I am excited and honored to be the new president of the San Diego Horticultural Society and invite all of you to join me as we set off to create unique horticultural experiences.

I joined this year by a dedicated and motivated group of board and committee members. Together we are planning an ambitious lineup of speakers, events, tours and workshops that I hope you all will take advantage of, not only to increase your knowledge and gardening experience, but also to develop and network with horticultural-minded people who love to share their insights, gardens and plant knowledge.

We recently completed our eighth volunteer appreciation party. There were over 100 volunteers in attendance at the beautiful home and garden of our gracious hosts, Dannie and Craig McLaughlin. From the formal front entrance to the veranda and grotto overlooking Rancho Santa Fe, their expansive garden was an inspiration for us all. Paula Verstraete put together the event and everything came off without a hitch. Many donors provided an amazing array of door prizes and no one left empty handed. Thanks also to all the other volunteers that helped with check-in, set-up and clean-up. (See page 8 for a complete list of donors and volunteers.)

If you would like to attend next year’s volunteer appreciation party, now is the time to get involved and volunteer. Our new volunteer coordinator, Nancy Woodard, would love to hear from you about what special skills you offer. Contact her at nancy_woodard@earthlink.net or (760) 645-3323. Besides the satisfaction of contributing, volunteering is a great way to get to know other members.

Our most recent outreach event was at the Fall Home and Garden Show. We reused the columns from our exhibit at the Fair and decorated them with previous newsletters. A colorful and diverse array of labeled cuttings was displayed across the back of our 3 booths. Chicweed, on Cedros Avenue in Solana Beach, provided a display showing how to plant a succulent container, and we supplied handouts on succulent and vegetable container planting. Our membership table was surrounded by cuttings and potted succulents that were given as gifts to new members. All are now at the homes our 14 newest members. And at the September meeting, Gerald D. Stewart, also known as the Geranium Guy, signed up to become our newest life member.

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

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

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

To Learn More...
By Ava Torre-Bueno
San Diego County Plants

Plants of San Diego County are being collected into an atlas by this month’s speaker, Jon Rebman. The image above, by Dr. Rebman, is of Zeltnera venusta. See lots more fascinating plants at:
http://www.sdnhm.org/plantatlas/

The California Native Plant Society, San Diego Chapter is also a good place to start investigating our local flora:
http://www.cnpssd.org/

And to see pages and pages of terrific photos (sadly, without identification) of SD plants by local photographer Herb Knufken, go to these two sites:
http://www.pbase.com/herb1rm/flowers_in_and_around_san_diego
and

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.

SDHS membership has many advantages. The SDHS newsletter, website and our monthly email have important information about upcoming events, current sponsors that we all should support, and other San Diego and horticultural issues.

SDHS is an organization made strong through the diversity and experience of its members. I to invite all of you to attend events and become involved, help us grow and strengthen our society and ourselves.
Often called the “Indiana Jones of horticulture,” Gary Edwin Hammer (1954-2011) made a living discovering and collecting new plants from around the world. He died on August 7th after being struck by a car in Arizona. He was on his way to Mexico for another plant expedition.

Hammer grew up surrounded by plant lovers. His grandfather owned an African violet nursery in Lake View Terrace, CA and his uncle also owned a nursery. After earning a bachelor's degree in horticulture from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 1976, he briefly had a job installing commercial landscapes. Soon thereafter, he opened a small retail business called Glendale Paradise Nursery. Here, he sold unusual cactus, succulents, palms, and perennials. However, he was never satisfied because, even after scouring the nurseries for oddball plants, he found that there weren't enough unusual plants out there. Thus began his lifelong adventures with the search for new and interesting plants. In the 1980s, he opened the Desert to Jungle Nursery, which was followed by his World Wide Exotics nursery in 1991.

For over 35 years, Hammer introduced scores of rare and unusual plants to the local landscape palette from countries around the world. Hammer and his father began the search for unknown plants in Baja California in the 1970s. However, they found Baja to be so well explored that there weren't many plants that had remained undiscovered. Hammer then turned his attention to mainland Mexico, which had a wealth of undocumented plants.

Since then, he traveled all over the world searching for new species of plants. His two favorite countries to explore for new plant material were Mexico and South Africa because of the diversity of plant material that they offered.

Hammer helped change the look of Southern California's gardens by emphasizing plants that were appropriate for the region. These included cacti and other desert-loving plants, as well as shade-loving subtropicals and herbaceous perennials. With his help, local gardeners started becoming exposed to more drought-tolerant plants from regions such as Australia, South Africa, and Mexico.

A very popular plant that Hammer introduced in the 1980s was Euphorbia tirucalli ‘Sticks on Fire’. He had brought two snippets home from an expedition to the Transvaal region of South Africa, where he found the plant being used by the farmers for hedges. According to Michael Buckner of The Plant Man Nursery in San Diego, all Sticks on Fire plants in California originate from these two pieces that were propagated asexually. Hammer could have made a fortune patenting this plant, but instead he chose to disseminate it the fastest way he could – but by the same token it can spread very aggressively. The clone ‘Purple Haze’ is a particularly showy variety of aster with deep purple flowers.

When you wish upon a star – think of an aster. Indeed, the English word “aster” is derived from the Latin astrum, meaning star.

Right now there is a little star that is blooming in my sun-soaked, poor-soiled, un-pruned, relaxed front yard. It is an Aster chilensis, informally known as a coast aster: Though my land is not on the coast, the little aster doesn’t seem to care because it’s doing great. It’s a perennial, about a foot tall and several feet wide. Unlike a lot of my other natives, it blooms its head off in late summer and early fall, when many other natives have shut down for the season.

Now if you are only interested in engorged SUV-sized, splashty, boisterously large daisies, that’s fine; but that’s not what we have here. What we have here are little one-inch lavender daisy-like flowers that Jiminy Cricket would be proud of. Though they are small, the petite posies catch the eye and invite a closer glimpse.

Drawing nearer, you might spot beneficial insects such as ladybugs, hoverflies, and bees. And, butterflies! In my yard right now the coast aster plant is supporting loads of marine blues (the butterflies, not the Semper Fi folks). Websites like www.vlasplitas.com have great photos of coast asters with monarchs and painted ladies perched on top.

Which brings us to the question: Just what in the daisy attracts butterflies and others? It helps to know that each daisy is kind of a corporation (oh no) composed of separate ray flowers (the petals) and disk flowers (the center). Submerged in the flower head are the nectaries that hold (take a guess) nectar.

Are you still awake?

I'm not going to dwell on the fact that, once again, our friends the taxonomists are putting their nomenclatory propositions where they don't belong. The new botanical name of Aster chilensis is Symphyotrichum chilense. Oh goody. How easy it will be to spell, and pronounce – maybe I'll just keep calling it coast aster.

Now, on to three things that make more sense.

(1) Variability. In the case of coast aster, its height can vary between half a foot to three feet. Some plants will grow upright while others may sprawl somewhat. The cultivar ‘Point St. George’ is a 6-inch low growing mat of green that could be used in a meadow garden to replace a lawn. It is unbelievably durable – it is said you can walk on it – but by the same token it can spread very aggressively. The clone ‘Purple Haze’ is a particularly showy variety of aster with deep purple flowers.

(2) Easibility. By this, I mean you can relax. You don't have to fertilize it. You don't have to water it much (too much water can make it spread, so if you want it to stay small, keep it on the dry side). You don't need to remove the seed heads; leaving them on will make the birds happy.

(3) Adaptability. Makes no difference where you are – coast aster can grow in both sandy and clay soils. It accepts part shade. The cut flowers look good in a vase, too.

In short (which it is), want to provide a welcome mat for Jiminy Cricket and friends, plus add an easy-care, naturally attractive plant to your garden? Let your conscience be your guide, and plant a coast aster.

Member Pat Pawlowski is a writer/lecturer/garden consultant who likes to chase butterflies...XP
Queen palms (*Syagrus romanzoffianum*) are not trees in the technical sense of the word. However, we do use them like we use trees. Betrock’s *Landscape Palms* states that a typical healthy specimen should have about 15 mature deep green fronds about 10 to 15 feet in length.

You don’t have to look very far or for very long to see queen palms that don’t even come close to these specifications. You do see palms with stunted fronds and yellowing older fronds. I see them everywhere around San Diego, often in otherwise well maintained gardens.

Frequently, a homeowner or gardener will cut off the yellow fronds, which only makes the problem worse. First, the palm evolved to support an optimum number of fronds as part of its survival strategy. Fronds have an engineering function and higher fronds receive structural support from lower fronds. I am sure you have seen perfectly green queen palm fronds break and double over. This is often due to the removal of fronds below them. Those lower fronds also serve to dampen winds.

The second reason removing yellow fronds works against us has to do with fertility. Nutrient deficiencies are expressed in the fronds in two basic ways. Macronutrient deficiency can be seen in the oldest fronds. Micronutrient deficiency can be seen in the newest fronds.

To create new tissue that will become fronds certain nutrients are needed. When these are not available to the palm through its root system the palm will take nutrients from older fronds, which turns them yellow. Once those nutrients have been removed form the older fronds you can’t put them back. The palm will continue to extract the nutrient until its needs are met. This is why you see varying degrees of yellow fronds as well as varying frond lengths. In severe cases only the newest emerging fronds will be green. When one of those yellow fronds is removed before all nutrients are met, the palm starts extracting from the next frond or even the next row of fronds. So the situation just keeps going and getting worse.

There is a way to prevent this from happening. The palms will do well if they are properly fertilized. There are several fertilizer developed specifically for palms. Each has application instructions on the bag.

I used to care for a few hundred specimen palms. I would fertilize them four times a year at or slightly above the manufacturer’s recommended rate at every change of seasons (making it easy to remember).

So… queen palm fronds serve several functions, including structural and wind damping and as a nutrient backup. Leaving fronds on as long as possible benefits the palm. A regular fertilization program will go a long way in preventing them from prematurely yellowing.

Check out www.flickr.com/treemanagers for some photographs of queen palms.


Member Tim Clancy is an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist #WE-0806A. Tim welcomes comments and questions and can be reached at treemanagers@gmail.com.

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### SDHS Garden Tour

#### Gardens of the Bay Area

**May 17-20, 2012**

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

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

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

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Book Review
Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh

The Collector: David Douglas and the Natural History of the Northwest
By Jack Nisbet

When you find a new plant in a nursery, you probably don’t think about the effort involved in bringing that plant into the trade. In general, plants come to us in two ways. They’re bred directly from plants that have been collected or they’re hybridized from those plants. Even today, plant collectors travel the world looking for something new. They are part of a long tradition of naturalists who have risked their health and their lives to expand our knowledge of the world.

David Douglas was one of those naturalists. Born in 1799 in Scotland, Douglas became interested in nature as a child. When he was twenty-one, he met Professor William Jackson Hooker, a professor of botany in Glasgow. Hooker mentored Douglas and arranged for him to start a career as a collector first in the American Pacific Northwest and later in Hawaii.

None of this rings a bell with you yet? Have you heard of the Douglas Fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii)? It was named for David Douglas.

The life of a collector was not easy. In 1824, he took eight months to go by sea from England around the tip of South America to the mouth of the Columbia River. On the way, he stopped at the Galapagos Islands, ten years before Darwin. Douglas collected there and wrote glowingly of the flora and fauna.

In the Oregon Country, as it was called then, the Hudson’s Bay Company sponsored his work. England and the United States both claimed the area and both wanted as much of a presence there as possible. Lewis and Clark visited the area in 1805. Part of the purpose of their expedition was to promote America’s claim. This competition may explain the British company’s seemingly altruistic sponsorship of Douglas.

He was a careful and systematic scientist. He accomplished much. But try to imagine the barriers to research. There are many examples I could quote to give you an idea of what he faced. One of them: Nisbit writes of Douglas and two others reaching a stream too swollen with water to allow them to ride their horses across. The men decide to swim. “Floating on his back, Douglas hefted musket and paper [blotting paper used for drying specimens] over his head and frog-kicked across as a sudden halstorn pelted the river. He made a second trip with his blanket and extra clothes while the Finlay boys ferried the saddles on their heads” (p. 82).

Douglas collected thousands of plants that had never been cataloged before. Many of the plants we currently grow were first identified by him.

Nisbit’s well-researched and well-written biography, The Collector (ISBN 978-1-57061-667-9), has won several awards. It’s available at your local bookstore in paperback (290 pages) for $16.95 or from Sasquatch Books www.sasquatchbooks.com. I’ve recommended Sasquatch to you before. They have a varied and interesting catalog.

If you enjoy this type of book, you might also enjoy Winter Brother: A Season at the Edge of America by Ivan Doig. It’s not a garden/plant book, but it is about exploration of the same area. Doig is one of my favorite authors.

Note to my readers: I’ve spent nine years recommending books on gardening and plants to you. I’d love to know if you have any to recommend to me. If so, send them to me at carobil1@netzero.com.

Community Outreach
By Linda Johnson

Need Gardening Help?
Lots of Horticultural Resources Are Available!

Linda Johnson has done an outstanding job writing this column for the last three years, and now she’s going to be volunteering for something else. We’re looking for someone to take over writing this column starting in December. Please contact Susi Torre-Bueno at 760-295-2173 if you’d like to learn more.

Take advantage of the wealth of horticultural resources in San Diego County...from colleges, from libraries, or from the Hort...whether you are a novice, a professional, a student, or just curious, there is something for everyone.

California Center for Sustainable Energy
The California Center for Sustainable Energy (CCSE) is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating change for a clean energy future. The center offers free workshops, access to incentive programs, special events, and technical assistance. Located in Kearny Mesa, CCSE also provides a reference library that includes a wide range of sustainability topics, including gardening and landscaping. Books, DVDs and periodicals cover a broad range of information on sustainability topics, appealing to professionals in the industry, laypersons who want to learn the basics, educators seeking to create awareness with their students and a section designed just for children and young adults. For more information, visit www.energycenter.org/library.

City Libraries
Resources include a collection of more than 100 journals focused on key issues in gardening, landscaping, and other areas of horticulture, with the addition of over twenty subject specific reference sources. Providing information for gardening enthusiasts and professionals alike, a comprehensive horticultural database is available as an easy way to find materials, with articles updated daily. Visit www.sandiego.gov/public-library for access to database and for locations of specific resources.

College and University Libraries (a few examples)
Cal State San Marcos: http://biblio.csusm.edu/
Miramar College: http://libcat.sdc.edu/
SDSU: http://infodome.sdsu.edu/index.shtml
Southwestern Community College: http://www.swccd.edu/~library/
UCSD: http://roger.ucsd.edu/search
USD: http://sally.sandiego.edu/

County Libraries
Visit www.sdcl.org and try the Encore Catalog Search. Among the hundreds of titles are these new (2011) books: The Conscientious Gardener: Cultivating a Garden Ethic, by Sarah Hayden Reichard; First Garden: The White House Garden and How it Grew, by Robbin Gourley; and The Vegetable Gardeners Container Bible: How to Grow a Bounty of Food in Pots, Tubs, and Other Containers, by Edward C. Smith.
The Plants of Baja California and Floristic Research

The Baja California peninsula is a narrow strip of land stretching approximately 800 miles long and ranging from 28 miles to 149 miles wide. Its geographic position, latitudinal span, and topographic heterogeneity have conferred a diverse assemblage of weather regimes including a Mediterranean-type, winter rainfall climate; extreme arid, hot desert conditions; and tropical, summer rainfall patterns. In addition, the region’s biogeographic history and physiognomy have resulted in a wide range of vegetation types that include coastal sage scrub, chaparral, oak woodland, conifer forest, many desert scrub types, and tropical deciduous forest. The peninsula is also characterized by the presence of several islands varying in distance (<0.6 miles to 149 miles) from its coast, which are located in the Gulf of California (Sea of Cortés) and the Pacific Ocean.

This piece of land and its adjacent islands support a wealth of species diversity in many different plant families. It is estimated that the flora consists of more than 4,000 plant taxa with approximately 30% of these known only from (endemic to) the Baja California region. Many of the plants from the peninsula and its islands are unique and stretch the imagination in respect to plant form and structure—including the bizarre Boojum Tree/Cirio (*Fouquieria columnaris*), the giant Elephant Cactus/Cardón (*Pachycereus pringlei*), and elephant trees (*Pachycormus discolor* and *Bursera* spp.).

Unfortunately, the rich diversity of plants that comprise the Baja California flora faces many threats such as habitat loss and degradation to pressure from competition with invasive plant species, fire, plant disease, drought, and pests. Some parts of the region such as the northwestern, coastal portion of the peninsula are experiencing extremely rapid urban development and habitat loss is reaching a critical level. Due to a lack of botanical study and inaccessible...
Dannie & Craig McLaughlin were the gracious hosts for our annual Volunteer Appreciation Party in late September, and we owe them a BIG round of applause. Over 100 people attended and it was a marvelous afternoon. The garden looked great (due to Dannie's thoughtful vision and passion for details), and who could resist casting an admiring eye at Craig's beautiful classic cars? Members commented on all the shady seating areas, the many re-circulating water features (did you see the grotto?!?!!!), and the handsome foliage combinations – and all in a mostly low-water garden on a steeply sloping lot. Photos of the event are on our Facebook page.

We want to express our gratitude to outgoing Volunteer Coordinator Paula Verstraete, who coordinated the event and arranged for the terrific food. Cathy Tylka did an outstanding job getting 200 gifts lined up so that everyone got at least 2 door prizes! We appreciate the other volunteers who made the day so special: Jim Bishop, Scott Borden, Bette & Will Childs, Jane Morton, Evey Torre-Bueno, Nancy Woodard and Melissa Worton.

Thanks to these generous donors for wonderful door prizes: Barrels and Branches, California Mycorrhiza, Bette Childs, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Kellogg Garden Products, Mo Price, Renee's Garden Seeds, San Diego Botanic Garden, San Diego Horticultural Society, The Wishing Tree Company, Cathy Tylka and Nancy Woodard.

Our hosts, Dannie and Craig McLaughlin, with their Singer classic car.

Barbara Raub

Member Linda Bresler is a certified landscape designer living in Poway. She specializes in drought-tolerant, low maintenance designs that provide four-season beauty.

Jim Bishop is a Garden Designer and President of San Diego Horticultural Society.
Storm Water Pollution Prevention Exhibit

The Water Conservation Garden, in partnership with the San Diego County Watershed Protection Program, opened a new exhibit recently that highlights storm water pollution prevention. You’re invited to view the exhibit any time during normal operating hours – 9am-4pm, 7 days a week. The exhibit features a permeable pavement installation with a re-circulating fountain, situated alongside a straw bale house with a green, living roof.

Permeable pavement allows water to flow through surface material to the soil below, preventing water from flowing into storm drains. Our extensively paved surfaces – roads, sidewalks, and other impermeable surfaces – contribute to toxic urban runoff, as water has nowhere to go but into storm drains, carrying pollutants from paved surfaces with it. Urban runoff has a negative impact on sea life, ocean habitat, tourism, and recreational use of beaches.

“We are fortunate to partner with the County’s Watershed Protection Program to bring awareness to the public about how they can help to protect our watersheds and prevent storm water pollution,” said Marty Eberhardt, The Garden’s Executive Director. “…we have… expanded our workshop curriculum to include information on green roofs and permeable pavement that will assist homeowners in incorporating these sustainable alternatives into their homes. From our perspective, the first step is to use only the water you need, and the second is to prevent pollution with the water you do use.”

The Garden will feature a permeable pavement seminar at its Fall Garden and Home Festival on November 5. Check the event’s website, www.gardenandhomefest.org for details. The Garden is dedicated to promoting water conservation; visit www.thegarden.org or call 619-660-0614x10.

Pacific Horticulture Spring Tours

The San Diego Horticultural Society is proud to be a sponsor of Pacific Horticulture Society, which kicks off their 2012 spring tour season with Gardens & Historic Houses of Savannah & Charleston, March 25-April 1. The itinerary includes fine southern cuisine, walking tours, and private garden visits. Scott Borden is the tour leader; SDHS president Jim Bishop is rumored to be on the tour member list.

In April, Katherine Greenberg leads Mallorca & Menorca: Gardens, Art and Cuisine. The phenomenal itinerary includes visits to top private gardens, country estates, art galleries and more. A local guide provides insight into the history and culture of these fascinating Spanish islands.

Noted garden photographer Allan Mandell hosts Kyoto: More than Gardens in May. Guests stay in a traditional Japanese ryokan and spend their days visiting rustic Shinto shrines, serene temple gardens and a pottery village – even a lesson with an ikebana master. Azalea, wisteria and iris will be in bloom, and the Aoi Festival takes place during the tour.

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

For more information, contact Sterling Tours 800-976-9497 or visit www.sterlingtoursltd.com.

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

Position Title: Flower and Garden Show Assistant Coordinator

Job Description: Seasonal part time position assisting Flower and Garden Show Coordinator with all activities required for the San Diego County Fair Flower and Garden Show. Specific emphasis will be on coordinating the landscapes and garden displays with a preference for multi-year availability.

Pay Rate: Salaried Position, $10,000

Skill Requirements: Background and/or education in Horticulture. Experience exhibiting large landscape and garden displays. Ability to speak and present to small groups. Ability to solicit display participation from Landscape and Garden companies. Ability to direct labor crews in display preparation, setup and teardown, and removal. Bilingual (English and Spanish) a plus. Basic computer skills, Word and Excel, drafting letters and maintaining contact lists.

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

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

Bunny Amendola
Kathleen Anderson
Paul Bailey
Sherry & Wayne Bommer
Lori Browne
Tina Chatroo
Donna Dahms & Jamie Landers
Carol Ann Dentz
Bryan Diaz
Laura Elliott & Atiya Henry
Edmond Fitzgerald
Ginny & Maddy Fogelberg

We welcome California BeeWorks as our newest sponsor – see their ad on page 16.

Hort Bucks are GREAT!

Kudos to those members whose friends joined in 2011; they earned Hort Bucks worth $5 towards Opportunity Drawing tickets, name-tags, Plant Forum CDs or dues. Get your Hort Bucks by asking your friends to give your name when they join.

Kimberly Alexander (1)
Ann Beckett (1)
Bill Beckett (1)
Joyce Berry (1)
Jim Bishop (2)
Scott Borden (1)
Alixson Breathed (1)
Linda Bresler (1)
California Mycorrhiza (2)
Linda Brezler (1)
California Mycorrhiza (2)
Zephyr Carlyle (1)
Sharon Comigan (1)
Pat Crowl (1)
Cuyamaca College (1)
Chris Drayer (1)
Kathy Esty (2)
Margaret Grasela (3)
Devon Halls (1)
Jude Hall (1)
Joan Hochsclowitz (1)
Eva Heuser (1)
Pat & Willey Humphrey (1)
Linda Johnson (1)
Pat Kamilowsky (1)
Barbara Komur (1)
Amelia Lima (1)
Cathy McCaw (1)
Elle Milton (1)
Jane Morton (1)
Annie Murphy (2)
Susan & Frank Oddo (1)
Paige Perkins (2)
Una Preece (1)
Barbara Raub (5)
Sue Ann Scheck (2)
Jackie & Randy Schwartz (1)
S.D. Farm Assn. (1)
Sam Seat (1)
Linda Shaw (2)
Pam Skirgauus (1)
Bobbi Stephenson (1)
Sue Toensioettler (2)
Susi Torre-Bueno (2)
Darlene Villanueva (1)
Pat White (1)

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(names in bold have ads)

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City Farmers Nursery
Coastal Sage
Gardening
Cumbline Landscape
Courtyard Pottery

Life Members

*horticulturist of the Year

Chuck Adams* (2008)
Walter Andersen* (2002)
Norm Applebaum & Barbara Roher
Bruce & Sharon Asakawa* (2010)
Gladys T. Baird
Debra Lee Baldwin
Steve Brigham* (2009)

Laurie Cannible
Julian & Leslie Duval
Edgar Engert* (2000)
Jim Farley
Sue & Charles Fouquette
Penelope Hlavac
Debbie & Richard Johnson
Lois Kine

Jane Minihal* (2006)
Bill Nelson* (2007)
Tina & Andy Rathbone
Jon Rebmam* (2011)
Peggy Ruiz
San Diego Home/ Gardens Lifestyle
Gerald D Stewart

Sus & Jose Torre-Bueno
Don Walker* (2005)
Dorothy Walker
Lucy Warren
Evelyn Welder* (2001)
Pat Welsh* (2003)
Betty Wheeler

Contributing Members

Philip Tackl & Janet Wanerka
René van Rens

Discounts For Members

Get a 15% discount at Briggs Tree Co. (see page 11; tell them to look up the “San Diego Hort Society Member” account).

Get a 10% discount at San Diego Botanic Garden on Family/Dual or Individual memberships. Just state you are a current member of SDHS on your membership form. It cannot be done online, so mail it in or bring it to the Garden. Info: pisle@SDBGarden.org.

NEW ADVERTISERS:
California BeeWorks (previous issue)

What’s Up at San Diego Botanic Garden

What’s a Bromeliad? These plants are all seen over Southern California, including here in the Garden. We asked local bromeliad expert Andy Siekkinen to help with this question. Bromeliads range from the common pineapple to the small graceful Spanish moss and the spiny, succulent, and agave/aloé-like Hechtias and Dyckias. There are so many different and interesting plants in the Bromeliad family because they are so adaptable to area climates.

Most bromeliads are low-water beauties. Tillandsias (air plants) absorb water through their leaves. Many that do well here also grow in deserts; some even grow on cacti. Bromeliads like Neoregelias, Aechmeas, Billbergias, and Vrieseas have overlapping leaves that form a “cup” to collect and store water. Even in the heat of summer in the inland valleys of San Diego, most bromeliads can thrive with just a weekly watering.

Much of the charm of bromeliads can be enjoyed year-round, not just when they are in bloom. Some plants have leaves that have brilliant colors or patterns, some have an interesting shape or texture. Bromeliads can be grown in unique or unusual places: mounted on trees, hanging in baskets, or even hung by a string. Some even grow in the ground. Many are tough and reliable garden plants. With minimal care, bromeliads will reward you with great color or form and also provide offsets (“pups”) for additional plants. With a good sample of bromeliads in your garden you will have something blooming during every season of the year.

Visit the Garden November 12 and 13 from 9am – 5pm for our 1st Annual Bromeliad Bash! Enjoy presentations, demonstrations, plant sales and book sales all weekend long. Art for sale includes 37 rare original 19th century botanical color illustrations of bromeliads and orchids from the collection of Jack Kramer, prolific author and collector. One featured book will be Kramer’s newly released Bromeliads For Home and Garden. This event is proudly sponsored by the San Diego Bromeliad Society and SDBG; entry is included with general admission to the Garden.

10 Let’s Talk Plants! November 2011, No. 206
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San Diego Horticultural Society

**Horticulturist of the Year** Continued from page 7

documentation (specimens of populations not yet databased or generally known, or the lack of collections of invasive plant species) we are not able to accurately assess many of these threats. Adding to the problem, the published *Flora of Baja California* is more than 30 years old, lacks at least 800 plant taxa, and provides only limited distribution information.

As a result of these combined factors, there is an urgent need to increase our knowledge of the botanical resources in Baja California. Regional scientists, land managers, and conservation-oriented organizations currently have limited scientific data on the local flora, along with mounting responsibilities for preservation and informed decision-making that will affect the future of the region’s biodiversity.

Current collections-based curatorial and research projects being conducted by the SDNHM under the guidance of Jon Rebman, such as the Baja California vascular plant checklist project, data entry and georeferencing of specimens deposited in the SD Herbarium, and the digitization of plant photographic slides and prints in the Museum's botanical archives, are providing many online resources for the public, conservation, and scientific communities. To date, more than 4200 specimen vouchers (one of each taxon to be used as a visual resource for identification in a virtual herbarium) that document the diversity of the flora of Baja California (BC) and Baja California Sur (BCS) have been scanned; approximately 24,000 digitized plant and landscape photographs primarily from the Baja California region, and many other web-based botanical resources are available online at www.bajaflora.org. These ongoing projects along with the increased accessibility to the SD Herbarium specimen data (approximately 43,000 records from the Baja California region in electronic format) and the development of the Baja California Botanical Consortium (BCBC), which is a combined dataset that contains 72,000 specimen records from five regional herbaria in CA, BC, and BCS, will provide an indispensable tool for mapping, conserving, and better understanding diversity and distribution trends of the flora of Baja California. These botanical resources will help to produce the most comprehensive, scientifically sound, information possible on the plants of Baja California.

Dr. Rebman has been conducting botanical research and publishing new plant species in Baja California for more than 20 years. New plant species that Rebman has previously described for science include: *Ambrosia humi*, *Grusonia robertsi*, *Amyris carterae*, *Cylindropuntia delgadilloana*, *Cylindropuntia sanfelipensis*, and *Cylindropuntia lindsayi*. Rebman’s publications on the flora of Baja California are listed on our website.

**Plant Systematics/Taxonomic Research**

Naming and describing new species for science is an essential part of understanding our biodiversity and conserving it for the future. As a result of many years of extensive field work, plant collecting, plus lab and herbarium research on the flora of southern California and Baja California, Dr. Rebman has discovered approximately 15 new plants from our region that still need to be formally described in order to be recognized by the scientific and conservation communities. Some of these new plant species already have ample collections available in order to describe them right now, and require only the time to study and write them up in a publication and have a botanical illustration drawn, but others will require return visits to the region where they grow in order to obtain better specimen samples and an increased understanding of their local environment and associations.

In the next few years, one of Rebman’s scientific goals will be to formally describe and publish many of these new plant species.
for science. By publishing these new plants the scientific community will become aware of them and this will lead to a better overall understanding of the taxonomy, diversity, and biogeography of plants in our region. Most of these plants are also very rare and by formally publishing them the conservation community will also become aware of their presence and this may help to protect and manage biological resources in our region. All of these newly described plants will add to the impressive diversity and endemism of the flora of southern California and Baja California.

Continued taxonomic investigation on cacti will soon yield the publication of Rebman’s doctoral and post-doctoral research on the chollas (Cylindropuntia spp.) of Baja California. The methods used in this biosystematic work include: chromosome studies, pollen stainability, scanning electron microscopy of pollen, seed surfaces, and certain vegetative structures, field and herbarium analyses of morphology, and biogeographical data mapping. This study represents the first comprehensive monograph of this cactus group in Baja California. The Baja California peninsula and its adjacent Pacific and Gulf islands are found to contain 27 cholla taxa, making it the area of highest taxonomic diversity of the genus Cylindropuntia. Of these taxa, 17 or 63% are endemic to the region. This systematic treatment recognizes four new taxa (Cylindropuntia alcahes var. gigantensis, C. alcahes var. mcgillii, C. cedrosensis, and C. ganderi var. catavinensis) and three previously described species by the author (C. delgadilloana, C. lindsayi, and C. sanfelipensis); six new nomenclatural recombinations; and 12 new nomenclatural types.

Baja California has 18 cholla species, of which nine are endemic. This high diversity of chollas most likely reflects the influence of past geological events and habitat diversity as well as past and present floristic associations. Chromosome studies of the chollas in Baja California indicate that most taxa (67%) are diploid, but some occasionally have putative autoploid individuals. If these autoploid taxa are considered, then up to 52% of the taxa have all or some members with polyploid counts. The range of euploidy varies from 2x to 8x (x = 11), with the octoploids reported as the highest polyloid level determined for the genus Cylindropuntia. Chromosome counts for 12 taxa in the region are reported for the first time. Hybridization is a common occurrence in the Cactaceae, especially in the subfamily Opuntioideae. The chollas of Baja California are no exception with naturally occurring putative interspecific hybrids arising from such parents as C. alcahes, C. bigelovii, C. californica, C. cholla, C. ganderi, C. molesta, C. prolifera, and C. tesco. The publication of this taxonomic research will be an important step towards better understanding the amazing diversity and evolution of cacti in Baja California.

For the entire article about Dr. Rebman, including a list of the literature cited in this article, go to the Plants page on our website: www.sdhortsoc.org/plant_gallery.htm. 
The question for this month was:
The economy stinks, budgets are tight… but we still want to garden. What is the BEST thing you purchased for $25 (or less) for your garden?

Cindi Allen said, “I hesitate to mention this because the place where I buy this is in Lake Forest which is a long drive for people in San Diego County, but there is a place called Serrano Creek where horses are boarded. The smart owner of this establishment decided to take the waste from the horses and create compost. He charges $2.00/bag for this dark brown, odorless, rich compost. For $25.00, I can get 12 bags of this magnificent organic food for my garden. Maybe someone down that way who boards horses has figured this out, too. If you want more information about Serrano Creek, I’ll be happy to send it your way.”

Emma Almendarez got a great thing for FREE: “Mulch is the best thing I purchased for $25 or less for my garden. Free to me as a resident of Oceanside if I load it myself at El Corazon green waste facility”

Walter Andersen had several fine suggestions: “Planting veggies can be a great investment that will pay dividends in a short time. Lots of cool weather veggies are available now; they grow fast and can be very rewarding in the tummy and the wallet. Planting from seed you can get even more!!! Most people still plant the small starts in six-packs; it is kind of instant gratification and they are ready to harvest a few weeks sooner. To brighten areas around your home it is difficult to beat annual color, and six-packs of bedding plants can work magic.”

Lisa Bellora wrote: “I mulched this year with Agri Service perennial mulch. I had absolutely NO WEEDS where I mulched. I think it was about $12 a yard and I got 1 1/2-2 yards. I love that stuff!!!! So I got to spend time pruning and such instead of weeding.”

David Bittar didn’t purchase his best thing: “The sun! It was FREE!”

Vivian Blackstone got a bargain: “I bought a 25’ coil hose for the garden with a spray nozzle at a sale for $5. It’s terrific.”

Linda Bresler also got a great bargain: “Over the summer I purchased some opportunity drawing tickets at a SDHS meeting, and was lucky enough to win several plants which were worth much more than the cost of the tickets.”

Denise Carriere likes a handy product: “Nitrile gloves – they are soft, flexible and durable. It is the next best thing to feeling the dirt.”

Aenne Carver put a great bargain outdoors: “I bought a vintage chandelier on ebay for $25, including shipping. The low price had me worried about its overall condition, but it worked perfectly. The only issue was a few crystals were missing and that was a simple fix. My husband put a plastic plate/thing-a-ma-jig over the top to seal and protect it from water and then we hung the fixture under the wooden
pergola. By the way, my husband rents out cheaply for such projects, if you let his band practice in your garage weekly. The chandelier has two oblong, textured globes, dangling from chains at different levels. This is a cheap way to add charm and elegance to outdoor dining. An unexpected bonus, the globes are visible from my kitchen window, so I turn them on low and watch the goldfish in the fountain as I do the dishes. Now, if I could just get my husband’s band to play quietly...”

Ralph Evans purchased a water-saving device: “A Gilmore 9200 automatic shutoff meter (purchased at Grangetto’s for under $20) – this is a manual dial garden hose timer. No batteries, and I always forget to turn off the water, for those spot waterings.” [Grangetto’s offers members a discount – see page 21.]

Linda Fiske beautified and fed her garden: “My best buy was a BIG scoop of Certified Organic Compost from the dump for $1.2. This allowed me to dress all of my garden beds. Plus I had enough to increase my own compost.”

Barb French-Lee is making her own great garden food: “The best thing I’ve recently purchased for my garden is two plastic containers, a block of coir and worms donated to me to start a worm bin ($13). Oh what wonderful worm tea and compost to give my plants a nutritional boost.”

Devonna Hall recommended two books: “I love garden books and I just purchased Garden Up: Smart Vertical Gardening for Small and Large Spaces, by Susan Morrison and Rebecca Sweet. It has great pictures that inspire and wonderful ideas to resolve some of the challenges of vertical gardening. I also love Nancy Goslee Power’s book, Power of Gardens – heaven!”

Jennifer Harris wrote that she got: “a set of various size tweezers.... very large to smallish, purchased at the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society convention earlier this year for less than $15. I purchased them to enable me to clean between cactus stickers and succulent leaves, but also find them extremely helpful when it comes to reaching into a webby area, bending down to clean Geraniums, or reaching up into a Star Pine to pull out dry needles.”

Susan Hirsch appreciates “Succulents! They are bulletproof, look good with other types of plants, reproduce themselves and can be traded for other succulents!”

Sylvia Keating told us, “The very best thing I’ve EVER bought for my garden is a mattock tool. Cost is about $20, when you can find them. They are hard to find. Mia at Cedros Gardens nursery has them now and I got one as a gift for my sister. I noticed one of the gardeners at Balboa Park using one, too, this past spring, and I stopped to chat with him about the huge number of delphiniums that were in the park and the tool he was using. Found out that there were so many delphiniums at Balboa Park this spring because they were over-ordered by mistake and the park had lots of them, so they were putting them in everywhere. The point, however, is that he agreed the mattock tool is now just about the only tool he uses, too. He loves it.” [Members get a discount at Cedros Gardens – see page 17.]

John Keeler likes a tiny organism: “Of course my reply is biased… one pound of Symbivit Mycorrhiza ($20.00).” [John’s company, California Mycorrhiza, is one of our sponsors: http://www.californiamycorrhiza.com/]

Amelia Lima is crazy about: “Tillandsias!!! They are fabulous plants, easy, decorative, and very architectural!”
Carol McCollum had a “green” reply: “I love solar powered lights... they light up at night in my patio!! One of my favorites is the spotlight on my fountain.”

Jim Mumford suggested something you can get for free: “Mulch and compost from the dump!!”

Anita Noone likes something you can make on your own: “Mulch, mulch, and more mulch. I ask tree-trimmers, horse owners, and people who use hay bales for display. I’d love to know how many tons of mulch I’ve gotten for free over the years. It’s amazing what people will give you if you ask.”

Tamma Nugent wrote, “Seeds, of course!”

Stella Ramos just hit the jackpot: “Yesterday, while browsing in a thrift store in Laguna Beach, I found a package of 20 plant identifier stakes for $2.99! Now when I plant some bulbs I won’t forget where I put them!”

Kay Rideout emailed to say: “I love the product Sluggo for controlling slugs and snails. Easy to use and safe around animals.”

Reg Ryan said, “For fall, the very best thing to own is a leaf shovel. It is lightweight, and you can scoop up a lot of leaves (or other debris) quickly. Mine went missing for a while, and I was lost without it.”

Anne Saxe got “a couple of late bargains...first, at my local home improvement store early on a Sunday morning after a busy Saturday, I found broken bags of top of the line name brand soils and soil conditioners grouped together in a shopping cart offered for under $10 for the whole cart! Of course there may be things you don’t want/can’t use but you can save them or share with a neighbor: My best bargain though... a neighbor recently replaced her concrete driveway and walkways and had her old surfaces jack-hammered ready for pickup and disposal... 5 or 6 wheelbarrows full of random-sized 4-5-inch thick pieces provided me with a neat, short stretch of 2-3 foot high retaining wall... total cost: $0! So... keep your eyes open in your neighborhood and at your local stores for things you can use in your own garden.”

Tammy Schwab repurposed an interesting item: “I was thrift store shopping with some friends when I spotted an old metal card rack that I purchased for $15.00. I had a vision and turned it into a succulent tower; it stands about 6’ tall. The whole thing is planted and it looks marvelous!”

Sue Ann Scheck got a great bargain: “My best deal was a marvelous Talavara pot from Homegoods!”

Stephanie Shigematsu is another lover of: “Seeds! It can be rewarding and dirt cheap to grow plants from seeds. It’s also a great way to inspire young gardeners. Save seeds for next spring from your last crop of favorite tomatoes or try some new lettuce seeds soon for fresh at hand winter salad. And you can’t beat get-it-yourself free mulch or compost from the Miramar landfill. The strong odor may be off-putting to some, but it dissipates in a couple of days. They thoroughly compost all the city curbside green waste and occasionally food waste from local restaurants to help enrich our native soils.”

Jim Strelluti shared this tip: “I shop for garden tools at garage sales and swap meets. Older tools are of very good quality compared to today’s tools, especially tools with blades. Prices vary. The bottom line is: the tools are inexpensive and gently used. A high quality sawing blade is hard to come by today.”
Barbara Strona replied: “Joining Mission Hills Garden Club in April, 1999!”

Sharon Swildens got some new plants: “The best thing I have purchased recently are two gigantic yellow mum plants for $10.00 each at Home Depot. I put them in my large pots by the pool and they give lots of color during this rather dull fall time. They have been in full bloom for two weeks and I should be able to have them for the rest of the month now that the weather has turned cooler.”

Katrin Utt told us: “The best thing I do for my plants is buying alfalfa hay cubes at the local feed store. It comes in 50-pound bags and is less than $25, and each one lasts me about a year. I soak a small amount in water and apply the hay soup to my roses. It works wonders and is long-lasting. You can also let it ferment for a couple of weeks if you want to bypass the cow and create a more potent but smelly mixture that needs to be diluted.”

Janet Voinov found a favorite plant: “I had seen a Pittosporum ‘Silver Sheen’ tree up in Long Beach and fell in love with it. Nursery visiting in Leucadia I found one for $49 but didn’t purchase it because it was just a little too much. Several days later, passing a nursery off of Hwy. 8 that I had never been to but heard a lot about, I decided to stop and look. Happily, they had lots of Silver Sheens and they were $24. Of course, I bought one and plan on going back and buying several more, one at a time.”

Kimberly von Atzigen appreciates her “Dramm watering wand.”

Melissa Worton also likes “mulch. Bags of mulch. Keeps the weeds down, makes the garden look neat, smells good and is very easy on the wallet.”

Tynan Wyatt got a great tool: “The best item for under $25 I purchased (besides seeds) this year was the well-built adjustable hose nozzle. The cheapos always break and leak but spending $14-$16 to get a quality product that fits tight, sprays, bubbles, mists, etc. and can withstand a 4 foot drop onto concrete was well worth it. One tip is to minimize the amount of plastic in the nozzle. Metal and rubber are better. The one I have is a Gilmour 8-Pattern Cushion Pistol Grip Nozzle with Dial; sells for $10.70 plus tax at Lowe’s’

Joanzy Zeltinger repurposed a kitchen item: “A flour sifter. This summer, again, I had aphids on my dwarf Meyer Lemon Tree. I sprayed it good with water. Then I spritzed the affected areas with Jungle Juice; Jungle Juice alone does not work to rid the tree of pests. Then I put my worm castings into the flour sifter and sifted the casting powder on the affected areas. The moisture helps retain the casting dust. The ants and aphids broke up: no more synergistic relationship! Leave the dust on the tree for a few weeks, then host it off. Retreat if necessary. You can also use water and sifted castings on new seedlings to keep the bugs from devouring the leaves! So, now my flour sifter sits in the garden cabinet along with all my other garden tools. Each time I see it I think of my childhood, making mud-pies in grandmas back yard next to the rain barrel.”

Joel Zhou is pleased with his “45-gallon wheeled can for green recycling.”

**The question for next month is:**

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

Send your reply by November 5 to newsletter@sdhortsoc.org.
**October Plant Display**

By Ken Blackford, Pat Pawlowski and Susi Torre-Bueno

**What is the Plant Display?**

Each month members bring in plants, cuttings or flowers and put them on our display tables. What a great way to see what plants grow well in our area. All plants are welcome – EVERYONE is invited to participate. We encourage you to write descriptions similar to those below, and put them with the plant on the Plant Display tables. Join the fun and bring something from your garden for the November 14 meeting.

**Boophone haemanthoides** (Amaryllidaceae) South Africa

This summer-deciduous bulb is from the winter rainfall area of South Africa. It forms a fan of undulating leaves and produces a large brush-like flower. (Ken Blackford, San Diego, 10/11) – K.B.

**Quercus berberidifolia** SCRUB OAK (Fagaceae)

San Diego County

The drought-tolerant evergreen Scrub Oak grows 6–15′ tall, with leaves that vary in shape. Best in full sun, it can be pruned to make an elegant small tree. It produces acorns galore and is an important wildlife plant. (Pat Pawlowski, El Cajon, 10/11) – P.P.

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 October newsletter was *Amaryllis belladonna* (green form) NAKED ENVY.

- Abutilon cv. or sp. (Walt Meier, Carlsbad, 10/11)
- Allamanda cv. or sp. (Walt Meier, Carlsbad, 10/11)
- Amaranthus caudatus (Jane Beer, Los Angeles, 10/11)
- Barlaria cv. or sp. (Walt Meier, Carlsbad, 10/11)
- Begonia ‘Walt Meiers Orange Delight’ (Walt Meier, Carlsbad, 10/11)
- *Boophone disticha* SORE-EYE FLOWER (Ken Blackford, San Diego, 10/11)
- Brunsvigia *litoralis* (Sheldon Lisker, Sun City, 10/11)
- 3 Campanula lactiflora MILKY BELLFLOWER (Walt Meier, Carlsbad, 10/11)
- *Dendrobium antennatum* (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 10/11)
- *Dendrobium dearei* (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 10/11)
- 3 *Fuchsia magellanica* HARDY FUCHSIA (Walt Meier, Oceanside, Carlsbad, 10/11)
- Helianthus *salisifolius* (Jane Beer, Los Angeles, 10/11)
- Impatiens cv. or sp. (Walt Meier, Carlsbad, 10/11)
- Koelreuteria *paniculata* GOLDENRAIN TREE (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 10/11)
- 3 *Oxypetalum caeruleum* (Walt Meier, Carlsbad, 10/11)
- 3 Salvia *discolor* ANDEAN SAGE (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 10/11)
- 3 Salvia *miscolor* HOMELY SAGE (Plant Addict, Vista, 10/11)
- Salvia *unica* BLUE BUSH SAGE (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 10/11)
- 3 *Saponaria ‘Bressingham’* (Walt Meier, Carlsbad, 10/11)
- 3 *Tithonia diversifolia* (Jane Beer, Los Angeles, 10/11)
October Meeting Report

By Susi Torre-Bueno

Amy Stewart is a dynamic, fascinating, and funny speaker, and she delighted us in October with many stories from her newest book, *Wicked Bugs: The Louse that Conquered Napoleon’s Army & Other Diabolical Insects.* This book follows her popular *Wicked Plants,* about poisonous plants, which she regaled us with at our January 2010 meeting. She noted that, “Bugs are everywhere and pretty much everything alive on the planet is bugs.” There are over 1 million insect species and about 2 million bugs per person! Bugs do a lot of good: pollination, decomposition, food for other animals, medical ingredients, etc. But some bugs are… well… WICKED, and those are the ones that Amy spoke about with great enthusiasm.

For starters, how about three examples of bugs involved in notorious murders? Here in San Diego, Carole Hargis attempted to murder her husband in 1977 by trying many things, including baking a tarantula venom sac into his pie! She finally achieved his demise by beating the poor man to death, and was duly convicted. The infamous French Marquis de Sade poisoned prostitutes (accidentally) by feeding them candies he had made using Spanish fly (the beetle *Lytta vesicatoria*); eating just 100 of these insects could kill a large horse! In 1835 Charles Darwin was a naturalist on the ship *The Beagle* when he was bitten by assassin bugs in Argentina, along with other crew members (some of whom he convinced to allow the bugs to bite them as an experiment). This insect is now known to transmit the fatal Chagas disease, and Amy said it is possible that the many health problems that plagued Darwin the rest of his life, and even his death, might be traced back to these wicked bugs.

Some bugs are what Amy called horticultural horrors. The Rocky Mountain Locust, which caused several plagues in the 1800s in the U.S., were a scourge that filled the skies – they were so numerous that they blocked out the sun and flew in a living cloud the size of the state of California! The Colorado Potato Beetle, native to the U.S., only became a major pest when we started potato farming, subsisting before then (in much smaller numbers) on nightshade plants. The Mediterranean Fruit Fly is a major pest that attacks over 300 fruits and vegetables. No wonder Amy says, “The bugs always win!”

Amy considers other bugs extreme annoyances, such as the biting midges (“no-see-ums”) that were a huge problem in Hervey Bay, Australia. The community did a scientific study and found that the divorce rate increased after infestations, probably because, “married couples had to spend much more time indoors together.” Here in the States, both Edgar Allen Poe and Mark Twain wrote about the death watch beetle, whose clicking sounds were thought to mean death was approaching (it eats wood and makes a ticking sound).

Parasites and zombies are also in Amy’s book. The emerald cockroach wasp has a life cycle that includes the female laying her eggs inside a living roach; the larvae hatch and eat their host. The distinction of “most wicked bug in the world” goes to the mosquito, which carries 1 in 5 insect-transmitted diseases.

Thanks, Amy, for a lively look at the tiny creatures which surround us every day. Both *Wicked Plants* and *Wicked Bugs* are available for loan from our librarian, and if you missed Amy’s talk you can borrow the video of it when you attend an upcoming meeting.

Your Monthly Member Email

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

The email always has these items of interest:

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

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

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☑ New Member ☐ Renewal

Tell us who suggested you join, and we’ll send them a Hort Buck worth $5.00. ______________________

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Bromeliad Bash
November 12 and 13
9 AM - 5 PM

Join us for the 1st Annual Bromeliad Bash at San Diego Botanic Garden featuring some of the best plants to grow in Southern California—bromeliads! Enjoy presentations, demonstrations, plant sales, and book sales all weekend long.

Special exhibition showcases 37 original 19th century botanical color illustrations of bromeliads from the collection of Jack Kramer, prolific author and collector. These one-of-a-kind original works come with documented sources—they are rare in the trade and are for sale.

Cost: Free with general admission. Free parking.

One featured book will be the newly released Bromeliads for Home and Garden by prolific author (and collector), Jack Kramer.
Hello to all and welcome to our November garden tips update.

November can bring us glorious weather for gardening in the San Diego area. Warm but mild days and cool nights are ideal growing conditions for cool-season plants. November is a particularly good time to add trees, shrubs and ground covers to your landscape. November can deliver some much-needed rain here – you may want to prune dense trees and make sure young trees are well-staked now before the winter arrives.

- Plenty of loose Paperwhite bulbs. Remember to plant Paperwhites every two weeks now for a long display in December and January.
- The Cyclamen are very full now and 6” Mums for inside and outdoor use.
- There are very sensitive companion plants to broccoli, cauliflower, kale and beets mmm yummy
- and with all your vegetable plantings use lots of organic compost and worm castings.
- Many of our Grevilleas are blooming now, and will continue thru the winter. These Australian natives flower best in sunny, dry locations although they will also grow in light shade. Plant in well-draining soil and do not fertilize (they are very sensitive to phosphorus – it can be fatal!). Regular pruning after flowering is recommended to enhance and rejuvenate flowering and plant growth. Most varieties are drought tolerant, as well as frost hardy down to 20 ° F.

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What’s Happening? for November 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@sdshorts.org.

Alta Vista Gardens

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

- Nov. 12, 10-11:30am, Mobile Bath: Presentations, demonstrations, plant sales, and book sales. Free with Garden admission or membership.
- Nov. 29, 9am-2pm, Succulent Wreath Class: Take home a beautiful succulent wreath that you make yourself. Members $55, non-members $65. Please register by Nov. 28.

The Water Conservation Garden
Details/registration at www.thegarden.org or (619) 660-0614

- Nov. 5, 9am-4pm, Fall Garden & Home Festival: vendors selling drought-tolerant plants, “Ask the Experts,” Master Compostors, Ms. Smarty Plants Kidz Zone, and more. $3, Members and kids under 12. FREE.
- Nov. 6, noon, Ask The Horticulturist Tour: Enjoy an informative walk through the Garden. Free.
- Nov. 8, 6:30-8:30pm, Secrets Of The Best Landscape Designers: Learn the secrets of professional landscape design with local Landscape Designer, Members $15, Non Members $25. Please register early.
- Nov. 20, 9:30am, Special Access Tour: Special tour is offered monthly for individuals who may have difficulty navigating the terrain of the Garden. Explore the Garden from the comfort of a Shuttle. FREE. Reservations required, call (619) 660-6841.

City Farmers Nursery FREE Classes
Nov. 6: Solar Cooking
Nov. 13: Pizzas, Flatbreads, Crackers * Sourdough Starters
See www.cityfarmersnursery.com or call (619) 284-6358

San Diego Botanic Garden Workshops
See page 10 for more upcoming events.

- Nov. 12, 10-11:30am, Mobile Bath: Presentations, demonstrations, plant sales, and book sales. Free with Garden admission or membership.
- Nov. 29, 9am-2pm, Succulent Wreath Class: Take home a beautiful succulent wreath that you make yourself. Members $55, non-members $65. Please register by Nov. 28.

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- Nov. 20, 9:30am, Special Access Tour: Special tour is offered monthly for individuals who may have difficulty navigating the terrain of the Garden. Explore the Garden from the comfort of a Shuttle. FREE. Reservations required, call (619) 660-6841.

Cedros Gardens, Saturday 10am FREE classes:
Details at www.cedrosgardens.com; address in ad on page 17.

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- Plenty of loose Paperwhite bulbs. Remember to plant Paperwhites every two weeks now for a long display in December and January.
- The Cyclamen are very full now and 6” Mums for inside and out. Holiday Cactus are very full of buds, they are fabulous when in full bloom.
- Ceanothus is a great California native and this is a great time to plant them and your other California natives.
- Also in the Secret Garden, a fabulous selection of Veggies and Herbs. This is the time to plant your fall and winter vegetable garden.
- We have a great selection of lettuce greens and winter tomatoes, we have several varieties.
- What else?...How about Broccoli, Cauliflower, Kale and Beets mmm yummy
- ...and with all your vegetable plantings – use lots of organic compost and worm castings.
- Many of our Grevilleas are blooming now, and will continue thru the winter. These Australian natives flower best in sunny, dry locations although they will also grow in light shade. Plant in well-draining soil and do not fertilize (they are very sensitive to phosphorus – it can be fatal!). Regular pruning after flowering is recommended to enhance and rejuvenate flowering and plant growth. Most varieties are drought tolerant, as well as frost hardy down to 20 ° F.

The bedding annuals and perennials look enticing.
- Nemesia, Arctotus and Osteospermum, Bacopa – both Lilac & White, Sanvitalia tequila, Iceland Poppies, many Violas, Pansies, Snapdragons, Sweet Peas and much, much more.

Continued on other side
November 14, 6:00pm
S.D. Plant Atlas Project
See page 1

For an extensive list of garden club meetings and events, visit the website for the San Diego Floral Association: www.sdfloral.org/calendar.htm

Resources & Ongoing Events

ALTA VISTA BOTANIC GARDENS: Open Monday-Friday 7:00-5:00; 10:00-5:00 on weekends. 12700 La Costa Avenue, vista. Info: www.altavistagardens.org or (760) 945-3954.


WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN: Open 9-4 daily; free. Docent-led tours every Saturday at 10:00am and 11:00am. 6122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon. (619) 660-0614 or www.thegarden.org

MISSION TRIALS REGIONAL PARK: Guided hikes Wed, Sat & Sun. Visitor Center open Tues to Sun, 10am to 4pm. 1.5 miles from Poinsett George St. at Carter Rd. (619) 466-1312.

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

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

DESSERT WILDFLOWER HOTLINE: Anza-Borrego Desert State Park (760) 767-4684. For information on events, wildflower conditions, etc. call (760) 767-5311 or visit http://desertusa.com/wildflowers/wildlifedpdates.html.


BALBOA PARK:
Offshoot Tours: Free 1-hour walking tour in Balboa Park every Sat., 10am. Meet at Visitors Center; canceled if rain or less than 4 people. (619) 231-1122.

Botanical Building: One of the world's largest lath structures, with 1200+ plants and lavish displays. Free. 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 2nd Tuesday, $5/ family; $2/adult, $1/student. Info: (619) 232-7271; www.niwa.org

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

Balboa Park Ranger Tours: Free guided tours of architecture/horticulture, Tuesdays & Sundays, 1pm, from Visitors Center, (619) 232-1122.

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. Pop up schedule at entry. Info: (619) 231-1515, ext 4306. www.sandiegozoo.org

Garden TV and Radio Shows

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

GardenLife Radio Show (national): Saturday from 8-9am and Sunday from 8–10am. KCEO 100.3FM radio, hosts Bruce and Sharon Asakawa. Call-in questions: 866-666-TALK or your local station does not carry GardenLife.

We hear it streaming live on lifestyletalkradio.com. GardenLife shows are also archived at lifestyletalkradio.com

Happy Thanksgiving!!!

For indoors:
- Big Ferns—lush, tropical and elegant. Maidenhair in 4, 8, & 8’, Boston’s (6 & 10’ – HUGE). Also Kimberly Queen, Bear Paw, Rabbit’s Foot, Silver Dollar, Mother Fern and Autumn (just to rattle off a few).
- Great selection of Brevia, Kalanchoe, Bromeliad, Anthurium, Persian Violet, African Violet, Crossandra, Azalea, Hibiscus – just a few you could have.

Remember, a San Diego Hort Society member receives a 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.

November in the Garden

Orion seed, garlic and strawberries all need to be planted in the first half of November so don't delay. Transplant strawberries now so they'll develop sturdy root systems over the winter, ready to burst into lush foliage and heavy fruit set in the spring. Dig in lots of organic material and compost first to feed roots over the winter and through the summer.

New Plantings

Natives: November is an excellent time to plant California natives. There are many natives that are wonderful landscape plants including: California Lilac (Ceanothus), Toyon or California Holly (Heteromeles arbutifolia), Monkeyflower (Diplacus), California Tree Mallow (Lavatera assurgentum), Coffeeberry (Rhamnus californica). Several low-growing varieties of Manzanita (Arctostaphylos) also make great native ground covers.

Garden Maintenance

Chrysanthemums: After they finish flowering cut chrysanthemums back leaving 6-inch stems. They will begin to grow again next March. Old clumps can be lifted and divided - cut the roots apart and discard woody centers and then replant.

Hydrangeas: Do not prune hydrangeas this late in the year. Hydrangeas bloom on one-year-old stems (except for the ‘Endless Summer’). Pruning now will eliminate most of next year’s flowers. To try to get blue or lavender flowers on an otherwise pink plant start applying Alumicore to the soil now. White variegated varieties will not change color and not all pinks will be effected the same.

Tropicals & Subtropics: Many of these will still be blooming and looking good. It is not unusual for many of these plants to have a big flower burst now. A look for lots of color now on plumerias, hibiscus, bougainvillea and ginger. Let these heat loving plants harden off a bit before the cool temperatures of late fall and winter. Reducing or eliminating nitrogen fertilizer and cutting back on watering will help the plants get ready for the cooler months ahead.

Plan your dormant fruit tree-spraying schedule to coincide approximately with cool weather holidays (Thanksgiving, New Year’s Day, and Valentine’s Day). Spraying in the fall of the last leaf (Thanksgiving), the height of dormancy (New Year’s Day), and bud swell (Valentine’s Day). Spraying at the precise period of bud swell is especially important before the buds swell is too early and affects blossoms opening too late.

Plant colorful ornamental cabbage and kale for vibrantly rich reds, blues, and purples to accentuate other garden colors all winter long.

Plant azaleas, camellias, forsythias, dogwoods, and Oriental magnolias so they’ll settle in nicely. Remember to plant azaleas, camellias, and rhododendrons. Water them well to make sure they don’t dry out from winter sun and winds. Twist off small buds on camellias and look for lots of blooms in So. California natives. There are many natives that are wonderful landscape plants including: California Lilac (Ceanothus), Toyon or California Holly (Heteromeles arbutifolia), Monkeyflower (Diplacus), California Tree Mallow (Lavatera assurgentum), Coffeeberry (Rhamnus californica). Several low-growing varieties of Manzanita (Arctostaphylos) also make great native ground covers.