

Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

December 2012, Number 219

Follow your Flowers from Field to Vase

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HOLDING HANDS UNDERGROUND
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PRESERVING RARE NATIVE PLANTS AT SDBG
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On the Cover: Who can resist this bouquet?



Landscape & Nursery Technology

Southwestern College

Spring 2013 Schedule of Courses

Classes begin January 14, 2013

LNT 70	Pruning Fruit Trees & Vines (6 week course Jan 17 – Mar 2); (Lab Dates: 1/19, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9, 2/23, 3/2)	Room 1801	1 unit	Del Hotal	Lectures: Thursdays; 6:30 – 8:30 pm Lab: Saturdays; 3:30 – 5:30 pm
LNT 85	Pesticide License Exam Preparation	Room 1802	1 unit	Homyak	Fridays (1/18, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8); 5:00 – 9:20 pm
LNT 100	Plant and Horticultural Science Lab Dates 1/26, 2/9, 3/2, 3/16, 4/6, 4/20, 5/4		4 units	Rottke	Lectures: Tuesdays; 6:15 – 9:05 pm; Room 1802 Lab: Saturdays; 8:00 am – 2:30 pm; Room 1801
LNT 119	Plant Identification: Xeriphytic Plants Dates: 1/19, 2/2, 2/23, 3/9, 3/23, 4/13, 4/27, 5/11	Room 1802	3 units	Sinclair	Various Saturdays; 8:00 am – 3:00 pm
LNT 129	Sustainable Landscape/Water Auditor	Room 1801	3 units	Valen	Tuesdays; 6:15 – 9:15 pm
LNT 134	Soils	Room 1802	3 units	Homyak	Wednesdays; 6:00 – 9:00 pm
LNT 138	Floral Design I	Room 1801	3 units	Del Sol	Mondays; 5:00 pm – 10:00 pm; \$30 supply fee
LNT 140	Floral Design II	Room 1801	3 units	Del Sol	Tuesdays; 9:00 am – 2:00 pm; \$50 supply fee
LNT 146	Plant Propagation (9 week course Mar 20 – May 22); (Lab Dates: 3/23, 4/6, 4/20, 5/4, 5/18)	Room 1802	1.5 units	Diaz	Lectures: Thursdays; 6:00 – 8:00 pm Lab: Saturdays; 8:00 am – 1:20 pm
LA 104	Landscape Graphics and Planting Design	Room 503	3 units	Landis	Thursdays; 5:00 – 9:50 pm
LA 200	Introduction to Computer-Aided Landscape Design	Room 501	3 units	Staff	Mondays; 5:00 – 10:00 pm

To enroll, visit the college website at www.swccd.edu Enrollment begins in late November – enroll early to assure getting the class you desire! For information on the classes listed above, and to speak to a Landscape and Nursery Technology instructor, call 619-421-6700 ext. 5371 or email Bill Homyak at whomyak@swccd.edu. Or, visit our LNT website at www.lntswc.com or on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/lntswc.

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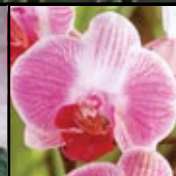
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- Coupon expires 12/31/2012 at 6 p.m.



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Calendar/Resources/Ongoing Events

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.sdhort.org
For questions contact membership@sdhort.org or Jim Bishop at (619) 296-9215.

MEETING SCHEDULE

5:00 – 6:00 Meeting room setup
6:00 – 6:45 Vendor sales, lending library, plant display
6:45 – 9:00 Announcements, Hot Hort Picks, door prizes, speaker

MEETINGS & EVENTS IN 2013

January 14	Dylan Hannon on Exotic Bulbs for Southern California
February 11	Tom Carruth on Just for the Smell of It
March 1-3	Spring Home/Garden Show
March 11	Paul Isley on Growing on Air: Amazing Tillandsias
April 6	SDHS Spring Garden Tour in Poway
April 8	Greg Rubin and Lucy Warren on California Native Landscape

www.SDHort.org



COVER IMAGE: This rainbow-hued bouquet of just-picked ranunculus and anemones is held by Oregon grower Joan Ewer Thordike. It is one gorgeous image from Debra Prinzing's book, *The 50 Mile Bouquet*, and was photographed by David Perry. You can buy your copy at the December meeting.



Next Meeting: DECEMBER 10, 2012, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

Topic: DEBRA PRINZING ON "SLOW FLOWERS: FOLLOW YOUR FLOWERS FROM FIELD TO VASE"

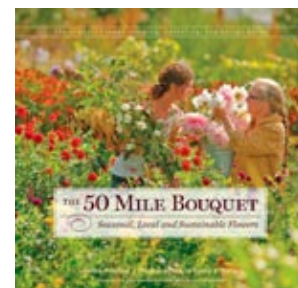
Meeting is open and everyone is welcome. Admission: Members/free, Non-Members/\$10.

Parking is free. Meeting Place: Del Mar Fairgrounds, Surfside Race Place, Del Mar; Info: (619) 296-9215

This month we're fortunate to have as our speaker award-winning author Debra Prinzing who will introduce the emerging green flower movement, which is all about buying from local flower farmers and shortening the field-to-vase journey for fresh cut flowers. This artisan flower trend is taking place against the backdrop of the \$40 billion worldwide floriculture industry that produces "perfect" flowers - perfect-looking, perfectly scent-less, often a week old, and shipped thousands of miles from a distant continent. More and more, consumers are discovering that "freight flowers" are a poor substitute for the heady aroma and romantic beauty of a "just-cut" flower from your garden or the nearby flower farm. Learn how sustainable growers and eco-conscious floral designers are supplying fresh, healthy, sustainably-grown blooms for their clients' celebrations and special occasions.

Debra is a Seattle and Los Angeles-based outdoor living expert who writes and lectures on gardens and home design. She has a background in textiles, journalism, landscape design and horticulture. A frequent speaker for botanical garden, horticultural society and flower show audiences, Debra is also a regular radio and television guest. A Master Gardener, she has studied landscape horticulture and design at South Seattle Community College. Debra is also a national director of Garden Writers Association and a member of the Association of Specialty Cut Flower Growers. Debra is the author of *The 50 Mile Bouquet: Local, Seasonal and Sustainable Flowers*. Debra authored *Stylish Sheds and Elegant Hideaways*, a Garden Writers Association Gold Award book, and *The Abundant Garden*. Her next book, *Slow Flowers*, will be published in 2013.

The San Diego Floral Association will be selling cut protea flowers at the meeting, perfect for holiday arrangements. To learn more visit www.debraprinzing.com and see page 3. 🌿



SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Established September 1994

BOARD MEMBERS

Patty Berg – Volunteer Coordinator

Jeff Biletnikoff – Meeting Room Coordinator

Jim Bishop – President, Membership Chair

B.J. Boland – Corresponding Secretary

Mark Collins – Finance/Budget Committee

Bryan Diaz – Member at Large

Julian Duval – San Diego Botanic Garden
Representative

Mary James – Program Committee Chair

Cheryl Leedom – Member at Large

Dannie McLaughlin – Tour Coordinator

Susan Oddo – Publicity Coordinator

Susanna Pagan – Member at Large

Sam Seat – Treasurer

Susi Torre-Bueno – Newsletter Editor,
Past President

Don Walker – Past President

Lucy Warren – Secretary

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

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

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

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☛New Email? New Street Address?

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

BECOME A SPONSOR!

**Do you own a
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SDHS sponsorships have high recognition
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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@
sdhort.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!

2013 SPRING GARDEN TOUR: GET READY TO BE WOWED!

By Dannie McLaughlin

Our 2013 garden tour will be held on April 6 in Poway. The planning committee has scheduled some fabulous gardens, including several award winning gardens you'll definitely want to visit with your friends. Watch this space for future updates!

Want to get in on the fun early? Volunteer now to help with: event logistics, publicity,



organizing musicians and artists, signage and map preparation, plant ID, ticket sales strategy, etc. The time commitment is very varied, and some tasks involve just a few phone calls, while others will keep your organizational skills well-honed. Contact Patty Berg for more details at pattyberg@gmail.com.

Award-winning garden designed by Linda Bresler will be featured on the tour.

IMPORTANT MEMBER INFORMATION

Wanted! Website Calendar Updater for PR Committee:


Here's a great task for someone who likes to help from home. We need someone to post the upcoming SDHS events to less than ten website calendars. Takes just one afternoon every three months, and an hour or so in between. You only need basic Internet and Excel skills to do this quick but important volunteer job for your SDHS. Contact Susan Oddo at soddod@earthlink.net.

Coordinate Plant Display Table At Monthly Meeting

We are looking for a volunteer to organize and recruit other volunteers to help with the plant display table (see page 13) starting in 2013. For 2012, Susi Torre-Bueno has been organizing the table to highlight one type of plant, usually related to the meeting topic, and finding an expert to staff the table and answer questions. You can continue this in 2013, or come up with new ideas that would encourage member participation. To volunteer please contact Patty Berg at PattyJBerg@gmail.com or 760-815-0625.

**Join the fun and bring ANYTHING YOU LIKE to the
Plant Display table at the December 10 meeting.
Expert Walter Andersen (www.walterandersen.com)
will be on hand to answer your questions.**

Thanks So Much!

 Many thanks to Scott Borden and Borden Ranch for hosting our third Pomegranate & Persimmon Picking at Borden Ranch. Look for more photos on our Facebook page. ☺



Jim Bishop



TO LEARN MORE...

By Ava Torre-Bueno

Slow Flowers & More

This month's talk, Bring Me Slow Flowers, is about sourcing flowers from local growers. This gives you much fresher flowers with a tiny "carbon footprint" compared to commercial, grocery-store flowers that might come from South America or Africa.

The "slow" movements started in 1986 in Italy with Slow Food:
www.slowfood.com

The Slow Movement advocates a cultural shift toward slowing down life's pace. It began with Carlo Petrini's protest against the opening of a McDonald's restaurant in Piazza di Spagna, Rome in 1986:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slow_Movement

They advocate buying local and fresh, and then cooking and eating with awareness and attention. In other words, "slow" is the opposite of "fast food." The slow food movement has designated December 10th as Terra Madre Day, a time to celebrate local abundance:

www.slowfood.com/terramadreday

Slow Gardening is advocated by Felder Rushing, a past speaker at the SDHS. His book on Slow Gardening is available from www.Amazon.com and his website: www.felderrushing.net. Read more about the charming, funny and thoughtful Mr. Rushing at:

www.slowgardening.net and

www.nytimes.com/2009/03/26/garden/26slow.html?pagewanted=all

"Slow Money is a movement to organize investors and donors to steer new sources of capital to small food enterprises, organic farms, and local food systems."

<http://slowmoney.org>

So far, the "slow" movements are about food and agriculture, but they branch out from there to Slow Parenting (thankfully, how I was raised), Slow Art, Slow Fashion, etc.:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slow_Movement

Back to the food and flowers and how "Slow" is environmentally sustainable... If you grow your own food and table flowers, you use no carbon (except your own out breaths) to get that food to your table. If you go to the grocery store to buy food, you use the carbon made by your car, but you also use the carbon it took to get the food from the farm to the processing plant, and from there to the store. Let's take goat cheese as an example. At Trader Joe's I can buy goat cheese from France, or goat cheese from Sonoma County. My carbon footprint, the global heating damage I am doing to the environment, is much higher if I buy the French cheese. Every purchase, including the flowers we put on our table, has a carbon consequence. To see your own carbon footprint, you can use this calculator:

www.nature.org/greenliving/carboncalculator/index.htm

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



FROM THE BOARD

By Jim Bishop

Thanks so much to Borden Ranches for hosting the October Fuyu and Persimmon Pick in Pauma Valley. It was a beautiful sunny and warm day with over 80 people harvesting fruit. Nearly 10,000 (yes, ten thousand!) pounds of fruit was picked! Photos are on our Facebook page.

Have you joined SDHS since last spring? If so, you should have received an email invitation to the New Member Orientation on December 2 at the Oddo's wonderful garden in Elfin Forest. If you think we missed you on the invitation list, please email membership@sdhort.org. (Note: there is no Featured Garden event scheduled for December.)

New Website Hints

Are you receiving our email messages? If you aren't receiving our monthly email and event announcements, be sure and check your Spam folder. We've switched to a new email system and your email reader might be marking our messages as spam. However, you don't need to wait for the monthly email to learn about upcoming meetings, events, or read the newsletter. As new events are scheduled they are added to the website and may be viewed at any time. The monthly newsletter is uploaded to the site the same day the printed newsletter is mailed, usually the last week of the month.

Event Registration – We suggest you login into the site before registering for an event, because then your contact information will automatically be filled in. You can also add events to your online calendar by clicking on the Add to my Calendar link at the top of each event page. On meeting pages, use the Facebook link to invite your Facebook friends to attend. When registering for events or renewing your membership online be sure to click the Confirm button at the end of the process. If you do not receive an email confirmation within a few minutes it means the transaction was not completed.

Change Membership Type – Last month I mentioned that you could save \$10 and a lot of time by renewing for three years instead of one. When you renew online, to change from a 1-year to 3-year membership, click on the Change Membership Type button and select a 3-year membership. This is also how you can change from an individual to a household membership (two members that reside at the same address). You can add contact information, including the email address of the second person at your address. This allows both members to receive SDHS email messages and register for events.

Update Your Profile – While reviewing your profile online, besides editing your contact information, telling us your volunteer interests, or adding personal information (photo, bio and website), you can also check your membership type and renewal date. You do not need to wait for notification when it is time to renew your membership: use the Renew Until button to renew your membership in advance. Select the Privacy link to choose whether other member see your contact information. Sharing your info allows other members that have registered for an event to view your name and contact you for carpooling. The default is not to show this information and you appear as "Anonymous user" on the attendee list. ☺

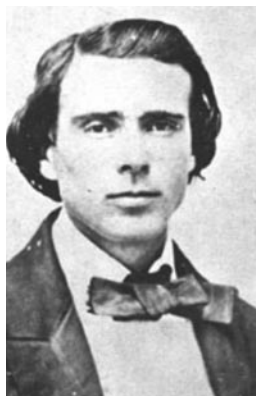


THE REAL DIRT ON...

By Joan Herskowitz

Josiah Gregg

Josiah Gregg (1806-1850) was a frontiersman, merchant, and amateur naturalist whose writings provided rare detailed accounts of early frontier life on the Santa Fe Trail and the unexplored landscapes of the American prairies. Gregg was born in Tennessee but grew up in Illinois and Missouri, where he received his early schooling. Described as sickly, shy and studious, as a young man he taught school and studied law. By 1830, he was diagnosed with tuberculosis, and was advised by his doctors that a trip west might improve his health. In 1831, Gregg made his first trip across the plains from Missouri to Santa Fe, New Mexico in a merchant caravan. The outdoor life quickly improved his health and he spent the next nine years as a Santa Fe trader and wagon master. Though the work was fraught with hardships and dangers, he was invigorated by the adventures of life on the Santa Fe Trail. He mastered the Spanish language, became a successful merchant, and later trail blazed the Chihuahua Trail into the interior of Mexico.



In 1844, Gregg wrote a two-volume book entitled *Commerce of the Prairies*, which was compiled from his daily journal notes, and contains vivid descriptions of desert mirages, wagon caravans, challenges from unpredictable weather and terrain, Indian attacks, and buffalo hunts. He also described the geography, flora and fauna, geology and the culture of the residents of New Mexico. As Gregg was a keen observer of his surroundings, the book was well written and an immediate success. It still remains the cornerstone of all historical studies of the Santa Fe Trail. The book established Gregg's literary reputation and he was subsequently hired as a news correspondent and interpreter during the Mexican-American War.

Having become acquainted with the German naturalist Frederick Wislizenus, in 1848, Gregg joined a botanical expedition to western Mexico and California. During this expedition he corresponded with botanist George Engelmann in St. Louis, and sent him plant specimens, many of which were new species. For a short time, Gregg joined the gold rush, and then led an exploration party through the uncharted redwood forests of northern California. The party discovered Humboldt Bay, but in 1850, on their return trip to San Francisco, exhausted from vigorous travel, near-starvation, and severe weather, Gregg died at age 44 as a result of a fall from his horse.

The American Botanical Society added the Latin name "greggii" to 23 plant species in honor of Gregg's contributions to the botany of the Southwest. These include *Salvia greggii* (Autumn Sage, shown above in a photo by Stan Shebs), a popular plant in San Diego gardens and a hummingbird favorite, as well as *Ceanothus greggii* (Desert Ceanothus), *Peniocereus greggii* (Night-Blooming Cereus), and *Acacia greggii* (Catclaw Acacia).

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. 🌿



BOOK REVIEW

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh



High-Impact, Low-Carbon Gardening

By Alice Bowe

I'm not one for paying attention to the calendar, so it wasn't until now (as I write) that I realized that this is my December column. Coincidentally, I have two books that would make good gifts for gardeners. Neither of the books appealed to me at first look, but I changed my mind when I read through them.

The first, *High-Impact, Low-Carbon Gardening: 1001 Ways to Garden Sustainably*, looks like it might be quite technical, judging from the cover design, but this highly useful book would be a nice gift for a novice gardener. I thought at first that it was almost too basic until I remembered the days before I had learned "Green end up; brown end down."

Alice Bowe is English and majored in Fine Arts at Oxford. In addition, she's an avid and experienced gardener and professional garden designer. She brought her eye for color and design to this book. Much of the text is oriented toward English gardening. There's a section on selecting plants that can thrive with high rainfall and flooding – not a problem we have – but Bowe does a good job of making sure the book is relevant to other gardeners too.

The 13 chapters cover improving your garden's ecological credentials, water and compost, paths and paving, decks and lawns, boundaries and structures, sustainable planting design, preparing the soil, selecting plants, new alternatives, wildlife, growing food and cut flowers, maintenance, and advanced features and ideas. The last chapter, covering green roofs, green walls, forest gardening, permaculture, hydroponics, and aquaponics, was especially interesting.

The 264 pages of this paperback book are filled with beautiful and useful photos, and every page has one or more sidebars filled with interesting information. *High-Impact, Low-Carbon Gardening* (ISBN-13: 978-0-88192-998-0) is \$24.95 at your local bookstore.



A Nature Lover's Almanac

By Diane Olson

The second book, *A Nature Lover's Almanac*, is just for fun. Its subtitle, *Kinky Bugs, Stealthy Critters, Prosperous Plants & Celestial Wonders*, tells you just about everything you want to know about it. It is organized by date, with one piece of nature and garden trivia for each day of the year.

It would be appropriate for teenagers or adults. Younger children probably would not understand some of the vocabulary, and their parents might be concerned about a few of the entries, for example one about frog fornication. But all kids will be enthralled to read about the caterpillar that shoots its poop five feet away to confuse predators (June 14); or that mistletoe can outdo the caterpillar, shooting its seed up to fifty feet (December 22); or that there are up to ten million dust mites in your pillow (December 10).

A Nature Lover's Almanac (ISBN 978-1-4236-2224-6), a small, illustrated paperback of 214 pages, costs \$12.99. 🌿



TREES, PLEASE

By Robin Rivet

Holding Hands Underground

Long before the science of soils evolved to what it is today, farming lore had a practice of "blessing" the soil of new farmland by broadcasting small amounts of "used" soil taken from previously productive fields. Ironically, what initially sounds like a fantasy exercise might actually have been beneficial to the future fertility of the land.

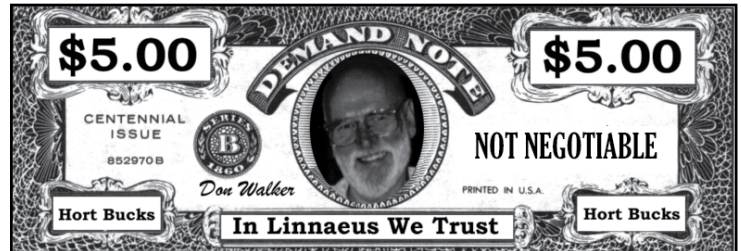
The secret may have been mycorrhizae. The study of arboriculture teaches how oak trees are symbiotically dependent on mycorrhizae for their basic existence. Without fungal interactions, they simply cannot thrive. If you benignly planted an oak tree and it is doing poorly, chances are that urbanization stripped away the native mycorrhizae.

On the flipside, is it possible an old oak or eucalyptus tree near your home could help establish your newly planted apple tree, or make your green peppers grow better? Although the research about interspecies collaboration is complex, and our homes typically have seriously disturbed soils, there is growing evidence that large trees, especially very old ones, share not only soil space, but are capable of exchanging their carbon, nitrogen and water reserves through large mycorrhizal networks. When a tree photosynthesizes carbon from the sun, it then transmits that carbohydrate energy (food) to the fungal mycelia found in soil. The fungus in turn acts as a conduit to bring water and nutrients to the roots of two or more adjacent plants. Such systems spread underground, often way beyond a tree's canopy.

It is likely you already know how vital soil health is to plant success. More tantalizing is the prospect that Darwin may have had some details wrong when he postulated survival of the species above all else. New research suggests quite the opposite. Are you aware that trees willingly share their photosynthesized food, even between different species, utilizing mycorrhizae? Research ecologist Dr. Suzanne Simard from the University of British Columbia, has been investigating these relationships, evaluating large and small trees in forest situations. Her conclusion is that older trees share their stored energy with smaller plants, and without this swap, many would not survive. This exchange occurs when the timing is critical for enhancing seedling germination after fires, or it may assist with food supplementation when nearby trees become overly shaded and need the extra energy. Similarly, when a deciduous tree goes dormant, it may send stored food back through to a needier plant. Like hubs in a wheel, the largest, oldest trees communicate from a central point, managing surrounding plant requests and conversing with them back and forth about supplying aid.



Ectomycorrhizal mycelium (white) associated to white spruce (*Picea glauca*) roots (brown). – Wikimedia photo



REDEEMING PAPER HORT BUCKS

By Susi Torre-Bueno

On page 10 of the newsletter we list the members who have received \$5 value Hort Bucks for recruiting new members this year, and we are so pleased they've been successfully promoting our Society. As mentioned here last month, when a new member lists on the membership application form the name of the member who referred them, the referring member will now get a \$5 credit to their online account on our website. The credit will automatically be deducted from any purchases they make on our website. This includes membership renewals and items ordered at the same time you renew (printed newsletter, Pacific Horticulture membership, name badges, donations, or tree book purchases). You can also use the credit for tickets to our annual Spring garden tour, special events, or any workshop. When members log on to the website, their hort buck credit will show up in the lower right corner of the screen with the following format: Balance -\$5.00 (overpayment).

To redeem your paper hort bucks, just write your name on the back and either turn it(them) in at the check-in desk at a meeting, or mail it(them) to us (address on top left of page 20). You could also tear it(them) in half, scan or photograph it(them) and email the picture to membership@sdhort.org. We will then credit your online account for the hort buck(s).

Members who do not have an email address in their account (which prevents them from being able to log into the website) will still be mailed paper hort bucks (when a new member list them as a referral on their application) and encouraged to provide us an email address.

We hope you'll continue to encourage your friends to join the SDHS and remind them to put your name on their membership applications so you get the \$5 credit. ☘

Isn't it time we stopped mucking up nature and valued our elder trees?

To learn more:

Video: www.forestry.ubc.ca/2011/05/prof-suzanne-simard-talks-about-mother-trees

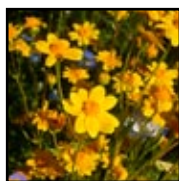
www.botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/potd/2010/03/mycorrhizal_networks.php

www.bunchgrapes.com/mycorrhiza.html

Native plants and mycorrhizae: www.laspilitas.com/classes/mycorrhizal.htm

Sources for mycorrhizae: www.mycorrhizae.com

Member Robin Rivet is an ISA Certified Arborist, UCCE Master Gardener, She contracts with the California Center for Sustainable Energy as their urban forester and welcomes public inquiries. ☘



GOING WILD WITH THE NATIVES

By Greg Rubin

Wonderful Wildflowers

Few things evoke magical memories like spring wildflowers. Whether it is a desire to recapture a serendipitous discovery of a color-laden flower field from our past, or simply re-living that scene from the "Wizard of Oz," nothing stirs our passion for nature like a beautiful field of flowers. California was once celebrated for its annual floral shows; unfortunately, these delightful events are becoming a thing of the past. The great Kate Sessions lamented that wildflowers were disappearing from San Diego's foothills by the early 1900s. Even



Lucy Warren

her attempts to include wildflower displays at Balboa Park repeatedly failed. Why?

The answer is that European settlement in California altered our delicate ecology so profoundly that it was lost at all levels. Nothing is quite so fragile as a wildflower meadow. These annuals serve as pioneers that help re-establish ecology should a disturbance wipe out climax shrubs and trees. Being so low in lignin, they disappear after dying, returning all of their nutrients back to the ecology. Additionally, they fill holes not occupied by shrubby plants, and persist in places inhospitable to anything with deep roots, such as in the shallow soils of true native grasslands. What the Europeans brought were non-native weeds: competitive plants unhindered by native bio-controls while putting all of their life energy into reproducing themselves. These non-native seed banks now reach 10,000-100,000 dormant seeds per cubic foot! The wildflowers never stood a chance.

Fortunately, knowledge is the best tool, and we have ways to turn back the clock. Eliminating weeds is foremost. It is usually not sufficient to clear a space and drop seed, as Ms. Sessions learned. Instead, the seed bank must be addressed, either through repeated watering and killing of emerged weeds, or the use of chemicals called pre-emergents that kill seed in the soil when watered in. This must be done months in advance of planting. Solarization with clear plastic can also be used, but the effect is usually temporary.

After treatment, seeds can be spread and either gently raked in or covered lightly in decomposed granite (avoids disturbance and deters birds). Wildflower seeds can be purchased at most garden centers and on-line; however, be sure that the word "NATIVE" is somewhere in the title, or you will end up with a mix of introduced flowers (weeds

YOU NEED TO SEE THIS!

By Nick Stavros

[Editor's note: For a long time now, member Nick Stavros has sent me fascinating links to things of interest for gardeners. With the holidays fast approaching, it's important to have a ready source of something that you can turn to for a few minutes of R&R between bouts of cooking, gift shopping, party preparations, etc. Keep this list of interesting websites handy for when you're ready to de-stress.]

Got Monarchs? Fun facts related by bright youngsters; who knew the butterflies taste with their feet!

<http://news.discovery.com/videos/news-monarch-butterfly-fast-facts.html>



Kenneth Dwain Harrelson

Slime moulds are amazing. Brainless slime mould has an external memory. These findings are the first to identify "memory" in an organism without a brain or central nervous system. In computers, we would call this swarm based computing. www.bbc.co.uk/nature/19846365

You say tomato, I say potato: **Wild tomatoes could unlock secrets** of fungus behind Irish potato famine! www.today.colostate.edu/story.aspx?id=6852

Special Spring Shoes plant seeds:

<http://news.discovery.com/tech/walk-this-way-japanese-heels-auto-plant-seeds-120407.html#mkcpgn=rssnws>

Watchdog plants can keep you safe! A biologist produces plant sentinels that detect environmental contaminants, explosives. Its kinda like watch dogs that don't poop, grow, or need to be fed!! Plants rule, I knew they had brains all along!

www.today.colostate.edu/story.aspx?id=5170

For a short video explaining the concept:

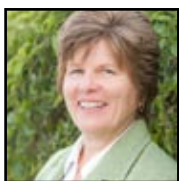
www.youtube.com/watch?v=kObTt_dR7IM

Human-induced fires sow the **seeds of the future:**

www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-15674495 🌿

often) that will grow in California, the worst being Alyssum. Common native mixes include California Poppies, Lupines, Goldfields (*Lasthenia californica*, shown at top), Desert Bluebells, Gilia, Baby Blue Eyes, Tidy Tips, and Farewell-to-Spring. You can add Owls Clover, Five Spot, and Thistle Sage if available. Keep the plot lightly moist until germination, continue watering twice a week if rainfall is lacking, and CONTROL WEEDS! The outcome will be thrilling!

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. His new book (coauthored with member Lucy Warren), *The California Native Landscape: The Homeowner's Design Guide to Restoring Its Beauty and Balance*, will be available in March, 2013. Greg and Lucy will be speaking at our April 2013 meeting. 🌿



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

By Patty Berg

Volunteer Appreciation Party

The 2012 Volunteer Appreciation Party held on October 14th broke with tradition in many ways except one: it was another enjoyable get-together among folks who love to “talk plants.” As an all-volunteer organization, this party is a chance to say thanks to so many who do so much to keep SDHS rolling along, especially the 100+ members who gathered in Vista on that warm Sunday afternoon.

Susi and Jose Torre-Bueno were our gracious hosts, and their one-acre work-in-progress garden was a hit with all the attendees. Susi is a plant collector extraordinaire and her bounty included hundreds of unusual Mediterranean plants that were artfully placed and thriving in a low-water setting. A crowd gathered in the courtyard as Susi described the evolution of their gardens from bare land just seven years ago to its current glory. Add in the vibrant architecture (Jose designed the South American-style courtyard house, painted in a palette of bright hues) and remarkable craftsmanship on display throughout the property, and it's a wonder the lunch BBQ didn't segue into cocktails at sunset. The landscape features separate sections for plants from Mexico, South Africa, the dry tropics, and South America, plus a large labyrinth planted with herbs, succulents, and water-thrifty bulbs.

Event Chair Carol Lane did a fabulous job of party planning and arranged for a wonderful meal catered by Apple Spice Junction of Vista. Kabobs prepared on-site on the grill, homemade fresh salads, sides and desserts made for a very tasty lunch.

Among the festivities was a door prize drawing for wonderful gifts from the following very generous donors: Kellogg's, Sunshine Care, AgriService, Jane Morton, Pat Welsh, Cathy Tylka, Laura Eubanks, The Water Conservation Garden, Waterwise Botanicals, Great Soil, and Edible San Diego Magazine. The special door prize for carpoolers – a

15-gallon tree, delivered and planted by The Wishing Tree Company – was won by Tory Monigold, who was one of the designers of our garden at the Fall Home/Garden Show.

We are also very grateful to the Flower Girls (Bette Childs and Joanie Espy), and Garden Glories Nursery (Liz Youngflesh) for their lending us pop-up shade structures – most appreciated as the thermometer approached the mid-80s!

And of course, there were still more volunteers who helped put on the party. Many thanks to Tina Ivany, Karen Baccei, Ann Heck, Anne Murphy, Evey Torre-Bueno, Bryan Diaz and Jen for generously giving their time. Next year, it will be their turn to relax and enjoy!

We hope you're an active part of our vibrant organization and that your volunteering this fall and in 2013 means you'll be invited to the next fun Volunteer Appreciation Party. If you're not yet involved and would like to learn about the many different opportunities we have where your talents can shine, please contact me at PattyJBerg@gmail.com or 760-815-0625 and let's talk about how to make your SDHS experience even richer! 🌿



Bryan Diaz and Jennifer Birrell



Jim Bishop talking to volunteers

Susi's courtyard



Party check in volunteers Evey Torre-Bueno (right) and Anne Murphy (left)



Carol Lane



Patty Berg

Time to eat!



Labyrinth at Susi's garden

Patty Berg



MY LIFE WITH PLANTS

By Jim Bishop

This series of articles chronicles Jim's experiences with plants and the effect they have had on his life.

Lady Bird Lake

Austin is situated on the Colorado River in Texas – not to be confused with the Colorado River that provides much of Southern California's water. Dams along the river create a string of man-made lakes in the Austin area: Town Lake (renamed Lady Bird Lake in 2007); cliff-lined Lake Austin; and the largest, Lake Travis to the west. I would jog around Town Lake, which had been "beautified" by Lady Bird Johnson's campaign in 1970s to improve the city's riverfront. People would mimic Lady Bird's Texas drawl and say, "plant a booish, flar, shruub or tree – too-day." In spring and early summer I would count the varieties of blooming wildflowers that had been planted on the north side of the lake, often losing count somewhere in the high 40s. The show was spectacular. Today, the trail and wildflowers are maintained by the Trail Foundation www.townlaketrail.org.

To get to the north trail I'd cross the river on the Lamar Street Bridge. The newly completed cyclist and pedestrian Pfluger Bridge allows for much safer crossing. Further south on the lake is the Congress Street Bridge. At an estimated 1.5 million, the bridge is home to the largest urban population of Mexican free-tail bats in North America; did I mention there are a *lot* of bugs in Austin?

On my jogs I would cross back over the river on the pedestrian bridge that runs under the MoPac freeway. Lining the south bank of the river is a stand of 100+ years old native cypress, cottonwoods, and pecan trees. Several of the cypress trees were the tallest trees I'd ever seen in Texas.

Town Lake and Lake Austin have significant problems with a water plant introduced by the aquarium trade, *Hydrilla verticillata*. Hydrilla is native to parts of Asia, Africa, and Australia and can grow up to 25 feet in clear water. It has few pests and chokes out native species, creating large monocultures. In the 70s, Lake Austin would be drained in late fall in hopes that a cold winter would kill the hydrilla, or at least control it. The good news is that due to the recent drought, a local native water plant, cabomba (*Cabomba caroliniana*) has been able to out-compete hydrilla in Town Lake.

On the south side of the lake is the 350-acre Zilker Park. The trail on this side of the lake is much higher above the lake. After crossing the bridge, there is a large lotus pond. People would stand at the edges and count the water moccasins (snakes) that had staked out a sunny spot on top of the lotus leaves.

Two notable attractions in the park are the Zilker Botanical Garden and Barton Springs. The 32-acre garden was the first botanical garden I had ever been in. Unusual for Texas, it includes the Isamu Taniguchi Japanese Garden. It is situated on steep hillside with two large koi ponds, connected by limestone lined rivulets, a Moon Bridge, teahouse and other traditional Japanese garden features. This was my first introduction to Japanese gardens.

Back on the path around the lake, I'd cross the bridge over where Barton Springs meets Town Lake; large turtles were everywhere, sunning themselves on the rocks and fallen trees. Barton Springs is comprised of four springs where the Balcones fault cuts into the Edwards Aquifer. The large limestone caverns of Texas produce one



Barton Springs

of the most prolific artesian aquifers in the world. Cool and clear fast running springs dot the area between Austin and San Antonio. Aquarena Springs, the Comal River, Barton Springs and several other springs are popular attractions for escaping the long hot and humid Texas summers. Central Texas creeks and rivers are popular for "tubing" – a day-long float down a cold river in an oversized inner tube accompanied by friends and a beer-filled ice chest. Barton Springs is one of the most urban springs, and had been channeled into a manmade pool about the length of three football fields (Texans measure things by football fields). The springs produce on average 31 million gallons of 68° water per day. The best way to enter is a head first dive that takes your breath away as your body tries to adjust to abrupt change from 90°+ air. If the cool water isn't enough to draw visitors, the pool is also popular with topless sunbathing young women and their admirers. I spent many a hot summer day floating on a raft in the middle of the pool and now have the skin cancers to prove it.

Jim Bishop is President of San Diego Horticultural Society and a Garden Designer. 🌿

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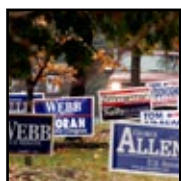
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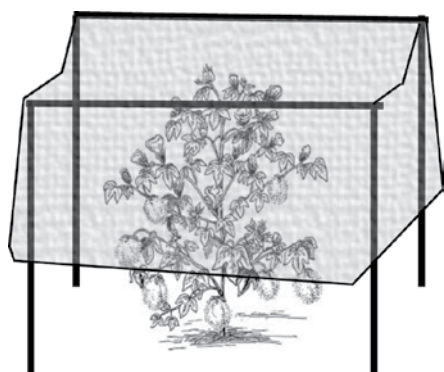


AFTER THE ELECTION... GARDENERS CAN WIN BIG

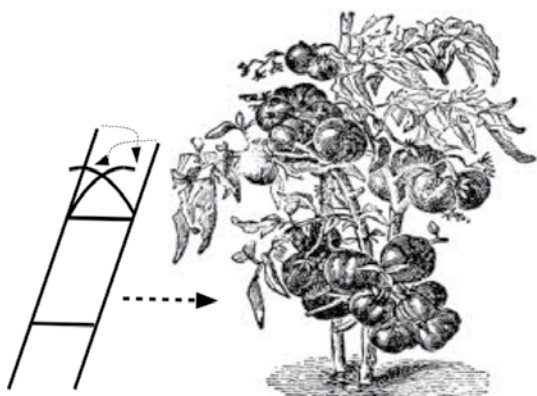
By Nick Stavros

During the election season, many of us drive past the numerous campaign signs advocating for one candidate or issue, or against them. The landscape begins to look like a ride along the seedier parts of Route 66 in the 1950s before Lady Bird Johnson's Beautify America program. Once the election is over, we all give a sigh of relief and again are thankful for the stunning California roadsides.

The turn of events, regardless if your side won or lost is a windfall for gardeners. All those signs are held up with very stiff wire perfect for staking garden plants! Most of the signs are held up with one of two basic shapes: a large U-shape and or a smaller H-shape.



The U-shaped wires shown above can be used near plants that need protection from frost, birds, deer or even drying out. After removing the paper sign, place the U-shape wire down into the soil near the plants, then drape the appropriate fabric over the wires creating a small tent. Sometimes we use plastic or even painters' drop cloths. The plants have room inside the tent, yet are protected from the cold. Gauze can be used in the summer to keep birds off or even lightweight poultry fabric to keep rabbits out.



The H-shaped wires can be used to prop up lazy plants. Simply place the top of the H under the lazy stem or branch. Gently lift the H up until the bottom can be placed into the soil. Then bend the upper portions of the H towards themselves and toward the plant to prevent being poked by the wires.

There you have it, cheap and cheerful! Put your campaign dollars to work! 🌱



PROTEA FLOWERS FOR SALE AT OUR DECEMBER 10 MEETING

Once again, the San Diego Floral Association will be selling gorgeous locally-grown Resendiz Brothers protea flowers (similar to those shown here) at the December meeting. These stunning blooms last many weeks in flower arrangements. They dry beautifully, too, so you could enjoy them for years! [Photos courtesy of Resendiz Brothers Protea Growers, www.resendizbrothers.com/.]

For fastest shopping plan to bring cash. Many other fine vendors will also be on hand with exceptional plants and other items perfect for holiday gifts or your own home. 🌿



ARE YOU SEEING THESE LOVELY PROTEA FLOWERS IN COLOR???

Our monthly eblast has the link for the digital newsletter, featuring all color images and live links. Back issues are also on our website. Over 60% our members like it so much they get only the digital edition! To switch to the digital edition exclusively send an email saying "online only" to membership@sdhort.org.

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

Elizabeth Aschmoneit	Suzanne Knight	Bette Ruzevick	Cindy Stewart
Barbara Dinsmore	Carlson	Janice Schock	Jeanne Visser
Dennis Graven	Claudia Kuepper	Diamant Shaw	Derek Wiback
Rolf Haas	James McDonald		
Mary Hill	Cyndi Mitchell		
	Susan Nattrass		

NEW ADVERTISER: ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL LANDSCAPE DESIGNERS (PAGE 19)

HORT BUCKS ARE GREAT!

See page 8 for an update on redeeming Hort Bucks. Kudos to these members whose friends joined in 2012; they earned Hort Bucks worth \$5 towards name badges, garden tours, dues and more! To get your Hort Bucks ask your friends to give your name when they join.

Jeanne Akin (1)	Joan Herskowitz (1)	Gabriel Mitchell (1)	Kenneth Selzer (2)
June Andersen (1)	Jason Hunter (1)	Susan Morse (1)	Patty Sliney (1)
Lynlee Austell (2)	Marla Keith (1)	Karin Norberg (1)	Nan Sterman (1)
Barbara Bandhaver (1)	Jeannine & John Le Strada (1)	Diane Norman (1)	Marcia Van Loy (1)
Linda Bresler (1)	Cheryl Lindberg (1)	Joan Oliver (1)	Janet Wanerka (1)
Jim Bishop (2)	Shirley Littler (1)	Gary Payne (1)	Dick & Gail Wheaton (1)
Patricia Bockstahler (1)	Marge Loneski (1)	Katie Pelisek (2)	Roy Wilburn,
Claire Ehrlinger (1)	Cathy McCaw (1)	Barb Raub (1)	Sunshine Care (1)
Diane Foote (1)	Rita McConn-Stern (1)	Ramona Garden Club (1)	Wild Animal Park (1)
Marilyn Guidroz (1)	Caroline McCullagh (1)	Joan Roberts (1)	Anne Wolfe (2)
Kay Harry (1)	Pat McDougal (1)	San Diego Floral Assoc. (1)	
Julie Hasl (2)	Kay & Vince McGrath (1)	Sam Seat (1)	
Adele Hendricks (1)	Mira Costa College (1)	Sue Ann Scheck (1)	

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LIFE MEMBERS *Horticulturist of the Year

*Chuck Ades (2008)

*Walter Andersen (2002)

Norm Applebaum &

Barbara Roper

*Bruce & Sharon

Asakawa (2010)

Gladys T. Baird

Debra Lee Baldwin

*Steve Brigham (2009)

Laurie Connable

Julian & Leslie Duval

*Edgar Engert (2000)

Jim Farley

Sue & Charles Fouquette

Penelope Hlavac

Debbie & Richard Johnson

*Vince Lazaneo (2004)

*Jane Minshall (2006)

*Bill Nelson (2007)

Tina & Andy Rathbone

*Jon Rebman (2011)

Peggy Ruzich

San Diego Home/

Gardens Lifestyle

Gerald D. Stewart

*Susi Torre-Bueno (2012)

& Jose Torre-Bueno

*Don Walker (2005) &

Dorothy Walker

Lucy Warren

*Evelyn Weidner (2001)

*Pat Welsh (2003)

Betty Wheeler

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

Philip Tackill & Janet Wanerka

DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS

Get a 15% discount at Briggs Tree Co. (www.briggstreet.com); 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: psiley@SDBGarden.org.

Join Grangetto's FREE Garden Club for coupons and tips delivered to your inbox. www.grangettos.com/garden.

Davey Tree Expert Company offers a 10% discount to SDHS members.

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What's Up at

San Diego
BOTANIC
GARDEN

San Diego Botanic Garden has been invited to become a full Participating Institution in the Center for Plant Conservation (CPC), a national organization dedicated solely to preventing extinction of America's imperiled, native flora. Kathryn Kennedy, the CPC's president and executive director said, "We are delighted to have this garden as a part of our national network. California is CPC's No. 2 hotspot for vulnerable plant diversity."

The Garden has a long history of support for native plant conservation. Preserving existing natural areas has been very important, including two natural areas containing eight acres of southern maritime chaparral and coastal sage scrub plant communities. In addition, there are three acres of restored areas of coastal sage scrub and southern maritime chaparral. These plant communities are some of the nation's most endangered vegetation types, as they are small in size and restricted to coastal areas. Because of human development only 10-15% remain today.

The southern maritime chaparral is particularly threatened because its distribution is limited to less than 100 miles (within five miles of the coast) between southern Orange County and San Diego. It also contains a number of rare plants, including federally endangered Del Mar manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glandulosa* ssp. *crassifolia*), Encinitas baccharis (see below), and a number of other federal and state listed species.

There are two naturally occurring populations of Del Mar manzanitas in each of the Garden's natural areas. In addition, Steve Brigham, then a gardener and nursery manager for the Garden, planted other Del Mar manzanitas over thirty years ago, which thrive today. He later became a founder of SDHS and is the author of its *Ornamental Trees for Mediterranean Climates*.

Other rare native plant species that have been planted in the Garden include Encinitas baccharis (*Baccharis vanessae*) and Orcutt's goldenbush (*Hazardia orcuttii*). Encinitas baccharis is federally threatened and grows in only limited sites in San Diego County. The only population in the United States of Orcutt's goldenbush is about two miles from the Garden.

Continued on page 11



Rachel Cobb

Octutt's Goldenbush

The CPC is made up of a network of 38 leading botanical institutions and maintains the National Collection of Endangered Plants. By developing standards and protocols and conducting conservation programs in horticulture, research, restoration, and raising awareness, CPC's network is striving to save America's rarest plants from being lost forever. ☘



PACIFIC HORTICULTURE 2013 TOURS

Pacific Horticulture Society is offering six small-group tours in 2013. *Gardens & Wildflowers of the Desert Southwest* opens the season with an in-depth look at public and private gardens of the Tucson area in early March. April's *Morocco & Andalusia* is already sold out. In late May, guests visit some of the finest gardens in the USA on a week-long tour of *Gardens of the Philadelphia Region*. In June, a fortunate few will take a very close look at the *Natural History of Santa Cruz Island*. Guests stay at the University of California research station on the island, spending four days learning about plant and animal species found nowhere else on Earth. *Scotland: Castles & Gardens* is a ten-day horticultural and historical expedition through the Scottish highlands and islands in July. Autumn brings an adventure in *Northern Italy*, including the lovely Lake District. As each Pacific Horticulture tour is limited to a small group, trips often sell out well in advance. Tours include accommodation, ground transportation, many meals, and expert guides. Tour guests especially enjoy admission to gardens and sights rarely open to the public. For more information, visit www.pacifichorticulture.org.



Philadelphia tour garden.

SDHS is one of six West Coast societies providing support for the Pacific Horticulture Society. Producers of *Pacific Horticulture* magazine, PacHort also offers small group tours designed to educate and inspire plant enthusiasts everywhere. ☘

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SHARING SECRETS

This column is written by you, our members! Each month we'll ask a question, and print your responses the following month. You can find copies of previous Sharing Secrets on our website at <https://sdhort.wildapricot.org/SharingSecrets?eid=1093874>.

NEW ONLINE: You can now continue the discussion by adding new replies to Sharing Secrets topics online. Here's your chance to comment on how the plants you mentioned two years ago are doing today, or to suggest another way to do something in the garden.

The question for this month was:

What do you plan to do differently in your garden in 2013, and why?

Scott Jones wrote: What do I plan to recommend more for people to grow in their gardens in 2013, and beyond? Answer: Enjoy the heat, Grow Mangos!, or take advantage of the heat, Grow Mangos!

Tammy Schwab plans to: incorporate more edibles, install a waterfall in my front yard, change to drip irrigation around the perimeter of my home, and hopefully do some terracing in both the front and rear yard. The why.... to fulfill my goal of home grown edibles, to add a focal point in the front, and so I can have better accessibility.

Elizabeth Aschmoneit said: Oh the wonderful things my garden will hopefully undergo! (1) A split rail fence with a farm style entry gate! Why you ask? Keep our pets in and the pickers out! (2) A chicken coop! Why? I love the little buggers and the gifts the girls give us for taking care of them! (3) An edible garden! Because there will be a class on it this month and I think it's a grand idea!

BJ Boland shared that: having just moved into a West Coast home for the first time, I expect to rip out the present builder's palms and randomly planted shrubs. Then we'll put in a lap pool and 4 gardens, all on ground that tightly hugs the house.

Charlotte Getz is: gradually converting many of my plants to succulents and drought tolerant shrubs: grevilleas, leucadendrons, flax lilies, etc. All plants that want little water will be the recipe for 2013 and beyond.

Jim Farley is also going for edibles: In the interest of supporting a sustainable food shed, I will be looking for opportunities to convert trees that beautify my garden and require maintenance and water to beautiful sources of food.

Gloria Alexanderson will be: finishing putting my cacti and succulents all into pots, on a drip system.

Lorrie Webb told us: We are going to rotate our vegetable planters and give them a rest during the winter. We might have to sneak in a little kale. We are also going to buy good organic soil from City Gardens and try our own homemade compost.

Gerald D. Stewart said: I have hundreds of impetuous plant purchases, many of which die before I figure out what to do with them. In the future I am going to know what is going to happen

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to a plant and do the preparation (having a hole ready, or for a new area have the irrigation system in place and on a timer), before I actually make the purchase. This change in next year's gardening is due to a book I read over the summer. *Dwight Eisenhower's Crusade in Europe* was a fascinating read. In it he described over and over how detailed planning before an event was crucial for the success of any military action. That will be a useful tool for me in the garden: purchase by plan rather than by impulse. It should save a lot of time hand watering a bazillion pots with individual needs, not to mention money wasted on dead plants.

Diane Scharar will deal with accessibility: Since breaking my hip I realize that the garden needs to be easier to care for.

Enid Sherman is going for native plants: We are going to redo our front yard using native plants. We have Greg Rubin coming over here in a few weeks to give us guidance. We want to conserve water and also blend into our surroundings better. Torrey Pines Park is in our close view. Since we also love succulents, we want to incorporate some into this new landscape. We have learned much visiting monthly gardens with the Hort.

Linda Bresler said: I am beginning this fall to concentrate on planting proven drought tolerant plants from Australia, South Africa, etc. like the ones already in my garden which survived this past summer. I am also planting lots of succulents because they do well without much water. I won't plant anything after April except succulents since they have a much better chance of surviving the summer heat.

Sue Ann Scheck is going for major changes: This year Bill and I are going wild with natives. Also, we want to create a more intimate feel, cover our hardscape with pebbles and slabs of stone. We are loving grasses, watching many plantings mature, and trying to add some pizzazz to our garden. Maybe some colored boulders.... anybody know the best place to get them?

Jennifer Harris will be saving water by: replacing more lawn with decorative rock, and succulents. Reason? They are not only beautiful, but require less H₂O, and attract less rabbits and gophers!

Anne Murphy will add worms: I will add worm composting to my garden. I want their worm castings for my garden. I also want to add chickens for their chicken castings. Both of those are geared to my fruit and vegetable plants. On the other hand, for ornamentals I will continue looking to recommendations for plants for really hot climate areas, plants that love the heat, poor soil and need little water, once established. Recent successes in this category include *Abutilon palmeri*, Indian mallow, with soft fuzzy leaves and prolific yellow blooms and *Caesalpinia gillesii*, a large shrub with attractive delicate flowers, yellow petals and long red stamens.

Marilyn Guidroz has plans for removing some plants: I plan to get rid of plants that are just not working for me anymore. Since my garden is fairly new and I am working on establishing some of my plants that have been sitting in containers waiting to be planted, I have had time to consider them again. Some plants are gifts, some are inherited from projects, and some are ones that have been around so long I forget where they came from. As I am putting together a very drought tolerant and native garden I must cull out some plants that will just not fit in. It is a hard thing for a plant lover to do, but it must be done! I wonder if my neighbors want them?

Stephen Zolezzi will re-think what he has now: In 12 years my present garden has grown, changed and matured; what worked before, shade, sun, fertility needs to be re-assed for the future. So, in 2013 I will need to reinvigorate soil, trim trees for more sun, move some plants that are just not working or need a change, and continue

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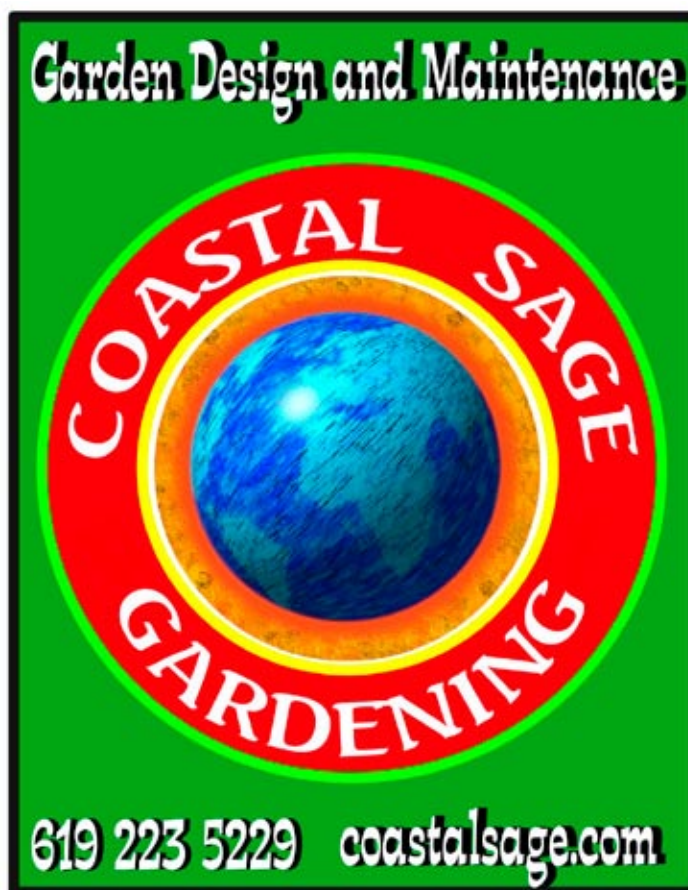
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to add more succulents/natives that are water wise. Gardening over half an acre, I need to not only conserve water, but also how much time it takes to maintain so I can enjoy my work.

John Wear will see results in 2013 from what he did in 2012: I just planted a bit of Russian Sage into attractive beds for my daughter-in-law. Previous plantings of herbs are returning beauty, great odor-essence, and joy in the daily encounter upon passing the portals (out the front door). Increased humus in rooting areas around all the new plants. Retro-installed more RZH and RZHO (humus products) into rooting areas. Enhanced coloration and odor-output guaranteed! Healthy, happy plants. Results will continue to be less watering, weed control and vector control owing to the new methods causing values to outcompete invasions. We may have started a rosemary forest; the blooms are fantastic!

Peggy Rados has a good problem: I plan to put my herbs in containers next year because they grow so well they are taking up too much space and I find I have little space for other things. It certainly is wonderful to have such a problem.

Ann Hoepfner is re-thinking tomatoes: I'll plant my tomatoes later, in June, rather than in April. I tried both this year, and the later ones caught up pretty quickly, and were healthier because the weather was warmer.

Louise Anderson will garden more carefully: Next year I'm getting help with the heavy work because my body won't go along with the program. Will also be more careful with what's planted and use less vigorous plants.

Stevie Hall is: not quite sure what I'll do differently in 2013. This year I switched over (sort of) from roses to edibles, but was only semi-successful with my crop and also have a major infestation of sooty mold on my citrus. Maybe next year I'll be a little more proactive with fungicide and insecticide (organic, of course) and not let the bad stuff get ahead of me like it did this year.

Janet Voinov is removing succulents – temporarily: I'm taking out my succulents and drought tolerant plants (storing them safely), putting in drip, and replanting with more concentration on what to put where. I was so excited to take out my grass several years ago that I just got rid of the grass and put things in wherever they fit. Now, I'm taking my time, putting plants in groups, making sure that the taller plants are in the back so shorter plants can be seen. I'm raking up a couple of year's worth of leaves (for my compost) and putting in new mulch. Hopefully I can get everything done before the leaves start to fall again.

Candace Kohl is not planning any major changes to the garden this coming year: I have been doing some big projects that I have put off; replacing a dirt path with DG, replacing an old rotten wood retaining wall with rock and redoing some parts of the irrigation that have never worked well. These expensive improvements should be finished before the start of 2013 and should last a long time, and I hope make the gardening easier since I will actually be able to get to some areas. This will allow me to keep more on top of the garden condition next year. My gardening goals are a lot like my exercise goals. The same every year but seldom accomplished in the way I set out to do. My main goal (which is the same as last year but one I didn't do very well with) is to enjoy the garden more and spend more time just hanging out in it.

Sky Jeannette is excited about her veggie success: In 2013 we are going to grow more veggies in our Tower Garden. Our big switch this past year has been to grow many of our veggies and some fruit in our vertical, aeroponic (without soil) Tower Garden saving 90% on

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water, 50% on space and growing crops 50% faster. My husband and I are long-time gardeners. We went from skeptics to great enthusiasts: the tomatoes, kale, squash, lettuce, chard and more were the best tasting veggies I've ever had. No gopher problems, either.

Leslie Crawford says: It's a jungle out there! My goal is to consolidate a lot of my little pots into bigger plantings and to do a better job with the plants I have. I would like a tidier garden. Also, I'm going to set a budget for how much I can spend on plant material so I am not impulse buying plants I don't need! Lastly, I want to try to root more of my plants to give to friends, and I want to grow more food in my small space, preferably from seed.

Cindy Sparks does plan to do a few things very differently: I will have the house termite-tented at the first of the year, so I'll need to dig and hide away several prize plants. After the tenting they can go back, hopefully with good results and that is a one-time problem. Next, I have succeeded with making my front yard into one needing very low water and also low maintenance. The one exception is that I got a "native" grass, *Leymus arenarius* 'Glaucus' which turns out to be a very big thug (and native to Europe, not California), so I may start a program of "sequestering" new potentially invasive natives in pots first to determine their ability to invade. In back, my edible plots have gotten away from me, too, so I will make a better plan of what I really want to eat, and when to plant what. Yes, it will mean less food to the food bank, but less work for me too. Otherwise, business as usual.

Sue Lasbury has plans for little bits of her time: One thing I plan to do differently next year is to use those little pockets of time that don't seem big enough to tackle a gardening project. Let's say I only have 15 minutes. That's enough time to pull a good many weeds, or turn the compost, or jet-spray a plant infested with white fly, or test the moisture level of spots all over your garden. And if you only have 30 minutes, you can plant something, or prune a small shrub. The point is to use small bits of time to garden. Sometimes its difficult to find a huge hunk of gardening time, but we all have small segments of time available and when we use them they really do add up to getting a whole lot done in the garden.

Vivian Black is removing any extraneous iris plants: With water and weather changes, it's very labor intensive to water and prune them. I have rare iris and a lot of fruit trees, which I'm keeping. If any members want double blooming iris, I'm thrilled to give them away... they can come and dig them up.

Elf Mitton will keep her critters happy: I plan to add more plants for hummingbirds and butterflies. My garden is a Certified Backyard Wildlife Habitat and every year the "hummies" nest. The butterflies also lay eggs in the trees, so its fun to watch the "wooly boys" climbing up the walls of the house after they hatch. I also plan to grow veggies for my tortoises.

Tynan Wyatt is also growing edibles in 2013: A cover crop of vetch or fava beans in the vegetable beds is one idea I'm considering. Another would be more thinning of the fruit clusters, especially the grapes. Oh, and bagging more of the fruit to protect them from the birds, bees, and wasps. Last year we fed more critters than people.

Una Marie Pierce plans to: upgrade the irrigation and plants to make the garden easier to take care of in my old age. I also plan to cut back fruit trees and plant fewer vegetables in order to not have so much to give away. I wouldn't mind giving excess away, but no one comes to get it, and they just wait for me to deliver. I still love my garden and have NO intention of moving into a retirement home!

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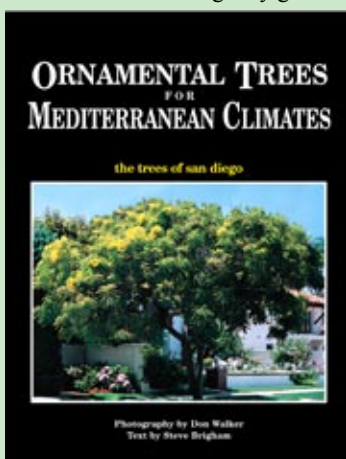
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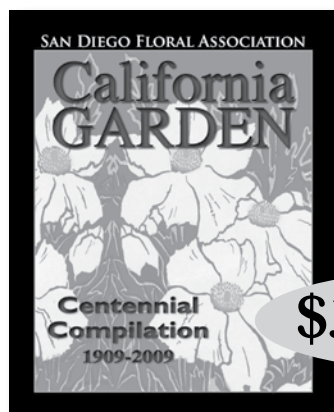


Steve Brigham said: After two years of developing my garden here at Happy Acres By-The-Sea, I'm largely done! So, in 2013 I won't do much differently in my garden. But I will do some different things in all my neighbors' gardens! Let's all make this the year that we plant all of our neighbors' yards, not just our own!

Renee Shepherd is going for color: I plan to plant more primroses for spring color because they last much longer than I ever think they will.

Roy Wilburn has info about pelletized seeds you might want to try in 2013: One thing that we find very helpful here at Sunshine Care, is the use of coated (pelletized) lettuce seed. Our residents, special needs kids, and home school kids do all of the seeding for our gardens. We don't lay out streams of lettuce seeds in the gardens because I don't have the time to go through later and thin them out. Plus, I have a very nice heated greenhouse for excellent germination. The larger coated seeds can be sown one seed per cavity in the seed trays. The plugs are then transplanted one at a time in about a month. This results in a very uniform stand of lettuce in the row and all can be harvested in one shot.

Susi Torre-Bueno is re-doing part of her garden: I have a labyrinth which was originally planted four years ago with herbs and edible flowers in 18" wide beds. Sounds great, and I thought it would be interesting and low-maintenance. Hah! The flowers were mostly annuals and needed constant replacement (they didn't self-seed as expected), and the herbs got wayyyyyyy too big for the available space – think 6' tall (and 5' wide) rosemary and 4' wide lavender. What had I been thinking? Starting a few months ago I removed virtually all the herbs and have been re-planting the labyrinth with a wide range of colorful succulents and low-water bulbs. Sounds better, right? Nope! I've recently been reflecting about how the main purpose of a labyrinth is to be a calm, meditative place, and I'm finding the very colorful succulents too distracting to produce a contemplative effect. So... I'm going to reduce the kinds of succulents to just a few varieties in a very limited color palette and hope that finally produces the effect I want.



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The question for next month is:

Why do you photograph your garden, and what you do with the photos? (Thanks to Susan Krzywicki for suggesting this topic.) Send your reply by December 5 to newsletter@sdhort.org.

Happy Holidays to you & your perennials, shrubs, succulents, herbs, vines, natives, trees, veggies, orchids, annuals, etc.



NOVEMBER PLANT DISPLAY

By Steve Brigham and Susi Torre-Bueno

What is the Plant Display?

Each month members bring in plants, cuttings or flowers and put them in blue bottles on our display tables. What a great way to see what plants grow well in our area. EVERYONE is invited to participate. Each month the display highlights one type of plant, and an expert talks informally about the plants and answers questions. All plants are welcome, but we hope you'll try to bring plants in the categories shown here. Write descriptions similar to those below, and put them with your plant(s).

Join the fun and bring ANYTHING AT ALL to the December 10 meeting. Expert Walter Andersen will be on hand to answer your questions. We thank Marilyn Guidroz for being our helpful expert on shrubs at the October meeting.

***Myrtus communis* 'Variegata'** VARIEGATED MYRTLE (Myrtaceae) Cultivar

This very handsome shrub has spicy-scented 1" long leaves with creamy edges and markings; the species is native to the Mediterranean. The small white sweetly-scented flowers appear in winter to summer and are followed by brilliantly contrasting purple-black berries in the fall. It grows 5-15' tall and wide, but is easily pruned to a smaller size. The foliage is excellent in flower arrangements, being very long-lasting when cut. If a stem reverts to solid green leaves cut it off to keep the variegation prominent. Here's part of Steve Brigham's description from our book, *Ornamental Trees for Mediterranean Climates*: "The aromatic fragrance of the Common Myrtle is legendary, and it is a plant that has been used for centuries in Europe for scent-making, woodworking, leather tanning, and also medicinally. Although frequently thought of as a shrub, it can, with age, be trained as an attractive small multi-trunked tree... [It] grows easily in full sun or partial shade, and tolerates a wide variety of soils as long as drainage is good. It thrives with regular watering, but is also drought-tolerant, and is cold-hardy to around 15°F." (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 11/12) – S.B. & S.T.B.



Scan of cutting from
Myrtus communis
'Variegata'

Continued on page 18

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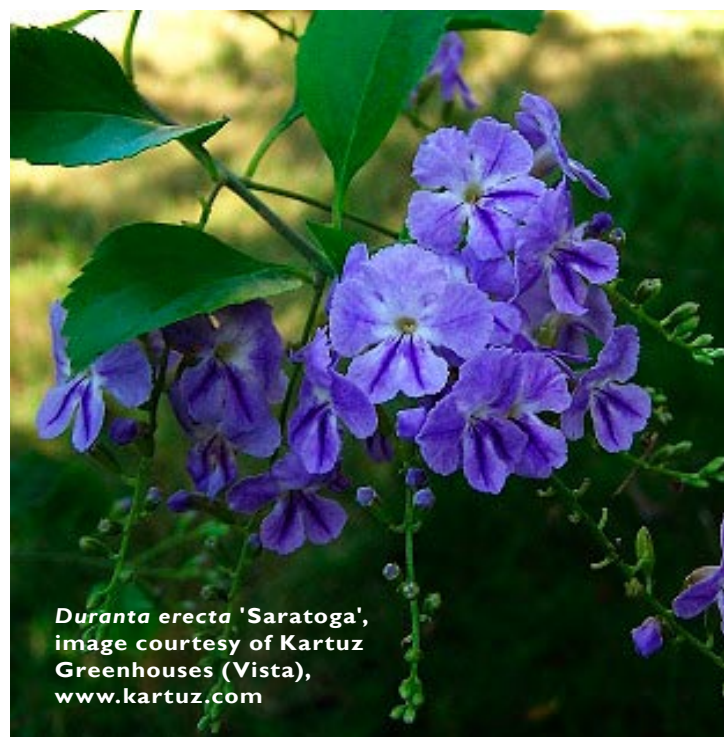


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***Duranta erecta* 'Sarasota'** GOLDEN DEWDROP, PIGEON BERRY, SKY FLOWER (Verbenaceae)

This evergreen shrub is a choice horticultural hybrid of a plant native to Tropical America (South Florida to Brazil). This hybrid has clusters of lavender-blue flowers with darker spots on the lower petals. The flowers have been described as having a sweet, sugary scent like cake batter or sugar-cookie dough, and are produced all year on long 6-8" pendent clusters throughout the year. I'm fond of the way that both flowers and berries appear at the same time, with the golden yellow berries strung along gracefully curving stems. One thing to be careful of: this plant has 1-1/2" long wickedly sharp spines coming from the leaf axils. Don't let that deter you, though; the spines can be cut off with clippers if they're very close to where you walk. Here's part of Steve Brigham's description from our book, *Ornamental Trees for Mediterranean Climates*: "The Sky Flower is a fast-growing evergreen shrub that can be easily trained as a small tree. Especially as a multi-trunked specimen, it makes a beautiful addition to the landscape... It grows easily in most soils in full sun or partial shade, needs only average watering, and is cold-hardy to around 20°F." (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 11/12) - S.B. & S.T-B.



***Duranta erecta* 'Saratoga',
image courtesy of Kartuz
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**In addition to the plants described above,
those below were also displayed.**

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

Can you spot the phony plant this month? The phony plant in the November newsletter was x *Brassolaeliocattleya* Picnic Spots.

- 3 *Aloysia virgata* BUBBLE GUM PLANT, SWEET ALMOND VERBENA (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 11/12)
- 3 *Aloysia wrightii* CHEWING GUM PLANT, SWEET ALMOND VERBENA (Plant Lover, Vista, 11/12)
- 3 *Leucophyllum zygophyllum* TEXAS RANGER (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 11/12) 🌿

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NOVEMBER MEETING REPORT

By Susi Torre-Bueno

My front yard is very steeply-sloped, with a wide assortment of drought-tolerant plants that manage to do well despite the fact that only a shallow layer of soil separates their roots from the underlying granite rock. I'm never going to grow veggies in this already-planted and hard-to-reach locale (although several very robust rosemary shrubs thrive where only mountain goats could munch them). Despite this, I was eager to hear Ivette Soler's talk about "Design Guidelines for Creating a Successful 'Integrated' Edible Front Yard." Obviously, a beautiful edible landscape can go elsewhere on my property, and I was looking for design tips and practical advice on how to increase the eye-appeal of my existing veggie area. I wasn't disappointed.

Ivette's talk was all I had hoped for and more! She mentioned how delighted she was to be speaking in Southern California again (she lives in L.A.) after giving many talks in the Pacific Northwest. She's spent the last 25 years as a self-taught gardener and garden designer (check out her blog, www.thegerminatrix.com), and when she moved into her new home in the Eagle Rock neighborhood one of the first things she did – to what she surmises was her neighbors' dismay – was to get rid of her front lawn and foundation shrubs. She replaced these ho-hum components with an eclectic and attractive mix of edibles and ornamental plants, and her lively talk for us summarized her design principles and tricks of the trade.

As she mentioned, edible front gardens are becoming more common as gardeners realize that their largely unused front lawns are achieved only through great effort, vast quantities of water, use of pesticides and other environmentally-unfriendly chemicals, and significant financial outlay. How much better to have an attractive space where you can let your kids pick fresh vegetables than one where you'd hesitate to let them walk barefoot due to toxic chemicals. To be clear, Ivette said she's "not against all lawns, but a front yard lawn is very wasteful." Plus, "Growing food is COOL!"

One notable side effect of having an edible front yard is that it gets us out there in a space that doesn't have much going on, and gets you out there with your neighbors." It's a great way to foster a genuine neighborliness and you can show your neighbors, who will surely be curious, that "anyone can do it – all it takes is a little ingenuity." Further, attractive edible gardens are a way of "eating with your eyes," and will also be enjoyed by people driving by.

Ivette cautioned that we not go overboard. While these gardens "should be an attractive mix of edibles and ornamentals (including ornamental edibles)," she says, "Don't overplant and grow more than you can deal with." Start slow and grow only what you can use, with perhaps some to give away. If you take on too much you'll be unable to properly care for it (these gardens are *not* low maintenance!) and few things are more unattractive than a neglected vegetable garden.

One way to tie the garden to the house is through the thoughtful use of hardscape. Use hardscape and planters to compliment your house and make the edibles look good. Provide attractive supports for climbing plants like tomato or bean vines. We saw a number of examples of handsome structures for the front garden, some painted to compliment the house. Ivette said we need to "take hardscape



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Program Committee chair Mary James
(left) and speaker Ivette Soler

seriously," and to consider how the entire garden adds to the attractiveness of our homes. However, we needn't spend a fortune on fancy hardscape – veggies grow quite happily on chain link fences, for example, and soon turn them into lush green walls. Also, mulching with gravel is good because it helps add minerals to the soil, provides better drainage, and encourages self-sown seedlings you can leave in place or transplant as needed.

"How to make the garden beautiful," Ivette asked? The reply: "Contrast color!" Plant ruby-stemmed chard next to yellow tomatoes, use speckled or colored lettuce, red basil, and other herbs and veggies with bright colors. She said that, "Herbs are the gateway drug to edible gardening," and showed some photos of just how attractive they can be mixed with ornamental plants.

Other garden tips included the need for contrasting forms. Look for tall plants to mix with edibles, grow long-leaved daylilies for their edible flowers, and plant stands of corn where you might have used tall grasses. The large round leave of nasturtiums (whose leaves, flowers and seeds are all edible) are a nice foil for other plants. Also, contrasting textures are important for visual appeal. Mix the small leaves of golden oregano next to a larger-leaved silvery sage; use the tasty ferny foliage of bronze fennel (the seeds are also edible) with large silver artichoke leaves.

"Repeat yourself," Ivette reminded us. Buy three of a plant instead of one and mass the plants to make a "puddle" in the garden. Look for "choice specimens" so you have something fantastic, a gorgeous and dramatic show-stopper to say, "Ta Dah!" in the garden.

Thanks, Ivette, for a fascinating and lively presentation! If you missed this talk you can borrow the video at the next meeting you attend. A copy of Ivette's book, *The Edible Front Yard*, is available from our library



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Group or Business 3 years	<input type="checkbox"/> \$140	<input type="checkbox"/> \$176
Student 1 year (Proof of enrollment is required)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$16	<input type="checkbox"/> \$28
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Volunteers Needed See Page 2

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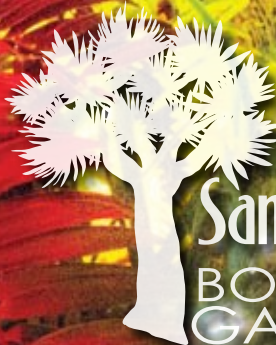
Garden of Lights

December 8 – 23 & 26 – 30
5:00 PM to 9:00 PM

- Snow on selected nights
- Horse-drawn Wagon Rides
- Holiday Crafts
- Marshmallow Roasting
- Photos with Santa
- Live Music



Scan the QR code
for a glimpse of
the event!



San Diego
BOTANIC
GARDEN

Visit
SDBGarden.org
for details



MIRACOSTA COLLEGE HORTICULTURE / SPRING 2013

www.miracosta.edu/hort



Horticulture Associate Degree or Certificate Program

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

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

Spring classes at MiraCosta College start January 14

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

Holiday Poinsettia Sale

Premium quality Poinsettias grown by the MiraCosta College Horticulture Department

Poinsettia Sale Hours at the Horticulture Sales Nursery:
Every Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 11/19-12/21, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

POINSETTIA VARIETIES & PRICING:

4" Red or White: \$4
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MiraCosta College, Oceanside Campus
1 Barnard Drive, Oceanside, CA 92056

MiraCosta College, San Elijo Campus
3333 Manchester Avenue, Cardiff, CA 92056



MiraCosta College Credit Courses / Spring 2013

Class #	Days	Time	Instructor	Units	Room #	Class #	Days	Time	Instructor	Units	Room #
HORT 110 Introduction to Sustainable Horticulture						HORT 140 Subtropical Fruit and Plant Production					
This course introduces sustainable horticulture principles and practices in gardening, landscaping, nursery management, and floriculture. Students are required to attend field labs and field trips. CSU						This course covers the production of subtropical fruits grown primarily in San Diego and neighboring counties, including citrus, avocados, and exotic fruits. Field trips to local orchards and groves are required. CSU					
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS						OCEANSIDE CAMPUS					
2566	T	11:00am-1:00pm	ALLISON M	3.0	OC7051	2590	M	5:00pm-6:55pm	BENDER G	3.0	OC7053
	&T	1:00pm-3:50pm			OC7001		&S	8:00am-10:55am			OC7053
HORT 115 Soil Science						HORT 147 Wines of California					
This course examines the physical, chemical, and biological properties of soil with an emphasis on solving issues related fertility, salinity, pH, high calcium, specific toxicities, and physical problems. Students are required to participate in field labs and trips. CSU; UC						(Material Fee: \$85.00) This course introduces the wines and major wine producing regions of California. Students must be 21 and are required to attend field trips. CSU ADVISORY: HORT 145.					
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS						SAN ELIJO CAMPUS IN CARDIFF					
2568	Th	1:00pm-3:50pm	ALLISON M	3.0	OC7001	2715	W	6:30pm-9:20pm	COLANGELO D	3.0	SAN406
	&Th	4:00pm-5:50pm			OC7051						
HORT 116 Plant Science						HORT 149 Vineyard Production and Management					
This course covers the basic principles of plant science pertaining to food and ornamental plants and addresses plant taxonomy and nomenclature. Students are required to attend field labs and field trips. CSU; UC						This course covers vineyard management responsibilities, including vineyard development, budgeting, grape selection, and care. Students are required to attend field trips to local vineyards. CSU					
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS						OCEANSIDE CAMPUS					
2572	MW	12:30pm-3:20pm	KINNON C	4.0	OC7053	2593	M	7:00pm-9:00pm	STEHLY A	3.0	OC7053
2574	TTh	12:30pm-3:20pm	MESSINA J	4.0	OC7053		&S	8:00am-10:55am			OC7051
2576	W	5:00pm-7:50pm	EHRLINGER C	4.0	OC7053						
	&ONL				ONLINE						
	+3 hours weekly online.										
HORT 117 Plant Identification: Trees, Shrubs, and Vines						HORT 230 Landscape Architecture					
This course covers the identification, growth habits, culture, and ornamental use of plants found in Southern California landscapes. It emphasizes botanical and common names, plant family relationships, and environmental adaptations. Students are required to attend field trips both on and off campus. CSU; UC						This project-based class offers continued study in the field of landscape architectural design with an emphasis on sustainable design principles. Students work both individually and in groups. Field trips are required. CSU PREREQUISITE: HORT 127.					
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS						3029 M 5:00pm-9:55pm ALLISON M 3.0 OC7051					
2578	F	1:00pm-3:55pm	EHRLINGER C	3.0	OC7051						
	&ONL				ONLINE						
	+2 hours weekly online.										
HORT 121 Landscape Management						HORT 299 Occupational Cooperative Work Experience					
This course introduces landscape management practices, including pruning, fertilization, irrigation, turf management, soil preparation, transplanting, fire safety, and pest management. Participation in field trips and field labs is required. CSU						This course is for students who are employed in a job directly related to their major and who seek to learn new skills or improve existing skills at work under the instruction of a MiraCosta faculty-mentor. CSU COREQUISITE: Complete 75 hrs paid or 60 hrs non-paid work per unit. ENROLLMENT LIMITATION: Career Center approval. May not enroll in any combination of cooperative work experience and/or internship studies concurrently. +2812 ARR STAFF 3.0 Go to www.miracosta.edu/dataform or Career Center, Bldg. 3700, OC, to complete an employer contact form. Faculty mentor will visit your worksite twice, unless you are employed more than 25 miles from a MiraCosta campus. You then may be required to travel a campus to meet with your instructor and virtually. Call the Career Center if you have questions: 760.795.6772. THIS IS A LATE-START CLASS, (01/28-05/20).					
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS											
2580	Th	6:30pm-8:30pm	GARZA D	3.0	OC7051						
	&S	11:30am-2:25pm			OC7053						
HORT 126 Landscape Irrigation											
This course introduces site analysis, component selection, and the operation and maintenance of water efficient landscape sprinkler systems. CSU											
2582	T	5:00pm-9:50pm	EHRLINGER C	3.0	OC7051						
HORT 127 Landscape Design											
Principles of design for residential projects. Students will prepare a site analysis, plot plan, presentation drawings, and budget for a typical residential site. CSU											
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS											
2584	W	5:00pm-9:50pm	ALLISON M	3.0	OC7051						
HORT 134 Plant Pest Control											
Students examine common pests of ornamental plants in Southern California (weeds, insects, and diseases). The course emphasizes diagnosis, control, laws and regulations, and preparation for state licensing exams or continuing education. CSU											
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS											
2588	T	5:00pm-9:50pm	KINNON C	3.0	OC7053						

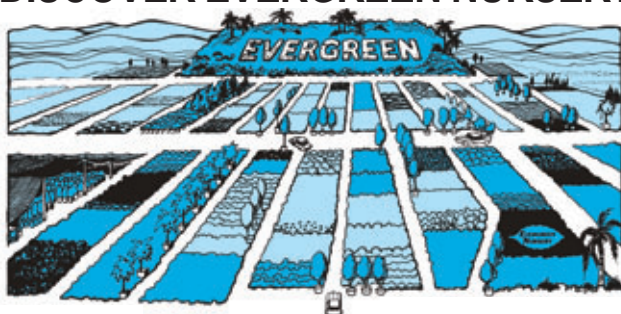
What's Happening? for December 2012

The SDHS is happy to publicize items of horticultural interest. See other side for resources & ongoing events.

Send calendar listings by the 10th of the month before the event to Neal King at calendar@sdhortsoc.org.

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First Saturday of every month

Starting at 10am at both locations

It's Christmas Time

No seminar this month but still come out and choose one of thousands of Christmas trees we have available every holiday season. Pick up holiday favorites like Poinsettias, Wreaths and Garland.

JANUARY 5 seminar:

Landscaping & Maintaining Your Garden in Winter

Seminars are free; refreshments will be provided.

All participants will get a coupon good towards your purchase for that day only.

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Events at Public Gardens

❖ **Alta Vista Gardens** contact info on other side
See website for events & classes.

❖ **San Diego Botanic Garden** contact info on other side
Dec. 1, 10am-noon), Composting Workshop: Successfully compost at home and will cover backyard composting strategies and vermicomposting. Free. 760/ 436-7986 x218 or elizabeth@solanacenter.org.

Saturdays, 10:30am, Garden Tour: Docent led tour of Garden: Departs from the Visitor Center/Gift Shop.

Dec. 8-23 & 26-30, 5-9 pm, Garden of Lights:

Over 100,000 sparkling lights illuminating the Garden for a magical holiday experience. Leave the hustle and bustle of the malls behind and enjoy a relaxing evening strolling through the lighted Garden, festively decorated with many varieties of Poinsettias. Members \$6, non-members \$12; Seniors, Military & Students \$8, Children 3-12 \$4, Children 2 and under Free. See back cover.

❖ The Water Conservation Garden

contact info on other side

Saturdays, 10:30am, Garden Tour: Docent led tour of the Garden. Meet at the main gate at the Garden entrance. No reservations required.

FREE Events by SDHS Sponsors:

Please thank them for supporting SDHS!

✿ Barrels & Branches Classes (check again in January)

See page 15 and www.barrelsandbranches.com.

✿ **Cedros Gardens, Saturday and Sunday FREE morning classes.** Details at www.cedrosgardens.com; address in ad on page 17.

✿ City Farmers Nursery FREE Class

Dec. 16, 1-3 pm, Gifts in a Jar. Edible ornaments and Holiday Cookies. Homegrown goodies are easy when you provide most of the ingredients in a jar... they just need to add a few simple ingredients, a copied recipe, jar and bow! Affordable and delicious ways to give gifts. Gluten-free recipes will be provided. \$3 supply fee PLUS please purchase a canning jar at the nursery (or bring your own). See www.cityfarmersnursery.com or call (619) 284-6358.

✿ Evergreen Nursery FREE Seminar Each Month

See column at left for details.

✿ Sunshine Care & Grangetto's FREE Workshop on December 1

10-11:30am, Winter Vegetables: How to Plant and Maintain. Held at Grangetto's, 1105 W. Mission Ave., Escondido. Register at www.grangettos.com/register. Sunshine Care - ad on page 14. Info: (858) 752-8197 or www.sunshinencare.com. Grangetto's - ad on page 21. Info: (760) 745-4671 or www.grangettos.com.

✿ Walter Andersen Nursery FREE Saturday Classes

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

	Point Loma, 9am	Poway, 9:30am
Dec. 1	Rose Pruning	Making Holiday Decorations
Dec. 8	Bonsai for Beginners	Rose Pruning
Dec. 15	Pruning Peach, Nectarines & Almonds	Tree Pruning
Dec. 29	Pruning Apples, Pears & Other Fruits	Bare Root Roses; Care & Transplanting

✿ Weidners' Gardens (check again in January)

Details at www.weidners.com; addresses & phone in ad on page 21

Next SDHS Meeting:

December 10 - 6:00 pm

Slow Flowers: Follow Your Flowers from Field to Vase

Locally-grown protea flowers will be sold

See page 1 for details

**More garden-related events
on other side.**

Other Garden-Related Events:

Check with hosts to confirm dates & details

- ◆ Dec. 1, 8 am - 1pm, Dos Valles Garden Club: Poinsettia, Wreath & Gift Plant Sale. 28933 Cole Grade Rd Valley Center. Info: www.dosvallesgardenclub.org.
- ◆ Dec. 7, 11am-3pm, Vista Garden Club: Living Green Walls. Info: www.VistaGardenClub.org, (760) 724-6256.
- ◆ Dec. 7-8, San Dieo Floral Assoc.: Stop by to purchase gingerbread cookies and admire our decorated trees during Balboa Park's December Nights Celebration. Friday, 5-10 p.m.; Saturday, Noon-10 pm. Rm 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego. Info: www.sdfloal.org.
- ◆ Dec. 8, 9-11am, Fullerton Arboretum: Urban Farming: The Thriving Edible Landscape. How to get the most food out of your edible landscape. \$20 member/\$25 non-member. One block west of the 57 Freeway at Yorba Linda Blvd. and Associated Road. Call (657) 278-4681 or see www.fullertonarboretum.org.
- ◆ Dec. 9, 1:30pm, Begonia Society: Making chocolate and plant quiz. 423 Rancho Santa Fe Road, Encinitas. For info call (760) 815-7914 or email marla.keith@cox.net.
- ◆ Dec. 12, 10:00am, Point Loma Garden Club: Holiday tea & bazaar. 2818 Avenida de Portugal. See www.plgc.org.

Regular monthly meetings for garden groups will resume in January. Enjoy the holidays and make some time to spend in your garden!

San Diego County Farmers Markets

www.sdfarmbureau.org/BuyLocal/Farmers-Markets.php

MONDAY: Escondido - Welk Village	THURSDAY: Chula Vista Horton Square Linda Vista North Park Oceanside CFM Oceanside Sunset Pacific Highlands Poway-Alliant Univ. San Carlos UTC	SATURDAY: Carlsbad City Heights Del Mar Golden Hill Little Italy Pacific Beach Poway Ramona Rancho San Diego Scripps Ranch Vista
TUESDAY: Coronado Escondido Mira Mesa Morena District Otay Ranch Pacific Beach UCSD/La Jolla	FRIDAY: Borrego Springs Fallbrook Imperial Beach Kearny Mesa La Mesa Rancho Bernardo Southeast San Diego	SUNDAY: North San Diego Gaslamp District Hillcrest Julian La Jolla Leucadia/Encinitas Point Loma Rancho Santa Fe San Marcos Solana Beach
WEDNESDAY: Carlsbad Encinitas Mission Hills North San Diego Ocean Beach San Marcos Santee		

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

Resources & Ongoing Events

- ALTA VISTA BOTANIC GARDENS:** Open Monday-Friday 7:00-5:00 ; 10:00-5:00 on weekends. Fee: members/free; non-members/\$2. 1270 Vale Terrace Drive, Vista. Info: www.avgardens.org or (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.
- THE 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 Southern 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. FREE. Open Friday-Wednesday, 10am to 4pm.
 - Botanical Library:** Room 105, Casa del Prado, Mon.-Fri. and first Sat., 10am-3pm, FREE. Info: (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. Info: (619) 235-1122.
 - San Diego 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:

- Garden Compass Radio Show** (local). Saturday 9-10am. XEPE 1700AM radio, hosts Bruce and Sharon Asakawa, John Bagnasco. Call-in questions: (619) 570-1360 or (800) 660-4769.
- GardenLife Radio Show** (national). Saturday 8-9am and Sunday 8-10am. KCEO 1000AM radio, hosts Bruce and Sharon Asakawa, John Bagnasco. Call-in questions: 866-606-TALK. Hear it streaming live on lifestyletalkradio.com. GardenLife shows are also archived at lifestyletalkradio.com.