

Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

February 2012, Number 209

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On the Cover: Fabulous tree options

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SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

MEETING SCHEDULE

5:00 – 6:00 Meeting room setup

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

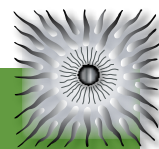
6:45 – 9:00 Announcements, Hot Hort Picks, speaker, opportunity drawing

MEETINGS & EVENTS IN 2012

February 25	Coffee in the Garden, Bonsall
March 2-4	Spring Home/Garden Show
March 12	Susan Heeger and Jimmy Williams on From Seed to Skillet
March 31	SDHS Tour – Gardens of La Mesa (see page 9)
March TBD	Coffee in the Garden, Point Loma
April 9	Susan Krzywicki on Fitting California Natives into California-Style Gardens
April TBD	Coffee in the Garden, Poway
May 14	Lorene Edwards Forkner on Small is the New Big... Putting Personality into Your Garden Space
May 17-20	SDHS Tour – Gardens of the San Francisco Area (see page 5)

COVER IMAGE: February speaker Robin Rivet created this striking photo montage of trees you might find in San Diego County. Photo credits: The window frame image is by Nieuw (Wikimedia commons by Nieuw). The Mindanao Gum (top right), Eucalyptus deglupta, is by Jeff Kubina (from Columbia, Maryland (Rainbow Eucalyptus) [CC-BY-SA-2.0 (www.creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0)], via Wikimedia Commons). The coral tree flower (middle right) - *Erythrina coralloides* and *Tabebuia* spp. (bottom right) tree were taken by Robin at the L. A. Arboretum. Robin photographed the black acacia tree (top left), *Acacia melanoxylon*, in her neighborhood; and the avocados (*Persea americana* 'Kona Sharwil'), middle left, are from her home orchard. The bottom left image of fall foliage (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) is from Wikimedia commons by Jean-Pol GRANDMONT.

www.SanDiegoHorticulturalSociety.org



SAN DIEGO
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

Next Meeting: FEBRUARY 13, 2012, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

Topic: ROBIN RIVET ON “TREES OF ILL REPUTE: SHIFTING FROM MALIGNED TO BENIGN”

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

Certified arborist Robin Rivet will explore how the urban forest impacts a city's sustainability. She will share some ecological evaluation tools, describe best urban forestry practices, and talk about San Diego's Urban Mapping Project. Robin will explore the status of San Diego County's urban forest and how it may impact the future sustainability of our region's cities. Learn why so many trees fail or at least fail to flourish, what we can do better, why we need to, and what's on the horizon. See cool tools to calculate the ecological value of trees and landscapes, and hear about some of our local lesser-known trees. Find out how every urban tree can be counted and why it matters that we do so.

Robin Rivet is a naturalist, landscape designer, and Master Gardener with a degree in earth science and fine art. She holds lifetime certifications in utility forestry, and is the administrator for the Advice and Technical Center for Urban Forestry at the California Center for Sustainable Energy, where she provides technical assistance for San Diego County residents, businesses, non-profits and municipalities. Robin serves on San Diego's Community Forest Advisory Board, and represents our region on the state policy advisory council for the California Urban Forests Council. Robin helps tend a large home orchard and certified wildlife habitat garden in La Mesa. She writes the "Trees Please" column for our newsletter.

For more information visit www.energycenter.org and see page 3. ☘



SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Established September 1994

BOARD MEMBERS

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

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

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

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☛New Email? New Street Address?

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

BECOME A SPONSOR!

Do you own a garden-related business?

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



IMPORTANT MEMBER INFORMATION

Are You Reading This In COLOR???

Our monthly eblast has the password for the digital newsletter, featuring all color images and live links. Back issues are also on our website. To switch to the digital edition exclusively send an email saying "online only" to membership@sdhortsoc.org.

Design our Garden at the County Fair

We are looking for a Lead Garden Designer to design and help install our garden at the San Diego County Fair. If you have experience designing gardens, especially display gardens, this is the opportunity you are looking for. We have a budget for installation and materials, plus lots of volunteers and students to help with the installation. It is a great way to get your name in front of our members and the thousands of people that visit the exhibit garden at the Fair. To find out more, contact Jim Bishop at sdhspresident@gmail.com or 619-296-9215.

Volunteer for the Spring Home/Garden Show

Volunteers are needed for our information table at the Show on March 2, 3, and 4. No experience needed – just your enthusiasm for plants and telling folks about the benefits of becoming a San Diego Horticultural Society member. Parking is free for volunteers! Please contact Nancy Woodard at SDHSVolunteers@gmail.com.

Manage Sponsors and Help Implement a Donor Program

Help manage our current sponsors and bring in new ones. We are always looking for new sponsors and ideas to promote our sponsors to members and the local community. We are also looking for ideas to start an on-going donor program. If you love working with people and have either sales or fund raising experience, contact Jim Bishop at sdhspresident@gmail.com or 619-296-9215.

Event Planners Needed

Share your passion for plants! Our Events & Outreach Committee needs YOU to help plan exciting events. We're now planning what fun things we'll do at the Spring Home/Garden Show in March. Contact Susi Torre-Bueno at (760) 295-2173.

Activities Committee

We are organizing an Activities Committee to select presenters and conduct educational classes and workshops for our members. We already have a list of ideas to get you started. We are looking for a committee chair and two volunteers. A terrific incentive, aside from this being a very fun committee, is that committee members who help out at an activity get to attend it for FREE! You will work with the Events & Outreach Committee to help identify presenters and set dates. The Public Relations Committee will create and send out email invitations and set up online registrations for each activity. The Activities Committee will handle the logistics to make the magic happen! If you have good organization skills and would like to be in on the ground floor of launching this exciting committee, email Jim Bishop at info@sdhortsoc.org.

Thanks So Much!

Many thanks to Krista Mills for hosting our January Coffee at her Clairemont garden. As we go to press the coffee is still a few days away... we'll post for photos on our Facebook page and in the March newsletter.



Our Facebook page gives us more options to grow and share. Join our community of mad gardeners and get to know fellow Hort members. You can LIKE us at our new page by going to:
www.facebook.com/#!/pages/San-Diego-Horticultural-Society/169836313077520



TO LEARN MORE...

By Ava Torre-Bueno

The Urban Forest

Urban trees are amazingly useful; cleaning our air and creating cool shade, preventing rain run-off and waste, potentially providing free food -- and yet we rarely think about them or take the proper care of them.

There are plenty of resources on the web about our urban forest. You can start with the City of San Diego's page about the urban forest, which also links to a page of tree suggestions at <http://www.sandiego.gov/street-div/urbanforestry.shtml>

There is also a San Diego Regional Urban Forests Council at <http://www.caufc.org/San%20Diego%20Regional%20Urban%20Forest%20Council>

San Francisco has an urban forest interactive map: <http://urbanforestmap.org/>

The Center for Sustainable Energy (this month's speaker's organization) will be having a San Diego Trees Urban Mapping Project coming soon! This is the kind of citizen science that is so much fun to get involved in: <http://energycenter.org/index.php/urbanforestry>

Urban trees can provide free food. Guerrilla Grafters are grafting fruit bearing branches onto non-fruit bearing, ornamental fruit trees – how cool is that?! <http://www.utne.com/The-Sweet-Pursuit/Guerilla-Grafters-Turning-Urban-Streets-into-Orchards.aspx>

The urban forest can undo a little bit of the harm we have done to the natural world. Even small patches of urban woods are valuable for migrating birds: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/05/100518131722.htm>

And the urban forest can help song birds, too: <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/Home/urban/features/songbirds/tabid/5460/Default.aspx>

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

Tickets for our Spring Garden Tour in La Mesa on March 31st are now on sale. Besides being a great opportunity for an exclusive look at private gardens, this is also one of our major fundraisers. In 2010 over 400 people attended our tour. The turnout was great but less than one third of our members attended. This year we've set an ambitious goal of selling over 800 tickets. We've doubled the number of gardens and added other activities to the tour, so buy a ticket for yourself and a friend to this wonderful event. To encourage carpooling, any vehicle with 4 or more tour participants will receive a free guest pass to one of our regular meetings! **See page 9 for details.**

We have two unique volunteer opportunities that require some special skills:

Design our Garden at the County Fair. We are looking for a lead garden designer to create our garden at the San Diego County Fair. If you have experience designing gardens, especially display gardens, this may be the opportunity you are looking for. For a longer description, please see the volunteer opportunities on page 2.

Manage sponsors, and help implement a donor program. While much of the operating revenue for our society comes from memberships and paid events, we also receive substantial support from our sponsors. We currently have over 40 sponsors, but always welcome more. If you have experience in development and love working with people, please see the volunteer opportunities on page 2.

The **San Diego Floral Association (SDFA)** is offering an exclusive membership opportunity to members of San Diego Horticultural Society who are not currently members of SDFA – a 15-month membership for the price of 12 months. Since 1909 SDFA has published a bi-monthly magazine, *California Garden*. The magazine is the oldest continually published horticulture magazine in the United States. SDHS Board member Mary James is Executive Editor of the magazine. It contains articles on horticulture, floriculture, a calendar of San Diego gardening-related activities, and an extensive list of San Diego gardening-related clubs and organizations. The magazine is worth the price of membership alone, but SDFA also has a quarterly meeting, workshops, and an extensive Horticultural Library with over 3500 books.



More information and to join:

- 15 months for the price of 12
- Must be current SDHS member
- Must not be a current SD Floral Association member
- Membership is Individual \$35; Family \$50 (two or more names at same address)
- This is a web only offer available until March 31, 2012
- Sign up at: www.sdfloal.org/membership-special.htm

SDFA website: www.sdfloal.org ☘



Lilium iridollae,
discovered by
Henry in 1940

THE REAL DIRT ON...

By Joan Herskowitz

Mary Gibson Henry



Mary Gibson Henry in her
rock garden in Gladwyne, PA
(courtesy of Henry Foundation
for Botanical Research)

Mary Gibson Henry (1884-1967) was a botanist and plant collector from Philadelphia who collected in the U.S. and Canada in her search for native plants worthy of cultivation in American gardens. She discovered new species, distributed plant specimens to herbariums, hybridized plants, wrote articles and lectured on horticultural topics, and created an arboretum on her home property.

Henry was born in Jenkintown, Pennsylvania to a family with long horticultural traditions, as her great-grandfather was on the first Council of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and owned the first greenhouse in Philadelphia. She received her high school diploma from Agnes Irwin's School, after which her formal education ended. However, her study of nature continued as she traveled with her family in the U.S. and Europe. In 1909, she married John Norman Henry, a physician, and although she read widely in horticulture and botany, during the first two decades of her marriage she was preoccupied with raising five children.

In 1926, the Henrys bought a 95-acre farm in Gladwyne, Pennsylvania near the Schuylkill River. Soon after, Henry began her active career as a field botanist and plant collector, at first accompanied by her family, and later by her daughter Josephine, a skilled photographer. Her husband encouraged her passion for exploration, and equipped her with whatever tools or transport she needed. She traveled in a chauffeur driven car designed with electrically lit bookcase and desk, insulated and ventilated compartments for plants, plant presses and other equipment.

Inspired by *The Travels of William Bartram*, she first set out for the Southeast. Henry was particularly interested in diversity within a single species, and among the plants collected were seven color variations of *Rhododendron speciosum*, the plant that Bartram so glowingly described in his writings. Later trips were made to remote locations in the Rocky Mountains and from New Mexico to British Columbia. One expedition to unmapped areas of northern British Columbia involved 1,000 miles on foot and horseback beginning at Fort St. John, where they were joined by a contingent of 9 men, 58 horses and supplies to support the group for nearly 3 months. Collecting while riding was difficult and plants had to be prepared and carefully packed in wooden packing cases carried by the horses. Live plants, but mostly seeds and cuttings, were collected for propagation in the Gladwyne garden, while other plants were pressed to be sent to herbariums.

During her life, Henry went on over 200 botanical expeditions and collected plants for the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, and Arnold Arboretum. Henry developed hundreds of plant hybrids as she expanded her garden, and offered many of these plants to nurseries for distribution. A new species that Henry discovered in western Florida, *Hymenocallis henryae* (Henry's Spider Lily), is named in her honor. A fragrant, yellow specimen she discovered in a cattle pasture in southern Alabama Henry named *Lilium iridollae*, or Pot of Gold Lily, as it represented to her "the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow." Her garden included many rare and unusual plants of the Southeast that were formerly not thought hardy enough to be grown this far north.

In recognition of her achievements, Henry became director of the

Continued on page 16



Ken Gilliland

GOING WILD WITH THE NATIVES

By Greg Rubin

Sirens of the Shade

I love the shade. Not just for respite from a hot day's toil, but also as a place to plant some of my favorite species. What many see as a problem I relish as an opportunity not to be missed. There are a multitude of native plants that will cheerfully light up any sun-challenged spot. These dependable natives put Vinca to shame. All are drought tolerant and useful around oaks unless otherwise noted.

Tall (6-10') background plants

Carpenteria californica (shown above) – California bush anemone is an upright 8' evergreen shrub with yellow-centered white fragrant flowers. Our native gardenia?

Cornus spp. – Dogwoods are beautiful deciduous shrubs with brightly colored bark and elegant leaves. *C. glabrata* (browntwig) and *C. stolonifera* (redtwig) have layered clusters of small flowers. All dogwoods need more water than is suitable for oak trees.

Prunus illicifolia – Holly-leaved cherry is large (8-10'), evergreen and tolerant of shade or sun. The cherries are tasty though thinly mantled. Great for birds.

Rhamnus californica – Coffeeberries are beautiful, elegant evergreen shrubs with large, multicolored berries. Some of the showy upright varieties include 'Eve Case' and 'Tranquil Margarita'. 'Mound San Bruno' and 'Leatherleaf' are medium shrubs.

Ribes sanguineum glutinosum – Pink flowered currant is a maple-leaved deciduous upright 7' shrub with a huge number of hanging pink flower clusters. It is a sight to behold. Hummers love this one. *R. indecorum* is a similar white version.

Medium (3-5') Shrubs

Lonicera subspicata – Native honeysuckle forms a nice mounding evergreen shrub or can be trellised as a vine. *L. hispidula* is more of a vine with brilliant pink flowers and red berries.

Physocarpus capitatus – Ninebark has deciduous maple leaves, beautiful hemispherical flower clusters that go from white to red to bronze, and multi-colored shredded bark.

Ribes speciosum – Fuchsia flowered gooseberry is a deciduous shrub with brilliant red tubular flowers hanging from arching branches. The berries are edible, but watch out for sharp spines!

Groundcovers (<2')

Fragaria californica – Woodland strawberry creates a 2" evergreen emerald carpet around any other plants in the shade garden. It has delicious ½" strawberries that put their European counterparts to shame.

Ribes viburnifolium – Evergreen perfume currant is a lush, dark green 18" groundcover with red flowers that can also be trained as an evergreen vine. Nice fragrance and a perfect companion for oaks.

Satureja douglasii – Yerba Buena is a ground-hugging evergreen groundcover that smells and tastes just like spearmint (and can be used the same way). Use this instead of Moneywort.

Perennials

Aquilegia spp. – Columbines are delicate but easy and available in many colors. Flowers are shaped like harlequin hats that hummers love.

Continued on page 15



TREES, PLEASE

By Robin Rivet

Sensual Citrus

What could be more sensual than luscious bursts of juicy, sweet-tart flavor? Do you remember that sour stuff that used to come from a large, tin can and needed a dollop of honey to swallow? If you do not, it was forgettable. Developed in 1966 from a mandarin/pummelo cross, (but never commercially released), the cocktail grapefruit slipped into popularity despite being small and seedy, since it juiced up as distinctively rich and very sweet swig. Another superior cross called 'Valentine' is now available. Merge a 'Dancy' mandarin, 'Ruby' blood orange and 'Siamese Sweet' pummelo and the result is a large, yellow, thick-skinned, sweet tasting fruit with ruby-colored flesh that ripens around...you guessed it - Valentine's Day!

Perhaps you already relish winter for its penetrating, citrus scents. However, have you grown one just for perfume? In France, the oils derived from *Citrus x aurantium* 'Bouquetier de Nice à Fleurs Doubles' are more highly prized than gold. As you might expect, the flowers are large and double; but did you consider that the resulting fruits are also doubled, one growing inside the other? Moreover, despite modern technology, commercial labs cannot exactly replicate this unique and sweet odor. All citrus are fragrant, but bouquet de fleurs is sublime, while the rind of Buddha's hand – *Citrus medica* var. *sarcodactylis* – smells surprisingly of violets.

Visually, citrus has pleased many a finicky landscaper for eons, their bold-hued fruit lingering for long periods beside shiny, bright-green leaves. In spite of this, many think citrus too thirsty for our arid climate, unless of course you seek out the desert lime *Citrus glauca* or *Eremocitrus glauca*. This is one tough shrub, and decidedly atypical with its fine textured, bluish-gray, drought tolerant foliage and distinctly, weeping character. If you thought limes ordinary, then finger lime citrus might also surprise you.



Buddha's Hand citrus

The fruit of *Microcitrus australasica* resembles small jalapenos with rind colors varying from red and gold to greenish-purple or nearly black. Nonetheless, you must break one open to see what really dazzles the eye. Out pop tiny, pinkish, (or greenish depending on variety),

perfectly round vesicles bursting with juice that resembles caviar. I am not kidding.

Citrus trees usually sport abundant, evergreen foliage hiding whatever lurks within, but there is a variety to admire from afar. *Citrus trifoliata* or the trifoliolate orange, is quite surprisingly deciduous, and so incredibly thorny it looks like a tangled Medusa head (a few thorny bits appear to the left of the title above). If you can visit the U. C. Riverside research collection in February, check out the rows of citrus that appear to be dead, but do not touch – unless you are carrying band-aids.

Taste it, sniff it, see it and touch it, but have you ever really *listened* to citrus? So many birds hide amidst their protective, dense foliage that trees seem to sing, their quivering rustle of life muffling city clatter. However, the best sound from citrus might really be the whirl of the

juicer on Sunday mornings – when the sweet and succulent 'Page' tangerine ripens just in time for breakfast.

Learn more online at these websites:

<http://www.citrusvariety.ucr.edu/history/index.html>

<http://users.kymp.net/citruspages/trifoliates.html#description>

<http://www.citrusvariety.ucr.edu>

<http://www.citrusvariety.ucr.edu/citrus/Valentine.html>

<http://www.australianfingerlime.com.au/history.html>

<http://www.australiandesertlimes.com.au>

<http://users.kymp.net/citruspages/souroranges.html#bouquetier>

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

SDHS GARDEN TOUR GARDENS OF THE BAY AREA

May 17-20, 2012

By Scott Borden

Our spring tour of the San Francisco Bay area is **nearly sold out**. Gardens of the Bay Area, scheduled for May 17-20, 2012, is an action-packed tour visiting some of the best horticultural attractions in the East Bay, North Bay and the City. Public visits include the UC Berkeley Botanical Garden, the Ruth Bancroft Garden, and the San Francisco Botanical Garden. Nursery stops feature Annie's Annuals and the Flora Grubb Gardens. In between we will see extraordinary private gardens.

Our private garden visits include the Jana Olson garden in Berkeley, built into a stunning canyon with a year-round creek running under the house and through the garden. We'll also see the estate garden of landscape designer Margaret Majua, featuring a mini orchard, cacti & succulents and an inviting pool plus Katherine Greenberg's large native garden, which has been featured in many publications and received a Garden Design Green Award in 2010. In Tiburon, we'll have lunch on the waterfront and visit Roger and Mary Greenberg's garden, featured on tour for the Garden Conservancy, San Francisco Botanical Garden, Santa Barbara Garden Society and many others. Our final day on tour is spent in the City of San Francisco and will include a visit to the San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum (shown here) and several private gardens, as well as a stop at the amazing Flora Grubb Gardens to see some unique displays and perhaps do some last-minute shopping.

Space is limited, so sign up soon. Be sure to also check out the Pacific Horticulture tours on page 8. For more information and reservations, visit www.sterlingtoursltd.com or contact Sterling Tours 800-976-9497, info@sterlingtoursltd.com. ☘



Scott Borden



BOOK REVIEW

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh

The Wild Trees

By Richard Preston



The Wild Trees is one of those books that I picked up and put down, picked up and put down, and picked up again. It's narrative nonfiction, a genre that I don't especially like. The rules of narrative nonfiction allow the author to create dialog and action that he or she feels is "true" to the situation. That's inherently dishonest. I suppose it sells, but I don't usually read it. I made an exception for this book.

The main reason for my change of heart was the subject, the search for the tallest redwood, which is probably also the tallest tree in the world. It will never be known if the tree that was finally identified, just shy of 380 feet tall, is the tallest that ever lived, because about 90% of the old growth redwoods in California and Oregon have been logged out. Loggers didn't care. No trees were spared.

This book seemed to have three intermingled sections: the boring stuff about the scientists and explorers who searched, the interesting stuff about them, and the fascinating stuff about the trees.

I'll skip over the boring stuff except to say that most of it had to do with the personal relationships of the searchers with their families and significant others. I didn't care that one fought with his father or another dropped out of college. Just get me to the trees.

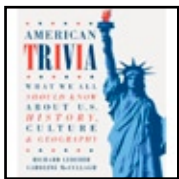
What was fascinating is that it is only recently that scientists have realized that there's a whole world in the treetops that no one had ever looked at. There may be more species of animals and insects living in the treetops than on the ground. And there are many species of plants that grow in the tops of tall trees, including some that don't exist anywhere else.

Once you decide that you might like to look at the top of a tree, there are many technical problems to solve. How do you get to the tree in the first place? Most of the tall ones exist because they are in places inaccessible to loggers and to the rest of us. Once you find a tree, how do you measure it when you can't see the top from the base? If you get far enough away to see the top, you won't be able to see which base that top goes with since the trees grow in clusters. Additionally, if you want to study the biota at the top, how do you climb a tree whose lowest branches may be 150 feet above the ground?

The scientists, both professional and amateur, who solved these problems are probably a little crazy and definitely a lot passionate about what they do. And any people who are like that are fun to read about. In spite of its faults, I recommend this book to you.

The Wild Trees (ISBN 978-0-8129-7559-8) is 294 pages long and includes maps, drawings, and a useful glossary. It sells for \$16.00 in paperback. The cover copy tells us that it was a *New York Times* Bestseller.

And, if you're in a book reading mood, I'm button-burstingly proud to announce the publication of my first book, co-written with Richard Lederer, *American Trivia: What We All Should Know About U.S. History, Culture & Geography* (ISBN 978-1-4236-2277-2). No, it's not a garden book, but I'm still proud. It's paperback, 144 pages, and will be available at your local bookstore for \$9.99. ☺



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Please contact Susi Torre-Bueno at 760-295-2173 if you'd like to take over writing this column.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL WOMEN IN LANDSCAPE



Founded in October 2010, the National Association of Professional Women in Landscape (NAPWL) headquartered in Orange County, California, is dedicated to serving the needs and empowering women in the green and landscape industry by promoting professionalism, education, sustainability and a sense of community. The Association propels women architects, consultants, contractors, designers, engineers, business owners, executives, and pioneers in the landscape industry towards greater professionalism, expertise, profitability, achievement and power economically and environmentally by:

- Strengthening our members and promoting economic development within the professional landscape community.
- Establishing innovative and effective change in the practice of the landscape business culture.
- Building equitable partnerships, alliances, and strategic bonds within affiliations and disciplines.

NAPWL is a diversified group of professionals whose disciplines include landscape architecture, design, engineering, landscape and construction management, contracting, water-management, consulting and environmental science. Industry leader Judith M. Guido, Chairwoman of Guido and Associates, stated, "Women play a significant role in all businesses today, and they have a huge impact on both the national and global economies. The NAPWL is building a world-class community of the brightest and most innovative women in the green industry, who are leaving an indelible and sustainable mark on our planet through their enormous economic and ecological contributions."

Angelia Woodside, Founder of NAPWL, stated, "From past experiences and ongoing feedback from women colleagues, I felt there was a void that existed in our industry in connecting, empowering and educating women. In order to fill that void and create a collaborative environment where women could learn to successfully grow their businesses and gain prominence in the industry, the National Association of Professional Women in Landscape was born." This progressive collective of women has made swift headway in establishing an audience and voice that is uniquely their own.

Los Angeles, San Diego, Riverside and Orange Counties launched local chapter groups in December of 2011. Southern California chapter attendees commented on how rewarding it is to finally find a community of like-minded professionals with which to collaborate, and network with.

Membership benefits include exclusive access to customized business education that will cover the entire spectrum of skills needed to operate a complete and professional business presence in the landscape industry. The newly formed curriculum series offered online through the "NAPWL University" will bring high level business training for women by women. If you would like to participate, request to join the LinkedIn Group, and visit www.NAPWL.com to download a membership application. Kim Lonigro, the NAPWL California membership coordinator, can furnish answers to any events in your area; klonigro@napwl.com. ☺



NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

By Susi Torre-Bueno

Local Garden Blogs Worth A Visit

Last month I invited our members who have blogs to let me know so I can put this info in the newsletter. We have such a talented group, we'd love to help showcase all the interesting stuff our members do. The responses to date appear below. If you have a blog, please email the address, plus your name and 1 sentence about the blog to Susi Torre-Bueno at newsletter@sdhortsoc.org. Deadline for a listing in the March newsletter is February 10. Listings will appear after that as space allows. Sponsor blogs are in **bold**.

❖ **Alta Vista Gardens** has a blog at <http://blog.altavistagardens.org>. This blog features short stories, videos and photos of what is going on at the Gardens plus other things that may be of interest to our members and our followers

❖ Bryan Morse's blog is <http://blog.bryanmorse.com>. This blog is about nature and its importance to me; about what I do and messages that I wish to share my readers and people who cross my digital path.

❖ Christiane Holmquist's blog is <http://www.cholmquistgardens.com/tips>. In her essays and articles, Christiane gives vivid descriptions of exceptional plants, offers DIY gardening tips and shares her experience as consultant, garden and landscape designer.

❖ **Glorious Gardens Landscape's blog is <http://agloriousgarden.blogspot.com>**. We have recently started adding entries, so there isn't currently a lot of content but we hope to add information to it regularly - the content will include posts from our retail nursery about plant related topics and special events.

❖ **Forget Me Not Landscape Design has a blog at <http://forgetmenotlandscapedesign.com/dirt-blog>**. Visit the blog for information, DIY ideas, inspiration, recycling, repurposing, resources and how-to on gardening and landscaping and more. At FMNLD, education leads to advancement in many ways, ultimately benefiting home owners like you.

❖ **KRC Rock's blog is <http://krcrock1.blogspot.com>**. It focuses on masonry tips, how-tos for the DIY homeowner, new product trends, events in the landscape industry, and fun KRC Rock employee updates.

❖ **Moosa Creek Nursery's blog is <http://www.moosacreenursery.com/blog.aspx?BCatId=1>**. For lovers of California native plants we host discussions of places to visit to view natives, garden design using natives, featured plants and comments about the challenge and joy of living sustainably and justly on our planet.

❖ **Sunshine Care** has a monthly blog at <http://www.themulch.com/this-month-in-the-garden> by Farmer Roy Wilburn, Director of Horticulture, focused on growing techniques and successes he has had growing in In-land San Diego County.

❖ Pat Welsh's blog is called "Pat's Garden Forum": <http://patwelsh.com/wpmu>. I answer every question with a personal, well-reasoned, lively, and detailed reply and all past questions and answers are indexed so it is a useful resource of practical information on plants, organic gardening, and gardening in warm-winter climates.



MY LIFE WITH PLANTS

By Jim Bishop

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

River of Grass

In previous articles I've reminisced about our 1960's home landscape in Plantation, Florida. This month I'll discuss some of the native landscape of South Florida.

The biggest publicly accessible landscape in Florida is also the largest subtropical wilderness in the US: Everglades National Park. At 2400 square miles it still only protects about 1/5 of the original Everglades. The Everglades are a natural freshwater drainage system flowing south from Lake Okeechobee to the Gulf of Mexico and covering much of South Florida. The most dominant plant, which also gave the Everglades its pseudonym "River of Grass," is sawgrass, *Cladium jamaicense*. Though technically sedge, sawgrass grows to 3 feet tall in slow moving or standing fresh water. Sedges have edges, grasses have stems; and the edges of sawgrass are armed with very fine saw teeth that will easily cut you.

Most people think of South Florida as endless white sand beaches. However, the metropolitan areas of Miami and Ft. Lauderdale also are adjacent to the Everglades just to the east. Many of the plants and animals associated with the Everglades were also found in undeveloped areas near our neighborhood. There were palmettos, pines, and peat fields nearby. In an extended drought one summer the peat caught fire and burned for days. Alligators and catfish lived in the nearby canal and there were many snakes, lizards, frogs, burrowing owls and other birds just a few blocks from our house.

On cub scout trips and on weekends, we'd visit nearby Seminole villages and alligator wrestling venues, and took fishing trips into the mangrove swamps.

In the early 60's, a TV show called "The Everglades" gave the impression of the Everglades as an exotic and dangerous place. The show featured airboats chasing criminals and the theme song popularized the phrase and song, "Movin', ever movin' through the Everglades." My brothers and I begged our parents to let us go on an airboat ride. An airboat is a flat-bottomed boat with an airplane propeller mounted on the back. While the airplane engine allows the boat to travel quickly in very shallow water and helps ease the oppressive humidity, in reality it wasn't nearly as much fun as we imagined. The propeller and engine are so loud and pull so much air that we could not get beyond the fear of being sucked into the blades. Add to that the bug-laden air, the constant spray of muddy,

murky water, and being just inches above a swamp filled with sawgrass and reptiles, and it was just too much for a nine year old cub scout to truly appreciate the experience. Today, due to the environmental damage to plants and animals, airboats are banned in much of the Everglades, though there are still commercial trips just outside the park.

One year we took a longer trip inside the Everglades National Park and stayed at the Flamingo Lodge. (The Flamingo Lodge was damaged beyond repair in 2005 by hurricanes Katrina and Wilma and no longer exists.) This introduced us to the much more subtle and natural side of



Continued on page 11



PACIFIC HORTICULTURE TOURS

By Scott Borden

"To educate and inspire gardeners in the art and science of horticulture on the West Coast."

San Diego Horticultural Society is one of six west coast societies providing support for the 44-year old Pacific Horticulture Society. Well known for producing the highly respected Pacific Horticulture magazine, PacHort also offers a series of small group tours each year designed to educate and inspire plant enthusiasts everywhere. The 2012 tour list offers something for everyone, from exotic international journeys to shorter getaways closer to home.

Mallorca & Menorca: Gardens, Art & Cuisine: A handcrafted itinerary designed and escorted by Katherine Greenberg, past president of Pacific Horticulture and the Mediterranean Garden Society. Guests will have exclusive access to some of the best private gardens on these islands off the coast of Spain. Passionate for the local culture, Katherine has arranged tours of private art collections as well as exquisite dining and wine tasting experiences. April 14-24.

Kyoto – More Than Gardens: Hosted by renowned garden photographer Allan Mandell, this tour offers an in-depth look at the fascinating culture of this former imperial city. Guests will stay at a traditional Japanese ryokan and take daily excursions in Kyoto and the surrounding area. The tour coincides with a major festival and is well-timed for many flowering plants. The tour provides a great opportunity for photographers to improve their skills. A UNESCO World Heritage site, the city of Kyoto welcomes visitors with open arms. May 9-20.

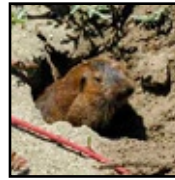
Natural History of Santa Cruz Island: In its vastness and variety of flora, fauna, and geology, Santa Cruz Island resembles a miniature California. At over 96 square miles in size and California's largest island, Santa Cruz contains two rugged mountain ranges, a large central valley, deep canyons with year-round springs and streams, and 77 miles of craggy coastline cliffs pocketed with giant sea caves, pristine tide pools and expansive beaches. Guests will spend 4 nights at the University of California research station right on the island, taking day trips both on foot and by vehicle all over the island to view the fascinating and unique plant and animal life – some species are found on this island and nowhere else on earth. Limited to just 15 guests and a bit rustic in nature, this tour promises lifelong memories to a hardy few. Guided by native plant specialist Glenn Keator and escorted by Steve Gerischer of Pacific Horticulture. June 3-8.



Oahu and Kauai: Take a break from the drought tolerant world and indulge your tropical fantasies on this one-week getaway to the Hawaiian islands of Oahu and Kauai. Visit top public and private gardens on both islands, including the National Tropical Botanical Garden sites on Kauai and Doris Duke's Shangri-La on Oahu. Tour escorted by Cheryl Hedgpeith Nichols. November 2012.

For more information and reservations for any of these Pacific Horticulture tours, visit www.sterlingtoursltd.com call 619-299-3010 or email info@sterlingtoursltd.com ☘

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



LIVING WITH GOPHERS

By Susi Torre-Bueno



One of the pests that plagues a great many members, especially in the more rural parts of the County, is the largely-nocturnal burrowing critter officially known as Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*), shown in a photo by John C. Avise. Gophers spend most of their lives underground, where they can kill plants by chewing on the roots. Sometimes they even pull plants underground – an unnerving sight that's hard to believe even as you're watching it happen.

Although the word "gopher" often is preceded by some choice words we can't print here, not everyone thinks this small (males are about 8-10" long, and weigh under 8 ounces) rodent is cause to bring out an arsenal of deterrents and deadly poisons. Member Anne Murphy wrote to me a couple of months back, saying "I know gardeners who do not spray pesticides on plants but who are poisoning gophers and this article might give them second thoughts." She included the following link to a November 4, 2011 article by Emily Greene in her weekly *LA Times* column on sustainable gardening: http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/home_blog/2011/11/gophers-get-rid-of.html

The article notes that plant ecologist Paula Shiffman has a "live-and-let-live" attitude about the creatures: "Gophers were here before us, they are integral to our local ecology, and one of the most common ways that we kill them also can accidentally poison a whole host of other animals."

Anne's personal experience with and thoughts about gophers reflect years of gardening. She says, "I have a little more than half an acre and a cat who at one time would catch and eat a couple of gophers a week, so I am concerned about her health. Are gardeners-who-poison aware that their dogs and cats could be eating poisoned gophers? At one time my husband regularly used the Black Hole gopher trap. Neither cat nor husband managed a net decrease in the gopher population. I am a book junkie - a gardening book junkie and internet gardening advice junkie. The summary of advice that I have culled is: Use raised beds with hardware cloth on the bottom for vegetables. If the gophers eat an ornamental plant, first try it in another part of the garden and if/when that fails, either put the third one in a pot (or hardware mesh basket) or move on to a less tasty plant. If you kill off all of your own gophers (unlikely) then your neighbors' gophers will simply move in to the vacated premises as their population increases. If poisoning has to be done continuously, aren't we simply back at the point of gardeners spraying pesticides on all their plants? Only this time we are killing all of the rodent population - who have their place in the ecosystem along with the animals who eat the rodents."

So... does this non-interference attitude work for gardeners in San Diego County? Please email me at newsletter@sdhortsoc.org with your gopher experiences. I'd especially like to hear from those of you who ARE happily co-existing with gophers without trying to get rid of them. I'll print the replies here and/or post them on our website. ☘



First Garden Tour of the Year!

Join the San Diego Horticultural Society and La Mesa Beautiful
In celebrating the La Mesa Centennial with a
Garden Tour for the Senses



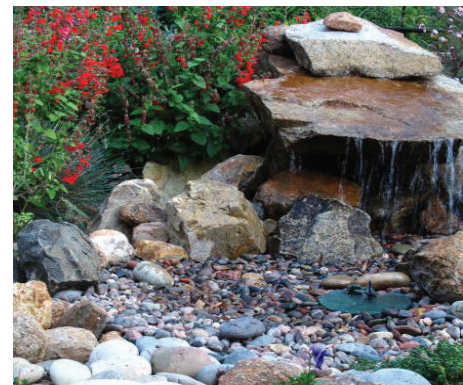
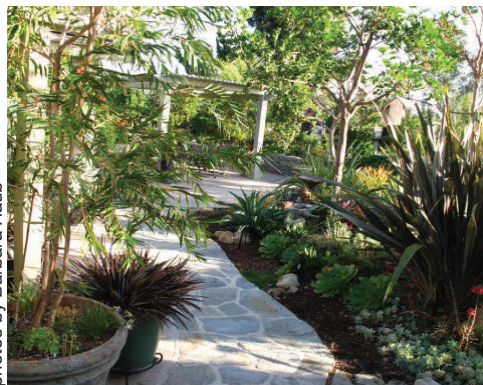
Saturday, March 31, 2012, 9 AM to 4 PM ~~ Nine Private Gardens in La Mesa

This month we highlight three of the ***nine private gardens*** on our Spring Tour; three were featured in the January newsletter and the rest will be featured here next month; all are on our website. This generosity of gardens on tour assures there is something for everyone. Whether you visit all the gardens or choose those that interest you the most, all of your senses are in for a treat.

Our tour begins at Briercrest Park: a sensory park with sculptural and mosaic installations by world-renowned artist James Hubbell. An incredible visual treat, the herbs and fragrant flowers here delight the sense of smell, while water features and wind chimes are music to the ears and the texture of lambs' ears and other unusual foliage plants are exquisite to the touch.

Nine unique private gardens in the beautiful Mt. Helix area of La Mesa, appropriately known as the Jewel of the Hills, will continue to delight the senses. From the extraordinary fragrance of hundreds of roses in a rose garden, to a bountiful organic edibles garden, to water-wise gardens with lavish color and fascinating textures, this tour showcases gardens to enchant *all* your senses: sight, sound, smell, touch, and taste.

As an extra treat, you have an opportunity to purchase rare and unusual shrubs, perennials and trees from Perennial Adventure display garden and nursery. This nursery, the only one in La Mesa, emphasizes easy care plants with interesting foliage, texture and color.



photos by Barbara Raub

Over the last few years these homeowners have eliminated their front and back lawns. Instead of a water thirsty lawn, their garden includes water wise plants such as grevillas, leucandendrams and succulents. A front patio with a fountain provides a nice sitting area to visit with friends and neighbors.

Just a few doors down is another water wise garden. Although there is a small lawn area in the back, these responsible homeowners have chosen to replace much of their lawn with succulents and other drought tolerant plants. A small pond adds to the beauty of the garden.

One street over is another water wise yet lush garden. This small container and patio garden shows how much can be achieved in a modest space. Decomposed granite pathways, plus a waterfall and pond, show that good things do, indeed, come in small packages.

Advance purchase tickets for members of SDHS and La Mesa Beautiful will be \$20, non-members \$25. Day of tickets will be \$25 for all.

- For tickets and information go to the San Diego Horticultural Society website: www.sdhortsoc.org/events.htm
- Day of tickets will be available at Briercrest Park, 9001 Wakarusa Street, La Mesa, CA 91941 from 9AM to 1PM.
- To encourage carpools, each vehicle with at least 4 people will receive one FREE meeting pass (a \$10 value).



No tickets will be mailed. You will receive a map when you check in at Briercrest Park.

Questions? Contact tours@sdhortsoc.org or 619-296-9215 ext 5

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

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:

Lynn Becker	Mary-Anne Monck
Ellen Carter	Mary Poteet
Jenise Deeter	Wilmer Rodriguez
Russ & Jody Hacker	Paul Strauss
Mayron Kinsella	John David Tarle

Evelyn &
Augustine Mitchell

NEW ADVERTISERS: SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY (INSIDE FRONT COVER)

HORT BUCKS ARE GREAT!

Kudos to these members whose friends joined in 2012; they earned Hort Bucks worth \$5 towards Opportunity Drawing tickets, name-tags, Plant Forum CDs or dues. To get your Hort Bucks ask your friends to give your name when they join.

Lynlee Austell (I)
Jim Bishop (I)
Gabriel Mitchell (I)

Janet Wanerka (I)
Dick & Gail Wheaton (I)



SPONSOR MEMBERS (names in bold have ads)

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Anderson's La Costa Nursery

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Installation & Maintenance

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Botanical Partners

Briggs Tree Company

Buena Creek Gardens

California BeeWorks

California Mycorrhiza

Carts On The Go

Cedros Gardens

City Farmers Nursery

Coastal Sage Gardening

Columbine Landscape
Cuyamaca College
www.EasyToGrowBulbs.com
EuroAmerican
Propagators

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www.TheMulch.com

The Wishing Tree Company

Tree of Life Nursery

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Walter Andersen Nursery

Weidners' Gardens

Pat Welsh

Westward Expos

LIFE MEMBERS *Horticulturist of the Year

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

Laurie Connable
Julian & Leslie Duval
Edgar Engert* (2000)
Jim Farley
Sue & Charles Fouquette
Penelope Hlavac
Debbie & Richard Johnson
Lois Kline
Vince Lazaneo* (2004)

Jane Minshall* (2006)
Bill Nelson* (2007)
Tina & Andy Rathbone
Jon Rebmán* (2011)
Peggy Ruzich
San Diego Home/
Gardens Lifestyle
Gerald D. Stewart

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

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

Philip Tackill & Janet Wanerka René van Rems

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: pisley@SDBGarden.org.

For the Grangetto's Preferred Savings Program go to www.Grangettos.com.

SEE THESE ADS FOR MORE DISCOUNTS:

Anderson's La Costa Nursery Barrels & Branches, Botanical Partners, Buena Creek Gardens, California BeeWorks Cedros Gardens, IGS, Pacific Horticulture, Solana Succulents, Southwest Boulder & Stone and The Plant Man.



What's Up at

**San Diego
BOTANIC
GARDEN**

Cupid is ready to strike again! For years, we have celebrated this day of romance and love, but do we really know why we celebrate St. Valentine and, more specifically, why the rose became a symbol of Love?

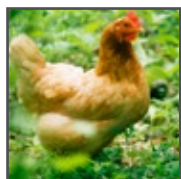
Legends say Valentine's Day originated in the third century in Rome. During this time Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers, so he outlawed marriage for young men. A young priest named Valentine was furious with this injustice and defied Claudius by continuing to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. Claudius eventually discovered Valentine's actions and sentenced him to death.

During his time in jail, Valentine fell in love with his jailer's daughter, who visited him in prison. Before he was put to death, Valentine sent a letter to the girl and signed it, "From Your Valentine" – an expression we still use today. Valentine was executed on February 14, 270 AD. Later, around 496 AD, Pope Gelasius declared February 14 a day to honor Valentine, who by that time had become a Saint.

Today, we continue to honor St. Valentine and celebrate our love for significant others, friends, and family. Legends also say that the red rose is considered the favorite flower of Venus – the Roman mythological Goddess of Love and Beauty. Ultimately, the red rose became a symbol love and romance.

In addition, the history of giving your loved one Valentine's Day flowers also comes from the old-fashioned custom of sending floral bouquets to pass on non-verbal messages. Introduced in the 18th century by Charles II of Sweden, each flower had a specific meaning attached to it, making it possible to have an entire conversation using only flowers. Hence, for centuries, flowers have symbolized fertility, love, and romance.

Now, we have one question for you: Have you made plans for Valentine's Day yet? Need not to worry! Join San Diego Botanic Garden for our 2nd Annual Valentine's Day event on February 14 from 5-8pm. Tickets are only \$75 per couple (adults only). This event comes complete with champagne, delectable hors d'oeuvres, live entertainment, dancing, music, special gifts to take home and more! Visit our website for details and to purchase tickets www.SDBGarden.org. ☺



BENEFICIAL CRITTERS FOR YOUR GARDEN

Chickens and fish and bees, Oh My! The Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College in El Cajon is holding some fascinating-sounding classes in February. Learn how three critters in particular can help make your garden a standout! Pre-registration is required for all classes. Details on their website, www.thegarden.org; register online or call (619) 660-0614 x 10.



The Backyard Flock: Raising Urban Chickens

Saturday, February 11, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Raise farm fresh eggs in your own backyard! The Garden's education director, Laurie Furry, will share everything you need to know to start enjoying fresh eggs while keeping your new flock happy and healthy. Topics include determining if you are legally allowed to have a flock in your community, deciding between chicks or laying hens, what to feed and not to feed your hens, housing needs, protection from predators, and the benefits of raising your own hens for eggs. You'll meet a couple of little ladies from Laurie's flock in this class and see a slide show of other interesting breeds available for a home flock. FEE: \$15 Members, \$20 Non-Members.



NEW! Village Aquaponics Workshops; Presented By Ecolife Foundation

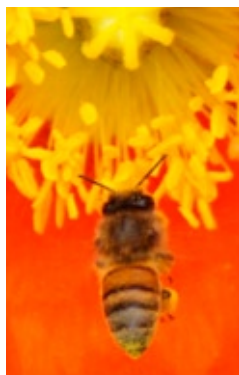
Saturday, February 11 or 25, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Aquaponics is the symbiotic growing of plants and aquatic animals in a recirculating environment. Water is cycled between fish tanks and vegetable growing areas, and fish waste acts as a natural fertilizer for plants. Use 90% less water than conventional vegetable gardening; grow fresh fish and vegetables in your own home, school or community! Learn how to build and maintain your own system through demonstration and hands-on practice. Includes light refreshments and a manual. For more information or to register for this offsite workshop, contact Ecolife Foundation at (760) 740-1346 or email admin@ecolifefoundation.org. FEE: \$25 Members, \$30 Non-Members.

NEW! Fall in Love with Bees

Sunday, February 12, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Bee Advocate Geoff Kipps-Bolton of bees-on-the-net.com will share the secrets lives of bees and get you excited about the bees visiting your garden. Geoff will share an introduction to beekeeping, removing the shroud of mystery and uncovering what those veiled bee-wranglers are up to. Learn why bees swarm and what to do if a swarm lands on your property. Walk through the Garden with Geoff after your seminar and see the bees in action! FEE: FREE for Members, \$15 Non-Members.



Rachel Cobb

My Life with Plants Continued from page 7

the Everglades and provided a much deeper appreciation of swamp ecology. We saw raccoons, alligators, large snakes and bird estuaries in the mangroves. On a ranger-led tour, we learned about the anhinga bird that fishes in the water but lacks waterproof feathers. It climbs into the trees and outstretches its wings to dry in the sun.

On elevated walkways we visited tropical hardwood "hammocks." Hammocks are tree islands and the only dry land in the park and home to many unique plants and animals. There are thousands of them rising out of the swamp with live oaks (*Quercus virginiana*), saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), short-leaf fig (*Ficus citrifolia*), wild-tamarind, West Indian mahogany (*Swietenia mahagoni*), and many other tree species. The mid-story plants form an impenetrable understory perfect for sheltering larger animals. Trees are draped with Spanish-moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*) and other epiphytes. These hammocks are small ecosystems teeming with life and an amazing amount of diversity.

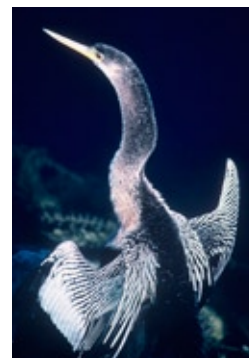
For the last 100 years the Everglades have been under severe stress due to invasive plant and animal species and encroachment by adjacent communities and their need for fresh water. As California gardeners we would recognize many of the invasive plants species: *Melaleuca quinquenervia*, *Schinus terebinthifolius* (Brazilian Pepper), *Chornia crassipes* (water hyacinth), *Pistia stratiotes* (water lettuce), and *Cupaniopsis anacardioides* (Carrotwood). Our short visit left me with a better understanding and appreciation of natural ecologies and how important they are to preserve and protect.

For more information online:

<http://www.nps.gov/ever/index.htm>

<http://www.nwf.org/Wildlife/Wild-Places/Everglades.aspx>

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



Rachel Cobb

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



2012 San Diego County Fair

Call For Bids

Flower and Garden Show

We are soliciting proposals to design the featured landscape for the entrance to the Flower and Garden Show.

This display is for educational and entertainment purposes and must strongly represent the Flower and Garden Show theme, **Cosmic Spaces**, which complements the Fair Theme, **Out of This World, Universe Invited**.

The display area is ~30' x 40'.

Proposals should not exceed \$15,000.

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

Proposals must be submitted by April 2, 2012.

The contract will be awarded by April 9.

Steve & Shari Matteson's

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Come stroll our 4-Acre Display Gardens, Have a Picnic,
Read a Book Amongst the Redwoods or Giant Bamboo...*

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www.BuenaCreekGardens.com
for details about
special activities this month

FALL & WINTER HOURS:
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GARDENS, PLANTS, FUN! SPRING HOME/ GARDEN SHOW

By Lucy Warren

Spring is the season for renewal and fresh starts, and the Spring Home/Garden Show provides visitors with everything they need to save time and money improving, refreshing or remodeling their home and outdoor surroundings. If you love plants, great garden design, and a chance to learn more about gardening, don't miss the show from Friday, March 2 to Sunday, March 4 at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. As an SDHS member you get the best discount for admission. Go to the show website: www.springhomegardenshow.com and **use the code SDHS to purchase tickets at 50% off**, only \$4. On Friday only, seniors (55+) are only \$1.

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

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

Our seminar series is always informative and packed full of ideas. The seminars emphasize water wise, sustainable landscaping. Top San Diego garden writers will be sharing their knowledge. Debra Lee Baldwin will be speaking on succulents each day and will take visitors through the succulents in the Garden Master displays. Nan Sterman will teach you how to reduce your lawn and what to use to replace it. Also, join Pat Welsh, Greg Rubin, Shellene Mueller, Cindy Benoit, Master Gardener Lynlee Austell and more. The lectures are free for the price of admission. (Now, let's see... if you are a volunteer, that means completely free!) Come by our SDHS booth for quick tips and demonstrations throughout each day.

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

Many of our members especially love to help out at the Spring Home/Garden Show because they get to meet and interact with other society members. What could be more fun than sharing good times with people with similar interests? Come. Enjoy. The 2012 Spring Home/Garden Show. ☘

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SHARING SECRETS

This column is written by you, our members! Each month we'll ask a question, and print your responses the following month. **You can find copies of previous Sharing Secrets on our website at www.sdhortsoc.org/sneak_peek_3.htm.**

The question for this month was:

What unexpected (and effective) products have you used in the garden, including products used "in a pinch" *à la* the MacGyver TV series. Thanks to Nick Stavros for suggesting this topic.

Louise Anderson said: "I've used white plastic knives for labeling plants. They're cheaper than a lot of others available."

Kathleen & John Anderson like to use "ice cream sticks for short-term plant or seed markers."

Jim Bishop uses wine bottles: "We use 100s if not 1000s of glass bottles to create low retaining walls. I was inspired by a jug wine bottle wall I saw at Deetjens Big Sur Inn in 1990. Ten years later I did try a small wall with bottles from a New Year's Eve celebration. Later, after carrying pallet after pallet of blocks into the canyon to create retaining walls, I realized that a single bottle weighs almost nothing and can be easily carried into the canyon. I wanted to create a firebreak between the garden and the chaparral below, but needed a path to access the area and needed a low retaining wall, so I started saving bottles. Soon everyone was bringing me bottles. The biggest contributor was my Aunt who gave me a monthly truck full saved from the Happy Hours at her senior living home. For a while, I was using Blue Italy water bottles from Trader Joe's, but they switched to plastic bottles several years ago. Today, I use mostly San Pellegrino water bottles to create green walls. I often get asked what are the rules for creating a bottle wall... whatever looks good!"



Carol Costarakis told us: "I use a chopstick when planting sometimes – helps to wedge things in. Especially good with succulents."

Connie Forest shared this: "I use the plastic woven berry boxes to cover young transplants. They protect the plants from rabbits and squirrels, at least until they outgrow the boxes. I have also used old rusted metal hanging baskets for the same purpose. I pour used kitty litter down gopher holes. I don't know if it harms the gophers but I bet it pisses them off. This only works in an area you aren't using for planting."

Barb Huntington has three tips: "I covered my veggie garden with a tent made of PVC pipe and bird netting (see her Facebook page for a photo). I am putting newspaper and potting soil bags under the rock in my labyrinth. I usually use panty hose in pots."

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Mary McBride said: "If you want to hang pots or other things from a tree cut a piece of old garden hose to slip over hanger to protect tree bark from damage. A tip from the late garden designer Sinjin: Instead of staking tomatoes upright grow them over a fence as the vine they actually are. He maintained that it produced sweeter fruit."

Nita McColloch uses "rose prunings placed on the soil in my veggie garden to keep cats out. It works like a charm!"

Rachele Melious had several tips: "I spritz seeds with a hand sprayer every few days with a 1:20 dilution of hydrogen peroxide when starting small amounts (on coffee filters or paper towels) to prevent mold, mildew and damping off. I also spray it on the seedlings when I move them to soil. For storage, wrap sprayer in tin foil to exclude light or make fresh each time. For starting small cuttings, I use clear plastic containers that baked goods come in... no holes, sandy mix, very little water. Open once in a while to air and water sparingly. The one with the attached folding top is nice because it usually closes itself if I forget!"

Lisa Rini has many uses for one item: "Skewers are inexpensive, biodegradable, and can be tossed out without guilt! I use them to:

- stake small plants
- hold cactus in place as I transplant (to minimize getting poked)
- hold together tillandsias (in lieu of glue) by using them similar to a woman's hair pick (have the plants overlap and then skewer to hold in place)
- clean out top dressing (pebbles, gravel, or crushed glass) that land on leaves or in plant crevices, especially when working with succulents
- hold a smaller top pot in position (so it doesn't topple over) on top of a larger pot (using the hole at the bottom of the pot as the pass thru) allowing me to have more plants in my tiny garden without increasing the footprint
- weed or remove dead leaves on prickly cactus
- stir mixes of top dressings (especially crushed glass)
- hold tillandsias in place while gluing them to bark - I remove them as soon as the glue has set
- create lines in potting soil for seed placement
- pierce seed packets that can be pushed into the soil to remind you what you planted!"

Sue Ann Scheck says: "I love using broken pieces of slate in my landscape design. I also love adding rusted elements! A super way to recycle cans: let them rust, then fill them with a potted succulent."

Nick Stavros suggested this topic with the following things he does: "I have all my old campaign sign wires that we use all the time. I also use bits of Romex (the white electrical wires that usually have three wires inside) that I have spray painted green and brown. These are great because they are stiff enough for support, but not so stiff that you can't form them. I use old sponges just below the soil surface to help hold water in some pots. I have an old bucket with a small hole in the bottom that I fill next to plants that need a good soaking but don't need irrigation. I use ice to slowly wet plants; ice melts relatively slowly, giving the plants a good soaking. I also use ice in the winter on the soil where I have tulips - I get them to bloom the next year. The most McGyver of them all... I sometimes use duct tape to split a broken or weak branch."

Katrin Utt replied: "We used to have trouble with our friendly neighborhood raccoons digging for grubs in my pots and in the rose beds. I use a product called Milky Spore Grub Control Powder, which

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I order online. It does away with the grubs but does not affect the plants and lasts for several years. Another excellent way to keep the raccoons from digging is to spread chicken wire on the ground where they dig. They won't step there. I cut it in circular sections with an opening and place it on the ground around my roses. The raccoons will stop coming and I store the sections till needed again."

Marilyn Wilson says that "besides the usual twisties from a package of hamburger buns, I have used long-handled 'pickle jar tweezers' to groom prickly plants like agave. Use a senior-citizen long-handled grabber device to bag pruning bits without bending over and a broom handle to poke holes and plant sunflower seeds (after back surgery). I like coffee filters at the bottom of the pot when potting up plants. I use kitty litter trays for mixing soil amendments and potting soil and bottomless 1-gal plastic bottles or 2 liter soda bottles to shelter delicate transplants. I have a mailbox on a post at the far ends of the garden to have tools and gloves at hand. Use epsom salts for roses, a serrated bread knife for dividing perennials, and pipe cleaners (or larger crafting bendable fuzz-coated wires) for staking lanky plants or vines. I put coat hangers near hummingbird feeders so the little guys can rest and guard their food. Red yarn is useful to mark things the garden helper should NOT prune. I put cut PVC pipes when planting bulbs (so I can come back later and stick in a stake and not worry about hurting the bulb), and I dust foot powder on bulbs to avoid fungus. Tiny dental flosser brushes clean hummingbird feeder stations, and cayenne pepper flakes annoy the ground squirrels."

The question for next month is:

It's a rough world out there! What kinds of protection do you use while you garden (and afterwards): hat, sunscreen, gloves, hand cream, etc.?

Send your reply by February 5 to newsletter@sdhortsoc.org.

■ Natives Continued from page 4

Heuchera spp. – Coral bells are a fantastic mounding evergreen perennial with beautiful bell-shaped flowers held high on stalks. *H. maxima* is especially large and tough. Many enchanting varieties are available.

Iris douglasiana – Tough evergreen Pacific coast hybrids are available in an explosion of colors. Great for strappy form and will slowly form a groundcover over time.

Salvia spathacea – Hummingbird sage is a thicket forming perennial that has red flowers and smells like pineapple.

Thalictrum polycarpum – this is a seldom-used perennial related to columbines with lacy foliage and flowers whose delicate appearance belies a tough constitution. Like a maidenhair fern. Great oak companion.



Iris douglasiana

Contributed and © by Curtis Clark

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

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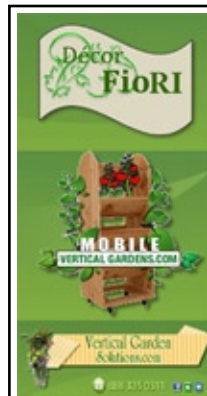
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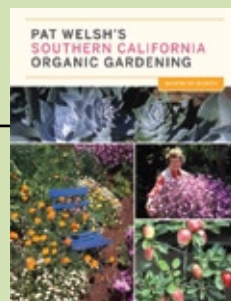
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■ **The Real Dirt** Continued from page 4

American Horticultural Society, and research associate at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. To safeguard the garden's future, she established the non-profit Henry Foundation for Botanical Research dedicated to the collection and preservation of "choice, rare and endangered New World plants." Henry died at the age of 83 on a collecting trip in North Carolina. Today the 50-acre Gladwyne garden, operated by the Foundation, is open to the public and contains Henry's plantings, a variety of gardens, and trails.



Henry (center) receiving the Gold Seal of the National Council of State Garden Clubs for "distinguished horticultural achievement" in San Francisco, CA 1953 (courtesy of Henry Foundation for Botanical Research)

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.

**Spring Home/Garden Show
Half-Price Tickets for members!**
See page 12

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JANUARY PLANT DISPLAY

By 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 will highlight one type of plant, and we'll have an expert at the table to talk informally about the plants and answer your questions. Members can bring anything they wish, but we hope you'll try to bring plants in these categories. We encourage you to write descriptions similar to those below, and put them with the plant on display.

Join the fun and bring TREES (flowers, leaves, fruit, etc.) to the February 13 meeting. Member Tim Clancy, an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist, will be on hand to answer your questions. We thank Patrick Anderson for being our expert on aloes and other succulents at the January meeting.

- March 12 – Flowering bulbs/corms/tubers (expert: Mary McBride)
- April 9 – California native plants (expert: Greg Rubin)
- May 14 – Bonsai (expert: Phil Tackill)

Aloe barberae (syn. *A. bainesii*) TREE ALOE (Aloeaceae)
South Africa

While most aloes stay relatively small (under 4' tall) in the garden, *A. barberae* is called the Tree Aloe for good reason: it can reach 30 feet or taller, although you'll have to be patient to see such lofty stature. A striking drought-tolerant succulent for full sun and good drainage, rose-pink flowers are borne in winter and, like all aloe flowers, they attract hummingbirds. The thick stems and bark are grey and the long recurved foliage of this tallest of all aloes is deep green. A very useful book is *Guide to the Aloes of South Africa*, by van Wyk and Smith. (Erik & Irina Gronborg, Solana Beach, 1/12) – S.T.B.

Aloe 'Blue Elf' (Aloeaceae) Horticultural Hybrid

This small aloe forms tight clumps of rosettes of blue-green foliage that reach about 18" high and up to 2' wide. The spikes of orange flowers appear nearly all year in mild coastal areas, although they are heaviest in winter to spring. Grows best in full sun to light shade with low water requirements. Fast-growing, easy to grow and readily available, it is tolerant of neglect. (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 1/12) – S.T.B.

Agave 'Blue Glow' (Agavaceae) Horticultural Hybrid

A beautiful cross of two Mexican agaves (*A. ocahui* x *A. attenuata*), this succulent grows 2-3' tall and wide in full sun with low water. The 18" long blue-green leaves are edged in burgundy and yellow, with a sharp, stout, red terminal spine, and look beautiful when backlit. Best in full sun with very little water; this plant was hybridized by Kelly Griffin. Read more about it in *Succulent Container Gardens* by Debra Lee Baldwin. For a lively digital discussion of this plant, visit <http://www.xericworld.com/forums/agavaceae/818-agave-blue-glow-one-kellys-hybrids.html>. (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 1/12) – S.T.B.

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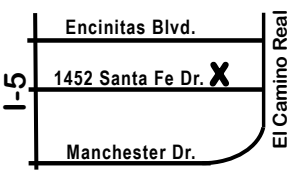


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Graptopetalum paraguayense GHOST PLANT (Crassulaceae)

Mexico

This small succulent forms charming rosettes (about 6" wide) of grey leaves with a lavender glow, and makes a great groundcover (tho it doesn't take foot traffic). Grows best in full sun to light shade in well-drained soil with moderate watering. Easy to propagate – just put leaves on top of moist soil or sand in a shady spot and they'll root and make baby plants in about a month. Said to be hardy down to 7° F. (Judy Holmes, La Jolla, 1/12) – S.T.B.

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

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

Can you spot the phony plant this month? The phony plant in the January newsletter was *Lachenalia bookwormiformis*, syn. *L. perusa* READ LACHENALIA.

Aloe alooides GRASKOP ALOE (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 1/12)

Aloe camperi (Patrick Anderson, Fallbrook, 1/12)

Aloe ciliaris hybrid (?) (Erik & Irina Gronborg, Solana Beach, 1/12)

Aloe congolensis CONGO ALOE (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 1/12)

Aloe cv. (Tom Biggart, El Cajon, 1/12; Susi Torre-Bueno, 1/12)

Aloe 'David Hockney' (Garden Lover, Vista, 1/12)

Aloe 'David Verity' (Erik & Irina Gronborg, Solana Beach, 1/12)

Aloe 'Grassie Lassie' (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 1/12)

Aloe 'Jacob's Ladder' (Patrick Anderson, Fallbrook, 1/12)

Aloe juvenna (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 1/12)

Aloe 'Pink Blush' (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 1/12)

Aloe 'Rudikoppe' (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 1/12)

Aloe thraskii (Erik & Irina Gronborg, Solana Beach, 1/12)

Andromischus sp. (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 1/12)

Brugmansia 'Creamsicle' (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 1/12)

3 *Camellia japonica* 'Henry E. Huntington'
(Sharon Lee, Solana Beach, 1/12)

Camellia japonica 'High Fragrance' (Sharon Lee, Solana Beach, 1/12)

3 *Camellia japonica* 'Katie' (Sharon Lee, Solana Beach, 1/12)

Camellia japonica 'Mrs. D.W. Davis' (Sharon Lee, Solana Beach, 1/12)

Camellia japonica 'Tata' (Sharon Lee, Solana Beach, 1/12)

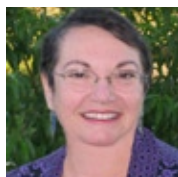
Echeveria 'Afterglow' (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 1/12)

Haworthia nigra CUSHION ALOE (Walt Meier, Carlsbad, 1/12)

Kalanchoe carnea 'Modoc' (Chuck Ades, Encinitas, 1/12)

Rosa 'L. D. Braithwaite' (? , Carlsbad, 1/12)

Volunteers Needed
See page 2



JANUARY MEETING REPORT

By Susi Torre-Bueno



The title of Scott Calhoun's talk, *A Rollicking Trip into the World of Cactus and Succulents*, implied that we were in for a fun evening, but I don't think we expected so many laughs as he regaled us with tales of succulent used and his plant hunting experiences and those of other botanical explorers. This brave bunch of men and women enthusiastically endured wild animals, unfriendly locals, and primitive conditions to discover and bring back plants unknown to most of the world. Not all made it back alive (for tales of one woman who did, see page 4), but those that did – and continue to do so – have marvelously enriched the world with their tremendous legacy.

Scott reminded us that "Arid gardens have plants that are only accent plants in other gardens – they grow big and burly here." We can go bold with succulents in our gardens, and his photos prove how effectively native flowering annuals can tie together cactus plants in the landscape. The gardens he designs in Arizona feature low-water plants, often with colorful stucco walls to set off their sculptural qualities.

Many centuries ago the Aztecs used cochineal scale (an insect found on cactus) to create a fine red dye which became very valuable in international trade, eventually coloring both the jackets of British "redcoats" and Ocean Spray pink grapefruit juice. Christopher Columbus might have brought prickly pear leaves back to Spain from his voyages; they are now so ubiquitous in Italy as to seem like natives. The dangerously turbulent period of the 1850s to the 1930s was "the heyday of Mexican succulent plant collecting," and in the late 1800s Texan Anna B. Nichols collected peyote and sold it to the Parke, Davis drug company for possible medical applications.

Contemporary plant explorers seeking out and introducing new plants include San Diego local Kelly Griffin, who collects and hybridizes succulents from the US and Mexico. Tony Avent, of Plant Delights Nursery, hunts for new plants for his North Carolina nursery and 5-acre display garden featuring over 17,000 different plants. Scott showed many photos and a short video ("Spine Freaks") of his adventures hunting elusive agaves in Mexico with seemingly fearless Greg Starr; a Tucson horticulturist with a "huge mania for succulents." Botanizing in high-altitude areas, they climbed sheer limestone cliffs to find *Agave albopilosa*, found in just one wild locale.

Succulents have a long history of uses – fiber, clothing, food, hallucinogens, medicine and beverages. Pulque, mescal and tequila are alcoholic beverages made from various agaves. Mayahuel (shown above) was the Aztec goddess of pulque. Space doesn't permit a description of Scott's comments about the various beverages made from agaves, nor his interesting discussion of peyote – you'll need to borrow the video for that (see below).

Thanks, Scott, for a lively and humorous foray into the wild world of succulents. If you missed this exceptional talk and want to learn more about the joys and perils of succulents, you can borrow the video of it when you attend an upcoming meeting. Scott's website is www.zonagardens.com. ☺

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February 14, 2012
5-8pm

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www.SDBGarden.org



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Presented by:

*The San Diego Cactus and
Succulent Society*

February 11, 2012

At The Casa Del Prado,
Room 101,
Balboa Park
10:00am to 4:00pm

Strange and exotic plants from the far
corners of the world gathered together for
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SUSTAINABLE URBAN LANDSCAPE CONFERENCE

The Bottom Line for Green is Black Thursday, March 8, 2012

The Cuyamaca College Horticulture Department is proud to present the 4th Annual Sustainable Urban Landscape Conference. This year's theme, *The Bottom Line for Green is Black*, focuses on how sustainability is the catalyst for new and profitable business models which are changing the face of our region's urban environments.

This conference is the premier Southern California event to learn successful business models leading the way to our landscape future.

Conference highlights:

- Scientifically sound horticulture practices that are achievable, profitable and sustainable.
- Business models driving new and exciting changes in sustainable landscape design, construction and maintenance practices.
- New products and services that enhance our green industry.

Who should attend?

- Landscape industry, government and agency professionals.
- Educators and students.
- Others interested in keeping current with the latest in sustainable landscape practices, services and regulations.

Why should you attend?

- **Stay informed.** Cutting-edge information from landscape professionals and business innovators who are leading the way to a new look in landscaping.
- **Share information.** Network opportunities to exchange ideas with other landscape business and government leaders.
- **Investigate resources.** See new products from leading vendors in sustainable landscape goods and services.

Early registration of only \$90 includes:

- Conference and Trade Show
- Continental breakfast, lunch and post-conference reception
- Free Parking



REGISTER NOW

Secure online registration at www.cuyamaca.edu/OHweb, or register by phone or fax. (see details on page 3)

SPONSOR AND EXHIBITOR opportunities are available. For information, contact Don Schultz at Donald.Schultz@gcccd.edu, or call 619.660.4023.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Green Prophet John Picard



Natural Systems Design

John Picard is one of the leading thinkers and builders of sustainable societies. He has conceptualized and built hundreds of the smartest homes, workplaces and communities in America and his vision guides the future planning of dozens of Fortune 500 Companies. By explaining the elegant principals of Natural Systems Designs, John has led hundreds of influential leaders in business and government into a greener future, where sustainability is highly profitable.

March 8, 2012 at the Performing Arts Theatre
Cuyamaca College, 900 Rancho San Diego Pkwy, El Cajon, CA 92019

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR SECURE ONLINE REGISTRATION VISIT: www.cuyamaca.edu/OHweb

SUSTAINABLE URBAN LANDSCAPE CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE AGENDA

TOPICS	PRESENTERS
Registration and Continental Breakfast	Trade Show and Refreshments
Introductions & Welcome	Moderator: Don Schultz, O.H. Dept. Instructor, Cuyamaca College and Mark Zacovic, Ph.D., Cuyamaca College President
Keynote Speaker	John Picard
A Simplified Approach for Estimating Landscape Irrigation Needs	Dennis Pittenger and Dave Shaw
TRADE SHOW and BREAK	Refreshments in the Lobby
Panel Discussion: Urban Plantations	Moderator: Nan Sterman Panelists: Karen Contreras, Bill Tall, Crystal Montoya
TRADE SHOW and LUNCH	Student Center Cuyamaca College
Sustainable Landscape Maintenance Practices	Richard Restuccia
Waterwise Plants	Tom Jesch
Breakout Sessions: Water Conservation Garden	Garden Opportunities and Partnerships Marty Eberhardt Plant Tour Leah Rottke, Children's Education Pam Meisner Design Tour Paul Redeker
Network Reception in the Water Conservation Garden	

Our roster of distinguished speakers include:

- **John Picard** was instrumental in the formation of the U.S. Green Building Council. John continues to translate his ideas into successful projects by explaining the elegant principles of Natural Systems Design.
- **Dennis Pittenger**, Environmental Horticulturalist at UC Riverside, is a nationally recognized expert in landscape water management and the care of woody landscape plants.
- **David Shaw** is a Farm Advisor with the University of California Cooperative Extension in San Diego. His work includes assessing the needs and presenting educational and research programs for landscape professionals.
- **Nan Sterman**, author and educator, is dedicated to sustainable and healthy landscapes. She will moderate a discussion on urban farming with the following panelists:

Karen Contreras is the founder of Urban Plantations, a company dedicated to city-dwelling sanctuaries.

Bill Tall is founder of City Farmers Nursery, an independent San Diego retail nursery for 39 years.

Crystal Montoya is a certified grower producing food from her home for neighborhood farmers markets.

- **Richard Restuccia** is the Director of Water Management Solutions at ValleyCrest Companies, Inc.
- **Tom Jesch** owner of Waterwise Botanicals a wholesale/retail nursery that specializes in drought tolerant and cutting-edge plant varieties. He has introduced dozens of new plant varieties to the trade in the last ten years and is hybridizing and naming new water thrifty cultivars.
- Sessions at the **Water Conservation Garden** will feature Garden friends and employees discussing their experiences and the practices which are influencing the "San Diego style" of sustainable landscapes.

Marty Eberhardt has recently retired as Executive Director of the Garden. During her tenure, the Garden received Sunset Magazine's designation as "one of the top ten gardens in the west."

Leah Rottke, is a Cuyamaca faculty member and co-author of The Home Orchard Handbook. She will lead a tour of the extensive plant collection at the Garden.

Pam Meisner is the Water Conservation Garden's Education Specialist and will give a demonstration of her alter-ego, Ms. Smarty-Plants.

Paul Redeker is the Director of Horticulture at the Garden. He will lead a tour of the garden's design elements.

March 8, 2012 at the Performing Arts Theatre
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FOR MORE INFORMATION OR SECURE ONLINE REGISTRATION VISIT: www.cuyamaca.edu/OHweb

SUSTAINABLE URBAN LANDSCAPE CONFERENCE

Fillable Form -

Company _____

Contact Person _____

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Phone _____ Email _____

Attendees _____ \$90 Early Registration through Feb. 29, 2012 \$ _____

Attendees _____ \$100 After February 29, 2012 \$ _____

Attendee Names _____

_____ TOTAL \$ _____

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FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

www.cuyamaca.edu/OHweb

Please join us, your support is vital to maintaining an informed Green Industry

The Conference is presented by the Cuyamaca College Botanical Society
under the auspices of the Associated Students of Cuyamaca College.
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FOR MORE INFORMATION OR SECURE ONLINE REGISTRATION VISIT: www.cuyamaca.edu/OHweb

Other Garden-Related Events:

continued from other side

Check with hosts to confirm dates & details

♦ **Feb. 8, 10am, Point Loma Garden Club:** The Horticulturist One Man Band. Entertaining stories about all the fun aspects of backyard gardening. Guests \$5. 2818 Avenida de Portugal. Info: (619) 223-2051 or www.plgc.org.

♦ **Feb. 8, 10:30am, Poway Valley Garden Club:** Designing with Drought Tolerant Plants. Lake Poway Pavilion, 14644 Lake Poway Road. For info call (858) 672-2593 or see www.powayvalleygardenclub.org.

♦ **Feb. 8, Noon, Ramona Garden Club:** TBA. FREE. 524 Main Street., Ramona. Info: (760) 789-8774 or www.RamonaGardenClub.com.

♦ **Feb. 11, 10am-4pm, San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Winter Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale.** SEE INSERT. Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado. Info: www.sdcss.net.

♦ **Feb. 11, 10am, Urban Plantations:** Soil basics & composting. Fee: \$45. 10300 Campus Point Dr. Info: www.urbanplantations.com.

♦ **Feb. 11, noon-4pm, Cymbidium Society Orchid Auction:** Many types of orchids offered. Preview 11:00 am to noon. □price admission to gardens, San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. Info: orchldy2@mac.com or (760) 732-0055.

♦ **Feb. 14, 10am-noon, Dos Valles Garden Club:** Palms that grow in our area and their care. FREE. 31020 Cole Grade Road, Valley Center. Info: (760) 751-7470 or www.dosvallesgardenclub.org.

♦ **Feb. 12, 1pm, Southern California Plumeria Society:** Fertilizers - Improving plant health and soil with proper use of fertilizers. Balboa Park War Memorial Building. Info: (619) 390-2926 or www.southerncaliforniaplumeriasociety.com or di holland@cox.net.

♦ **Feb. 12, 1:30pm, American Begonia Society:** Begonias in pictures. Note: no heat in the building. Olivenhain Meeting Hall, 423 Rancho Santa Fe Road, Encinitas. Info: (760) 815-7914.

♦ **Feb. 14, 7pm, San Diego Geranium Society:** Rummage Sale. Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado Room 101. Info: www.sdgeranium.org.

♦ **Feb. 16, 9:00am, Bernarado Gardeners Club:** Tour of Kimberly Crest House and Gardens in Redlands. \$34. Meet at Oaks North Community Center. Info: www.bernardogardeners.org.

♦ **Feb. 19, 10am-3:30pm, San Diego Wild Mushroom & Fungus Fair:** Learn about the fungi of San Diego. Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 101. Free. Info: www.sdmco.org.

♦ **Feb. 20, 6:30-9pm, California Native Plant Society:** Care of Oak Trees and Companion Plants, and plants in the San Diego Archaeological Record. Casa del Prado, room 104. For info see www.CNPSSD.org or call (619) 282-8687.

♦ **Feb. 21, 6pm, San Diego Floral Association:** California's Most Fascinating Trees. Free. Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado Room 101. See www.sdfloal.org.

♦ **Feb. 22, 6-8pm, Mission Hills Garden Club:** TBA. Guests/\$10. 4070 Jackdaw St. Info: (619) 201-8285 or www.missionhillsgardenclub.org.

♦ **Feb. 22, 7pm, California Rare Fruit Growers:** Cherimoyas Varieties, Tasting and Grafting. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, room 101. Info: www.crrfgsandiego.org.

♦ **Feb. 24, 7pm, Del Mar Rose Society:** Good Bugs and Not-So-Good Bugs. 1700 Coast Blvd., Del Mar. Info: www.delmarrosesociety.org or (858) 481-9880.

♦ **Feb. 28, 9:30am, San Carlos Garden Club:** Japanese style flower arranging. 6556 Park Ridge Blvd. Info: (619) 448-3613.

♦ **Feb. 28, 2pm Lake Hodges Native Plant Club:** Cactus Wren Conservation and Habitat Restoration. 17110 Bernardo Center Drive, San Diego. Info: www.lhnpc.org or (858) 487 6661.

♦ **March 1, 5:30pm, California Center for Sustainable Energy:** San Diego Trees Urban Mapping Project; discover and enter trees on the San Diego County Tree Map. 8690 Balboa Ave., Suite 100, San Diego, 92123. FREE. Info/register at www.energycenter.org/forestry.

♦ **March 8, 4th Annual Sustainable Urban Landscape Conference:** Cuyamaca College, 900 Rancho San Diego Parkway El Cajon. Fee: \$90. Info: www.cuyamaca.edu/ohweb.

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: \$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 from 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.

SDHS Spring Garden Tour

Garden Tour for the Senses: Nine Private Gardens in La Mesa

March 31 – 9am to 4pm

www.sdhortsoc.org/events.htm

See page 9 and order tickets ASAP!

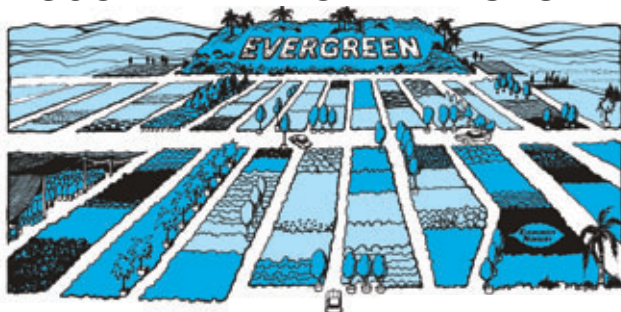
What's Happening? for February 2012

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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Events at Public Gardens

❖ **Alta Vista Gardens** contact info on other side
See <http://www.avgardens.org> for upcoming events.

❖ **San Diego Botanic Garden** contact info on other side
February 4, 9am-noon, Designing with Native Plants by Greg Rubin: Learn how to design a garden using our very own California native plants. Members \$25, non-members \$30. Please register by February 1.
February 11, 10am-noon, New Plants for Southern California: Members \$10, non-members \$12. Please register by February 8.
February 18, 9am-noon, Hypertufa Container Workshop: Make your own plant containers. Members \$35, non-members \$45. Register by Feb. 15.
February 25, 9am-noon, Build Your Own Hydroponic Garden: Learn the principles of the hydroponic wick method. Members \$70, non-members \$90. Please register by February 22.
February 25, 10am-noon, How to Install a Greywater Irrigation System: Learn how to turn your laundry 'waste' water into a resource again. Members \$25, non-members \$30 Please register by February 22.

❖ The Water Conservation Garden

contact info on other side

February 4, 10am-12pm, Home Composting: Learn the basics of composting. To register call The Solana Center at (760)-436-7986 ext 225.

February 11 or 25, 10am-12pm, Village Aquaponics: Learn to build and maintain a system; demonstration and hands-on practice. Offsite workshop. Register; Ecolife Foundation at (760) 740-1346 or admin@ecolifefoundation.org. \$25 Members, \$30 Non-Members.

February 11 or 25, 10am-12pm, Designing a Beautiful Small Space Garden: \$20 Members, \$25 Non-Members.

February 28, 6:30pm-8:30pm Hillside Gardening: Learn how to make the most of gardening on a slope. \$20 Members, \$25 Non-Member.

Free Events by SDHS Sponsors:

Please thank them for supporting SDHS!

❖ Cedros Gardens, Saturday 10am FREE classes

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

❖ City Farmers Nursery FREE Classes

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

February 5, 1-2pm, Grafting Basics: How to graft hearty plants!

February 19, 1pm, Soil Magic: test, repair and replace: Bring a soil sample and learn everything you need for a strong growing foundation.

❖ Evergreen Nursery FREE Classes on February 4th

See column at left.

❖ Grangetto's Farm & Garden Supply FREE Workshops

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

❖ Walter Andersen Nursery FREE Saturday Classes

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

	Point Loma, 9am	Poway, 9:30am
Feb. 4	Cymbidium orchid care	Camellias & azaleas
Feb. 11	Winter & Spring Bedding	Container Gardening
Feb. 18	Spring bulbs	Orchids
Feb. 25	TBA	Staghorn Fern care

❖ Sunshine Care FREE Workshop

Feb. 18, 10:30am, Winding down your cool season crops and starting up your warm weather crops.

Address in ad on page 19. Info: (858) 752-8197 or www.sunshinecare.com.

Next SDHS Meeting:

February 13, 6:00pm
Trees of Ill Repute
See page 1

Other Garden-Related Events:

Please check with hosts to confirm dates & details

♦ **Feb. 1, 6:30 p.m, San Diego County Orchid Society:** Orchid Pests and Disease and Miniature Orchid Species. Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, room 101. Info: www.sdorchids.com.

♦ **Feb. 3, 10:30am, Carlsbad Garden Club:** Unusual plants. Dove Library 1775 Dove Ln., Carlsbad. Free. See www.carlsbadgardenclub.com.

♦ **Feb. 3, 1:30pm, Vista Garden Club:** Are orchids easy to grow? Gloria McClellan Senior Center, Brengle Terrace Park, 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista. See www.vistagardenclub.org.