

Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

June 2012, Number 213

See us at the Fair

SEE PAGES 1, 6 & 7

BEAUTIFUL BUCKWHEATS

PAGE 4

TRAIN YOUR TREES

PAGE 5

IF YOU KNEW SUSI

PAGE 8

INVASIVE PLANTS

PAGE 13

On the Cover: Our Fair Garden

SPECIAL EVENT: *SDHS Night at the Fair Gardens* Plus 2012 Horticulturist of the Year Presentation

Monday, June 11, 5:30 – 7:45 PM, Award Ceremony 6:00PM

LOCATION: Flower & Garden Show at the Del Mar Fairgrounds

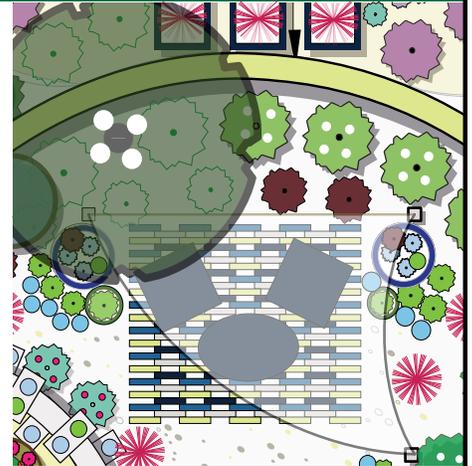
FREE PARKING! FREE ENTRY for SDHS Members! Guests, \$10

Enjoy a **private night** at the San Diego County Fair's Flower & Garden Show! The Fair will be closed to the public, and SDHS members and guests can stroll at leisure around the outdoor garden show displays and meet some of the talented designers. This event replaces our regular June meeting.

No-host bar with beer, wine, sodas and water.

At 6 p.m., at the Flower & Garden Show Stage, President Jim Bishop will present the Horticulturist of the Year Award to Susi Torre-Bueno.

Free to members; \$10 for guests (cash or check only; no credit cards).



Parking instructions: Enter the main parking lot off Jimmy Durante Blvd. (the 2nd driveway on the right if you turned left at Via de la Valle). Continue on the main parking lot road and park near the main Fair entrance (near the big Don Diego statue). Follow the signs to enter the Flower & Garden Show south of the main entrance. There is a map of the Fair at www.sdfair.com/index.php?fuseaction=maps.map.

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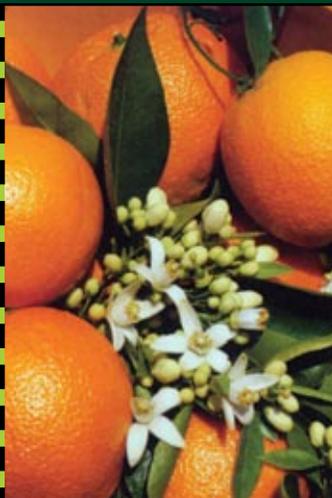


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IN THIS ISSUE...

- 2 Last Call for Fair Volunteers
- 2 Important Member Information
- 3 To Learn More...
- 3 Farm Tour Day
- 3 From the Board
- 4 The Real Dirt On... Daniel Cleveland
- 4 Going Wild With The Natives: Beautiful Buckwheats
- 5 Trees, Please – Train Your Trees to Drink and Thrive
- 5 Book Reviews
- 6 See Us at the Fair
- 7 MiraCosta Student Intern Program at the Fair
- 8 If you knew Susi...
Meet SDHS's 2012 Horticulturist of the Year
- 10 Welcome New Members!
- 10 Discounts for Members
- 10 What's Up At San Diego Botanic Garden?
- 11 My Life With Plants
- 12 Live Healthier, Longer With Gardening
- 12 Pacific Horticulture Tours
- 13 Sharing Secrets
- 19 May Meeting Report
- 20 Membership Renewal Form

INSERTS:

San Diego County Fair Flower & Garden Show
Calendar/Resources/Ongoing Events

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Details on membership are on page 20 and at www.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

June 8 – July 4 San Diego County Fair (see pages 6 & 7)

June 16 Coffee in the Garden, Poway

May 26 Coffee in the Garden, Fallbrook

July 9 Nick Staddon on Not Just for Show

July 28 Coffee in the Garden, Fallbrook

August 13 Matthew Levesque on The Revolutionary Yardscape: Repurposing Salvaged Local Materials

August 26 Coffee in the Garden, Encinitas

September 10 Panel on Welcome to Club Med: Ideal Plants for San Diego's Mediterranean Climate

COVER IMAGE: Susanna Pagan has designed an exciting garden for our Fair entry this year – see page 6 for more information. The cover image is one small part of her thoughtful design.



www.SanDiegoHorticulturalSociety.org



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See inside front cover for details.



SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Established September 1994

BOARD MEMBERS

Patty Berg – Volunteer Coordinator

Jeff Biletznikoff – Meeting Room Coordinator

Jim Bishop – President, Membership Chair

Linda Bresler – Member at Large

Mark Collins – Finance/Budget Committee

Julian Duval – San Diego Botanic Garden
Representative

Mary James – Program Committee Chair

Dannie McLaughlin – Tour Coordinator

Susan Oddo – Publicity Coordinator

Stephanie Shigematsu – Member at Large

Susi Torre-Bueno – Newsletter Editor,
Past President

Cathy Tylka – Treasurer

Don Walker – Past President

Lucy Warren – Secretary

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

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



LAST CALL FOR FAIR VOLUNTEERS

By Patty Berg

We still have openings for friendly and outgoing members who want to take a turn as a garden ambassador at the San Diego County Fair in Del Mar. It's not a big time commitment but it's lots of fun and you get to spend the rest of the day at the fair for FREE. Just call 619-296-9215 Option 4 or email Volunteer Coordinator Patty Berg at volunteer@sdhortsoc.org.

Before or after your shift as Horticulturist of the Day, be sure to check out the excellent schedule of speakers at the Flower & Garden Show Stage. These are short, informal talks where you can watch demos and get advice from some of the very best in the business of landscaping and ornamental horticulture. Among this year's speakers are Master Gardener Cindy Sparks (low water gardening,) Certified Arborist Robin Rivet (how to properly site trees,) Nancy Groves (bromeliads,) Evelyn Weidner (bloomers for the patio) and dozens more. An insert in this newsletter has the complete speaker schedule.

In addition, there are nine brand-new exhibitors who have never before displayed at the Fair, along with free-standing garden vignettes that offer a 360 degree view of smart, clever, beautiful and practical ideas that you can take home and try out. As a Horticulturist of the Day, you'll get a chance to see all the displays.

Toss in a cool ocean breeze, a hot dog, lemonade, and the Ferris Wheel and you can count on having a great day, plus that warm feeling you get from doing your part. Thanks to everyone who has already signed up to help out. ☺



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.

Membership Table at Meetings

We are looking for a few friendly folks to staff our membership table at meetings from 6pm until about 6:45pm, signing up new members and helping current members renew their membership. You'd also take orders for nametags and distribute nametags at meetings. If you have an outgoing personality this is a fun opportunity. Lorie Johansen and Nancy Groves are already doing this for most months –we need a few volunteers to help them and as backups when they aren't available. To learn more or volunteer, email volunteer@sdhortsoc.org.

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is looking for 2 people; one to manage our sponsorship program, and another to manage membership relations and sign up new members. If you can help a few hours a week, have good email skills, and enjoy working with people, contact Jim Bishop at president@sdhortsoc.org or 619-296-9215.

Events and Outreach Committee

We are seeking committee members and volunteers to help plan and participate in exciting special events and organize workshops. Committee members who help out at an activity get to attend it for FREE! This committee organizes and installs our booths for the Spring and Fall Home/Garden Shows. For more info and to volunteer please contact Jim Bishop at president@sdhortsoc.org or 619-296-9215.

Corresponding Secretary

We are looking for a volunteer to write and send thank you letters and emails to volunteers, significant contributors, speakers, and sponsors. This job can be done in a few hours a week from home, contact Jim Bishop at president@sdhortsoc.org or 619-296-9215.

Thanks So Much!



Many thanks to Jeanne Meadow for hosting our May 26 Coffee at her beautiful Fallbrook garden. Look for photos on our Facebook page. ☺



TO LEARN MORE...

By Ava Torre-Bueno

County Fairs

Our next meeting is at the San Diego County Fair. County fairs and harvest festivals may seem like light entertainment now, but they have a deep history and served important functions in rural communities.

"The fair is an ancient tradition, and many communities have long had dedicated fairgrounds; others hold them in a variety of public places, including streets and town squares, or even in large private gardens. Fairs are often held in conjunction with a significant event, such as the anniversary of a local historical event, a seasonal event such as harvest time, or with a holiday such as Christmas." For more on the history of the fair, see Wikipedia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fair>

More recently, county fairs have been a vehicle for bringing new technology and information to agricultural areas: www.history.iastate.edu/agprimer/Page18.html

And here, briefly, is the history of our own fairgrounds: www.sdfair.com/index.php?fuseaction=info.history

Enjoy the Fair!

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

June 11: Night at the Fair and Horticulturist of the Year Award

Mark your calendars for our exclusive access to the Fair display gardens on June 11th. The evening begins by honoring Susi Torre-Bueno as Horticulturist of the Year. See page 8 to learn more about Susi and her significant contributions to horticulture in San Diego. After the award presentation, Society members have exclusive access to the S. D. County Fair Flower & Garden Show display gardens. See page 6 for a description of our display garden. Admission is Free for SDHS members, guests \$10. Free parking in the main lot. See page 1 for more information.

Be a Garden Ambassador at the Fair

We'd love to have you volunteers to staff our display garden as "Horticulturist of the Day" during the Fair. This is a great opportunity to tell the public about the San Diego Horticultural Society. Half-day morning and afternoon shifts are available from June 8 to July 4. If you are an outgoing person and would like free admission to the Fair, volunteer online at <http://tinyurl.com/HortOfDay>. See the Fair's website for information about free parking: www.sdfair.com/index.php?fuseaction=maps.parking. See page 2 for more information.

Patty Berg Joins the Board

Please welcome Patty Berg as our new Volunteer Coordinator. Patty replaces Nancy Woodard, who will continue as the leader of our meeting check-in table. Thank you Nancy for coordinating our volunteer needs this past year. Patty is founder and CEO of The Wishing Tree Company, a gift business specializing in premium trees delivered and planted for special occasions. She grew up in Cincinnati and has called San Diego home for over thirty years. She earned a B.A. at Cal State San Marcos and a Masters from USC in creative writing. Patty joined SDHS in 2010 as a way to make gardening friends and to access the marvelous collective wisdom of San Diego's horticultural community. Patty also continues a career in residential real estate and is working on a novel set in North County. She looks forward to helping SDHS grow and thrive through the generosity of our volunteers. If you'd like to volunteer contact Patty at PattyJBerg@gmail.com. You can also volunteer at our meetings, at coffee in the garden events, or online at www.sdhortsoc.org/membership_4.htm



Bill Nugent to Co-Chair Program Committee

Bill Nugent will be co-chairing the Program Committee with Mary James. Bill helped recruit many of our recent monthly speakers. Bill is a retired research scientist who spent his 31-year career at the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center in Point Loma. He and his wife Tamma joined SDHS in 1997. Since joining the Society Bill has volunteered for a number of events and has served as a member of the Program Committee since 2007. Both Bill and Tamma are San Diego County Master Gardeners and enjoy their three grandsons, international travel, and adding to their collection of plants at their home in La Mesa. If you have speaker ideas or suggestions you can email Bill at wnugent@cox.net or Mary at maryhames@gmail.com.



FARM TOUR DAY

Enjoy a rare opportunity to get a behind-the-scenes look at how your food and flowers are grown on Saturday, June 16 in this third annual Farm Tour Day in North San Diego County. Guided walking tours led by the farmers themselves will take you through their unique farming operations and showcase a variety of the region's agricultural specialties.

This year, featured farms include indoor and blooming plants, cut flowers, vegetables, berries, tree fruit, a vineyard and winery, free-range livestock, and more. Demonstrations, samples, and other fun activities will delight all ages. Tours will run every half hour at each farm from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at each location.



Tickets are just \$20 for adults; \$10 for ages 6-17 (under 6 free). For more information and to register, visit www.sdfarmbureau.org, or call (760) 745-3023. Reserve by June 13.



THE REAL DIRT ON...

By Joan Herskowitz

Daniel Cleveland

Daniel Cleveland (1838-1923) was a lawyer, businessman, civic leader and pioneer naturalist who left an indelible mark on early life in San Diego and the city's cultural heritage. He was born in Poughkeepsie, NY and after becoming a lawyer in New York, he practiced law and served as mayor in San Antonio, Texas, remaining there throughout the Civil War. In 1869 Cleveland relocated to San Diego, and on board the steamship bound for San Diego he became reacquainted with Alonzo Horton, a man who he would later work with on civic and development projects that laid the foundation of modern San Diego.

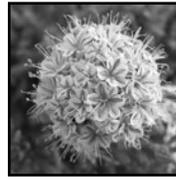


Photo courtesy of the San Diego Natural History Museum

Cleveland soon became active in all aspects of life during the formative years of New Town, including banking, railroad promotion, real estate development, as well as early efforts to create a public library, hospital, schools, art association and charitable organizations. Cleveland was also a nature enthusiast and was instrumental in preventing the privatization and development of land that later became Balboa Park. Because San Diego County was largely unexplored at that time there were opportunities for collectors with no formal training to find new species and make real contributions to science. In 1874, Cleveland, whose main interests were botanical, and Oliver Sanford, a surveyor who studied beetles, came together to form the San Diego Society of Natural History. Cleveland sought out others with scientific interests who were encouraged to join, and he served as president and benefactor for many years. Members reported on their studies and exhibited their collections. The Society is the oldest incorporated scientific organization in southern California, and as its collections and mandate grew, the Society established the San Diego Natural History Museum.

Cleveland was the first naturalist to make a systematic study of San Diego plants following the U.S. government boundary survey of 1850. His special interest in ferns and sages led him to explore the chaparral foothills whenever he could, and his collections led to his founding of the herbarium at the Natural History Museum. Beginning in 1871, for a period of 20 years Cleveland sent his plant specimens to Asa Gray at Harvard University, and to other scientists, for help in identification and nomenclature. Cleveland is remembered by the native plants named in his honor; many of which he collected himself. Probably the best known is Cleveland Sage (*Salvia clevelandii*), a plant that has a wonderful fragrance, whorls of lilac-blue blooms, and is among the easiest native sage to grow in San Diego gardens. Some of the other plants named for him include San Diego Goldenstar (*Muilla clevelandii* or *Bloomeria clevelandii*) shown above, or *Bloomeria clevelandii*, Padre's Shooting Star, Cleveland's Monkeyflower, and Cleveland's Beardtongue. The Cleveland National Forest was not named after Daniel Cleveland, but rather after President Grover Cleveland.

Member Joan Herskowitz worked as a Biologist for many years, including time spent on staff at the County of San Diego Department of Planning and Land Use. Now retired, she is a docent at the San Elijo Lagoon and at San Diego Botanic Garden. ☞



GOING WILD WITH THE NATIVES

By Greg Rubin

Beautiful Buckweats

One of California's most versatile plant groups is not getting the horticultural attention it deserves. I'm talking about the genus *Eriogonum*, or buckweats. Most people are only familiar with the ubiquitous flat top buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*, shown above), one of our most common chaparral/coastal sage scrub plants. *E. fasciculatum* comes in elegant, low-growing ground cover forms like 'Theodore Payne', 'Warner Lytle', and 'Dana Point'. Given a small amount of overhead supplemental irrigation in summer these plants stay fresh, verdant, and surprisingly fire resistant throughout the year. Many more species are quite showy and available in many sizes, colors, and habits.

The largest species is the magnificent St. Catherine's Lace (*E. giganteum*), from the Channel Islands. This shrub can grow to 6' across and 4' tall, with large flat clusters of white flowers held high above its oval gray leaves. The flowers fade to rust in autumn and make wonderful dried arrangements.



Both Photos: Stan Sheels

Another breathtaking, very formal looking species is the Santa Cruz Island buckwheat (*E. arborescens*), which has narrow blue leaves and pink flowers that fade to white then to rust at different times on the same shrub, lending it a beautiful hemispherical quilt appearance. I regularly use this plant in formal and contemporary gardens.

Red buckwheat (*E. grande rubescens*), a perennial form also from the islands, is great as a color spot along paths and the edges of a landscape. Its flowers come in shades from pink to blood red. The true species has a rosette form and is perennial in nature. However, it tends to hybridize with coastal buckwheat (*E. parvifolium*) to form a small, handsome, low-growing shrub with pinkish flowers and small oval leaves. Ashy leaved buckwheat (*E. cinereum*) hails from the Santa Monica Mountains and forms a quite handsome 3' shrub with gray leaves and pink flowers.

Another small form with a mass of brilliant yellow flowers carried above an inordinately tidy micro-shrub is the sulfur buckwheat (*E. umbellatum*); it hails from our eastern mountains but is highly adaptable and at home in nearly any Southern California garden. It is so neat that it appears to be trimmed. The flowers are so tightly packed as to form a dome of yellow over the plant; they fade from yellow to orange to rust, giving it months of interest. Commonly found in granitic soils, this one has done well in clay as long as it gets good drainage.

Rock garden enthusiasts fall in love with Kennedy's buckwheat (*E. kennedyi*), which forms a 2" tall, tight mound of gray leaves in scree soils and between rocks. It has pink pompon flowers all over it in spring and summer. Its soft, tight texture is so remarkable that I defy anyone not to touch it!

As you can see, the buckweats are a very diverse and useful group of plants. Despite their differences, however, they all share drought tolerance, butterfly and bird attraction, beauty, and ease of maintenance. They deserve a try.

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. ☞



TREES, PLEASE

By Robin Rivet

Train Your Trees to Drink and Thrive

As our Southern California gardens burst into bloom even after skimpy winter rains, most of our deciduous trees respond with spring foliage produced from energy stored the year before. If you have mature shade trees, below average rainfall may not provide sufficient soaking for a tree to cope through a typically dry summer or a brutal Santa Anna autumn. However, there are several common pitfalls to avoid when watering urban trees for optimal health and longevity.

First consider the three s's: species, size and especially soil. In general, the smaller the tree the less likely it is to have adequate reserves. One size definitely does not fit all, so test for soil moisture several feet down, not at the surface. Wetting only the top of the soil is the single most common mistake when watering, especially if you want to discourage surface rooting. Since 90% of all tree roots remain in the top three feet of soil, that's where periodic saturation is needed. The good news is that deep, but rather infrequent irrigation is what trees prefer, so you won't need to repeat this process often.



Faced with lawn type sprinklers as a prime water source, these seldom penetrate sufficiently without excessive runoff. Alternatively, use a soaker hose, which is inexpensive and can be coiled multiple times around a tree (as shown above). Plus, soaker hoses bend around walkways or irregular beds where trees often co-exist with inferior watering systems. After temporary placement, allow to drip slowly overnight or even longer; then roll them up until the next month or so; depending on those three s's, and avoid mid-day or hot weather watering.

One of the great indignities mature trees suffer is being watered where they least need it: at the trunk. Avoid this. Not only are you wasting precious water; crown rot and fungal diseases are opportunists that seek suffocating situations. Instead, try to saturate as close to the drip line of the canopy as possible. If you ill-advisedly placed a bubbler or a perforated watering tube near your tree trunk at planting time and a few years have now passed; it's probably time to remove them and water where the feeder roots are actually growing. Adding 2"-3" of organic matter under the canopy also reduces evaporation, but move mulches away from the trunk and keep weeds at bay.

What if you just planted a sapling or bare-root tree? Although October is a better time for establishing young trees, if you're nice to them now they will thank you later. Regardless of whether you planted a citrus or an elm, it will need regular irrigation. Even California native trees need ample watering the first year to establish healthy, vigorous root systems. The bottom line is: train your trees to go deep and wide to drink, and they will better withstand nature's droughts.

Member Robin Rivet is an ISA Certified Arborist, UCCE Master Gardener and serves on the San Diego Regional Urban Forestry Council, San Diego Community Forest Advisory Board and La Mesa Environmental/Sustainability Commission. She welcomes public inquiries and rebuttals. For additional information: <http://phytosphere.com/vtf/treewater.htm>; www.finegardening.com/how-to/qa/watering-trees-drought.aspx...

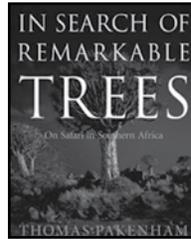


BOOK REVIEW

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh

In Search of Remarkable Trees By Thomas Pakenham

52 Loaves By William Alexander



We're coming to the tenth anniversary of my book reviews. My first review, of *Creating and Planting Garden Troughs* by Joyce Fingerhut and Rex Murfitt, was published in our newsletter, then called *Botanically Correct*, in July 2002.

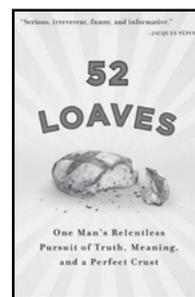
Since then, I've read many garden books, but I often seem to come back to a few subjects that interest me, and, I hope, you. I'm always looking for titles about biodiversity, and especially seed saving to preserve plant genes; I like memoirs that focus on the author's gardening experience and philosophy; and I enjoy reading about growing fruits and vegetables, especially ones that we don't normally see in our gardens.

I also enjoy books about trees. The Horticultural Society published an excellent one – *Ornamental Trees for Mediterranean Climates* by Don Walker and Steve Brigham. Thomas Pakenham, an Irish historian, author, and chairman of the Irish Tree Society, has written a series of books that will be of interest to those who liked the Walker/Brigham book and to the general reader.

I previously reviewed (2009) his book *The Remarkable Baobab*, and liked it very much. *In Search of Remarkable Trees: On Safari in Southern Africa* (ISBN-10: 0-8027-1692-X) is the third in a separate series of books. The first two are *Remarkable Trees of the World* (2002) and *Meeting with Remarkable Trees* (1996).

I like his prose, but the most impressive parts of this book are the photographs. Pakenham is the photographer, and he has a marvelous eye for just the right angle to shoot with his fifty-year-old camera.

The trees are so amazing that many individuals are named and stories and ideas about them are woven into the local culture. But, as with so much of the "wildlife" of our world, many are disappearing—both the individuals and the species to which they belong. You may never get to see them in nature, but you'll enjoy the trip through this book.



A second author I've shared with you is William Alexander. I loved his funny and educational book *The 64 Dollar Tomato*. Alexander is one of those men you're glad exists in the world, but, boy, you wouldn't want to be married to him. He can be just a tiny bit obsessive. His first laugh-out-loud book was about vegetable gardening. This one, *52 Loaves: One Man's Relentless Pursuit of Truth, Meaning, and a Perfect Crust* (ISBN 978-1-56512-583-4),

is about trying to bake the perfect loaf of bread, one a week for fifty-two weeks. It's not directly a garden book, but he does discuss growing his own grain. It starts out with him trying to get a half-gallon of bubbling twelve-year-old sourdough starter through the security check at an airport and just gets better.

I think you'll enjoy both these books. 🍞



SEE US AT THE FAIR

By Susanna Pagan

The Design Process

My adventure began back on a beautiful February day, as I sat down with Jim Bishop and Marilyn Guidroz, at a café on Cedros Avenue, to discuss the upcoming garden display at the Fair! I came prepared with a sketch pad and a few ideas about what I could bring to the garden and this year's theme of "Cosmic Spaces." One idea I brought with me to the meeting was to create a celestial garden that played on the motif of the sky, the moon and the stars. I wanted to create an ethereal space, light and airy.

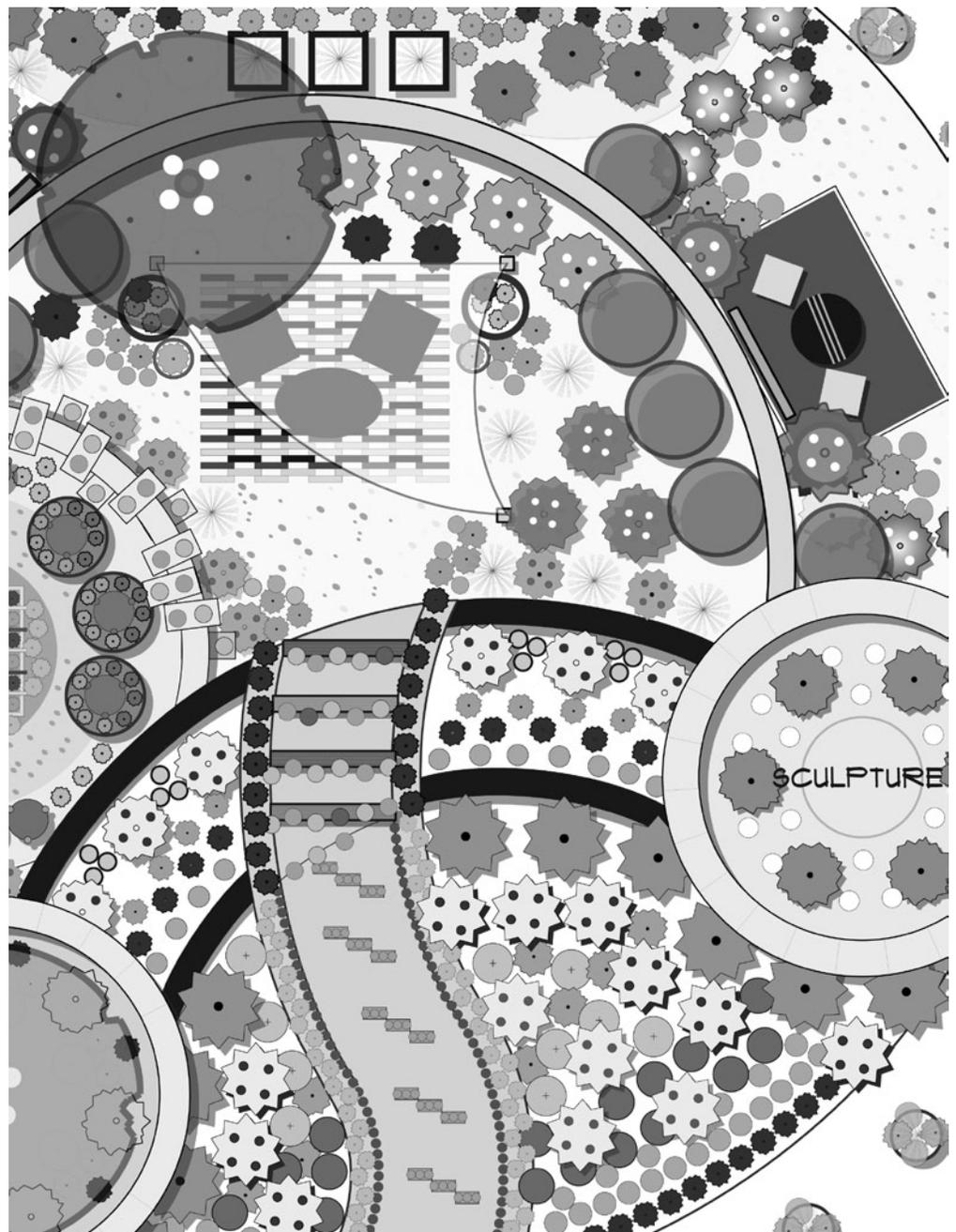
After collaborating with Jim and Marilyn, I solidified my design direction. I would create a moon garden, dappled with white flowering plants and silvery succulents that reflect the moonlight, and contrast them with greens, blues and purples. I picked a color palette for the exhibit of four colors: a white called Evening Mist, a cobalt blue called Star Spangled, a sky blue called Blue Burst, and a glowing green called Celery. Purples and pinks would be added for pops of color into the garden. The display garden is titled "A Starry Night in Your Garden." About 2/3 of the garden is shown in the illustration here.

When I was initially laying out the garden I thought about the spaces that I would like to include and what kinds of elements I would like to incorporate in these spaces. The upper patio and central area of the garden layout (shown in the top half of the illustration) became the highest point in the garden. I wanted to emulate a space that felt as though you were part of the starry sky. I incorporated a colorful, softly curving wall surrounding the patio of white gravel, a wood multicolored area rug to place chairs and a table on, and a soft, airy, white sail shade overhead. I envisioned the sail shade to be very sheer, so that you could see the night sky through it.

The lower areas of the garden I designed to bring the garden closer to you. I included intimate elements such as a bistro area with a beautiful painting as a backdrop, a small mosaic pathway leading to an artistic door, a winding pathway lined with wine bottles, and a whimsical edible garden to lure in Fair attendees.

Selecting the plants

After laying out the circular garden, which emulated celestial shapes, I moved on to choosing the plant palette! I looked at trees with soft, light, bottle brush flowers, such as *Melaleuca incana* (Grey Honey Myrtle) and the dark leaved *Magnolia grandiflora* 'Little Gem' (Little Gem Magnolia), with its large saucer-shaped white blooms that would



shine in the moonlight. To continue the circular planetary shapes, I selected rosette shaped succulents in a silvery blue tone, such as *Echeveria minima*. The silvery foliage of the *Mariana sedifolia* (Desert Snow Bush), was also chosen as part of the white palette.

After choosing the silvers and whites, I looked at creating contrast to make the whites pop. Blue-hued *Podocarpus elongatus* 'Monmal' (Icee Blue® Yellow Wood), was selected as a backdrop for the upper patio and a nice contrast for the white flowering roses in front of them. *Pilosocereus pachycladus* (Blue Columnar Cactus), with its unusual bright blue hue, was selected to contrast with the cobalt blue lower retaining walls. My final selections ranged from light pinks to deep purples, colors seen in nebulas, creating interest among whites and silvers. A unique *Aeonium* I discovered at Waterwise Botanicals during our SDHS tour, called *Aeonium aborescens* x 'Cabernet' (Cabernet Aeonium), was added for its mounding form, soft foliage, and deep burgundy and lime green colors. Hot pinks, such as *Cordyline banksii* 'Electric Pink' and *Calandrinia grandiflora* (Rock Purslane), were added for their bright color. The pink, airy flowers of the *Calandrinia* will be seen peeking up behind the lower retaining walls.

Sustainability and Custom Artwork

Art also plays a big theme in the garden design. I mentioned earlier a door at the end of a pebble mosaic pathway and a bistro area with a painting as a backdrop. I will be working with local artist Katie Gaines, of Love Paper Paint (www.lovepaperpaint.com), on a repurposed door from SDHS President Jim Bishop's garden, which will be painted into a work of garden art. For a stunning backdrop for the bistro area, local artist Rachel Harper, of Beauty from the Ashes, (www.beautyfromashesartwork.com), is painting a custom piece that features elements of the "Cosmic Spaces" theme, as well as succulents and flowers from the exhibit.

I also felt it was important to incorporate items for sustainability and environmental benefits. Locally recycled items such as perennial mulch from Agri Service Inc. (see page 14), a wine bottle bordered decomposed granite pathway, energy saving LED lighting, repurposed materials used in the garden art, and water saving drip irrigation in the edible garden area, are highlights in the display garden. In the front of the exhibit a repurposed globe structure by Michael Weiss of Wine Country Craftsman (<http://winecountrycraftsman.com>), made of recycled wine barrel bands from Napa, will serve as a sculptural element and cosmic theme reference.

Each year SDHS has such great speakers come and share their knowledge and expertise with us. The garden will also feature topics covered by recent guest speakers, such as incorporating growing your own food with Jimmy Williams and Susan Heeger; the provocative succulents of Scott Calhoun, and the California natives of Susan Krzywicki.

After months of planning, I am ready to see my vision come to life! Jeremiah Turner of Turner Landscapes Inc., (www.turnerlandscapes.com), an award winning landscape contractor who received Best in Show at the 2011 Spring Home/Garden Show, will be assisting with the installation of the garden. We are hugely fortunate to have so many talented individuals donating their time and expertise to the design of the garden this year.

See the Garden WITHOUT the Crowds!

A special open house for SDHS members to tour the garden displays will be held on Monday, June 11 – see inside front cover for details. It'll be an evening you won't want to miss!

Member Susanna Pagan, of Susanna Pagan Landscape Design (www.spgardens.com), is a talented landscape designer specializing in residential landscape design in San Diego's North County area. She designs stylish gardens that show her love of gardening and all things Horticulture, flair for beautiful color, and art. 🌿

We need volunteer drivers (with trucks, vans or large cars) from May 29 to June 4 to pick up plants and other items for our display garden. On July 5, at the end of the Fair, we will need drivers to return and deliver these same items. If you have some time and would like to be a part of the Fair Driving team, please call Marilyn Guidroz ASAP at (760) 224-9188. See page 2 about being a Horticulturist of the Day to answer questions during the Fair.



MIRACOSTA STUDENT INTERN PROGRAM AT THE FAIR

By Marilyn Guidroz, APLD

The MiraCosta Horticulture students need hands-on experience and SDHS needs a lot of hands to put the Flower & Garden Show exhibit together at the Fair. This is truly a good partnership. They get to find out what it takes to install a Fair exhibit and we get to work with some of the finest students around.

The 2010 Fair exhibit "In Good Taste" featured edible gardens. The 2011 Fair exhibit "Riding in Style" featured the automobile in a garden setting. The 2012 Fair exhibit "Cosmic Spaces" will be truly "Out of this World." We are looking forward to another fun and fabulous garden display.

As a Professional Residential Landscape Designer and Associate Faculty Member of MiraCosta College, I have the privilege of consulting with the Horticulture Department staff and introducing our Summer Internship Program to the students. I explain to them that this is a commitment of time and effort that will earn them course credit as well as a unique experience in the world of garden displays and awards that they can't get anywhere else. They will have a story to tell in any interview that is sure to stand out as something special. A portfolio that features an award-winning exhibit is going to look really good to prospective colleges, employers and clients.

Our lead designer Susanna Pagan has been working hard to complete the details of the exhibit and will be involved with the students during the final week of the installation. She will help to share her vision of the display and supervise the finishing touches as it all comes together in the end. We become a team and a family with our hearts set on this amazing creation. As the exhibit comes to life we develop a real sense of appreciation for what it takes to be successful.

It doesn't end there. The students must then go on to learn how to maintain this exhibit through the entire month of the Fair and keep it looking perfect at all times. One of our student interns from last year has been hired to be in charge of the maintenance program this year. The intern students will also assist the SDHS Horticulturist of the Day docents to answer questions about the exhibit and welcome visitors to the Flower & Garden Show. This is a wonderful opportunity to develop professional presentation skills and learn what people want to know about gardens in general. The use of education is a big factor in our exhibit and sustainable principles will be highlighted for the public.

The students will be expected to attend a number of the speaker lectures featured at the Flower & Garden Show as well as write essays regarding their experience with the program. The feedback we received from the students last year was very positive and we are sure to have a great group of students again this year.

The students will be at the SDHS Open House night at the Fair on June 11 to greet all of you and personally introduce our 2012 exhibit. See you at the Fair!

Marilyn Guidroz is a long time member of the San Diego Horticultural Society and has helped with the Fair Exhibit since 2010. Marilyn owns her own Professional Residential Landscape Design company (www.marilynsgarden.com) and is a Certified member of APLD (Association of Professional Landscape Designers). She majored in Horticulture and holds a B.S. degree in Agriculture with High Distinction from the University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ. 🌿





IF YOU KNEW SUSI... MEET SDHS'S 2012 HORTICULTURIST OF THE YEAR

By Mary James

Ask Susi Torre-Bueno about her horticultural roots and she laughs. "I'm from a long line of apartment dwellers," the native New Yorker says. "I'm probably the first gardener in my family in 100 years."

Susi is the daughter of Bill Kramer and Hannah Kirschenbaum, who were the children of immigrants from Poland and Germany. Her father, who trained as an architect, learned photography when he enlisted in the Army and made a living doing portraits and photographing weddings, bar mitzvahs and other events. Her mom was a bookkeeper, who wisely saved her husband's military paychecks for a down payment on a house in the Bronx.

Susi was 3 ½ and her brother David was 1 when the family moved. "We were way off the beaten path," she says of the location, "and I think our house was the first one on the street." Typical of post-war housing, there was a patch of front lawn and a small backyard with a lilac and fruiting mulberry. Her parents added a dwarf apple tree and a neighbor contributed hostas and a grapevine. "The apple tree was beautiful," she recalls. "No one but my nutty Aunt Belle would eat the very sour mulberries. For a time my mom was determined to find some way to make it stop fruiting."

The neighborhood kids were Susi's playmates outdoors as they built snow forts and played games. Her ambitions at the time were simple: "Buy a Mustang, go to Mars and kiss Marlon Brando." "I still want to go to Mars," she admits. Soon a second grade science project would add a new goal to the list – gardening.

"We planted radish seeds," she says. "Once they sprouted, every day I'd pull one up and put it back, just to see how they were doing. Finally, they were ready. I washed one off, took a bite and spit it out. I still hate radishes, but I was hooked on the process."

Lord of the Rings to a Wedding Ring

From that time on, Susi became the gardener in the family, annually planting seeds at home and later branching out into bulbs. "I remember forcing daffodils in crushed oyster shells," she says. In junior high, she made a mini-dinosaur habitat, clipping off carrot tops to stand in for ferns. But when high school graduation came around and college beckoned, Susi turned from land to sea, with a major in marine biology at the newly opened Stony Brook campus of the State University of New York.

Dorm life at the 1,000-student college suited her: "It was the most exciting day of my life when I first saw the campus," she says. When she realized math and chemistry were needed for her major, she switched to sociology and anthropology, eventually earning a dual degree. "I didn't know it at the time, but I get seasick, so it was the right move," she adds.

It was the late 1960s, a like many college students, Susi was hooked on the fantastical *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. Eager to meet fellow fans, she decided to found a campus Tolkien Club – a decision that would change her life. Among the two dozen who turned out was a handsome freshman science major named Jose Rollin de la Torre-Bueno IV. Three years later, instead of attending her own college graduation, the two were married in New York. "We were so young," she says. "Because Jose wasn't 21 yet, his parents had to give him permission to marry,



They signed him over to me and we've been together ever since."

Stitching Together a Business

After earning his BS degree, Jose enrolled in the Ph.D. program in physiology at Rockefeller University. His bride got a job with the University as a radar operator tracking migrating birds (with Korean War-surplus equipment) and analyzing the data the old-fashioned way with a slide rule. "I had taken a Navy aptitude test in high school that said it would be a good job for me because I was good with details. And I was. It was lots of fun with many adventures," she says looking back.

Typical of the 1970s, she satisfied her yen to garden with houseplants – hundreds of them hung by home-made macramé hangers in their New York apartment and a rental house in upstate New York. But her commanding interest at the time was needlepoint. When Jose's post-doctoral studies took them to Durham, North Carolina, for "nine long years," that hobby became her first home-grown business – designing counted cross stitch needlework patterns.

In "hot, humid, racist, sexist Durham," Susi couldn't find work – or garden. A year after their arrival there, the couple welcomed a son, Theodore. Now a stay-at-home mom, she turned to needlework, first selling some pieces and then counted cross stitch designs. "It was like printing money," she says of the design sales. "It cost a penny to copy one and I sold it for a dollar to shops all over the state." As her knowledge of the largely mom-and-pop business grew, she saw the need for a trade directory of counted cross stitch designs. "The first one was about 75 or 100 pages and I sent it to 10,000 stores," she said. "Pretty soon I was doing a new directory every 6 months and had two people working for me, all out of a room in our house."

In 1981, the family got a respite from North Carolina when Jose used a sabbatical from Duke University to take a one-year appointment at UCSD. The couple picked San Diego because Jose's sister Ava was here, having graduated from SDSU and gone into social work. Three years after they went back to Durham, on their 15th wedding anniversary, the couple left North Carolina behind to move here.

Shortly afterwards, Susi sold her needlework enterprises. Since then, she has never done another piece of stitchery. "I completely burned out," she says. "And I learned not to make a hobby into a business. I will never do that again."

A Gardening Demon Unleashed

Though she was an administrator for American Innovision, a bio-tech company Jose founded and ran until it was sold in 1992, Susi finally was able to "unleash my gardening demon" at the family's new home in the College area. The former owner had "gardened with concrete," she says, leaving only a patch of lawn and a couple of planting spots around the backyard pool. Undeterred, Susi started gardening in pots, while beginning a crash course in horticulture, San Diego style. "I bought a *Sunset Western Garden Book* and kept it by the bed. Every night I'd read a couple of pages," she said. "I joined the San Diego Floral Association and bought lots of other books. It was a real education... but I felt that this was what I was meant to do."

During this time, Susi says she "spent half of every weekend at

Simpson's [Nursery in Jamul]. I think the car could get there by itself after a while." She eliminated her front lawn and planted a veggie garden there. And she kept adding to her container garden. "By the time we moved in 1996, I had 800 pots."

In 1994, Susi attended her first meeting of the then nascent San Diego Horticultural Society. "I'm not sure how I heard about it. Everyone was so friendly and nice, even though they all referred to plants by their Latin names, which made me roll my eyes. I joined on the spot."

Two years later, when she and Jose were living in a mobile home while building a custom home on two acres in Encinitas, she was asked to become editor of the SDHS newsletter, a post she accepted and still holds today. As newsletter editor, she automatically took a seat on the board of directors too and has served on the board ever since.

Beside her volunteer activities, Susi worked part time at Buena Creek Gardens, owned then by fellow SDHS board member Steve Brigham. The remaining time was divided among work on her new house and garden. "The lot was 100 percent mustard weed so we had it clear cut," she says. "The soil was clay and rock, so we brought in lots of mulch and compost and very quickly the soil got a whole lot better. Meanwhile, I went to every plant sale anywhere."

Using a CAD program, she spent many hours designing the new garden, giving it a Mediterranean-style entry and tropical look in the back. "I had so much fun," she says. "The garden came out the way I wanted it. It was great." Among her plant "obsessions" then were cannas. Eventually she had more than 70 varieties in the garden, accumulated in part by trading with other plant lovers online.

Leading SDHS Forward

In 1998, Susi was elected second vice president of the SDHS board. Four years later, when founding President Don Walker resigned to move out of state, she was named president to fill out his term. Later that year, she was elected to her first three year term as president. She would serve two subsequent terms, stepping down from that office in 2011.

Susi presided over the organization during times of rapid growth in membership and programs. "I really wanted to reach out to the gardening community, to spread the word. The whole point of the organization is education and outreach," she explains. New efforts included "ambassadors" to garden clubs and information booths at major events like the San Diego County Fair. When Susi took the reins, SDHS counted 889 members; two years later that number swelled to 1,400. While membership ebbed some in subsequent years, it currently has returned to nearly 1,400.

The newsletter, which published its 200th edition last year, also prospered during Susi's presidency. The number of pages increased and a color cover was added. An electronic version was developed to be delivered by email, saving paper, printing and postage costs. Plus, a Web site and later a facebook page were created and updated to reach the growing number of internet users. Also, a second edition of the SDHS book, *Ornamental Trees for Mediterranean Climates*, was published.

SDHS's role at the county fair expanded to include annual awards for accurate nomenclature, creative use of unusual plant material, best youth garden and best expression of garden education. In 2004, the organization created the first of many award-winning fair display gardens and two years later the Don and Dorothy Walker Award for Most Outstanding Exhibit was added. Last year, an award for best planted container was presented for the first time. To help fairgoers with gardening questions, SDHS volunteers staff the gardens for the run of the fair as Horticulturists of the Day.

Since 1999, SDHS has been a co-sponsor for the Spring Home/Garden show also held at the fairgrounds. This event was the setting for many years for presentation of another award, Horticulturist of the Year. Three years ago, building on a history of local and out-of-town tours dating back to the mid-1990s, SDHS began organizing a garden tour that traditionally kicks off the garden tour season here.

Member benefits added during Susi's presidency include the annual Volunteer Appreciation Party, free monthly Coffees in the Garden that visit outstanding landscapes and nurseries, new member orientation events, discounted subscriptions to Pacific Horticulture magazine, and garden tours to cities around the country. Programs increasingly touted water-wise gardening and sustainability. "Initially the thinking was 'you can grow anything here,'" she says. "But our emphasis turned to water conservation and plants that don't need much water."

In Praise of SDHS Members

In addition to her work with SDHS, Susi organized local garden tours for three years as part of the Garden Conservancy's Open Days program. As SDHS president, she served nine years on the board of the Pacific Horticulture Society and put together three symposia for them. All the while, she was a familiar face at a host of gardening events around the county - staffing an SDHS information booth, speaking on a variety of topics or filling any number of SDHS volunteer jobs.

Two years after Susi became SDHS president, she and her husband decided to downsize and sell their home. "We still had a half-acre of the garden to develop and what was planted took a full time gardener and all my free time to maintain. We were watering much of the garden by hand. It was too much," she says. Before moving into a temporary home in Carlsbad while they built the new house themselves, the couple hosted a party and invited friends to take cuttings, hoping they would offer cuttings in return for their new garden.

Today the couple lives in a "green" fire-safe house designed by Jose and gardens on the 1-plus acre that surrounds it in Vista. "There's almost no wood in the house's construction, mostly concrete blocks and steel studs. There are sprinklers on the roof and in every room," she explains. "Solar helps heat the water and the rest of house is heated by two gas-burning fireplaces." A built-in gray-water system is about to be implemented.

The home's courtyard is filled with aloes. Outside, it is ringed with succulents and other low-water plants from around the state and the world, including South Africa, South America and Mexico. A new orchard will soon be joined by a "dry tropics" demonstration garden, being planned on the same CAD system used previously.

"I'm enjoying my retirement," she says of the months since she stepped down as president. "I'm actually gardening again and really enjoying spending time with plants." She also works with her son and husband on their new venture, Empowered Energy Solutions, a contracting company that conducts home and business energy audits and provides customized solutions to significantly reduce energy costs.

Looking back over her tenure, Susi is especially complementary of SDHS's dedicated members. "Without members who are willing to roll up their sleeves and get jobs done, we wouldn't be where we are today," she says. "Members keep our group alive and growing. I can't thank them enough." 🌿



South African section of Susi's current garden.

Rachel Cobb

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:

Robin Borrelli	Pete Picksley	Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Carla Bowlin	Deborah Polich	Bryan & Jora Vess
Bob & Carole Caparas	Gary & Carol Prior	Trish & Tom Watlington
Linda Clark	Steven & Sharlyn Rocha	
Bob & Maun Knight	Paul Schatz & Juan Carlos Ruiz	

Mack Langston & Merle Berman
Judy LaVine
Gary & Linda Payne

NEW ADVERTISERS: SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW (INSERT, BACK 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 (1)	Shirley Littler (1)	San Diego Floral Assoc. (1)
Linda Bresler (1)	Pat McDougal (1)	Patty Sliney (1)
Jim Bishop (2)	Kay & Vince McGrath (1)	Marcia Van Loy (1)
Patricia Bockstahler (1)	Gabriel Mitchell (1)	Janet Wanerka (1)
Kay Harry (1)	Susan Morse (1)	Dick & Gail Wheaton (1)
Julie Hasl (1)	Karin Norberg (1)	Roy Wilburn,
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LIFE MEMBERS *Horticulturist of the Year

*Chuck Ades (2008)

*Walter Andersen (2002)

Norm Applebaum &

Barbara Roper

*Bruce & Sharon

Asakawa (2010)

Gladys T. Baird

Debra Lee Baldwin

*Steve Brigham (2009)

Laurie Connable

Julian & Leslie Duval

*Edgar Engert (2000)

Jim Farley

Sue & Charles Fouquette

Penelope Hlavac

Debbie & Richard Johnson

Lois Kline

*Vince Lazaneo (2004)

*Jane Minshall (2006)

*Bill Nelson (2007)

Tina & Andy Rathbone

*Jon Rebman (2011)

Peggy Ruzich

San Diego Home/
Gardens Lifestyle

Gerald D. Stewart

*Susi Torre-Bueno (2012)

& Jose Torre-Bueno

*Don Walker (2005) &

Dorothy Walker

Lucy Warren

*Evelyn Weidner (2001)

*Pat Welsh (2003)

Betty Wheeler

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

Philip Tackill & Janet Wanerka

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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.

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Containing more than 115 different species of Bamboo, our Bamboo Garden is one of the eldest and most beloved gardens at San Diego Botanic Garden. The Bamboo Garden is large, grows rapidly and needs constant maintenance. Without the help of our volunteers and docents, we would not have the same garden today.

"Just five years ago, docent Sally Sandler spearheaded an effort to organize a volunteer gardening effort, which until then had been haphazard", says Docent Peter Jones. Now, each garden has a group of volunteers known as the Garden Beautification Team that spend their time and expertise maintaining each garden.

The Garden has teams comprising over 150 volunteers working in 19 distinct areas of the Garden. The Bamboo team is one of those 19 teams who assist and work closely with the Garden's horticultural staff to cultivate and sustain those specific Garden areas. In addition, three of our Docents, Peter Jones, Mary Cozza and Barry Martin, have taken on the task to organize the Bamboo Beautification Team and work endless hours up keeping this area.

Each individual Garden Beautification Team will converge on their assigned locations in the Garden on Wednesday mornings. On Saturdays, the volunteer teams can be found in one specific garden area. For example, the first Saturday of each month all volunteers can be found working in the Bamboo Garden. These Saturday work parties are a great way for volunteers to work in Garden areas they don't see on a regular basis and an opportunity to work with other volunteers.

One thing you may find the teams working on is pathways which must be cleared frequently of leaves and debris for visitors. "Visitors notice us cutting bamboo culms and often ask why we do so. Many clumping Bamboos grow in a tight clump and for the health of the plant older culms need to be removed to give breathing space for the plant. When a tight clump of bamboo is selectively pruned the result is also aesthetically pleasing. Removed culms are sold in the gift shop, used for construction projects or recycled as mulch," says Jones.

We have plenty of work to go around at the Garden. Volunteer or become a Docent at San Diego Botanic Garden today. Help the Garden grow! ☘



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

Going Back to Houston

After 3 years living in Missouri, my father accepted a new job in Houston and we moved to Texas in February of 1970. We had last lived in Houston in 1959. We moved into



Passiflora incarnata

a neighborhood of newish tract homes. All the houses were one story with same basic floor plan and different exteriors... Spanish, Southern Colonial, traditional, and ours, which was Tudor. Our neighbors were mostly mid-level executives or blue collar workers for oil companies or other energy related businesses. About half were native Texans and the others were recent transfers to Houston.

Even though I was born in nearby Pasadena (Texas), the hot and humid weather, the concrete and billboard-plastered freeways, the ugliness of the largest city in the U.S. with no zoning, the pancake-flat and swampy terrain, the lack of outdoor activities, the Texas-sized bugs and the newly arrived fire ants, plus way too many "cowboys" all made me long for somewhere, anywhere else... or maybe I was just experiencing a difficult adolescence. Houston boasted that it was the most air-conditioned city in the world and without it would have been uninhabitable for nine months of the year. It was always too dry or too wet, too hot or too cold. All this made it an unlikely place for being outside, let alone in the garden.

Still, over time I would start to pursue gardening as a passion. Our house was on a corner lot. The street on one side dead-ended at a 10-foot deep drainage ditch. The ditch was dry for months at a time, but could overflow during the periodic monsoon rains. It was home to toads, giant bullfrogs, a few turtles, snakes (mostly 6 foot long water moccasins) and assorted small mammals and birds. Our side was lined with tall yaupon bushes (*Ilex vomitoria*). In the fall, migrating cedar waxwings (*Bombicilla cedrorum*) would eat the fermented berries and sleep off their stupor on the roof, occasionally tumbling off onto the ground. Between the ditch and our back wooden fence mom would struggle to grow vegetables, mostly tomatoes and strawberries. We piled the grass clippings into an informal haystack next to the vegetable garden in hopes of creating compost, but it was usually too wet and full of anaerobic bacteria and fire ants to be of much use.

On the other side of the ditch ran a large linear field below high-power transmission lines. In the field grew a variety of plants: Texas goldenrod (*Solidago altissima*), snow-on-the-mountain (*Euphorbia marginata*), wild grasses, passion vines (*Passiflora incarnata*), and a lot of dewberries. Dewberries are the shorter, less sweet, poor Southern cousin of blackberries and raspberries, all in the genus *Rubus*. Mom spent countless hours picking dewberries, somehow avoiding encounters with fire ants and snakes. She filled the refrigerator freezer, then half the deep freeze, so we could have dewberries in the off-season. Dad would question the wisdom of this asking, "would they taste any better in the off-season?" Despite adding copious amounts of sugar, dewberries make the world's densest and sourest pies and cobbler.

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

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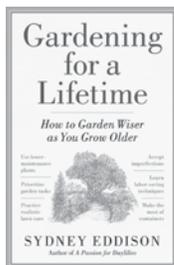
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LIVE HEALTHIER, LONGER WITH GARDENING

By Susi Torre-Bueno

I'm indebted to Chuck Ades (our 2008 Horticulturist of the Year) for sharing an article (from www.newsmaxhealth.com) titled "Live Healthier; Longer With Gardening." According to the article, gardening can help ease depression. "Experts say that digging in the dirt releases bacteria from the ground that activates mood-boosting serotonin in our brains." Now I know why playing in the mud is good for my mood. Other cited benefits of gardening include zest for life, building hand strength, eating more veggies and optimism. "84 percent of gardeners agreed with the statement, 'I have made plans for things I'll be doing a month or year from now,' compared to 68 percent of people who were not gardeners."

These interesting articles show the many ways in which gardening is good for us:

Read why gardening gives us both physical and mental exercise:

<http://web.extension.illinois.edu/cfiv/homeowners/050103.html>

Learn how to get the most exercise out of gardening:

http://gardening.about.com/od/allergiesarthritis/a/garden_fitness.htm

This article details how to garden to reduce stress:

<http://mental-health.families.com/blog/garden-your-way-to-peace#>

Finally, here's a book with some practical suggestions for what we can do to keep on doing what we love as we get older: *Gardening for a Lifetime: How to Garden Wiser as You Grow Older*. 🌿



PACIFIC HORTICULTURE TOURS

By Scott Borden

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.

Just one PacHort tour is still available for 2012, a November adventure to the Hawaiian islands of **Oahu and Kauai**. Guests will spend 3 nights on Oahu and 5 nights on Kauai, touring an extraordinary collection of public and private tropical gardens.



Escorted by PacHort board member Josh Schechtel and Sterling Tour's very own Cheryl Hedgpeth Nichols, the tour is limited to just 20 guests, so sign up soon to avoid disappointment.

The roster of 2013 PacHort tours is currently under development. Look for horticultural adventures to Morocco and Andalusia, Scotland, Philadelphia and more. For more information and reservations for any of these Pacific Horticulture tours, visit www.pacifichorticulture.org/tours or call 800-976-9497 or email info@sterlingtoursltd.com. 🌿

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SHARING SECRETS

This column is written by you, our members! Each month we'll ask a question, and print your responses the following month. **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 did you plant because it was so pretty but it became a constant invasive nightmare? (Thanks to Lorie Johansen for suggesting this.)

Susan Addams has several invaders, including: "Vinca (migrated from the neighbors' yard), asparagus fern, Cape honeysuckle, and raspberries in back of my raised veggie bed."

Louise Anderson's pest is a grass: "Mexican Feather Grass. Worse than the invasiveness was the fact that I put pruning in my compost bin. NEVER DO THAT unless you want Mexican Feather Grass wherever you put your compost. I still have it in my rose garden and that was about three years ago. It is self seeding, and I'm being polite about it. Once you've got it it's pretty much like having Nasturtiums: you never have to plant it a second time. I still like the movement and have learned that it's something that needs to be controlled."

Lynlee Austell-Slayter has three problem plants: "My borage, *Lychnis coronaria* and *Geranium maderense* are beautiful nightmares that colorfully and sweetly haunt me all year long and year after year. I keep taking 'the hair of the dog' and continue to cultivate them and like a drug pusher, I give them freely to all my friends!"

Ken Blackford has an invasive vine: "Perennial morning glory vine, *Ipomoea acuminata*. Ten years ago, I commented to my sister, who was visiting from out-of-state, that I enjoyed their blue flowers. I neglected to tell her that I thought it could be invasive... or at least so rampant and stubbornly robust as to be nearly impossible to control. Before she left, she purchased one as a gift. I made the mistake of planting it at the far back side of the yard along the neighbor's fence. I cannot keep up with its runners, which even seem to root in the dry soil, and my neighbors are not happy either. It is a constant battle to keep it out of trees and from engulfing shrubs. It's the West Coast's version of the Southeast's Kudzu vine! Still... I do enjoy those magnificent electric blue flowers!"

Lynne Blackman's pest is a bulb: "I salvaged some innocent looking ornamental oxalis with pink and white flowers from a construction site about 15 years ago. I wish I had left it for the demolition crew. It comes up everywhere, whether invited or not, and is prone to unsightly rust."

Jo Casterline has a few problems: "Besides that persistent *Geranium incanum* there is *Centranthus ruber*. Now that I have decided it can have its way I enjoy its taking over the back of the grove. It does have to share with Matilija poppies and crown daisies. How many are going to say *Alstroemeria*? That is another love/hate relationship."

Susan D'Vincent has two cautionary tales: "Two plants stand out as uninvited pests. The first is a nice, creeping *Vinca minor* (myrtle, periwinkle). Knowing it needed to be confined, I was deliberating the best place for it, but before I could find the right spot, it slipped out of the pot and made itself comfortable, which was ok there at the time but a couple of years later, I've found it 50' down the garden! I hate ripping out that sweet, innocent looking plant, but it's asking for it!"

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Our worst invader was a morning glory I picked up on sale (suckered me in), knowing full well it could become invasive. Well, before I got it planted, it escaped out of the pot and headed down the length of the house. It looked like such a pretty ground cover, I let it grow until our house became infested with ants and termites! The inspector showed us where the tendrils were creeping up and into the house letting those little buggers in. After an expensive extermination of the bugs and a vigorous eradication of the plant, we've learned our lesson!"

Bea Erickson still takes pride in her potentially invasive plant: "I have always loved the look of a Pride of Madeira. I purchased one two years ago. I was told at the time that they get huge, so I planted it with plenty of room around it, at least 9 feet, it took two years before I got any blooms, but now it looks marvelous with beautiful blue cones all over it and bees everywhere."

Linda Espino has two troublesome beauties: "What a pretty orange & purple flower I thought. I did not know better. I let it grow. Years later I am still pulling it out all over the garden beds and in all of my potted plants. The name? Scarlet pimpernel (*Anagallis arvensis*; also known as red pimpernel, red chickweed, poorman's barometer, or poor man's weather-glass). Also, a pretty blue, really true blue flowering plant I let go for a while with the same result - *Commelina diffusa*!"

Marilyn Guidroz has removed a nightmare plant for several clients: "The lovely wispy dramatic Papyrus (*Cyperus papyrus*). It looks so nice but becomes a formidable plant that takes over the garden. It is difficult to remove as the roots have to be dug out completely or it will sprout right back. The main problem with this plant is that it is HUGE: 6-10 feet tall and spreads all over the place. The only setting that I have seen this plant looking good is submerged in a large pond. With the water conservation issues it is one plant that I would not recommend using in the landscape."

Steve Harbour wrote about several problem plants: "I wish I could write that I only have introduced *one* invasive nightmare, but there are several that keep me busy. Mexican Primrose was the first to go wild over 20 years ago. *Geranium incanum* quickly followed. Both were impossible to totally eradicate. I let the primrose bloom and then try to pull it before the seeds can set. The geranium I pull as soon as I see it, although it seems to be happiest intertwining itself in the root crown of another plant, making it impossible to get without removing the desired plant as well. Others followed: Morning Glory vine, Mint, Santa Barbara daisy, Feverfew, Mexican Feather Grass, and Gaillardia to some extent. The Morning Glory is the most challenging to remove as it trails along the ground through plant beds. I have found that getting a hold of a branch near the base of the plant and pulling it like a rope will produce pieces 20 feet long without severing the branch (which would start another entire plant to deal with). Add in weeds to the plant removal chores, and this is how I spend 75 percent of my time in my garden!"

Lorie Johansen suggested this month's topic by writing, "I have been miserably weeding all the Echium seedlings (millions and millions). Matilija poppy was also a nightmare. My garden helper had to take a pick axe to get out the tuber that was the size of a Volkswagen! I weeded those seedlings for about three years thereafter."

Linda Johnson told us that her "Red Apple (*Aptenia cordifolia*) looked great at first, grew fast, used little water... however, it became a maintenance nightmare! It creeps everywhere, up fences and trees, into planters, and is hard to remove. Happy to say it is all gone now (whew!) and I would NEVER suggest using it."

Scott Jones mentioned one pest: "This readily becomes a weed due to prolific reseeding, germination, and growth: *Oenothera elata*, Hookers Primrose, which is native to much of the western and central U.S. and North America. Whether it's evening or day, the flowers are open for the most part. The plants last a year or two."

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Linda King foiled an invasive succulent: "My worst nightmare was planting *Euphorbia tirucalli*. It was a small plant when I put it into my succulent garden due to its stunning color. Within the first year it was huge and a nightmare no matter how much I pruned it, I felt I was behind. I removed the entire plant and put a small sucker in a clay pot and it has stayed nice and manageable."

Bill Knowles mentioned a bulb: "NEVER, NEVER, NEVER plant the *Oxalis pes-caprae* with the pretty yellow flowers and bright green leaves with dark spots. I thought it a wonderful signal to spring. This was 20 yrs ago and I'm still digging out the bulbs. Neighbors on two sides of us gave up and mow their oxalis 'lawns' nowadays."

Candace Kohn has two pests, one worse than the other: "I have planted *Lychnis coronaria* and now have it all over; but it seems to be no trouble to remove where I don't want it and I love the color. It is one of the best weeds I have experienced. On the other hand, I have a problem with some sort of allium that I did not plant. It does have small white flowers and I foolishly left it alone when I first discovered it. It propagates by tiny bulb divisions, hundreds of them, and by the tiniest seeds imaginable. I have actually dug up a three square foot area of my garden down to 8" and discarded the soil in an effort to manage it. The situation is better; but not perfect. I still discover the dammed things all over; but now mostly one at a time. Any help in what it might be and suggestions for control would be appreciated."

Brenda Kueneman has three garden nightmares: "I can think of three plants that I would plant again but with more respect. I am very eclectic when I purchase plants and try to understand the best methods of planting and caring for them, but accidents happen. We have five acres and I love plants that reseed or spread themselves as long as they can be removed easily and don't climb over their neighbors. I have a very large koi pond that I planted with four water lilies, but chose the containers poorly that I used to enclose them. Needless to say I have so many lilies that I need to drain the pond and remove most of them as I only have a 6' by 7' space where the water is visible. My poor koi hang out there for food and no matter how much I pull them out they just seem to explode again. My koi are huge now and I really hate to remove them to refurbish the pond, but I seem to have no choice. I believe that had I chosen a bigger, stronger, container when I put them in I wouldn't have a pond so out of control. My next culprit is a gorgeous, harmless looking little plant called Creeping Wire Vine. I think it is just beautiful, with tiny, shiny little green, green leaves that just look lovely in a hanging basket, or as a ground cover. But watch out if you are not tending it often and making sure where it is traveling; you might be sorry. It has wire-like stems and roots itself strongly into the soil and therefore is very hard to pull up. I planted it in a large bed with a Canary Island palm in the center and of course it climbed up and looked so natural and healthy that I let it go pretty much where it wanted to. I am pulling it out now because it is covering all my well-placed bromeliads and tillandsia plants, so while beautiful it is very invasive. My third mistake (and this is probably the worst of my problems) is Liriope (lilyturf) that I planted in the same bed with my Canary Island palm. It is very hard for me to dig out and I can see it thrive by the day. Beautifully green laves with lilac blooms so healthy and robust that any gardener would enjoy its beauty, except it takes over everything in sight and crawls along under the ground entrenching itself by the hour. Lilyturf is hardy and great when it knows no bounds but mine is taking over and I have to dig deeply to remove it before it harms all my other plants just minding their own business. Just when you think you get it there is that big mistake that slipped right on by."

Linda Lawley has made a truce with her invader: "I loved the look of Santa Barbara Daisy that I saw in pictures of drought tolerant gardens, so I planted a six pack here and there in my garden. It was fine for a little while but soon took over the garden. I started pulling it out but several years later it is still coming up in the cracks in the sidewalk

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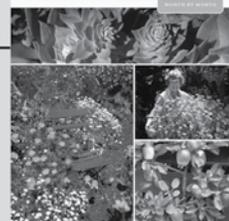
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and all over my garden. I started calling it by its other name, Fleabane, to show my dislike of it. I have finally decided to accept it and let it go. Every once in a while I cut it all back or pull out large chunks of it. The flowers are pretty and it does fill in holes."

Frank Mittel has some suggestions for *good* plants to try: "When we moved almost five years ago and I re-landscaped most of our new property, I wanted a fast, low-growing flowering groundcover to fill in all the bare spaces around all the new shrubs, trees, and perennials until larger growing plants matured. Boy do I regret planting *Geranium incanum*! Initially, after the first couple years, the mauve colored flowers and light green delicate evergreen foliage was very beautiful and effective groundcover. However, they started to seed and pop up everywhere, I'm still having a hard time eradicating them from my entire yard. Alas, a beautiful weed! As an alternative, I've had great success and really love a relative, *Geranium* 'Tiny Monster'. (It's also fun that the pop singer Lady Gaga calls her fans "Little Monsters.") This sterile cultivar from Germany is the same 10"-12" height as *G. incanum*, but it doesn't self-sow all over the place. A cross between *G. sanguineum* and *G. psilostemon*, with purple-violet flowers with a 36" spread, they are totally low-maintenance and self cleaning. I cut them back to the ground the first of January, and now (late April) they have grown to full maturity and have been in full bloom since the first of March. Rather drought tolerant once established, grow *Geranium* 'Tiny Monster' (Cranesbill) in mostly full sun (but it will tolerate semi-shady conditions). A real show stopper!"

Susan Morse says, "I rue the day I purchased six bulbs at a local garden club meeting and thought I had such a good deal, paying 50 cents a bulb. The exotic appearance of the *Casmanthe floribunda*, the orange cobra lily, seemed so enchanting. I had no idea that I was going to get such an 'a bunda of flora.' To compound my own problem, since my bulb production was good, I lifted some bulbs and planted them in the front yard, in addition to the patch in the back yard. By the third year, I realized the Sorcerer's Apprentice (of Pinocchio fame) was reproducing bulbs at a rate faster than snails reproduce. *Casmanthe* propagate by bulb division and by seed. I dig them up and pull them up, year after year. If I am diligent about pulling off the blade shaped leaves when they are three inches tall, it seems to slow the process. Being a plant nerd, when I learned that there was a yellow version of the *Casmanthe*, the *C. duckittii*, and it was less invasive, yep, I got some of those bulbs. Some people never learn."

Al Myrick's pest has thorns: "California Native Wild Rose – don't ever, ever do it!"

Ted Overland sometimes cuts his thug down: "*Geranium incanum* is so cute and yet requires a good bit of 'behavior modification' to keep it in check. If nothing else, I like to laser it down when it gets too bushy. It comes back nicely."

Pat Pawlowski was beguiled by pink flowers: "*Oenothera berlandieri* 'Siskiyou' (Mexican Evening Primrose) looked so sweetly innocent in its little pot. However, once planted, it revealed its true wild promiscuous nature and flamboyantly popped up all over the yard, giving all the other plants big bear hugs, smothering them to death. Yanking doesn't get rid of it; apparently tiny little pieces of root are enough for it to spread. I rue (ha ha) the day I bought it."

Katie Pelisek mentioned two invaders: "Just hate having to say I told you so. My friend Donna didn't heed my warnings when she wanted to plant pink Mexican Evening Primrose (*Oenothera speciosa* 'Siskiyou'). She lets me know annually, while still trying to eradicate it, that she wish she had listened! On a happier note; over 20 years ago someone planted mint on my front slope, mixed in with ice plant. While I pull it out by the can-full, it is always there when I want it for my sun tea!"

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Carey Pratt said: "I planted *Lobelia laxiflora* because of beautiful hummingbird-friendly red blooms, long blooming period, and superb drought tolerance. After a year or two they were obviously too large for their site, so I dug them out, only to find that you can't really dig them out because the rhizomatous roots are everywhere, and any little piece sprouts readily. I still like the plant, but it should be planted in an area that will confine the roots, maybe with a root barrier. It's a little coarse for a pot plant, but maybe that would work in combination with other plants."

Barbara Raub mentioned two problematic plants: "OH! That asparagus fern that so beautifully graced our raised planters when we planted them 31 years ago! Even though we have long since pulled them up we *continue* to see them popping up in ridiculous places all over our yard... intertwined in a shrub and peeking out at the top, sneaking low beneath others, here, there, everywhere. I thought we were going to have to remove all the soil in those planters as there were so many of those bulbous root ball things. I referred them as tumors. Now, I *knew* about mint... so 31 years ago I also planted mint... but *over* our property line/low wall, on the green belt side (shhhhhhh!) so it does not invade *our* yard. Tabouli anyone?"

Ida Rigby has another view of an invasive beauty: "Invasive? Of course: the glorious pink Mexican evening primrose. Two one-gallon pots have become hundreds of square feet, blooming their lovely little heads off surrounding trees as flashy circular frames, forming rivers down the dry creek bed, and turning the gravel paths literally into primrose paths. BUT, am I sorry, actually no, just pull them up in some areas; then after the rapturous bloom finishes celebrating spring, I pull out most and wait for the next round. In our current gloomy weather they are a blaze of joy. Caveat: I *do* have room for this exuberant undergrowth."

Robin Rivet wrote about "a pretty plant which became a constant nightmare. No, it wasn't a tree, but sometimes I thought it wanted to be. While sipping wine at twilight on what we call a terrace (but which is actually an unstable perch overlooking the suburban hills of La Mesa), a captivating fragrance wafted my way. It was so compelling I sniffed and discovered a remarkably large volunteer plant with white, trumpet-shaped with lavender edges. My instinct said the plant was a nightshade, but I was perplexed how anything so lovely could bloom on this barren and droughty slope. I concluded it was none other than native *Datura wrightii*, Sacred *Datura* or 'sacred thornapple' as the UC Davis IPM site so tenderly names it (www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/WEEDS/sacred_datura.html). So content to grow in a bleak, non-irrigated location, I thought I'd help it along by spreading its seeds along my embankment. When it dutifully responded by taking over the entire slope, I enjoyed a summer of love. Each evening we watched as hawk moths, known for their long tongues and bodies the size of hummingbirds, arrived to pollinate the flowers as they twitched and opened each night. (These are the adult stage of the tomato hornworm; see <http://waynesword.palomar.edu/manduca2.htm#manduca3.gif>.) You can actually sit and watch the intoxicating flowers unfold their large fused petals at dusk. The penetrating scent now enveloped my early morning walks before sun-break and during evening happy hours. Truly remarkable, I thought I'd become the envy of the neighborhood. That was until 'the thing' began to migrate. Like bamboo on the run, it would emerge under garden zucchini, beneath the orchard trees, or try to climb trellises of grapes, beans and tomatoes. Yes, it is a hardy summer-blooming flower; bulging with beauty during arid months when it is difficult to coax any flower to linger. However, after two seasons we humbly dug up the slope to eradicate this now rampant and invasive species, and found the plants had rooted more than to six feet deep and sprawled more than ten feet across. They still pop up everywhere, and it is one of very few plants I threaten with toxic herbicide, but I suspect they would just lap it up and morph into a dangerous Monsanto creation. Free seeds – buyer beware."

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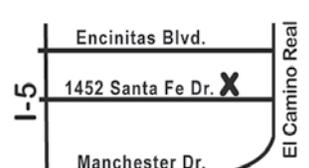
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Cindy Sparks has an edible pest: "I planted Amaranth, *Amaranthus hypochondriacus*, both because it was long ago a major food crop in Mexico (so I wanted to find out about it) and because the purple form is simply gorgeous. Unfortunately it self-sows rather aggressively. I can put a bloom stalk, upside-down, in my bird feeder and the birds seem to enjoy it, but then it seeds all around the feeder stand. Phooey! My solution is to water it enough that it stays tender longer and then I put it in the salad bowl. It's still a pest once it grows up, but it's nice when small and tender."

Barbara Thuro has mixed results with one genus: "My prettiest and most invasive plant is the tall *Alstroemeria*. It keeps coming up all over the place even after more than five years of struggle to get rid of it. However, I have several of the small/short ones and they are a joy to grow."

Susi Torre-Bueno had problems with: "*Verbena bonariensis*. In the mid 1990s it took over part of my front garden flower border and seemed to take forever to get rid of. There's also a charming little invasive perennial that pops up occasionally in the garden: Kenilworth Ivy (*Cymbalaria muralis*). I never planted it, and it really is cute, but once it gets a toehold it's almost impossible to eradicate, so I'm ruthless about removing it when I find it."

Katrin Utt warned about "Alyssum! Once you have it is yours forever. Fortunately it is very pretty and enhances almost all other flowers. I pull it out when it gets old and in a few weeks it is back from seed. Second most invasive but enjoyed in my garden are Forget-Me-Nots. Very pretty in the Spring; we pull them out when they get leggy and they are guaranteed to return in the Spring to mingle with my Alyssum."

Arlene Watters planted "a one gallon Mexican Evening Primrose in an open front yard area. It has spread throughout my vegetable and flower garden a third of an acre away! I consider it the Bermuda grass of the flower world. Useful in some settings but needs major control. I don't use any herbicides so have spent many hours in the garden evicting this pretty pest."

Ron Wheeler wrote: "I had a Mexican Primrose in a pot that seeded outside the pot and spread like wildfire! It took a lot of Roundup to wipe it out."

Marilyn Wilson's pest has lovely white flowers, but beware: "I planted white Japanese anemones. They are pretty and they bloom in the autumn when not much else is blooming. But if they're happy, they spread and spread and spread."

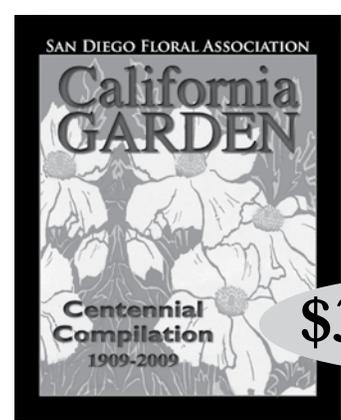
Sandy Yayanos has an invasive vine: "Without a doubt it's *Podranea ricasoliana* or pink trumpet vine. This Bignoniaceae has the most beautiful clusters of showy flowers but it suckers everywhere and is very, very difficult to control. If you really must have this vine either dig up shoots from my garden (but you must take all of them) and plant where it can't be invasive, or put it in an escape proof pot."

Stephen Zolezzi wrote about a popular tree: "*Ficus benjamina*. Planted a row of 3' tall, 2-gallon specimens for a screen between me and my neighbor. What a mistake that was. They grew like crab grass to constrict all living plants within a 10' diameter area, sucking up all moisture in the ground like a vacuum, and shot up as if on steroids, wanting to become a full size tree within one year which meant I had to trim them monthly. Great lesson to be learned the hard way: always research when planting to insure it's the right plant for the right spot."

The question for next month is:

What tricks do you have for maintaining your water features? (Thanks to Tita Heimpel of Courtyard Pottery for inspiring this topic.)

Send your reply by June 5 to newsletter@sdhortsoc.org. ☘




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MAY MEETING REPORT

By Susi Torre-Bueno

Lorene Edwards Forkner, the vivacious new editor of *Pacific Horticulture* magazine, knows how to present valuable information in an accessible way. Her talk included many beautiful images to convey her message that “even the smallest garden can live large” if it is thoughtfully designed, and she shared her “three big rules and four small ones for designing small gardens with impact.”

First, “put some passion into your space,” using plants and accessories that reflect *your* passions. Her image of the brightly painted walkway at Balboa Park’s Spanish Village illustrates using inexpensive paint to produce a charming, playful space. “More is better,” she assured us, “with layers of groundcovers and mingling plants on the edge of chaos.” However, “passion can manifest as a bold and limited plant palette,” as we saw in a labyrinth made from simply mowing the lawn in a pattern. The 10’ wide pyramid of bowling balls was also a memorable garden installation. The most important thing is that *your* garden be about what *you* like: your favorite colors, plants and enthusiasms.

Rule two is that “successful small gardens contain structure” in the form of “... woody plants, stone work, architecture, organizing pathways, even evergreen perennials but something lasting and present throughout the entire year that visually anchors the design.” Simple things can be very effective: metal feeding troughs used as raised beds, or painting chairs to match nearby foliage.

Planning and planting for year ‘round interest is her third big rule. “As California gardeners we need to plant to accentuate the subtle changes of our seasons.” Her advice is to “translate what is seasonal for your area” and bring that into the garden.

Her four small rules are also important. First, “be resourceful.” Use broken pottery for mulch, layer stones and colored glass to create a striking mound for planting small succulents, repurpose other materials. There are many inexpensive fun projects in her excellent book, *Handmade Garden Projects*. Second, a garden needs “more than just pretty flowers... foliage is the heart of the garden.” Also consider the ornamental values of a plant’s bark, seeds, fruit, etc. Because “we don’t have to have everything,” the third small rule is to “edit the garden.” Use “a limited plant palette with fewer kinds of plants or perhaps a reduced color palette” and weed out those plants that don’t work for you. Remember “a garden is always a process and is never done.” Lorene’s fourth rule – “BE in the garden!” Spend time enjoying it, not just working on it.

Thanks, Lorene, for a fun and inspiring talk. Lorene’s website (www.plantedathome.com) has lots of great ideas and images. If you missed this presentation you can borrow the video of it when you attend an upcoming meeting. We thank **Phil Tacktil** for being our Plant Expert and displaying some stunning bonsai ficus plants, including one he’s been training for 45 years!

The Plant Display list for May will be included in the July newsletter. For the July meeting, bring some unusual or rare plants to display; our experts will be Wanda Mallen and Dave Ehrlinger. ☺

Thank You To Our Generous Donors For The May Meeting Door Prizes:

AgriService (see page 14)

Evergreen Nursery (see calendar)

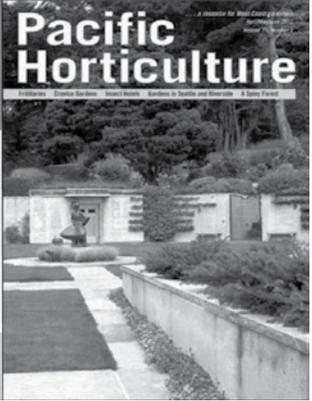
Grangetto’s (see page 21)

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The email always has these items of interest (and often more!):

- Password for the digital newsletter (changes every month)
- Invitation to Coffee-in-the-Garden events (register ASAP they usually fill up in under 24 hours!)
- Details about the talk at the next meeting
- Information about upcoming events
- Description of volunteer opportunities

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See page 2

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- Floral & Interior Design Vignettes
- Container Plants
- Specimen Blooms
- Floral Design Competitions
- Bonsai & Tray Landscape
- Daily Flower Show Stage Speakers and Demonstrations

Howard Vieweg, Saturday, June 16th

Greg Rubin, Friday, June 15th, 16th and 17th

Karan Greenwald, Wednesday, June 27th

3rd Annual Floral Design Competition, Sunday June 24

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**Paul Ecke Jr., Flower & Garden Show
at the San Diego County Fair
2012 Stage Speaker Schedule**



Friday 6/08	11:30	Drip Irrigation (DIG)	Rita Robles (DIG)
	1:00	Feng Shui In The Garden	Kristina Ming
	2:30	Patio Blooms and More	Evelyn Weidner- Weidner's Gardens
	4:00	Saving H2O in your H2O Garden	Ed Simpson- Santa Fe Nursery
Saturday 6/09		Wine Festival	
Sunday 6/10		Youth Oratorical Contest	
Tuesday 6/12	11:30	Care & Pruning of Fruit Trees	John Marsh- UCCE Master Gardener
	1:00	Raising African Violets	Barbara Conrad- Carlsbad African Violet Society
	2:30	Healthy Garden, Little Water	Cindy Sparks- UCCE Master Gardener
	4:00	Planet-Rocking School Gardens	Andi MacLeod- The Center for a Healthy Lifestyle
Wednesday 6/13	11:30	Your Sustainable Landscape	Connie Beck- Holistic Gardening
	1:00	Feng Shui in the Garden	Kristina Ming
	2:30	New Organic Nutrients for Soil	Lawrence O'Leary- Hydroscape
	4:00	Implementing LID in Landscapes	Morgan Vondrak- Argia Designs Landscape Design & Consultation
Thursday 6/14	11:30	Site Your Trees with Insight	Robin Rivet
	1:00	Supermarket Bouquet Galaxy	Suzy Long- Dos Gringos
	2:30	Patio Blooms and More	Evelyn Weidner- Weidner's Gardens
	4:00	Out Of This World Bouquets	Linda Jones- Flora Linda Design
Friday 6/15	11:30	Growing Dahlias in San Diego	David and Sharon Tooley- SD County Dahlia Society
	1:00	Dos and Don'ts of Color	Betty Patterson Del Sol
	2:30	Growing Dahlias in San Diego	Max Turner and Steven Nakamura- SD County Dahlia Society
	4:00	Landscaping w/ CA Natives	Greg Rubin- California's Own Native Landscape Design
Saturday 6/16	11:30	Out of This World Bromeliads	Nancy Groves
	1:00	Dos and Don'ts of Color	Betty Patterson Del Sol
	2:30	Otherworldly Plants	Howard Vieweg Landscape Consulting
	4:00	Landscaping w/ CA Natives	Greg Rubin- California's Own Native Landscape Design
Sunday 6/17	11:30	Epiphyllum Culture	Ron Crain- SD Epiphyllum Society
	1:00	Epiphyllum Culture	Jerry Moreau-SD Epiphyllum Society
	2:30	Epiphyllum Culture	Ron Crain- SD Epiphyllum Society
	4:00	Epiphyllum Culture	Jerry Moreau-SD Epiphyllum Society
Tuesday 6/19	11:30	Remove Lawn the Non-Toxic Way	Alan Parkman-Green Life Studios
	1:00	Supermarket Bouquet Galaxy	Suzy Long – Dos Gringos
	2:30	Planet-Rocking School Gardens	Andi MacLeod- The Center For a Healthy Lifestyle
	4:00	Designs For Astrological Signs	Tany Toyen
Wednesday 6/20	11:30	30 Drought Tolerant Plants	Doug Kalal- Great Gardens Landscape Design
	1:00	ABC's of Landscaping	Kathryn Taylor – Seasons in the Garden
	2:30	Eco-Friendly Earth-Box Gardens	Jay Klopfenstein and Carlsbad Community Gardens Collaborative
	4:00	Making, Buying & Using Compost	Dan Noble- Association of Compost Producers
Thursday 6/21	11:30	Anyone Can Grow Roses	Dick Streeper 'The Rose Man'
	1:00	Vermicomposting & Your Garden	Bill Dean-Solana Center For Environmental Innovation
	2:30	Miniature and Fairy Gardens	Teri Brand- Twigs By Teri
	4:00	Fun New Plant Varieties	John Rader- Proven Winners

Paul Ecke Jr., Flower & Garden Show
at the San Diego County Fair
2012 Stage Speaker Schedule



Friday 6/22	11:30	Out of This World Bromeliads	Nancy Groves – SD Bromeliad Society
	1:00	Vermicomposting & Your Garden	Bill Dean- Solana Center for Environmental Innovation
	2:30	Fun New Plant Varieties	John Rader- Proven Winners
	4:00	Party Décor, Inside & Out	Beverly Hawkinson- Curtain Call
Enviro Speakers			
Saturday 6/23	11:30	Let Worm Eat Garbage- Mine Do	Shelley Grossman- Vermicoast
	1:00	SD Tree Map Project	Fausto Palafox- Mission Hills Nursery
	2:30	Smart Sustainable Landscape	Cindy Sparks-UCCE Master Gardener
	4:00	Drought Tolerant Gardening	Carol Fuller Landscape Design
Sunday 6/24	3rd Annual Floral Design Competition		
Tuesday 6/26	11:30	Earth Friendly Floral Designs	Carolyn Jones, AIFD
	1:00	Floral Design	Jolene Dee Hoog Harris- The Dutch Flower
	2:30	Recession Chic Décor	Beverly Hawkinson- Curtain Call
	4:00	Fill the Skies w/Butterflies	Maureen Austin- CHIRP
Wednesday 6/27	11:30	30 Drought Tolerant Plants	Doug Kalal- Great Gardens Landscape Design
	1:00	Vegetable Gardening 101	Karan Greenwald – UCCE Master Gardener
	2:30	Heirloom Tomatoes	Karan Greenwald– UCCE Master Gardener
	4:00	Landscaping w/CA Natives	Greg Rubin- California's Own Native Landscape Design
Thursday 6/28	11:30	Drip Irrigation (DIG)	Rita Robles (DIG)
	1:00	How to Grow Roses Organically	Jerry Littieri - Del Mar Rose Society
	2:30	Favorite Roses in Our Gardens	Virginia Holt- Del Mar Rose Society
	4:00	How to Grow Beautiful Roses	Kathy Reed- Del Mar Rose Society
Friday 6/29	11:30	Colored Glass & Cosmic Flowers	Carlotta Aros- I Do Wedding Flowers
	1:00	Drought Tolerant Gardening	Carol Fuller Landscape Design
	2:30	Organic Fertilizers Save Water	Jim Verner- CA Organic Fertilizers, INC
	4:00	Repotting Orchids	Fred Clarke- Sunset Valley Orchids
Saturday 6/30	11:30	Earth Friendly Florals	Carolyn Jones, AIFD
	1:00	Seed Saving for Home Gardeners	Helen Hakola- Green Butterfly Florist
	2:30	Layered Floral Arrangements	Joel Garlejo- Floral Design Instructor at Palomar College
	4:00	Organic Fertilizer Secrets	Jim Verner- CA Organic Fertilizers, INC
Sunday 7/1	11:30	Let Worms Eat Garbage- Mine Do	Shelly Grossman- Vermicoast
	1:00	CA Native Garden Style	Susan Krzywicki - Krzywicki Consulting
	2:30	Bridal Bouquets w/Succulents	Dawn Stone- Embellishmint
	4:00	Designing With Edibles	Tricia Daley- Seasons in the Garden
Monday 7/2	11:30	Bonsai	San Diego Bonsai Club
	1:00	How to Design Your Own Garden	John Beaudry Landscape Design
	2:30	Bonsai	San Diego Bonsai Club
	4:00	Bonsai	San Diego Bonsai Club
Tuesday 7/3	12:30	Award Ceremony Floral Design and Specimen Bloom	
Wednesday 7/4	11:30	Hydroponic Food Production	Pierre Sleiman, Jr. -Go Green Agriculture
	1:00	Decorating Dilemmas Solved	Beverly Hawkinson- Curtain Call
	2:30	Plants for Narrow Spaces	DeeAnn Schuttish- Green Life Studios
	4:00	Designs for Astrological Signs	Tany Toyen

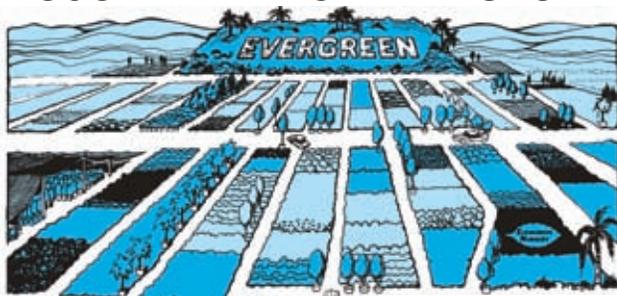
What's Happening? for June 2012

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
June 20, 6:30pm, Summer Solstice Celebration & Labyrinth Walk

❖ **San Diego Botanic Garden** contact info on other side
To September 3, Blue Star Museums program: Active duty military and their families (card carrier + 5) will have free admission to the Garden.
June 2, 2-4pm, Designing a Water-Smart Landscape with Color, Interest, and Budget Savings: Members \$15, non-members \$20.
June 30, 10am-noon, Attracting Birds, Hummingbirds, and Butterflies: \$15, non-members \$20.

❖ The Water Conservation Garden

contact info on other side

June 2, 9-11am, Permeable Pavement & Green Roofs: How to use permeable pavers to enhance the beauty of your home. FREE.

June 3, 10am-noon, Landscape Design Inspired By Our Garden: Learn how to translate elements of our 5-acre public garden to create your own personalized oasis. Members free (registration required), \$15 Non-Members.

June 9, 10am-noon, Tune-Up Your Irrigation: Tune up your existing irrigation to make it more Water Smart. Members free (registration required), \$15 Non-Members.

Free Events by SDHS Sponsors:

Please thank them for supporting SDHS!

❖ **Cedros Gardens, Saturday and Sunday FREE morning classes.** Details at www.cedrosgardens.com; address in ad on page 17.
June 2, 10am and June 3, 11am -- How to grow blueberries.
June 9, 11am and June 10, 11am -- An edible landscape.

❖ City Farmers Nursery FREE Classes

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

❖ Evergreen Nursery FREE Workshop on June 2

See column at left for details.

❖ Grangetto's FREE Workshop on June 2

10am-noon, How to install Netafim Techline drip irrigation. 1105 W. Mission Avenue, Escondido. See www.grangettos.com or contact Jennifer at (760) 745-4671x215 or e-mail events@grangettos.com.

Coffee in the Garden - June 16 at Sunshine Care, Poway

(Replaces their free monthly garden lecture)

Address in ad on page 14. Info: (858) 752-8197 or www.sunshinecare.com.

❖ Walter Andersen Nursery FREE Saturday Classes

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

	Point Loma, 9am	Poway, 9:30am
June 2	Cymbidium Repotting	Sustainable Gardening
June 9	Tropical Plants	Tea and Health
June 16	Native Plants	Summer veggies
June 23	Xeriscaping	Sprinkler Efficiency
June 30	Children's Gardens	Composting

❖ Weidners' Gardens Classes & Workshops

Address in ad on page 21. Info: www.weidners.com or (760) 436-2194.

June 2, 10:30-noon, Good Bugs, Bad Bugs: Know your friends and how to get more of them, and know your enemies. \$10.

June 16, 10:30-noon, Propagation Workshop: Come home with lots of knowledge and your own cuttings. \$10. Reserve and prepay.

June 23, 10:30-noon, Plant a Fairy Garden: A Magical Saturday Afternoon of Fairies. Adults \$10 (plus materials.) Kids who believe in fairies free.

Next SDHS Meeting:

June 11th - 5:30pm - 7:30pm

SDHS Night at the Fair

See inside front cover for details

Other Garden-Related Events:

Check with hosts to confirm dates & details

Cuyamaca College Classes

Info: (619) 644-7010 or www.gcccd.edu.

June 11 - July 2 (Wednesdays), 6-8:30pm, Your First Vineyard: Learn about planting and growing your own vineyard. \$60 (plus optional text).

June 13- July 25 (Mondays), 6-8:30pm, Introduction to Wine: Learn about planting and growing your own vineyard. \$60 (plus optional text).

Fullerton Arboretum:

One block west of the 57 freeway at Yorba Linda Blvd. and Associated Road. Call (657) 278-3407 or see www.fullertonarboretum.org.

June 2, 9-11am, Great Bulbs of Fire Class: Learn about native and exotic bulbs. \$20 members, \$25 for non-members.

June 16, 9-11:30am, Start Your Own Vineyard: How to start your own backyard vineyard. \$20 members, \$25 for non-members.

June 16, 10-11am, Free Nature Tour: Tour through the garden with our nature guides.

◆ **June 2, 9:30am-noon, Just for Children, A Potted Plant Topiary:** Children will learn the art of starting topiary from a regular potted plant. \$25 (\$20 for child of S.D. Floral Assoc. member), ages 5-12; must be accompanied by an adult. Info: www.sdfloral.org or (619) 232-5762.

◆ **June 2 (10am-5pm), 3 (10am-4pm), Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale:** Balboa Park, Casa del Prado. See www.sdcss.net and insert in May newsletter.

◆ **June 7, 9:30am-12:30pm, Gardening in Small Spaces:** How to grow plants successfully on balconies, in containers, on rocky hillsides or small plots of ground. \$35 (\$25 for San Diego Floral Assoc. member). Info: www.sdfloral.org or (619) 232-5762.

◆ **June 9, 4-7pm, Concert in the Garden with The Bigfellas & John Bennett: Fundraiser for medical expenses of a seriously injured employee of Barrels & Branches nursery in Encinitas. Enjoy great music and help out a fine man in great need. Details & ticket sales at <http://henry.barrelsandbranches.com>.**

◆ **June 10, 12:30pm, American Begonia Society:** Tour the nursery and plant sale. Ades Gish Nursery, 2222 Twin Oaks Valley Road, San Marcos. Info: (760) 753-3977 or marla.keith@cox.net.

◆ **June 10, 1pm, Southern California Plumeria Society:** Plumeria Q&A Panel. Free. Balboa Park, Casa el Prado, Room 101. Info: www.socalplumeriasociety.com.

JUNE 16 - Coffee in the Garden - Poway at Sunshine Care - address in ad on page 14
Your invitation was emailed to you.

◆ **June 16, 9am-3pm, Farm Tour Day: See page 3.** Get a behind-the-scenes look at how your food and flowers are grown. Adults \$20, kids 6-17 \$10, under 6 free. Info: www.sdfarmbureau.org or (760) 745-3023. RSVP by June 13.

◆ **June 16, 10am-3pm, Master Gardener Association Plant Sale:** Room 101 and outside patio, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Info: www.mastergardenerssandiego.org.

◆ **June 19, 6:00pm, San Diego Floral Association:** Join us to hear Jeanne Irwin discuss floral design. 6:00 p.m. Catered Dinner, 7:00 p.m. Meeting. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Optional Dinner: \$15; reservations required by Friday, June 15th. Call (619) 232-5762. Info: www.sdfloral.org.

◆ **June 19, 6:30-9pm, California Native Plant Society:** Plantscape Match-up and Border Field Restoration. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, room 104. Info: www.cnpssd.org or call (619) 282-8687.

◆ **June 23, 10am-1pm, Flea Market Gardens with Debra Lee Baldwin & Tom Jesch:** Demonstrations on how to plant funky junk and thrift store treasures. Bring an oddball container. Free. Waterwise Botanicals 32183 Old Highway 395, Escondido. RSVP by June 15 to talkplants@waterwisebotanicals.com. Info: (760) 728-2641.

◆ **June 25, 6:30pm, San Diego Edible Garden Society:** Growing apple trees; gophers. FREE. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, room 104. Info: www.sdedible.org.

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

Resources & Ongoing Events

ALTA VISTA BOTANIC GARDENS: Open Monday-Friday 7:00-5:00 ; 10:00-5:00 on weekends. 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.