



Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

March 2012, Number 210

From Seed to Skillet

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On the Cover: Edible Eye Candy

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SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

MEETING SCHEDULE

5:00 – 6:00 Meeting room setup

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

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

MEETINGS & EVENTS IN 2012

March 2-4 Spring Home/Garden Show (see page 3)

March 18 Coffee in the Garden, Point Loma

March 31 SDHS Tour – Gardens of La Mesa (see pages 2 and 9)

March TBD Coffee in the Garden, Point Loma

April 9 Susan Krzywicki on Fitting California Natives into California-Style Gardens

April 27 Rancho La Puerta Spa Tour (see page 3 and website)

April TBD Coffee in the Garden, Poway

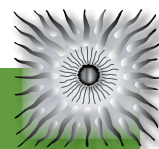
May 14 Small is the New Big: 3 Big Rules (& 4 Small Ones) for Designing Small Gardens with Impact

May 17-20 SDHS Tour – Gardens of the San Francisco Area (see page 5)

May 26 Sustainable Garden Maintenance Workshop

COVER IMAGE: This gorgeous kale plant is just one more reason to grow your own veggies – they can be beautiful as well as wholesome and delicious. Learn more at our March meeting. Cover photography Eric Staudenmaier.

www.SanDiegoHorticulturalSociety.org



SAN DIEGO
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

Next Meeting: MARCH 12, 2012, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

Topic: SUSAN HEEGER AND JIMMY WILLIAMS ON “FROM SEED TO SKILLET”

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

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

Urban farmer and landscape designer Jimmy Williams, and gardening editor and feature writer Susan Heeger, will journey us through a 400 year Williams family history of starting vegetables, herbs, berries and fruits from seed, planting, tending, harvesting, preserving, and sharing the garden's bounty with family and friends. Jimmy and Susan will share their “From Seed to Skillet” approach to gardening, which is based on the idea that gardening begins with the miracle and magic of a seed, progresses through the process of planting, tending and harvesting, and ends with the satisfactions of friends and family around a table, sharing a fresh garden meal together.

Jimmy learned to garden from his grandmother, and from age four he was choosing the best seedlings, and actively involved in keeping the family subsistence farm going. Jimmy and his son, Logan, continue to plant seeds passed down from his forebears, and to sell vegetable, herb, berry and fruit tree seedlings at Los Angeles farmers' markets. Jimmy and Susan met 13 years ago when she wrote about him for the *L.A. Times*. In 2010 they co-authored *From Seed to Skillet*, which will be sold at the meeting. Susan is a magazine and newspaper feature writer specializing in garden, design, home, lifestyle, and food stories. A contributing editor for *Coastal Living* and *Martha Stewart Living*, she also co-wrote *The Gardens of California*.

At the meeting *From Seed to Skillet* will be sold to members at the discount price of \$20. For more information visit www.fromseedtoskillet.com and see page 3. 🌱



SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Established September 1994

BOARD MEMBERS

Jeff Biletznikoff – Meeting Room Coordinator
Jim Bishop – President, Membership Chair
Judy Bradley – Co-Chair-Program Committee
Linda Bresler – Member at Large
Mark Collins – Finance/Budget Committee
Julian Duval – San Diego Botanic Garden Representative
Mary James – Member at Large
Dannie McLaughlin – Tour Coordinator
Susan Oddo – Publicity Coordinator
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Cathy Tylka – Treasurer
Don Walker – Past President
Nancy Woodard – Volunteer Coordinator
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!

OUR SPRING GARDEN TOUR

By Dannie McLaughlin

With the beginning of spring comes the San Diego Horticultural Society's annual spring garden tour (see page 9), the first on the spring season's ever-growing list of local garden tours. It promises to be an exciting event. This year we are heading to the La Mesa/Mt. Helix area and partnering with La Mesa Beautiful to celebrate the La Mesa Centennial. Tour participants are in for a treat with nine stunning private gardens to visit as well as a hidden jewel of a public garden known as Briercrest Park. In addition, there will be a cooking demonstration at the organic veggie/herb garden, with someone there to answer questions about organic composting. There will be artists in each garden as well as a mini garden fair and marketplace.

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and helps us provide educational opportunities like scholarships to deserving students and outreach to the community at large. In order to continue this wonderful tradition, we need your support, so make a reservation today for yourself and your friends.

This is also a call for volunteers as docents in the gardens, to help with parking, and for check in and registration. Shifts are ½ day and include FREE admission to the tour, so grab your comfortable shoes and your sunscreen and help make this event a success. To volunteer, please email me at tours@sdhortsoc.org or call (858) 756-8450. ☛



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 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 Waterwise Botanicals for hosting our February 25 Coffee at their Bonsall nursery. As we go to press the coffee is still a few days away... we'll post for photos on our Facebook page. ☛



To Learn More...

By Ava Torre-Bueno

Seed to Skillet

Let's start with a 2009 L A Times article about this month's speaker, Jimmy Williams:
<http://articles.latimes.com/2009/jun/30/business/fi-garden30>

Staying with seeds, many of you may know Seed Savers Exchange. This is a non-profit organization dedicated to saving and sharing heirloom seeds in order to maintain plant diversity:
www.seedsavers.org/



The San Diego Zoo has a local, native plant seed bank:
<http://blogs.sandiegozoo.org/2012/01/03/native-seed-bank/>

On the dark side of seed saving is the vault in the arctic funded by Monsanto and DuPont among others, to save "all" seeds, including patented, GMO stock:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Svalbard_Global_Seed_Vault

Kitchen Gardeners International's mission is to empower individuals, families, and communities to achieve greater levels of food self-reliance through the promotion of kitchen gardening, home cooking, and sustainable local food systems:
<http://kitchengardeners.org>

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. ☘



SPRING HOME/ GARDEN SHOW MARCH 2 - 4

By Lucy Warren

As an SDHS member you can attend this exciting show for **FREE** by going to www.springhomegardenshow.com/SDHS. Your friends can attend for 50% off if they go to www.springhomegardenshow.com/Pages/Discounts.htm and use code SDHS to buy tickets for only \$4. On Friday only, seniors (55+) are only \$1.

Twenty dramatically-lit display gardens will be designed and created specifically for this show, which is held at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. Our seminar series featuring leading local experts is always informative and packed full of ideas that emphasize water wise, sustainable landscaping. You'll also see interesting and unusual plants to purchase grown by top growers and specialty nurseries

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FROM THE BOARD

By Jim Bishop

Have you purchased your **tickets** for our March 31st **Spring Garden Tour**? By buying your ticket in advance, SDHS members save \$5 per ticket. The tour features nine private gardens in the Mount Helix area of La Mesa and is part of the yearlong celebration of La Mesa's Centennial. The tour begins at Briercrest Park, which features installations of James Hubble artwork. To encourage carpools, vehicles with 4 or more tour participants receive a free guest pass to one of our regular meetings! See page 9 for more information, and purchase tickets or download the garden descriptions at the Events page of our website.



Tour chairperson Dannie McLaughlin has done a wonderful job planning and organizing the tour, but we need *your* help for this biggest SDHS fundraiser of the year! We need volunteers to sell tickets, check in people, direct traffic, and staff the gardens. Join the fun and volunteer today by emailing tours@sdhortsoc.org, or call Dannie at 858.756.8450.

Speaking of tours, there are just a few spaces left for our May 17-20 exclusive tour of **Gardens of the Bay Area** (www.sterlingtoursltd.com/SDHS2012.html). Our very popular and still talked about last tour of the Bay Area was 12 years ago. A lot has changed in the trendsetting horticultural world of the San Francisco Bay Area. You'll have the opportunity to see some classic and frequently updated public gardens, and also have an intimate look at many private gardens, as well as to shop at cutting-edge nurseries Annie's Annuals (www.anniesannuals.com) and Flora Grubb (www.floragrubb.com).

A bit closer to home and just south of the border is our Friday, April 27 tour to **Rancho La Puerta** (RLP) in Tecate, Mexico. This tour takes a look at the horticultural side of RLP with a special presentation and private walking tour by SDHS member and landscape architect, Chris Drayer. In the afternoon we will tour the six-acre organic farm with charismatic head gardener Salvador Tinjero. The tour includes morning and afternoon snacks, a spa cuisine lunch in the grand Spanish Colonial dining room, a tour of the cooking school, and a cooking demonstration. Transportation is by motor coach from Old Town Transit Center. Whether you are a frequent or first-time visitor to RLP, this is an exclusive and affordable way to get a behind the scenes look at how horticulture helped shape this unique and famous spa.

For detailed information about all our tours and to reserve your space, see the Events page on our website, www.sdhortsoc.org/events.htm.

March is the last month to take advantage of the **San Diego Floral Association** (SDFA) exclusive membership opportunity to our members who are not currently members of SDFA - **a 15 month membership for the price of 12 months**. Membership includes a subscription to *California Garden*, the SDFA bimonthly magazine. Sign up at www.sdfloal.org/membership-special.htm. ☘



THE REAL DIRT ON...

By Linda Bresler

Vilmorin

Ever wonder what the species name means for the second word of a botanical plant name? Take, for example, *Agave vilmoriniana* (Octopus Agave), shown above. Agave is the genus name for a group of plants that share some common characteristics. However, the species name can mean a number of things. These can include the color of the plant, its texture, where it comes from, who discovered it, or who it is named after.

The name of Vilmorin has been associated with numerous plants and commercial horticultural endeavors. According to San Marcos Growers (www.smgrowers.com) and other websites, *Agave vilmoriniana* "was named in honor of M. Maurice Vilmorin, whose garden at Barres (now the Arboretum des Barres) was where Alwin Berger, the author of the first monograph on Agave, first saw this plant." In the case of *Cryptomeria japonica* 'Vilmoriniana' (Vilmoriniana Dwarf Japanese Cedar), the word "vilmoriniana" comes from the French plant and seed shop established in 1742 by seed expert Claude Geoffroy and her husband Pierre Andrieux, the chief seed supplier and botanist to King Louis XV.

Their daughter married botany enthusiast Philippe-Victoire Leveque de Vilmorin in 1774. Together, they expanded the plant store and renamed it Vilmorin-Andrieux and Company. Philippe-Victoire de Vilmorin began importing trees and exotic plants into Europe in 1766, beginning with the American Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), the domesticated beet, and the rutabaga. Prior to Vilmorin's commercial promotion of them, these plants were unknown in Europe. After his death, his son, Philippe Andre de Vilmorin, took over the company.

Philippe Andre de Vilmorin's travels to England between 1810 and 1816 allowed him to see first-hand the advances in English plant cultivation for horticulture and agriculture. This furthered his interest in cereals, vegetables, forestry, and ornamental and exotic plants. In 1814, the London Society of Horticulture presented him with its grand medal for his numerous articles on these subjects.

The company was led by a succession of Vilmorin heirs for over two hundred years. Vilmorin-Andrieux produced the first seed catalog for farmers and academics; an illustration from 1879 is shown here. In 1856 Louis de Vilmorin published *Note on the Creation of a New Race of Beetroot and Considerations on Heredity in Plants*. This established the theoretical groundwork for the modern seed-breeding industry. Throughout the company's early history, its leaders continued to publish numerous botanical academic articles.

After the company was sold in 1972 it went through a number of restructurings and changes, finally focusing on vegetable seeds and trees for professionals (growers, seed producers, and nurseries). In 2006 the company became known simply as Vilmorin. It now includes seed companies from the United States, the U.K., the Netherlands, Germany, Israel, Japan, Thailand, Turkey, China, and Australia.

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



Continued on page 16



Stan Shebs

GOING WILD WITH THE NATIVES

By Pat Pawlowski

Woolly Blue Curls

I like having the blues.

Inside my house, residing in the depths of my music system, I have the likes of B.B. King, Muddy Waters, Eric Clapton and others.

Outside the house I have my "woolly blues" – Woolly Blue Curls (*Trichostema lanatum*), a very wonderful evergreen shrub which grows about four or five feet tall. If you have any room in your yard, you need to plant this. Just as the inside musical blues excite your eardrums, the outside shrubby blues will delight your eyeballs and charm your nose.



The very interesting flowers of woolly blue curls are a gorgeous rich deep blue. The stamens – the flower's male reproductive part which is composed of the slender filament and pollen-bedecked anthers – audaciously thrust themselves forward to grasp your attention; they project one full inch out from the flowers. Not to be outdone, the two-pronged pistil – the female part – arches out just as far. The petals form a sort of bluesy trumpet shape. Before they open into flowers, the round little buds are covered by tiny hairs, giving the impression of wool. They make you want to squeeze them.

The open flowers are visited by hummingbirds, butterflies and bees. The seeds that eventually form provide an excellent meal for seed-eaters like goldfinches.

While your eyes are busy watching the plant's winged visitors, your nose will enjoy the wonderful fragrance. It's a scintillating minty smell, likened by some to mint, sage, or grape bubble gum. Both flowers and leaves, which are bright green and pine needlelike, have this wonderful aroma.

As to its stamina... Several years ago a woolly blue in my yard was brutalized by severe winds. I was feeling pretty blue about it. But I cut away the woody torn parts of the plant, and pretty soon – woolly blues are fast growers – new stems appeared, and now my woolly blue curls are looking fine; in fact, downright lovable.

If you plant one, make sure you don't love it to death. Don't overwater or fertilize it. Don't hover over it, waiting for that first glimpse of woolliness; you'll block out the sun, and this plant loves sun. If you have problematic clay soil, try planting it on a slightly upraised mound. Don't worry too much; woolly blue curls is a California native that thrives out in the chaparral, so it's tough.

Tough as it is, you can use it to make a delicate tea. Place a few flowers and a sprig of new leaves from the tip of a branch into a mug. Add boiling water and let it steep about ten minutes. You'll get a pleasing champagne-colored liquid with a lovely light minty taste. You can take your tea outside to hear the music of the woolly blues: hummers humming, bees buzzing, and oh, those wonderful songbirds!

So you see that in the long run, having the blues can make you very happy.

Member Pat Pawlowski is a writer/lecturer/garden consultant who likes to chase butterflies, including the butterfly family of blues (Lycaenidae). 🌿

Continued on page 15



TREES, PLEASE

By Tim Clancy

Great Basin Bristlecone Pine

The Inyo National Forest is about a six-hour drive from San Diego. The star of this forest is the great basin bristlecone pine (*Pinus longava*). Many people believe that this pine represents the oldest living non-cloned living organism on earth,

The reason we know they live so long can be attributed to one Donald Currey, who in 1964 was granted permission by the United States Forest Service to cut down a specimen he was working with in Nevada. When the rings were counted it was discovered that old "Prometheus" had made 4,844 of them. Future refinements done in the lab to the ring count put the tree's age at almost 5,000 years old. A few years before Mr. Currey felled "Prometheus" one Edmund Schulman sampled "Methuselah" and informed the world that this specimen germinated in 2832 BCE, making this old girl 4,843 this year.

You can reach Inyo National Forest by driving north from San Diego on US 15, which puts you on US 395 around Hesperia. Just outside Hesperia you can pull over to the side of the road and take a picture standing beside the iconic Joshua trees. They dot the landscape in a strange juxtaposition of nature and progress.

The drive will take you through some interesting topography with lots of sand. After some time civilization seems to thin out, only to creep back. Soon you will find yourself in Big Pine. Just outside Big Pine you turn onto CA 168.

Right on the corner of 395 and 168 is a small rustic kiosk. Planted at the kiosk is a giant sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*). According to the plaque located under this tree it's the Roosevelt tree planted on July 23, 1913 to commemorate the opening of the Westgard pass to automobile traffic. I stopped here because it was clearly out of place, although within its range. The fact that it was a solitary specimen rather than in a grove intrigued me, and I was rewarded with a bit of new information.

Onward and upward for what may be the longest 22 mile drive in your life. Your destination is the Schulman grove. On your way there is a small rest area where you can eat a picnic lunch among single needle pinyons and many other species of plants too numerous to name here.

Arriving at the Schulman grove you can jump right in and follow one of the marked trails or stop by the visitors center where friendly rangers or docents are available to answer your questions and, of course, ready to sell you (Me!) some books about the great basin bristlecone pine.

One of the interesting facts about your location is that you are just about at what is known as the "tree line." This is where trees stop growing due to environmental conditions. When viewed from a distance it's a pretty distinct line, but closer examination reveals a more gradual transition from normal growing characteristics to stunted to trees to no trees.



I found the great basin bristlecone pines to be fascinating and well worth the effort. Look for more great basin bristlecone pine pictures under the Bristlecone set at www.flickr.com/treemanagers. Book recommendation: *Oranges*, by John McPhee.

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



Big bristlecone pine (*Pinus longaeva*), showing both live and dead sections, and streaked grain colors on broad trunk. Along Methuselah Trail, Schulman Grove of bristlecones, White Mountains, Nevada.

SDHS GARDEN TOUR GARDENS OF THE BAY AREA

May 17-20, 2012

By Scott Borden

Just a few spots left on our May 17-20 Gardens of the Bay Area tour. We'll visit top horticultural attractions in the East Bay, North Bay and the City. We've secured invitations to extraordinary private gardens and will also see the Berkeley Botanical Garden, Ruth Bancroft Garden, and San Francisco Botanical Garden. Nursery stops feature Annie's Annuals and the Flora Grubb Gardens.

Our private garden visits include a stunning canyon garden in Berkeley with a year-round creek running under the house and through the garden. We'll also see former PacHort president Katherine Greenberg's large native garden that has been featured in many publications and received a Garden Design Green Award in 2010. We'll have lunch on the waterfront in Tiburon and visit Roger and Mary Greenberg's garden, featured on tour for the Garden Conservancy, San Francisco Botanical Garden, Santa Barbara Garden Society and many others. Our final day on tour is spent in the City of San Francisco and will include stops at several private gardens as well as a stop at the amazing Flora Grubb Gardens to see some unique displays and perhaps do some last-minute shopping.

For more information and reservations, visit www.sterlingtoursltd.com or contact Sterling Tours at 800-976-9497, or info@sterlingtoursltd.com. ☘



Scott Borden

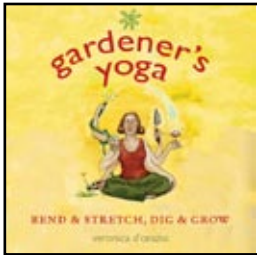


BOOK REVIEW

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh

Gardener's Yoga: Bend & Stretch, Dig & Grow

By Veronica D'Orazio



You've done it. I've done it – spent a day in the garden in that state of concentration (or bliss) so deep that you work through mealtimes. My family, not long off the farm, called that “working from can see to can't see.” And while you're working you feel

great. It's only when you try to straighten up that you're reminded that your bones and joints are not as young as they once were.

Veronica D'Orazio has a solution for that problem in her little book called *Gardener's Yoga*. A long-time yoga practitioner and teacher, she has selected 21 different poses for us to try. Grouped in three sections, one is to be done before gardening, one during the middle, and one after you finish.

The poses look relatively simple – this is definitely a beginner's book – but they need to be done judiciously if you haven't done yoga before. If the book has one fault, it's that it doesn't tell you how to decide when *not* to do a pose. D'Orazio leaves that for us to figure out.

She tells us that gardening “is a kind of moving meditation, a direct and physical communion with the seasons, with the sun and the moon and the elements.” That quote is from her short introduction. The majority of the book is dedicated to the poses.

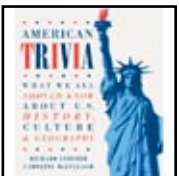
What really pleased me about this book were the illustrations created by Tim Foss – watercolors done in soft nature tints of gold, poppy red, teal and the many greens and browns of a garden.

The other part I liked was her suggestions for ways to enhance your experience while you exercise. Among other things, she suggests that you mix a pint of cream with ten to 15 drops of essential oils such as ylang-ylang or rose geranium in your bathwater. I'm not sure I think this is tempting. It might just require a big cleanup of your bathtub. But, maybe...

This is a small (6.5 inches square) paperback book for a relatively high price, \$12.95, but the illustrations are sumptuous and the ideas useful. The book feels good in your hands. I finally broke down and bought an e-reader (so that I'd have a lightweight dictionary to carry to the writing classes I teach), but I can't imagine I'll ever get to the point where I prefer that to the feel of a printed book. (Used copies of this book are available from www.amazon.com for much less than the list price.)

Gardener's Yoga (ISBN 1-57061-466-0) is available from Sasquatch Books (www.sasquatchbooks.com). I've reviewed other books from them. You can request their interesting catalog (1904 Third Ave., Suite 710, Seattle, WA, 98101) or check them out online.

Editor's note: Caroline's new book, co-written with Richard Lederer, is called *American Trivia: What We All Should Know About U.S. History, Culture & Geography* (ISBN 978-1-4236-2277-2). It's not a garden book, but well worth a read! It's available at your local bookstore for \$9.99 (or from www.amazon.com). 🌿



ENTER YOUR GARDEN NOW! CALIFORNIA– FRIENDLY® LANDSCAPE CONTEST ENTRIES DUE APRIL 6



Ornamental grasses and footbridge create interest and an Asian element.

Is your landscape both water-efficient and the most stylish on the block? Then put it to the test. Twelve water districts invite customers to showcase their water-wise landscaping in the Water Agency California–Friendly Landscape Contest. One winner in each district will receive a \$250 gift certificate and recognition on the agency websites and in newsletters.

Last year's City of San Diego winner, Robert Smith, said he made landscaping changes to save money on his water bill. But the North Park resident got an unexpected bonus. “It looks great,” he said of the new

landscape, which features many desert plants. Even during the hot summer months, he only has to water his landscape about a half-dozen times, he said. In the winter, he never has to water.

“We are pleased to join with other water agencies in sponsoring the annual California-Friendly Landscape Contest and we highly encourage homeowners to enter,” said JoEllen Jacoby, Supervising Landscape Conservation Designer for the City's Water Conservation Program. “Studies have shown that more than half of the water people use goes towards irrigating landscapes, which is why our program continues to encourage San Diegans to use California-Friendly® plants as a way to waste no water.”

Jacoby offers a few suggestions to enhance your chance of winning. “The judges need to see the big picture and the details. So provide pictures that show both the landscape and some or all of the house to give a sense of proportion and scale. Look before you shoot! Are there trashcans, hoses, tools, or nursery pots visible? Angle your shots to avoid cars, overhead utility lines or other less than inspiring elements.”

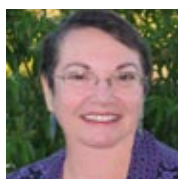
“Focus on special design ‘vignettes’ such as a little sitting area, stream bed or sculpture,” continued Jacoby. “Does your landscape frame your door from the street? Show that in a picture. Include close-ups of plant combinations that show the color, texture and variety of your plant palette. Yank weeds and make sure there is a mulch cover over any open soil. These pointers will make your front yard picture perfect.”

The deadline to enter is April 6, 2012. Each entry will be judged for overall attractiveness, appropriate plant selection, design, appropriate maintenance, and efficient methods of irrigation. This contest is open to customers of the cities of San Diego and Escondido, Helix Water District, Olivenhain Municipal Water District, Otay Water District, Padre Dam Municipal Water District, San Dieguito Water District, Santa Fe Irrigation District, Sweetwater Authority, Vallecitos Water District, Vista Irrigation District, and California American Water. For official rules and an application visit www.landscapecontest.com. For questions contact Mike Ismail with the City of San Diego at (619) 533-5312 or your local water agency.

For ideas, expert advice, exhibits and classes, visit the Water Conservation Garden in El Cajon, or go to www.thegarden.org. 🌿



Native plants with varied textures compliment this ranch home.



NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

By Susi Torre-Bueno

Please Support our Sponsors and Advertisers

Please show our advertisers and sponsors how much you appreciate their support by telling them you are a member of SDHS when shopping at these businesses, and thanking them when you visit or call. We couldn't accomplish as much as we do without the financial support provided by our generous sponsors, who are listed on page 10. Check out the sponsor page on our website for links to these excellent gardening resources. Also, did you know that income from ads covers about half the cost of printing this newsletter?! One more reason to support our sponsors and advertisers: their discounts listed at the bottom of page 10.

Questions About our Digital Newsletter

Over 40% of our members are reading the digital newsletter exclusively, and we'd love to know how it's working out for you. Here's three quick questions – please reply to newsletter@sdhortsoc.org:

- 1 – What e-reader do you read the newsletter on?
- 2 – Do you have any hints for others?
- 3 – What is your favorite online magazine/newsletter?

More Local Garden Blogs

A number of members have personal and/or professional blogs which you will find interesting. Nine blogs were listed here last month; more are below. If you have a blog, please email the address, and 1 sentence about the blog to me at newsletter@sdhortsoc.org.

Sponsor blogs are in bold.

- **City Farmers Nursery's blog is www.CityFarmersNursery.com/news.** Organic gardening and urban homesteading news and tips plus free classes from Farmer Bill of City Farmers Nursery.
- **Southwest Boulder and Stone's blog is <http://swbstone.wordpress.com>.** It offers informative entries on our products, step-by-step installation instructions, environmental news pertaining to Southern California and general news about SWB and its employees.
- SDHS life member Debra Lee Baldwin (author, *Designing with Succulents and Succulent Container Gardens*) shares the blog <http://www.gardeninggonewild.com> with fellow author-photojournalists Saxon Holt, Noel Kingsbury and Fran Sorin.
- Bonnie Manion writes a garden lifestyle blog, www.VintageGardenGal.com, assisting and inspiring people on how to incorporate more garden into their lives through cooking, design, gardening, and styling.
- Nathan Smith's Garden Notes blog is <http://www.nslandscapedesign.com/blog>. He posts pictures and commentary about recent projects, interesting gardens, favorite plants and thoughtful garden musings.

Local Garden Tours

April and May are the peak garden tour months in San Diego County, and I hope you'll attend at least one or two in addition to the SDHS tour on March 31 (see page 9). Space doesn't permit descriptions of all the tours, so a listing of tours is in our monthly calendar insert. Many offer discounts for early reservations, so don't delay in making plans. Each tour will feature inspiring gardens, often with a similar theme, and you're sure to learn something to try in your own garden. ☺



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.

Florida's First Commercial Tourist Theme Park

In previous articles I've reminisced about our 1960s home landscape in Plantation, Florida. Besides the plethora of plants and natural landscapes in Florida, there were massive developments created out of former swamps. The swamps just to the east of the beaches of South Florida were dredged to create subdivisions of finger islands – long residential islands of homes surrounded by water with a road in the middle. At Christmastime tour boats took tourists on nightly cruises to gawk at the holiday lights and decorations of the yachts and lushly landscaped mansions that line the waterways. High-end restaurants and nightclubs used landscaping to create a lush jungle-like atmosphere. My grandmother's favorite restaurant was Patricia Murphy's, as famous for its beautiful landscaping as their butter-filled popovers. I recall a Mother's Day meal and Mom gushing about the fragrance of gardenias and orange blossoms on their patio.

In the pre-Disneyworld Florida of the early 1960s, amusement parks were starting to move beyond thrill rides and shows to create a tightly controlled utopian environment safe for tourists to spend the entire day and hopefully lots of money. One of the earliest was Cypress Gardens, located in Central Florida, opened in 1936 as a private botanical garden. Cypress Gardens was the dream of the energetic Dick Pope, Sr. and his wife. Pope used photographs of the swamps to lay out the winding paths and gardens to make sure the result was a very photogenic garden. See www.yesterland.com/cypressgardens.html for a longer history of how the Popes turned a 16-acre swamp into a garden. Many movies (some featuring Esther Williams swimming in the Florida-shaped swimming pool) and TV commercials were filmed here in the 50s and 60s.

By the mid 60's Cypress Gardens was known for water ski shows and manicured gardens that featured young women dressed as Southern Belles resting leisurely in the gardens. The ski show and gardens were an odd combination, but worked well and provided something of interest for both men and women. Compared to the alligator wrestling and ride-based amusement parks, Cypress Gardens was far more refined. It was a pedestrian park and given the automobile culture of Florida that in itself was a novel idea. We visited Cypress Gardens on a summer vacation, watching a ski show and strolling through the gardens. The soil dredged from canals was mounded into small hills and planted; that too was very unusual in flat Florida. Planting was done on a massive scale with large beds of colorful annuals and tropical plants with a backdrop of palms. We strolled along waterways lined with cypress trees draped in Spanish moss. Strategically placed antebellum-costumed Southern Belles smiled and waved to the passersby. We sat on one of the "Seminole palms" – supposedly small palm trees that were bent over decades ago by Seminoles to mark the trails – and took the family photo shown here. My skeptical engineer father had serious doubts about the veracity of the palm story. While it was certainly an escape from everything else in Florida, for our mid-western tastes, we



Jim at Patricia Murphy's Restaurant

Continued on page 16



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.

Gardens & Historic Houses of Savannah & Charleston
SOLD OUT March 25-April 1

Mallorca & Menorca: Gardens, Art & Cuisine: Limited space available for an in-depth look at these delightful Mediterranean islands. April 14-24

Kyoto – More Than Gardens: Hosted by renowned garden photographer Allan Mandell, this tour looks at the fascinating culture of this UNESCO World Heritage city. Guests will stay at a traditional Japanese ryokan and take daily excursions in Kyoto and the surrounding area. The tour coincides with a major festival and is well-timed for many flowering plants. May 9-20

Natural History of Santa Cruz Island SOLD OUT June 3-8

Oahu and Kauai: From Shangri-la to Bali Hai: Visit top public and private gardens on both islands, including the National Tropical Botanical Garden and Doris Duke's Shangri-La. November 2012

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. ☘



Patty Sliney

AN AFTERNOON WITH DEBRA LEE BALDWIN

By Patty Sliney

I had the distinct pleasure this January to spend a wonderful and instructional afternoon with one of our more distinguished San Diego Horticultural Society members and noted garden authors, Debra Lee Baldwin, purely by chance. And what a lucky me!



Patty Sliney

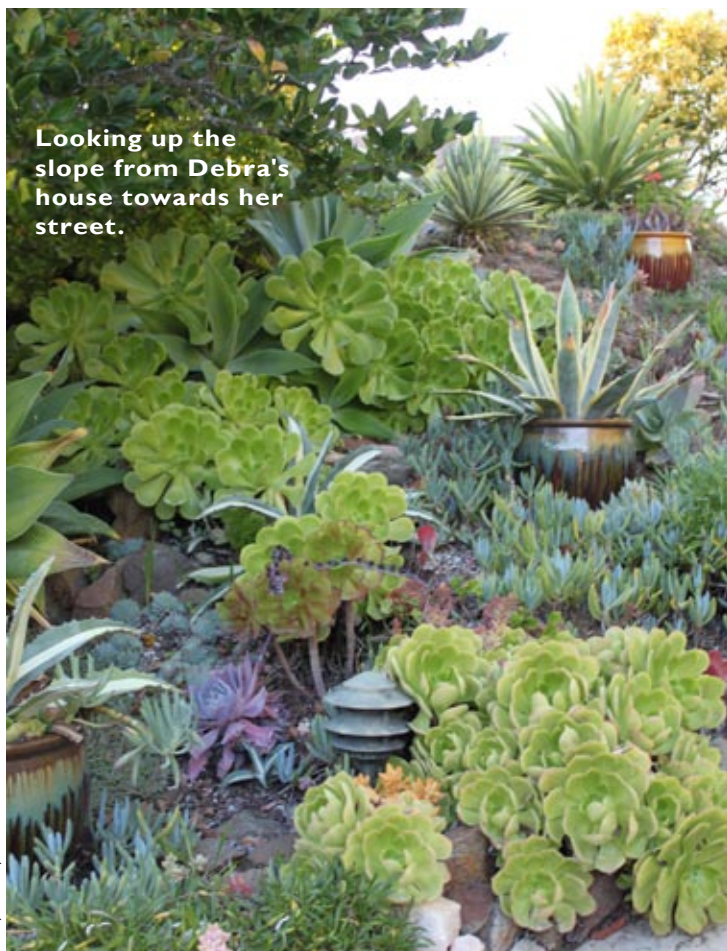
I had been working on trying to fill in a rather difficult area in my yard, where I get odd amounts of sunlight, depending upon the time of year, and where the sprinkling system is rather spotty. It's a long, narrow, curving and sloping area along a flagstone walkway that leads down to the lower part of our yard. I finally decided that a succulent garden would make perfect sense. After perusing my two trusty succulent books, both authored by Debra Lee Baldwin, *Succulent Container Gardens* and *Designing with Succulents*, I realized I'd probably be better off with computer images, so I decided to order Debra's CD succulent compilations. I placed my order online from Debra's web site, and much to my surprise, I received a personal email from Debra who asked if I wanted to save a bit on shipping, and just pick up my order at her place, since she lived just a short distance from me. And, while I was there, would I like a little tour of her garden? Seriously!! Well, that took about a hot second to say, "Yes!"

Debra, like many of us gardeners, had gone through an evolution of sorts with her gardening preferences. Having started with more high maintenance gardening choices, like roses, she found that succulents ultimately held the highest appeal for her: "They're so easy, so forgiving, and there's a succulent for nearly every part of your garden." Debra's garden is full of interesting combinations of color-complementing succulent groupings, as well as many unique and unusual succulent and cactus specimens. Two things I didn't expect – her garden isn't perfect and Debra says she prefers "to plant things I can't kill." Her upper patio, which looks down on her lovely yard is full of succulents in containers that were artfully arranged, but also thoughtfully planted to take into consideration easy maintenance.

We wrapped up the afternoon by taking a quick trip down the road to Desert Theater Nursery, which has one of the largest selections of cacti and succulents in San Diego County. As the sun was setting, we snapped some perfect photo ops. I left that evening full of incredible ideas and a feeling that maybe I just might be able to put together a cohesive and appealing succulent garden, thanks to Debra's generosity and inspiration.

If you think you'd like to spend your own day with Debra Lee Baldwin, then consider signing up for her Spring Potting Class & Workshop at Oasis Water Efficient Gardens, in Escondido, on May 5th from 10:00 am to 11:00 am (potting demo), and from 11:00 pm to noon (hands on workshop). You can sign up by going to her website, www.debraleebaldwin.com.

Member Patty Sliney became a Master Gardener in 2004, when this California girl was uprooted in a corporate move to N. Indiana and had to learn what a Hosta was. Married, with three grown daughters (having replaced them with an acre garden with over 100 producing fruit trees), Patty resides with her husband and two Australian shepherds in the hills of Vista. ☘



Looking up the slope from Debra's house towards her street.

Patty Sliney



First Garden Tour of the Year!

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



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

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

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

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

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



It has been said that "A rose, is a rose, is a rose," and nowhere is that more true than in this dedicated rose garden. Come and experience a sensory explosion of color and fragrance as you view over 600 roses carefully tended by a master rosarian. If you love roses, this is the garden for you!

Produce from the handsome raised beds of this bountiful organic vegetable and herb garden is used in the homeowners' two restaurants. Cooking demos will be held throughout the day, and an expert from Urban Plantations will answer any questions you have about raised bed gardening.

End your tour at Perennial Adventure, a charming walk-through display garden and nursery. Here you have the opportunity to purchase unusual perennials and shrubs, all grown for ease of care in our Mediterranean climate as well as for their interesting foliage, texture and color.

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

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



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

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

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

We welcome Davy Tree Expert Company as our newest Sponsor – visit them at www.davey.com.

Susan Bellamacina
Cary & Judy Bickler
Nancy Carol Carter
J.A. Garland
Donna & Jim Gottfried
Robert Hemedes
Jean Jung
Britt Kuhl

Carol Lane
John & Jeannine
Le Strada
Evelyn Moore
James & Barbara
Smith
Brian Strauss
Robin Whiffen

NEW ADVERTISERS:
California Friendly Landscape Contest (PAGE 12)
San Diego County Fair Flower & Garden Show (PAGE 12)
The Water Conservation Garden (INSERT)

HORT BUCKS ARE GREAT!

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

Lynlee Austell (I) Gabriel Mitchell (I) Janet Wanerka (I)
Jim Bishop (I) Katie Pelisek (I) Dick & Gail Wheaton (I)
Kay Harry (I) Marcia Van Loy (I)



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Walter Andersen Nursery
Weidners' Gardens
Pat Welsh
Westward Expos

LIFE MEMBERS *Horticulturist of the Year

Chuck Ades* (2008) Laurie Connable
Walter Andersen* (2002) Julian & Leslie Duval
Norm Applebaum & Edgar Engert* (2000)
Barbara Roper Jim Farley
Bruce & Sharon Sue & Charles Fouquette
Asakawa* (2010) Penelope Hlavac
Gladys T. Baird Debbie & Richard Johnson
Debra Lee Baldwin Lois Kline
Steve Brigham* (2009) Vince Lazaneo* (2004)

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

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

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

Philip Tackill & Janet Wanerka René van Rems

DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS

Get a 15% discount at Briggs Tree Co. (www.briggstreet.com; tell them to look up the "San Diego Hort Society Member" account).

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

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

SEE THESE ADS FOR MORE DISCOUNTS:

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



What's Up
at
San Diego
BOTANIC
GARDEN

Spring has sprung! It's finally time to start gathering plants and herbs for your beautiful spring garden. Whether you want tomato plants or cactus and succulents, San Diego Botanic Garden will have everything you're looking for and more. Our annual Herb Festival, Spring Plant Sale, and Tomatomania® will be on March 17 and 18 from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm and will feature hundreds of species of plants with everything from "how to" workshops to hands on crafts for children.

This year we are happy to announce that Rosalind Creasy will be our honored guest. Rosalind is a garden and food writer, photographer, and landscape designer with a passion for beautiful vegetables and ecologically sensitive gardening. She began her career in horticulture in the 1970's as a landscape designer and restaurant consultant.

By 1982, Creasy had published her first book, *The Complete Book of Edible Landscaping*, which won the Garden Writers Association's Quill and Trowel Award, was chosen as a Book of the Month selection, and hailed by *The Wall Street Journal* as the best garden book of 1982. Considered a classic, it coined the term "Edible Landscaping," now a part of the American vocabulary. Her latest book is an update of *The Complete Book of Edible Landscaping*, now called *Edible Landscaping (2010)*. Rosalind was awarded the 2011 American Horticulture Society Book Award for *Edible Landscaping*. She resides in Northern California.

To this day, Rosalind continues to share her knowledge of gardening and cooking. She will be giving a presentation each day on Edible Landscaping - The New American Garden.

In addition to Rosalind's presentation, there will be on-going speakers on garden and herb-related topics, guided tours of the Herb Garden, Herb Festival Market-place, the A-Z on Herbs information booth, and the SDBG Spring Plant Sale with a multitude of vendors.

Back by popular demand is Tomatomania® with lectures on culture and care and plenty of tomato seedlings.

We will also have something to keep the kids busy! In honor of the 2012 Herb of the Year, the Rose, kids will learn how roses are used in cooking, perfume and for nutrition. They will make a rose-inspired bracelet, rose petal potpourri dream pouches, or wild Irish paper rose in honor of St. Patrick's Day.

For details and coupon, visit www.SDBGarden.org. ☘

GARDEN SEMINAR SCHEDULE

[Check www.springhomegardenshow.com for any changes in the schedule.]

FRIDAY, March 2, show open 11am to 6pm

- 12:15 Evelyn Weidner – Bringing Color into Low Water Containers and Baskets
- 1:15 Debra Lee Baldwin – Designing with Succulents
- 2:15 Lynlee Austell – Three Paths to a Sustainable Landscape
- 3:15 Nan Serman – Incredible! Edible, Beautiful and Water Wise
- 4:15 Greg Rubin – Landscaping Secrets with California Natives

SATURDAY, March 3, show open 10am to 6pm

- 11:15 Pat Welsh – Growing Great Vegetables Organically
- 12:15 Debra Lee Baldwin – Designing with Succulents
- 1:15 Nan Serman – Don't Plant This – How to Avoid Mistakes in Your Garden
- 2:15 Steve Jacobs – What Every Homeowner Needs to Know Before Hiring a Licensed Landscape Professional
- 3:15 Shellene Mueller – The Details, How to Make Your Garden Stand Out Above the Rest
- 4:15 Greg Rubin – Landscaping Secrets with California Natives

SUNDAY, March 4, show open 10am to 5pm

- 11:15 Shellene Mueller -- How and Why to Hire a Landscape Professional
- 12:15 Debra Lee Baldwin – Designing with Succulents
- 1:15 Lynlee Austell – Three Paths to a Sustainable Landscape
- 2:15 Cynthia Benoit – New Trends in Residential Design
- 3:15 Greg Rubin – Landscaping Secrets with California Natives



2012 San Diego County Fair

Call For Bids

Flower and Garden Show

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

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

The display area is ~30' x 40'.

Proposals should not exceed \$15,000.

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

Proposals must be submitted by April 2, 2012.

The contract will be awarded by April 9.

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California-Friendly Landscape Contest

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Deadline: April 6, 2012

Basic Judging Criteria:

- Design for beauty and water conservation
- Creative use of colorful water-wise plants



For eligibility requirements and application procedures, visit www.landscapecontest.com

Paul Ecke, Jr. Flower and Garden Show "Cosmic Spaces"

2012 San Diego County Fair - June 8 - July 4

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- Professional Floral, Amateur, and Miniature Floral Design
- Floral and Interior Design Vignettes
- Other Specimen Blooms, Roses, Dahlias, Gladiolus
- Bonsai and Tray Landscapes

Registration Deadline: Friday May 4th

3rd Annual Floral Design Competition on June 24th Registration Deadline: May 18th

Or Share your knowledge and promote your business as a Speaker on our Flower Show Stage

Accepting Bids for the Feature Landscape Flower & Garden Show Entrance Display until April 2nd

Registration Material Available online mid-March at www.sdfair.com

For additional information contact:

Jayna Wittevrongel, Coordinator
(858) 755-1161 ext. 2462 • jwittevrongel@sdfair.com

Leah Winetz, Assistant Coordinator
(858) 755-1161 ext. 2461 • lwinetz@sdfair.com



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:

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

Louise Anderson said: "GLOVES are a MUST. Every time I try without them I 'sorely' regret it. Plants win – my hands lose."

Sheila Busch employs this trio: "Gloves, always, hat sometimes, and Ibuprofen afterwards."

Connie Forest shared this: "My favorite protective device is a pair of leather arm protectors. They are sort of chaps for arms and fit right over your gloves fastening with Velcro. I used to get all sorts of bruises on my forearms as I was pruning shrubs. These prevent that. I purchased them from the Duluth Trading Company, a catalog for folks who do physical labor. I haven't seen them anywhere else." [www.duluthtrading.com – look for Pigskin Pruning Sleeve under "Garden Gear"]

Jennifer Harris has a unique suggestion: "If it is getting close to evening and I have to work in one area for awhile, I light a small enclosed citronella candle (the kind with liquid/wick and wind protective shield) and set it close by. This is a nice time for gardening, but the gnats tend to move in."

Amelia Lima uses "40 SPF sunblock cream on my face, and a 50 SPF large hat! I know I should also wear a long sleeve shirt, but I do not care to feel hot!"

Janet Milliken said, "Since I have a continuous appointment with the dermatologist who cuts out and freezes sun damaged places on my skin (results of growing up in Southern California before sunscreen was invented), I use everything possible: garden in the mornings in the shade, use sunscreen, wear a big floppy hat, gloves, etc. When finished, I usually shower, use lavender bath gel and lotion which are healing, put antibiotic salve on any scratches and thorn pricks, apply moisture serum and oxygen cream and any other skin improvement thing I can find and re-apply sunscreen."

Krista Mills has a brilliant solution: "I always seem to forget to put sunscreen on and even sunglasses, so I keep extras in my potting shed so that they are super handy... then no excuses!"

Elf Mitton has a problem banana: "I have a red ornamental banana (Musa) which partially blocks the path to my side yard where the hummingbird feeders are. I have ruined a lot of clothes brushing past so now I have sacrificed one jacket and put it on each time I go there so it gets the black non-removable stains. I really like the plant in my

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tropical garden so it's a small sacrifice to make. I did ruin some of the wonderful Annual Plant Sale T-shirts I had from former Quail Botanical Gardens."

Susan Morse had an unusual story: "A couple of years ago, in Spring, I found two crow nestlings that had fallen out of their nest that was very high in the Canary Island Pine tree in our back yard. I checked the Project Wildlife website for information on what to do. Since replacing them in the nest was out of the question, I created a cozy nest from a wire planting basket, lined with coir. During the day, the nestlings would get out of my nest and wander about the immediate area. In the late afternoon, I would place the babies back in the makeshift nest which was securely resting on the 4-foot high crassula bush. The parents took care of feeding the nestlings and I was successful in training the dogs not to molest the babies. This process carried on for days until the young birds reached actual fledgling age. From the beginning, I knew one of the two had probably sustained a traumatic landing on the ground when it fell out of the nest. It now became obvious that one could fly and one could only go around in circles. At this point, I felt that I should take the injured fledgling to Project Wildlife for their expert care. Here's where the protective gear comes in. I put on my bicycle helmet and BBQ mitts when I went to pick up the injured bird to place him into a dog carrier, suitable for transporting him. I knew how very ridiculous I looked, but I had visions of the parents dive bombing and injuring me as I carried off their baby. Each year our front yard is used as a training ground for a pair of crows teaching survival skills to their fledglings. I love watching them from the house and feel they are friends of the garden, just like me."

Marilyn Nelson replied: "I use sun block face cream (Neutrogena), hand cream, and gloves. A visor on rare occasions; I should use it more. Afterwards, hand cream, to be sure."

Lisa Rini told us: "I am addicted to lavender oil after I garden. I have a ton of bromeliads and manage to get scratched every time I do any kind of clean up – then my arms are full of bumps and scratches and red marks. After I shower, I just rub on organic lavender and in less than 24 hours the irritations are mostly gone (although scabs remain for a few days)."

Anne Saxe has a lot of help: "It IS a rough world out there, especially on hands, nails, forearms! Cactus and succulents are especially tough... so I have a complete wardrobe of gloves. Heavy leather and canvas for carrying abrasive rocks, bricks, stones. Lighter gloves for raking leaves, debris and picking up same. Waterproof for messy stuff: wet leaves, soggy dirt, clean-up of unmentionables. Long sleeves and cardboard or newspaper for moving and transplanting cactus and other plants that attack! And, of course, hand lotion before and after for getting back to normal!"

Sue Ann Scheck wrote: "I just love to be in nature! Dirty gloves, a straw hat, sunscreen.... and the birds and critters to keep me company! That's it!!"

Susi Torre-Bueno takes these precautions: "I just about always wear gloves, and I'm planning to get those leather arm protectors that Connie Forest described above. And I almost always wear closed-toe shoes. I've learned the hard way to stop pruning by dusk (although I do go snail hunting very late at night with a flashlight)."

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Kimberly von Atzigen has plans to protect herself: "I've got to wear a wide brim hat like the lifeguards used to wear."

Roy Wilburn shared his secrets: "After pruning over 40 rose bushes here at Sunshine Care, A Community of Assisted Living Homes in Poway, I am a big fan of glove protection all the way up to the elbows. When I completed pruning the first few with just thick leather gloves on my hands, I noticed my forearms looked like machaca. I immediately added to my garb the sleeves that the avocado and citrus harvesters use to protect from wrist to elbow. Where was my head at before? The Protector brand of Rose Gauntlet Gloves will save you money on stitches, band-aids and Neosporin when working with roses, cacti and other scratchy and spiny plants."

Melissa Worton said: "I take a break at the hottest part of the day, around 11:45 through 1:30, and stay hydrated."

Joel Zhou uses 3 types of garden protection: "For me, gloves and sunscreen, sometimes knee pads to help the lower back."

The question for next month is:

Succulents are the hottest ornamental plants these days. How are you fitting them into your garden and what 3 are your favorites? Send your reply by March 5 to newsletter@sdhortsoc.org.



LIVING WITH GOPHERS PART 2

By Susi Torre-Bueno

Last month I wrote about a "live-and-let-live" attitude towards gophers and asked: does this non-interference approach work for you? Email me at newsletter@sdhortsoc.org with your gopher experiences, especially if you who ARE happily co-existing with gophers *without* trying to kill them. I'll print replies here and/or on our website.

Ava Torre-Bueno replied: I live in harmony with gophers. My raised bed has fine wire mesh under it and along the sides and I've never had a gopher in that area. I have some gopher holes on the edge of my property, but the two feral cats I feed outside, and my own indoor-outdoor cat, can often be seen waiting above the holes. The only "gift" my cat ever brought me was a dead gopher. If a feral cat shows up on your property, contact the Feral Cat Coalition <http://www.feralcat.com> and borrow a trap. They pay for the cat to be neutered and then you return it to your property and provide it with food and water in perpetuity. It repays you by hunting gophers. Sadly, it may also hunt birds, so I keep mine fairly well fed.

Linda Espino said: Gophers don't eat all plants. Many plants seem to keep going even when there is a mound of dirt next to them. When gophers eat something I put a different plant in. My fig tree is over 30 years old and I watched it get lower – but the next year the figs were better than before: the gophers pruned the roots and rejuvenated the tree. The dirt that gophers dig up is particularly good for plants, so I use that mixed with compost to plant. My neighbors used rodenticide to kill rodents, and I believe it killed one of my gopher-hunting cats; the other is now housebound. Learn more about the benefits of barn owls at www.hungryowl.org, and about wildlife at www.wildcarebayarea.org. 🐾

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■ My Life Continued from page 7

found it just a bit too contrived and almost kitschy.

Over the decades, Cypress Gardens has gone through many problems: severe freezes, hurricanes, and competition from more exciting parks. After several unsuccessful reincarnations, today it is Legoland Florida, but vestiges of the original gardens remain, along with Southern Belles constructed from Lego bricks. Still, it was the first of the highly landscaped central Florida destination theme parks, a tradition that lives on at Disneyworld, EPCOT, Busch Gardens, and Legoland.



Bishop family in Florida

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

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FEBRUARY PLANT DISPLAY

By Pat Pawlowski and
Susi Torre-Bueno

What is the Plant Display?

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

Join the fun and bring flowering bulbs/corms/tubers to the March 12 meeting. Member Mary McBride, a bulb expert and one of our meeting vendors, will be on hand to answer your questions. We thank Tim Clancy for being our expert on trees at the February meeting.

- April 9 – California native plants (expert: Greg Rubin)
- May 14 – Bonsai (expert: Phil Tackill)

***Acmena smithii* LILLY PILLY** (Myrtaceae) Australia

What's not to love about a compact, fast-growing evergreen tree with dense foliage (good for screening the neighbors) that is also low water and produces edible fruits? This small tree grows in forests near the coast and further inland. It reaches 10-20' tall and equally wide in full sun to light shade, and does best in well-drained soil. The glossy narrow leaves start out flushed with pink before turning dark green. Fluffy white flowers in spring to summer turn into attractive dense clusters of pink to mauve fruit (best used for juice or jelly). The website for San Marcos Growers (<http://smgrowers.com> - an outstanding resource) notes that you should "Water it occasionally to regularly late spring to fall. Hardy to around 20 F and reportedly tolerant to ocean spray in coastal gardens." (Sheila Busch, Escondido, 2/12) – S.T.B.

***Fritillaria striata* STRIPED ADOBE LILY**

(Liliaceae) California

This uncommon native California bulb is a threatened species in the wild (due to cattle grazing), where it is found only in the clay soils of the Greenhorn Mountains in Tulare and Kern counties. It sends up stems to about 18" tall. The fragrant, hanging bell-shaped flowers, which usually appear in spring, have recurred white to pink petals, often with darker stripes. Best in light shade and well-drained soil. (Sheldon Lisker, Temecula, 2/12) – S.T.B.

***Hakea francisiana* GRASS-LEAF HAKEA**

(Proteaceae) Australia

This easily grown drought tolerant shrub gets to about 8-18' tall and somewhat narrower. It does best in full sun and can go without watering for extended periods, even tolerating light frost, and does well in most types of soil provided there is good drainage. The inflorescence of 150-500 coral pink (or cream and pink) flowers appears from winter to spring and can be 4" long – the shrub is superb in full bloom and attracts hummingbirds. Details and photos are at www.australianplants.com. (Sheldon Lisker, Temecula, 2/12) – S.T.B.

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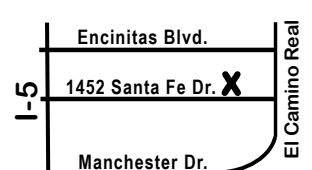
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***Sambucus mexicana* MEXICAN ELDERBERRY**

(Adoxaceae) Mexico, Oregon south to Baja and east to West Texas
This briefly-deciduous shrub or small tree (with pruning) is a great plant for attracting wildlife. It is fairly drought tolerant and grows 10-25' tall in full sun to part shade. Drought-tolerant once well established. Bright green leaves are a good foil for the small creamy white flowers that appear in spring and are prized by pollinators. The edible blue-black berries (which are toxic to people until ripe) are loved by both birds and people (think elderberry wine). (Pat Pawlowski, El Cajon, 2/12; Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 2/12) – P.P. & S.T.B.

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

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

Can you spot the phony plant this month? The phony plant in the February newsletter was Aloe 'David Hockney'.

Agonis flexuosa 'Jervis Bay Afterdark' PEPPERMINT TREE
(Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 2/12)

Annona cherimola CHERIMOYA (? , 2/12)

Bromelia cv. or sp. BROMELIAD (Sue Nelson, Encinitas, 2/12)

3 *Calliandra surinamensis* POWDER PUFF TREE
(Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 2/12)

Cassia cv. or sp. (Darlene Villanueva, El Cajon, 2/12)

Ceratonia siliqua CAROB (? , 2/12)

3 *Cercis accidentalis* MISFORTUNE REDBUD
(Garden Lover, El Cajon, 1/12)

3 *Cercis occidentalis* WESTERN REDBUD
(Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 1/12)

TB *Eriobotrya deflexa* BRONZE LOQUAT
(Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 2/12)

3, TB *Eriobotrya japonica* LOQUAT (? , 2/12)

TB *Erythrina crista-galli* COCKSPUR CORAL TREE
(Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 2/12)

TB *Laurus nobilis* BAY LAUREL, SWEET BAY, GRECIAN LAUREL
(Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 1/12)

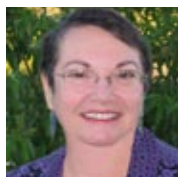
TB *Leptospermum petersonii* LEMON SCENTED TEA TREE
(Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 2/12)

3 *Metrosideros kermadecensis* 'Variegata' VARIEGATED NEW ZEALAND CHRISTMAS TREE (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 2/12)

Prunus cerasifer 'Krauter Vesuvius' PURPLE-LEAF PLUM
(Judy Holmes, La Jolla, 2/12)

Syringia 'Early Best' EARLY BEST LILAC
(Sheldon Lisker, Temecula, 2/12)

Volunteers Needed
See page 2



FEBRUARY MEETING REPORT

By Susi Torre-Bueno

Robin Rivet LOVES trees! Her talk was full of passion for these magnificent powerhouses of nature, which provide shelter and sustenance for wildlife; beauty, fruit and cooling shade; and much more. In a fast-paced talk she explored issues facing trees in urban settings, and noted how the young science of arboriculture has improved our knowledge of trees in the last 20 years. "A lot of what we do to trees is harmful," she said, but the good news is that "trees will fight for survival." We *can* do a better job, however, and Robin gave many examples of how to manage our own trees better.

San Diego County is a biodiversity hot spot – which isn't the good news because it is defined as a biogeographic region with a significant reservoir of biodiversity (in our case over 1500 endemic plant species) that is under threat from humans. San Diego has lost over 80,000 coast live oaks to the gold spotted oak borer since 2004, and recent wildfires destroyed tens of thousands of trees. Many of the trees that are being planted have been nursery-topped, which can drastically shorten their life because decay sets in where multiple branches come out from one point. Urban trees die from improper staking; too much fertilizer; water or pruning; herbicide misuse; drought; pests; disease and many other reasons. "They almost never die from old age," Robin pointed out, "and they should!"

The good news is that we can improve the health of our trees by selecting them more carefully to begin with. Robin suggests not planting trees larger than a 5-gallon size; the cramped roots of boxed trees mean many will not survive and most will rarely thrive. Remove stakes (which usually aren't necessary) after not more than 1 year. Don't amend the soil in the planting hole because "trees need to get used to your garden's soil." Use 3-4" of mulch under the tree, but not touching the trunk. Prune your trees properly. Also, because most tree roots are in the top 3' of soil (70% are in the top 18"), you should deep water a tree infrequently rather than watering the top few inches of soil more often.

Here's the FUN part where we each can participate: Robin has initiated an important and exciting **San Diego Country Urban Tree Map** project, with information on the location and size of each tree and also on the environmental impact of that type of tree. You could enter details about the trees on your property, in your neighborhood, or anywhere in the county. About 200,000 trees have already been added to this "interactive map that displays and quantifies the ecological and economic benefits of trees in urban areas of San Diego County." Go to www.sandiegotrees.org to learn more. **On March 1st there will be a free workshop** in Kearny Mesa about how to be part of this project, which is being offered by the California Center for Sustainable Energy; to register go to <http://energycenter.org>. To see a similar map for San Francisco visit www.urbanforestmap.org.

March 7-14 is Arbor Week in California, so pick a nice *small* tree and plant it to do your bit to improve our urban forest. Thanks, Robin, for a wide-ranging talk about our urban forest. If you missed this intriguing talk and want to learn more about trees in San Diego, you can borrow the video of it when you attend an upcoming meeting. ☺

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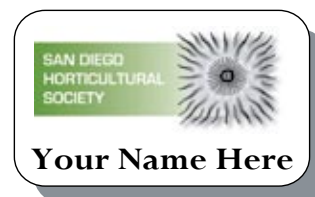
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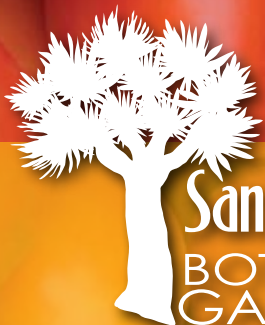


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March Members Month at The Water Conservation Garden

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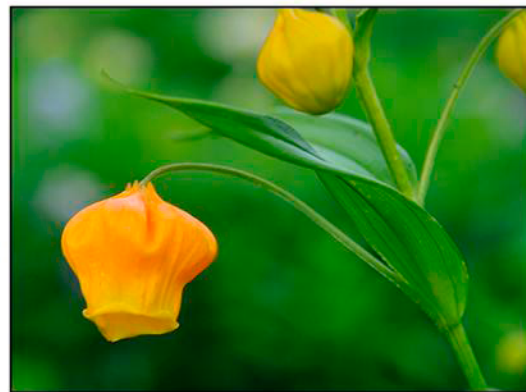
www.thegarden.org • 619-660-0614

Not a Garden member? Become a member during March and enjoy all of these member specials:

GARDEN MEMBER PLANT SALE

20% off All Plants, All Month in our nursery!

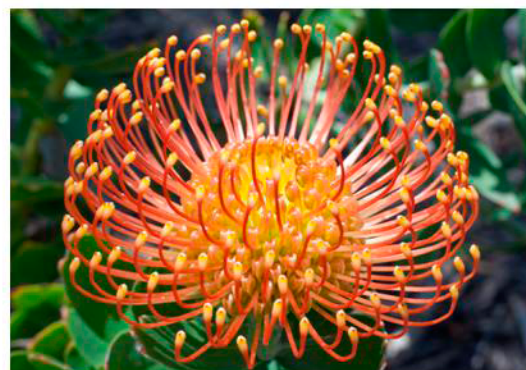
As a thank you to our family of members, The Garden is offering a discount on plants sold in our nursery all month long. Offer applies to existing members and those who become members during March.



DROUGHT-TOLERANT EXOTICS

Seminar and Plant Sale • Saturday, March 10, 10am-12 noon

Walter Parkola of Blossom Valley Protea discusses the stunningly unusual protea species, teaching you to grow and care for these lovely south African natives. Walter's 1-hour presentation at 10:00am will be followed by a sale of plants from his nursery until noon. *Presentation is free for members and \$10 for non-members. Pre-registration is required at 619-660-0614 x10.*

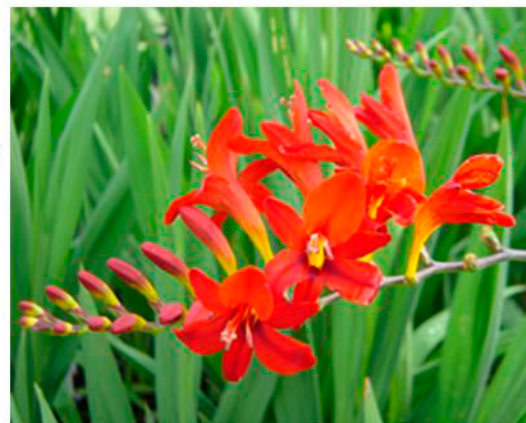


BRILLIANT BULBS FOR DROUGHT-TOLERANT GARDENS

Seminar and Bulb Sale • Saturday, March 17, 10am-12 noon

Bulbs bring a touch of the unexpected to any landscape. Mary McBride of Mary's Garden will share tips for planting and maintaining bulbs, as well as her personal recommendations for specific bulbs as the perfect accessory plant for any garden. Mary's 1-hour presentation at 10:00am will be followed by a sale of bulbs discussed in class.

Presentation is free for members and \$10 for non-members. Pre-registration is required at 619-660-0614 x10.



Special Offer for SDHS members!

Purchase a Water Conservation Garden membership in MARCH and receive
•\$60 value membership for just \$40 • Coupon for a free Garden class

To redeem this offer, call 619-660-0614 x10 or visit www.thegarden.org

Please reference "SDHS Member 001".

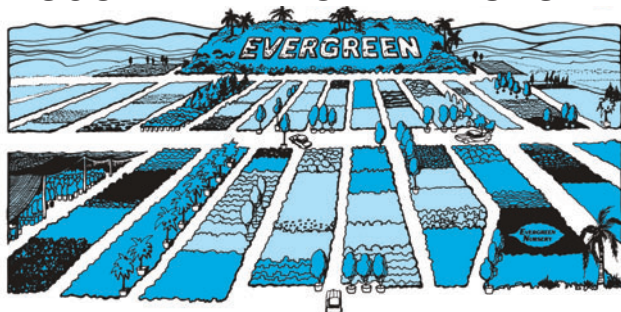
What's Happening? for March 2012

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.

▼ SDHS Sponsor

DISCOVER EVERGREEN NURSERY



Landscaping? Relandscaping?
Just Sprucing Up Your Yard?

WHY PAY MORE?

BUY DIRECT FROM THE GROWER AND SAVE!

ONE STOP SHOPPING

Incredible selection. Over 500 varieties on 400 acres.
From small color packs to huge specimen trees.

DRIVE THRU SHOPPING

Use your car as a shopping cart!!!



UNBEATABLE VALUE

The discount houses and depots can't compete
with our grower direct prices.

Come on out and see for yourself!

- 1 gallon plants starting at \$2.90
- 5 gallon plants starting at \$9.00
- 15 gallon plants starting at \$35.00

PROMPT DELIVERY AVAILABLE

Winter Hours

Mon. – Sat. 7:30 – 4:30

Sun. 9:00 – 4:30

FREE MONTHLY SEMINAR

*First Saturday of every month
Starting at 10am
At both locations*

March 3 - Ask the expert: Weeds, gophers, bugs & fertilizers

Our resident expert will teach you the best ways to fight the pesky critters in your garden and how to determine the best types of fertilizer to use to promote healthy, vigorous plants. We'll also answer your questions and discuss other garden-
ing topics.

Seminars are free; refreshments will be provided.
All participants will get a coupon for future purchases.

For more details or to view our entire seminar
schedule, visit us at

www.evergreennursery.com

Send questions and comments to:
info@evergreennursery.com

Two Convenient Locations:

CARMEL VALLEY
13650 Carmel Valley Rd.
(858) 481-0622

OCEANSIDE
3231 Oceanside Blvd.
(760) 754-0340

Events at Public Gardens

❖ **Alta Vista Gardens** contact info on other side
March 18, 2pm, Sculpture Garden Celebration and Walkabout: \$5
See <http://www.avgardens.org> for upcoming events.

❖ **San Diego Botanic Garden** contact info on other side
March 10, 8:30am-1:30pm, Photoshop Elements for Nature Photographers: Class combines the fun of shooting in the garden with the magic of enhancing your photos using Photoshop Elements. Members \$69, non-members \$79. Please register by March 7.
March 17 & 18, 9am-5pm, Herb Festival, Spring Plant Sale, and Tomatomania® - see back cover & website for details.

❖ The Water Conservation Garden

contact info on other side

ALL MONTH: Garden Member Plant Sale, save 20% on plants
Mar. 10, 10am-12pm, Drought-Tolerant Exotics Seminar & Plant Sale: Learn how to grow and care for the protea species. Members free, \$10 Non-Members.

Mar. 13, 8am-2pm, Free! Water Smart Gardening Workshop for Teachers

Mar. 17, 10-11am, Brilliant Bulbs for the Drought-Tolerant Garden, Seminar And Bulb Sale: Tips for planting and maintaining bulbs. Members free, \$10 Non-Members.

Mar. 20, 6:30-8:30pm, Secrets of the Best Landscape Designers: Principles you need to know to design beautiful, functional, and low water landscapes. \$20 Members, \$25 Non-Members.

Free Events by SDHS Sponsors:

Please thank them for supporting SDHS!

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

❖ **City Farmers Nursery FREE Classes**
See www.cityfarmersnursery.com or call (619) 284-6358

Mar. 10, 12:30 pm, Grafting Basics: How to graft hearty plants!

Mar. 11, 1pm, Grow your Own Home Orchard: Learn to maximize your growing space so that you have your very own home orchard.

Mar. 18, 1pm, Vegetable Gardens 101: Learn how to choose a space for growing, what to plant when, how to water and care for your vegetable garden.

❖ **Evergreen Nursery FREE Class on March 3**
See column at left.

❖ **Grangetto's Farm & Garden Supply FREE Workshops**
10am-noon, Planting Spring Veggies Workshop: The best soils to use, planting care, feeding and maintenance. See www.grangettos.com; see ad page 21.

❖ **Walter Andersen Nursery FREE Saturday Classes**
Details at www.walterandersen.com; addresses in ad on page 15

	Point Loma, 9am	Poway, 9:30am
March 3	Citrus & Avocado	Fairy Gardening
March 10	Spring Vegetables & Herbs	Spring Veggies
March 17	Spring bulbs	Herbs
March 24	The Right Tree for Your Yard	Spring Rose Care
March 31	Staghorn Care & Remounting	Terrific Tomatoes

❖ **Sunshine Care FREE Workshop**
Mar. 17, 10:30am, Culinary herbs make good food into great cuisine.
Address in ad on page 14. Info: (858) 752-8197 or www.sunshinecare.com.

❖ **San Diego Water Agencies FREE Plant Fair**
9am - 2pm, March 3, March 10, March 17, March 24
Get information from gardening experts and save as much as 50% on select varieties of low-water-use plants at San Diego County Garden-Friendly Plant Fairs at some of The Home Depot locations. Details at www.watersmartsd.org.

Next SDHS Meeting:

March 12, 6:00pm - From Seed to Skillet
See page 1 for details

Other Garden-Related Events:

Please check with hosts to confirm dates & details

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

♦ **Mar. 2 - 4, Spring Home/Garden Show:** Display gardens, plants for sale, more! **FREE for members.** See page 2 and www.springhomegardenshow.com.

♦ **Mar. 2, 1:30pm, Vista Garden Club:** Spring gardening with new plants. Gloria McClellan Senior Center, Brengle Terrace Park, 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista. See www.vistagardenclub.org.

Other Garden-Related Events:

continued from other side

Check with hosts to confirm dates & details

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

♦ **Mar. 9 - 11, Orchid Society Show and Plant Sale:** Wonderful displays and fabulous plants for sale. 1895 Camino Del Rio South. Ad on page 1; info and discounts at www.sdorchids.com/shows.htm or call (760) 529-2947.

♦ **Mar. 10, 10am-noon, Planting & Propagating:** Urban Plantations Seminar. Learn to grow your own food from seeds and cuttings. 10300 Campus Point Dr. \$45. Info: www.urbanplantations.com.

♦ **Mar. 10 OR 24, 10am-12:30pm, Village Aquaponics:** Learn how to build and maintain your own system through demonstration and hands-on practice. Ecolife Foundation workshop in Escondido. \$25 Members, \$30 Non-Members. Register: www.ecolifefoundation.org, (760) 740-1346, or admin@ecolifefoundation.org.

♦ **Mar. 11, 1pm, Southern California Plumeria Society:** Humming-bird rescue. Balboa Park War Memorial Building. Info: (619) 390-2926 or www.southerncaliforniaplumeriasociety.com or di holland@cox.net.

♦ **Mar. 12, 1:30pm, American Begonia Society:** Seed challenge for 2012. Note: no heat in the building. Olivenhain Meeting Hall, 423 Rancho Santa Fe Road, Encinitas. Info: (760) 815-7914.

♦ **Mar. 13, 10am-noon, Dos Valles Garden Club:** Flower show exhibition tips. FREE. 31020 Cole Grade Road, Valley Center. Info: www.dosvallesgardenclub.org.

♦ **Mar. 13, 7pm, San Diego Geranium Society:** Rummage Sale. Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado Room 101. Info: www.sdgeranium.org.

♦ **Mar. 14, 10am, Point Loma Garden Club:** :The opra-singing chef. Guests \$5. 2818 Avenida de Portugal. Info: (619) 223-2051 or www.plgc.org.

♦ **Mar. 14, Noon, Ramona Garden Club:** TBA. FREE. 524 Main Street., Ramona. Info: (760) 789-8774 or www.RamonaGardenClub.com.

♦ **Mar. 15, 1pm, Bernardo Gardeners Club:** The Bat Lady. Oaks North Community Center, 12578 Oaks North Dr.. Info: www.bernardogardeners.org.

♦ **Mar. 17, 9am-noon, Santee Arbor Week Event:** 100 volunteers needed to plant 45 trees. Info: (619) 258-4100 ext. 201, bstanley@ci.santee.ca.us, or www.ci.santee.ca.us.

♦ **Mar. 17 & 18, 11am-4:30 pm, Ikebana International Flower & Japanese Culture Show:** Flower arrangements and Ikebana demonstrations. FREE. Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, rm 101. Info: www.ikebanasandiego.org

♦ **Mar. 17, 4:30pm, Southwestern College Walk and Talk:** Sustainable Green Gardening for Home Landscapes, tips for a "greener" yard. Park in Lot E. Free \$3 donation. South Bay Botanic Garden, 900 Otay Lakes Road, Chula Vista. Info: (619) 421-6700 ext 5371 or ext 5416.

♦ **Mar. 20, 6:30-9pm, California Native Plant Society:** "Watershed Avengers," Young people from diverse backgrounds to create safe and healthy habitats. Casa del Prado, room 104. Info: www.CNPSSD.org or (619) 282-8687.

♦ **Mar. 24, 11am-4pm, Hortense Miller Garden Open House:** Wide range of plants in a 60 year-old 2.5 acre garden. Music, art exhibits, refreshments, plant sale. Free shuttle from 635 High Drive, Laguna Beach. Donations accepted. Info: www.hortensemillergarden.org or hortensemillergarden@cox.net.

♦ **Mar. 27, 9:30am, San Carlos Garden Club:** Flower arranging design workshop. FREE. 6556 Park Ridge Blvd. Info: (619) 448-3613.

♦ **Mar 27, 2pm Lake Hodges Native Plant Club:** Soil science for native plant gardeners 17110 Bernardo Center Drive, San Diego. Info: www.lhnpc.org or (858) 487 6661.

♦ **Mar. 28, 6-8pm, Mission Hills Garden Club:** TBA. Guests/\$10. 4070 Jackdaw St. Info: (619) 201-8285 or www.missionhillsgardenclub.org.

♦ **Mar. 28, 7pm, California Rare Fruit Growers:** Cherimoya varieties, tasting, grafting. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, rm 101. Info: www.crrfgsandiego.org.

SDHS Spring Garden Tour

Garden Tour for the Senses:

Nine Private Gardens in La Mesa

March 31 – 9am to 4pm

www.sdhortsoc.org/events.htm

See page 9 and order tickets NOW!

LOCAL GARDEN TOURS:

♦ **March 25, Borrego Garden Tour:** 6 private gardens in Borrego Springs, \$16 (before March 10), \$18 (after March 10), www.abdnha.org

♦ **March 31, Spring Desert Tour:** Travel by bus to Palm Springs and Palm Desert with the San Diego Floral Assoc., \$70 (before March 20), www.sdfloal.org/tours.htm.

♦ **April 13, 10am-3pm, Lake Hodges Native Plant Club Spring Garden Tour:** Five private Poway gardens. \$15. Info: www.lhnpc.org/LHNPC/Garden_Tour_Information.html.

♦ **April 19, 10am-3:30pm, Bernardo Gardeners Spring Garden Tour:** Five private Rancho Bernardo gardens. \$15. Info: <http://bernardogardeners.org>.

♦ **April 21, 10am-4:30pm, Encinitas Garden Festival & Tour:** Advanced tour tickets are \$21, \$25 the day of event (if available). Info: www.encinitasgardenfestival.org.

For a more extensive list of garden club meetings and events, visit the San Diego Floral Association website:

www.sdfloal.org/calendar.htm

Resources & Ongoing Events

ALTA VISTA BOTANIC GARDENS: Open Monday-Friday 7:00-5:00 ; 10:00-5:00 on weekends. Fee: \$2. 1270 Vale Terrace Drive,Vista. Info: www.avgardens.org or (760) 945-3954.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BALBOA PARK:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Garden TV and Radio Shows:

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

GardenLife Radio Show (national). Saturday 8-9am and Sunday 8–10am. KCEO 1000AM radio, hosts Bruce and Sharon Asakawa, John Bagnasco. Call-in questions: 866-606-TALK. Hear it streaming live on lifestyletalkradio.com. GardenLife shows are also archived at lifestyletalkradio.com.