

Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

December 2008, Number 171

The Lawn is Gone... Now What?

SEE PAGE 11

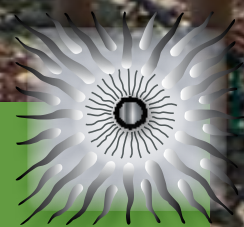
OAK-BORER INFESTATION
PAGE 6

RISOTTO, FOR ALL SEASONS
PAGE 7

TEARLESS ONIONS
PAGE 8

PLANTHROPOLOGY
PAGE 13

On the Cover: Carlsbad Backyard Vineyard



**SAN DIEGO
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY**

NOVEMBER MEETING PHOTOS

Photos by Cheryl Leedom



Crassula perfoliata



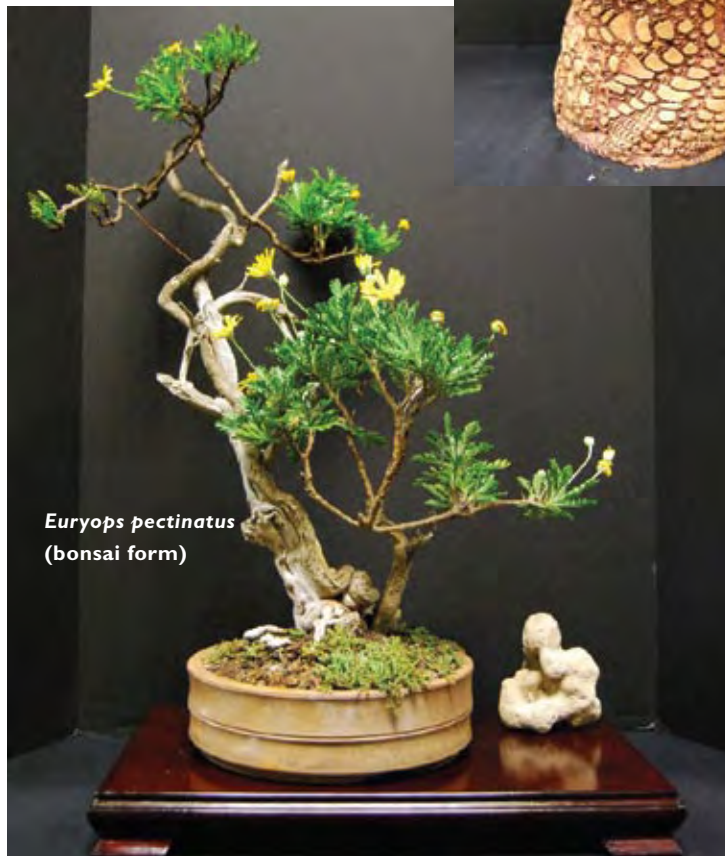
Epiphyllum phyllanthus ssp. *phyllanthus*



Echeveria angustifolia



Massonia pustulata



Euryops pectinatus
(bonsai form)



Euphorbia milii



Leonotis leonurus
white form



Pachypodium laelii ssp. *lealii*



Mestoklema
tuberosum



Centratherum punctatum



Plumbago auriculata



Crassula ovata
'Hummel's Sunset'



Montanoa grandiflora

In This Issue...

- 4 Important Member Information
 - 5 To Learn More...
 - 5 From the Board
 - 5 Remembering Ingrid Rose
 - 6 Critical Oak Borer Infestation in East County
 - 6 SDHS Billing Goes "GREEN"
 - 7 Plants That Produce
 - 7 Garden Gourmet
 - 8 Saving Landscape Irrigation Water... Year-round
 - 8 Tearless Onions: Coming Up Soon
 - 9 Welcome New Members!
 - 9 What's Up At Quail Botanical Gardens?
 - 10 Book Review
 - 10 Community Outreach
 - 11 So You've Taken Out All the Grass. Now What?
 - 12 December Nights Christmas Tree Display
 - 12 Thanks from the Editor
 - 13 Book Review
 - 14 Sharing Secrets
 - 18 November Plant Forum
 - 21 November Meeting Report
 - 22 Classified Ads
- Inserts Calendar/Resources Ongoing Events

Cover Image: Peder Norby's backyard vineyard in Carlsbad, overlooking Agua Hedionda Lagoon. These grapes are watered with rainwater from the roof. Photo by Peder Norby.

The San Diego Horticultural Society

MEETINGS

The San Diego Horticultural Society meets the 2nd Monday of every month (except June) from 6:00pm to 9:00pm at the Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd. Meetings are open and all are welcome to attend. We encourage you to join the organization to enjoy free admission to regular monthly meetings, receive the monthly newsletter and numerous other benefits. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

MEETING SCHEDULE

5:00 – 6:00 Meeting room setup
6:00 – 6:45 Vendor sales, opportunity drawing ticket sales, lending library
6:45 – 8:00 Announcements, speaker, drawing for three plants
8:00 – 8:15 Break for vendor sales, opportunity drawing ticket sales, lending library
8:15 – 9:00 Plant forum and opportunity drawing. Vendor sales continue to 9:15.
9:00 – 9:15 Final vendor sales, lending library

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

To join, send your check to: San Diego Horticultural Society, Attn: Membership, P.O. Box 231869, Encinitas, CA 92023-1869. Individual/one year—\$30, two years—\$50, five years—\$120; Family/one year—\$35, two years—\$60, five years—\$140; Group or Business/one year—\$50; Students/\$16 (w/proof of enrollment); Contributing/\$90 or more; Life/\$700. For membership questions contact membership@sdhortsoc.org or Sheldon Lisker at (951) 244-3502.

FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS IN 2009

- January 12, 2009** Orchid Collecting in Venezuela, by Fred Clarke (members free, non-members \$5)
- February 9** Big Ideas for Water-Thrifty, Fire-Safe Landscapes: The California Casual Garden, by Dave Egbert (members free, non-members \$5)
- March 9** The Deep Psychology of Unsustainable Design – How Sustainable Practices Change Our Ideal Landscape, by Pamela Berstler (members free, non-members \$5)
- April 13** Engagement: How to be a Part of Your Native Plant Garden, by Mike Evans (members free, non-members \$5)
- May 11** Plant Nerd Night (members free, non-members \$5)
- June 8** Special Evening with George Little and David Lewis, Little and Lewis Sculpture Garden

www.sdhortsoc.org

Website sponsored by ALL.EA Web Design & Horticultural Photography, www.allea.com

Next Meeting: December 8, 2008, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

Topic: PETE ANDERSON ON "BACKYARD VINEYARDS IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY"

Meeting is open and everyone is welcome. Admission: Members/free, Non-Members/\$5.

Parking is free. Meeting Place: Del Mar Fairgrounds, Surfside Race Place, Del Mar; Info: (760) 295-7089

Pete Anderson, the Grape Mentor for the San Diego Amateur Winemakers Society, will provide an overview of the development of small vineyards by San Diego County homeowners. Purposes of these plantings range from a romantic idea and attractive landscaping to commercial sale of the grapes. Our county is a complex zone for grape growing; with several distinct micro-climates and soils. Learn more about a fascinating plant you could grow for eating, drinking, and ornamental value.

Many people grow grape varieties based upon their fondness of wine type, not what will produce a quality fruit here. Management of grapes requires knowledge of the physiological and phenological aspects of the vine, but also of numerous pest and disease issues that can take money and time to control. Find out about Anderson's small research vineyard in Carlsbad, where "powdery mildew and botrytis cinerea abound, not to mention the birds, bees and raccoons." Despite these challenges, Anderson says, "there is no greater reward and satisfaction than to have grown a quality berry that is delicious or has been made into a nice wine."

Beginning in 1997 he took classes in viticulture and enology at U.C. Davis and MiraCosta College. He's now an Associate faculty member at MiraCosta College and teaches Vineyard Development and Management. Anderson is also the Vice President for Winegrowing at Witch Creek Winery in Carlsbad.

To learn more visit the San Diego Amateur Winemakers Society, www.SDAWS.org, and see page 5. ☞



The Mission of the San Diego Horticultural Society

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.

ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER 1994

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Susi Torre-Bueno — President, Newsletter Editor
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Lucy Warren — Secretary, Liaison to H&G Shows
Jim Wright — Member at Large

Let's Talk Plants!, the newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society, is published the first Monday of every month.

Editor/Advertising: Susi Torre-Bueno; 1941 Vista Grande Dr., Vista, CA 92084; voice (760) 295-7089, fax (760) 295-7119, newsletter@sdhsoc.org.

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

Sponsorship Info: Susi Torre-Bueno (above).

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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 free meetings, annual college scholarships, and other important programs. Sponsorships start at just \$100/year; contact info@sdhsoc.org or (760) 295-7089.

Sponsors are listed on page 9; those with ads in the newsletter have the words **SDHS Sponsor** above their ads.

We thank them for their extra support!

Important Member Information

CALORIE FREE EVENING!!!

For a change of pace at our December meeting we're skipping the cookies and instead will have an exciting selection of plants (from Tom Piergrossi's nursery) and some wine(!) for our Opportunity Drawing. Our vendors will have really enticing goodies, too, so stock up for yourself and your friends and save some calories! Please bring a plant for the Plant Forum, which Tom will describe.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The membership committee is looking for additional members to join us to increase our outreach of hospitality toward new members and in attracting new members at the individual, family and sponsor levels. Greeters at the monthly meetings will provide a brief tour around the meeting room to new members. Committee members can help revive the Adopt-a-Nursery program by visiting local nurseries and providing our membership brochures for their customers. You can have the opportunity to help with community outreach programs oriented to promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and education about horticulture in the San Diego area. If you would like to share your enthusiasm relating to why you enjoy and how you benefit from your membership in the SDHS, the Membership Committee is a great way to accomplish this. Contact Co-chairs Sheldon Lisker, 951-244-3502 or Susan Morse, 760-599-0550.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION: SAVE THE DATE

Our next New Member Orientation gathering will be on Saturday, January 10th from 10am to noon in Vista. If you've joined in the last few months and would like to attend please watch for an e-mail invitation this month. If you don't have e-mail please contact Membership Co-Chair Susan Morse at (760) 599-0550 for details on hours and driving directions. These casual gatherings are a great way to meet other members in a beautiful garden setting, and to learn more about the many things that SDHS does and how you can be a part of our activities. ☘

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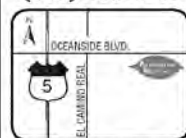
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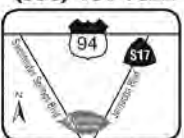


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FALL/WINTER HOURS

Monday-Saturday.. 7:30am-4:30pm
 Sunday.....9:00am-4:30pm

To Learn More...

LOCAL WINERIES AND WINE MAKING AND MORE

By Ava Torre-Bueno

Let's start with wine and grapes and then move on to other things grown in San Diego County. For starters there is the San Diego Amateur Wine Making Society:
<http://www.sdaws.org/>

Then go to the links to San Diego wineries:
<http://www.sdaws.org/links.htm>

http://www.signonsandiego.com/uniontrib/20040808/news_mzlhs8grapes.html will take you to an article about grape vines as landscape plant in San Diego. But San Diego County has other kinds of farms, too. We have the most registered organic farmers, 317 at last count, more than any other county in the United

States! See the article in the North County Times:
http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2007/08/13/news/top_stories/81207124200.txt

Here is an organization that supports farmers in our community:
<http://communityfarmsandgardens.org/>

And here's where you can find farm stands and become a "locavor" – someone who eats food from no more than maybe 100 miles from home:
<http://www.sdfarmbureau.org/BuyLocal/Farm-Stands.php>

This project is an attempt at creating a local farm for teaching sustainable gardening practices:
<http://www.sandiegoroots.org/willowglenfarm/index.html>

Eat and drink responsibly!

Member Ava Torre-Bueno is a psychotherapist in private practice and is 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 <http://www.sandiegofriendscenter.org/volunteers.htm>. 🌿

Remembering Ingrid Rose

By Nan Sterman

I am tremendously sad to be writing about the passing of garden designer and SDHS member Ingrid Rose.

Ingrid was a unique presence in our community. She was tall and elegant with long, silken hair, bright eyes and distinctive English accent. Ingrid's home, her garden, the many gardens she designed, even the way she presented herself to the world bespoke her high standards. She strove for a perfection and beauty rooted in the formality of Europe but softened by laid-back Southern California, her home for 20 years.

Ingrid was born in Lancashire, England in 1955. When she moved to San Diego with then-husband Peter Robinson in 1989, Ingrid enrolled at San Diego Design Institute to become an interior design. Ingrid had grown up gardening, so, for her home in Leucadia, she designed a garden with an outdoor space to host meetings with interior design clients. After seeing her garden, Ingrid's clients started asking her to design gardens for them as well. Eventually, Ingrid gave up interiors to focus solely on gardens.

Designing gardens for Southern California was a great challenge. The conditions

Continued on page 20

From The Board

By Susi Torre-Bueno

SHARING YOUR ENTHUSIASM

We love hearing from our members who enjoy the meetings and newsletter – thanks for your very positive feedback! As an all-volunteer organization you make possible all we do. The rewards of volunteering include expanding your social circle, learning new skills, revealing hidden talents, a feeling of self-confidence and accomplishment, and an appreciation of your ability to make a difference. We'd like more members to step up and take an active role in our gardening community by joining one of these committees: Community Outreach, Finance/Budget, Marketing, Membership, Programs, Publicity, and Volunteers. For details, please contact me at (760) 295-7089.

POSITIVE CHANGES FOR OUR GARDENS

At the December meeting you'll learn that grapes are a very water-thrifty plant. When I was growing up my parents had a small grape arbor and gave it virtually no water or care, and harvested bushels of table grapes each fall. It was a beautiful garden retreat and a cool and leafy place to relax all summer – why not add a similar feature in your garden?

Sally Sandler's article on page 11 can help you design a water-wise garden that is both interesting and wildlife-friendly. Water rationing is probably coming in 2009, so it is time to figure out how you'll manage your garden. Our speakers in February, March and April will address sustainable gardening in various forms, and we hope you'll encourage friends to attend with you.

HOW HAS YOUR YEAR GONE?

Our gardens had serious challenges in 2008, with a second year of drought and hot summer and fall weather. As I write this (in late October) we're having record-breaking heat in parts of the county. Let's hope that by the time you read this the rainy season will have started and your gardens are enjoying some much-needed moisture.

Have you reduced your water usage this year? I've cut back on watering frequency for established plants, but because it is such a new garden and I've only recently begun planting it my water bill continues to rise slowly as I water parts of the garden that were never planted before. Once the plants are established, however, I plan to taper off to watering once a week – or less – in summer, and not at all in winter. The native plants should be okay with monthly watering (at least in theory). It'll be interesting to see if that's possible, and I suspect that might depend on how much rain we get this winter. 🌿



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Critical Oak Borer Infestation in East County

For the last seven years, oak species have undergone drastic declines in eastern San Diego County, especially in the vicinity of Descanso and Pine Valley. The gold-spotted oak borer, which is an insect that has recently infested southern California, is believed to be responsible for much of the decline. The feeding habits of the insect directly result in mortality to oaks. Because of this, the Cleveland National Forest will not have oak wood permits available to the public until further notice.

Damage resulting from the gold-spotted oak borer has been found in and around Pine Valley, Guatay, Descanso, the Laguna Mountains, and in Cuyamaca State Park. "It is not only Forest Service lands that have been impacted by the loss of the oak trees," said Will Metz, supervisor of the Cleveland National Forest, "entire communities have been impacted. Based on scientific research that has found a link between the oak borer and tree mortality, the public and our partner agencies can now focus our efforts on saving oak trees throughout San Diego County." For more information about the gold-spotted oak borer, please call (858) 673-6180 or go to www.fs.fed.us/r5/cleveland. ☞



Figure 1. Dorsal (A) and lateral (B) views of the GSOB adult. The six gold spots on the forewings (elytra) are diagnostic for this species.

SDHS BILLING GOES "GREEN"

We will soon begin to "go green" by sending out dues renewal notices to members via e-mail. It should save us at least \$500/year in postage and envelopes, as well as reduce our carbon footprint. You can continue to mail in your dues checks or, if you prefer, you can renew on-line at our secure website, www.SDHortSoc.org. We accept all major credit cards.

If you do not get a e-mail from us regarding this it means we don't have your current address. Please help us by sending an e-mail today to membership@sdhortsoc.org and saying "I want to save trees—please add my e-mail address to my contact information." We never share your e-mail address with anyone.

Members can save 36% on a subscription to the gorgeous and exciting Pacific Horticulture magazine, which focuses on gardening in our part of the country. You can subscribe for only \$18 for four quarterly issues (standard is \$28/year). To take advantage of this significant savings, just send an extra \$18 when you renew your membership. If you renew as a Contributing Member, to thank you for your extra support you will receive a FREE -year subscription. ☞



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Plants That Produce

THE SCOOP ON FERTILIZERS, PART II‡

By Richard Frost

The nutritional care of plants in home gardens is easiest to understand by considering five general categories of flora.

1. Arid and Semi-Arid Ornamental Native Plants. Feed only micronutrients once in the fall and again in spring^{a,b}. Foliar application is best, or soil drench on large specimens.

2. Outdoor Leafy Vegetables and Herbs plus Non-blooming Ornamentals. These plants want an N-P-K formula that is high in Nitrogen(N), relatively low in Phosphorus(P) and Potassium(K), and contains micronutrients^b.

Example Fertilizers	Application Rates ^c			
	2-5 gal pot	10'x10' bed	shrub	tree
5-1-1	1 oz/mo	1.25 lb/mo	10 lb/yr	20 lb/yr
30-10-10	0.17 oz/mo	3.3 oz/mo	1.7 lb/yr	3.3 lb/yr

3. Outdoor Subtropical Fruits and Ornamentals. Citrus, Palms, Avocado, Guavas, Myrtles, Pineapples, Sapotes, Cycads, etc. can utilize 2/3 to 3/4 pounds of K for each pound of N, a small amount of P^(d) plus micronutrients.

Example Fertilizers	potted plant	new tree in ground	6'x6' tree in ground	big tree
0.9-0.3-0.6*	28 lb/yr	55 lb/yr	111 lb/yr	167 lb/yr
28-8-18	0.9 lb/yr	1.8 lb/yr	3.6 lb/yr	5.4 lb/yr

*Reasonably dry, composted horse manure.

4. Outdoor Non-tropical Fruits & Berries, Fruiting Veggies, Flowering Herbs, Ornamentals, Bulbs. "Old World" Fruits & Berries, Flowering Annuals & Perennials (esp. Roses), Bananas, Flowering Bulbs, Tomatoes, Peppers, Strawberries, Broccoli, Carrots, Melons, Turnips, etc. utilize 1.5 pounds of K for each pound of N, negligible P^(d), plus micronutrients.

Example Fertilizers	2-5 gal pot	10'x10' bed	potted tree	tree† in ground
8-3-12	5/8 oz/mo	3/4 lb/mo	3 lb/yr	12.5 lb/yr
20-5-30	1/4 oz/mo	5 oz/mo	1.25 lb/yr	5 lb/yr

†Use half dosage for bush or new tree, 1.5x for large tree.

5. Indoor Plants incl. Tropicals and Hydroponics. These are planted in a soil-less or somewhat sterile soil media. Consequently, the nitrogen source must be Urea-Free. Most have individual needs too voluminous to discuss here‡.

^a**Worm castings** contain 0.5% each of N-P-K, several micronutrients, and important non-plant food ingredients. However, they are a poor choice for many southwestern natives and can cause leafy veggies and herbs to bolt.

^b**Micronutrients.** Excluding N, P, and K, there are about 20 minerals that **all plants** require or utilize in tiny amounts. A balanced mixture is better than unbalanced liquid kelp.

^c**Application rates.** A 3+ year-old tree can utilize 1 lb of N per year, and a 10'x10' bed of annuals 1 oz of N per month. For a 5-1-1 fertilizer, (1 oz) / 5% = 1.25 lb yields 1 oz of N. Similarly for 28-8-18, (1 lb) / 28% = 3.6 lb yields 1 lb of N.

^d**Phosphorus** should be placed in soils before planting. Afterwards, quantity is only needed in soil-less media.

‡For copies of past articles and more information, please see www.plantsthatproduce.com. ☞

Garden Gourmet

RISOTTO: COMFORT FOOD FOR ALL SEASONS

By Alice Lowe

Pasta and rice dishes are popular with almost everyone, whether as main or side dishes. But risotto is in a class by itself – leave it to the Italians to come up with all the good stuff for unrepentant carb lovers like myself. Almost as satisfying to cook as to eat, making risotto is a Zen-like experience requiring quiet attentiveness and mindful stirring. It's ideal for these shorter, cooler days, perhaps accompanied by a glass of Sangiovese, and if Luciano Pavarotti or Maria Callas is filling the room with an aria, all the better.

Basic Risotto for 4:

Sauté a chopped onion in olive oil and/or butter.

Add 1 cup Arborio rice, & stir until coated.

Add ¼ to ½ cup of white wine; stir until absorbed.

Add approximately two cans of heated chicken or vegetable stock, a half-cup or so at a time, stirring continually until absorbed and then adding more until all of the stock is absorbed and the rice is still moist and chewy tender (about 20 minutes).

Stir in parmesan cheese, salt and pepper to taste

Let stand, covered, about 5 minutes before serving

While it's just about perfect as it is, you may use this basic recipe as a starting point, with changes or additions to liven it up or add variety. You can add minced garlic to the onion, substitute red wine or sherry for the white wine, cheddar or gorgonzola cheese for the parmesan. I sometimes stir some tomato paste into the stock. A little lemon juice and grated zest at the end gives a nice tang, too, and a pinch of saffron adds elegance to an already classy dish.

My favorite risotto is with mushrooms. I prefer those with more bite than white button mushrooms – fresh cremini, portobello or shitake, or dried and reconstituted porcini (adding the water they've been soaked in to the broth). Add them to the sautéed onion, and cook for a few minutes to soften before adding the rice.

And don't forget fresh garden produce, your favorite vegetables steamed and chopped small. Risotto is a must when fresh asparagus comes on the scene and outstanding, too, with broccoli, peas or spinach. Winter squash makes it a great holiday dish and also gives it a golden color. For garden-fresh flavor, stir in chopped tomato or herbs – basil, parsley, chives – before serving.

For a main dish, you can add cut-up shrimp or scallops, fried pancetta or sausage. Or use leftover salmon, chicken or turkey. You can't go wrong with risotto, except maybe by serving it with pasta. In the movie "Big Night" (which has the best dining scene ever), when a woman asked for a side of spaghetti with her risotto, the Italian chef practically had to be held back from kicking her out of the restaurant.

Member Alice Lowe loves to read, garden, cook and eat, not necessarily in that order. ☞

Saving Landscape Irrigation Water... Year-round

By Will Johnson

How long should my sprinklers run? How many times per week? Getting the “right” answer to these questions is important. We know it’s more in the summer and less in the winter, but how MUCH more or less?

Quick answer...Water in winter one-third of your summer schedule. That’s all! If you water 60 minutes per week in July, you’ll need 20 minutes or less in December. Want a better, more accurate answer? Factor in: your soil type; slope/grade; plant type; sun/shade exposure; location (zip code). The type of sprinkler is also critical to run-time. The newest, water-saving sprinklers run for two to four times LONGER than traditional sprinklers, but still apply LESS water (think squirt gun vs. fire hose).

Fortunately, to get accurate answers is simple! The City of San Diego’s **Landscape Watering Calculator** gives you that, and more. Take less than 10 minutes on the computer to create your own customized schedule, tailored to your precise set of variables: zip code, soil types, plant types, sprinkler types, etc. Click on: <http://apps.sandiego.gov/landcalc/start.do>.

Do you live outside of San Diego? Another great site (for areas within California not covered by the San Diego Calculator) is <http://www.wateright.org/homeschedule.asp>, by the **Center for Irrigation Technology** at California State University, Fresno. This utilizes the CIMIS weather stations throughout California to customize watering schedules to local conditions.

Do take a few minutes to visit one of these excellent sites. You may be surprised how “recommended” watering run times vary from what you’re currently running! Fortunately, the Calculator is simple, intuitive, and includes pop-up answers to most common questions. You may find that your lawn needs 44 minutes per week in the summer, but only 15 minutes per week in winter. This is typical. Winter watering requirements are only 25-40% of summer, and since we get rainfall in the fall thru spring seasons, there will be weeks or months where you should turn off your irrigation controller completely.

When we design a new landscape irrigation system, our first issue is determining the microclimates/microenvironments for each area surrounding the home. Almost all homes have several completely distinct areas, each with vastly different watering requirements due to soil, temperature, lighting, exposure, and plant types. A general rule is each unique area gets a separate irrigation control valve. This allows more precise programming, ultimately using much less water.

Recent developments have given us Smart irrigation timers that do this seasonal, weather-based adjusting automatically, as well as micro-irrigation and sub-surface (drip), all of which help stretch our water usage. The old, flat metal lawn sprinkler head is a relic of times past, when water was almost too cheap to meter. Today’s MP Rotator nozzles and XPCN micro spray nozzles allow us to control and apply precious water more evenly, efficiently, and with less runoff waste.

Mandatory San Diego water restrictions are within view. Let’s make sure each of us is doing our best to conserve.

Member Will Johnson, a C27 landscape contractor, lives with his family in Kensington. His company, SECO Landscapes, an SDHS sponsor, specializes in complete outdoor living/landscape installation, water gardens, night lighting and irrigation management. Will welcomes your comments/questions at info@secolandscapes.com. ☞

Tearless Onions: Coming Up Soon

By Carl Price and Ellen Reardon

We all know the hazards of chopping onions: a few cuts, and we begin to cry. The cause of our tearing is not so widely known. It starts with iso-alliin, a member of the alliin¹ family of substances that occur widely among members of the genus *Allium*.² The alliin family are sulfur-containing substances related to the amino acid cysteine. They occur within the plant cytoplasm.

When the cell walls of the onion are broken, as happens on your cutting board, the iso-alliin is suddenly mixed with alliinase, an enzyme that is normally enclosed in the vacuole. The iso-alliin is then converted to a smaller molecule, l-propenyl-sulfenic acid. Actually, a variety of substances are produced when tissues of onion, garlic, chive, or leek are smashed and alliin or its cousins are digested by alliinase, and these substances are responsible for the characteristic flavors of these foods.

With onion, however, something special happens: Another enzyme, known as *lachrymatory-factor synthase*,³ and discovered only recently, tweaks the l-propenyl-sulfenic acid to produce propanethial S-oxide. When this volatile material finds its way to the eye, it reacts with water in the eye to produce sulfuric acid, and—sob! sob!—we break down in tears.

Tearless onions?

After the gene encoding lachrymatory-factor synthase was isolated, a group in New Zealand launched a project to inactivate the gene in onions. They employed a class of substances known as RNA_i or interfering RNA. In the normal expression of most genes, the DNA is transcribed into a messenger RNA, which then gets translated into the gene product, a protein. Interfering RNAs combine with the transcript, the messenger RNA, tying it up so that it can’t be translated. Interfering RNAs are specific for each gene.

The New Zealand group succeeded in introducing an RNA into an onion and found that the transformed onions did not produce any lachrymatory-factor synthase. Moreover, when the transformed onions were crushed in the laboratory, no one broke into tears!

Colin Eady, the leader of the group, points out that the single genetic change achieved in the transformed onions turned off the production of the lachrymatory factor, but the increased amounts of its precursor, l-propenyl-sulfenic acid, would then become “available for redirection into compounds, some of which are known for their flavour and health properties.” The consequences of these changes will need to be identified before tearless onions can be released. Eady estimates they will be on the market “within reach of customers within a decade.”

¹Alliin was originally isolated from garlic; the molecule in onion differs slightly from that in garlic and is called iso-alliin.

²The genus *Allium* (Latin = garlic) of which garlic (*A. sativum*), onion (*A. cepa*), and chive (*A. schoenoprasum*) are familiar items in the kitchen, but the genus also includes many ornamentals, such as Star of Persia (*A. cristophii*).

³*Lachrymatory-factor synthase* (Latin: *lachrymatory* = tear bottle, from *lacrima* = a tear).

Members Carl Price and Ellen Reardon are retired from Rutgers University, where they conducted research on the molecular biology of plastids and served as editors of journals in their field. ☞

Welcome New Members!

We now have over 1300 members! Hope to see all of you at upcoming meetings. We encourage you to become active participants and share in the fun; to volunteer see page 4 and below. A warm hello to the following folks who have joined recently:

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Jill Morganelli

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Kudos to the members below who brought in new members and therefore received Hort Bucks worth \$5 towards raffle tickets, name-tags, *Plant Forum* CDs or dues. To get **your** Hort Bucks just ask your friends to give your name when they join. The number after the person's name indicates how many members they recruited in 2008:

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What's Up at Quail Botanical Gardens?

THE POINSETTIA GARDEN

In celebration of the holiday season, the Walled Garden at Quail Botanical Gardens will be transformed into the Poinsettia Garden during the month of December. A sea of poinsettias will be placed at different levels in this charming, enclosed garden so that the visitor can experience the impact of this horticultural marvel, which has become a universal symbol of the holiday season thanks to the efforts of the Ecke Family. In recognition of the Ecke Family's contribution to horticulture, an exhibit about the poinsettia and its journey to stardom will be created in the Larabee House, which is adjacent to the Walled Garden/Poinsettia Garden.

The earliest reference to the poinsettia is by the Aztecs who called it "Cuitlaxochitl." During the 14th to 16th centuries they used the sap to control fevers and the bracts (modified leaves) to make a reddish dye. The German botanist, Wilenow, gave the plant its botanical name. Dazzled by the color of the bracts, which grew through a crack in his greenhouse, he called it *Euphorbia pulcherrima*, meaning "very beautiful."

The plant was introduced into the United States in 1828 when Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first US Ambassador to Mexico, found a beautiful shrub with large red "flowers" (actually bracts) growing by the side of the road in Mexico's countryside. He brought cuttings back to his greenhouse in South Carolina. His discovery was detailed in *Conquest of Mexico*, a book by historian and horticulturist William Prescott, who called the plant "Poinsettia" in honor of Joel Poinsett.

But it was the Ecke Family of Encinitas that made the poinsettia truly popular, growing it as a landscape plant and cut flower in the early 1900s and then in greenhouses, where much hybridizing took place.

Be sure to visit the Poinsettia Garden, which is surely to be the star at this year's Garden of Lights, which runs December 11 – 23 and 26 – 30 (see back cover for details). You can also rent the space for an afternoon and stay on to enjoy Garden of Lights. For more information call 760/ 436-3036 x206 or visit www.qbgardens.org.

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Book Review

Gods and Goddesses in the Garden: Greco-Roman Mythology and the Scientific Names of Plants

By Peter Bernhardt

and

The Story of the Root-Children

By Sibylle von Olfers

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh

Educated people in our society are no longer expected to be versed in classical Greek and Latin. *Gods and Goddesses in the Garden* almost makes you nostalgic for the days when they were. Peter Bernhardt has written an interesting book on taxonomy. That may sound like an oxymoron to some, but take my word for it. Bernhardt is clearly an educated man, and he knows his Greek and Latin. He's a professor of botany at St. Louis University. He loves the field of taxonomy. He shares his love with us in this delightful and interesting book.

The book starts with a general history of taxonomy in which he explains the system the Linnaeus inherited and expanded. We learn why so many plant genus names reference the gods and goddesses of antiquity. He then leads us through a summary of the Greek and Roman myths and the plant genus names derived from them.

Does this sound dry and boring? Not if you love words and plants. It's fascinating to see the interrelationships between the words and the plants they represent.

Some modern scientists, enamored with technology, suggest that a code system be developed to replace the Linnaean binomial. It would perhaps be more exact, but Bernhardt argues that we would lose something valuable, useful, and beautiful and replace it with a system so complex that it could only be managed with a computer. Few people could manage to retain many plant code names in memory.

Following Bernhardt's style of letting one thought lead to another, his book reminded me of another equally interesting, if much simpler one. I'm referring to *The Story of the Root Children* by Sibylle von Olfers. This wonderful children's book was first published in Germany in 1906. It tells the story of Mother Earth – Ge or Gaia in Bernhardt's book – who wakes her children in the spring and sends them out to populate the world with plants, flowers, and insects. Ge/Gaia is the first and oldest of the goddesses. We would call her Mother Nature. And, yes, it's the Ge in word "geology" and in the names of as many as twenty plant genera.

I don't go back quite to 1906, but this is one of the loved books of my childhood. I was delighted when I found a copy to give to my granddaughters (when I can bear to give it up). It's good to read aloud and would be suitable for a boy or girl learning to read. It's listed as being for four- to eight-year olds. It would make a good holiday gift.

Gods and Goddesses in the Garden (ISBN 0-8135-4266-9) is hardbound, 239 pages, with a good glossary, index, and bibliography. It sells for \$24.95.

The Story of the Root-Children (ISBN 0-86315-106-x) is hard bound and listed at \$17.95, although I found it on Amazon.com for \$12.21 plus shipping. ☺

Community Outreach

VETERANS VILLAGE: SOOTHING SURROUNDINGS FOR SAN DIEGO'S HOMELESS VETERANS

By Linda Johnson

Providing numerous services for homeless veterans, the Veterans Village of San Diego (VVSD) is undergoing additional expansion as they strive to meet growing demands in our community, and to be a state of the art center for co-ed veterans programs. Located on Pacific Coast Highway (across from Walter Andersen Nursery, whom we thank for bringing this to our attention), the property is bordered by colorful, low water use groundcover, grasses and trees. Bright yellow lantana surrounds the perimeter, accented by waving mass plantings of clumping grasses. Foundation plantings include Indian Hawthorne contrasted against bamboo 'Alphonse Karr' that screen utilities. Red Flax and *Salvia leucantha* provide additional color throughout the perimeter. An engineered swale redirects runoff in this notoriously poor-draining area, fitting in well with the plantings. Queen palms and elms provide nicely contrasting seasonal colors.

Inside the Village is the recently completed Paul Nenner Memorial courtyard, dedicated on Veteran's Day 2008. Among brick pavers that accent a water-wise design, several areas will create a memorial garden to remember and honor current and deceased veterans of the United States Military Services. Memorial bricks may be purchased and inscribed to commemorate a loved one, or to provide a message of hope for the residents of the Village. These memorial bricks will be integrated with the landscaping, and will provide an atmosphere to help residents focus on the decisions they have made to seek a new life.

Also featured are: a meditation garden nestled among the seating areas, planters, gazebos, and walkways. A soothing respite is provided with well-placed boulder/seats, shade, and a water fountain.

Jim Hickman, VP/Facilities Manager, envisioned this relaxing area for residents, guests and also for hosting special events. His involvement in the Village began many years ago as a resident, and his enduring passion for providing homeless veterans with an opportunity for a new direction in life is evident. Jim proudly describes the many services of the Village, including transitional housing, meals, fellowship, substance-abuse treatment, mental health treatment, primary healthcare, job training/placement, and, ultimately a path back to being a productive member of the community.

As part of a ten-year overall facility plan begun in 2000 to increase capacity of the Village, the landscaping was designed by Nowell & Associates. It was installed by former resident Ross Chambers and his landscaping firm, Proscap. Residents also performed some of the work, led by the tireless Jim Hickman.

To obtain additional information about the programs of the Veterans Village of San Diego, or to make a contribution, please call (619) 497-0142, or visit www.vvsd.net.

The VVSD relies on grants and donations to keep their programs running successfully. *And, as the holidays approach, please keep in mind their many needs: clothing, socks, underwear, toiletries, blankets, towels, department store gift cards, wrapped candies, and children's gifts.* ☺



So You've Taken Out All the Grass. Now What?

By Sally Sandler

It's a big step, removing your lawn. All that rolling, soft green expanse of turf that defined our properties for decades, and which is in reality a plant best adapted to marshes. It's a wise decision that's becoming increasingly popular and necessary for water and environmental conservation. And it will probably save you time and labor in the long run. But where do you go from here? What tools do you need in order to approach your landscape designer or gardener intelligently, in an informed and educated way? The tips below, gathered from some of the best designers and horticulturists in San Diego, can guide you in this journey and may help you relax and have fun along the way.

1) Consider some basic landscape design concepts

Create areas of elevation:

You can do this with your own shovel. After the grass is gone, dig up and move some earth around and pile it into some "S" or "C" shaped berms raised about two to four feet high. (Err on the high side here, since the soil will settle and sink somewhat after watering.) Shape the mounds so that they have some curve from one to the next to create movement in the garden. Your results will be immediate. The yard will automatically take on a designer look and appear much more natural to boot. What's more, the spaces in between the elevated areas create new, curving, natural looking paths which can be lined with pavers, stone, decomposed granite, or steppable groundcover.

Add boulders:

Boulders are expensive, but oh so permanent, and well worth the expense long after the price has been forgotten. Three or more well-placed boulders instantly "ground" your landscape in ways that nothing else will. They take up space that does not need to be planted, watered, fertilized, or tended. They provide a gorgeous backdrop for all the things you *will* be planting. Boulders create landing pads for wildlife like butterflies, lizards, and birds, and add spaces on which people can sit and children can climb. Shop at your local rock and stone retailer, and remember that the staff members who deliver the boulders are experienced designers themselves. They know how to place the boulders so you don't need to worry about that.

If not boulders, consider large pots:

A few large ceramic pots—even left empty and unplanted as objects of art—add mass, bulk, and color, and are often less expensive stand-ins for boulders.

Purchase plants in odd—not even—numbers:

Look for your favorite plants and purchase no less than three, preferably five to seven or more, depending on size. Remember that nature doesn't grow in even numbers. Those even-numbered plantings are reserved for very formal linear type landscapes, such as on either side of a fancy formal entrance. In addition, purchase singles of a plant only when that plant is a knock-out, on the larger size, and will be what's known as a "specimen plant" or a design focal point in your landscape.

Choose a color scheme:

Do you lean toward cool colors—like blue, purple, burgundy

and silver? Or are you a warm colors person—preferring red, yellow, orange, and brown? Either way, settle on three colors for your garden from one of those temperature schemes, and repeat them in various combinations. You can add one color from the opposite scheme to punch up the effect. This is a tried and true color gardening method, which of course can be shaken up into shocking color schemes if you choose to take a little risk and break the time-honored rules.

Aim for repetition:

Limit the varieties of plants and repeat species and combinations to bring order to variety's chaos. Repeat a certain species in several places to multiply its effect and unify the planting. You can also repeat plant combinations.

Pay attention to scale:

To see all the plants in a border, it's generally most effective to place the tallest at the back, medium-sized in the middle, and short ones in front. However, a bold architectural plant placed toward the front of a garden bed makes a strong focal point.

2) Preview some local water thrifty gardens

Visit these nearby water thrifty public gardens to see what plants and colors you like best. Take a pen and paper with you. Pick up their flyers. Ask for their information about watering, types of sprinklers, frequency, etc.

Quail Botanical Gardens, www.qbgardens.org. Ask for the list and map of water-thrifty garden areas at Quail. They include: California Gardenscapes (California natives); the Landscaping for Fire Safety Garden; the South American Garden; many portions of the Mediterranean Garden; the South African Garden; and the succulent Undersea Garden.

The Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College, www.thegarden.org.

3) Install water saving irrigation devices

Consult the Internet and the Water Conservation Garden for the latest information on water efficient automatic irrigation systems. This way you can arm yourself with information and prices to make the best decisions if you are a do-it-yourselfer, or to oversee your irrigation specialist's plans. Go to www.bewaterwise.com for ideas.

4) Shop for California friendly plants

It is not necessary to purchase California natives unless you are committed to that concept. Natives are actually pretty particular about watering and soil requirements and frequently call for an expert consultant or considerable research on your part in order to succeed. Choosing California friendly plants, on the other hand, is a smart transition that broadens the plant palette to also include those from the Mediterranean basin and the Mediterranean-climate areas of South Africa, Chile, Australia, Mexico, and New Zealand.

Log on to the Metropolitan Water District's website at www.bewaterwise.com for their master list. This plant list includes

Continued on page 13

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DECEMBER NIGHTS CHRISTMAS TREE DISPLAY

Please visit Balboa Park this December 5th and 6th to enjoy December Nights and San Diego Floral Association's 36th annual Christmas Tree Display. It's their gift to the community.

This year's theme is "Festival of Trees – Decorating with Nature's Gifts." Bring your friends and family and see how local garden clubs, plant societies, florists and nurseries decorate trees using natural accents. Also, see stunning floral designs by the San Diego Floral Association Floral Guild. Traditional gingerbread cookies and beautiful protea will be offered for sale.

Admission is free. Come see the display December 5th from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and December 6th from 3:00 pm to 10:00 p.m. For more information, call the SDFA office at (619) 232-5762 or visit the Balboa Park December Nights website www.balboapark.org/decemberevents.

THANKS FROM THE EDITOR

By Susi Torre-Bueno

Every month members tell me how much they get out of our newsletter, which we consider to be one of our biggest member benefits. In fact, many people join just to get the newsletter and never even come to meetings! It would be impossible to bring this high quality publication to you each month without the help of many volunteers, and each December it's my great pleasure to be able to thank them here. The members below contributed articles, plant descriptions, photos, or monthly columns. Some help with preparing your newsletter for the mail.

I'd like to especially thank the following contributors with monthly or on-going columns in 2008: Linda Bresler, Steve Brigham, Sharon Corrigan, Sandi Feiock (calendar), Richard Frost, Will Johnson, Alice Lowe, Caroline McCullagh, Christy Powell, Carl Price and Ellen Reardon, Trudy Thompson (proofreading), and Ava Torre-Bueno. Special thanks to Cheryl Leedom for taking photos at our meetings. Many thanks to all the folks who supplied comments for the Sharing Secrets column. Catherine Swan brings up to 1000 copies of the newsletter to the post office each month – a hefty feat indeed! Also, I couldn't do the newsletter without Rachel Cobb, our graphics editor, who goes the extra mile each month to produce a beautiful issue. My most sincere thanks and a big (hug) to each of you. I've enjoyed working with you and look forward to your continued participation!

Mailing Crew:

Louise Anderson, Joyce Berry, Susan D'Vincent, Doris Engberg, Linda Freithaler, Tina Kratz, Marianne Light, Susan Morse, Mo Price, Victoria Schaffer, Diane Scharar, Janet Smith, Catherine Swan, Evelyn Torre-Bueno, Cathy Tylka, and Sandy Wiksten.

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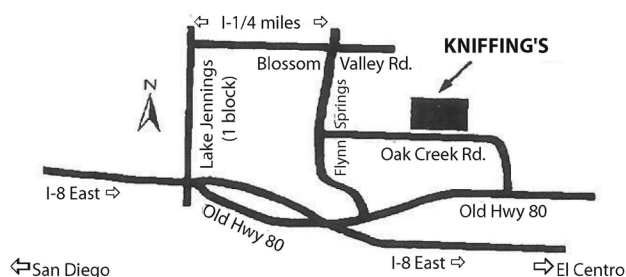
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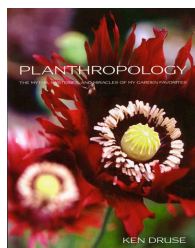
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Book Review



PLANTHROPOLOGY

By Ken Druse

Review by Susi Torre-Bueno

Sumptuous photography by author Ken Druse (who was our May speaker) is just one reason to purchase this beautiful book. Druse is a fine writer, and the subtitle of this book, *The Myths, Mysteries, and Miracles of my Garden Favorites*, neatly sums up the contents. It's a great read, full of stores about plant hunters, tips for growing plants outside their comfort zones, and fascinating details about plant morphology (the female flowers on some plants encourage cross-pollination by actually rejecting their own pollen). There's such nuggets as a Medieval recipe for making ink from oak galls, eggshells and rainwater; and a section devoted to the importance of flowers in art. You could open this book anywhere and be enchanted to read about how the *fleur-de-lis* became associated with France or how a geographer killed the oldest living thing on earth while trying to count tree rings. I highly recommend it for anyone with a curiosity about the natural world or a love of plants. 🌿

Taken Out Grass Continued from page 11

exactly 1,191 specimens, among them coral and chaste trees, crepe myrtle and pines, rosemary, butterfly bush, sages and thymes, aloes and mallows, coneflower, cycads, cordyline, yarrow, germander, lavender, bulbine, phormiums, pittosporum, penstemons, ornamental grasses, echeverria and succulents, geraniums, daylilies, coreopsis, kangaroo paw, and...well, you get the idea.

Begin by picking out your favorites based on color, form, texture, nostalgia, or just plain whimsy. When you shop, take some cuttings of plants you already have in your landscape that you plan to keep, and hold them up to the new selections to see how they compliment or contrast with one another, just like holding up a tie to a new dress shirt. Purchase just a few different plants at a time; later you can add more as your confidence builds.

Share these ideas with your landscaper, nurseryman, and/or gardener. Most of the plants on the list above are readily available at your local nursery or discount store, and/or by asking your nurseryman to special order them. Avoid purchasing from wholesale growers unless you are absolutely certain of the genus, species and variety of the plants you are buying. Since many of their plants are not labeled, it's easy to make mistakes that you'll wind up regretting down the road.

5) Last of all: Mulch, mulch, mulch

This is the single best thing you can do for your San Diego garden after planting, to save water, keep moisture locked in the ground, reduce weeds, improve soil composition and enhance the finished appearance. Use bark, pine needles, or leaves, and drop the mulch by pitchforks full into your beds in small pillows of three inches depth or more, forming what resembles a sort of earthen down comforter. Your plants will love you, the earthworms will rejoice, and you'll find that mulching your beds is a win-win situation.

Member Sally Sandler is a docent at Quail Botanical Gardens and a member of the Board of Directors of the San Diego Horticultural Society. She can be reached at (858) 481-3442, or ssandler@sanrr.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.

The question for this month was:

What special thing do you do when planting a new plant?

Connie Beck plans ahead: "I dig my holes well ahead of time and then fill and refill them with water several times to check drainage and to build a water reservoir in the soil. After planting I use LOTS of water - probably ten times what one might think - to settle the plants into their new homes. Then I hook up the drip tube and put some mulch down and they are good to grow."

Joe Boldt says, "I like to toast it with a nice cabernet."

Carol Bratton will pamper a new plant: "I give it the spa treatment: soak the rootball and gently massage it. I've already watered the hole a couple of times and let it drain. This works for us in our merciless DG."

Joy Brinker feeds new plants: "I put half a cup of GroPower in the planting hole with all new plants. They seem to like it."

Julie Ann Callis has clay soil: "I have had clay soil in most of my yards, so the operative words for all planting holes were 'deeper wider and bring on the mulch.' My husband will attest to the truth that these words have been repeated often!"

Linda Chisari protects new seedlings: "Here's a tip I use when I plan seeds or transplant tiny seedling into my vegetable garden: I save those green plastic mesh strawberry containers and attach them to each other with twist-ties to make row covers...in my case, 8' long. Then I buy inexpensive wooden chopsticks and poke one through a hole in a basket and into the ground every 18" or so. This protects the young plants from the birds (who especially like bean seedlings!) and my golden retriever, Happy (who is less discriminating!) until they grow big enough to survive without protection. You should remove the protective containers when the plants begin to touch the baskets - otherwise they wind up with broken necks."

Constanze Christopher loves worm castings: "The special thing I do is always use worm castings with each planting of a new plant, no matter if it is a succulent, native or any other kind of plant, and always have great success with no plant deaths. In addition, it is crucial to water the plants very well immediately after they have been planted. The worm castings can have a good effect on preventing plants from getting aphids, spider mites, and whiteflies, but in my customers' gardens they are definitely a low number."

Cielo Foth takes her time before putting a plant in the ground: "Before I plant a new plant, especially a fruit tree, I do my own experiment to match the plant and its suitable location. First, I stage it at the specific spot where I plan to plant it. The plant in its pot will stay in that location between 2 to 3 weeks, where it gets its normal watering. During this time, my dog also gets introduced to the new plant in the garden. This also gives me time to visualize what the new plant will look like when it's full grown around the other plants (trees). If the plant seems 'happy' and gets along with the other plants near it, then that location becomes its new home. I think planting a fruit tree is an investment in my garden, so I make sure it will be in its permanent home."

Charlotte Getz says, "The important things for me when planting a new plant are choosing the best location understanding the sun vs. shade needs, making sure the plant is watered until it is planted, and loosening the root ball to remove any compacted roots before planting."

Kevin Grangetto gets his plants off to a good start: "I try to dig a hole 2x as wide and deep as the root ball and depending on the soil texture I sometimes will amend the backfill and plant. Once I plant I try to create a well to hold the water and then set up my irrigation to care for the plant in the long term. I like to water the plant in by incorporating Superthrive in my watering can and it seems to help for transplant shock and gives the rootball some needed nutrients."

Charlotte Gresham plants with "my special mix of components, depending upon the soil, location, and plant. I mostly use three handfuls of worm castings, three handfuls of Kellogg's Outdoor Planting mix, or compost from Hydro-Scape. Water well and tell the plant how happy it will be out of the pot and into the ground. Then watch the plant closely for the first two weeks."

Myrna Hines uses a fish: "When planting a tree, I throw a fish into the bottom of the hole. (It worked for the Pilgrim's Indians planting corn.) Those I have done that for have thrived. Without it, they struggle."

Karen Hoffman babies her babies: "With every new plant, whether a cactus or fern, they get a handful or 1/2 a cup of organic fertilizer, Dr. Earth, Whitney Farms, mixed with compost of some kind and topped with mulch. Maybe the cactus is not topped with a lot of mulch, but something to hold moisture. I live in hot hot hot El Cajon."

Al Horowitz makes a shelter for new plants: "After planting a new plant, I enclose it completely in a large, clear plastic container and shield it from the sun with a large, perforated plastic tray about 16 x16 inches (the kind of flat perforated tray you get from a store like Home Depot for groundcovers.) I check over the next 3 to 5 days to see if the plant has recovered by tapping a leaf – if it springs back and forth crisply, I remove the plastic container, but leave the tray in place for a few more days. And that should do it, hopefully."

Janice Johnson says, "We have heard so much about amending the soil when we plant something new. Lately, I have started not adding amendments, thus letting the plant acclimate to the natural soil. I have heard that some roots will grow to the amended soil and stop when they hit the regular soil. I also use a mild fertilizer to feed the young plant and allow it acclimate to the natural soil. I always use mulch around my plants. In the past I had not always paid attention to the sun and shade requirements of a plant. I just figured that it will grow. No! Pay attention to the requirements and you will have a much healthier plant."

Cheryl Leedom was wriggly helpers: "I always add worm castings (Worm Gold Plus) to the planting hole. I mix in about a cup for a one gallon plant. It gives the roots a chance to get going, releasing nutrients as needed, and doesn't burn the plant. I love the stuff!"

Terri Maguire has two secrets to share: "(1) Whenever you plant a new bougainvillea, I learned a long time ago that their root systems are very intolerant of transplanting stress. Therefore, I leave them in their plastic pots but I trim the pot down about 1/3 and also open the bottom holes quite a bit larger. Results? No root stress and the roots have plenty of space to spread out at top and bottom. (2) I

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Continued on page 16

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Sharing Secrets Continued from page 15

always use Gro Power 3-12-12 whenever I plant new plants. It's a great starter food."

Cindy McNatt doesn't fuss too much with new plants: "I just plunk my plants in the ground, water them in and hope for the best like everybody else. If the roots are going round in the pot, I'll unwind them, but that's about it."

Anne Murphy does her homework before planting: "For a plant that is new for me, I do my best to learn what is recommended for the plant in my gardening zone: what type of soil, what sort of sun/shade and for how many hours, and how much water is recommended and how often. First, however, I select a plant that has a good chance of succeeding in my garden situation."

Taylor Murphy invokes the Earth Goddess: "Pray to Gaia that my new acquisition, that I know good and well may not grow here but I saw on my vacation, and-I-just-got-to-have-it, grows here."

Al Myrick uses soil prep and a special song: "First, I leave it in the pot a while and move it around until I think the newby likes where it has told me to finally to put it. Then, like a good gardener, I soak the rootball in the pot, remove it gently from the pot, fill the hole up twice, mix the old hole-soil with just a little compost or appropriate soil-mix. I then plant the new guy so that the crown of the plant is slightly above the new fill surface, slowly feeding the mix around the root ball. Then, I water and press firmly and water again! I *don't use fertilizer until i see that it is taking to its new habitat* (and when I feed it I use very weak stuff like fish emulsion [3-2-2] or a little of Liz Youngflesh's secret Apex mix, or nothing). After it is established, I feed (sometimes) and water it as needed, and about every other day or so I smile at it and sing my secret Cherokee plant-growing song to it: '*mahakooway, kotayo, waa a tonna.*' That usually does the job."

Jackie Ravel suggests careful planting: "Make sure you know the simple basic needs. Light, water, spacing between plants, dig hole big enough for plant, give it extra help with fertilizer mixed into the bottom soil (maybe even growth hormone), take plant out of original packing materials and aerate the roots if necessary, pack the soil around properly and add sufficient water to get the new plant started properly."

Julie Rosaler says she likes to "water slowly, deeply and (oh, no!) often."

Diane Scharar has another water tip: "If I plant a new plant in a spot that is dry and needs an emitter installed, because there had not been irrigation to that spot, I let the hose drip into the well around the plant for as much as 24 hours to be sure the surrounding soil is really moist. It makes a big difference in the survival rate for transplants."

Janice Spooner says, "add cotton seed meal when planting and two times a year. It is organic and microbes love it. The main reason is to bring the PH down to a normal level, and make the soil more acid than alkaline. The soil and the water are alkaline in most of this area."

Lois Walag loves compost: "It's really no secret but the more compost the better! At our house we have a HUGE compost pile and the real trick is keeping it constantly supplied. We keep a container on the kitchen counter next to the sink that we put all

our trimmings, anything organic, in every day. Any plastic bucket like a quart yogurt container will do. Coffee grounds help acidify and eggshells add calcium to the mix. One year we decided to move the location of the compost pile and later that season we had volunteer veggies that came up where the former pile had been. The tomatoes and pumpkins looked like they were on steroids! Despite the size of the compost pile, I really put very little effort into it other than a weekly watering when the weather is dry and an occasional stirring."

Lucy Warren believes in tough love: "I dig a hole, plant it, give it a good stare and say in a serious voice, 'Okay, live or die.'"

Linda Whitney is another one who adds lots of water to start: "Since I have a very drought tolerant garden the soil is often very dry. So, after digging a hole for the new kid, I always fill it up with water and let it drain two times. I handle the newbie very gently, and give it a lecture about my expectations regarding the role it has to fill! I'm not sure how affective the lecture is, but the garden seems to be holding its own and meeting my standards!"

Marilyn Wilson says, "When planting a new plant, I make myself a sign and place it on the floor near the back door. It says 'water new plant.' I always water when I put the plant in, and then I water an hour later. And I water two more times the next day. Depending on the weather, I may water daily or every other day for the next week."

George Yackey puts plant "insurance" into planting holes: "After digging the hole, I put a handful of Ocmocote or other timed release fertilizer in the bottom (SulPoMag for bulbs), then put in the plant as usual. I think this draws the roots down, and I'm covered if I forget to fertilize for a while!"

Stephen Zolezzi starts out kneeling to dig and says: "Since I am already on my knees - I pray that the plant will survive the Apocalypse of the Garden Gnomes! Be prepared for failure but never accept it-never give in to the concrete and plastic devils. Preparing the soil is tops on my list! Lots of organic material, well-composted along with John and Bob's, Dr. Earth and follow up with Compost Tea. If the mycorrhizae are not in the soil to begin with it's a downhill battle every step of the way to having plants that don't just grow but prosper. And prosper without the use of chemicals. Amen!"

The question for next month is:

What is one thing you plan to add to your garden in 2009, and why?

Please send your e-mail reply by December 5 to info@sdhortsoc.org.



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November Plant Forum

By Susi Torre-Bueno and Cathy Tylka

What is the Plant Forum?

Each month members bring in plants, cuttings or flowers and one of our horticulturists talks about them. What a great way to learn how these plants perform. All plants are welcome – EVERYONE is invited to participate. We encourage you to write descriptions similar to those below, and put them with the plant on the Plant Forum tables. Any questions, call Susi at (760) 295-7089.

Aloe parvula (Aloaceae) Madagascar

A small aloe (to about 8" wide) with coral flowers; dormant in winter. Good in pots so it doesn't get overlooked in the landscape. Grow it in full sun to light shade; in more sun the leaves get a fascinating bluish-violet tint. (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 11/08) – S.T-B.

***Lavandula multifida* hybrid** FERN-LEAF LAVENDER

(Lamiaceae) Horticultural Hybrid

From a 4" plant in Feb. 2008 this plant is now about 3'tall x 4'wide. Unfortunately, it lacks the wonderful lavender scent of many of this genus. Has a loose, open look in the garden with long wands of violet-blue flowers held well above the foliage. Purchased as *Lavandula multifida*, this specimen is probably *L. multifida* var. *canariense*, based on the following description from the website for San Marcos Growers: "This is an open shrub to about 3' x 5', with deeply lobed gray-green leaves (lacking the coarse hairs of the *L. multifida*). Tall spikes, 12" to 20" long, bear rich blue-violet 2 - 3 pronged pitchfork blooms Spring through Fall. This plant has been circulating through the nursery trade for many years under many different names. It is the most common of the *Pterostachys* type Lavenders. Hardy to about 24° F." (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 11/10/08) – S.T-B.

Plumbago auriculata CAPE LEADWORT (Plumbaginaceae)

South Africa

The cool blue flowers of plumbago appear on a plant that is very drought-tolerant, sometimes seen growing on abandoned properties and wild on hillsides. Growing best in full sun, this evergreen climbing shrub can be propagated from semi-ripe cuttings in summer; also makes suckers where it touches the ground. Can grow to at least 9-15' tall and wide, so allow sufficient room. Takes pruning well and flowers on new wood. Plant thoughtfully, as it can be very difficult to remove. The sticky flowers will attach themselves to your clothes, skin and your pets, so don't put too close to paths or doors. (Cathy Tylka, Escondido, 11/08) – C.T. & S.T-B.

Punica granatum POMEGRANATE (Punicaceae) Asia

(Iran to Himalayas)

Pomegranate is easily grown as a shrub or small tree (to about 15' tall and wide), depending on pruning and care. It is winter-deciduous and drought-tolerant, and over 100 forms are available with fruit colors ranging from near white to deep crimson. The species bears brilliant orange flowers most of the summer; with the globular fruit appearing in the fall. Does best in full sun and well-drained soil, and can be propagated from semi-ripe cuttings in mid- to late summer). Pomegranates were grown by ancient Egyptians and found in Bronze Age tombs, and have long been popular in the Middle East and Asia and widely cultivated in Mediterranean climates. The edible fruit has a

November Plant Forum

leathery skin, and we eat the arils (seed casings), which can be eaten whole or made into juice. The fruit is high in vitamin C, and a good source of vitamin B5, too. The plant tolerates temperatures as low as 14°F. (Cathy Tylka, Escondido, 11/08) – C.T. & S.T-B.

Our November meeting included plants from all over the world, including some fascinating bonsai – thanks to everyone who participated. Michael Buckner did a terrific job describing them all. In addition to the plants described above, those below were also displayed.

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

Can you spot the phony plant this month? The phony plant in the November newsletter was *Haemanthus bedtimefloss*, TOOTHBRUSH.

Aloe aristata 'Tegelberg's Triumph' (Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 11/08)

3 *Bocconia frutescens* TREE POPPY, TREE CELANDINE
(Ruth Sewell, San Diego, 11/08)

Centratherum punctatum BRAZILIAN BACHELOR'S BUTTON,
BRAZILIAN BUTTON FLOWER
(Jackie McGee, San Marcos, 11/08)

Crassula ovata 'Hummel's Sunset' JADE PLANT
(Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 11/08)

3 *Crassula perfoliata* PROPELLER PLANT, AIRPLANE PLANT
(Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 11/08)

Cyphostemma elephantopus
(Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 11/08)

Dorstenia gigas SOCOTRAN FIG TREE
(Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 11/08)

Echeveria angustifolia (bonsai form) (Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 11/08)

Epiphyllum phyllanthus ssp. *phyllanthus* (monstrose form)
(Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 11/08)

Euphorbia flanaganii (Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 11/08)

3 *Euphorbia milii* (dwarf red) CROWN OF THORNS
(Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 11/08)

Euryops pectinatus (bonsai form) (Phil Tackill, Solana Beach, 11/08)

3 *Gladiolus dalenii* (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 11/08)

3 *Leonotis leonurus* (white form) LION'S TAIL
(Sheila Busch, Escondido, 11/08)

3 *Leonotis leopardus* (white form) LEOPARD'S TAIL
(African Bush, Escondido, 11/08)

3 *Malvaviscus arboreus* var. *mexicanus* TURK'S CAP
(Louise Anderson, San Marcos, 11/08)

Massonia pustulata (Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 11/08)

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November Plant Forum

- Mestoklema tuberosum* (Tom Biggart, El Cajon, 11/08)
 3 *Montanoa grandiflora* GIANT TREE DAISY
 (Tom Biggart, El Cajon, 11/08)
Pachypodium lealii ssp. *lealii*
 (Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 11/08)
Pilea cadieri ALUMINUM PLANT (Cathy Tylka, Escondido, 11/08)
Portulacaria afra variegata (bonsai form)
 (Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 11/08)
Pseudolithos cubiformis x *migiurtinus*
 (Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 11/08)
 3 *Pycnostachys urticifolia* PORCUPINE SALVIA, WITCH'S HAT
 (Kara Calderon, Vista, 11/08)
Salvia mexicana, Russell Form (Tom Piergrossi, Vista, 11/08)
 3 *Zamia furfuracea* (bonsai form) CARDBOARD PALM
 (Michael & Joyce Buckner, National City, 11/08)

HOW TO READ THE PLANT FORUM ENTRIES

- [1] *Pastryus dulcis* [2] '**Cheerio**' [3] DONUT PLANT ([4] Pastryaceae)
 [5] 7-Eleven to Vons [6] This fast-growing annual produces copious quantities
 of distinctive edible fruit that is circular in shape with a central hole. The fruit
 resembles a donut, from which the common name derives. Provide ample
 moisture. ([7] Betty Crocker, San Diego, 5/96) — [8] K.M.
 [1] Latin name (*Pastryus dulcis*); **bold** names indicate plants with full descriptions.
 [2] Cultivar ['Cheerio']
 [3] Common Name [DONUT PLANT]
 [4] Family [Pastryaceae]
 [5] Distribution [7-Eleven to Vons]
 [6] Description, comments, cultural directions [This fast-growing...]
 [7] Name and city of member, date plant displayed [Betty Crocker, San Diego, 5/96]
 [8] Initials of person who wrote description [K.M.]

Bring a plant from your garden to show off at the December Plant Forum!

Ingrid Rose Continued from page 5

here are so strikingly different from England: the lushness, the deep greens, and the emphasis on foliage. Those images stayed with Ingrid as she explored the palette of Mediterranean climate plants that she knew were more appropriate for our region.

In summer of 2007, Ingrid was diagnosed with advanced cancer. After an initial surgery, she was determined to conquer the disease. For a while, it seemed that she had succeeded. Ingrid attended Hort Society meetings and garden events throughout last spring. While she appeared a bit slimmer than usual and wore a hat to cover her thinning hair, Ingrid was astonishingly vibrant and as present as ever. She even took a trip to Italy to study cooking and enjoy a break from her day-to-day worries.

A few months ago, sadly, the disease began to overtake Ingrid's body. On the evening of October 28th, Ingrid Rose closed her eyes for the last time. She was 53 years old. 🌿

November Meeting Report

All too often it seems like we can't see the forest for the trees, getting so caught up on our own gardens and those nearby that we neglect the beauties of other parts of the country. Member Koby Hall, our November speaker, shared a marvelous presentation on the glories of fall foliage in the Pacific Northwest, and it reminded us of how stunning this part of the country – and this time of the year – can be. Best of all, his handout (one of the most attractive I've ever seen!) included descriptions of dozens of trees, shrubs, perennials and vines that we can use to achieve brilliant autumnal colors here in San Diego.

Koby, a longtime member who has 25 years experience designing gardens, showed beautiful images from four locations: Mt. Ranier National Park and the Bellevue Botanical Gardens in Washington state, plus the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Gardens in Vancouver and the world-famous Butchart Gardens on Vancouver Island. To see these areas in fall is to appreciate how the vivid reds of deciduous trees set off the deep green of evergreen conifers, making both kinds of plants shine in different ways. His talk was as much a travelogue as it was an horticultural delight, and these brightly-colored gardens show a different face in October, when fallen leaves carpet mossy banks and new vistas open up as deciduous trees shed their foliage.


We learned a lot, too, about why fall is different down here than in more northerly climes. Our air is drier, and our nights are warmer, so plants don't color up in the same way. Some plants that reach their peak in fall in the Northwest – such as dahlias – are at their prime here in mid- to late summer. The good news was that there are many plants we can select for a reliable display of fall color, and which will also add beauty to our gardens during the rest of the year as well.

Some of Koby's suggestions include *Berberis thunbergii* (Japanese Barberry), which looks fabulous next to Japanese anemones (another fine plant for fall flowers – just don't overwater them or they'll take over!). *Callicarpa* sp. (beautyberry) has glorious magenta berries in fall, as dramatic as the more commonly-grown *Pyracantha*, with berries in shades of red, orange and gold. The green foliage of the Chinese pistache tree, *Pistacia chinensis*, turns bright red. Shades of yellow, crimson and orange can be yours if you select for roses whose hips show fall color.

Thanks, Koby, for a wonderful change of pace presentation, and one that is sure to inspire some of us to venture into new areas by thinking more about what we can add to our own gardens to tickle the eye in autumn.

Once again, Michael Buckner was lots of fun, and very informative, as he described the large variety of plants on the Plant Forum tables, many of which came from his nursery, The Plant Man, in Old Town. You can participate next month by just bringing a plant or cutting from your garden. ✂



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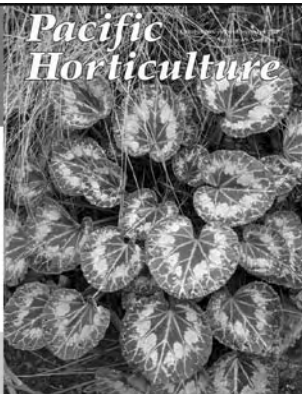
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After the sun goes down, the Gardens are transformed into a dazzling winter wonderland with over 90,000 sparkling lights illuminating the Gardens for a magical holiday experience. Many of these lights are LED, which are much brighter than regular lights. Numerous activities include horse-drawn wagon rides, holiday crafts, marshmallow roasting, visits with Santa, live music, refreshments, and hot mulled wine served in the new "Poinsettia Garden" (please see article on page 9).

ADMISSION PRICES:

Members, Seniors,
Military & Students \$6

Non-members \$10

Children 3-12 \$3

There will be additional fees for some activities.

Quail Botanical Gardens

230 Quail Gardens Drive
Encinitas, CA 92024

(760) 436-3036 ext 206

www.qbgardens.org



Photo: Rachel Cobb

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What's Happening? for December 2008

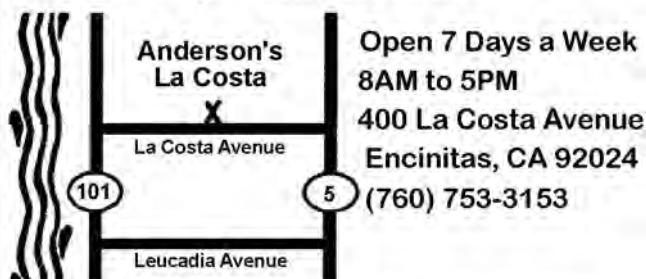
The SDHS is happy to publicize items of horticultural interest. See other side for resources & ongoing events.
Send calendar listings by the 10th of the month before the event to calendar@sdhortsoc.org.

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www.AndersonsLacostaNursery.com

Hello to all and welcome to our December, 2008 garden tips update.

If you get a chance check out our recently revamped website at www.andersonslacostanursery.com – lots of new stuff and a fast expanding online store.

December marks the beginning of winter here in Southern California. The days grow cooler and shorter. Normally December fulfills its winter role with cold and rain although it can sometimes bring a heat wave that makes you swear that August has returned. So if the weather brings hot drying winds, be prepared to hand-water your plants.

New at the Nursery:

-- As our gift to you - come by and get a **free 4" Poinsettia** with any purchase - while stock lasts.

Also check out our monthly online newsletter for different specials every couple of weeks – you can sign on online at andersonslacostanursery.com.

-- Some great gifts & décor ideas throughout the nursery & of course in our gift shop: Fabulous **Potpourri**, large selection of mercury glass including ornaments, candle holders & glass Christmas trees, fine quality vases & lots of gifts for him & her.

-- Consider a perfect **indoor plant in the perfect pot** as a gift from the sweetest 2" African Violet to a fabulous Star Pine.

-- Fresh Garland and Wreaths are arriving weekly. Create an elegant, fragrant statement on your door, fireplace, table or stairway with fresh greens.

Poinsettias of course are perfect for December cheer.

-2" with or without self watering containers so cute & in all colors (even Winter Rose).

-4" reds, whites, pinks all very full & many new colors this year.

-6" and 8" reds, whites, pinks, 'Marblestar', bright pink, burgundy, 'Country Quilt', 'DaVinci', 'Cinammon Star' plus 'Monet' & 'Jingle Bells' & Winter Rose trees.

-- Hanging baskets in reds, whites, salmon and 'Jingle Bells'.

-- Big (10", 12" & 14") patio tubs such a big and festive statement HUGE!!

-- For that shady spot the **Cyclamen** are unbeatable & a great holiday color addition. They will bloom through April, go dormant through the summer and rebloom in Fall.

-- **Outdoor Bonsai trees:** We have starters, "plant your own" and ready planted (in ceramic Bonsai pots including mini-statuary). Many to choose from.

-- **Lots of Azaleas and Camellias.** Great time now to select and plant as many are in bloom or about to bloom. When in bloom these plants roots are fully dormant so it is the least stressful time to transplant.

The Water Conservation Garden (contact info on other side)

Dec. 6, 10am – 1pm, Toss Your Turf: Less Water, Less Grass, More Fun: Join Vickie Driver for a sort course in turf removal. Get tips for evaluating your soil, tuning up your irrigation system and creative ideas for a beautiful low-water landscape in lieu of lawns. \$20/Members; \$30/Non-members. Class at Heritage of the Americas Museum 12110 Cuyamaca College Drive.

Dec. 6, 1 – 4pm, Ask the Designer: Landscape Designer Connie Beck will give personalized 45-minute landscape design consultations. Bring a photo of your area, your project dimensions, and ideas you like for magazines. Connie's practical advice and suggestions will help you create a uniquely beautiful low water landscape. \$40/Members; \$50/Non-members.

Dec. 7, 1:30pm, Ask the Horticulturist Tour: Enjoy an informative walk through the Garden with one of our professional horticultural staff. Bring your questions. Meet at the Garden's main entrance. Free! Tour is 45-60 minutes.

Dec. 12, 5 – 9pm, Garden de Light – a Holiday Event: Visit the garden as it comes to light for the holidays! Enjoy an evening of Garden tours, shopping and holiday fun as our exhibits light up with the glow of thousands of energy saving lights. Music, cookie decorating for the kids, warm cider and docent led tours will be part of the fun.

Activities at Quail Botanical Gardens (contact info on other side)

Dec. 7, 9:30am, Gift card making with natural elements. Cost \$20.

Dec. 11- 23 and 26 – 30, 5 – 9 pm, Garden of Lights: After the sun goes down, the Gardens are transformed into a dazzling winter wonderland with over 90,000 sparkling lights. New this year is the Poinsettia Garden where hot mulled wine and other refreshments will be served. Activities too numerous to list will include holiday crafts, marshmallow roasting and visits with Santa. \$6/Members, Seniors and Students; \$10/Non-members; \$3/Children 3-12. Additional fees for some activities.

Dec. 13, 10am – 4pm, Holiday Wreath Making: Make your own wreath for the holidays using natural materials from the Gardens. Materials will be provided but you may want to add your own flair. Taught by Dianna Burke. \$55/Members; \$65/Non-members – bring a sack lunch.

Dec. 1, 12:30 – 3pm, Palomar District of California Floral Design Forum: Designers will enter designs from the NGC Flower Show Handbook. \$8/individual session. Carlsbad Women's Club 3320 Monroe St. Carlsbad. (760) 749-4976.

Dec. 2, 6:30pm, San Diego County Orchid Society: Program TBA. Beginners Class at 6:30 is in room 104, the general meeting begins at 7:30pm in Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Admission is free, everyone is welcome. www.sdorchids.com.

Dec. 5, 6 & 7, 10am – 4pm, Giant Cactus and Succulent Sale: The Potting Shed at the Fullerton Arboretum is partnering with the Orange County Cactus and Succulent Society to present the fourth annual show and Sale. This year is even larger, more vendors will participate, offering a virtual unlimited selection of cactus and succulents for sale. (714) 278-3407, www.fullertonarboretum.org or www.occss.org.

Dec. 5 through Jan. 7, 10 am – 4pm, Poinsettia Display: More than 500 magnificent poinsettia plants turn Balboa Park's historic wood lath Botanical Building into a glowing tribute to the holidays. Free, closed Thursdays and holidays. Botanical Building, Balboa Park. www.balboapark.org.

Dec. 5, 1:30pm, Vista Garden Club: Sue Bates from Bates Nut Farm will give a talk about nuts, plants and decorating for the holidays. Grace Presbyterian Church, 1450 East Vista Way, Vista. www.vistagardenclub.org.

Dec. 5, 5 – 10pm, Dec. 6, noon – 10pm, Balboa Park 31st consecutive December Nights: San Diego's favorite kick-off to the holiday season. Be sure to stop by and visit the SDFA's Annual Christmas Tree Display. This year's theme is "Festival of Trees Decorating with Nature's Gifts. In the spirit of the holidays, participating Balboa Park museums open their doors free of charge from 5 – 9pm both evenings. www.balboapark.org/decemberevents.

Dec. 6, Walter Andersen Nursery: 9:00am Pruning Roses. (San Diego, 3642 Enterprise Street, (619) 224-8271); 9:30am, **Making your Wreaths & Swags.** (Poway, 12755 Danielson Court, (858) 513-4900). www.walterandersen.com.

Dec. 7, 9am – 9pm, Orchid Odyssey: The San Diego Zoo's orchid greenhouse, home to over 3,000 orchid plants from over 800 species, varieties, and cultivars, is open to zoo visitors. The Zoo's orchid expert along with the San Diego County Orchid Society will be on hand to answer any questions. www.sandiegozoo.org/calendar.

December 8, 6:00pm, details on page 3

Backyard Vineyards in San Diego County

Dec. 9, 4pm, Impact of Climate Change on Water in San Diego: How will climate change impact the water resources in San Diego County - and how can we adapt to possible future water shortages? U C San Diego Faculty Club. Free. Directions and RSVP at <http://esi.ucsd.edu/greenovation/>

Dec. 9, 7pm, San Pu Kai Bonsai Club: Collecting Methods with Ron Descoteau. Carlsbad Senior Center, 799 Pine Avenue, Carlsbad. www.sanpukai.org/calendar.

Dec. 10, 10am, Point Loma Garden Club: Annual Holiday Tea & Bazaar. Specialty hand-made holiday fresh and dried decorations; Come find the perfect table centerpieces, wreaths and swags for your home, and special gifts for hostesses, friends and family. Free admission. Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego. (619) 564-7036 pr www.plgc.org.

Dec. 10, 10:30am, Poway Valley Garden Club: Program TBA. Free. Old Poway Park-Templar's Hall. (858) 748-6746 or home.san.rn.com/pvgc .

Dec. 11, 2:30pm, The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens: Garden Talk & Sale – Succulent Wreaths. John Trager, curator of the desert collections will demonstrate how to make wreaths from succulent plants for holiday decoration and year-round enjoyment. A plant sale in the nursery will follow. Free, Friends' Hall, The Huntington, 1151 Oxford road, San Marino. (626) 405-2100.

Dec. 13, Walter Andersen Nursery: 9:00am, Bare Root Roses New Varieties & Old Favorites. (San Diego see Dec. 6) 9:30 am, Pruning Fruit Trees. (Poway see Dec. 6) www.walterandersen.com.

Dec. 13 – 23, 26 – 30, 9am – 9pm, Festival of Lights: This holiday season offers the last opportunity to see the Wild Animal Park's Festival of Lights. After 20 years, it will move to the Zoo under the new name "Jungle Bells". Included with admission to the park. www.sandiegozoo.org/calendar.

Dec. 13, 10am, San Diego Bromeliad Society: Member to Member plant sale. Visitors welcome – free. Rm 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. (858) 453-6486 www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html.

Dec. 13, 1 – 3pm, Old Town State Park Native Plant Garden: Join CNPSSD members and other volunteers at the neSwly restored garden in Old Town. Bring a hat, water, gloves, a weeding tool and something to kneel on. The garden is in Old Town across Congress Street from the trolley/train/bus depot and is right next to the parking lot. cnpssd.org.

Dec. 14, 9am, San Diego Bonsai Club: Speaker: Ted Matson. Every meeting has a "Bonsai-themed" benefit drawing. Bonsai Classes are available to members only, check www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com for more information. Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park.

Dec. 14, 1:30pm, Mabel Corwin Branch of the American Begonia Society: Michael Ludwig will present the annual Christmas quiz. Please bring treats to share for the holiday party as well as begonias or companion plants to show. Encinitas Community Center, Room 118, 1140 Oakcrest Park Drive. Encinitas. (760) 753-3977.

Dec. 17, 7pm, San Diego Branch of the Cymbidium Society of America: Program TBA. The meetings are to share information, and educate one another in the culture of Cymbidium, Paphiopedilum and other outdoor growing orchid genera. Guests are welcome. Women's Club of Carlsbad, 3320 Monroe, St., Carlsbad www.cymbidium.org/branch.html.

Dec. 18, 7:30pm, San Diego Fern Society: This is an opportunity for people to study ferns together and encourage the use of ferns in gardens, patios, and homes. Guests are welcome. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.sdfem.com.

Dec. 19, Plant Day & Orchid Odyssey: the San Diego Zoo is home to a world-class botanical garden. Self-guided walking tour maps will be available at the entrance. A botanical bus tour is available -- meet at the bus unloading area at 2pm. The bus is free with admission. www.sandiegozoo.org/calendar.

Dec. 20, Walter Andersen Nursery: 9:00am, Pruning Apricots & Plums, (San Diego; see Dec. 6) 9:30am, Rose Pruning, (Poway; see Dec. 6) www.walterandersen.com.

Dec. 22, 2pm, Lake Hodges Native Plant Club: Mayda Portillo, Water Resources Specialist San Diego County Water Authority, will speak on "Drought: How we got here and what everyone can do to help.". Rancho Bernardo Public Library, Community Room. 17110 Bernardo Center Drive, San Diego. www.lhnpc.org.

Dec. 27, Walter Andersen Nursery: No class scheduled for San Diego or Poway.

Resources & Ongoing Events

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS: Open daily 9-5 (closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day); 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas. Fee: \$10/adults, \$7/seniors, \$5/kids; parking \$1. Free to members and on the first Tuesday of every month. (760) 436-3036; www.qbgardens.org

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN: Open 9-4 daily, free. Docent-led tours every Saturday at 10:30am & Sunday at 1:30pm. 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 So. 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. Open Friday–Wednesday, 10am to 4pm.

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

Japanese Friendship Garden: Tues. to Sun., 10-4. Fees: free 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 and horticulture, Tuesdays & Sundays, 1pm, from Visitors Center, (619) 235-1122.

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

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

Garden TV and Radio Shows

How Does Your Garden Grow?: Saturday 7:30-8:00am; KPRZ 1210. Hosted by Kniffing's Discount Nurseries (page 13). Call-in questions: (866) 577-2473; Ted Kniffing and guest speakers.

Garden Compass Radio Show. Sat. and Sun., 8–10am. KPOP 1360, hosts Bruce and Sharon Asakawa, John Bagnasco. Call-in questions: (619) 570-1360 or (800) 660-4769.

Down To Earth with Host Tom Piergrosso: Award-winning TV show on local gardening, daily at 12:30pm and 7:30pm. CTN (County Television Network, www.ctn.org); Cox -north ch 19, Cox -south ch 24; Adelphia ch 66; Time Warner ch 22. Tapes avail. from SDHS library.

-- Looking for a quick (i.e., time saver) small gift idea? Try planted Paperwhites. We have many planted that are soon to bloom.

-- The Orchids are simply outstanding. The Cybidiums are here in "full spike" & in many colors yellows, pinks, creams & many more.

-- Christmas Cactus (always a favorite) in 2, 4, 6, and 8" sizes AND sporting some new color choices this year.

December in the Garden:

* For those of us in frost prone areas (like Valley Center and even semi-coastal valleys like the Elfin Forest) you can consider using **strings of Christmas lighting** strung around sensitive plantings (even your in-ground succulents) to **provide a source of warmth**. It can also give a festive look to lower growing plants

* If you're too busy to give the garden much attention this month, you're in luck: most plants will do quite well with little help from you. However, if you can find the time, working in the garden this month is wonderful.

* **Cool-Season Vegetables.** Between harvests you can still plant most cool-season vegetables such as broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, kale, kohlrabi, mustard, lettuce & other greens, & root crops like beets, carrots, radishes, & turnips.

* **Some cymbidiums start to bloom in December**, although most bloom between February and March. Continue to feed the plants for bloom (low nitrogen fertilizer) until the buds open.

* **Native Plants:** This is the growing season for California Natives so if the weather is really dry - water these plants. Native plants can also be pruned now

* **Peaches.** If your peach or nectarine had leaf curl (puckered, yellow and red leaves) this year spray it with lime sulfur at full leaf fall (do not use this spray on apricot trees – select copper instead).

* **Start pruning now.** The plants are as dormant as they get here in California. Most all deciduous plants (those that lose their leaves in winter) get pruned in the winter.

* **Fruit Trees.** Dormant spray deciduous fruit trees. Dormant sprays such as horticultural oils or lime-sulfur are applied after a deciduous plant has gone dormant and dropped its leaves.

* **Don't fertilize or water roses this month as they need to harden off for winter.**

* Stimulate wisteria by cutting it back now.

If you've over-seeded your lawn and there are bare spots feel free to scatter a bit more seed to fill.

* **Feed shrubs and trees** that will bloom in January and February.

* **Prune conifers and broad-leaved evergreens** to shape them and provide trimmings for holiday decorations.

* **Living plants for indoor color** include African violets, azaleas, begonias, Christmas cactus, cyclamen, & kalanchoe, as well as ever-dependable chrysanthemum & poinsettia.

* Don't worry that your **houseplants** don't seem too perky now--they're going dormant just like plants outdoors. Plants need this rest so stop feeding them and water them less frequently.

* **Continue to water** your over-wintering outdoor plants unless the rains keep the soil moist. Irigation should be reduced - not stopped, as plant photosynthesis slows down and cold weather dries plants out.

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

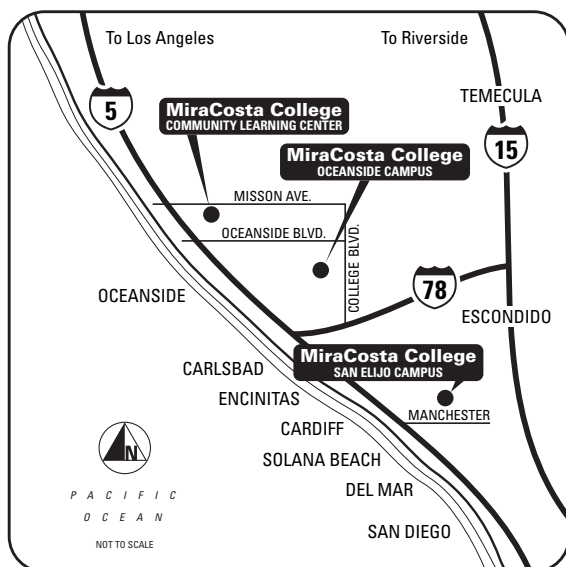
To receive a spring course schedule with complete details and an application, call (760) 795-6615. For more information about MiraCosta College's Horticulture Program, call Claire Ehrlinger at (760) 795-6704.

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Class #	Days	Time	Instructor	Units	Room #
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HORT 116 Plant Science*

Emphasis on plant taxonomy and nomenclature, structure and morphology, control of plant growth, and plant-soil-climate relationships. CSU; UC (CAN AG 8)

OCEANSIDE				Room #	
1588	MW	12:30pm-3:15pm	KINNON C	4.0	OC7003
1592	TTH	12:30pm-3:15pm	MESSINA J	4.0	OC7003
1596	MW	5:00pm-7:45pm	BENDER G	4.0	OC7003

HORT 117 Plant Identification*

Covers identification, growth habits, culture, and ornamental use of plants used in Southern California landscapes. Botanical and common names, plant family relationships, and environmental adaptations will be emphasized. Required field labs may be on or off campus. CSU; UC

OCEANSIDE				Room #	
3368	F	12:00pm-4:45pm	EHRLINGER C	3.0	OC7051

HORT 119 Specialized Tree Pruning and Surgery**

Methods, problems, and techniques specific to ornamentals, fruit trees, and palm trees.

OCEANSIDE				Room #	
+3948	M	6:00pm-9:05pm	HOLCOMB S	1.5	OC7001
	&S	8:00am-11:45am			OC7003
		(01/26-03/14)			
		This class meets the following three Saturdays: 1/31, 2/28, 3/14 from 8am—11:45am.			

HORT 120 Urban Forestry**

Integrated practice to the approach of management of street, parks, residential open spaces or commercial/public open space vegetation.

LATE-START/OCEANSIDE				Room #	
3950	M	6:00pm-7:45pm	HOLCOMB S	1.5	OC7001
	&S	8:00am-11:45am			OC7003
		THIS IS A LATE-START CLASS, (03/23-05/09)			
		This class will meet the following 4 Saturdays: 3/28, 4/11, 4/25, 5/9 from 8am—11:45am.			

HORT 121 Landscape Management*

Covers soil preparation, fertilization, irrigation, cultivation, variety selection, growth control, and pest management. CSU

OCEANSIDE				Room #	
3024	W	5:30pm-7:15pm	BUTLER G	3.0	OC7053
	&S	8:00am-1:45pm			OC7053
		This class will meet the following eight Saturdays from 8:00am to 1:45pm: 1/24, 2/7, 2/21, 3/7, 4/4, 4/18, 5/2, 5/16.			

HORT 127 Landscape Design*

Principles of design for residential projects. Students will prepare a site analysis, plot plan, presentation drawings, and budget for a typical residential site. CSU

OCEANSIDE				Room #	
2936	T	12:00pm-4:45pm	EHRLINGER C	3.0	OC7051
1600	M	5:00pm-9:45pm	EHRLINGER C	3.0	OC7051

HORT 129 Beginning Computer-Aided Landscape Design

Students use software to develop landscape designs, perspective/elevation drawings, and cost estimating on personal computers. CSU

SAN ELIJO				Room #	
2920	W	5:00pm-9:45pm	STONE R	3.0	SAN108

HORT 130 Advanced Irrigation Design*

Students will design and manage sprinkler systems for larger settings such as athletic fields, golf courses, parks, or other commercial/public areas. Hydrostatic problems for large-scale systems as well as drip irrigation design will be addressed. CSU
PREREQUISITE: HORT 126.

OCEANSIDE				Room #	
3952	TH	5:00pm-9:45pm	TBA	3.0	OC7051

Class #	Days	Time	Instructor	Units	Room #
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HORT 131 Computer-Aided Irrigation Design

Introduction to the application of computer-aided drafting (CAD) for the landscape irrigation student or professional. CSU
ADVISORY: HORT 126.

SAN ELIJO				Room #	
2924	W	5:00pm-9:45pm	STONE R	3.0	SAN108

HORT 134 Plant Pest Control**

Studies common pests found in ornamental plantings in Southern California including weeds, invertebrate pests, and plant diseases. Students diagnose problems and design solutions. CSU

OCEANSIDE				Room #	
1604	TH	5:00pm-9:45pm	KINNON C	3.0	OC7053

HORT 143 Wines of the World

(Material Fee: \$85.00) Introduction to the world's wine-producing regions, including history, viticultural practice, and wine-making styles. Lab fee for wine tasting required. Must be 21 years of age to enroll. CSU

SAN ELIJO				Room #	
3506	W	6:30pm-9:15pm	COLANGELO D	3.0	SAN406

HORT 145 Introduction to Enology

(Material Fee: \$85.00) Students will be presented with an overview of the history and development of winemaking, detailing the grape varieties produced in the major wine-producing regions. Students must be 21 years old to enroll. CSU; UC

SAN ELIJO				Room #	
+3947	F	6:30pm-9:15pm	COLANGELO D	3.0	SAN406

HORT 149 Vineyard Production and Management

Production and management decisions for wine and table grapes. CSU

OCEANSIDE				Room #	
3474	M	6:30pm-8:45pm	HART/ ANDERSON	3.0	OC7053
	&S	8:00am-1:45pm			OC7053
		This class will meet the following seven Saturdays from 8:00am to 1:45pm: 1/31, 2/28, 3/14, 3/28, 4/11, 4/25, 5/9.			

HORT 170 Plant Identification: Floral Crops

Covers the crops utilized in the floral design and retail industry, botanical and common names, and quality indicators.

OCEANSIDE				Room #	
1608	W	6:30pm-9:15pm	PATTERSON DE	3.0	OC7001

HORT 172 Floral Design II

(Materials Fee: \$200.00) Practical skills and theory of special occasion, contemporary, and large event floral design; floral shop management; and customer service. CSU
ADVISORY: HORT 171 or prior floral design experience.

OCEANSIDE				Room #	
3258	TH	5:30pm-9:15pm	PATTERSON DE	2.0	OC7001

HORT 299 Cooperative Work Experience—Occupational

For students whose work is related to their declared major.
COREQUISITES: Students must be employed in a position directly related to their declared major and must complete 75 hours of paid work or 60 hours of non-paid work per unit of credit.

Note: All students are required to participate in an orientation session online or in the Career Center, Building 3700, by the drop/add deadline or they will be dropped from the class. This class offers variable units with multiple start dates and may be added after the drop/add period. See the ad on page 73 for course requirements. For more information call (760) 795-6772 or visit www.miracosta.edu/careers.

+1610	TBA	DAVIS D	4.0	TBA
+4204	TBA	DAVIS D	3.0	TBA
+4203	TBA	DAVIS D	2.0	TBA

*These courses have been approved by the California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers (CANGC) for CCN Pro Continuing Education Units (CEUs). Students completing the class will receive one CEU per course unit. †Eligible for International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) continuing education hours. ‡Continuing Education for California DPR Pesticide Licenses and Certificates applied for.

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<p>Aristocrat Landscape</p> <p>Ask us about water-saving strategies. Initial consultation is FREE.</p> <p>See ad on page 18</p>	<p>ArtPlantae</p> <p>Save on Ideal Stocking Stuffer for Gardeners! ArtPlantae Bookmark Notes \$4.95 (reg. \$5.50).</p> <p>See ad on page 21</p>	<p>Barrels & Branches</p> <p>20% OFF ENTIRE PURCHASE THROUGH DEC. 31, 2008. Valid only with coupon.</p> <p>See ad on page 20</p>
<p>Botanical Partners</p> <p>Bamboo crafting is earth friendly! We offer books, tools and gift certificates for bamboo projects.</p> <p>See ad on page 20</p>	<p>Briggs Tree Company</p> <p>Discount coupon for 15% off wholesale. Check us out online at www.BriggsTree.com. We deliver anywhere!</p>	<p>Buena Creek Gardens</p> <p>Seasons Greetings! 20% Off Purchase Coupon New: Poinsettias & Renee's Garden Seed Great Stocking Stuffers!</p> <p>See ad on page 20</p>
<p>Cedros Gardens</p> <p>We have a great selection of tasteful garden gifts for the plant lovers on your shopping list.</p> <p>See ad on page 19</p>	<p>Christiane Holmquist Landscape Design</p> <p>50% off consultation on more colorful, sustainable plants & year-round interest in your garden. www.cholmquistgardens.com</p>	<p>Coastal Sage Gardening</p> <p>Design and Maintenance Free 1 hour consultation (reg. \$100)</p> <p>See ad on page 15</p>
<p>Courtyard Pottery</p> <p>We have a great selection of pots, fountains and garden gifts for holiday gift giving!</p> <p>See ad on page 17</p>	<p>Cuyamaca College</p> <p>Improve your Career Options with a degree in Ornamental Horticulture. www.cuyamaca.edu/ohweb See ad on page 6</p>	<p>Dr. Earth</p> <p>Ask for our products at your favorite local nursery!</p> <p>See ad on page 14</p>
<p>EasyToGrowBulbs.com</p> <p>15% discount on \$50+ orders through 1/3/09! Type SDHort into the discount box during checkout. www.EasyToGrowBulbs.com</p>	<p>EuroAmerican Propagators</p> <p>Ask for our plants at your favorite local nursery!</p> <p>www.ProvenWinners.com</p>	<p>Evergreen Nursery</p> <p>Lost our Spring Valley lease. Total nursery liquidation. 40% off at Spring Valley Location only.</p> <p>See ad on page 4</p>
<p>Grangetto's Farm & Garden Supply</p> <p>Bring in this coupon for 15% off your next order. Some restrictions apply. www.grangettos.com</p> <p>See ad on page 23</p>	<p>Hydro-Scape Products</p> <p>5% OFF before Dec. 31, 2008 (minimum \$25 purchase)</p> <p>See ad on page 12</p>	<p>Innovative Growing Solutions</p> <p>Come See Our New Super Store Location in the Pacific Beach Area</p> <p>See ad on page 13</p>
<p>Kellogg Garden Products</p> <p>Ask for our products at your favorite local nursery!</p> <p>See ad on page 14</p>	<p>Kniffing's Discount Nurseries</p> <p>Bare-root roses coming Dec. 20. Great selection & great prices!</p> <p>See ad on page 13</p>	<p>KRC Rock</p> <p>Visit www.KCRCRock.com for details on all our materials.</p> <p>See ad on page 15</p>
<p>Kuma Bonsai Nursery</p> <p>Huge sale – all landscape materials 50% off (or more) through December only.</p> <p>See ad on page 6</p>	<p>Legoland California</p> <p>See website for our winter hours. Happy Holidays!</p> <p>www.lego.com/legoland/california</p>	<p>Mary's Good Snails</p> <p>Consider a present of Good Snails for your gardening friends.</p> <p>See ad on page 18</p>
<p>Mission Hills Nursery</p> <p>Redeem in January 2009 for 20% off your purchase!</p> <p>www.MissionHillsNursery.com</p>	<p>Nature Designs Landscaping</p> <p>Design/Construction/Maintenance (760) 945-4321 (858)481-0305 www.NatureDesigns.net</p>	<p>Pardee Tree Nursery</p> <p>WHOLESALE ONLY Excellent quality and service</p> <p>www.PardeeTree.com</p>
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<p>Renee's Garden</p> <p>Seeds make holiday gifts that keep on growing! Visit us online at www.ReneesGarden.com</p>	<p>Schnetz Landscape</p> <p>"Schnetz Landscape Dazzles the Eye and Nurtures the Soul"™. Happy Holidays! www.SchnetzLandscape.com</p>	<p>SECO Landscapes</p> <p>Free in-home Consultation on Drought-Tolerant Landscaping, Smart Irrigation & Landscape Lighting. Call (619) 282.7326. www.SECOLandscapes.com</p>
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<p>www.TheMulch.com</p> <p>Free Membership!</p> <p>See ad on page 12</p>	<p>The Yard Fairy</p> <p>Visit www.YardFairy.com/SDHS for special offers on our landscaping services!</p>	<p>Tree of Life Nursery</p> <p>Learn about using water-thrifty California Native Plants at www.CaliforniaNativePlants.com</p>
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