

# Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

November 2008, Number 170

## Create a Wildlife-Friendly Garden

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CITRUS PEST IN SAN DIEGO  
PAGE 6

DUMP WALL STREET  
PAGE 8

HELP SAVE THE BEES  
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IF NOT LAWN, WHAT?  
PAGE 13

On the Cover: Butchart Gardens in Autumn



SAN DIEGO  
HORTICULTURAL  
SOCIETY



# OCTOBER MEETING PHOTOS

Photos by Cheryl Leedom



*Bambusa vulgaris* 'Vittata'



*Euphorbia hedyotoides*



*Farfugium*



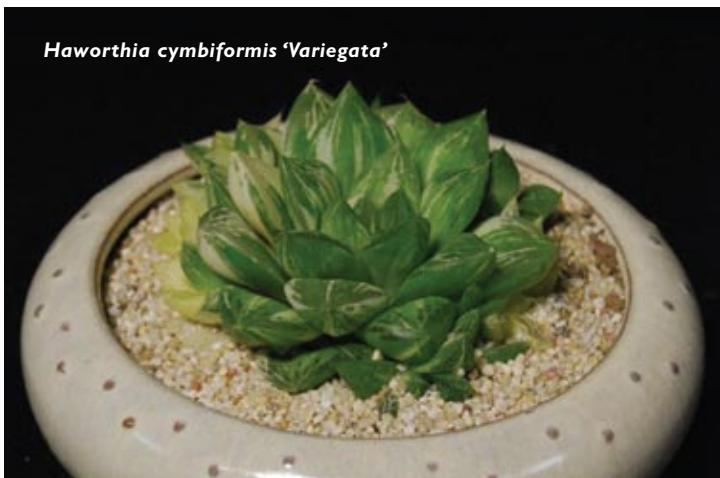
*Aster* 'Nana Hern'



*Sarcocaulon vanderietiae*



*Leonotis leonurus*



*Haworthia cymbiformis* 'Variegata'

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Cover Image: November speaker Koby Hall took this stunning photo. He writes, "Autumn's colors duel in fire and ice - as two Acer trees at Butchart Gardens in Vancouver, Canada."

## 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 2008 AND 2009

- December 8** Backyard Vineyards in San Diego County, by Pete Anderson (members free, non-members \$5)
- January 12, 2009** Orchid Collecting in Venezuela, by Fred Clarke (members free, non-members \$5)
- February 9** Big Ideas for Small Gardens, by Dave Egbert (members free, non-members \$5)
- March 9** A Fairly Radical Approach to Sustainable Design, by Pamela Berstler (members free, non-members \$5)
- April 13** Naturalistic Design with Natives, 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](http://www.sdhortsoc.org)

Website sponsored by ALL.EA Web Design & Horticultural Photography, [www.allea.com](http://www.allea.com)

**Next Meeting:** November 10, 2008, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

**Topic:** Koby Hall on "AUTUMNAL TREASURES OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST"

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



Horticulturist Koby Hall will present a spectacular photo essay from famous gardens in the Pacific Northwest at the peak of their Fall brilliance, displaying "an Autumnal Phoenix in all her glory." The magnificence of Butchart Gardens, Dr Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden, Bellevue Botanic Gardens, and other photos will illustrate his talk. He'll discuss and provide a handout of the plants to use here to capture the brilliance of Fall color in your own gardens.

Koby grew up near Seattle, and was encouraged to play in the garden from an early age. He considered commercial art, but "got sidetracked – then addicted—to gardening. I learned horticulture the way I learned to love the garden, by hands-on experience." He has worked for an interior and exterior plant maintenance company and two nurseries. Twenty five years and numerous clients later, he's developed a style and company (Koby's Garden Alchemy) all his own. He collects plants and photos from many places, and says, "where I can't travel to I mail order from."

To learn more see [www.KobysGarden.com](http://www.KobysGarden.com) and 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

### SDHS BOARD MEMBERS

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**Don Walker** — Past President  
**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

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We have a number of volunteer opportunities available, and hope you'll want to take a more active role in the Society. This is a great way to meet other members and be involved in a productive way. Call Susi at (760) 295-7089 and say YES! to one of the following:

#### CAN YOU SCAN?:

Our historian, Victoria Schaffer, has been collecting photos and articles for years and arranging them in several very neat binders. We'd like someone to scan this stuff so we can put it on a CD for future use. If you can do this (or want to find out more) contact her at victorial906@roadrunner.com.

#### MEETING CHECK-IN:

Check membership cards as people arrive for our monthly meetings and collect \$5 from non-members. People will take turns doing this, so the same folks don't have to do it every month.

#### CARPPOOL COORDINATOR:

Help members contact each other to set up carpools. Anticipated time involved — about 1 hour per week or less.

### YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD

Remember to bring your current membership card to our meetings so you can check in as quickly as possible. If you can't find your card please contact membership@sdhsoc.org ASAP and request that a new card be waiting for you at the next meeting.

### MAY I VISIT YOUR GARDEN?

We're often asked to recommend gardens in San Diego County, sometimes by a garden group putting together a tour, but more often the request comes from a garden writer or a photographer looking for a special site for a book or magazine image. Can we see yours? Who knows — it could lead to seeing your garden in print someday! Please contact Susi at info@sdhsoc.org.

### MARKETING THE SDHS

Flex your imagination muscle and put your creative energy to good use. We're especially interested in finding an energetic member with experience and/or interest in marketing to lead our marketing efforts. Have you got some inspired ideas about how we can market our tree book? Perhaps you know of ways to promote the SDHS to the public, or how to increase attendance at events? Call Susi at (760) 295-7089 and let us know what you'd like to do. ☺

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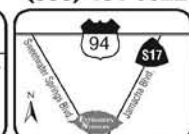


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## FALL/WINTER HOURS

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

## To Learn More...

### NORTHWEST GARDENS

By Ava Torre-Bueno

The American Northwest, like the Canadian Southwest, is a beautifully rainy place where gardens are very different from ours. But there are certain plants that can do well in both locations. This month's guest speaker will explain all about that, so start by going to his site: <http://kobysgarden.com/>

There are many lovely gardens in the Northwest and Canadian Southwest. Let's go there to the very famous (even I have been there and I don't do garden vacations as a rule) Butchart Gardens: <http://www.butchartgardens.com/>

In Vancouver there is a Chinese garden:  
<http://www.vancouverchinesegarden.com/>

Then, South of the border, is the Bellevue Botanical Garden in a suburb of Seattle:  
<http://www.bellevuebotanical.org/>

Also in suburban Seattle, the Lake Wilderness Arboretum in Maple Valley focuses on Northwest native plants, and features one of the world's largest collections of Western Azalea: <http://lakewildernessarboretum.com/index.asp>

And this is the website for the Washington Native Plant Society. They don't have a garden to visit but a site full of information about plants endemic to the Northwest:  
<http://www.wnps.org/>

Finally, Portland has a Chinese Garden which opened in 2000:  
<http://www.portlandchinesegarden.org>

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](mailto:gardeners4peace@hotmail.com) and visit <http://www.sandiegofriendscenter.org/volunteers.htm>. ☘

## Where Do You Buy Seeds?

We're very pleased to announce that Renee's Garden is our newest sponsor, and we thank Renee Shepherd for her generous support of the Society. As she mentioned when she spoke in September, you can shop for Renee's seeds directly online at [www.reneesgarden.com](http://www.reneesgarden.com), but she would like to get your input on the names of garden center and nurseries you would suggest as good places to carry her line in Southern California. Please send the names of these nurseries (and a contact name if you have it) to Renee at [renee@reneesgarden.com](mailto:renee@reneesgarden.com).

Places in San Diego County where Renee's Garden seeds are currently sold are: Mary's Secret Garden (La Mesa and Poway), Hunter's Nursery (Lemon Grove), Summers Past Farms (El Cajon), Green Thumb (San Marcos), Cedros Gardens (Solana Beach), Mission Hills Nursery (San Diego) and Smith & Hawken (San Diego). ☘



## From The Board

By Susi Torre-Bueno



### HERE'S JIM

Jim Wright joined the board in September as a Member at Large, and last month I wrote about him but neglected to include his photo. Here's Jim's photo; we're delighted he's playing a more active role in the Society.



Marlene Dupriest

### MEET SALLY

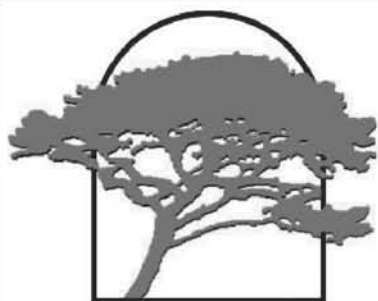
Last month we were delighted when Sally Sandler became a Member at Large on the board. She brings a lot of energy and enthusiasm, and we know she'll have some great ideas to share with us. Sally and husband Jim have lived in Del Mar for 33 years. After retiring from San Dieguito Union High School District, where she handled communications, her battle with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma led her to volunteer at Quail Botanical Gardens. In addition to being very active at Quail, Sally has volunteered for the SDHS at our Fair exhibit for the last two years, and has been involved with the PTA and also the Del Mar Parks and Recreation Council. She writes, "I'm impressed by how many people SDHS reaches and educates with a high level of professionalism and would like to learn more while helping further your goals." Welcome aboard, Sally!

### BUSY YEAR ... YOU CAN HELP!

Page 3 shows our speakers through June. We're also planning a special event in August to honor Steve Brigham, our 2009 Horticulturist of the Year. In addition, we're holding events for new members, working on long range strategic goals, and planning the next out of town garden tour. Put your enthusiasm and skills into action, and play a more active and rewarding 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. ☘



## Asian Citrus Psyllid Found in San Diego



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**Cuyamaca College**  
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On August 27, 2008, Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) was trapped for the first time in California. It was found on a yellow sticky trap placed in a lemon tree in a backyard in San Diego. Due to ACP finds in Tijuana, the San Diego County Agricultural Commissioners Office and CDFA have been deploying panel traps at existing fruit fly trap sites in the county. This ACP detection was on one of these panel traps.

In response to this find, CDFA increased the panel traps to 100 in the core square mile around the find and 50 traps per square mile in the surrounding eight square miles and conducted a visual survey of hosts within 800 meters of the first find. Since August 27, 2008, thirteen ACP have been trapped at six properties in San Diego.

A single detection of this pest triggers a quarantine status, and CDFA will restrict movement of host plants at wholesale and retail nurseries within five miles of the find sites. The pest is of grave concern because it can carry the disease huanglongbing (HLB). All citrus and closely related species are susceptible hosts for the insect and most are hosts for the disease. There is no cure once a tree becomes infected. The diseased tree will decline in health until it dies.

The state of Florida first detected the pest in 1998 and the disease in 2005. Both the pest and disease are now found in all 30 citrus producing counties in that state. The pest and the disease are also present in Louisiana and Mexico. The states of Hawaii, Texas, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina and Alabama have detected the pest but not the disease.

There is no indication that the Asian citrus psyllids detected in San Diego carried HLB. But they will be tested to make sure. A population of the pest just south of the international border at Tijuana is not carrying the disease.

SDHS members can do their part to help by visiting <http://citrusent.uckac.edu/psyllid/8205.pdf> and <http://www.californiacitrusthreat.com> and learning more about this pest – what it looks like, what to do if you have it in your garden, whom to contact. The pest can also be found on close relatives of citrus, such as orange jasmine (*Murraya paniculata*).

The Citrus Research Board held informational meetings in Escondido in September for members with a particular interest in citrus trees and related plants – to answer questions about the psyllid and about the devastating citrus plant disease that could be carried by this insect. For more information, contact the Citrus Research Board at (559) 738-0246 or [info@citrusresearch.org](mailto:info@citrusresearch.org).

Some of this information was provided by UC Kearney Agricultural Research Center; <http://citrusent.uckac.edu>. Some information was provided by Vincent Lazaneo, Urban Horticulture Advisor; UC Cooperative Extension.



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# Plants That Produce

## THE BARE ESSENTIALS, PART II

By Richard Frost

The term “chill hours” refers to the need of some plants to have sustained cool temperatures in the late fall in order to produce a viable crop in the coming year. It applies to most deciduous and some evergreen perennial fruits, nuts, berry vines, and berry bushes. It does not apply to tropics or most subtropics, such as avocado and citrus.

Growing any perennial plant in your garden to produce fruit is a serious investment in time. It is often 3 to 5 years before you obtain a crop. Knowing that a particular plant – for example True Black Currant, needs many more chill hours than your yard can provide is a worthy piece of information.

When you see a plant in the nursery with a chill hour requirement listed on the tag, it means that the variety has produced reliable crops of fruit under those conditions. It does not tell you if the plant will fail with less chill hours – a sorely lacking piece of information. A related problem is that the labeling on many fruits is out of date. This is a constant frustration to nursery professionals who know that reliable studies for a particular plum (e.g., Green Gage) have shown better performance but the supplier is too cheap to update their labels.

A historical approach to measuring chill hours in northern climes is to count the number of hours in late fall and early winter below 45° F. A more robust approach used by fruit professionals in our climate zones is the Utah method. It is commonly computed by counting, between Nov. 1 and Jan. 1, the number of hours below 45° F minus the number of hours above 65° F. For example, if you have a week in December where it is a cool 37° F at night but 70° F during the day, then your location did not accumulate any chill hours that week. Notice how different the measurement would be if the hours above 65° F were not subtracted.

This leads to the second major complaint about chill hour ratings: not all growers use the same method and in particular, don't record which method was used. This is especially true with apples and apricots. For example, an apricot variety listed at 700 chill hours might actually be rated 250 chill hours by the Utah method. Your local nursery staff should be aware of these differences.

Many people know that San Diego urban areas are “low chill” environments. By the Utah method, the immediate coastal areas (e.g., Imperial Beach, Solana Beach) rarely exceed 100 chill hours. The coastal bluffs (e.g., Chula Vista, Kearny Mesa, and Western Penasquitos) rarely exceed 250 chill hours, with the exception of ravines that receive cold air drainage from surrounding hills. The coastal interior valleys of Otay Lakes, Lemon Grove, El Cajon, Santee, Poway, and San Marcos contain various terrains. The slopes rarely exceed 350 chill hours, while the valley and stream bed bottoms have 400-500 chill hours. Julian achieves 1200 chill hours.

One inexpensive way to determine the chill hours of your locale is to walk around and find out what is working for your neighbors. Another is to find a customer service representative at a local nursery who actually grows fruit and has experience with your area. Whatever you do, don't delay – it's time to order bare root fruits!

SDHS member Richard Frost is also member of the California Rare Fruit Growers. For more information, please see [www.plantsthatproduce.com](http://www.plantsthatproduce.com). 🌿

# Garden Gourmet

## THE “HAUTE” AND THE HOMESPUN: HOLIDAY SIDEKICKS

By Alice Lowe

With some shock, I find myself putting together November's column (it is September as I write this), which means just one thing – Thanksgiving! I haven't prepared a traditional T-Day meal in years – my daughter relieved me of duties some time back when I roasted a turkey and proudly served it with paella. I thought it was an inspired combination, shellfish and sausage complementing the poultry, but she was horrified at the absence of stuffing, potatoes and proper veggies. While I'm not much for roast beasts, I do enjoy holiday feasts, especially the vegetable dishes that guests contribute, often family favorites with fond memories attached. Here are some I've collected or created.

My sister-in-law has adapted her French grandmother's New England Spinach. Chop up a bag of spinach. Sauté diced onion in some butter; when it starts to brown, add a little flour, ½-cup heavy cream, ¼-cup whole milk, garlic powder, a pinch of nutmeg, salt and pepper. Cook until the sauce is smooth and hot, then add the spinach and cook for a few more minutes. Serve with a squeeze of lemon juice. Patty says not to substitute on the cream, but I've used half & half successfully and with less guilt.

My friend Geri says she's converted more than a few doubters with her simple but delicious Brussels sprouts preparation. Melt butter, then mix in lots of Dijon mustard and lemon juice to taste; toss with steamed sprouts. I've tried this with broccoli and cauliflower too. You can fancy it up with toasted walnuts and/or a little crumbled blue cheese, and if you think it's crying out for bacon, toss in some crisp fried bits.

I panicked the first time I saw leeks in my CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) box, never having fixed them, but eventually came up with a rich and elegant dish. Melt butter in a wide pan, then add chopped up leeks and a little water. Cover and simmer until the leeks are tender; add salt and pepper, Herbes de Provence or Italian seasoning, and a generous splash of half & half. Cook uncovered, stirring, until the cream is almost absorbed; finish with a splash of sherry.

A former neighbor used to roast acorn squash with sausage bits piled into the center cavity. My daughter's former mother-in-law stewed green beans with bacon and onions – she wouldn't share her secrets, but that's a start. And finally, try a sweet and tangy glaze for your roast or steamed carrots or squash – brush on your favorite jam, thinned with a little lemon juice, maybe a dash of Tabasco. Jackie (of Jackie's Jams) gave me the idea when I sampled her nectarine jam. I've also tried it with her spicy peach and blood orange marmalade. (Jackie's Jams are made with local fruit and sold at several Farmers' Markets as well as at Whole Foods.) Happy holiday cooking!

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

## New Books In Our Library

A list of our 500+ library items is at [www.sdhortsoc.org](http://www.sdhortsoc.org). Librarian **Tim Thornton** brings books and videos to meetings; to request specific items contact [library@sdhortsoc.org](mailto:library@sdhortsoc.org). We've recorded most of our outstanding speakers, too! Here are some of the most recent library additions:

*100 Year History of the San Diego Floral Association*

*Palm Trees: A Story in Photographs*

*The Genus Lavandula*

*Abundant Garden: A Celebration of Color, Texture, and Blooms*

*Botanica: The Illustrated A-Z of Over 10,000 Garden Plants and How to Cultivate Them*

*Trees and Shrubs*

*The Story of Gardening*

*Elegant Silvers: Striking Plants for Every Garden*

*Black Magic and Purple Passion*

*Gold Fever*

*Silver Lining*

*Bonsai Basics: A Step-By-Step Guide To Growing, Training & General Care*

*Rene's Bouquets: A Guide to Euro-Style Hand-Tied Bouquets*

*Blessing of Toads: A Gardener's Guide to Living with Nature*

*Roots, Shoots, Buckets and Boots: Gardening together with Children*

*Trowel and Error: Over 700 Tips, Remedies and Shortcuts for the Gardener*

*McCall's garden book Written especially for McCall's*

*Pocket Guide to Ornamental Grasses*

## Dump "Wall Steet" and Invest in Your Own Front Yard!

By Will Johnson

"Water shortages are coming"... If you accept that prediction, or some variation, where water will soon be more expensive and restricted, then I'm with you. Population growth in San Diego County, combined with declining availability of water supplies, points to water-use restrictions, and significantly higher prices. My biggest concern is that, at some point soon, water may not be available for landscape irrigation as it is today. In the most restrictive scenario, high-water requirement landscapes, such as ordinary and "tropical" landscapes, might completely die off, or suffer substantial damage.

If significant water shortages occur, imagine what your local nursery will look like. With no water to grow them, fewer plants will be offered, likely imported and expensive. Imagine if there WAS a water reduction that caused local plant growers to shut down: the supply of native and drought-tolerant plants would drop, and prices for drought-tolerant varieties would be through the roof! (Sort of the opposite of what happened last month in Wall Street.)

But, if YOU were smart and invested in those plants when they were "undervalued" you'd be sitting on an incredibly valuable landscape! Better yet, as those plants develop, they grow in value even more! How much value will that beautiful landscape add to the neighborhood, and to the owner, when they eventually sell the home? The ROI (return-on-investment) is staggering. A well-designed, minimally-maintained, low-water landscape pays back five to ten times over, and in many cases much more.

I'll only briefly mention the part about how lovely your new low-maintenance, low-water landscape would be; and how much you would enjoy spending time in it. Let's get back to the economics.

The landscape and nursery industries are already working hard to prevent or reduce the crisis that a water shortage would bring. Unfortunately, the fact is we're only a big earthquake away from losing a significant portion of our imported water. In the fault-prone Bay area, earthquake-damaged levees and riverbanks would cut off much of Southern California's drinking water supply. A shut down wouldn't be permanent, but certainly would impact landscape watering long enough to cause permanent damage to thirsty/tropical landscape plantings.

Smart investors start early, and getting started with "long term investing" in your landscape is simple, easy, and relatively inexpensive. Fantastic resources are readily available to help get you started. Local landscapers and designers can help with the planning and plant selection. Because you're starting now, you don't need to spend a lot on the plants. They grow! In two to five years yours could be a beautiful maturing landscape. And imagine IF the water shortage hits... your drought-tolerant landscape may be the ONLY beautiful landscape on your block. And imagine what would that be worth?

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](mailto:info@secolandscapes.com). 🌿

### ANY ADVICE ON GRASSHOPPERS?

One of our members has requested your suggestions for how to deal with a veritable plague of grasshoppers.

Please e-mail your replies to [info@sdhortsoc.org](mailto:info@sdhortsoc.org). We can publish the responses in an upcoming issue.

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## 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:

We welcome Renee's Garden and Courtyard Pottery as our newest sponsors.

Amy Backlund	Darlene Larsen
Tabby Badar	Dano Ramos
Cecily Bird	Betty Rowland
Fred & Corinne Brunn	John Schlickman
Stacey Does	Mary Steele
Rebecca Elliott	Philip Turner
Nancy & Steve Howard	Patti Vickery

### NEW ADVERTISERS: Courtyard Pottery, PAGE 17

## HORT BUCKS ARE GREAT!

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:

Lorraine Bolton (2)	Miriam Kirk (2)	Cindy Sparks (1)
Linda Bresler (2)	Kathy La Fluer (2)	Nan Sterman (1)
Helen Dizio (1)	Sharon Lee (1)	Donna Sullivan (1)
Sharon Graham (1)	Sandra Lewis (1)	Bill Teague (1)
Diana Goforth (1)	Shelley Moore (1)	Bonnie Varner (1)
Pat Hammer (1)	Anne Murphy (1)	Darlene Villaneuva (3)
Ginny Hawkins (1)	Taylor Murphy (1)	Dana Wahlquist (1)
Bobbi Hirschhoff (1)	Samantha Owen (1)	Becky Yianilos (1)

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Doris Engberg  
 Ken & Jean Nikodym  
 Philip Tackill & Janet Wanerka  
 René van Rems  
 Village Garden Club of La Jolla

## What's Up at Quail Botanical Gardens?

### CREATE A WILDLIFE- FRIENDLY GARDEN WITH A DISTINCTLY CALIFORNIA STYLE

By Mel Hinton

In Southern California we enjoy a unique climate and topography that supports an abundance of wildlife and plant species. [Did you know that more species of birds have been observed (498 so far) in San Diego County than any other like-sized area in the lower 48?] As gardeners, we are able to take advantage of our mild climate to grow a wide variety of non-native plants in our region, but we should not overlook our wonderful native plants, which offer many benefits to wildlife and the homeowner.

Native plants are well adapted to our soil, climate and insect pests. This means little or no fertilizing, modest water needs, low maintenance, and minimal, if any, use of chemicals. Additionally, there is the added pleasure of attracting birds and butterflies that will bring sound and motion to your yard. Our true natives, along with numerous hybrids and cultivars, offer many plant choices that are both beautiful and practical. There are over forty varieties of California lilac (*Ceanothus*) for example.

Quail Botanical Gardens is offering a **Wildlife Friendly Gardening Workshop** that will teach you how to select, plant and maintain native plants for your landscape and garden. The workshop will include information on how to attract birds to your yard and identify the species you are likely to see. Numerous handouts will be provided and there will be a visit to San Diego Audubon's Anstine Nature Preserve in Vista, where you will see habitat restoration in progress. Wildfire issues will be covered as well.

Mel Hinton and David Kimball, both Audubon Board members, will conduct the workshop. They have worked with native plants for many years, both in garden settings and in habitat restoration projects.

### Wildlife-Friendly Gardening Workshop

Thursday, November 6, 13, & 20, 7 – 9 pm  
 Saturday, December 6, 9 am – 12 pm  
 Cost: Members \$80, non-members \$100  
 Advance registration required.  
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## Book Review

### ***SUBURBAN SAFARI: A YEAR ON THE LAWN***



**By Hannah Holmes**

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh

I once heard of an activity that sounded like fun to do with a child. You take a string and lay it down on the grass to make a circle about a foot in diameter. Then you and the child lie on the grass and look in the circle to see how many plants and insects you can notice and maybe even identify.

Hannah Holmes has carried that project to the *n<sup>th</sup>* degree. She spent a year examining her yard closely. She literally crawled on her belly over the whole yard in all kinds of weather to observe nature in miniature. What she found was astonishing and entertaining. It may change many of your ideas about your lawn, gardening, even nature, but not in the ways you might predict.

She's not alone in her observations. She asks for help from experts in the fields of botany, geology, anthropology, ornithology, entomology, energy management, and others. She incorporates their information into the book without ever allowing it to begin to read like a textbook.

One of her interesting examples is of the common earthworm, loved by many gardeners. It may be a villain. Earthworms are an invasive non-native species. They probably came in the ballast in ships coming to America. Until relatively recently, they've been confined to urban and suburban areas, where they live on rotting vegetable matter. Now they are entering forested areas, and the rapid chemical turnover they cause in the soil may damage those forests. One expert compares them to invasive zebra mussels, brought into the Great Lakes, again as ship ballast, and now a "poster species" for the damage caused by invasives.

She works hard to help us get our minds around some subjects. She puts them in words we can understand. For example, she tells us that it takes 98 tons of ancient vegetation to make one gallon of gas. She makes that a little more comprehensible when she tells us that it equals the weight of 16 elephants.

Her writing style is loose and accessible. One of the people who gave her a blurb for the cover (Mary Roach), called her "a freewheeling, goofball Rachel Carson." Her book is filled with "gee-wow" facts, but that's not what it's about. She uses those facts to draw you into serious consideration of many questions currently being discussed at all levels in the U.S., especially in relation to energy use. Ultimately, she is concerned with the ethics of living on the earth and with how her decisions affect all the "neighbors" who use or live in her yard, be they plants, insects, birds, or mammals.

I like all the books I review. There are many I don't tell you about. This one I highly recommend to you. I know you'll enjoy it.

*Suburban Safari* (ISBN 1-58234-479-5, hardbound, 262 pages) is \$24.95. It includes a list of references, but no index. It really needs one. 🌿

## Community Outreach

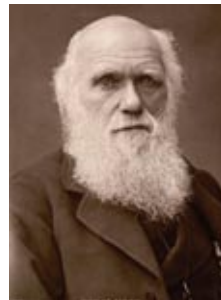
### **DARWIN'S GARDEN: AN EVOLUTIONARY ADVENTURE**

Charles Darwin is best known for his theory of evolution and other natural history achievements, but little is known about his enduring and insightful work with plants and the important role they played in formulating his ideas. "Darwin's Garden: An Evolutionary Adventure" at The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, in San Marino (near Pasadena), explores the untold story of these botanical influences, Darwin's research, his contribution to the understanding of plants, and ultimately, of life in general. The exhibition will be on display to Jan. 5, 2009, and features over 60 items, including rare books, manuscripts, and prints. For information call 626-405-2100 or visit [www.huntington.org](http://www.huntington.org).

The exhibition originated at the New York Botanical Garden, with curator David Kohn, Darwin expert. "Kohn amply illustrates that Darwin's early work in botany was the basis for his theories of evolution," says David Zeidberg, the Avery Director of the Huntington Library, who welcomes the exhibition to its only traveling venue. "*Origin of Species* focuses on animals, but it was Darwin's work on plants that laid the foundation for the great work." Next year marks the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of the book.

Darwin's work with plants provided credible and enduring evidence in support of his theory of evolution through natural selection. He laid the foundation of modern botany as an evolutionary discipline. Darwin also became an expert on virtually every British species of orchid. He discovered and demonstrated that the key to orchid pollination was the touch of an insect's proboscis, which releases spring-loaded pollen. From this breakthrough Darwin structured a convincing argument for adaptation by natural selection. He contended that plants—no less than animals—are sensitive creatures in possession

of behaviors that permit them to respond to their environment, including elements such as sunlight, touch, and gravity. Plants climb over neighbors, track the movement of the sun, capture and digest insects, and respond to the "touch from a child's hair." Darwin delighted in discovering these adaptations. 🌿



**Photograph of Charles Darwin taken in 1881 by  
Herbert Rose Barraud. Huntington Library.**

### **SUCCULENT WREATH CLASS**

Want to make a fabulous holiday gift from the bounty of your own garden? Succulents are enormously popular, and a succulent wreath is a gorgeous, one-of-a-kind gift! Learn how to make one at Quail Botanical Gardens. Take home a beautiful succulent wreath that you make yourself in a class taught by the QBG wreath team on Thursday, November 13, from 9 am – 2 pm. Bring clippers, water, and a snack, and dress in layers since the class is held outside. Fee includes instructions, materials, and wreath form. This class fills up fast so sign up early. Cost: Members \$55, non-members \$65. Advance registration required. Call (760) 436-3036 x206





# Please Help Save the Bees (Part Two)

By Pat Welsh



Our hearts were in the right place, but... Chalk it down to too little sleep and too many deadlines, but we (the author and editor) deeply regret including some undeserved negative comments about the Master Gardeners in the first part of this article. We applaud them for the enormous good they provide to the horticultural community and apologize for inaccurately representing their position on Spinosad. The Master Gardeners recommend using Spinosad insecticide only as a last resort, and with the same precautions that were suggested elsewhere in the article.

Last month I discussed the threat to bees from the commonly used pesticide Spinosad that despite its OMRI label of approval, is highly toxic to bees. Now we get to the worst health problem facing bees: CCD or Colony Collapse Disorder, a worldwide sickness of bees in which they become confused so they cannot find their way back to their hives and cannot function properly in other ways. Some accounts attribute CCD to cell phones, but my research indicates that cell phones are not the cause of CCD. According to European research, CCD results from exposure to pesticides, especially imidacloprid produced by Bayer Crop Science. Imidacloprid is also the active ingredient in Merit, contained in Season Long Grub Control made by Bayer Advanced, and other products. Imidacloprid is also an ingredient in many big-name commercial lawn fertilizers used to feed lawns while at the same time controlling white grubs. Imidacloprid, Merit, or whatever else you call it, is long lasting so it gets into groundwater and stays there a long time. It is systemic so plant roots pick it up, not just the roots of grasses, and of course bees visit the flowers on these plants.

European gardeners, growers, and beekeepers have been fighting the Bayer company about this problem through the courts for ten years, but up until now the Bayer people have refused to admit that imidacloprid harms bees. On the side of the Europeans

is one undisputed fact: Imidacloprid is claimed by Bayer not to kill white grubs outright, but to get rid of them by confusing them so that they cannot function in a normal manner, which in turn interrupts their life cycle and prevents their proliferation. Does that sound familiar? This is exactly what is happening to bees when they are afflicted with CCD. They cannot find their way back to the hive and they cannot perform tasks in a normal manner. As you can see, lawn owners, golf course managers, and agriculturists using commercial fertilizers containing grub control may be unwittingly killing bees. And whatever is killing our domestic bees is also killing the many species of wild bees, including carpenter bees, mason bees, and four local species of bumble bees. All these are disappearing along with feral European and Africanized bees and domestic European honeybees.

Please help save the world's bees by your own actions and by spreading the word. Please never spray with Spinosad (discussed last month) unless in the evening hours and in very small quantities while using a small hand sprayer (the kind sold for moistening laundry), and then only moistening the leaves of plants at a distance from flowers or only on geranium blossoms, since bees never visit them. Never purchase or use Spinosad in a broadcast spray container. Never use Sluggo Plus in moist spots visited by bees, because it contains Spinosad. Above all, please stop using all products containing imidacloprid, including Merit and Bayer Advantage, and use organic controls instead.

Beneficial nematodes and products containing milky spore disease will control white grubs in organically grown lawns. (Synthetic fertilizers may kill live organisms, such as beneficial nematodes and milky spore.) Never use Bayer Advantage to control giant white fly.

Continued on page 16

## Screening with Bamboo

By Lois Walag

If you need a plant for quick screening you'd be hard pressed to find a faster grower since most bamboos double in size each growing season! Because of their aggressive growth, most retail nurseries tend not to carry an extensive inventory of bamboo. However, there are a number of specialty bamboo growers in Southern California that can offer you dozens of varieties that are suitable for screening.

The main criteria to consider when choosing bamboo are:

1. Your climate zone. Yes, there are actually bamboos that will live in temperatures as low as  $-20^{\circ}\text{F}$ , and a few will tolerate desert heat given adequate water.
2. Will it be planted in sun, shade or a combination? Bamboos that thrive in full sun may suffer in deep shade and vice versa. Most, however, will adapt to the conditions they are given.
3. Do you prefer a clumping or a running type? In general the clumpers tend to be tropical in origin, so if you live in an area with consistent winter freezing you would do best with the running types. No need to fear them going out of control on you; simply installing a high density polyethylene rhizome barrier will insure they stay in their place.
4. How tall do you want your bamboo to get? (Or perhaps better stated, how small do you want your bamboo to stay!?). Choose one with the desired mature height range, keeping in mind that the taller the plant gets, the wider it will also get at the base. Be sure that you provide enough planter width so that the plant will not become too crowded in the area as it matures.

For additional pictures and information <http://www.bambooweb.info> is a wonderful resource.

Author Lois Walag works for SDHS sponsor Botanical Partners (see ad on page 20).

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## The Real Dirt On...

[For two years Christy Powell and Sharon Corrigan (along with Linda Bresler) have contributed a number of fascinating articles to this column, and we thank them so much for their contributions. If you'd like to join Linda in writing about important people in botany and horticulture, please call Susi at (760) 295-7089.]

### IZABELA TEXTORISOVA

By Linda Bresler



Izabela Textorisova was Slovakia's first female botanist. She was born on March 16, 1866, in Ratkova, a town in what is now the Slovak Republic. Her formal education ended after the sixth grade in 1877. After that, she was completely self-taught. In 1886, Izabela passed an examination with the postal service and went to work at newly established offices in Blatnica, where she remained for the rest of her life.

Izabela had a tremendous thirst for knowledge. Despite holding down a demanding job and looking after her parents and three sisters, she learned a number of languages, and studied plants, minerals and speleology (the study of the physical, geological, and biological aspects of caves). Izabela became a renowned expert in botany, particularly in the plants around the area near where she lived in the Turiec region of Slovakia. She collected and classified plants, and exchanged specimens with a number of leading authorities. Her large herbarium, now part of the botany department of Comenius University in Bratislava, is still today, as in the past, a source for botanists of the highest rank.

In 1913 Izabela published the results of her work in a Slovakian botany journal under the title "Flora Data from the County of Turiec," describing more than a hundred plants whose presence in Turiec had previously passed unrecorded. The distinguished Hungarian botanist Margittai named a new species of thistle, which she had discovered in 1893, in Izabela's honor: *Carduus textorisianus*.

Izabela Textorisova played an active part in the cultural and civic life of her people, and was acquainted with many Slovak intellectuals. Without any formal training in botany, she became a well-known and respected specialist in the discipline. The botany community continues to hold her contribution to Slovak science in high esteem, and still draws upon her work.

Her influence extended beyond botany, according to one on-line paper about the women's movement in Slovakia ([www.inst.at/trans/14Nr/woehrer14.htm#\\_fn15](http://www.inst.at/trans/14Nr/woehrer14.htm#_fn15)). "The first activities by and for women took place during the so called 'Slovak National Revival', which started in the middle of the 18th century and lasted until the foundation of the first Czechoslovak Republic. ...The American literature historian Norma Rudinsky analyses the works of four important women writers at that time," including Izabella Textorisová. "They were not only active in the women's movement, but they also published novels and stories, in which they described the lives of Slovak women or female nationalists. ..." Rudinsky notes, "Izabela Textorisová's aptitude for botanical research was 'ignored if not scorned by other women nationalists, who urged her to dedicate herself to writing.'"

Textorisova died on Sept. 12, 1949. In 1996 the stamp shown here was issued in her honor by the Czech Republic, and a planet was named in her honor in April, 2000.

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



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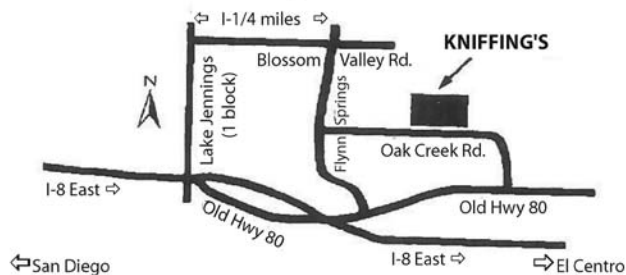
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## If Not Lawn...What?

By Pamela Homfelt

A few months ago The Water Conservation Garden approached me with what has come to be a common scenario in my business. They had two small lawns toward the rear of the garden that served no practical function and occupied space needed for more useful purposes. In their place they wanted to feature yet another demonstration of low water options for Garden visitors.

Many times large expanses or small awkward pieces of lawn go into the landscape for the simple reason that the homeowners, contractors, and yes, even designers, don't know what else to do. Or it's just a given: landscape equals lawn, that's the way it's always been.

The goal of the Garden's director was to exhibit how beautiful, practical and 'green' it can be when you replace the "not so green, green." What can take the place of lawn and how almost anyone can create a setting more relevant to their lifestyle, has already intrigued many visitors. Often, low water use plants, trees and boulders are chosen to create a sense of place in our Mediterranean climate. Another option: design hardscape melding interior with exterior living spaces. Requiring shaded vendor space during events and a cool rest spot for visitors, this option was chosen by the Garden.

As we just heard at the October meeting, bamboo has long been a building material of choice. Considering the beauty, ease of construction, economical and sustainable nature of the product we will undoubtedly see more bamboo creations in the future. The pergola design takes advantage of the many readily available stock sizes of poles and slats, minimizing cutting. The lightweight nature of the product requires less labor to complete construction. As you can see, many of the pieces are simply tied together, while the more structural elements are screwed to each other. Consequently, replacing any damaged or worn pieces will eliminate building an entire new structure.

Thatch is one option for roofing a bamboo structure, but in this case we chose the more dramatic outdoor fabric, again, simply tied to the structure. A flexible design element, fabric will allow deep or light shade, part shade/part sun, or possibly draperies on the sides for privacy.

In your garden a similar structure could be used for dining, entertaining, shading an outdoor kitchen, meditation, a child's playhouse, a shaded room around a swimming pool or, considering the crowd, a structure to house rare and exotic shade plants!

So, get inspired at the Water Conservation Garden! 12122 Cuyamaca Drive West, El Cajon, 92019, (619) 660-0614, [www.thegarden.org](http://www.thegarden.org)

Bamboo Source: See the CaliBamboo website for more ideas/ [www.calibamboo.com](http://www.calibamboo.com); located at 9365 Waples Street, Suite D, 92121.



Author Pamela Homfelt, who also took the photo above, is a former SDHS board member and landscape designer specializing in low water use landscapes for over 15 years.

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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:** Sometimes we don't make time to sit in our own gardens, but there is often a place for others to sit. Please share your garden seating ideas.

**Lynne Currier** says, "Within our new drought tolerant garden, tucked away in a corner bordered by a rock rose hedge on the street side and a huge *Arbutus unedo* on the driveway side, is our seating area. We had an old park bench, which we placed in front of the *Arbutus*, which faces the rest of the garden. When we built our dry creek bed we had one leftover boulder that had a large rounded and smooth divet in it, perfectly sized to sit in! We placed that across from the park bench, facing the *Arbutus*. Sometimes we fill the divet with water and it acts like a bird bath! Although the sitting area is adjacent to the street, we have privacy from the road because of the rock rose hedge and *Arbutus* and are able to view our whole garden from the park bench."

**Juli Gillett** created a special seating area: "About three years ago we decided to remove a juniper hedge that wrapped around the east side of our French style house. We didn't realize just how much area that hedge took up until it was removed and then it was, 'Wow, what are we going to do with all this space?' I wanted the area to become an extension of the living room so it could open up to the outside. First, four small windows were removed and beautiful French doors were installed. Because of the difference in elevation we needed to create a step down area and some steps to get up to the walkway, so we incorporated the same flagstone that we had used for some walls along the back part of the garden. We also stacked the flagstone around a large ornamental pear tree to create a tree ring and ran the flagstone along the perimeter of the space creating planting areas. We then removed some lawn as this little extension was now going to become a 'garden sitting area' since it looked out to the rolling hills of Olivenhain and beyond to Rancho Santa Fe. To keep our costs down we loaded my truck with pea gravel, also a repeat from another part of the garden, and laid it as the floor, in the French style. Next we purchased a low fire ring table and four comfy chairs. I had the words 'Joie de Vivre' painted on an exterior wall and planted tall Italian Cypress along two tall walls flanked by windows. We have a couple of other spaces where we can sit and relax in our garden but this garden seating area is our favorite and it turned out far better than we even imagined. Our friends love it too!"

**Marilyn Guidroz** agrees that, "we rarely seem to have the time to sit and enjoy our own gardens. Especially me, since I am busy designing other peoples gardens all day long. I do have a special seat, however. It faces east and is near my front door. I have a wonderful view of the moonrise from it. Sometimes I will find my husband and we will just sit and enjoy the moment together. It is made of two old wagon wheels and a thick plank attached for the seat. I made a nice little stone area with potted plants around it for a cozy spot. It feels good and safe to just be there."



**Lorie Johansen** puts sections of cut trees to good use: "The only time I sit and enjoy the gardens is when I have company. I thought I would use the large rounds (from high fuel trees: conifers and Eucalyptus) that I put along garden paths interspersed with rocks. And I do use them to put tools on but never manage to sit on them just to soak in the atmosphere... but company will often sit on these large rounds to do exactly that!"

**Marla Keith** has: "a 'secret garden.' Here is where I sit and meditate... have coffee...and read the newspaper in a.m. and in p.m. it is a lovely place to sit and think and plan future garden activities. Ferns, begonias, a water fountain and various other plants create a special environment. My two cats also enjoy this secret garden set up by Norm, my husband, totally enclosed so they are safe and free from predators."

**Marlene King** likes "Teak Benches and more teak benches. Nothing unusual there. However, I *do* sit quite a bit in my front yard garden, and in doing so, say hello to my neighbors and they often take a detour and join me for a visit. Also, I have oodles of topiary animals...4-foot squirrels, grizzly bears with trout in their mouths, dogs, rabbits, frogs, turtles, sharks, etc., so my little zoo is a natural attractor, and there a nice 5-foot teak bench near the street right in the middle of the animals. Neighborhood children love to walk through and play and their parents/nannies take a rest on the bench. Also, I have designed my front garden to best be enjoyed from the perspective of sitting on those benches. My neighbor across the street jogs daily – it wasn't until he sat with me that he discovered my design parameters – he said it reminded him of gardens in Persia where one is truly IN the garden. I like that."

**Carol McCollum** has a rustic seating area: "A couple years ago, the neighbors cut down a big tree in their yard. The chunks of tree trunk sat in their driveway for a few weeks. I thought they would look nice in my garden, and also give a place to sit, rest and enjoy. The most frequent visitor who sits with me is my neighbor's cat, Nala. She is especially happy about the catnip plants that are growing around the natural seating."

**Margaret Prouty** has "a table and chairs in the shade of the courtyard of my front garden with the sound of the fountain and view of the neighbors passing by (it's handy for them stopping to chat, or for reading the paper or a good book)."

**Mary Rodriguez** enjoys a variety of garden seats: "One seat was created when a portion of a tree had to be removed. We had it cut to form a seat out of the stump. It's cut on an angle, very comfy, with the remaining tree trunk as a backrest. Another area has two rocking chairs on a brick area large enough to hold the chairs, surrounded by a perennial garden. Then my husband built a swinging bench with a trellis of lemon pie roses cascading over the top. Another seating area uses a retaining wall in front of my art studio. We left it high enough to form a long bench to sit on. Then I forgot our \$10 bargain bench we found in a junk store and painted ourselves. And lastly, my husband loves games in the backyard. We have a bacci ball court with the backstop forming a bench. We use them all."

**Jim Stelluti** also has different seating areas in his "two small gardens. Each garden has three places to sit. I don't use anything that

Continued on page 16

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**Sharing Secrets** Continued from page 15

is plastic. Each seat is small, and I arrange each seat so I sit facing in different directions. My front garden has an antique sewing machine base with a piece of marble on top, an old stump of wood with a piece of flagstone for the seat, plus a small old wicker stool from my friend Don Yeckel. My side garden has three old metal chairs, each one a different shape. I painted all three silver so they are attractive as well as useful. All six of my seats are meant for perching, resting and viewing. Each seat is a focal point and also works as garden art. Sitting in my garden allows me to be in the now. Nature is man's best tranquilizer."

**Jim Wright** says, "Our truly wonderful sitting spot is the beautiful mosaic bench [pictured here] that Lise made several years ago; it is situated so a beautiful area of the garden is the focal point. The bench was featured in San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles magazine in an August 2001 article by Nan Sterman. There are several other sitting spots in the garden but this is the most spectacular, both the bench and the view. It is the favorite sitting spot for the young lady who lives in our next door rental house, which is incorporated into our garden."



**The question for next month is:** What special thing do you do when planting a new plant? Please send your e-mail reply by November 5 to [info@sdhortsoc.org](mailto:info@sdhortsoc.org). ☘

**Saving Bees** Continued from page 11

milky spore.) Never use Bayer Advantage to control giant white fly. Instead, spread a layer of worm castings over the roots of affected plants. Earthworm castings will get rid of giant white fly completely, as proved in my own garden. Earthworm castings over rose roots seem to be controlling rose slug also, and they certainly control ants. Releasing delphastus beetles can also help control giant white fly. Eschew chemical sprays, release beneficials to control pests, and provide beneficials with pollen-bearing plants plus water to drink in a fountain, or at least a birdbath.

Member Pat Welsh is the author of *Pat Welsh's Southern California Gardening: A Month-by-Month Guide* and other books, and is currently writing "as fast as I possibly can," an all-organic book scheduled to be published 2010. ☘



# October Plant Forum

By Joyce Buckner, Sue Martin, Arlene Palmer, 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.

### **Aster 'Nana Hern'** MICHAELMAS DAISY (Asteraceae)

Garden Hybrid

The website for U. C. Riverside Botanic Garden ([www.gardens.ucr.edu/events/herbaceousFall.html](http://www.gardens.ucr.edu/events/herbaceousFall.html)) describes this lovely plant as an "herbaceous perennial w[ith] narrow, dark green leaves and huge, branching clusters of blue-purple, daisy flowers in fall/winter." It does well in part shade with low water. Cut back in early summer so it won't flop and has more blooms. Attracts butterflies to your garden, and also makes a good cut flower. (Sue Martin, Point Loma, 10/08) – S.M. & S.T-B.

### **Astrophytum caput-medusae** (Syn. *Digitostigma caput-medusae*) (Cactaceae) Mexico

Discovered in 2001 in the Sierra Madre Oriental mountain range located in the state of Nuevo Leon, Mexico. With spotted finger-shaped tubercles and papyraceous bristles at the base of the tubercles, this is a cactus that resembles no other. Indeed, only its flower gave evidence to the genus *Astrophytum*. This remarkable new species has rapidly become a coveted object of desire by cactophiles all over the world. Plants prefer a semi-shaded position as they live in habitat under shrubs. They begin a complete winter dormancy in late August or early September and should not be watered until new growth appears in the spring (around March). Plants need to be greenhoused and/or protected from frost and heavy rains during winter months. With due diligence and optimistic resolve we hope to keep ours alive through the winter! (Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 10/08) – J.B.

### **Bambusa vulgaris 'Vittata'** PAINTED BAMBOO (Gramineae)

Native distribution obscured by cultivation

One of the most beautiful clumping bamboos for our region, this plant features 4" diameter yellow culms with irregular green stripes. What makes it fascinating is that every section of the culm has a different arrangement of stripes, providing endless variety. The plant sheaths, stems and leaves may also be variegated, and it forms large arching clumps in the garden. The plant grows to about 30'-50' tall. It loses its leaves below about 27°-30° F, and at about 5°-10° F. Not at all drought-tolerant, provide sufficient water to keep the leaves from curling up. New culms appear in late summer to early fall, rising in about two months to their mature height. (Julian Duval, Encinitas, 10/08) – S.T-B.

### **Echeveria pulvinata** PLUSH PLANT, CHENILLE PLANT (Crassulaceae) Mexico (Oxaca)

Most of the approximately 150 species of *Echeverias* are native to Mexico. This drought-tolerant succulent has densely hairy blue-green

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## October Plant Forum

leaves which are tipped in red. Usually grows in a showy mound, and the fine white hairs give it a silvery appearance. The bright orange five-petalled bell-shaped flowers appear in clusters in winter through spring (some sources say summer; others say fall blooming). Grow it in sun to light shade – too much shade makes them leggy. Provide good drainage. Needs water in spring and summer; little to no water in winter. The plant grows to about 6" tall and 18" wide. (Cathy Tylka, Escondido, 10/08) – C.T. & S. T-B.

***Epiphyllum crenatum* CRENATE ORCHID CACTUS**

(Cactaceae) Mexico to Honduras

This fast-growing epiphytic orchid cactus has broad leaf-like stems and flowers which grow from the stem edges. The scented white flowers open at night and can be 7" wide. Best grown in warm shade with regular watering and feeding; do not let it get below about 55° F. Plants need rich soil with excellent drainage – very good in pots. The species is very often used as a parent in breeding *Epiphyllum* hybrids. It flowers in late spring through summer. First collected in the wild in Honduras around 1839. (Cathy Tylka, Escondido, 10/08) – C.T. & S.T-B.

***Haemanthus 'Cocaloba Pink'* PAINTBRUSH** (Amaryllidaceae)

Garden Hybrid

Bulbous herbs native to South Africa and Namibia, there are about 22 *Haemanthus* species. The specimen displayed is one which SDHS founder Don Walker brought to the plant swap table many years ago. It is a dependable grower and bloomer. In our area *Haemanthus* grow best in part shade in pots with excellent drainage. Grown for their distinctive brush-like inflorescences. (Arlene Palmer, Crest, 10/08) – A.P. & S.T-B.

***Nerine sarniensis* GUERNSEY LILY** (Amaryllidaceae)

South Africa

A South African bulb which naturalized on the island of Guernsey (part of the Channel Islands between England and France), hence the common name. This is a beautiful small flowering and small-bulbed winter grower. It proliferates both in the ground (full sun, good drainage but humus rich soil), and in a pot. One becomes two, etc. exponentially. I grow them hard, like a succulent – summer dormant – dry. I am always delighted and surprised when they bloom naked (without leaves) in September, October or November. Have usually forgotten all about them, until they boldly declare themselves with brilliant red flowers. Leaves appear after the blooms and generally remain on plants until late spring or early summer. Please note: the plant I brought in was in pot that had been turned over on its side, dry – entirely unwatered for several months. I have several more plants in upright pots that received some summer water; however slight that may have been. They are all still dormant at this time, but I expect them to bloom in the near future. (Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 10/08) – J.B.

***Pachypodium brevicaule*** (Apocynaceae) Madagascar

This wonderful, slow-growing caudiciform in the Oleander Family is indeed the most sought after and expensive species of *Pachypodium*. Correspondingly, it is also the most difficult to cultivate. Native to the woodland or savanna zones of western Madagascar, *P. brevicaule* grows in full sun on sandstone or in acid substrata crevices. Although it grows at altitudes between 4,000 and 6,500 feet, the temperatures are



# October Plant Forum

restrictively moderate, seldom going below 45° F or above 65° F. I stop watering this plant when nighttime temperature nears 50° F, and do not begin spring watering until the first appearance of leaves. Even here in warm and sunny southern California plants need to be protected from winter rain and temperatures below 40° F. It is considered a dwarf plant. It takes on a flattened tuberous cactus-like shape with a short (low growing) wide trunk or caudex. This silver-skinned trunk has protruding nodes of leaf and spine rosettes rather than branches. Brilliant yellow flowers are large and showy, contributing generously to plant's high desirability quotient. Unfortunately, its desirability led to over-collecting and near destruction of its habitat. Threatened with extinction *Pachypodium brevicaule* became the botanical poster child for the creation of CITES. This species is now protected by Appendix I (the most restrictive) of CITES regulations. (Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 10/08) – J.B.

We had a wide range of plant types at the October meeting – thanks to everyone who participated. Michael Buckner did an excellent job describing them. The plants listed 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](http://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 October newsletter was *Campanula coccolactiflora* CHOCOLATE MILK BELLFLOWER.

*Albuca circinata* (Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 10/08)

*Callicarpa americana* AMERICAN BEAUTYBERRY  
(Jackie McGee, San Marcos, 10/08)

*Cattleytonia* Maui Maid x *Cattleya* Valentine 'Coerulescens' (2 plants)  
(Charley & Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 10/08)

*Cattleytonia* Why Not (Charley & Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 10/08)

*Cattleytonia* James Kawakami (Charley & Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 10/08)

*Crassula mucosa* (Syn. *C. lycopodioides*) WATCH CHAIN PLANT  
(Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 10/08)



*Crassula mucosa*



*Haemanthus albiflos*

*Euphorbia hedyotoides* (Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 10/08)

*Farfugium* cv. or sp. LIGULARIA, LEOPARD PLANT  
(Walt Meier, Oceanside, 10/08)

*Ficus burret-davyi* (bonsai form, 15 years in training)  
(Phil Tackill, Solana Beach, 10/08)

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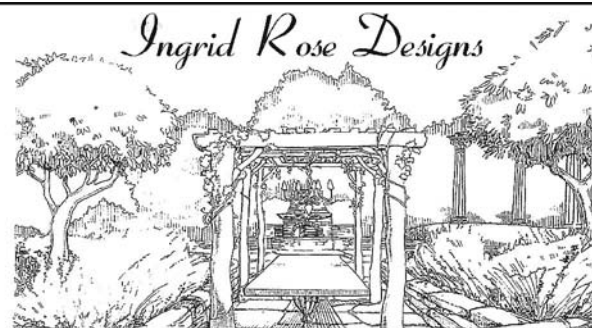
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## October Plant Forum

3 *Haemanthus albiflos* PAINTBRUSH (Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 10/08; Jackie McGee, San Marcos, 10/08)

3 *Haemanthus bedtimefloss* TOOTHBRUSH (Yore Kiddinme, San Marcos, 10/08)

*Haworthia cymbiformis* 'Variegata' (Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 10/08)

3 *Hypoestes aristata* RIBBON BUSH (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 10/08)

*Ipomoea mauritiana* (Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 10/08)

*Kalanchoe rhombolosa* (Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 10/08)

*Ledebouria zebrina* PAINTBRUSH (Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 10/08)

3 *Leonotis leonurus* LION'S TAIL (Louise Anderson, San Marcos, 10/08)

*Monstera deliciosa* (variegated) (Bob Dimattia, Pura Vida Tropicals, Vista, 10/08)

*Orthophytum magalhaesii* (Bob Dimattia, Pura Vida Tropicals, Vista, 10/08)

*Sarcocaulon vanderietiae* (Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 10/08)

*Tillandsia secunda* (Arlene Palmer, Crest, 10/08)

3 *Welwitschia mirabilis* (Syn. *Welwitschia bainesii*) (Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 10/08)



### 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.]



# October Meeting Report

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It isn't often we see beautiful examples of musical instruments, finely crafted furniture, silky clothing, and hand-carved artwork – all made of the same material. "Bamboo" Bob Dimattia, our October speaker, brought a truck load of these things to show us, along with a marvelous bicycle with bamboo components. What an exciting way to expand upon his excellent presentation. Bob's passionate talk about the enormous versatility of bamboo opened our eyes to how important this member of the Grass Family was and still is worldwide.

Bamboo books have been found dating to before the year 400, and as far back as the early 1400s the Chinese used bamboo to drill down up to 3000' for water. Thomas Alva Edison's first light bulb was patented using a carbonized bamboo filament (he tried 1600 other materials!), and he used bamboo as rebar for his swimming pool. Bamboo lath is covered with plaster to make simple houses, and it is still used to make bows, arrows and charcoal for water purification. All bamboo of the same species flowers at the same time all over the planet, and the edible seeds are known as "poor man's rice."

Bob showed bamboo used for airplanes, boats, sails, plywood, roofing, flooring, and much more. Laminated bamboo is used for countertops, and bamboo has long been used for gates and baskets. It is still used for scaffolding in modern construction, and eaten by people in many cultures. Other uses include: bridges, charcoal pellets for heating, water pipes, ethanol fuel, alcoholic beverages, surfboards, toys and carpeting. Clothing made from bamboo is silken to the touch and also has antimicrobial properties. Mitsubishi is even developing bamboo-reinforced bioplastics for cars.

In gardens, bamboo is one plant that packs a lot of punch. There is great diversity in the colors of both foliage and culms, and plants can range from yellow to green to blue to virtually black, with and without stripes. One of the best choices for striped culms is *Bambusa vulgaris* 'Vittata' (see page 17); another is *Himalayacalamus falconeri* 'Damarapa' (the Candy Cane Bamboo). Size ranges widely from a few inches to over 75' tall. This summer it was announced that a bamboo was found in French Guiana which is only 2 cm tall. The shape of the culms (the vertical stems) can be straight or bulging, and some cultivars (such as *Bambusa tuldoidea* 'Ventricosa', or Buddha's Belly Bamboo) are grown for their interesting culm shapes.

Thanks, Bob, for an enormously interesting presentation! We also thank Bob's company, Pura Vida Tropicals, for providing an excellent selection of plants, and some bamboo clothing, for the Opportunity Drawing. Thanks to Plants That Produce (see ad at right) for donating a bottle of "liquid gypsum" for the drawing.

Michael Buckner of The Plant Man nursery did a great job describing all the plants on the Plant Forum tables. You can participate next month by just bringing a plant or cutting from your garden. 🌱



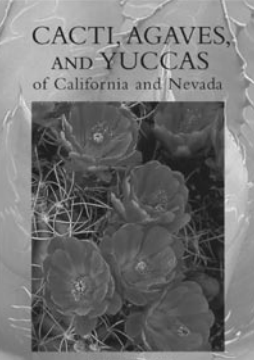
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## November Plant Sale! 20% off all plants\*

Friday, November 28<sup>th</sup>  
thru Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

\*Other discounts do not apply during 20% off sales events



And...

## Concert in the Gardens

DePue & DeHoyos Performing Live

Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup>

From 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Free Admission! (donations appreciated)

Complimentary Refreshments



**Miguel DeHoyos is Mexico's guitar virtuoso.** For years Steve & I have enjoyed Miguel's performances while on our Mexico getaways. And last May we were pleasantly surprised by a new duo joining Miguel, Alex DePue, renowned classical violinist. They are quite the duo to be enjoyed, so please don't miss this rare opportunity, they play many delightful musical arrangements. It's going to be outstanding fun. See and hear a sample here (but it's no comparison to the live performance!):

<http://www.depuedehoyos.com>

Information: (760) 744-2810

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# What's Happening? for November 2008

The SDHS is happy to publicize items of horticultural interest. See other side for resources & ongoing events.  
Send calendar listings by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month before the event to [calendar@sdhortsoc.org](mailto:calendar@sdhortsoc.org).

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

If you get a chance check out our recently revamped website at [www.andersonslacostanursery.com](http://www.andersonslacostanursery.com) – lots of new stuff and a fast expanding online store.

November can bring us glorious weather for gardening in the San Diego area. Warm but mild days and cool nights are ideal growing conditions for cool-season plants. November is a particularly good time to add trees, shrubs and ground covers to your landscape. November can deliver some much needed rain here – you may want to prune dense trees and make sure young trees are well-staked before winter arrives.

--Plenty of loose **Paperwhite** bulbs. Remember to plant Paperwhites every two weeks now for a long display in December.

--A favorite California native – the **Matilija Poppy** (*Romneya coulteri*) - the Fried Egg Plant. Drought tolerant to 5' tall and 8' across.

--**Ceanothus** is yet another great fabulous looking California native; one of the varieties on hand is *Ceanothus arboreus* 'Cliff Schmidt', Feltleaf Ceanothus. Gets big – to 16' tall and 12' across. Low water and hardy to 10° F. Blooms Spring and Fall; in bloom now. Gorgeous !!

--Restocked our **Herbs & Veggies** with: Plump Strawberry plants, Parsley, Valerian, lots of Lettuce(s), Winterbor and Redbor Kale, Spinach, Oregano (Greek, Hot & Spicy, Gold, Sweet Variegated), English Thyme, Lemon Thyme, many Basils, Cat Grass & Cat Thyme, Chives, Onions, Marjoram, Dill, Fennel, Italian Parsley.

**The bedding annuals and perennials look enticing:**

--Nemesia, Arctotus and Osteospermum, Bacopa – both Lilac & White, Sanvitalia tequila, Iceland Poppies, many Violas, Pansies, Snapdragons, Sweet Peas and much, much more.

--For shady areas The Cyclamen are in full bloom – all colors and sizes are onhand and Primroses and nice Begonias to brighten your mood and home.

**For indoors:**

--Big Ferns – lush, tropical and elegant. Maidenhairs in 4", 6" & 8", Boston's (6" & 10" – HUGE). Also Kimberly Queen, Bear Paw, Rabbit's Foot, Silver Dollar, Mother Fern and Autumn (just to rattle off a few).

--Great Orchids & Cymbidiums – will last most of the season.

--Great selection of Breynia, Kalanchoe, Bromeliad, Anthurium, 'Persian Violet', African Violet, Crossandra, Azalea, Hibiscus – just a few of your choices.

### The Water Conservation Garden (contact info on other side)

**Nov. 1, 10am – 1pm, Toss Your Turf; less Water, Less Grass, More Fun!** Join Vickie Driver for a short course in turf removal, tips for evaluating your soil, tuning up your irrigation system, plus creative ideas for beautiful low water landscape. Held in the heritage of the Americas Museum on the Cuyamaca College campus. \$20/Members, \$30/Non-members.

**Nov. 1, 4 – 6pm, "In Harmony With The Garden":** Five acres of themed gardens that showcase the beauty and diversity of water-wise landscapes will be on display as patrons hear the majestic sounds of the Westwind Brass quintet. \$20/members, \$30/non-members and \$15/students. (619) 501-3562 or [www.westwindbrass.org](http://www.westwindbrass.org).

**Nov. 2, 1:30pm, Freel Ask the Horticulturist Tour:** Bring your questions for this interesting 45-60 minute tour from the perspective of those who know the Garden well! Meet at the main Garden entrance. No reservations required.

**Nov. 8, 10am – noon, Home Compost Workshop:** Free home composting workshop by Certified Master Composter from Solana Center. To register call Solana Center (760) 436-7986 x225. Held at the Water Conservation Garden.

**Nov. 15, 10am – 1pm, Ask the Landscape Designer Appointments:** Professional Landscape Designer Connie Beck provides personalized 45-minute landscape design consultations at the Water Conservation Garden. Bring a photo of your area, your project dimensions, and ideas you like from magazines.

### Classes at Quail Botanical Gardens (contact info on other side)

**Nov. 4, 11, 18 & 25: 10am – noon, Ikebana:** Learn from Rumi Rice, Sogetsu School teacher. \$80/members. \$100/non-members. (plus \$30 materials fee).

**Nov. 6, 13, 20, 7 – 9pm, Dec. 6, 9am – noon, Wildlife Friendly Gardening Workshop:** Learn how to make your garden wildlife friendly by using native plants and healthy gardening practices. \$80/Members, \$100/Non-members.

**Nov. 7, 10am – noon, Making Miniatures:** Make little things from natural materials. \$20/Members, \$25/Non-members, \$7.50 materials fee. Advance regist. required.

**Nov. 13, 9am – 2pm, Succulent Wreath Class:** Make a beautiful succulent wreath. Bring clippers, water, and a snack; and dress in layers (class is held outside). Fees includes materials. \$55/Members \$65/Non-members.

**Nov. 15, 11am – 1pm, Free Composting Workshop:** Taught by Solana Center Master Composters. Meet at the Compost Demonstration Site near the Children's Garden. To register: (760) 436-7986 or [www.solanacenter.org](http://www.solanacenter.org).

**Nov. 16, 2 – 4pm, Floral Design with David Root:** Create a fall-themed floral arrangement. Bring a floral knife, clippers, wire cutters, and scissors. \$55/members \$60/Non-members.

### Classes at the San Diego Natural History Museum Plant Forum:

Adult program is an in-depth look at San Diego plant families and the characters and keys taxonomists use; not recommended for beginners in botany. Each class: \$20/members; \$25/non-members. [tickets.sdnhm.org/public/load\\_screen.asp](http://tickets.sdnhm.org/public/load_screen.asp).

**Nov. 5, 6:30 – 8:30pm, Boraginaceae (focus on Plagiobothrys)**

**Nov. 12, 6:30 – 8:30pm, Cactaceae**

**Nov. 19, 6:30 – 8:30pm, Euphorbia & Chamaesyce**

**Nov. 1, 9-10:30am, California Coastal Rose Society Learning Workshops:** Demos include deadheading, feeding, damage from pests or disease etc. Magee Garden at the corner of Beech Ave. and Garfield St., Carlsbad. (760) 804-0875 or [www.californiacoastalrose.com](http://www.californiacoastalrose.com).

**Nov. 1, Walter Andersen Nursery:** 9:00am, Camellias. (San Diego: 3642 Enterprise Street, (619) 224-8271); 9:30am, Holiday Planters & Color. (Poway, 12755 Danielson Court, (858) 513-4900). [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com).

**Nov. 1, 9am – 4pm, Lake Hodges Native Plant Club Plant Sale:** Come early for best selection of native plants. Also bulbs, houseplants, succulents, more! At Vons, 11986 Bernardo Plaza Dr., Rancho Bernardo. [www.lhnpc.org](http://www.lhnpc.org).

**Nov. 3, 12:30 – 3pm, Palomar Floral Design Forum:** René van Rems will speak. \$8 per session (\$45/season) payable at the door. Carlsbad Women's Club, 3320 Monroe Street, Carlsbad. [www.geocities.com/pdgardencubs](http://www.geocities.com/pdgardencubs).

**Nov. 4, 6:30pm, San Diego County Orchid Society:** Beginners Class at 6:30 in Room 104; general meeting at 7pm in Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Free, everyone is welcome. [www.sdorchids.com](http://www.sdorchids.com).

**Nov. 5, 6:30pm, Palomar Orchid Society:** Carlsbad Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe Street, Carlsbad. [palomarorchid.org](http://palomarorchid.org).

**Nov. 7, 11:30am, Vista Garden Club Luncheon:** Fund raiser for scholarships for local area college students majoring in horticulture or related fields. Tickets \$20. Grace Presbyterian Church, 1450 East Vista Way, Vista. [www.vistagardenclub.org](http://www.vistagardenclub.org).

**Nov. 7, 2 – 6pm, & Nov. 8, 10am – 5pm, Bonita Valley Garden Club Flower Show:** Public invited - free show. Community Room Sunnyside Library, 5375 Bonita Road and Bonita Museum and Cultural Center, 4355 Bonita Road, Bonita. (619) 267-5658.

**Nov. 8, Walter Andersen Nursery:** 9:00am, Poinsettias. (San Diego see Nov. 1) 9:30 am, Garden Railroadng, Part I. (Poway see Nov. 1).

**Nov. 8, 10am, San Diego Bromeliad Society:** Member plant sale. Visitors welcome, free. Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. (858) 453-6486 [www.bsi.org/webpages/san\\_diego.html](http://www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html).

**Nov. 8, 1pm, San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society:** Stephen Ingram on Cacti, Agaves & Yuccas of California and Nevada. Rm 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. [www.sdcss.com](http://www.sdcss.com).

**Nov. 9, 9am, San Diego Bonsai Club:** Speaker: Ted Matson. Bonsai classes for members, info: [www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com](http://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com). Rm 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park.

**Nov. 9, 1:30pm, Mabel Corwin Branch of the American Begonia Society:** Ron Konopka shows pictures of members' gardens. Encinitas Community Center, Room 118, 1140 Oakcrest Park Drive, Encinitas. (760) 753-3977.

November 10, 6:00pm, details on page 3  
Autumnal Treasures of the Pacific Northwest

**Nov. 10, 7pm, San Diego Geranium Society:** Program about ivy geraniums. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. (619) 447-8243 or [www.sdgeranium.org](http://www.sdgeranium.org).

**Nov. 11, Noon, Dos Valles Garden Club:** Herbs and Wreaths. St. Stephens Catholic Church, 31020 Cole Grade Road, Valley Center. [www.dosvallesgardenclub.org](http://www.dosvallesgardenclub.org).

**Nov. 12, 10am, Point Loma Garden Club:** Kurk Peacock on "Water Wise Plants, Trees and Flowers." Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego. [www.plgc.org](http://www.plgc.org).

**Nov. 12, 10:30am, Poway Valley Garden Club:** Elizabeth Simpson of Armstrong Garden Center discusses managing micro-climates. Free. Old Poway Park-Templar's Hall. (858) 748-6746 or [www.home.san.rn.com/pvgc](http://www.home.san.rn.com/pvgc)

**Nov. 12, noon, Ramona Garden Club:** Learn to make compost from master Gardener Rose Crawford. Ramona Woman's Club, 524 Main Street, Ramona. (760) 788-6709 or [www.ramonagardenclub.com](http://www.ramonagardenclub.com).

**Nov. 12, 7:30pm, San Diego Epiphyllum Society:** Program TBA. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. [www.epiphyllum.com](http://www.epiphyllum.com).

**Nov. 13, 7:30pm, So. California Horticultural Society:** Native Plant Horticulture: Myths and Legends, by Greg Rubin. Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Dr., Los Angeles. (818) 567-1496, [www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org).

**Nov. 15, Walter Andersen Nursery:** 9:00am, Winter Color for Your Yard, (San Diego; see Nov. 1) 9:30am, Holiday Decorating with Plants, (Poway; see Nov. 1).

**Nov. 15, 9am – noon, Gardeners 4 Peace Work Party:** Help create a peaceful, organic, permaculture garden at the Peach Resource Center. Please chop vegetable and fruit waste and freeze it in paper bags. Bring the bags for the compost bins. 3850 Westgate Place, San Diego. [www.sdfriendscenter.org](http://www.sdfriendscenter.org)

**Nov. 15, 10am, San Diego Garden Club:** A Day in the Country Nursery Tour: City Farmers, Summer Past Farms, Knifflings. Free/members, \$10/guests. Bag lunch included. Tour starts at City Farmer's Nursery. (619) 269-6184 or [www.sandiegogardenclub.org](http://www.sandiegogardenclub.org).

**Mov. 17, 7:30pm, San Diego Rose Society:** Tom Carruth, of Weeks Roses, giving us a preview of new roses to come. Free. Visitors are always welcome. Room 101, Casadel Prado, Balboa Park.

**Nov. 18, 4:30 – 9pm, California Coastal Rose Society's Annual Rose Auction:** Plants that are rare, exotic in nature, or have collector's appeal. Silent auction until 6:15pm is followed by live auction at 6:45PM. Guest welcome. Heritage Hall, 2650 Garfield St., Carlsbad. (760) 967-3856 or [www.coastalrose.com](http://www.coastalrose.com).

**Nov. 18, 7pm, California Native Plant Society:** The Kumeyaay People of Southern California have been mastering the use of native plants for thousands of years. Ken Hedges will give a presentation on native plant uses for food, medicine and basketry. Rm 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. [www.cnpsd.org](http://www.cnpsd.org).

**Nov. 19, 9:30am, San Dieguito Garden Club:** Public welcome. Members demonstrate ways to take cuttings and make seasonal arrangements. Potluck lunch. Quail Gardens. 230 Quail Garden Dr., Encinitas.

**Nov. 19, 6pm, Mission Hills Garden Club:** Topic: "Artists Night". United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw Street. Free/members, \$10/guests. (619) 923-3624 [www.missionhillsgardenclub.org](http://www.missionhillsgardenclub.org)

**Nov. 19, 6pm, California Rare Fruit Growers:** Free class topic: "How to Propagate Rare Fruit Trees." Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. (619) 261-3610 or [www.crfgsandiego.org](http://www.crfgsandiego.org).

**Nov. 19, 7pm, San Diego Branch of the Cymbidium Society of America:** Program TBA. Guests are welcome. Women's Club of Carlsbad, 3320 Monroe, St., Carlsbad [www.cymbidium.org/branch.html](http://www.cymbidium.org/branch.html).

**Nov. 20, 10:30am, "It's a Party":** Floral designer Beverley Ireland demonstrates a mix of challenging and innovative floral designs using fall foliage. Village Garden Club of La Jolla. \$15/guests. Torrey Pines Christian Church Auditorium, 8320 La Jolla Scenic Drive North, La Jolla. Info: Penelope West, (858) 587-9840

**Nov. 20, 1pm, Bernardo Gardeners Club:** Patrick Anderson will present his succulent garden, which has been featured in *Sunset* magazine and numerous other magazines and books. RB Swim & Tennis Club, 16955 Bernardo Oaks Drive, Rancho Bernardo. (858) 673-8728 or [www.bernardogardeners.org](http://www.bernardogardeners.org)

**Nov. 20, 7:30pm, San Diego Fern Society:** 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](http://www.sdfem.com).

**Nov. 22, Walter Andersen Nursery:** 9:00am, Dormant Fruit Tree Spraying, (San Diego; see Nov. 1); 9:30am, Garden Railroadng, Part 2, (Poway; see Nov. 1)

**Nov. 24, 2pm, Lake Hodges Native Plant Club:** Mayda Portillo, Water Resources Specialist, speaks 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.lhnp.org](http://www.lhnp.org).

## Garden Tours

**Nov. 20, 11am: Historic Garden &Landscape Tour – Balboa Park:** Explore the Marston House formal gardens and woodland pathways, followed by tea and scones. Sponsored by San Diego Historical Society: \$10/members, \$15/non-members. 3525 Seventh Ave., San Diego. (619) 232-6203 x-120.

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.mastergardenerssandiego.org)

**SAN ELIJO LAGOON CONSERVANCY:** Free 90-minute public nature walk 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday; \$5/family; \$2/adult, \$1/seniors/students; (619) 232-2721, [www.niwa.org](http://www.niwa.org)

**Canyoneer Walks:** Free guided nature walks Saturday & Sunday. (619) 232-3821 X203 or [www.sdnhm.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.sandiegozoo.org)

## Garden TV and Radio Shows

**How Does Your Garden Grow?:** Saturday 7:30-8:00am; KPRZ 1210. Hosted by Kniffling's Discount Nurseries (page 13). Call-in questions: (866) 577-2473; Ted Kniffling 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 Piergrossi.** Award-winning TV show on local gardening, daily at 12:30pm and 7:30pm. CTN (County Television Network, [www.ctn.org](http://www.ctn.org)); Cox -north ch 19, Cox -south ch 24; Adelphia ch 66; Time Warner ch 22. Tapes avail. from SDHS library.

### And finally in the Gift Shop:

--Some wonderfully scented Potpourri – just in time for the holidays.

--A nice selection of photo frames, elegant rustic home décor – vases, candles, clocks and more.

### November in the Garden:

Onion seed, garlic and strawberries all need to be planted in the first half of November so don't delay. Transplant strawberries now so they'll develop sturdy root systems over the winter, ready to burst into lush foliage and heavy fruit set in the spring. Dig in lots of organic material and compost first to feed roots over the winter and through summer.

### New Plantings:

**Natives:** November is an excellent time to plant California natives. There are many natives that are wonderful landscape plants including: California Lilac (*Ceanothus*), Toyon or California Holly (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), Monkeyflower (*Diplacus*), California Tree Mallow (*Lavatera asurgenteum*), Coffeeberry (*Rhamnus californica*). Several low-growing varieties of Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos*) also make great ground covers.

### Garden Maintenance:

- Chrysanthemums:** After they finish flowering cut chrysanthemums back leaving 6” stems. They will begin to grow again next March. Old clumps can be lifted and divided - cut the roots apart and discard woody centers and then replant.

- Hydrangeas:** Do not prune hydrangeas this late in the year. Hydrangeas bloom on one-year-old stems (except for the 'Endless Summer'). Pruning now will eliminate most of next year's flowers. To try to get blue or lavender flowers on an otherwise pink plant start applying Aluminum Sulfate to the soil now. White flowered varieties will not change color and not all pinks will be effected the same.

- Tropicals & Subtropicals:** Many of these will still be blooming and looking good. It is not unusual for many of these to have a big fall flower burst now. Look for lots of color now on plumerias, hibiscus, bougainvillea and ginger. Let these heat loving plants harden off a bit before the cool temperatures of late fall and winter. Reducing or eliminating nitrogen fertilizer and cutting back on watering will help the plants get ready for the cooler months ahead.

- Plan your **dormant fruit tree spraying** schedule to coincide approximately with cool weather holidays (Thanksgiving, New Year's Day, and Valentine's Day). Specific cues are the fall of the last leaf (Thanksgiving), the height of dormancy (New Year's Day), and bud swell (Valentine's Day). Spraying at the precise period of bud swell is especially important--before the buds swell is too early and after the blossoms open is too late.

- Plant **colorful ornamental cabbage and kale** for vibrantly rich reds, blues, and purples to accentuate other garden colors all winter long.

- Plant **azaleas, camellias, forsythias, dogwoods, and oriental magnolias** so they'll settle in nicely. Renew acid mulches under azaleas, camellias, and rhododendrons. Water them well to make sure they don't dry out from winter sun and winds. Twist off small buds on camellias for fewer but larger blooms.

- Prune to shape** evergreens such as arborvitae, juniper, magnolia, pines, pittosporum, and spruce. This is a great way to get trimmings for holiday decorations while manicuring the plants. But don't let your zeal for snipping spread to pruning spring-blooming shrubs or you'll cut off the blooms (they form on new wood); instead, prune after blooming is done.