

# Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

April 2010, Number 187

## Water Harvesting

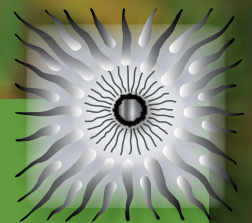
SEE PAGE 8

**AUSTRALIAN PERENNIALS**  
**PAGE 3**

**ARE YOU A PLUS ONE?**  
**PAGE 7**

**GARDENTOURS & SHOWS**  
**PAGE 10**

**ANDRE MICHAUX**  
**PAGE 12**



**SAN DIEGO  
HORTICULTURAL  
SOCIETY**

On the Cover: *Chamelaucium* 'Sweet Sixteen'

MARCH MEETING PHOTOS BY JANINE FREE



*Cyrtanthus falcatus*



*Bulbinella*



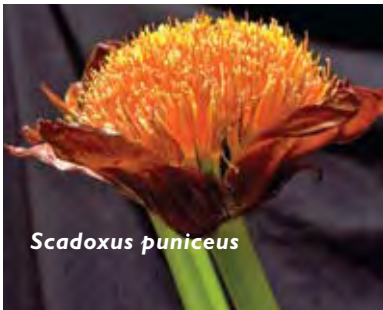
*Psoralea pinnata*



×*Chiranthomontodendron lenzii*



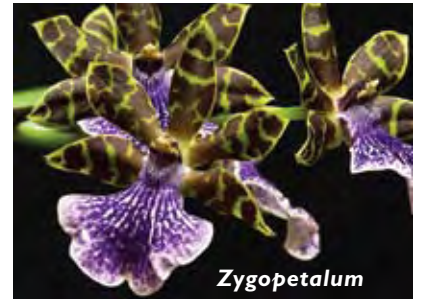
*Paphiopedilum Judd Creek*



*Scadoxus puniceus*



*Crassula*



*Zygopetalum*

Award-Winning Gardens From the Spring Home Garden Show (see page 17)



All Fired Up by Mary Jo Martin, MJ Martin Landscape Designer



The Green Room by Shellene Mueller, Designs by Shellene

## In This Issue...

- 4 Important Member Information
- 5 To Learn More...
- 5 Thanks March Volunteers
- 5 From the Board
- 6 SDHS Garden Tour to Portland, Oregon
- 7 Plants That Produce
- 7 Trees, Please
- 8 Special Evening with Brad Lancaster
- 9 Welcome New Members!
- 9 Discounts for Members
- 9 What's Up At San Diego Botanic Garden?
- 10 Book Review
- 10 Community Outreach
- 12 The Real Dirt On... Andre Michaux
- 14 Sharing Secrets
- 16 Would You Like Your Garden On A Tour?
- 17 Spring Home/Garden Show Award Winners
- 19 March Plant Forum
- 20 FREE Community Workshops
- 21 March Meeting Report

Inserts: Calendar/Resources/Ongoing Events  
Encinitas Garden Festival INSERT  
Water Conservation Garden Festival INSERT  
San Diego County Fair INSERT

COVER IMAGE: The *Chamelaucium* 'Sweet Sixteen' shown on the cover (photographed by Bob Wigand) is just one of the vast array of species and cultivars of Australian plants grown by April speaker Joe Walker.

## 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 – 8:15 Announcements, speaker, opportunity drawing  
8:15 – 8:30 Break for vendor sales, lending library  
8:30 – 9:00 Plant forum; vendor sales, lending library

### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

### FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS IN 2009

- April 18** New Member Orientation Gathering
- April 25** Coffee in the Garden (Fallbrook)
- May 10** A Special Evening with Brad Lancaster on *Water Harvesting: Turning Drains into Sponges and Water Scarcity into Water Abundance* (see page 8)
- May 23** Coffee in the Garden (La Jolla)
- June 11 to July 5** Visit our Display Garden at the San Diego County Fair
- June 13** Volunteer Appreciation Party (save the date!)
- June 19** Coffee in the Garden (University City)
- July 6-11** SDHS Garden Tour to Portland (see page 6)
- July 12** Debra Lee Baldwin on *Succulent Container Gardening*

[www.SanDiegoHorticulturalSociety.org](http://www.SanDiegoHorticulturalSociety.org)

## Next Meeting: April 10, 2010, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

### Topic: JOE WALKER ON “Australian Perennials: Water-Wise Beauties for Landscape and Cut Arrangements”

**Meeting is open and everyone is welcome. Admission: Members/free, Non-Members/\$10. Parking is free.**  
**Meeting Place: Del Mar Fairgrounds, Surfside Race Place, Del Mar; Info: (760) 295-7089**

We are excited to welcome Joe Walker, of Obra Verde Growers in Valley Center. His presentation will include a brief history of the company and how they got into the business of growing Australian perennials. Find out about the significance of their exclusive contract with the Department of Agriculture and the University of Western Australia for the release of new hybrids in the United States. Joe will highlight 15 – 20 selections that are his favorites of the over 100 varieties that the company grows. The presentation will be followed by an opportunity drawing featuring very special Australian plants donated by our speaker. The evening starts at 6:00 p.m. in the Surfside Race Place at the Del Mar Fairgrounds on Jimmy Durante Blvd. in Del Mar. Parking is free and everyone is welcome. Admission is free for members and \$10 for non-members.

Walker has been the owner and operator of Obra Verde Growers since he founded it (with his wife, Julie) 1974, and has extensive knowledge in the development and production of Australian and South African perennials for the plant and cut flower industries, including consultation and management services for field development, cultural care practices, harvesting procedures and expert witness testimony. He has been a featured speaker at the Master Gardeners Program in San Diego, and was a consultant on the 2007 edition of the Sunset Western Garden Book. In addition, he has spoken about various aspects of commercial ornamental horticulture in the U.S. and Australia. Since 2004 he has been on the Panel of Advisors of Greenhouse Management and Production Magazine. Since 2002 he has been on the Panel of Advisors to the Agriculture Dept. at U. C. Riverside. Walker is currently on the California Cut Flower Commission committee for Education and Research, and served from 1995 to 2005 as the Commissioner. He has a B.S. in Anthropology from S.D.S.U.

To learn more visit [www.obraverde-flowers.com](http://www.obraverde-flowers.com) and see page 5. ☞



Photo: Bob Wigand

## 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

- Jim Bishop** – Member at Large  
**Judy Bradley** – First Vice President, Co-Chair-Program Committee  
**Mark Collins** – Finance/Budget Committee  
**Julian Duval** – San Diego Botanic Garden representative  
**Peter Jones** - Member at Large  
**Jason Kubrock** – Second Vice President, Chair-Events & Outreach Committee  
**Sheldon Lisker** – Co-Chair Membership Committee  
**Susan Morse** – Co-Chair Membership Committee, Program Committee  
**Ida Rigby** – Tour Coordinator  
**Susi Torre-Bueno** – President, Newsletter Editor  
**Cathy Tylka** – Treasurer, Chair-Budget & Finance Committee  
**Paula Verstraete** – Volunteer Coordinator  
**Don Walker** – Past President  
**Lucy Warren** – Secretary, Liaison to H&G Shows

**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; (760) 295-7089; newsletter@sdhortsoc.org

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

**Sponsorship Info:** Susan Morse, sponsor@sdhortsoc.org

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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 monthly meetings, annual college scholarships, and other important programs. Sponsorships start at just \$100/year; contact Susan Morse at sponsor@sdhortsoc.org.

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

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Good karma comes from volunteering! Just ask the gal who volunteered to help with the Opportunity Drawing at the March meeting. She spent 10 minutes doing it – and won the first two plants!

### Membership Committee

Express your outgoing nature, or overcome your shyness, by meeting new people in a very friendly setting! The membership committee welcomes more members to increase our hospitality toward new members and in attracting new members. Be a greeter at meetings, visit nurseries and provide membership brochures for their customers, or help with community outreach programs. Please contact Susan Morse at (760) 599-0550.

### Tour Committee

Would you enjoy previewing gardens for tours? Do you have ideas for one day or weekend excursions? Are there botanical collections, specialty nurseries or gardens you would like to suggest for SDHS sponsored tours? Would you like to participate in selecting cities for our longer tours (recent selections include Portland, Philadelphia, Seattle)? Do you have designer skills to help us with announcements, posters or maps? If so, the Tour Committee is for you. Please contact Ida Rigby at califsalvia@gmail.com or 858-748-9189.

### Events & Outreach Committee

Share your passion for plants! We are seeking committee members and volunteers to help plan and participate in exciting events. Help us promote horticulture and the society at local events, such as the Spring Home/Garden Show and the San Diego County Fair. There are rewarding opportunities for gardeners of all skills and interest levels. For more details about how you can contribute your talent please contact Jason Kubrock at (760) 521-3292.

### Program Committee

The Program Committee is looking for members to help with a variety of interesting activities involved in recruiting and organizing our monthly speakers. The committee meets approximately three times a year. Please contact Judy Bradley at (619) 792-6715.

### Monthly Meetings

Every month we need people to help for less than an hour. Sell tickets for the Opportunity Drawing, or copies of our tree book. Help with the Plant Forum display by holding up plants so people can see them better. Be a backup for our A/V volunteers. Please contact Susi Torre-Bueno at (760) 295-7089.

### Volunteer Committee

Outgoing and love to meet new folks? How about helping for an hour once a month with the meeting room check-in? Help also needed with the annual Volunteer Appreciation Party and other activities. Please contact Paula Verstraete at pverstraete@cp-sandiego.com.

### Garden Ambassadors

Become a Garden Ambassador and help share news about our activities with another garden club you belong to, and bring their flyers to our meetings. Please contact Cindy Sparks at plantsparks@gmail.com. 🌿

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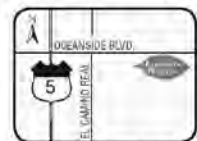
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**(760) 754-0340**

**Fall/Winter HOURS**  
 Monday-Saturday...7:30am-4:30pm  
 Sunday.....9:00am-4:30pm

## To Learn More...

### AUSTRALIAN PLANTS

By Ava Torre-Bueno

This month's speaker is Joe Walker, of ObraVerde Growers in Valley Center. His topic is Australian Perennials: Water-wise Beauties for Landscape and Cut Arrangements. First, you can check out Obra Verde on-line at: <http://www.obraverde-flowers.com/index.html>

Second, check out the April 25<sup>th</sup> class in Australian Plants for a Mediterranean Climate, being taught by Mo Price at the San Diego Botanic Garden: <http://www.sdbgarden.org/classes.htm>

Then go to Google Images and put in "native Australian plants" to see picture after picture of exotic (not to us, but to people in the Northeast, maybe) plants! You can spend all day looking at these pictures.

[http://www.australiaplants.com/au\\_plants\\_a-b-c.htm](http://www.australiaplants.com/au_plants_a-b-c.htm) takes you to a massive list of Australian plants with size, soil, and other planting information. It's from a nursery in Virginia.

Here in San Diego you can go to the Wild Animal Park's Australian Garden. This little article about it includes a plant list: <http://www.sandiegozoo.org/CF/plants/gardendetail.cfm?ID=22>

And there's also an Australian Garden in Balboa Park: <http://www.balboapark.org/in-the-park/detail.php?OrgID=40>

Also, visit this excellent Ojai mail-order source, whose plants are sold locally at Barrels & Branches Nursery (see page 20): [www.AustralianPlants.com](http://www.AustralianPlants.com)

On a tangential note, a wonderful novel set mostly in Australia is called *A Town Like Alice*, by Neville Shute. I don't remember there being much about plants in it though.

Member Ava Torre-Bueno is a psychotherapist in private practice and the organizer of Gardeners 4 Peace. This group of volunteers is helping to create a peaceful, organic, permaculture garden at the San Diego Friends Center. To learn more contact Ava at [gardeners4peace@hotmail.com](mailto:gardeners4peace@hotmail.com) and visit <http://www.sandiegofriendscenter.org/volunteers.htm>. ☺

## Thanks March Volunteers

We had three events in March and some wonderful volunteers who made all of them possible. First, thanks to Paula Verstraete for organizing the volunteers for all our major events!

First, we so much appreciate Jim Wright for hosting the March Coffee in the Garden in his fascinating palm garden in Clairemont. What a relaxing way to start the day, sharing a lovely garden with its passionate creator and a congenial assemblage of other plant lovers. And *gracias* to Jim Bishop and Scott Borden, the hosts of the February Coffee, for helping out at this one.

Second, the Spring Home/Garden Show had some excellent display gardens this year (award winners are on page 17), great plants for sale, and, of course, our volunteers were enormously helpful. Many thanks to the following folks: Anne Fletcher, Mark Garron, Irina Gronborg, Linda Johnson, Scott Jones, Jane Morton, John & Serena Noble, Mo Price, Marcia Van Loy, Darlene Villanueva, Nancy Woodard, and Stephen Zolezzi. Heaps of thanks to Jason Kubrock for organizing most of the very well received speakers for the Show, our own display, and for supplying cuttings and plant labels for our very popular Plant Forum table, plus numerous other things. Also, a big hug to our membership co-chairs Susan Morse and Shelly Lisker for their presence throughout the weekend.

Although not all these folks are SDHS members, we want to gratefully acknowledge the many hours put in by the judges, who generously gave of their time to evaluate the Garden Master displays: Diane Downey (representing CLCA),

## From The Board

By Susi Torre-Bueno

### CHANGES ON THE BOARD

We thank Cindy Sparks for her excellent work and gusto as our Publicity Coordinator for the last four years. Cindy has stepped off the board, but will continue to organize the Garden Ambassadors, a program she started, where members bring our meeting info to other garden groups and vice versa.

Sally Sandler has also left the board but will remain as our Website Coordinator, and we thank her for her enthusiasm and creativity. Sally worked with graphic artist Rachel Cobb in 2009 to completely upgrade our website, and will continue to update it and add new material.

This leaves two board vacancies, and we invite you to consider joining the board. We need a Publicity Coordinator and also a Marketing Coordinator. Please call me at (760) 295-7089 and let's talk about how you can put your talents to excellent use.

### SHARING THE LOAD

At every event members thank me for making it happen. My reply is almost always the same, "You're welcome. Would you like to volunteer?" Unfortunately, most of our members don't volunteer... and this is addressed to them.

You are missing out on the good feelings that come with volunteering. One volunteer recently wrote, "It is a great way to meet all kinds of wonderful people and learn things while you are doing it. It really made a difference to me when I volunteered at the Symposium and at the Home/Garden Show. You see things from a different angle."

We know people can't help every month, but *always* relying on someone else puts an undue burden on other members. In order to continue to offer all the activities we currently have, *YOU* need to roll up *your* sleeves so the same people don't have to do everything. Most volunteer tasks (see page 4) are an hour or two once a month (or less) and many can be done from home or at an event you'd attend even if you weren't a volunteer.

We have opportunities to suit every talent. Join a committee, help at monthly meetings, bring info about our programs to another garden group you belong to... we'll help you find something you'd enjoy doing.

Gardeners are very nurturing, so please put a bit of your nurturing to work for the organization you are benefitting from. Call me at (760) 295-7089 or e-mail Volunteer Coordinator Paula Verstraete at [volunteer@sdhortsoc.org](mailto:volunteer@sdhortsoc.org) and let us know you're willing to do your share. ☺

# SDHS & Sterling Tours Present

## PORTLAND'S EXTRAORDINARY GARDENS, JULY 6 - 11



San Diego Horticultural Society members and friends are invited to join us on a fabulous garden tour to Portland, Oregon, July 6 – 11, 2010. We'll visit 11 private gardens featuring the creative use of plant materials and garden art. Public gardens include the Classical Chinese Garden and the Japanese Garden. We will also visit two specialty nurseries. Mike Darcy, Portland garden radio show host, will escort the tour.

### Tuesday, July 6

Travel independently to Portland; check into the Inn at Northrup Station for five nights. The all-suite hotel, located on the streetcar stop, is surrounded by restaurants & boutiques. 6:00 PM wine and cheese reception at the hotel.

### Wednesday, July 7

We will be greeted by the curator of the Portland Japanese Garden, Sadafumi Uchiyama, and enjoy entrance to the gardens before they open to the public. This is considered the finest Japanese garden in the U.S., and we'll have a private, guided tour with the curator and head gardener. • Next we visit Lucy Hardiman, one of Portland's best-known designers. • After this we tour Nancy Goldman's Nancyland, where plants and art mingle. The front garden includes two unique pebble mosaics by Jeffrey Bale. The garden has been seen in numerous publications and on Canadian TV's *Weird Homes*. • Our day ends with the fabulous garden of Jeffrey Bale, featured in many books and magazines. Jeff was originally trained as a landscape architect, and his fabulous pebble and stone mosaics grace some of the most fascinating gardens you are likely to see.

### Thursday, July 8

We start at garden designer Susan La Tourette's garden, featured in *Sunset* magazine in June 2009. • Next, our escort, Mike Darcy, will give us a personal tour of his garden, where he tries out new plants and pushes the zone. • After lunch we will enjoy a visit to Bob and Mignon Ervin's urban farm on a hillside overlooking Lake Oswego and Mount Hood. Their sustainable garden is dedicated to organic food production, with ducks, chickens, honeybees, and a family vineyard. • Next we will tour Susan Bates' garden, formerly belonging to Lord and Lady McDonald. • Later we visit the English-style Elk Rock Garden of the Bishop's Close, designed by Olmstead and Son (who also designed Central Park in New York City).

### Friday, July 9

We first visit Tom Vetter, known as "Portland's Picasso of Plant Combinations," whose garden is beautifully planted to shine in every season. • We continue to designer Bee Smith's very large and personal garden. Bee has wonderful stories to share about all of the great aspects of her garden that shows her love of rust and the color blue. • Next we visit Luscher Farm, which houses a Clematis display garden surrounding a century-old farmhouse. • Our day concludes at Terra Nova Nursery, owned by cutting edge plant genius Dan Heims, who is responsible for the huge popularity of the many new *Heuchera* varieties. The nursery is where they do their breeding and tissue culture. There are no plants for sale here.

### Saturday, July 10

We start with visits to two small private gardens. One, belonging to Fe Neely, will amuse us with a "blast of color" from brilliant annuals, perennials and roses. • Our next visit is to Carolyn Guinther's woodland garden with log gazebo, perennials, rock garden, evergreens, waterfall and pond, all conceived as a natural coast range landscape by a gardener who does all her own work. • Our last stop is to the beautiful display gardens Joy Creek Nursery. Plant collections include clematis, hydrangeas, penstemon, and hosta, with many choice plants for sale. • Tonight we will enjoy a very special farewell dinner in the garden at Meriwether's Restaurant, which was featured on a television show directed by Mike Snyder, one of our hosts.

### Sunday, July 11

Today features a private docent-led tour of Lan Su Chinese Garden, an authentically built cultural heritage garden and living museum of Chinese trees and flora. Within this scholar's garden serpentine mosaic pathways lead to harmonious landscapes of plants, water, stones, pavilions, and poetry. The collection includes hundreds of native Chinese plant species and forms.

After our visit we will proceed to the airport.

**Tour Land Cost per guest:**  
Based on 35-42 guests: \$918;  
Single supplement: \$398

#### Costs Include:

- 5 nights accommodations, all suite rooms with kitchen or wet bar
- All hotel taxes and service charges
- 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 1 special dinner
- Deluxe private coaches
- Escorted by radio garden guru Mike Darcy, and Cheryl Hedgpeth
- All sightseeing and entrances as per the itinerary
- Gifts to the private garden owners
- Portfolio of documents
- Donation of \$100 to San Diego Horticultural Society

#### Costs do not include:

Airfare or Travel insurance

Prices quoted are based on a minimum number of guests. In the event of lower numbers, Sterling Tours reserves the right to adjust rates accordingly.

#### FOR RESERVATIONS PLEASE CONTACT

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# Plants that Produce

## CITRUS, THE BELEAGUERED FRUIT

By Richard Frost

It's disgusting when people smuggle plants and fruits across a state or international border just to save money. The plant they are smuggling could be harboring pests that harm not only that plant but also completely different and unrelated plants. Basically, they are putting entire agricultural crops at risk for their own personal gain. Buying your plants from a local certified nursery is better for both your local economy and your local environment.

Plant pests and diseases can be a complicated affair, and this is true for Citrus. Native to the Chinese mainland, its tissues and fruits can be a scrumptious treat for insects and critters native to our area. When under stress or attack, Citrus plants excrete a defensive serum on their leaves, which is, unfortunately, attractive to some local pests and well-suited for black mildew and other local fungi. You can control this by washing your plants off at most once per month with a one tablespoon/gallon solution of sodium-free baking powder (potassium bicarbonate). Wash, don't water the plants with it – the solution is alkaline.

In addition to local pests such as aphids, there are three exotic pests (brought in by smugglers) that affect Citrus. First, there is the Mediterranean Fruit Fly (aka Med-fly), which breeds at astronomical rates in the fruits of many plants, including chili peppers!

Second, there is the Citrus Leaf Miner, which causes deformation in new Citrus leaves. There are only two effective treatments for

this pest: (1) Spinosad, a bacterial solution that penetrates the leaves and kills the larvae; or (2) a systemic pesticide labeled for Citrus – for which in California you will need a pesticide applicator's license.

Third, we have the insidious Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP). This pest can carry a bacterial disease called Huanglongbing, aka HLB or "Citrus Greening." As of this writing, the ACP insects detected in Southern California do not have the disease. However, it has been devastating in the southern U.S., killing over half of the agricultural citrus trees in Georgia and Florida. Citrus plants and fruit in Southern California are under quarantine and cannot be legally moved unless treated by a certified pesticide applicator. Also, due to the ACP treatments, no Citrus fruit grown in the Southern California quarantine area can be legally sold as "certified organic." For more information on these pests visit [www.cdffa.ca.gov/phpps/](http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/phpps/).

April through September is an excellent time to plant Citrus in San Diego, so let's talk a bit about the plants themselves. As many of you know, a "dwarf Citrus" is not a short plant but instead a fruiting variety that has been grafted on top of a specific root body which causes it to grow more slowly. This is fine for backyard Lemons, Grapefruits, and Oranges, but a poor idea for Kumquat, Lime, and Mandarins (aka Tangerines). They are smaller plants to begin with and do not need "dwarfing" in our local calciferous and/or clay soils – or even in large containers. When planting in the ground, be sure to excavate at least

Continued on page 13

## Trees, Please

### ARE YOU A PLUS 1 OR A MINUS 4?

By Robin Rivet

If you planted a tree recently, the odds are good that you may have already removed three or four that you did not want anymore. Even if math was your worst subject, imagine for every step forward you take three or four backward... The bottom line is that we are losing San Diego tree canopy at an alarming rate. In fact, it is occurring all across America. Ultimately, this net loss is unsustainable for the health of our cities. As concerned gardeners, we can begin to reverse this trend.

Why does this matter? Arbor Day should be every day, but maybe you should know how it started. In 1854, a Michigan born journalist and politician named J. Sterling Morton moved to the region we now call Nebraska to raise his family. Moving from Detroit to the open plains, he missed and quickly replenished trees on his land. As the prominent editor of the local newspaper, he directed his influence toward advocacy for public tree planting, and touted their many benefits. Not only did he know and appreciate their uses for fuel and building materials, he saw their value for windbreaks, shade, and the prevention of soil erosion.

By 1872 he had become secretary of the Nebraska territory, and his appeal broadened. With his ability to influence major civic participation in tree planting, he first proposed a day be set aside as an Arbor Day. To succeed, prizes challenged counties to plant the most trees, and each school grade ensured that every child would help plant at least one tree. An estimate for that first Arbor Day celebration on April 4, 1872, was that Nebraska planted over one- million trees! In time, Morton's birthday on April 22 became symbolic with the event, and by 1882 many states had adopted and

emulated Nebraska's successes. By 1892 Kate Sessions carried this momentum into San Diego.

So what happened? For too many Americans in 2010, the fervor of celebrating Arbor Day has vanished. The word "arbor" originally meant shady or leafy, and arbors were places formed by merged trees or shrubs. Today, however, gardeners tend to think of an arbor as a decorative framework to hold up a vine. In our effort to be a civilized society, we now focus our tree attention on sidewalk cracks and falling debris, along with a mistaken notion that trees constantly need manicures and should resemble large lollipops. A city's trees are truly integral, sustainable, urban infrastructure: the sooner we recognize this, the better.

Together, we can reverse the loss of our trees. No excuses: this year plant a tree somewhere! It need not burn your wallet either. We just planted an inexpensive bare-root fruit tree, truly effortless. If you have no more space, convince your neighbors their stark front lawn needs a tree. Assist a busy young family; help them plant a backyard shade tree, or donate a tree to your local school. When in doubt, plant a sustainable fruit tree; and please share your harvest.

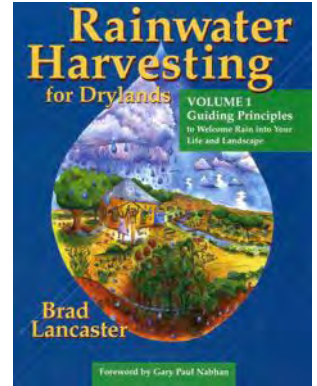
#### **What a legacy!**

Member Robin Rivet is an ISA Certified Arborist and member of the San Diego Regional Urban Forestry Council. She serves on the Environmental/Sustainability Commission for the City of La Mesa and welcomes public inquiries and rebuttals. Websites for local information about fruit trees and tree planting tips: <http://www.crfg.org/index.htm> and <http://www.treesaregood.org/treecare/treeplanting.aspx> ☘

THE SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY PRESENTS



**A Special Evening with  
Brad Lancaster**  
*Water Harvesting:  
Turning Drains Into Sponges  
and Water Scarcity  
Into Water Abundance*  
**Monday, May 10, 7:00PM**  
Surfside Raceplace  
Del Mar Fairgrounds



Share a very Special Evening with Brad Lancaster, a highly-respected leader in the water harvesting movement. Brad's inspiring presentation shares eight universal principles of water harvesting along with simple strategies that turn water scarcity into water abundance. These principles empower you to create integrated water-sustainable landscape plans at home and throughout your community. You'll be inspired – and empowered – to start harvesting this precious resource for your own garden.

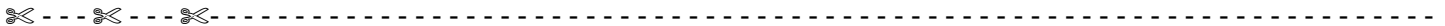
Rainwater harvesting is the process of capturing rain and making the most of it as close as possible to where it falls. Greywater harvesting is the process of directing water from

household sink, bathtub, shower, and washing machine drains into the soils of the landscape where the water is naturally filtered and reused to generate more on-site resources. The two work hand in hand, and can reduce our water consumption by 30 to 50%! You'll see examples enhancing local food security, passively cooling cities in summer, reducing costs of living and energy consumption, controlling erosion, averting flooding, reviving dead waterways, minimizing water pollution, building community, creating celebration, and more.

Two of his enormously helpful books will be available for sale.

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***Deadline for receipt of reservations is May 5***

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**Check enclosed** (payable to SDHS)

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**Exp. Date:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

➔➔ No tickets will be mailed - your reservation will be held at the door.

PRINT MEMBER NAMES:

PRINT NON-MEMBER NAMES:

**Mail to: Susan Pfaff, 2828 Foothill Drive, Vista, CA 92084-6508**

Or, register on-line at [www.sdhortsoc.org](http://www.sdhortsoc.org)



## 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. A warm hello to the following folks who have joined recently:

### Welcome to our newest Sponsor: Kamran Moradi, Plantopia, Inc.

Julie Barnes	Candice Ridge
Deborah Bieber	Cindy Ritter
Graeme Fairlie, Greatsoil LLC	Meg Ryan
Margaret Grasela	Evie Schmaker
Robin Hansen	Lauren Sevrin & Terry Kohn
Ann Hoepfner	Connie Smith
Rosemary Hokanson	Nancy Telford
Elva & Craig Langford	Debbie Duesler Thompson
Margret Lopatriello	Kendall Trat
Donna Mallen	Sharon Traxler
Gabriel Mitchell	Arlene Watters
Mary Noorigian	Barbara Weinberg
Judy Pantazo	Celeste Wilson
Nancy Price	

### NEW ADVERTISERS:

**SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY SHOW –  
PAGE 16**

### 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 2010:

Ken Blackford (1)	Susan Oddo (1)
Lorie Johansen (1)	Diane Scharar (1)
Tami Joplin (1)	Jan Spooner (1)
Patti Keyes (2)	Susi Torre-Bueno (2)
Susan Marchetti (1)	

### Discounts For Members

Pick up a Grangetto's Preferred Customer Savings Card at any Grangetto's location (see ad page 23). Get a 15% discount at Briggs Tree Co. & Wholesale Nursery in Vista (tell them to look up the "San Diego Hort Society Member" account).

Show your membership card and take 10% off any non-sale item at **Mission Hills Nursery** and **Moose Creek Nursery**.

Take 10% off membership fees at **San Diego Botanic Garden** (formerly **Quail Botanical Gardens**).

SEE THESE ADS FOR MORE DISCOUNTS:

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<b>Briggs Tree Company</b>	Pardee Tree Nursery
<b>Buena Creek Gardens</b>	Plantopia, Inc.
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<b>Grangetto's Farm &amp; Garden Supply</b>	<b>Sunshine Gardens</b>
Green Thumb Nursery	<b>www.TheMulch.com</b>
<b>Healing Time Books</b>	The Yard Fairy
<b>Innovative Growing Solutions</b>	Tree of Life Nursery
<b>Kellogg Garden Products</b>	<b>Walter Andersen Nursery</b>
	<b>Weidners' Gardens</b>
	<b>Pat Welsh</b>
	Westward Expos

## LIFE MEMBERS

\*Horticulturist of the Year

Chuck Ades* (2008)	Penelope Hlavac
Walter Andersen* (2002)	Debbie & Richard Johnson
Norm Applebaum & Barbara Roper	Lois Kline
Bruce & Sharon Asakawa* (2010)	Vince Lazaneo* (2004)
Gladys T. Baird	Jane Minshall* (2006)
Debra Lee Baldwin	Bill Nelson* (2007)
Steve Brigham* (2009)	Tina & Andy Rathbone
Wayne Carlson	Peggy Ruzich
Laurie Connable	Susi & Jose Torre-Bueno
Julian & Leslie Duval	Don Walker* (2005) & Dorothy Walker
Edgar Engert* (2000)	Lucy Warren
Jim Farley	Evelyn Weidner* (2001)
Sue & Charles Fouquette	Pat Welsh* (2003)
	Betty Wheeler

## CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

Alta Vista Gardens
Philip Tackill & Janet Wanerka
René van Rems
Village Garden Club of La Jolla

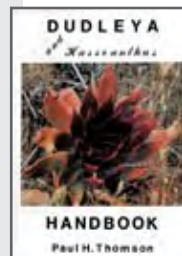
## What's Up at San Diego Botanic Garden?

### A WORLD EXPERT SPEAKS ON DUDLEYAS

In spite of the recent rains, our reservoirs are still below what they should be. Since much of our water is used on the landscape, it is wise to incorporate plants that require little or no water during our dry summers. One of the most intriguing plants to fall into that category is the Dudleya. Closely related to Echeverias, many species of dudleya have the same symmetrical beauty with leaves in the form of a rosette; but often what distinguishes them from echeverias is the white chalky substance coating their leaves, which helps make them extremely adaptable to dry conditions. Many go dormant in the summer when rain is virtually non-existent.

But you can learn so much more from Kelly Griffin, considered a world expert on dudleyas, when he speaks at the San Diego Botanic Garden on Sunday, April 18, at 2 pm. Kelly works at Rancho Soledad Nursery and travels the world in search of new species of plants. His continued interest in dudleyas over many years has made him one of the most knowledgeable people on the planet of this amazing genus.

In addition to having a world expert give the talk, we will have copies of *Dudleya* and



*Hasseanthus Handbook* by Paul H. Thompson, the only book ever published on dudleyas. Now out of print, the book sells for mucho bucks on the internet. Our books will be available for \$50 plus tax. Easy to read, Thompson's book is full of

information about dudleyas, where to find them in their natural habitat—much of it in our surrounding areas—plant descriptions, cultural advice, etc.



Photos: Kelly Griffin

### Dudleyas and Other Native Succulents

By Kelly Griffin

Sunday, April 18, 2 pm

Garden members \$10, non-members \$12

Pre-registration required by April 15.

Visit [www.SDBGarden.org](http://www.SDBGarden.org) or call 760/436-3036 x206.

### New E-Mail? New Street Address?

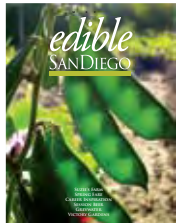
Please send all changes (so you will continue to receive the newsletter and important notices) to [membership@sdhortsoc.org](mailto:membership@sdhortsoc.org) or SDHS, Attn: Membership, PO Box 231869, Encinitas, CA 92023-1869.

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## Book Review

### **EDIBLE SAN DIEGO**

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh



I've reviewed seed catalogs and coloring books in previous columns, so I figure a magazine is fair game, too. I received a copy of the first issue of *Edible San Diego* in the mail more than a year ago. I was impressed, but I thought that a new magazine couldn't last long in our sinking economy, so I didn't subscribe. Now I have a copy of the seventh issue, and they seem to be doing fine, thank you very much.

If you're into vegetables, organic gardening, farmer's markets, eating locally, the slow food (as opposed to fast food) movement, and good recipes, this is the magazine for you.

You know I'm interested in all those topics. I've enjoyed and reviewed a number of books about sustainable gardening and farming through the years including *Farming and the Fate of Wild Nature*, *Insects and Gardens*, *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, *Coming Home to Eat*, and many books on different aspects of growing fruits and vegetables. It's a topic I think is both important and fascinating.

*Edible San Diego* is small – this issue is 32 pages – and relatively expensive at \$32 a year, but you get a lot of bang for your buck. Additionally, you can get free copies at their advertisers. What a deal. Check their web site ([www.ediblecommunities.com/sandiego](http://www.ediblecommunities.com/sandiego)) for a list.

The stated purpose of *edible* Communities Publications ([www.ediblecommunities.com](http://www.ediblecommunities.com)) is to create, "editorially rich, community based local-foods publications in distinct culinary regions." They have an astonishing 60 separate publications up and running or in planning stages in such far flung places as Bozeman, Montana; Cape Cod; Hawaii; Sarasota; and many points between.

Besides their website, *edible* Communities Publications also has a blog, a Facebook page, and they twitter. If you have time to check all those out, you're not spending enough time in your garden.

The articles are wide-ranging. For example, this issue covers Crop Swapper ([cropswapper.com](http://cropswapper.com)), a non-profit organization that encourages gardeners to trade excess produce. Other articles describe local restaurants that focus on locally produced, sustainably-grown fruits, vegetables, meat, and eggs; the national school lunch program; the production of San Diego grown meat; and the growth of wineries in the Ramona Valley. It also includes an up-to-date list of local farmers' markets.

The production values, including interesting photos, lots of color, and good graphic design, show that the editors have put a lot of thought into their publication. I recommend it as well worth your time.

I mentioned seed catalogs earlier. I want to remind you of two of my favorite catalogs. They're from Seed Savers Exchange in Decorah, Iowa ([www.seedsavers.org](http://www.seedsavers.org)), and from Native Seed/Search in Tucson, Arizona ([www.nativeseeds.org](http://www.nativeseeds.org)). You'll find interesting seeds for heirloom plants you never heard of and maybe for that one you've been searching for all these years. ☺

## Community Outreach

By Linda Johnson

### **Garden Tours and Events Offer Opportunities to Support Great Causes**

In addition to the various April tours and events featured in the March Newsletter, here are more events that also support community fundraising. We don't have room to list all events; see the comprehensive article by Mary James (from the March 7th *Union-Tribune*) at: [www.signonsandiego.com/news/2010/mar/07/find-inspiration-on-a-garden-tour/](http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2010/mar/07/find-inspiration-on-a-garden-tour/)

#### **Vista Garden Tour ~ April 11**

While each is very different, the six Vista gardens on tour from 11am to 4pm all emphasize environmentally friendly landscaping for family and wildlife to enjoy. See a dry creek with fragrant herbs, a sunken rose garden, an Asian garden, a hummingbird and butterfly garden, a certified Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary, vegetable gardens (one with chickens), and gardens featuring California natives and succulents. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased the day of the tour at any of the gardens. This fundraiser supports the Green Sanctuary environmental efforts of the Palomar Unitarian Universalist Fellowship; visit [www.vistauu.org/pages/cm\\_garden.html](http://www.vistauu.org/pages/cm_garden.html) for more details.

#### **San Diego Floral Association Spring Meeting ~ April 20**

Dr Anne S. Fege, co-founder of the San Diego Children and Nature Collaborative, will share her passion and concern for the issues raised by San Diego columnist Richard Louv's book, *Last Child in the Woods*. The book's theme of cultivating opportunities for children to spend more time in nature (and the goal of the Collaborative) will be the topic of this meeting of the San Diego Floral Association. Anne will share ways to achieve increased health and happiness for children through spending more time in nature with outdoor play in backyards, schoolyards, open spaces, and wilderness areas. Learn how you too can inspire children to develop a life long passion for plants and the planet. Location: Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Program at 7pm is FREE. Catered dinner at 6pm is \$15; reserve at 619-272-5762.

#### **Lake Hodges Native Plant Club Garden Tour and Plant Sale ~ April 23**

This five-garden tour from 10am to 3pm in the Poway/Sabre Springs area showcases water-wise, low-maintenance landscapes with natives and other drought-tolerant plants from the Australian, Mediterranean, South American and South African regions of the world. Proceeds support the Club's major project of installing, enhancing and maintaining the Nativescapes Garden at the Wild Animal Park. Tickets are \$15; visit [www.LHNPC.org](http://www.LHNPC.org) for locations of ticket sales and to see photos of prior tours. Contact: Linda Bresler, Tour Chairperson, at 858-486-8733.

#### **Dos Valles Garden Club Flower & Horticulture Show ~ April 24 & 25**

Join other garden lovers for the 30th Annual Flower and Horticulture Show and Plant Sale, featuring professional floral designs, local horticulture. Special exhibit on fruits of San Diego. Free. Hours are 1-5pm on April 24, and 9:30am to 4pm on April 25. St. Stephen Church Hall, 31020 Cole Grade Road (north of V. C. Parkway), Valley Center. Info: [www.dosvallesgardenclub.org](http://www.dosvallesgardenclub.org).

Continued on page 13

San Diego Horticultural Society

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## The Real Dirt On...

### ANDRE MICHAUX

By Joan Herskowitz



Andre Michaux (1746-1802) was a remarkable Frenchman who made significant contributions to botany, horticulture and forestry in the United States at an important time in American history. He was a plant explorer and collector, and dedicated naturalist, who travelled the world on assignment from the French monarchy. In

1785, after proving his enthusiasm and fortitude for plant exploration in Europe and the Middle East, he was appointed royal botanist and was sent to America to investigate and collect plants to enrich the gardens, farms, and forests of France, particularly the forests which were depleted by the long naval war with England. The expedition, which lasted eleven years, was also designed to cement ties between France and the United States that were established during the war for American independence. Thomas Jefferson, during his 5-year stay in France, had requested these botanical exchanges.

Andre Michaux was born at the royal estate near the park at Versailles, France. His father was a farmer and managed 500 acres of the Satory domain of King Louis XV. Although he took over management of the King's large farm when his parents died, he was not happy with this type of work. Fortunately, his abilities were recognized by Dr. Louis-Guillaume Le Monnier, court physician, who paved the way for Michaux to begin formal studies in botany under the eminent Bernard de Jussieu, professor of botany and central figure in the Jardin du Roi.

During his assignment in America between 1785 and 1796, Michaux explored nearly every eastern state from New York to Georgia to the Mississippi River, the Hudson Bay area of Canada, the Bahamas, and Spanish East Florida. He proved to be an expert in plant identification and a tireless collector of plants. He sent back reports on the usefulness of each specimen, and his packages included forest tree logs so the qualities of the wood could be further evaluated back home. In order to hold and propagate plants until they could be shipped overseas, Michaux established two garden-nurseries in North America: one in Hudson County in New Jersey, six miles from New York City, and the other about 10 miles outside Charleston, South Carolina. He also introduced European and Asian species into American horticulture. Among the best known are: *Camellia japonica* and *C. sasanqua*, sweet olive (*Osmanthus fragrans*), mimosa (*Albizia julibrissin*), chinaberry (*Melia azedarach*), Chinese azalea, crape myrtle and ginkgo.

An important product of Michaux's tenure in North America was his 1803 publication of the first systematic account of North American plants, *Flora Boreali-Americana (The Flora of North America)*. He also recorded his daily activities, providing valuable insights into his life and travels, in his *Journal of My Voyage*. Upon his death, his diaries and other papers were donated to the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia, where they remain today. The Michaux State Forest in eastern Pennsylvania, and several plants, e.g., Carolina Lily (*Lilium michauxii*) and Michaux's Saxifrage (*Saxifraga michauxii*) are named in his honor.

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

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**Thank you** Continued from page 5

Jim Taylor (representing ASLA), Steve Gerischer (representing Pacific Horticultural Foundation), Glen Schmidt (representing ASLA), and Rob Sidner (Director of the Mingei International Museum).

Third, our March 13 Garden Tour in Encinitas, which was so ably and enthusiastically organized by Ida Rigby (with garden-scouting help from Jim Bishop), was a great success. Hats off to these cheerful and friendly volunteers who helped throughout the day: Lisa Bellora, Jeff Biletnikoff, Jim Bishop, Scott Borden, Pat Crawl, Connie Forest, Gabrielle Ivany, Joan Kazmarek, Carolann Lewin, Yvonne Mao, Susan Morse, Jane Morton, Don Nelson, Ann & Jim Peter, Sandy Shapiro, Jeannette Shields, Jane Soher, Cathy Tylka, Paula Verstraete, Nancy Woodard and Jim Wright.

Finally, I want to express our gratitude to homeowners whose gardens looked so fabulous for the tour: Heather & Morrie Callaghan, Bobbi & Gene Hirschkoff, Nan Sterman & Curt Wittenberg, and Dr. Yardy Tse & Rick Faber. It takes a lot of effort to ready a garden for a large tour like this one, and we know their marvelous gardens were greatly appreciated by several hundred admiring visitors. Thanks so much for sharing them with us! We're also grateful that garden designers Scott Spencer (Callaghan garden) and Ruth Wolfe (Tse/Faber garden) were on hand all day to answer questions. ☘

**Plants that Produce** Continued from page 7

a 3 x 2 x 2 cubic foot hole to loosen the soil and make sure water will drain from it. For varieties, I recommend Normann Seedless Kumquat, Bearss Lime, Gold Nugget Mandarin (Tangerine), Washington or Cara Cara Naval Orange, Eureka Lemon, Oroblanco Grapefruit, plus several less-common types documented at [www.PlantsThatProduce.com/guides/CommonCitrus.htm](http://www.PlantsThatProduce.com/guides/CommonCitrus.htm).

Member Richard Frost is a certified edible gardening nut. For copies of past articles and more information, please see [www.PlantsThatProduce.com](http://www.PlantsThatProduce.com). ☘

**Community Outreach** Continued from page 10

**Point Loma Garden Walk and Plant Sale ~ April 24**

Visit ten lovely homes and gardens in the Pt. Loma area from 10am to 4pm. Shop in a unique garden boutique, and support the Dana Unit of Rady Children's Hospital Craniofacial Services. Enjoy lush Mediterranean landscapes on this self-guided walking tour, and see why Pt. Loma is ideal for natives, succulents, and other drought-tolerant plants. The tour also features the Pt. Loma Garden Club's plant sale. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 the day of the event. Purchase at [www.pointlomagardenwalk.com](http://www.pointlomagardenwalk.com) or at other locations on the website. Donations are welcome, and sponsorships are available to include promotional opportunities. Contact: 619-518-8663.

**Clairemont Town Council Garden Tour ~ May 1**

Fifteen gardens open from 10am to 4pm feature a huge variety of designs, with butterfly gardens, Koi ponds, canyon views, waterfalls, streams, plus English and Mediterranean themes. Exhibits with Master Gardeners and Master Composters will offer horticultural advice on pest control, composting techniques, and many other topics. Proceeds benefit the communities of Clairemont, Bay Park and Bay Ho. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 day of event (children under 12 free) and include free refreshments. Visit [www.clairemontonline.com](http://www.clairemontonline.com) or call 858-204-4085.

And don't forget to celebrate National Arbor Day on April 9 by planting a tree (see page 7) and purchasing the SD Horticultural Society's renowned book, *Ornamental Trees for Mediterranean Climates*. Featuring optimum trees for the San Diego area, this must-have beautiful book, designed for anyone who loves trees, showcases 260 of the best trees for our climate, and is available for a limited time at a deeply discounted price of \$20. Purchase at the monthly meetings or visit <http://www.sdhortsoc.org/treebook.htm>. ☘

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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 was: What do you do when a plant that is thriving still isn't pleasing you for some reason, and why?

**Walter Andersen** had an overly happy ficus... "When I first moved into our new house 38 years ago, I planted a *Ficus benjamina* 'Exotica' in the front yard. I think *Ficus benjamina* are very pretty trees, and this variety has kind of a twist to the foliage. It is just a little different. Well, the tree thrived and grew pretty fast. My front yard was about 20 feet from the house to the sidewalk. In about three years it pretty much filled that space, even having some branches touching the house. I trimmed it about two times a year, but had difficulty keeping up with it. After about three years of trimming, (it was time to trim again) I had my pruning saw and trimmed it to about 4" from the ground. Only an 4" stump left, for a while. That is even gone now. I still like *Ficus benjamins*, but I can appreciate them even more in someone else's yard!"

**Lisa Bellora** said, "I will try and find a home for it by either asking friends if they want it or offer it on SanDiego.Craigslist.org! As a last resort I will dig it out and throw it away."

**Vivian Blackstone** tries to share hers: "I either give it away or move it to another location in the garden where it either needs more attention or I don't see it so often. It really doesn't happen to me, but should a plant thrive and get too large, I'll separate it and give at least half of it away."

**Kara Calderon** replied, "If it is not pleasing me, it is most likely because it is planted in the wrong place! It is either blocking my view or not blocking the view enough. The poor unsuspecting plant gets dug up and composted, or is sometimes moved and given a second chance."

**Bobbi Cochrane** moves hers: "I dig it up and give it a new home on the community property! I call it recycling!"

**Linda Fiske** is very resourceful: "First I ask myself if I still want to look at it. If not, then I try to think of someone who has commented about. I ask them if they would like to have it and I ask my neighbor. My neighbor loves that her garden is filled with 'gifts'... a good portion from me. Last fall I dug up a Mary Holmes rose that I had had for years. I really loved the blooms, but it wasn't working in my garden. It is now the main focal point of the patio area of my neighbor's daughter's Victorian rental property in Berkeley."

**Richard Frost** has another name for these plants: "A plant that is thriving and unpleasing meets the definition of a weed. I would generally remove it."

**Marilyn Guidroz** is letting one plant tell her what to do: "There are just some plants that you inherit on a new property with no practical way to get rid of them. One such plant is the Yucca. All forms of established yuccas grow and grow and grow. You can chop them down continually and even try to dig them out, but, alas, they keep on growing. I have such a yucca right in a front entryway from the driveway. Who would plant such a thing in such a place? Well, now what do I do? It is huge. I decided to like it since I know better than to wage a hopeless war. I trim the pointed ends off so no

one will put out an eye and now I am in the process of redesigning the entrance to accommodate this yucca properly. I intend to plant some other compatible plants around it to give it a setting and then just learn to enjoy it for what it is."

**Kay Harry** learns from her mistakes: "I usually think it is my problem that I did not choose well or planted it in a space that was not appropriate. I accept responsibility for the plant and leave it to thrive where it is planted. It can be a reminder to research more carefully or ask more questions at the nursery. Also, there is something to enjoy about all plants."

**Pamela Homfelt** said, "If it's a tree that shades, like the Chorisia planted three feet from the house, I put up with it. If it's something that is in the wrong place and moveable, it gets relocated (great time to do that now by the way, nothing establishes a plant like deep soaking rain). If I have overplanted something that roots easily I remove most of them knowing I can again propagate if necessary. But many times, I find someone that would love to have what I don't want, like the over 30 roses planted all over our 1/3-acre! But if all else fails, I get the courage to relegate to the compost pile, although it is never an easy decision."

**Ron Hurov** told us, "I'm very happy when a plant thrives. I'm a wild gardener... I just let nature do its thing. No lawn, hardly any water, no pesticides or fertilizer, etc. I have a magnificent jungle, which changes with the seasons. If a plant dies something usually takes its place."

**Barbara Kocmur** says, "Sometimes a plant just doesn't fit in to your garden design. I replant it into a container and donate it to either my garden club or local nursery. There is always someone waiting to give it a good home. You know you made the right decision when you don't even miss the plant following removal."

**Alice Lowe** asks, "What do I do, or what should I do? I have one on my front porch, a variegated dracaena in a bright blue ceramic pot. I've observed it from my kitchen window for years; I walk past it every time I come into the house. And I don't like it; I'm not sure that I ever did, who knows why. I move it occasionally, to a different place on the porch, and that seems to work for a while. I keep it on the porch because it's one of a group of shade-tolerating plants in blue pots, and I try to tell myself that it's just fine. But it's not. So I've decided that it has to go. But it won't go far, not yet - I'll move it to the back patio, where I have similar plants under a lattice. Maybe I'll be happier with it there, not so prominent. If not, I'll do what I probably should have done at the start - find another home for it, give it to someone who will love and appreciate it. That's just one example among many, but there are fewer than there used to be, as I've learned what works and what has staying power, and I make fewer impulse buys and try to refrain from adopting other peoples' rejects. And having said that, I have to confess to bringing home a friend's unwanted potted palm that I've put in the very place where the dracaena used to be. Will I ever learn?"

**Jackie McGee** tells us, "When I have a plant that is doing Ok but does not look to me as good as I thought it would where I planted it, I try to find another spot for it. If I can't seem to find a spot that pleases me I dump the plant. Try to find a friend who might want it. But if I can't find a new home for it, it is gone."

**Janet Milliken** practices tough love: "Ask neighbors is they want it. If not, out it goes. There are too many plants I love to waste space on one I don't like."

Continued on page 16

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Secrets Continued from page 15

**Lenore Morines** tries "to find it another home if it was doing well. I may offer it to a gardening friend, bring it to our garden club for our plant sale, or sometimes I just move it to another part of the yard and give it a different home in my own garden. Occasionally, I admit that some common plants may just end up as compost, but that also is a home of sorts."

**Kathryn Nunn** said, "It causes me severe emotional distress to pull a plant out or cut it down, so I usually move my plants around the garden. I had two small Ligustrum (sp.?) trees, which, though healthy, did not seem to belong in the bed where they were residing. Every time I walked by them I shook my head and wondered what I would do with them. I finally moved them to another area where there are lots of other small trees. They seem to be happy and healthy and appear to harbor no ill feelings for having been deported to the 'fringe' area."

**Ramona Valencia** replied that, "if it is manageable I dig it up, pot it and bring it to my local garden club's raffle table, or save it for a swap with a friend that might like it more than I do!"

**Jacqueline Williams** has a positive attitude about change: "As a garden designer, I have realized that no matter how well you plan, thinking you've selected the right plant for the space, plants will always surprise you – the constant awe & amazement of Nature. As sculpture in the garden space of the future, the mature plant relationships are what make a garden work. 'Not pleasing you' is your clue to the intuitive knowledge that CHANGE needs to happen. Most people cannot abide getting rid of a perfectly good plant, or even one which is only hanging to life in the barest manner-feeling like murderers... I give my clients permission to take them to the compost for recycling, which eases the conscience. Think, too, that you throw out cut flowers when their time is over. However, the happiest solution occurs when I can transplant the offending plant to another place or another client's garden. Often, favorite plants in one's garden are those shared by friends. Embracing constant change is an important quality for a gardener."

**Stephen Zolezzi** replied, "I make up a nice plate of pasta with mushrooms, a glass of wine and debate the plant's fate using reason and logic! Some times you buy a plant when it is small or by a picture in a catalog and it isn't what you hoped for, so I give it away or if it will fit in some where else, looks good enough and is not a water guzzler it gets moved... or it is toast."

**The question for next month is:**

What is your favorite plant to propagate from cuttings, and why? Send your e-mail reply by April 5 to [info@sdhortsoc.org](mailto:info@sdhortsoc.org).

## Would You Like Your Garden On A Tour?

By Ida Rigby

Would you like to share your garden on SDHS garden tours – or can you recommend gardens we'd all enjoy seeing? Whether your garden is a hidden gem, personal oasis or well known, let me hear from you. Our SDHS tour committee would love to preview your garden. Just send me an e-mail at [califsalvia@gmail.com](mailto:califsalvia@gmail.com) with a description of your garden, your vision for it, special features, your gardening philosophy, whatever makes your garden (or a garden you recommend) unique and interesting to you. Photos would be welcome. If you do not do e-mail, then give me a call at (858) 748-9189.



# Spring Home/Garden Show Award Winners

\*PNA means Perfection in Nomenclature Award

Best of Show: First Place, Best Home Landscape

**All Fired Up** by Mary Jo Martin,  
MJ Martin Landscape Designer

Best of Show: Second Place, Water Smart Award,  
Best Combinations of Plant Materials

**We've Been Waiting for You** by Jeff Moore,  
Solana Succulents

Best of Show: Third Place, Most Appealing to Children, PNA\*

**Tea Time for Everyone** by Roxanne Kim-Perez,  
Forget-Me-Not Landscape Design

Massachusetts Horticultural Society Medal for Design  
Excellence, Pacific Horticulture Award for Horticultural  
Excellence

**The Green Room** by Shellene Mueller,  
Designs by Shellene

Judges' Choice Award, Best Compatibility of Plant Materials

**Old World Sanctuary** by Jeremiah Turner,  
Turner Landscapes

Most Dramatic

**Emerald Hiatus** by Erik Davidson, Davidson Landscape

Best Specialty Garden, PNA\*

**A Seaside Meadow** by Kristi Beach, Akana Design

Best Interpretation of Theme

**Succulence Contained** by Brandon Bullard,  
Desert Theater

Best San Diego Adapted Garden, PNA\*

**The Artful Native Garden** by Morgan Vondrak,  
Argia Designs

Most Creative Use of Space, PNA\*

**Smart Landscape Solutions** by Scott Ensign,  
Scotty's Plantscape

Best Intimate Garden

**Exotic Rendezvous** by Shawn Ellison, Pondology

Best Topiary Feature

**Along the Garden Path** by Paige Perkins, Garden Chat

Best Water Feature

**Other Color** by Jonathan Bosch, Suncoast Natural  
Waterfeatures

Best Use of Hardscape

**Contemporary Courtyard** by Tita Heimpel,  
Courtyard Pottery

Best Interpretive Signage, Best Specialty Detailing, PNA\*

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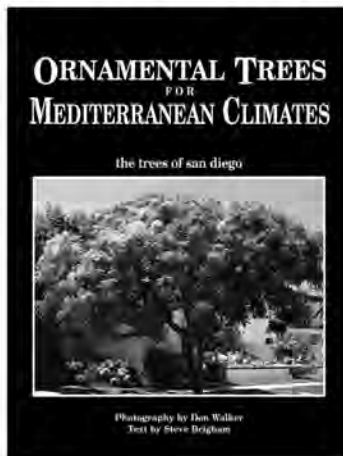
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## March Plant Forum

By Ken Blackford, Charley Fouquette, Sue Martin  
and Susi Torre-Bueno

### 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.

#### ×*Chiranthomontodendron lenzii*

(formerly ×*Chiranthofremontia lenzii*)

GOLDEN HAND MONKEY FLOWER (Fremontodendreae)  
Horticultural Hybrid

This fast-growing evergreen tree is a recently-made inter-generic hybrid between the Mexican *Chiranthodendron pentadactylon* (Monkey Hand Tree) and a California native plant: *Fremontodendron* 'Pacific Sunset'. Its flowers have the golden color of *Fremontodendron*, but stamens similar to *Chiranthodendron*. In addition, the "claw" part of the flower is much reduced from that of the *C. pentadactylon*. [You can see it for yourself at the Alta Vista Gardens, a young botanical garden in Vista (visit [www.AltavistaGardens.org](http://www.AltavistaGardens.org)). For a marvelous essay about the man who hybridized this plant go to the January 29, 2009 entry at [http://nativeson.typepad.com/rainies\\_corner/essay](http://nativeson.typepad.com/rainies_corner/essay). You can also see a fascinating video of this plant at <http://www.sfinbloom.com/MapArt/videopages/0137sfbg09apr11z05.html>] (Don Nelson, Escondido, 3/10) – S.T.B.

#### *Cyrtanthus falcatus* SHEPHERD'S CROOK (Amaryllidaceae) Eastern So. Africa

The beautiful *Cyrtanthus falcatus* blooms in late winter to early summer, with pendant flowers usually appearing while the leaves are dormant. It is native only to KwaZulu-Natal, a small province on the eastern (summer rainfall) coast of South Africa. The plant is a summer-grower and is dormant in winter, although it is tolerant of our winter rains. It needs water every 2-3 weeks during the summer. The plant displayed had deep orange-red flowers, but other color forms are known. Another 21 species of *Cyrtanthus* are native to the Cape area of South Africa, and two more species are found in East Africa. For detailed information on *Cyrtanthus* and an enormous variety of other bulbs, visit [www.pacificbulbsociety.org](http://www.pacificbulbsociety.org). (Ken Blackford, San Diego, 3/10) – Ken Blackford & S.T.B.

#### *Paphiopedilum Eridge* SLIPPER ORCHID (Orchidaceae) Horticultural Hybrid

This fascinating hybrid was created around 1942, and is the result of crosses of four known and some unknown species of Asian orchids. The chart which accompanied the specimen displayed shows a parentage (according to [OrchidWiz.com](http://OrchidWiz.com)) of 44% *Paphiopedilum insigne* (an Indian winter-blooming species naturally occurring on dolomitic limestone outcrops near waterfalls; first described in 1821); 22% *P. spicerianum* (from Bhutan, India, it is native to the foothills of the Himalayas, where it grows on limestone cliffs or banks); 16% *P. villosum* (widely used in hybridizing; originally described in 1894; found from Vietnam into Thailand and Myanmar); 13% *P. boxallii* (some sources say this is a variety of *P. villosum*); and 6% "unknown." It grows best when temperatures are about 50°F to 75°F at night, with about 50% shade and no direct sun. Do not allow plants to dry out between waterings; humidity should be 50-70%. (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 3/10) – C. F. & S.T.B.

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***Pisum sativum* var. *macrocarpon* 'Golden Sweet'** GOLDEN SWEET SNOW PEA (Fabaceae) Garden Hybrid

A rarity in snow peas, and reputed to come from India, these ornamental plants produce golden yellow pods, making them easy to find on the plant. The lovely flowers are bi-colored in shades of violet, and the vines grow 6-8' tall. Delicious in salads or stir-fry. Seed was purchased from [www.HeirloomSeeds.com](http://www.HeirloomSeeds.com). (Sue Martin, Point Loma, 3/10) – S. M. & S.T.B.

Thanks to everyone who participated in last month's plant forum, especially to Mary McBride, our excellent Plant Forum Host.

**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 March newsletter was *Anemone coronaria* 'Mauna Loa', HAWAIIAN WINDFLOWER.

3 *Acacia glaucoptera* CLAY WATTLE (Jason Kubrock, Vista, 3/10)

*Agave attenuata* (probably) (Diane Scharar, San Diego, 3/10)

*Bulbinella* sp. (Sheldon Lisker, Temecula, 3/10)

3 *Camellia reticulata* cultivars: Dr. Clifford Parks, Frank Hauser (variegated), Larry Piet, Valentine Day, Valentine Day (variegated) (Gene Snooks, La Jolla, 3/10)

3 *Ceanothus* 'Concha' CALIFORNIA LILAC (Sharon Lee, Solana Beach, 3/10)

*Crassula* sp. (bonsai form) JADE PLANT (Phil Tackill, Solana Beach, 3/10)

*Echium candicans* PRIDE OF MADEIRA (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 3/10)

*Eucalyptus erythrocorys* RED CAP GUM (Jason Kubrock, Vista, 3/10)

*Grevillea* sp. (Tom Biggart, El Cajon, 3/10)

3 *Kennedia nigricans* BLACK KENNEDIA, BLACK CORAL PEA (Jason Kubrock, Vista, 3/10)

3 *Lathyrus odoratus* 'Royal Robe' ROYAL ROBE SWEET PEA (Susan Morse, Vista, 3/10)

3 *Lathyrus odoratus* 'Stripper' DISROBE SWEET PEA (Hort Society, San Diego, 3/10)

3 *Loropetalum chinense* FRINGE FLOWER (Sharon Lee, Solana Beach, 3/10)

3 *Melianthus major* (Darlene Villanueva, El Cajon, 3/10)

*Paphiopedilum Ansum* SLIPPER ORCHID (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 3/10)

*Paphiopedilum* Chocolate Eagle SLIPPER ORCHID (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 3/10)

*Paphiopedilum* Emerald Isle SLIPPER ORCHID (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 3/10)

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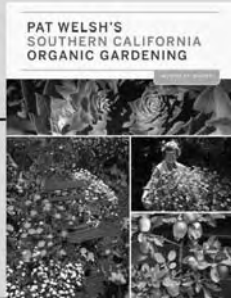
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## March Plant Forum

*Paphiopedilum* Judd Creek SLIPPER ORCHID  
(Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 3/10)

3 *Pelargonium cordifolium* HEART-LEAVED PELARONIUM  
(Sharon Lee, Solana Beach, 3/10)

3 *Psoralea pinnata* BLUE PEA (Jason Kubrock, Vista, 3/10)

3 *Scadoxus puniceus* PAINTBRUSH FLOWER  
(Ken Blackford, San Diego, 3/10)

3 *Sparaxis tricolor* HARLEQUIN FLOWER  
(Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 3/10)

*Zygopetalum* Mishima Goddess 'Burgundy'  
(Cecily Bird, Encinitas, 3/10)

### 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.] ☞

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# March Meeting Report

When Pat Welsh speaks, people listen! And not only because she's funny, charming, fascinating and outspoken... she's also a brilliant educator with a lifetime of hands-on experience that she's generous in sharing in an appealing way. What's not to love? Her new book, *Pat Welsh's Southern California Organic Gardening, Month-By-Month*, is destined to become a classic, and her talk in March was an excellent introduction to the book and to the myriad of reasons why organic gardening makes sense. And her opening comment, "Don't be afraid – vegetables are much easier than you think!" immediately put us all into a mellow mood. Another bit of good news: "Summer crops are more colorful and easier than winter crops," which is very reassuring.

No talk by Pat would be complete without props, and she had those in abundance. An old-fashioned tea kettle (for the boiling water you need to pour on top of carrot seeds to get them to sprout). A basket to hold a trio of plastic pots, one for seed packets, one for sand, and one for potting soil. (You mix small seeds with the sand so they are easier to sprinkle in prepared rows, then cover with potting soil, which helps to wick moisture up from the ground to dampen your seeds.) A hoe (the handle is perfect for creating straight rows), and numerous other gardening accoutrements.

We learned another seed starting tip that can make even a novice veggie gardener a success: Start your squash, corn and beans on damp paper towels which you roll up and put in zip-lock plastic bags; put the bags on your VCR (to get gentle bottom heat) and check the bags daily; plant outdoors when they sprout. Also, Pat plants lettuce both from starts and from seeds, so you can start eating the first lettuce leaves while the seedlings are too small to munch.

Pat had excellent slides showing different kinds of veggie gardens in various stages of preparation, and also of options for irrigation, pest protection, and ways to tie up plants. We saw several types of raised beds, a trio of clever devices to keep larger critters out (including an elegant fully-enclosed garden designed by member Laurie Connable), and half a dozen watering alternatives. It was clear that Pat has tried a myriad of things, and we were most fortunate to learn first-hand what the best of these are.

In her long gardening career she has managed to keep one automated drip system going for 30 years by keeping it repaired, and she urged us to figure out a watering system for our own needs and to keep it in good shape so that we could take occasional vacations from the garden and not lose our crops. Pat told us about half a dozen different ways to make your own compost, including simply half-burying a trash can (which has had the bottom removed) and putting your compostable materials into it (make sure it has a good cover to keep out pests).

"Mix it up in the garden," Pat advises, planting flowers among your veggies and also planting a variety of veggies. This will make it more difficult for insect pests to decimate your crops, and also make your garden more attractive to beneficial insects (and prettier for you).

We learned that: Veggies need full sun (except lettuce, which appreciates some shade in summer). Release ladybugs if you have greenhouse whiteflies. Grow short-day onions if you want globe-shaped onions. Winter squash needs a long summer growing season. Keep root veggies well-mulched so the tops of beets, carrots and

turnips are under the mulch. Hybrid plants may be more disease-resistant than heirloom varieties, but don't bother saving the seeds of hybrid crops. Use blood meal to add nitrogen to the soil. Spray a dilution of Epsom salts on tomatoes and peppers to give them more magnesium. There isn't nearly enough room here to adequately list all of Pat's tips – you'll just need to buy her book!

Thanks, Pat, for showing us how to succeed at growing veggies! Thanks to Gardens by the Sea Nursery (see ad on page 18) for donating an very nice variety of succulents (and some veggies) for our Opportunity Drawing. 🌱

Pat Welsh's website [www.PatWelsh.com](http://www.PatWelsh.com) has lots more info about vegetable gardening (click on "Tips"), including fertilizers. On the SDHS website there is a handout from Pat on Summer Crops (go to the Speakers page and click on Past Speakers, then click on Pat Welsh and scroll down).



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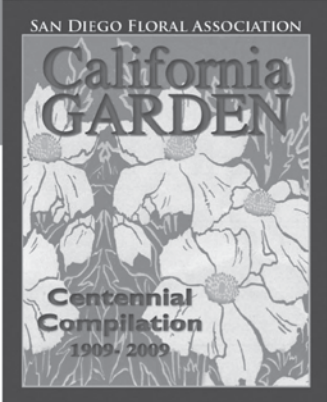


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Details on page 6

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### First SDHS Coffee in the Garden (see page 5)



Jim Bishop (right) and Scott Borden (left), our gracious hosts, in their enchanting succulent garden. Thanks to Joan Hershkowitz, Tami Joplin and Susan Morse for these photos.



# Encinitas Garden Festival and Tour

April 17, 2010 • 10 am to 4 pm



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1. **Purchase tickets in advance** at **Anderson La Costa Nursery**, 400 La Costa Ave., Encinitas, CA, (760) 753-3153, **Barrels and Branches Nursery**, 1452 Santa Fe Drive, Encinitas, CA (760) 753-2852, or **Weidner's Gardens**, 695 Normandy Road, Encinitas CA (760) 436-2194.
2. **Reserve a spot on-line** at [www.EncinitasGardenFestival.org](http://www.EncinitasGardenFestival.org). **Tickets are NOT mailed.** Your name will go on the registrant list in the Gardener's Marketplace at Orpheus Park. Simply turn up on Festival day to claim your wristband and tour map.
3. **If space is still available** to tour gardens **on Festival day**, adult admission will be \$25, children \$10.

**Garden Tour usually sells out ahead of time.**

**For more information**  
visit [www.EncinitasGardenFestival.org](http://www.EncinitasGardenFestival.org)  
or call 760 753-8615



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# ~ Spring Garden Festival ~

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April 24, 2010  
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### Landscape Displays & Gardens

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New Division! Container Landscape Garden.

Entry fee and cash award of merit varies based on exhibit size. Gardens are eligible for numerous additional awards.

### Professional Floral Design Competitions

Enter one class or as many as you like. Entry Fee \$25 per entry.

Cash Awards: 1st - \$150 2nd- \$125 3rd - \$100 4th - \$75

### Amateur and Miniature Floral Design Competitions

Enter one class or as many as you like.

Amateur Floral Design: Entry Fee \$15 per entry

Cash Awards: 1st - \$100 2nd- \$50 3rd- \$40 4th- \$15

Miniature Floral Design: Entry Fee \$10 per entry

Cash Awards: 1st - \$30 2nd- \$20 3rd- \$15 4th- \$10

### Specimen Blooms

Have a green thumb? We have categories for Roses, Dahlias, Gladiolus, Orchids and other Specimen Blooms.

### Floral/Interior Design Vignette

Open to Professionals and Amateurs

A Vignette space is 10'X10' with walls provided by the Fair. Floral Design Vignette display features fresh flowers, live plants, and dried materials.

Interior Design Vignette is a creative display of indoor space featuring furnishings, live and or silk plants, and floral arrangements.

The entry fee is \$75, and there is a \$500 Award of Merit. You may qualify for additional awards.

### Flower Show Stage Speakers and Demonstrators

Enjoy speaking and demonstrating techniques? Show off your expertise while interacting with the audience. The topic would be one of your choice; for example, you could demonstrate the making of a floral arrangement. Best of all, people have a personal interaction with you and get to know what you or your shop or business can do for them.

**Contact Jim Bishop 858.792.4273 ext 2461 to reserve your speaker spot**

### NEW San Diego Floral Design Competition

San Diego Floral Design Competition

Sunday, June 27 on the Flower & Garden Show Stage.

Open to all Amateur Floral Designers. Entry Fee \$25.

Deadline for entry forms and fees Monday, June 7

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### For more information about:

- Landscape Displays & Gardens
- Floral & Interior Design Vignettes
- Container Plants
- Floral Design Completion
- Specimen Blooms
- Bonsai & Tray Landscapes

### "New in 2010"

- San Diego Floral Design Competition
- Container Landscape Garden
- Foliage Container Plant
- Bromeliad Container Plant
- Single Blooming Plant

**Entry deadline - May 7, 2010**

**Flower & Garden Show  
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Monday - Friday**

**Questions & information  
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Office 858.792.4273**



**June 11 - July 5, 2010**

## What's Happening? for April 2010

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 April – also known as National Gardening Month:

It is just fantastic outside as I am working on the newsletter – made prettier by all the great blooms, scents and colors outside the office. Now that we are “officially” into spring I intend to enjoy every minute of it. More plants will be in bloom this month than any other time of the year & we will try to have all of them.

#### What's new at the nursery:

- ❖ Bougainvilleas making a strong appearance including Camarillo Festival and Rosenka.
- ❖ Japanese Maples (Acer Palmatum) – some in 24” box size – specimens over 10 ft. tall.
- ❖ Wisteria sinensis in full bloom (purple & white). Wonderful scent; deciduous in winter. Try planting with a companion vine like Pyrostygia (Flame Vine) for year round interest. Pyrostygia blooms in winter when not much else is in bloom.
- ❖ Lots of flowering vines arriving including Clematis (the evergreen ‘Avalanche’), Passion Flower, Thunbergia (orange, lemon/yellow), Solanum jasminoides (Potato Vine), Lavender Trumpet Vine, Senecio.
- ❖ The Hydrangeas have arrived – pink, white & blue including the popular ‘Endless Summer’ variety.
- ❖ The Clivia are really fabulous – orange, peach & yellow
- ❖ Lots of bedding perennials and annuals – too many to even begin to list but some that will catch your eye as you come in: Marigolds, Columbine (Rose/White & Yellow), Nemesia (huge blooms), Petunias (the Lilac ones are my favorite – also have the Red, White & Blue six packs), Anemone Poppies, Argyranthemum (Marguerite Daisy), Cosmos, Zinnia.
- ❖ Instant fabulous color in hanging baskets – Lotus, Petunia combos, Scaevola, Diaschia & Superbells combo, Osteospermum (Yellow & Orange).
- ❖ Some beautiful indoor Hydrangeas in our greenhouse in 4, 6 & 8” sizes. Great color for your Spring decorating.
- ❖ 6” Mums – pretty pastels – long lasting.
- ❖ Spring Cactus in 2”, 4” and 8” hanging. The 2” make great table decorations.
- ❖ Baby Queen palms – 12-15 foot tall, trunks resemble Bamboo. A great palm and not too tall. Botanical name is *Chamaedorea plumosa*. Forms a trunk with up to 2.5 inches in diameter with prominent rings and looks like a miniature version of the *Syagrus romanzoffiana* (Queen Palm). The growth rate is rapid as compared to other palms.

### The Water Conservation Garden (see other side for address)

- Apr 3 10am-noon Toss the Turf: A short course in turf removal. Member: \$20; Non-Member: \$30
- Apr 4 1:30-2:30pm Ask The Horticulturist Tour: Enjoy a free informative walk through the Garden.
- Apr 6 10am-11am Little Spouts: A guided play experience designed for toddlers, and social networking for their caregivers. Canceled in the event of rain. \$5 per adult/child couple, (\$4 for additional child or adult in the same family group, children under age 1 are free) Minimum of 10 parent/child couples required.
- Apr 10 10am-noon Water Smart Landscape: Learn seven principles of low water landscaping, and discuss plant selection and planting techniques. Member: \$20; Non-Member: \$30
- Apr 10 10am-noon Home Composting Workshop: Learn the basics of composting, using worms to compost, and how to save water in the landscape with compost and mulch. Member: \$10; Non-Member: \$15.
- Apr 17 10:30-12:30pm Trees in the Water Conserving Landscape: Leah will guide you through the basics; tree selection, planting do's and don'ts, watering new trees, maintaining established trees, and tree species best adapted to our arid climate. Member: \$20; Non-Member: \$30
- Apr 18 9:30- 10:30am Special Access Tour: Special tour is offered monthly for individuals who may have difficulty navigating the terrain of the Garden. Explore the Garden from the comfort of a Shuttle. Free; reservations required.

### San Diego Botanic Garden (see other side for address)

- Apr 10, 10am-1pm Succulent Container Garden: Make & take home a beautiful succulent wreath.: Members/\$55, non-members/\$65. Pre-registration required
- Apr 18 2pm Dudleyas and Other Native Succulents: Learn about Dudleyas from expert: Kelly Griffin. Members/\$10, non-members/\$12. Pre-registration required.
- Apr 24 8:30am-1:30pm Garden Photography Workshop: Learn proven techniques from local plant and garden photographer, Bob Bretell. Members/\$69, non-members/\$79. Pre-registration required.
- Apr 25 2-4pm Australian Plants for a Mediterranean Climate: Explore the beautiful and unique plants from Down Under that thrive in our Mediterranean climate. Members/\$10, non-members/\$12. Pre-registration required.

### Walter Andersen Nursery FREE Saturday Classes:

#### 9:00am Point Loma Nursery:

- 4/3 Herbs Care & Uses
- 4/10 Epiphyllum Orchid Cactus
- 4/17 Azaleas
- 4/24 Tomato varieties and care

#### 9:30am Poway Nursery:

- 4/3 Spring Rose Care
- 4/10 Water Conservation through Sprinkler Efficiency
- 4/17 Citrus Varieties & Care
- 4/24 Nan Sterman, 5-Minute Low Water Gardener

Details at [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com); addresses in ad on page 17

### Cedros Gardens Saturday 10am classes:

Details at [www.cedrosgardens.com](http://www.cedrosgardens.com); address in ad on page 19.

Apr 3, 10:00 am-noon, Grangetto's Irrigation for your Edible Landscape & Spring Veggies: 189 S. Rancho Santa Fe Rd., Encinitas. Free. Info: (760) 944-5777 or [grangettos.com/MainPages/workshops.html](http://grangettos.com/MainPages/workshops.html)

Apr 3&4, 9am-4pm, San Diego Epiphyllum Society Sale: Wild Animal Park, Nairobi Village area. For info see [www.sandiegoepi.org](http://www.sandiegoepi.org).

Apr 3&4, 10am-4pm, So. California Plumeria Society Cutting Sale: Includes plumeria culture books, etc. Cash & check only, free admission, Casa Del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park. See [socalplumeriasociety.com](http://socalplumeriasociety.com) or call (760) 731-6188.

Apr 8, 7:30pm, So. California Horticultural Society: Up, Down, Wet Then Dry; the Quest For Puya in the Andes. Non-members/\$5. Friendship Auditorium near Griffith Park, 3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles. [www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org) or (818) 567-1496.

Apr 10, 10:00-11:30am, Healthy Garden/Healthy Home IPM Workshop: SEE PAGE 20.

Apr 10, 10:00 am-noon, Grangetto's Irrigation for your Edible Landscape & Spring Veggies: 1105 W. Mission Ave., Escondido. Free. Info: (760) 944-5777 or [grangettos.com/MainPages/workshops.html](http://grangettos.com/MainPages/workshops.html)

Apr 10, 4:30pm, South Bay Botanic Garden Walk: Bulbs and Corms for Spring Bloom. Meredith shares monocots that are easy to grow. Parking is free in Lot E. Donation of \$1 is suggested. Walks begin at room 1802 of the Landscape and Nursery Technology Department, Southwestern College, 900 Otay Lakes Rd., Chula Vista.

## April 12 SDHS Meeting Details on page 3 Australian Perennials

Apr 13, 7pm, San Diego Geranium Society: TBA. See [www.sdgeranium.org](http://www.sdgeranium.org)

Apr 14, 9am, Poway Valley Garden Club: How to conserve water. Templars Hall, Old Poway Park, 14134 Midland Road, Poway. [www.Powayvalleygardenclub.org](http://www.Powayvalleygardenclub.org)

Apr 14, 10am, Ramona Garden Club: How to grow Apples in warm weather. Womens Club, 524 Main St., Ramona. Info: (760) 787-0087 or [www.RamonaGardenClub.com](http://www.RamonaGardenClub.com).

Apr 20, 6pm, San Diego Floral Assoc. Dinner & Program: SEE PAGE 10

Apr 19, 7:30pm, San Diego Rose Society: Little Rose Show. Room 101 Casa del Prado Balboa Park. Free. See [sdrosesociety.org/sdrs\\_little\\_rose\\_show.htm](http://sdrosesociety.org/sdrs_little_rose_show.htm)

**Apr 22, 1:30pm, Mabel Corwin Branch of the American Begonia Society:** Kartuz Nursery will present pictures of begonias and other plants. Olivenhain Meeting Hall, 423 Rancho Santa Fe Road, Encinitas. Info (760) 753-3977 or marybegonia@att.net.

**Apr 24, 10:00-11:30am, Healthy Garden/Healthy Home IPM Workshop:** Healthy and Safe Gardening. Lakeside Community Center – Moreno Room 9841 Vine St., Lakeside. Free. Free gift for first 50 attendees. For info call (858) 694-2184 or see [cesandiego.ucdavis.edu](http://cesandiego.ucdavis.edu).

**Apr 24, 4:30pm, South Bay Botanic Garden Walk:** Birds of South Bay Botanic Garden. Walk begin at Room 1802 of the Landscape and Nursery Technology Department, Southwestern College, 900 Otay Lakes Rd., Chula Vista. Parking is free in Lot E. Donation of \$1 is suggested.

**Apr 26, 2:00pm, Lake Hodges Native Plant Club:** How to design and plant a native garden. At Las Pilitas Nursery, 8331 Nelson Way, Escondido, 92026; (760) 749-5930; [www.lhnc.org](http://www.lhnc.org).

**Apr 28, 7pm, Rare Fruit Growers San Diego Chapter:** Citrus new varieties & culture; propagation by budding; Rm. 101, Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park. For info see [crfgsandiego.org](http://crfgsandiego.org)

**Apr 28, 6pm, Mission Hills Garden Club:** Nancy Carol Carter speaks on Kate Sessions and her influence on landscape design and plant selection in San Diego gardens. \$10 for guests/visitors. United Church of Christ 4070 Jackdaw St. San Diego. See [missionhillsgardenclub.org](http://missionhillsgardenclub.org)

## GARDEN TOURS/EVENTS

See Page 10 for \*\* items; See March newsletter for \* items

**April 3, 9am – 5pm, Exotic Invitational Plant Sale** – see ad page 14.

\* April 3 – Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Garden Tour and Festival; [ElfinForestGardens.info](http://ElfinForestGardens.info)

\* April 10 – St. Madeleine Sophie's Center Morning Glory Jazz Brunch; [www.stmsc.org](http://www.stmsc.org)

April 10 – Ramona Garden Club Tour & Plant Sale; [www.RamonaGardenClub.com](http://www.RamonaGardenClub.com)

**\*\* Apr 11 – Vista Garden Tour.**

\* April 15 – Bernardo Gardeners Garden Tour; [bernardogardeners.org](http://bernardogardeners.org) or (858) 485-0583

\* April 17 – Encinitas Garden Tour and Festival (SEE INSERT THIS ISSUE)

**Apr 17, 8am; & 18, 10am-4:00pm, Coronado Flower Show and Sale:** Spreckels Park, along Orange Avenue, between 6th & 7th St. See [coronadoflowershow.com](http://coronadoflowershow.com)

**Apr 17, 9am-3pm, Poway Valley Garden Club Flower Show and Sale:** "Birds, Bees and Butterflies Provide, Protect and Enjoy" Free. Lake Poway Pavillion, 14644 Lake Poway Road. For more info see [powayvalleygardenclub.org/projects.htm#flowershow](http://powayvalleygardenclub.org/projects.htm#flowershow) or call (858) 672-0459.

**Apr 17&18, 10am-4pm, Fullerton Arboretum Green Scene Plant & Garden Show:** Shop for plant and garden accessories. \$6 (under 12 free). 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton. Members' early entry April 17, 9-10am; memberships available at the door or [fullertonarboretum.org](http://fullertonarboretum.org)

**\*\* April 23 – Lake Hodges Native Plant Club Tour**

\* April 24 – North County Garden Tour and Plant Sale, [www.crcncc.org](http://www.crcncc.org) or 760-230-6305.

\*\* April 24 – Point Loma Garden Walk

**Apr 24 10am-5pm, Alta Vista Gardens Earth Day Festival:** Free. Brengle Terrace Park, 1270 Vale Terrace Drive, Vista. See [altavistagardens.org/html/earth\\_day\\_2010.html](http://altavistagardens.org/html/earth_day_2010.html)

**\*\* May 1, Clairemont Town Council 14th Annual Garden Tour**

**May 8, 10am – 4pm, Mission Hills Garden Club's 12th Annual Gardens Tour:** Twelve gardens, walk or take the trolley. Advance tickets: \$25, Mission Hills Nursery, Walter Anderson's Nursery (Pt. Loma and Poway); Urban Seed (Old Town), Green (Hillcrest); Cedros Nursery (Solana Beach); Armstrong's (Bay Park). Through PayPal at [www.missionhillsgardenclub.org](http://www.missionhillsgardenclub.org) April 1 to May 1. \$30 on May 8.

## Resources & Ongoing Events

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

**WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN:** Open 9-4 daily, free. Docent-led tours every Saturday at 10:30am. 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)

**Canyonner 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/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

**GardenLife Radio Show (national).** Saturday from 8-9am and Sunday from 8–10am. KCEO 1000AM radio, hosts Bruce and Sharon Asakawa, John Bagnasco. Call-in questions: 866-606-TALK. If your local station does not carry GardenLife, hear it streaming live on [lifestyletalkradio.com](http://lifestyletalkradio.com). GardenLife shows are also archived at [lifestyletalkradio.com](http://lifestyletalkradio.com)

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

❖ Lots of Fuchsias in 4, 6 & 8" sizes (upright, hanging AND Patio Trees) – heavily budded.

**And now we head out to get going...**

April in the garden means warmer weather and longer days with no fear of frost. Does it get any better?

**Fertilize:** Plants grow at a phenomenal rate in the spring. Feed lawns, roses, shrubs and trees (just about everything) with a balanced fertilizer. Use an acid fertilizer on azaleas, gardenias and camellias after they flower.

**Pinch/Prune:** Pinch annuals and perennials for dense growth and more bloom. Prune spring-flowering shrubs when they finish blooming.

**Hedges and shrubs** start growing quickly now. Shrubs that have a growth to over 6 feet need frequent pruning during the warm months to keep as a shrub. For flowering shrubs, prune after flowering rather than before.

**Azaleas:** April is the best month to plant azaleas. Most are in bloom now, which means their roots are dormant and therefore the safest time to disturb the roots in planting. Plant azaleas in tubs or the ground in partial shade and keep evenly moist.

**Bulbs:** Do not cut off the leaves of your finished spring flowering bulbs until the leaves are completely yellow – fertilize as they die back with Bone Meal or Bulb Food. Plant around them and look forward to seeing them again next early spring.

**Water.** Check and program your irrigation system. Fix clogs and broken sprinklers and adjust spray heads. Begin watering as weather warms. Apply a fresh layer of organic mulch to conserve moisture.

**Controlling Spring Weeds:** Weeds always seem to get an early jump on you in spring. Before you know it they're competing with desirable plants robbing them of light, water and nutrients. They also look terrible!! Here is my favorite way to control weeds - Add Mulch - a thick layer of organic mulch will smother weed seeds preventing young weeds from reaching the surface and weeds that do get through will be easier to pull.

**Spring Feeding:** For plants spring is a time of vigorous growth and renewal but if the proper nutrients are not available in the soil all plants can get off to a slow start and grow poorly through the rest of the year.

**Thin fruit on young trees:** Deciduous fruit trees will often produce a heavy crop the second and third years after planting. The fruit should be thinned while the trees are young as this will produce larger fruit, promote foliage growth and generally strengthen the tree.

**Feed and Water Roses:** To keep roses blooming and healthy over a long period after each cycle of blooming occurs cut the spent flowers, fertilize and water thoroughly.

**Prune Shrubs:** Check shrubs and ground covers this month to see if they need pruning. Hedges in particular make rapid growth this month and should be sheared back before they get out of control. Azaleas can be cut back when they are finished blooming.

**Pest control:** Spray for caterpillars - they are now becoming wide awake and hungry -BT (a product from Safer) will affect caterpillars but no other insects. Spider mites are most active in the warmer weather. Spraying with chemical sprays can make your problem worse as this will also kill the beneficial pests that help keep the ones you do not want under control. Insecticidal soaps are the least harmful.