

# Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

May 2013, Number 224

## *The Serious and Funny Business of Plants*

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On the Cover: Floral Fashion Week display



Patricia Jasper Clark • "Sunshine at Susan's" • 2012

LA JOLLA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S FIFTEENTH ANNUAL

# Secret Garden Tour

OF LA JOLLA

Saturday : May 18, 2013



Every spring, the La Jolla Historical Society hosts the Secret Garden Tour featuring some of the most beautiful garden estates Southern California has to offer. Come visit the Secret Garden Boutique, open all day at Wisteria Cottage, during the Tour. Local vendors will be selling a variety of unique gifts, garden accessories, and plants.



FOR INFORMATION

WWW.LAJOLLAHISTORY.ORG • 858.459.5335



▼ SDHS SPONSOR

## GREEN THUMB SUPER GARDEN CENTERS

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- Not valid with previous purchases • Limit 1 coupon per household
- Coupon expires 5/31/2013 at 6 p.m.



# JUNE WORKSHOPS

**DON'T  
MISS  
FARMER  
ROY'S**

# free Growing Herbs WORKSHOP

## OVERVIEW

Roy Wilburn, Farmer Roy, the Director of Horticulture for Sunshine Care, A Community of Assisted Living Homes in Poway, will talk about many culinary herbs. Learn the basics of growing, pest control, fertilization, cutting, seeding and propagation. He will give a little history, uses in the kitchen and how they can compliment your xeriscape gardens. He will break down the herbs into three groups-seeded crops, perennials and basil.

**garden club**  
JOIN TODAY!!

[GrangettosGardenClub.com/join](http://GrangettosGardenClub.com/join)  
Gardening information delivered  
to your inbox! Best of all it's FREE

## TIME

All start at 10:00am to 12:00pm

## DATES AND LOCATIONS



**SATURDAY, JUNE 1**

Grangetto's Escondido  
1105 W.Mission Ave, 92025



**SATURDAY, JUNE 8**

Grangetto's Encinitas  
189 S. Rancho Santa Fe Rd, 92024



**SATURDAY, JUNE 22**

Grangetto's Fallbrook  
530 E. Alvarado St, 92028

## WHO CAN ATTEND

Anyone! It's FREE, we just ask that you register for a head count. Thanks!

**REGISTER & LEARN MORE AT**  
[www.GrangettosGardenClub.com/workshops](http://www.GrangettosGardenClub.com/workshops)

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GRANGETTOS](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GRANGETTOS)

VISIT US ON THE WEB

[WWW.GRANGETTOS.COM](http://WWW.GRANGETTOS.COM)



# 2013 Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale

Presented by

*The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society*

## June 1<sup>nd</sup> & 2<sup>rd</sup>

At **Balboa Park** in

### *The Casa Del Prado*

**Show: Room 101, Sat June 1, 10 to 3, Sun June 2, 10 to 4**

**Sale: Courtyard, Sat June 1, 10 to 5, Sun June 2, 10 to 4**  
**SDCSS Members only shopping Sat Jun 1, 9am to 10am**

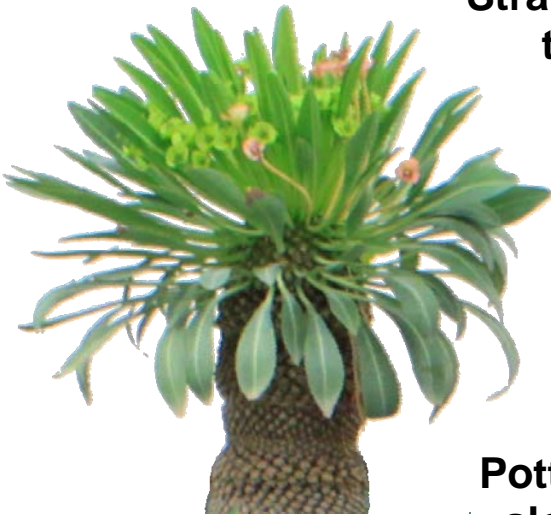
**Strange and exotic plants from the far corners of the world gathered together for your viewing amazement!!**

**Courtyard sale of choice specimen plants for the novice and collector as well as handmade stoneware planters and pots!!**

**Potting service will be available along with cultural information.**

**See a great selection of “water wise” plants for landscaping.**  
**For additional information visit: [www.sdcss.net](http://www.sdcss.net)**

If you have trouble finding a parking spot, use the **Balboa Park TRAM**. The free tram provides access to Balboa Park's museums and attractions. You can park in the Inspiration Point lot and wait at Tram Central, a shady arbor with benches. The tram will deliver you to the heart of Balboa Park. Trams pick up every 8 to 10 minutes. Riders may also board at one of the designated pick-up areas around the Park. The tram operates seven days a week from 8:30 am to 6:00 pm.



# The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society

Regular meetings are held in Room 101, Casa Del Prado, across the street from the Natural History Museum in Balboa Park. The meetings are typically held on the second Saturday of each month. Our schedule for 2013: JAN 12, FEB 9, MAR 9, APR 13, MAY 11, JUN 1, JUL 13, AUG 10, SEP 14, OCT 12, NOV 9, DEC 14. For more information visit our website at [SDCSS.net](http://SDCSS.net) or e-mail the membership chair at [pdmaker@roadrunner.com](mailto:pdmaker@roadrunner.com). Membership includes an email subscription to the bulletin, Espinas y Flores, published monthly, library privileges and inclusion in many other activities.

Our monthly meetings highlight a cactus and a succulent, "Plant of the Month." These plants are described in an article in the preceding monthly bulletin. Many members also bring in their best plant for our "Brag Table."

A refreshment break during the middle of the meeting allows members to look over our free plant exchange table. Others may purchase plants and supplies at favorable club prices, take advantage of our library, and/or visit with others.

The highlight of each meeting is a program that begins shortly after the break. We invite renowned scholars, growers, botanists, explorers and advanced hobbyists to speak. A question and answer period follows.

All members are encouraged to participate and contribute toward the Society. Our annual plant shows and sales typically occur during the second Saturday in February, and the first weekend in June. Participation in these events and others is appreciated and encouraged.

## SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Dues are \$15.00 per year per individual, and \$5.00 per year for each additional household member. Newsletter is e-mailed. **Mailed paper copies are available for an additional \$5 a year.** Each member has all the rights and benefits of the organization.

Annual Dues – (E-mail Newsletter)	\$15.00
First class delivery USPS (Paper)	\$5.00
International Annual Dues (Paper)	\$30.00
Additional Household Member(s)	\$5.00

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check **ONE** for type of membership below:

**NEW** \_\_\_\_\_ **RENEWAL** \_\_\_\_\_

### Member Information:

**(Please PRINT to fill in ALL blanks below!!!)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City and State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip + 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell/FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Household Members:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Do you wish to receive e-mail notifications on club events and issues? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_**

**Mail this form or a copy, along with a check or money order in US Funds made payable to SDCSS to:**

**SDCSS Membership Dept**

C/O PAUL MAKER

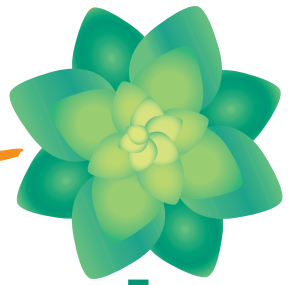
1245 SAN PABLO DR

SAN MARCOS, CA 92078-4816

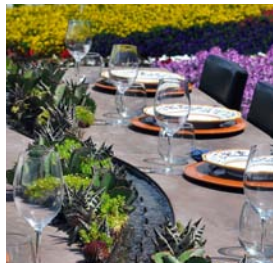
**(Rev. G-3, 2013-2-5)**

**WATERWISE BOTANICALS**  
www.waterwisebotanicals.com

# Succulent Celebration



**Friday &  
Saturday  
June 7-8**



**Hybridizers  
Designers  
Authors**



**North County  
San Diego**



**RSVP**  
www.  
succulentcelebration  
.com



# Event Information.



## succulent love.

The largest event of its kind in Southern California, the Succulent Celebration highlights the exciting world of waterwise plants. Food, fun, refreshments and activities will be provided for your enjoyment.

### **Plants that Drink Responsibly ~ Debra's Top Ten Favorites**

*Debra Lee Baldwin, garden photojournalist and bestselling author*

### **Adventures of "Indiana Jones" | Succulent Discovery & New Varieties**

*Kelly Griffin, Plant Research & Development Manager, Altman Plants*

### **Color Shock! Racy and Raw Colors for Plants and Hardscape**

*Michael Buckner, landscape designer and owner of The Plant Man nursery*

### **Landscaping Succulents...(very different than what you expect)**

*Tom Jesch, Founder, Waterwise Botanicals*

### **The Succulent Baristas**

*Chris Berg & Carmen Contreras, Designers, Oasis Plants*

### **Succulents: Care, Culture and Consternation**

*Tom Jesch, Founder, Waterwise Botanicals*

### **How to Create a Succulent Dish Garden in Five Minutes**

*Jeff Moore, Owner, Solana Succulents*

### **Adding Companion Plants to the Succulent Garden**

*Tiger Palafox, Owner, Mission Hills Nursery*

### **Succulents Simplified Potting Demo**

*Debra Lee Baldwin, garden photojournalist and bestselling author*

### **Garden tours of Jeanne Meadow's garden\* & Oasis Plants**

*\*A nationally recognized private succulent garden*

**Dates:**

**Friday, June 7th & Saturday, June 8th**

**Location:**

**Waterwise Botanicals | 32183 Old Highway 395 | Escondido, California**

**Hours:**

**8:00 am - 6:00 pm**

**Reservations:**

**Online at [www.succulentcelebration.com](http://www.succulentcelebration.com) or 760-728-2641**

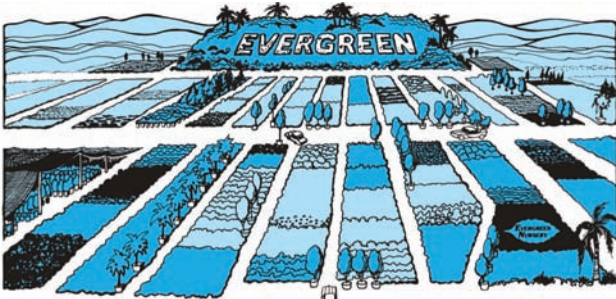
## What's Happening? for May 2013

The SDHS is happy to publicize items of horticultural interest. See other side for resources & ongoing events.

Send calendar listings by the 10th of the month before the event to Neal King at [calendar@sdhortsoc.org](mailto:calendar@sdhortsoc.org).

### ▼ SDHS Sponsor

## DISCOVER EVERGREEN NURSERY



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

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### Spring/Summer Hours

Mon.-Thurs. 7:30-5:00; Fri.-Sat. 7:30-6:00; Sun. 9:00-5:00

## Free Monthly Seminar

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

### May 4th

## Choosing and Caring for Fruit Trees

How to choose, plant, and grow stone fruit trees. Fruits discussed will be: Apples, Apricots, Figs, Nectarines, Pears, Peaches, Persimmons, Plums, and Pomegranates.

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

[www.evergreennursery.com](http://www.evergreennursery.com)

Send questions and comments to:  
[info@evergreennursery.com](mailto:info@evergreennursery.com)

### Two Convenient Locations:

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

**OCEANSIDE**  
3231 Oceanside Blvd.  
(760) 754-0340

## Events at Public Gardens

**May 10 is National Public Gardens Day!**  
Visit one of our fine local public gardens.

- ❖ **Alta Vista Gardens** contact info on other side  
**May 11, 8am-2pm Annual Plant Sale** with MiraCosta Horticulture Club. See [www.avgardens.org](http://www.avgardens.org) for events & classes.
- ❖ **San Diego Botanic Garden** contact info on other side  
**May 18-June 15, Saving Water One Zone at a Time Series:** Comprehensive overview and basic skills necessary to makeover a traditional turf yard into a beautiful and climate-appropriate WaterSmart showcase. Free for eligible participants only (May 18, June 1 & 8, 9am-noon; June 15, 9am-3pm).  
**May 18, 1-4pm, Super-Efficient Irrigation:** Learn how to create super-efficient irrigation systems. Members \$36, non-members \$43.  
**May 28, 9am-2pm, Succulent Wreath Class:** Take home a beautiful succulent wreath that you make yourself. Members \$60, non-members \$72. Fee includes materials. Register by May 17.
- ❖ **The Water Conservation Garden** contact info on other side  
**May 4, 10am-noon, Marvelous Monarchs:** Learn why butterflies are very important to the ecosystem. Non-Member \$10.  
**May 18, 10am-noon, Free Home Composting Workshop:** Workshop on the basics of composting.

## Events Hosted by SDHS Sponsors:

Please thank them for supporting SDHS!

- ❖ **Barrels & Branches Classes & Workshops**  
Info: [www.barrelsandbranches.com](http://www.barrelsandbranches.com), (760)753-2852 or [danica@barrelsandbranches.com](mailto:danica@barrelsandbranches.com)
  - ❖ **Cedros Gardens, Saturday and Sunday FREE classes.**  
Details at [www.cedrosgardens.com](http://www.cedrosgardens.com); address in ad on page 17.
  - ❖ **City Farmers Nursery Classes**  
**May 5, 9am-3pm, Homesteading Arts Festival:** Local artists showcase handmade goods and show you how they do what they do! From beading to glass wear to unique bird houses and handmade soap. See [www.cityfarmersnursery.com](http://www.cityfarmersnursery.com) or call (619) 284-6358.
  - ❖ **Evergreen Nursery FREE Seminar Each Month**  
See column at left for details.
  - ❖ **Grangetto's FREE Workshops**  
**May 15, Horticulture Seminar and Trade Show.** Open to all Horticultural Professionals. San Diego Safari Park. \$99/person. Registration closes May 10. See [www.grangettos.com/seminar/index.html](http://www.grangettos.com/seminar/index.html).  
**See insert for details on FREE June workshops.**  
Info: (760) 745-4671 or [www.grangettos.com](http://www.grangettos.com).
  - ❖ **Sunshine Care FREE Workshop**  
**May 18, 10:30am, Sharon May on "The Dirt on Soil."**  
Sunshine Care - ad on page 14. Info: (858) 752-8197 or [www.sunshinecare.com](http://www.sunshinecare.com).
  - ❖ **Walter Andersen Nursery FREE Saturday Classes**  
Details at [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com); addresses in ad on page 15
- |        | <b>Point Loma, 9am</b> | <b>Poway, 9:30am</b> |
|--------|------------------------|----------------------|
| May 4  | TBA                    | DIG Drip Irrigation  |
| May 11 | TBA                    | Lawn Care            |
| May 18 | TBA                    | Rose Show prep       |
| May 27 | TBA                    | Rose Show            |
- ❖ **Waterwise Botanicals - See insert & save the date!**  
**June 7 & 8, 6am to 6pm, Succulent Celebration.** Speakers, demonstrations & workshops. Details at [www.waterwisebotanicals.com](http://www.waterwisebotanicals.com). FREE, but RSVP required by contacting [talkplants@waterwisebotanicals.com](mailto:talkplants@waterwisebotanicals.com) or (760) 728-2641.
  - ❖ **Weidners' Gardens classes & workshops**  
**May 25 & 26, Mosaic Flowerpot Class:** \$40 class plus \$15-\$20 materials. Details at [www.weidners.com](http://www.weidners.com).

### Next SDHS Meeting

**May 13 - 6:00 pm**

## The Serious & Funny Business of Plants

See page 1 for details

**More garden-related events  
on other side.**



## Other Garden-Related Events:

### Check with hosts to confirm dates & details

- ◆ **May 1, 10am, Point Loma Garden Club:** Sam Diego in Full Bloom. 2818 Avenida de Portugal, 92106. Info: [www.plgc.org](http://www.plgc.org) or call (619) 222-9304.
- ◆ **May 3 (7am-9pm), 4 (6:30am-10pm), & 5 (8am-4:30pm), Pacific Southwest District Convention and Rose Show:** Entries received from 6:00 am – 9:30 am Saturday. Carlsbad by the Sea Resort. Sunday will feature a rose garden tour. Info: [www.sdrosesociety.org](http://www.sdrosesociety.org).

### May 4, 8am-3pm, Master Gardener Spring Seminar:

Outstanding annual educational event features three sessions of seminars, plant sale, book signings, more! 9335 Hazard Way, Kearny Mesa. Info & registration: [www.mastergardenerssandiego.org/seminar/indexopen.php](http://www.mastergardenerssandiego.org/seminar/indexopen.php).

- ◆ **May 4 (2-5pm) & 5 (10am-4pm), Vista Garden Club Flower Show:** Jim Porter Recreation Center, 1200 Vale Terrace Dr., Vista. Info: [www.VistaGardenClub.org](http://www.VistaGardenClub.org), (760) 724-6256.
- ◆ **May 4 (1pm) & 5 (10am-4pm), Iris Society Spring Show & Potted Iris Sale:** See hundreds of irises in bloom. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, room 101. Info: <https://sites.google.com/site/sandiegoirissociety>.
- ◆ **May 8, Ramona Garden Club:** TBA. 524 Main St., Ramona. Info: [www.RamonaGardenClub.com](http://www.RamonaGardenClub.com) or (760) 787-0087.
- ◆ **May 11 & 12, 9am-4pm, Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale:** Balboa Park, Casa del Prado. See ad on page 15. Info: [www.sandiegoepi.org](http://www.sandiegoepi.org).
- ◆ **May 14, 10:00 am, Dos Valles Garden Club:** Greg Rubin's Landscaping with California Natives. 31020 Cole Grade Rd., Valley Center. Info: [www.dosvallesgardenclub.org](http://www.dosvallesgardenclub.org).
- ◆ **May 16, 1pm, Bernardo Gardeners Club:** Native Flora of the Sonoran Desert. \$5 for non-members. 16955 Bernardo Oaks Drive. Info: <http://bernardogardeners.org>.
- ◆ **May 18 & 19, 9am-4pm, Geranium Society Show & Sale:** Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, room 101. Info: [www.sdgeranium.org](http://www.sdgeranium.org) or (858) 472-0540.
- ◆ **May 18, 10am-noon, Free Composting Workshop:** Taught by Solana Center. Calavera Hills Community Center, 2997 Glasgow Drive Carlsbad. Info: [www.solanacenter.org](http://www.solanacenter.org).
- ◆ **May 21, 7pm, Calif. Native Plant Society:** TBA. Free. See [www.cnpsd.org](http://www.cnpsd.org).

## GARDEN TOURS IN MAY

### See page 14 for details

- May 3-5 – Sage & Songbirds Garden Tour & Festival
- May 4 – Clairemont Garden Tour
- May 11 – Mission Hills Garden Walk
- May 11 – Fallbrook AAUW Country Garden Tour
- May 18 – La Jolla Secret Garden Tour - see inside front cover for ad
- May 18 – San Diego Floral Association Historic Garden Tour
- May 19 – Loma Portal Home & Garden Tour

**Do you belong to a garden club or organization whose events aren't listed above? For a FREE listing (as space permits) send details by the 10th of the month before the event to Neal King, Calendar Editor, at [calendar@sdhort.org](mailto:calendar@sdhort.org).**

## San Diego County Farmers Markets

[www.sdfarmbureau.org/BuyLocal/Farmers-Markets.php](http://www.sdfarmbureau.org/BuyLocal/Farmers-Markets.php)

### MONDAY:

Escondido - Welk Village

### TUESDAY:

Coronado  
Escondido  
Mira Mesa  
Morena District  
Otay Ranch  
Pacific Beach  
UCSD/La Jolla

### WEDNESDAY:

Carlsbad  
Encinitas  
Mission Hills  
North San Diego  
Ocean Beach  
San Marcos  
Santee

### THURSDAY:

Chula Vista  
El Cajon ---NEW!!!  
Horton Square  
Linda Vista  
North Park  
Oceanside CFM  
Oceanside Sunset  
Pacific Highlands  
Poway-Alliant Univ.  
San Carlos  
UTC

### FRIDAY:

Borrego Springs  
Fallbrook  
Imperial Beach  
Kearny Mesa  
La Mesa  
Rancho Bernardo  
Southeast San Diego

### SATURDAY:

Carlsbad  
City Heights  
Del Mar  
Golden Hill  
Little Italy  
Pacific Beach  
Poway  
Ramona  
Rancho San Diego  
Scripps Ranch  
Vista

### SUNDAY:

North San Diego  
Gaslamp District  
Hillcrest  
Julian  
La Jolla  
Leucadia/Encinitas  
Point Loma  
Rancho Santa Fe  
San Marcos  
Solana Beach

**For an extensive list of garden club meetings and events, visit the San Diego Floral Association website: [www.sdfloal.org/calendar.htm](http://www.sdfloal.org/calendar.htm)**

## Resources & Ongoing Events

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

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

**THE WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN:** Open 9-4 daily, FREE. Docent-led tours every Saturday at 10:00am. 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, (619) 660-0614 or [www.thegarden.org](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) 822-6910, [www.mastergardenerssandiego.org](http://www.mastergardenerssandiego.org).

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

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

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

### BALBOA PARK:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Calendar/Resources/Ongoing Events

## SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Details on membership are on page 20 and at [www.sdhort.org](http://www.sdhort.org)  
For questions contact [membership@sdhort.org](mailto:membership@sdhort.org) or Jim Bishop at (619) 296-9215.

### MEETING SCHEDULE

5:00 – 6:00 Meeting room setup  
6:00 – 6:45 Vendor sales, lending library, plant display  
6:45 – 9:00 Announcements, door prizes, speaker

### MEETINGS & EVENTS

(FW = Free Workshops; Register at [www.sdhort.org](http://www.sdhort.org))

- May 5** Organic Pest Control (FW)  
**May 6** Gardening for Birds, Hummingbirds & Butterflies & Planting on a Slope (FW)  
**June 24** SDHS Night at the Fair and Horticulturist of the Year Award Ceremony  
**July 8** Debra Lee Baldwin on her new book, *Succulents Simplified*  
**August 4** Growing organic fall & winter vegetables (FW)  
**August 10** Summer Fruit Tree Pruning (FW)  
**August 12** Nan Sterman on Drip is Hip: Upgrading Wasteful Irrigation Systems



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

**COVER IMAGE:** The serious business of plants includes annual industry presentations like this one: the "Floral Fashion Week" display at Fides Oro, in Santa Paula, CA, the new Spring Trials home of Ecke Poinsettias.



## Next Meeting: MAY 13, 2013, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

### Topic: JOHN SCHOUSTRA ON "THE SERIOUS AND FUNNY BUSINESS OF PLANTS"

**Meeting is open and everyone is welcome. Admission: Members/free, Non-Members/\$15. Parking is free.**  
**Meeting Place: Del Mar Fairgrounds, Surfside Race Place, Del Mar; Info: (619) 296-9215**



Join the always-interesting John Schoustra, a landscape designer for over 40 years and owner of Greenwood Daylily Gardens, as he shares with us his insights and amusing and inspiring tales from many years in the business of ornamental horticulture. Find out what a Las Vegas casino, Irvine, a Saudi palace, a Haitian orphanage, and an African village have in common. What is the capital of the nursery world? (Hint: it's California for only six days per year.) Where was the Rose Mahal, and how was it connected to French Champagne? John explains the connections while taking us through his experiences with buying and selling plants throughout the world.

John's mission at Greenwood has been to find and grow the best daylily varieties for California. This expanded to include other plants that "performed like daylilies," such as irises, clivias, pelargoniums and cannas, evaluating each to provide the best of each to meet the needs of the California landscape. Along with daylilies, John has introduced a number of new plants to California horticulture, including a reblooming agapanthus, a low-chill lilac, a dwarf clivia, and several pelargoniums. He is a cofounder of the All-American Daylily Selection Council, a nationwide daylily testing program; is past President of the Nursery Growers Association; and serves on the board of the Southern California Horticultural Society.

John will be donating some mother plants from his breeding programs as well as specimens of all his 2013 new plant introductions for our silent auction. He'll also be selling a broad selection of his pelargoniums and irises at the meeting.

To learn more, visit [www.greenwoodgarden.com](http://www.greenwoodgarden.com) and see page 3. 🌿

# SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Established September 1994

## BOARD MEMBERS

**Patty Berg** – Volunteer Coordinator

**Jeff Biletnikoff** – Meeting Room Coordinator

**Jim Bishop** – President, Membership Chair

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**Julian Duval** – San Diego Botanic Garden  
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**Dannie McLaughlin** – Tour Coordinator

**Susan Oddo** – Publicity Coordinator

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Past President

**Don Walker** – Past President

**Lucy Warren** – Secretary

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

**Editor/Advertising:** Susi Torre-Bueno;  
(760) 295-2173; newsletter@sdhort.org

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

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### ☛New Email? New Street Address?

Please send all changes (so you will continue to  
receive the newsletter and important notices) to  
membership@sdhort.org or SDHS, Attn:  
Membership, PO Box 231869, Encinitas, CA  
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address with **anyone!**

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SDHS sponsorships have high recognition  
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This is a wonderful way to show your support  
for the SDHS. Sponsors help pay for our monthly  
meetings, annual college scholarships, and other  
important programs. Sponsorships start at just  
\$100/year; contact Jim Bishop at sponsor@  
sdhort.org. Sponsors are listed on page 10;  
those with ads in the newsletter have the words  
SDHS Sponsor above their ads. We thank them  
for their extra support!

## IMPORTANT MEMBER INFORMATION

Join the fun and bring a plant or cutting to show off at the Plant Display table at our May 13 meeting. An expert will be on hand to answer your questions.

### Volunteers Needed for May 4<sup>th</sup> and May 19<sup>th</sup>

Outgoing members wanted to staff our information table and sign up new members at the Master Gardeners Spring Seminar in Kearny Mesa on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> or in Scripps Ranch for the Community Fair on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. Please email PattyBerg@gmail.com.



### Volunteers Wanted for Our Fair Display Garden

SDHS will again have a display garden at the San Diego County Fair – and it'll be the **FIRST GARDEN** people see as they enter from the main entrance! We need enthusiastic volunteers to be our garden ambassadors. You'll let folks know about SDHS and answer questions about our exhibit and plants in general. You don't need to be an expert of any kind – just friendly and outgoing. The Fair runs from June 8 to July 4. Please email Patty Berg at pattyjberg@gmail.com to join in the fun. Free admission to the Fair and free parking make this one of the year's best volunteer opportunities!

### September Board Opening: Public Relations Coordinator

Ensure that non-members learn about the exciting things SDHS does by coordinating with our press release writer and events publicist. This is a fun position where you get to know everyone and everything that is going on. Contact Susan Oddo: soddo@earthlink.net.

### Plant Experts at Monthly Meeting

We are looking for members who are plant experts to answer questions at the Plant Display table at our meetings. We don't expect you to know everything about every plant – maybe you know a lot about roses, or sell perennials, or perhaps you can share your knowledge of low-water plants with other members? To volunteer please contact Susanna Pagan at 858-342-8667 or susannapagan@gmail.com.

### THANKS Garden Tour Volunteers

Our deepest gratitude to these fine volunteers who helped on the day of the tour. Please see page 8 for the names of additional volunteers. ☛

Kimberly Alexander  
June Andersen  
Lisa Bellora  
Katherine Blankinship  
Elaine Browning  
Lu Coe  
Keira Dillon  
Connie Forest  
Eric & Susan Groves

Joan Herskowitz  
Pat Huff  
Gabrielle Ivany  
Tina Ivany  
Jennifer Kennedy  
Lyla Kimball  
Marge Loneski  
Jane Morton  
Anne Murphy

Al & Dora Jean Myrick  
Don Nelson  
Karen Nietz  
Susanna Pagan  
Joan Perron  
Carol & Gary Prior  
Helen Reynolds  
Jeanette Shields  
Paula Suttle

Emily Troxell  
Lynda Trunzo  
Marcia Van Loy  
Marilyn Wilson  
Leslie Woodward  
Nancy Woodard



## GARDENS OF THE YEAR CONTEST DEADLINE IS MAY 6

Members are invited to submit photos of their gardens to the 19<sup>th</sup> annual *San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles* magazine Gardens of the Year Contest. It is free to enter, but don't delay because the deadline is May 6. The entry form is here: <http://sandiegohomegarden.com/images/Contests/goy%20entry%20form.pdf>. ☛



## TO LEARN MORE...

By Ava Torre-Bueno

### The Funny Side of Plants

As our topic this month is the funny side of the plant business, I've collected a few amusing horticultural sites. For a funnily crafted seed catalogue, see [www.plantdelights.com](http://www.plantdelights.com). "Plant Delights Nursery is the mail order nursery division of Juniper Level Botanic Garden, a research and botanic garden facility that specializes in genetic preservation of rare plants and the development and introduction of new, rare, and unusual species and garden hybrids."

Note that in addition to being funny, this site has a list of common hallucinogenic plants! [www.plantdelights.com/Hallucinogenic-Plants/products/956/#.UWdlGqLvveM](http://www.plantdelights.com/Hallucinogenic-Plants/products/956/#.UWdlGqLvveM)

Funny for its name alone is the Germinatrix, but her style is breezy and amusing as well:

<http://thegerminatrix.com/2012/01/27/if-a-tree-falls-in-my-garden-and-i-dont-look-did-it-really-fall/>

And just for fun, go to Google Images and put in the words "monkey orchids images." They will make you smile.

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 [sandiegofriendscenter.org/volunteers.htm](http://sandiegofriendscenter.org/volunteers.htm). ☺

## FREE WORKSHOPS FOR MEMBERS

We've had eight very successful workshops since this program began in February; see page 1 for upcoming workshops. Thanks so much to the following teachers and hosts for these workshops:

- Winter Fruit Tree Pruning – Patty Berg (teacher), Susi Torre-Bueno (host)
- Pruning 101 for Roses and More – Kathryn Parker (teacher), Stephen Zolezzi (host)
- Pruning Woody Shrubs – Ted Overland (teacher and host)
- Herbs: How to Grow & Use – Roy Wilburn (teacher), Sunshine Care (host)
- Success with Orchids – Jim Wright (teacher and host)
- Bromeliads in the Garden – Joann Dossett (teacher and host)
- Getting Your Organic Garden Ready For Spring/Summer Veggies – Roy Wilburn (teacher), Sunshine Care (host)
- New Varieties of Plants for Our Area – Cory Parks from Monrovia (teacher), Josh Patten from Proven Winners (teacher), Greg Smith from DIG Corp. (teacher), David Ross from Walter Andersen Nursery (host)

To register for our free workshops go to [www.sdhort.org](http://www.sdhort.org) and click on ACTIVITIES and then WORKSHOPS. If your friends would like to join you, they can become members online and register for a workshop immediately. If you find you cannot attend a workshop you have registered for, please be courteous and free up space for another member to take your place: see the bottom of your confirmation email for a link to cancel. If you would like to teach or host a workshop, or have general questions, please contact Annie Morgan at [Mamx54@gmail.com](mailto:Mamx54@gmail.com). ☺



## FROM THE BOARD

By Jim Bishop

### Spring Garden Tour

With over 850 garden enthusiasts attending, our April 6 tour was the largest and most successful event SDHS has ever hosted! With the *Variety is the Spice of Life...and Gardens Too* theme, the tour offered something for everyone with cottage gardens, low water flower gardens, succulents, palms, native plants, Mediterranean plants, organic vegetable gardening and panoramic views. Thank you to the Lake Hodges Native Plant Club for helping find and select the gardens. Thanks to all of the garden owners for all of their hard work in creating such unique, creative, inspirational and beautiful Poway gardens.



Rachel Cobb

Thank you to all who attended, and special thanks if you were one of the 499 who purchased advance tickets and checked in at one of the gardens. The advance ticket purchases helped keep ticket lines short and also allowed purchasers to start the tour at any garden without waiting to check in.

Special thanks to Patty Berg for coordinating the volunteers; Susan Oddo, Mary and Ron James and Susi Torre-Bueno for getting the word out about the tour; Susan Morse for coordinating advance ticket sales; and Carol Lane for helping with tour logistics. Thanks also to all the day of the tour volunteers who greeted everyone with so much cheer and enthusiasm. Thank you to all of our vendors and artists who participated in the gardens, and to *San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles*, media sponsor of our tour.

But most all thanks to Tour Chairperson Dannie McLaughlin for orchestrating this incredible event. Dannie put in countless volunteer hours planning, scheduling and working to make sure that everything ran so smoothly. Her careful attention to detail created an enjoyable and educational experience for all who attended.

### San Diego County Fair Garden Exhibit

You can learn more about our exhibit at the County Fair on page 5. We will soon start signing up volunteers to staff the garden. Look for more information in upcoming monthly email messages. This is our largest outreach and education program, and a great way to tell the public about San Diego Horticultural Society. And don't forget to save the date of June 24<sup>th</sup>, when we'll have our exclusive "Night at the Fair" meeting and also honor our 2013 Horticulturalist of the Year, Brad Monroe.

### Thank You!

A tip of the hat to Las Pilitas Nursery for the donation of native plants at the April meeting silent auction. ☺



## THE REAL DIRT ON...

### Willis Linn Jepson

By Linda Bresler

Willis Linn Jepson, "The Botany Man," is known as California's most distinguished early botanist. As reported in his obituary, he was ranked nine in the group of botanists who had named the largest number of California plant species by 1946.

Jepson (shown here in a photo from 1911) was born in 1867 on a farm near Vacaville, CA to pioneering parents who had come west from Missouri in a covered wagon. He became interested in plants as a child, but was not encouraged in book learning. In 1885, Jepson became the first person from Vacaville who had ever applied to a university. He became physically ill from the stress of taking the entrance exams for the University of California, Berkeley, but was accepted into the Class of 1889.



Upon graduation, Jepson began graduate school, and also became an assistant instructor of botany at the university. He carried on research at Berkeley, Cornell, and Harvard, and received his Ph.D. from U.C. Berkeley in 1899. Working his way up at the university, Jepson went from assistant professor to full professor by 1918, and became professor emeritus in 1937.

During his lifetime, Jepson wrote at least eleven books, including *Trees of California* and *A Flora of California*, both published in 1909, and *A Manual of the Flowering Plants of California*, published in 1925. He spent his free time and sabbaticals traveling extensively throughout the world, and studying plants at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew and the Botanical Garden in Berlin. However, Jepson primarily roamed California, exploring and collecting plant specimens. His private herbarium, later bequeathed to U.C. Berkeley, was the basis for his magnum opus, *The Flora of California*.

In 1892, at the age of 25, Jepson, along with John Muir and others, founded the Sierra Club. He also founded the California Botanical Society in 1915, as well as its journal, *Madrone*, which he edited until 1933. Jepson became involved in the Save the Redwoods League, and helped with the establishment of the Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden in 1926. He became a councilor there in 1933.

Jepson never married, and died in Berkeley, CA in 1946. He was accorded numerous honors, and the Saxifragaceae genus *Jepsonia* and a number of specific plants were named after him. Shown above is *Jepsonia parryi*, photographed at Blue Sky Ecological Reserve, Poway. The Jepson Herbarium at the U.C., Berkeley is named for him, as is *The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California*.

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

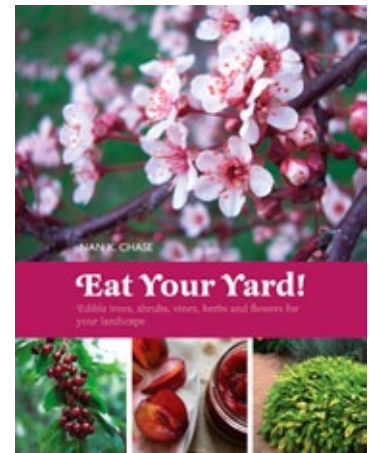


## BOOK REVIEW

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh

### Eat Your Yard! Edible trees, shrubs, vines, herbs and flowers for your landscape

By Nan K. Chase



I've reviewed many books about planting edibles in your yard. My theory is that if I'm going to plant 'em and water 'em

and prune 'em, they're going to give something back. And I'm always looking for something new and different.

*Eat Your Yard!* doesn't break any new ground. You may already have many of these plants in your yard. Still, it's a pleasure to read inviting prose. You can imagine sitting over a cup of tea and chatting with the author about gardening. She's glad to share what she knows from growing these plants in her own yard in North Carolina. She also shares one or more recipes for each plant: some common and a number of unusual ones such as grape dumplings, mint wine (I think I'll pass), and pickled nasturtium seeds. And although I can't imagine planting a bay tree in order to have something edible in your yard – how many bay leaves can you use in a year? – the recipe for bay syrup sounds intriguing.

Chase covers thirty-five fruits, nuts, and herbs, including one I always yearn for: pawpaw. I've never tasted it, but all the descriptions, including this one, make it sound delicious. Unfortunately, we're not cold enough or humid enough to grow it.

My other temptation is wild roses. I gave up on hybrid roses because they're so fussy, but the wild roses sound like they would be fun, and they produce rose hips for making jelly and sauces. I was surprised that she warned us against some of the multiflora roses, especially one called Cherokee, which is considered noxious. She recommends that we call our county agent before planting, to find out both which roses thrive in San Diego and which ones to avoid.

The chapters are well organized. Besides the general discussion, she tells us where and how to grow each plant and what features it will add to your landscape and to your kitchen.

She includes a list of resources. It makes interesting reading, too. I know there's a group for almost everything, but did you know there's a U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council, or a North Carolina Muscadine Grape Association? There you go. You learn something new every time you read one of these reviews. You can thank me later.

*Eat Your Yard!* (ISBN—1 3:978-1-4236-0384-9 \$19.95) is published by Gibbs Smith. You might want to check out their interesting catalog on line. The book of 160 pages includes many beautiful photos. I didn't count them, but I would guess that there are at least 80 full-color photos, many of them full pages. This book is so nicely designed it would be a pleasing gift for a friend who gardens. I recommend it. 🌿

### The Moving Blanket

By Tim Clancy

Every once in a while you see something that makes you shake your head and ask why? Such was the case the day I came across a pruning operation not 200 feet from my house. Someone had hired an individual who felt qualified to prune trees.



Man risking his life to mutilate a tree

The first clue that perhaps this person was not qualified was the absence of a company name and license number on his pick-up. (California state law mandates this information be prominently visible.) The sad fact is that having a license doesn't guarantee you're going to get a good job. What it does do is increase the chances that the company will have insurance. There have been many lawsuits brought against homeowners by tree care workers who get injured on the homeowners' property. Some of the outcomes have been disastrous for the homeowners. (A Google search for "tree worker killed" will yield some sad stories and confirm it's not such a rare occurrence.)

Back to our pruning professional. The tallest ladder he could find that day was a six-foot step ladder. The branches he wanted to prune were about 15 to 17 feet up. Not to worry, he had a plan. He parked his truck on the street under the offending branches. His truck had a pipe rack like you see on a plumber or electrician's truck. On the pipe rack he had carefully placed a 4' x 8' piece of 3/4" plywood. On the plywood he had placed a moving blanket. I am not sure if it was there to cushion a fall or protect the plywood. Next the step ladder. The chainsaw was brought out and up the ladder he went. He pulled on the cord and pulled and pulled. Down the ladder he came to fidget with his saw. Then he clambered down from his makeshift platform, grabbed a tool, and back up he went. He worked his magic, got the saw started, and up he went again. He lifted the saw over his head and began to cut. This is where I am cringing because I know what can happen. Luckily for him he was able to cut the branches and make it safely to the ground.

I was certainly happy he was able to complete his task without injury. I went to run an errand and on the way back saw the tree pruner talking to who I presume were the people who hired him. They were all looking up and seemed to be pleased with the outcome. I was curious to see the quality of work performed and the next day

*Continued on page 13*



## SEE US AT THE FAIR!

Summer is almost here and that means Fair time is almost upon us! Every year we pull great talent from our membership base to design our large display garden for the Paul Ecke Jr. Flower & Garden Show at the San Diego County Fair, which runs from June 8 to July 4.

This year we are pleased to have our display garden designed by landscape architect Marty Schmidt. Marty is the principal and owner of Environs Landscape Architecture. Marty, an SDHS member, has been an avid gardener since the early 1970s when he began working in the canyon of his parents' La Jolla property. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture from California State Polytechnic University, and has over 30 years of diverse landscape architecture experience in Southern California in both the private and public sector, focusing on estate residential, public, commissions, commercial, industrial, streetscapes and parks/open space. You can learn more about Marty, Environs Landscape, and his work at [www.environs.us](http://www.environs.us).



The 2013 Fair theme this year is **Game On!** and the garden show theme is **Arcades of Color**. Marty has already begun work on the exhibit design. In fact, his design **Modern Garden/Modern Planting**, won the competition for the entrance garden at the Flower and Garden Show! Consequently, you will find our garden this year as you enter the show just to the left from the main entrance to the Fair. This is a wonderful location with high visibility.

Additionally, our display garden is being sponsored by the San Diego County Water Authority ([www.sdcwa.org](http://www.sdcwa.org)) this year. They also sponsored our garden in 2011. We are grateful for their sponsorship and opportunity to help educate San Diego County that low water gardens can also be functional and beautiful (see their ad on page 21).

To showcase the garden show theme, Marty's garden design uses color through plants, hardscape, and art to display a range of colors and relationships, from subtle complementary to bold contrast in line, form, texture and color. The intent is to demonstrate that a small space garden and patio can have a combination of aesthetic appeal, function and elegance while being low water use and low maintenance.

The freeform curvaceous perimeter of the space creates a soft organic feel to the exhibit. Set into the shape is a viewing bay where visitors can escape the hustle and bustle of the Fair and be enclosed by the garden. Tall trees in the display add visual height and texture to the design and enhance the feeling of enclosure. Use of different elevations in the garden, a variety hardscape elements, and a contemporary curved fence are used to define spaces within the garden.

Of course, this being an SDHS garden, the varied and interesting plant pallet will be one of the most important parts of the display. Tall trees, grasses, shrubs, succulents, and ground covers will be combined by color and texture to add interest and play on the *Arcades of Color* garden show theme.

Also, on June 24<sup>th</sup>, instead of our regular meeting, we'll have a SDHS members-only special event at the Fair Flower & Garden Show from 5:45-7:45pm (details TBA). We will be honoring our 2013 Horticulturalist of the year, Brad Monroe, the creator and former program coordinator of the ornamental horticulture program at Cuyamaca College. Parking will be free, and because the Fair is closed to the public that day, we'll have the outdoor display gardens all to ourselves. Please note this is **the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month**.

You can get involved by volunteering to staff the display garden during the Fair. Look for more information in email and on page 2 about how to volunteer. We are also looking for a volunteer to help coordinate the Night at the Fair event. See page 2 for more information.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Fair! 🌿



## GOING WILD WITH NATIVES

By Pat Pawlowski

### Lupines: The Good, The Bad, and The Hairy

Give me a home where the Lupinus roam. Lupinus in Latin means “wolf;” but is also applied to lupines, which are plants in the pea family. Many years ago, influential but addled persons thought that lupines robbed the soil of nutrients.

Horsefeathers! Lupines, it turns out, actually *replace* nitrogen in the soil.

There are perennial lupines and also annual lupines, which are adept at self-seeding, so, like Clint Eastwood, they may ride off into the sunset, but will return the next year for a sequel.

There are many members in the Lupine tribe, about 70 species native to California. All have very distinctive palm-shaped leaves, and strikingly wonderful flower spikes – usually blue to purple; but some can be bicolored, white, yellow, or even red. There are also hybrids, but why not go for the purebred?

Wild lupines are tough plants. Most seem to prefer sandy soil, but some will accept clay (although growth may be slower). Many are drought tolerant. You can buy some as plants; others should be started from seed with proper soaking or stratification. One of spring's most glorious sights to see is a passel of arroyo lupines (*Lupinus succulentus*, shown above) interspersed with molten-gold-colored California poppies, blooming their heads off.

Lupine-blooming time occurs from about February to May, depending on the species. Right now, start thinking about which ones you may want to plant in fall so that next year will be spectacular. Here are some varieties to consider:

#### THE GOOD

- Lupinus albifrons* (Silver Bush Lupine) - Upright perennial shrub reaching 5' or so.
- L. bicolor* (Miniature Lupine) - Quiet little 1' annual, which reseeds itself violently.
- L. excubitus* (Grape soda Lupine) - Deliciously smelly 2' perennial subshrub. Photo was taken in the San Gabriel Mountains.
- L. perennis* (Indian Beet, or Sundial Lupine) - Eastern dude, happy here in the West.
- L. succulentus* (Arroyo Lupine) - Tough 2' high annual, takes clay soils.

#### THE BAD

Actually, there is no bad lupine. However, there is one to be wary of . . .

#### THE HAIRY

Yes, be wary of the hairy, that is, *Lupinus hirsutissimus* (Stinging Lupine, shown here in a photo taken at Stelzer County Park in Lakeside, CA). In Latin, hirsutissimus means “hairy;” but those little silvery hairs are actually prickly little varmints. You can be hornswoggled by a Stinging Lupine, with its outrageously purple, handsome flowers and leaves that glisten in the sunshine, which are just begging to be touched . . .

Don't.

Speaking of touching, you may be truly touched at all the attention given to lupines by hummingbirds, bumblebees, gamebirds, and butterflies (some lupines are host plants for various butterfly species).

So get out there and round up some lupines.



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

By Patty Berg,  
Volunteer Coordinator

### The Spirit of '94!

The first key words in our mission statement are “To promote the enjoyment . . .” and few organizations do as much as SDHS does to make sure that promise to members is fulfilled. Exceptional monthly speakers, this outstanding newsletter, dozens of free hands-on workshops, amazing display gardens at the Fair, and visits to monthly Featured Gardens are just some of the benefits that are available to our nearly 1300 members throughout the county.

Through this column over the past several months, you've had a chance to get to know some of the dedicated volunteers that make these events and meetings possible through their generous donation of time. But would you be surprised to learn that only 1 in 10 members volunteers for SDHS in the course of any calendar year? It's true.

It seems that over the years SDHS has somehow slipped into a “consumer culture” where 10% of the members create everything the club does for the other 90% to enjoy.

It wasn't like that in the beginning, almost 20 years ago. Back then every single member was involved and engaged. They had to be, or else that tender, tiny seedling of a club would never have made it. The founders were also fully employed, growing businesses, raising families and probably just as busy as all of us are today. It's because of them that we are still going strong. And if we are to grow and thrive for another 20 years, we're going to need to revive that same pioneer spirit that got us here.

What might happen if every member who is physically capable were to give a few hours each year – let's say four hours – to our wonderful non-profit? Here's how I would imagine it:

All those new volunteers would bring a new spark to our meetings and events.

That new spark might ignite some fresh ideas for different programs, speakers and events.

New friendships might emerge, old friendships might expand and everybody might have more fun.

The overworked 10% would catch a break, get a chance to rest up and come back refreshed.

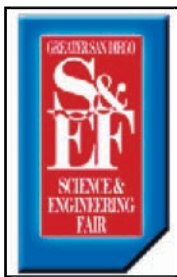
Our outreach into the community would be phenomenal and our mission would be truly accomplished.

Maybe you've been planning to help out when things slow down at work. Maybe you'll jump in when you finally get that garden project finished or when you get the garage squared away. Uh huh.

Four Hours for Hort is my new initiative. Stay tuned. 🌱

Member Pat Pawlowski is a writer/lecturer/garden consultant who lives near Lakeside.





## 2013 SDHS SCIENCE FAIR JUDGING: THE WINNIN' OF THE GREEN

By Al Myrick

In keeping with a very important part of our educational mission, your society sends a judging team of volunteers to the Regional Finals of the Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair held each spring in Balboa Park. Your team examines and evaluates a legion of junior high and senior high school projects on the botanical sciences, one category among hundreds of other projects invited to compete in the finals because of their merits as determined in their local school science fairs. This year's team included Janet Wanerka, Cindy Sparks, Joan Herskowitz, Betsy Kremers, Phil Tackill, Dale Rekus, Donald Starr, David Curtright, and Al Myrick.

Our judging is based on a student's demonstrated creativeness, originality, scientific rigor, and background knowledge of the subject. From the great number of worthy entries, we select the two best projects as our winners before the names of the students, or their advisors and schools, are revealed. The SDHS winners receive \$100 (i.e. the "GREEN" in the headline above), a 1-year family society membership, and subscription to *Let's Talk Plants*. They are also invited to present their projects to one of our meetings. This year they have been invited to attend the August 12th meeting and bring their Fair display boards.

Kayla VanderStoel and Jake Newman are our 2013 SDHS science fair awardees. Amazingly, they both happen to be 8th graders... from the *same school* (Rhoades School)... and mentored by the *same advisor* (Roxanne Hunker)! We guess that Ms Hunker must be doing things right!

Kayla's project, entitled "Investigating the Invasive Potential of Popular Non-Native Xeriscape Plants," is of great interest to all gardeners who worry about mixing natives with plants endemic to other Mediterranean habitats. Her study used 20 plants grown side-by-side and more than 400 data points (that included air temperature, ground temperature, pH levels, and soil moisture measurements) to determine whether the native-plant sample would survive and/or thrive despite being outnumbered 4 to 1 by non-natives. What happened? Did they or didn't they? Visit with Kayla before and the meeting (and after the speaker) to learn the exciting results from the young scientist who ran the experiments!

Jake's study helps to answer a very different, but equally interesting and puzzling question in "Vermicomposting with Diverse Organic Materials: Comparison of Soil Nutrients." He used 24 samples of organic waste (consisting of kitchen waste, garden/yard waste, and horse manure) to compare the rate and result of composting affected and effected by vermiculture colonies of red worms. He monitored the substrate samples with an inexpensive soil-testing kit to determine pH, potassium, phosphate, and nitrogen levels. What substrate do you think he found to be the optimum conditions for the worms? Come and hear from this young investigator in the flesh to see if your guess is correct!

Remember to mark your calendars for the August 12th SDHS meeting, and prepare to be impressed and amazed! See you there. ☺



## SUCCULENT CELEBRATION DEBUTS JUNE 7-8 AT WATERWISE BOTANICALS NURSERY, ESCONDIDO

By Debra Lee Baldwin



Debra Lee Baldwin

**Agave 'Blue Glow' is a dwarf variety that will not outgrow its pot. Location: Waterwise Botanicals nursery.**

I'm pleased to invite my fellow SDHS members to the Succulent Celebration at Waterwise Botanicals nursery June 7-8. The largest of its kind in Southern California, the event will be fun and informative, and will highlight myriad aspects of these amazing plants.

"Waterwise Botanicals specializes in providing permanent, non-discouraging plants for gardens and landscapes," says nursery manager and landscape designer Tom Jesch. "We offer succulents and drought-tolerant perennials you can enjoy for the long term."

Jesch doesn't hesitate to tell landscape architects, contractors and homeowners when a frilly echeveria they've fallen in love with won't work in their gardens. "Some plants are best for containers," he says. "Confusion and misinformation about succulents are understandable because they're a newly popular group of plants accompanied by new approaches to landscaping."

Jesch's two presentations will demystify succulent selection and care. Additional speakers include plant explorer and hybridizer Kelly Griffin of Altman Plants, billed as the "Indiana Jones of succulents;" and popular nurserymen/garden designers Jeff Moore of Solana Succulents, Michael Buckner of The Plant Man nursery in Old Town, and Tiger Palafox of Mission Hills Nursery.

The Succulent Celebration also coincides with the release of my third book, *Succulents Simplified*. (The first, *Designing with Succulents*, came out in 2007; the second, *Succulent Container Gardens*, in 2010.) The new book takes beginners by the hand and gently leads them into the fascinating world of fat plants. *Succulents Simplified* gives the fundamentals of care, cultivation, and design; describes and illustrates my top 100 succulents; and offers how-to projects each with a corresponding YouTube video.

I'll be signing all three books at the Succulent Celebration, speaking on the topic of "Plants That Drink Responsibly – Debra's Top Ten Favorites," and doing a potting demonstration followed by a hands-on workshop. Space is limited for the workshop, which is specially priced for the event at \$15. To ensure your spot, I recommend registering as soon as you arrive.

Additional highlights include tours of lovely, low-water gardens; a huge assortment of succulents and drought-tolerant plants for sale (some I'll bet you've yet to see); experts on hand to answer landscape design and plant-care questions; and vendors who specialize in unusual succulents, container gardens and succulent-themed gifts. Bottled

*Continued on page 13*





## SPRING GARDEN TOUR A HUGE SUCCESS THANKS TO MANY VOLUNTEERS

By Dannie McLaughlin

As the early morning clouds dissipated and the sun began to shine through, the fourth annual spring garden tour lived up to its billing: "Variety is the Spice of Life... and Gardens." With such an eclectic mix of gardens – palms, succulents, natives, exotics, organic growing fields, and cottage plants – there was something for everyone and no one was disappointed.

Many thanks go to the wonderful hosts who opened their spectacular gardens to us: Lyle and Helen Arnold; Paul and Jo Casterline; Bill and Ann Dahnke; John and Megumi Spohr; Bo and Elisabeth Matthys; Dennis and Pamela Mudd; and Roy Wilburn, plus Lisa Lipsey, and the staff at Sunshine Care.

A special thanks goes to Lake Hodges Native Plant Club for joining with SDHS in this year's tour and to Linda Bresler for identifying gardens and organizing the vendors. Thanks also to Barbara Raub for locating the fine artists that were throughout the gardens adding a special touch to the day. Barbara also "rode shotgun" during the search for gardens and took some of the wonderful photographs that were used in the promotional material.

Thanks to the "check-in crew" at Poway High School parking lot – Jim Bishop, Scott Borden, Ed Thielicke, and especially to Carol Lane – whose enthusiastic efforts at the parking lot entrance helped smooth the last minute change in registration location. Kudos to Pam Valliant and Dan Petersen for directing folks to the school parking lot. A big thanks to Jeff Biletnikoff for schlepping tables, chairs and a canopy to the check-in area. Special thanks to Sam and Terri Seat for collecting money from day of tour ticket sales.

I also want to thank Dan Petersen for jumping in to direct car traffic at the Matthys garden. And speaking of cars... extra kudos

to Scott Borden, Karen Cassimatis and Ken Blackford, along with the Arnolds' son, Gregg Arnold, for their above and beyond the call of duty shuttle service taking people up and down the long driveway at the hilltop Arnold garden. Karen drove the entire day, as did Scott, and Ken brought his brand new car, all gassed up and ready to go.

I'm extremely appreciative of the tireless efforts of Susan Oddo and Jim Bishop for their on-line marketing efforts and of Susan Morse for handling on-line registration and the software glitches that inevitably accompany that task. Mary James wrote a fantastic piece about the tour for the *Union-Tribune's* annual garden tour article. Her husband, Ron James, helped create a fabulous promotional layout for the newsletter. While we're on the subject of husbands, I must mention my husband, Craig, for serving again this year as my "parking guru" and who happily greeted tour goers at the Casterline garden.

I can't say thank you enough to Patty Berg for organizing all of the volunteers this year; for helping me with all of the last minute signage details, and for her unfailing moral support. An important lesson I learned from Patty: when you only have one directional arrow sign left and it's pointing the wrong way, don't panic – just turn it upside down. And while the tour is over, the thank yous continue – we thank BJ Boland for writing personal notes to all the fine gardeners who shared their lovely landscapes with us.

As always, a special thanks to Susi Torre-Bueno for putting together the articles and pictures of the garden tour that appeared in the newsletter. And, for the first time, the tour had *San Diego Home/ Garden Lifestyles* magazine as a media sponsor; a relationship we hope to continue for years to come.

We had help from two other groups, too. The Master Gardeners had a marvelous information table and answered questions at Sunshine Care. The Poway Valley Garden Club staffed a garden info table at Old Poway Park. Thanks to all of your volunteers!

Based on the comments of tour goers and the numerous e-mails I've received, our 2013 "Foray to Poway" was a huge success, and I want to thank all of the volunteers who made this possible.

Our deepest gratitude to the other fine volunteers who helped on the day of the tour – their names are on page 2. For more tour photos see pages 19 and 21. 🌿



Mudd garden: pebble and stone paving with native plants



Matthys garden: path through sumptuous succulents



Spohr garden: a paradise of rare palms

Rachel Cobb



## MY LIFE WITH PLANTS

By Jim Bishop

*This is a continuing series of articles that chronicle Jim Bishop's experiences with plants and the effect they have had on his life.*

### The Apartment

The first order of business after my arrival in the San Jose area was to find a place to live. The landscaping and view at a complex in Sunnyvale impressed me, so I rented a 600-square foot second floor apartment. The buildings were arranged around two man-made lakes with four fountains that drowned out all of the surrounding street noise. The apartment managers raised beautiful black swans on the lakes. The swans were rather aggressive, especially when raising a brood. If they were blocking a walkway it was best to take the long way around or face being chased and kicked.

Sliding glass doors and windows spanned the width of the apartment and opened onto a balcony that was nearly half the size of the living room. I took down the drapes to take advantage of the view and make the apartment feel larger. From the balcony, I looked across the lakes and landscaping with the top of the Santa Cruz Mountains in the background. The lakes were ringed with lush layered landscaping and large Canary Island pines (*Pinus canariensis*). This was a new tree for me, with its upright pyramidal shape and tiers of branches. Much to my dislike, the trees were heavily trimmed to emphasize the tier structure, which made them look a bit fake. It seemed to be a common landscape practice in the Bay Area to plant a tree that has a specific shape and trim it into another. Still, it was a wonderful view and a total escape from the outside world.

The bay area looked like one giant garden to me, filled with countless places to explore. I jogged through the nearby neighborhoods after work and was impressed that I could run through parts of four towns: Sunnyvale, Mountain View, Cupertino and Santa Clara. Sunnyvale has many blocks of small mid-century contemporary Eichler homes ([http://johnfyten.com/eichlers\\_sunnyvale.htm](http://johnfyten.com/eichlers_sunnyvale.htm)). Most had no grass lawn, but had front yards filled with all sorts of plants that I was unfamiliar with. Each street was lined with all of the same tree, mostly liquidambar, ginkgoes, and camphor trees. In the fall, the color display was striking: a long line of bright yellow ginkgoes, followed by the next street of red liquidambar.

Occasionally, on weekends I jogged around the track at Foothill Community College in Los Altos Hills. The school is heavily landscaped with California redwoods, sycamores, and pine trees and looked like a forest retreat. Large mounds of soil landscaped with shrubs and trees I was unfamiliar with lined the roads to hide the parking lots. The toyon, pyracantha and cotoneasters were so loaded with berries in the fall that they lay on the ground. I cut branches to decorate my apartment for fall and winter. I'd also use the sycamore leaves, large pinecones, and acorns that were everywhere.



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I lined the top of the outer balcony wall with planters and created a double row of 6-inch clay pots on the ground in front of the wall. I used hanging baskets to block the views of other apartments and frame the mountains. I tried my first fuchsias (another plant that I didn't know). Besides the incredible jewel-like flowers, they also drew hummingbirds. In one long planter were yellow marigolds and trailing dark blue lobelia. In another I grew bright orange marigolds with sky blue lobelia. In the winter the marigolds were replaced with yellow and orange violas. Lobelia was a new plant for me. I loved the clear bright colors and continuous blooms they produced. In the pots on ground I forced tulips, Dutch iris and daffodils in the spring. In the summer I replaced them with wax begonias and coleus. I frequently visited a nearby family-owned nursery, where the owner's daughter would tell me all about the plants. Inspired by the cactus of Arizona, I sought out a local grower of cactus and bought several specimens for inside and on the balcony. After

I moved, I learned that the balcony fell off the apartment... doubtless from all the stress created by my potted plants.

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



## MEET THE SDHS 2013 HORTICULTURIST OF THE YEAR: BRAD MONROE

By Mary James

Last year, Brad Monroe retired after spending more than three decades as a leader in horticultural education in San Diego County. While his career may seem like the culmination of a careful plan, in many ways it was anything but.

Sitting in a classroom at Cuyamaca College, Brad had to laugh as he recalled steps that brought him here in the 1980s to head the new college's new ornamental horticulture department. "I can't really say planning is my strongest suit," he says. "But somehow... things worked out."

A native Californian, Brad grew up on his family's 60-acre farm in the small town of Hughson, outside of Modesto. A century of farming linked both his mother's and father's families, and Brad was poised to carry on the tradition. He, his brother Keith and sister Betty worked in the family orchards that produced peaches, nuts and grapes, enduring good years and bad from the post-war era through the 1960s.

"Farming is hard work," Brad says. "They used to say that every kid who worked on a ranch went to college, because they knew they didn't want to go back to farming. But there are lots of rewards in farming. And that's what I planned to do."

Brad majored in plant science at Modesto Junior College and then earned a bachelor's degree at Fresno State University in 1972. Earlier, he had taken a semester off to travel with a friend around the U.S., and after graduation, he decided to take another break.

"I told a friend I wanted to go someplace warm in winter," Brad recalls. "'Phoenix - I think I'll go there.' But my friend said, 'No way. How about San Diego?'" Brad agreed. After a six month stay, he'd go back to the farm and farming. At least, that was the plan.

It was 1972, and unemployment in sunny San Diego topped 10 percent. Brad searched for three months before landing work on a landscape crew for 25 cents an hour above minimum wage. "I had taken courses in ornamental horticulture and liked them," he says. "But I didn't think I'd end up working in that area."

His six month stay lengthened into a year and then another year. By then, he was a crew supervisor, running equipment, putting in irrigation systems and the like. For recreation, he took a ceramics class. "I really liked throwing pots," he says, so when the instructor asked him to fill in as the class TA (teaching assistant), he quickly accepted.

To his delight, "I discovered I loved being on the other side of the desk. I loved teaching," he says. Eager to do more, he decided to build on the era's house plant craze and teach an adult education class on their care. With a course outline banged out on his typewriter, he started working his way from South Bay to North County looking for a home for his first class.

One stop was Southwestern College where he wrangled a meeting with Dean Vince Alfaro. "I was so naive I thought his first name was Dean," Brad says, with a laugh. The dean dismissed his course but proposed starting an ROP (Regional Occupation Program) horticulture program instead. "I didn't know what ROP was either," he admits, "But I agreed to attend a meeting on it because the dean said it could mean a full-time job for me."

Two months later, "I was building a department and in a classroom, teaching full time. I had 18 hours of lectures and labs to develop every week along with building a field site and curriculum. It's a good thing



I was young, single and dumb," he says of his first higher education position. "But I loved teaching. I was being paid \$14,000, which was more money than I could imagine. I was left alone to do what I liked.

"Slowly I got the idea – I was not going back to farming."

Through the late 1970s, Brad's love of teaching grew along with Southwestern's horticulture program. "I really enjoyed the students. They are very enthusiastic; they wanted to be there. And they came with a variety of life skills. Many had other careers. I can't tell you how many times I've heard a prospective student say, 'I've always had an interest in horticulture, but didn't know I could make a living at it.'"

"When I was a student, I doubt I said a word in class, even though I'm really an outgoing person. As a teacher, I felt I knew the material and how to put it together to help students learn. I was comfortable – and felt fortunate to be there. I had no intention to leave."

But once again, Brad's career "plan" changed. This time, the impetus was word of a new horticultural department at a new college, Cuyamaca College in El Cajon. "There was already competition since Mesa, MiraCosta and Southwestern had departments," Brad recalls. "A friend suggested I apply and if I got called in to interview, I could get an idea of what their plans were. So I applied to be the instructor in charge of building the program."

Brad was asked to interview, but didn't prepare. "I was pretty casual about it all," he says. "When they were done questioning me, I had questions for them – about 45 minutes worth. I think I surprised them... and their answers surprised me. They were constructing a building to house the department. They had land for as big a field site as needed. I thought to myself, maybe I should have prepared."

To his surprise, he was offered the job. In January 1980, he joined the nascent department as its chair and only full-time faculty. His "staff" consisted of Diana Maranhao, who joined the department as an ornamental horticultural technician, a position she would hold for 23 years. "For a lot of years, there were only the two of us," Brad says. "I taught four classes a semester, in addition my administrative duties. Good thing I was still young."

Over the next 33 years, the department would grow steadily. Today it serves more than 300 full- and part-time students, who chose among 37 classes and 8 majors. About 20 adjunct instructors, many local leaders in the horticultural industry here, are recruited to teach, a move that keeps the department's profile high among potential students and the community. To accommodate instructors and students with day jobs, the department offers night courses and schedules required lab work on alternate Saturdays.

"In talking to our students, we know that many of them are working, some in the nursery and landscape industry and some in totally unrelated fields," Brad explains. "These students are here to move into the industry or get ahead in it. We work to make that happen. That's one reason we offer eight different degrees built around core classes and specialized training."

The two most popular majors – landscape design and landscape

*Continued on page 13*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

**We welcome Lisa Bellora of Ornamental Gardens By Lisa as our newest sponsor; visit her at [www.SanDiegoGardenDesign.com](http://www.SanDiegoGardenDesign.com).**

### NEW MEMBERS:

Alana & Roger Albertson	Michael Hardie	Vivian & J Tennant	Kayla VanderStoel
Catherine Barnett	Susan Kartzke	Annie Urquhart	
Carol Buckley	Laura Lefebvre		
Anne Caprioglio	Bobbie Munden		
Susan Clark	Jake Newman		
Coni Fiss	Fanchon Smith		
	Pamela Stricker & Nick Soroka		

### NEW ADVERTISERS:

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**SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY SHOW & SALE (PAGE 19)**  
**SUCCULENT CELEBRATION (INSERT)**

## HORT BUCKS ARE GREAT!

Kudos to these members whose friends joined in 2013; they earned Hort Bucks worth \$5 towards name badges, garden tours, dues and more! To get your Hort Bucks ask your friends to give your name when they join.

Jim Bishop (2)	Irina Gronborg (1)	Sally Sandler (1)
Barbara Bolton (1)	Heather Hazen (1)	Sue & Dick Streeper (1)
Gigi Dearnas-Lopatriello (1)	Su Kraus (1)	Julia Swanson (1)
Bryan Diaz (1)	Claudia Kuepper (1)	Pat Venolia (1)
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Carla Gilbert (1)	Tandy Pfost (1)	

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## LIFE MEMBERS \*Horticulturist of the Year

\*Chuck Ades (2008)

\*Walter Andersen (2002)

Norm Applebaum & Barbara Roper

\*Bruce & Sharon Asakawa (2010)

Gladys T. Baird

Debra Lee Baldwin

\*Steve Brigham (2009)

Laurie Connable

Julian & Leslie Duval

\*Edgar Engert (2000)

Jim Farley

Sue & Charles Fouquette

Penelope Hlavac

Debbie & Richard Johnson

\*Vince Lazaneo (2004)

\*Jane Minshall (2006)

\*Brad Monroe (2013)

\*Bill Nelson (2007)

Tina & Andy Rathbone

\*Jon Rebman (2011)

Peggy Ruzich

San Diego Home/

Gardens Lifestyle

Gerald D. Stewart

\*Susi Torre-Bueno (2013)

& Jose Torre-Bueno

\*Don Walker (2005) & Dorothy Walker

Lucy Warren

\*Evelyn Weidner (2001)

\*Pat Welsh (2003)

Betty Wheeler

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

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Celebrate Mother's day on May 11 at our annual Chocolate Festival! Children can make a keepsake to take home to mom.

Every Thursday from May until August we will have Thursday Family Fun Nights featuring music, dance, educational demonstrations and theatre.

Calling all Fairies! Our annual Fairy Festival will be June 22 and we invite all those little fairies AND Peter Pans.

Explore the Garden while searching for the perfect piece of art during our Garden Expressions of Art event. Artists from all over will display their works throughout the beautiful Garden setting.

Get your hands on some creepy crawlies this summer at our annual Insect Festival on July 13 and 14.

Take a stroll around the world and enjoy fine food, wine, and entertainment at our annual Gala in the Garden. The Garden will be honoring Pam Slater-Price, former San Diego County Board Supervisor, with the 2013 Paul Ecke Jr. Award of Excellence.

Visit [www.SDBGarden.org](http://www.SDBGarden.org) for details! ☘



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**PACIFIC HORTICULTURE TOURS**

Pacific Horticulture is planning a rich variety of tours for 2014. First up is Santa Barbara in spring, a terrific time to see fresh blooms in this lovely seaside community. On the heels of a sold-out 2013 Morocco & Andalusia tour, next year the focus will be just Morocco with a 10-day tour highlighting gardens, architecture, culture and cuisine. A rare gem is on tap for July with a tour to the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show (the palace is shown here), an international show for flowers, plants and gardening. The show centers on community gardening, and looks at how gardening can bring people together and improve communal spaces. Later in the summer, PacHort will visit the gardens and historic homes of coastal Maine. Clam bake, anyone?



PacHort tours typically sell out well in advance, but there is still limited space open for "Northern Italy and Tuscany: Garden and Villas through the Centuries." Tour dates are Sept 13-24. Highlights include visits to Asolo, Bellagio, Lake Maggiore, San Gimignano, the Chianti region, Siena and Florence. For a complete itinerary and to reserve a place on this tour, please visit [www.pacifichorticulture.org](http://www.pacifichorticulture.org).

SDHS is an affiliate member of the Pacific Horticulture Society, Producers of the highly regarded Pacific Horticulture magazine (see page 17), PacHort also offers small group tours designed to educate and inspire plant enthusiasts everywhere. 🌿

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## ■ Trees Continued from page 5

inspected the tree. Much to my dismay but not to my surprise it was terrible. Torn bark and big diameter stubs two feet long was this man's signature.

Next time you hire a tree care professional ask for their license number and the phone number of their insurance broker who will be happy to provide you with a current insurance certificate. You can check the license status on the State Contractor License Board website.

There were so many things wrong with that event that it could have been used as a training film on how not to prune trees. The tree pruner had very little regard for his own safety (moving blanket not withstanding). There was no traffic control signs to let people know someone was working in trees, he had no safety gear on, his ladder was not secure, and you never raise a chain saw above your head when it is running.

---

Member Tim Clancy is an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist #WE-0806A. Tim welcomes comments and questions and can be reached at [treemanagers@gmail.com](mailto:treemanagers@gmail.com). ☞

## ■ Succulent Celebration Continued from page 7

water and food also will be available.

Carmen Contreras, manager of nearby Oasis Nursery, and Chris Berg of Altman plants (the largest grower of cacti and succulents in the U.S., headquartered in Vista) will serve as "succulent baristas." Bring your containers and they'll pot them up for you. There's no cost for the design service, only for the plants you select.

Jesch says the Succulent Celebration, which he anticipates will become an annual event, "offers a treasure of knowledge for professionals, homeowners and collectors. You'll leave knowing how to grow plants that are beautiful, healthy and easy."

Parking and admission are free, but to help the nursery estimate attendance, please let them know you're coming by May 31. Email [events@waterwisebotanicals.com](mailto:events@waterwisebotanicals.com) or call (760) 728-2641.

Waterwise Botanicals (formerly Daylily Hill) is at 32183 Old Highway 395, north of Escondido off of I-15. Event hours: 8 to 6 Friday-Saturday, June 7-8, 2013.

More info: [www.succulentcelebration.com](http://www.succulentcelebration.com); [www.waterwisebotanicals.com](http://www.waterwisebotanicals.com); [www.debraleebaldwin.com](http://www.debraleebaldwin.com). I look forward to seeing you! ☞

## ■ Horticulturist of the Year Continued from page 10

technology – include a semester-long class in irrigation, a subject that became Brad's specialty. In 2009, his expertise was recognized by the Irrigation Association when it honored him as Person of the Year.

"When I was in college, there was no specialized course in irrigation. In fact, landscape irrigation was in its infancy, borrowing a lot from the agriculture side," Brad says. "I went to industry seminars, learned hydraulics. It's not hard, but there's some stuff that is counter-intuitive. There's a lot to know to do it right and make the most of the limited water we have."

Reflecting on his decades at Cuyamaca College, Brad highlights professional – and personal accomplishments.

One is a commitment to water conservation that sparked formation of the San Diego Xeriscape Council and six regional industry conferences from 1985 to 1992. "I felt we had to do something long

term about water conservation," he says of the ambitious regional gatherings. Displays at the San Diego County Fair reached out to homeowners, while turf seminars educated industry personnel.

Xeriscape, though, proved a hard sell. "People thought of it a Zero-scape – 10 tons of gravel and a wagon wheel," he says. "I think we got the industry on board, but it took 25 years. Now we're looking at the same uphill climb with sustainability."

Drought-tolerant landscaping is part of sustainability, which Brad defines as "minimizing inputs – fertilizer, water, pesticides and labor – while maintaining an attractive landscape." To raise awareness, Cuyamaca Horticulture Department held a weekend meeting seven years ago to brainstorm ways to make sustainability a part of every course taught. Since 2009, the college also has hosted a daylong Sustainability Conference open to the professional and amateur horticulturists.

Another significant achievement is a role in creation of the five-acre Water Conservation Garden on the Cuyamaca campus. Recently named by *Sunset* magazine as one of the 10 must-see gardens on the West Coast, the 14-year-old garden hosts a fall festival and has joined the Ornamental Horticulture Department in its annual Spring Garden Festival. The garden also offers monthly classes and programs for school students.

"My contribution was as a facilitator," he says. When local water authorities raised the need for a demonstration garden, they thought there might be campus land available and help from students to maintain it. "I helped them get access to the land, but said no to the student help," he says. "When costs to build it were estimated at \$3.5 million, I thought it wouldn't happen. But Helix and Otay water districts put up enough money for it to be built in one fell swoop."

Creation of student internships also is a point of pride. Initially, the Rice Family Foundation contributed funding for internships that fund student work in Horticulture Department endeavors, like its handsome, well-stocked nursery, located just steps away from classroom and administrative offices in Building M. Today, annual contributions totaling \$60,000 come from a variety of sources ranging from foundations to local garden clubs.

Professional accolades mounted over the years and include Cuyamaca Faculty Member of the Year in 1995 and the college's President's Award in 2008. In May 2013, he was inducted into the Green Industry Hall of Fame.

But one personal achievement stands out: "I met my wife on campus," Brad says, "and that changed my life."

In the 1980s, Brad met Dr. Therese Botz, who was then running a student development program. Two years later they married and moved into a house near the campus that they still call home. Today Therese continues to teach at Cuyamaca where she established the American Sign Language Department.

This spring, on a cruise out of Venice, the couple celebrated Brad's retirement with their daughter Marta Botz Monroe, who just earned an M.S. degree in occupational therapy. It was the first of what Brad hopes will be many trips, now that he is retired.

But he remains active on campus, spearheading outreach to horticultural department alums. Last year's inaugural "Pinot and Pints" networking event is being expanded this year to include a lecture and book signing.

One retirement goal still languishes, Brad admits. His home garden is "almost embarrassing," he says. "It's like the cobbler whose family has no shoes. Before I retired, I wondered how I'd fill my time when I wasn't working. But I'm busy and having a great time now. I'm sure I'll get to it someday."

At least, that's the plan. ☞

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## MAY GARDEN TOURS

By Mary James

### May 3-5 – “Nature’s Palette” – 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Sage & Songbirds Garden Tour & Festival

Five Alpine-area gardens teeming with winged wildlife, plus a raptor rehabilitation facility and a “place-of-worship” garden. Habitat plants and pottery on sale in one of the gardens. Concurrent with Festival May 4-5 at Viejas Outlets that includes butterfly releases at 2 p.m. both days.

Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

Tickets: \$20

Information: [www.chirp.org](http://www.chirp.org)

### May 4 – 17th Annual Clairemont Garden Tour

Tour a dozen gardens ranging from tropical to succulent, all located in the Clairemont, Bay Park and Bay Ho neighborhoods of San Diego.

Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tickets: \$15 (\$12 in advance), \$10 for seniors, children 10 and younger free

Information: [www.clairemontonline.com](http://www.clairemontonline.com)

### May 11 – “Something for Everyone” – 15th Annual Mission Hills Garden Walk

Small cottage gardens and large-estate landscapes are among the 10 gardens on this 2.5-mile walking tour. Artists and musicians in residence in many gardens.

Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tickets: \$30 (\$25 in advance), children 12 and younger free

Information: [www.missionhillsgardenclub.org](http://www.missionhillsgardenclub.org)

### May 11 – 18th Annual Fallbrook AAUW Country Garden Tour

Gardens on this tour include a tropical landscape and several succulent and waterwise gardens. Refreshments at the start of the tour at Palomares House, 1815 S. Stage Coach Lane.

Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tickets: \$25 (\$20 in advance)

Information: [www.aauwfallbrookca.org](http://www.aauwfallbrookca.org)

### May 18 – 15th Annual Secret Garden Tour (see inside front cover)

Gardens in La Jolla Farms and Muirlands are among the six gardens on this tour that keeps details secret until event day. Artists, musicians and designer tabletop displays at each garden. New this year is a garden boutique with plants, art and gourmet farm products.

Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tickets: \$50 before April 15. \$150 for Platinum Tour with brunch, transportation and additional garden stop. Event-day tickets are \$60 (\$175 for Platinum Tour).

Information: [www.lajollahistory.org](http://www.lajollahistory.org)

### May 18 – “Eastern Prospects” – San Diego Floral Association Historic Garden Tour

Eight gardens in the historic neighborhoods of Burlingame and North Park will be showcased. Garden marketplace.

Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$25 day of event. Tickets on sale beginning in late April.

Information: [www.sdfloal.org](http://www.sdfloal.org)

### May 19 – 7th Annual Loma Portal Home & Garden Tour

Six homes and gardens showcase historical restoration, outdoor entertaining and xeriscapes. Craft fair and opportunity drawing at Loma Portal Elementary School.

Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tickets: \$25 (\$20 in advance)

Information: [www.lomaportalelementary.com](http://www.lomaportalelementary.com)

## A GROWING PASSION: NEW TV SHOW HOSTED BY MEMBER



SDHS member Nan Sterman doesn't mind getting her hands dirty. In fact, she knows it's the best way to celebrate growing in San Diego, which is what she will share with viewers in her new television series, "A Growing Passion," set to air its first season on KPBS on May 2 at 8:30 p.m.

The weekly show focuses on gardening, horticulture, and agriculture as a way to connect with nature, health and the community. "A Growing Passion" explores San Diego's natural and manmade landscapes, from farms to nurseries, backyard gardens to schoolyard gardens, native habitats and more. "A Growing Passion" celebrates the green industry, sustainable practices, and how the growing nurtures San Diego's economy and culture.

"There are so many ways that San Diego grows and so many wonderful stories to tell," said gardening expert, author, speaker and "A Growing Passion" host, Nan Sterman. "I'm sure viewers will be amazed and inspired to discover what is going on right under noses. Our goal is to tell these stories in ways that help viewers understand how growing works, and how farming and gardening and native plants all connect us to the environment and to each other. I want to share my passion for growing and to empower viewers to gain the skills they need to go out and 'grow' themselves."

For more information on the series, please visit [www.AGrowingPassion.com](http://www.AGrowingPassion.com). For daily updates and news, become a fan [www.Facebook.com/AGrowingPassion](http://www.Facebook.com/AGrowingPassion) at or follow on Twitter @GrowingPassion. More information about Nan Sterman can be found on her website [www.PlantSoup.com](http://www.PlantSoup.com). ☺

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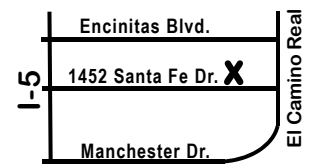
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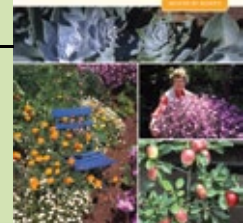
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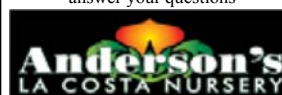
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## SHARING SECRETS

This column is written by you, our members! Each month we'll ask a question, and print your responses the following month. You can find copies of previous Sharing Secrets on our website at <https://sdhort.wildapricot.org/SharingSecrets?eid=1093874>.

**NEW ONLINE: You can now continue the discussion by adding new replies to Sharing Secrets topics online. Here's your chance to comment on how the plants you mentioned two years ago are doing today, or to suggest another way to do something in the garden.**

**The question for May was:**

What plants do you currently have in your garden that were once considered the hottest (coolest?) thing in horticulture, but today you rarely see used in new gardens? For example, *Melaleuca quinquenervia*. Thanks to Jim Bishop for suggesting this topic.

**Susan Nance** mentioned a large shrub: Junipers, with cultivars like 'Hollywood', et al.

**Meg Ryan**, a member from El Centro (!), says she rarely sees this lovely tree: The big show in my garden in late winter/early spring was a new tree planted about a year ago, a *Dombeya wallichii*, or Pink Ball tree (or Tropical Hydrangea). I threw an afternoon party so my friends would come and see the fragrant 6-inch wide pale pink pendulous blooms. Even in its first year, it wasn't stingy with the blooms. It's an easy-to-grow show stopper.

**Jim Stelluti** listed some once fashionable plants he doesn't see much these days: Escallonia, Pilly Nilly Eugenia, Dichondra (green form), Ornamental Strawberry, Lippia, Silver Dollar Eucalyptus, Hoya vines, Ripsalis, Night Blooming Cereus, Corokia.

**Ron Stevens** told us: I have several old timers in my garden that were once trendy but now have fallen out of favor: Blackwood Acacia is probably the best example. I planted seven of these trees in a row to form a privacy screen on the East side of my house around 28 years ago, and they matured rapidly and completely screened our bedroom windows (about 30' high) after seven years. Blackwood Acacia (*Acacia melanoxylon*) was once used extensively as a street tree in the San Diego area, but because they tended to break pavement, seek out plumbing lines, and sucker quite a bit they lost favor as street trees. You still see them in yards and as street trees in older neighborhoods, but I haven't seen a newly planted tree in years. I love mine. They are tall and dense, long lived, and extremely drought tolerant. Where I have them planted, there are no concerns about pavement or plumbing and they just seem to thrive on no care whatsoever. I just remove the occasional sucker they produce. As a side note, wood from the Blackwood Acacia is beautifully grained and excellent for guitar making. Last year, I went to an acoustic guitar concert by San Diego guitarist David Lindley, and he had three acoustic laptop guitars onstage with him: one made of Koa (*Acacia koa*, which is indigenous to Hawaii) and two made of Blackwood Acacia. The Blackwood Acacia guitars were his favorites, and although now they are just a footnote in old San Diego gardens, they are favorites of mine as well.



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**Vivian Blackstone** replied with three old-fashioned plants: Borage – I still use it because it brings bees and butterflies. Stinging nettle – it keeps people away from picking my fruit and I make tea. Thornless blackberries – I still like them, but didn't realize they are so long, prolific, and invasive.

**Meredith French** had four plants to discuss: At first I was thinking "nothing," but then I remembered the invasive Cape Honeysuckle straddling the property fence adjoining the neighbor. As much as I dislike this plant, it is a good screen from equally messy neighbors and provides good shelter for song birds using the nearby feeders. My mind then wandered just west to the *Carpobrotus* (freeway iceplant) happily dying over granite boulders. I wish it well. Lastly, a *Ficus benjamina* graces a small part of the landscape in the eastern yard. This tree will probably remain manageable due to its being potted for too many years. It is a nice "eye break" in the landscape. Does Nasturtium count? I would never go out and buy any but it sure provides a lot of aphids for the house wrens and ladybugs.

**Ann Hoepner** still likes her *Acanthus mollis*: I fell in love with this when I saw it years ago at Disneyland. It is not used much because it is invasive, but I think it is worth it.

**Marilyn Guidroz** wrote: I inherited an old style garden from the 70's. I have a messy pollen-producing Mulberry tree which gives great shade in the summer. I can't just cut it down, so have planted an *Agonis flexuosa* to take its place eventually. I also have the Chinese Elm and California Pepper Trees. I have decided to just keep these as the shade is so important and it would take years to replace them. We have such better choices for the garden today, but sometimes you just have to work around things that already exist. For fall color I planted the seedling variety of Liquidambar, which we don't plant much anymore. I love the colors, so planted one far away from the house because of all the mess. The other trees I planted are the *Ginkgo biloba* and the Chinese Pistache. Old fashioned, but so gorgeous.

**Annie Morgan** has an oldie but goodie: Dipladenia. I got my first one, the pale pink flower, about 24 years ago when Weidner's first introduced them to the area, and I just gave it away two years ago. Over the years I've gotten each new color and currently have five: two white and three 'Red Riding Hood' reds, all in pots as they don't do well in the ground. The first one went through a good frost when we lived in Vista, but I cut it back to 4" sticks and it grew back large and lush. They are easy care, needing full sun and moderate water, and typically their only pest is aphids. I used to just apply a rose fertilizer with systemic insecticide once a year, but now that I no longer use systemics the aphids are usually controllable with a good washing or removing by hand. I love their beautiful green foliage and how profusely they bloom, providing beautiful spots of color in the garden almost year round.

**Tammy Schwab** enjoys five plants that are now less popular than they once were: The succulent *Pedilanthus macrocarpus* (slipper flower); *Phoenix Home & Garden* featured this plant several years ago and you couldn't find one that you could afford for a long time. *Mascagnia macroptera* or *calceum macrpterum* (yellow orchid vine); I love the flowers and the seed pods on this non-aggressive vine. *Cordia boissieri* (texas olive), love the white flowers on this evergreen low-water shrub. *Acacia willardiana* (palo blanco); a very graceful small tree with white papery bark; looks great against a dark house or wall. And a cactus, *Trichocereus candicans* (Argentine giant); the flowers are amazing!

Continued on page 18

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**Sylvia Keating** regrets planting the once wildly-popular Bacopa: I put it in and it became a weed. I pull as much of it as I can now and don't plant it ever. (There are, however, far worse weeds.)

**The question for June is:**

What winter- and spring-blooming bulbs did really well for you this year, and where did you get them?

Send your reply by June 5 to [newsletter@sdhort.org](mailto:newsletter@sdhort.org).



## APRIL 2013 PLANT DISPLAY

By Susi Torre-Bueno

### What is the Plant Display?

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

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**Join the fun and bring ANYTHING AT ALL to the May meeting.** We thank those people who brought in plants to show to other members.

**Watsonia aletroides** BUGLE LILY (Iridaceae) South Africa  
This coral-red flowered charmer from South Africa is a reliable spring-blooming bulb (actually, a corm) that is deciduous in summer; when it is dormant. This easy-care plant tolerates both clay soil and drought, and slowly increases to form a nice clump; bulbs can easily be dug and divided to share with friends. The sword-shaped green leaves form a clump about 18" tall and 12-18" wide. The tubular, downward-facing flowers are borne on stems that rise to about 3-4' tall, with several blooming branches on each stem. (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 4/13) – S.T.B.

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

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

Can you spot the phony plant this month? The phony plant in the April newsletter was *Ceanothus* 'Coupe de Ville' CALIFORNIA CADILLAC.

*Babiana stricta* BABOON FLOWER (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 4/13)

*Calliandra eriophylla* FAIRY DUSTER  
(Ron Wheeler, Valley Center, 4/13)

*Calliandra evedencephylla* FINGERPRINT DUSTER  
(Plant Lover, Valley Center, 4/13)

3 *Carpenteria californica* TREE ANEMONE (Ron Wheeler, Valley Center, 4/13)

3 *Dendromecon rigida* BUSH POPPY  
(Ron Wheeler, Valley Center, 4/13)

*Gladiolus splendens* (Sheldon Lisker, Sun City, 4/13)

*Hunnemannia fumariifolia* MEXICAN TULIP POPPY  
(Pat Venolia, Vista, 4/13)

*Iris* sp. and cv. (mix of 4-5 types) (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 4/13)

3 *Leucocoryne ixioides* GLORY-OF-THE-SUN  
(Sheldon Lisker, Sun City, 4/13)

*Miltonidium Issaku Nagata* (*Oncidium leucochilum* x *Miltonia warscewiczii*) (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 4/13)

*Narcissus poeticus* PHEASANT'S EYE NARCISSUS  
(Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 4/13)

*Nauplius sericeus*, syn. *Asteriscus sericeus* CANARY ISLAND DAISY  
(Marie Smith, San Diego, 4/13)

*Philadelphus mexicanus* MOCK ORANGE VINE, EVERGREEN MOCK ORANGE (Ann Mendez, San Diego, 4/13)

*Prostanthera rotundifolia* AUSTRALIAN MINTBUSH  
(Nancy Woodard, Fallbrook, 4/13)

*Prunus ilicifolia* HOLLYLEAF CHERRY  
(Pat Pawlowski, El Cajon, 4/13)

*Rosa* 'La Sevillana' (Pat Venolia, Vista, 4/13)

*Scilla hughii* (Sheldon Lisker, Sun City, 4/13)

*Spiraea* sp. or cv. (Ann Mendez, San Diego, 4/13)

*Syringia* sp. or cv. LILAC (Nancy Woodard, Fallbrook, 4/13)

*Syringia vulgaris* (U C Riverside hybrids) LILAC  
(Sheldon Lisker, Sun City, 4/13)

*Viburnum* sp. or cv. (Ann Mendez, San Diego, 4/13)



## APRIL MEETING REPORT

By Susi Torre-Bueno

We all want our friends to succeed, so how gratifying it is that the new book by members Greg Rubin and Lucy Warren is bound to be a garden hit! Their talk in April was about how they came to write *The California Native Landscape: The Homeowner's Design Guide to Restoring its Beauty and Balance*. About three years in the making, and many more years in their learning about California native plants in the first place, this book covers things that others on similar topics do not, and does so with their own special flair. They mentioned that, "We wanted to create an accessible fun to read book," and they have.

As Greg told us, "Misconceptions about natives abound. I saw people struggling with their natives plants," but the success rate was about 95% with things planted by his company, California's Own Native Landscape Design ([www.calown.com](http://www.calown.com)). Greg believes this is because, "It's about creating an ecology, a plant community." You simply can't plop a native plant down in a garden bed filled with other plants and expect it to thrive. But why do California natives, that might die in 5-10 years in the garden, live 50-100 years in the wild?

"California is actually an horticultural island... all of our plants have had to adapt," Greg reminded us. The background of a plant's ecology is important to consider when adding it to the landscape. One of the major adaptations is the incredible rich and diverse chain of life that thrives beneath the soil, and this is described in detail in the book.

For example, "Frankia is a bacterial colony that forms on roots of ceanothus," and these white growths enable the plant to survive for decades with little rainfall. Greg's favorite chapter, in fact, is the one on soil, and he and Lucy have done an exceptional job explaining what our native soil is composed of and why it is important in how native plants grown. The soil mycorrhizae are the "thing that binds the plant community together" and respecting and encouraging the growth of this network of nutrients and support is essential.

A gardener's task is to "create the right environment for all the plants to thrive," and the rules for planting natives are different than for plants from other parts of the world. Lucy wrote the chapter about the history of non-natives in California, which includes a very handy timeline. Most of the plants imported here have arrived in the last 150 years, and many have become invasive and destroyed the native ecology. Mustard weed, for example, which turns our hills into golden fields in the spring, also destroys crucial soil mycorrhizae.

Greg also told us that the book features basic design principles for various kinds of gardens, and that you can use California native plants to create almost any type of garden look. We need to "celebrate and work with our Mediterranean climate along the coast." For best results, home gardens should contain about 75% evergreen plants to provide a strong foundation all year, and about 25% plants with colorful flowers (including annuals) for bright color to please the eye.

To succeed with natives you must follow proper planting techniques, described in detail in the book. Information is included on installation, irrigation, maintenance, pests and diseases, fire ecology, and more. There is an excellent resource section and over 100 pages are devoted to extensive information on hundreds of plants, with excellent photos. The plants are organized by type: large deciduous trees, medium shrubs, vines, etc.

Thanks, Greg and Lucy, for a lively presentation about what is sure to become an essential resource. 🌿



Dahnke garden: potted succulents in a corner



Sunshine Care garden: greenhouse for starting veggie seeds



Arnold garden: boulders and native agaves

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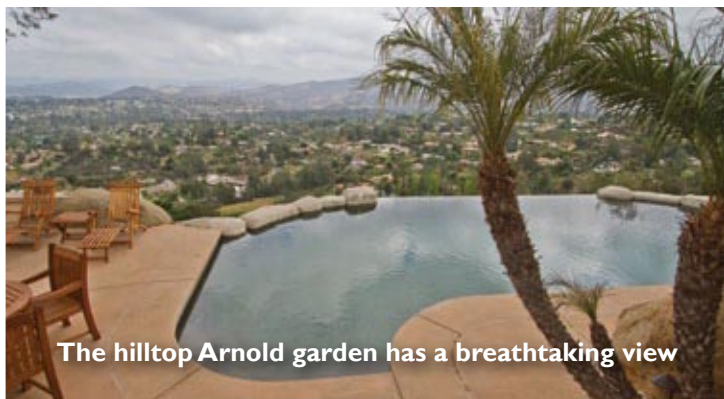
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# SPRING GARDEN TOUR

Rachel Cobb



The hilltop Arnold garden has a breathtaking view



A riot of color in the Matthys garden



Friendly kangaroo delights at the Casterline garden



Artists and vendors at the Arnold garden

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