

Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

August 2013, Number 227



Drip is Hip

SEE PAGE 1

EXTRAORDINARY NATURAL SCIENTIST

PAGE 4

HURDLE OF THE MYRTLE

PAGE 5

VISIT SANTA BARBARA

PAGE 7

RED DOOR VEGGIE GARDEN

PAGE 10

On the Cover: Drip irrigation in a raised bed.

Lotusland Plant Sale and Auction

2 TO 5 PM • SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21



Join us for a fabulous plant sale and auction (both silent and live) for garden connoisseurs featuring choice, rare, and hard-to-find plants.

*Ticket information and more details
are at www.lotusland.org.*



*Lotusland is a 37-acre estate garden in
Montecito, just east of Santa Barbara.*

JUNE FEATURED GARDEN

Photos: Barbara Raub



Above: Cassidy Rowland in her gorgeous Escondido garden.
Right: Robin Rowland (right) with Wanda Mallen

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- Offer does not include Sod, Gift Certificates, or Department 56
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- Coupon expires 8/31/2013 at 6 p.m.



MIRACOSTA COLLEGE

HORTICULTURE / FALL 2013

www.miracosta.edu/hort



Horticulture Associate Degree or Certificate Program

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

To receive a fall course schedule with complete details and enrollment information, call **760.795.6615**. For more info about MiraCosta College's Horticulture Program, call **Claire Ehrlinger** at **760.795.6704**.

Fall classes at MiraCosta College start August 19

Community colleges are still California's best buy in higher education. Enroll now!

See back for courses offered this fall.

Horticulture Department Open House

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 5–7 PM

MiraCosta College Horticulture Building, Rm. 7001

1 Barnard Drive, Oceanside

Parking available in lot 7A and 4C, no permit required.

Join us for our Open House and find out how our program can get your life moving in a new direction. Come meet our professors; tour our facility; and learn about career, internship and scholarship opportunities. Everyone is welcome, including prospective and current students!

For more information contact **Jason Kubrock**,
760.757.2121, x6482 or jkubrock@miracosta.edu



MiraCosta College
Oceanside Campus
1 Barnard Drive
Oceanside, CA 92056

MiraCosta College
San Elijo Campus
3333 Manchester Avenue
Cardiff, CA 92056



Horticulture Credit Courses / Fall 2013

Class #	Days	Time	Instructor	Units	Room #	Class #	Days	Time	Instructor	Units	Room #
HORT 110 Introduction to Sustainable Horticulture											
This course introduces sustainable horticulture principles and practices in gardening, landscaping, nursery management, and floriculture. Students are required to attend field labs and field trips. CSU											
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS											
2134	T	5:00pm-9:50pm	ALLISON M	3.0	OC7053	Room #					
HORT 115 Soil Science											
This course examines the physical, chemical, and biological properties of soil with an emphasis on solving issues related to fertility, salinity, pH, high calcium, specific toxicities, and physical problems. Students are required to participate in field labs and trips. CSU; UC											
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS											
1584	Th	5:00pm-10:00pm	ALLISON M	3.0	OC7053	Room #					
HORT 116 Plant Science											
This course covers the basic principles of plant science pertaining to food and ornamental plants and addresses plant taxonomy and nomenclature. Students are required to attend field labs and field trips. CSU; UC											
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS											
1586	MW	12:30pm-3:20pm	KINNON C	4.0	OC7053	Room #					
1590	W	5:00pm-7:50pm	EHRLINGER C	4.0	OC7053	&ONL					
		+3 hours weekly online.			ONLINE						
HORT 117 Plant Identification: Trees, Shrubs, and Vines											
This course covers the identification, growth habits, culture, and ornamental use of plants found in Southern California landscapes. It emphasizes botanical and common names, plant family relationships, and environmental adaptations. Students are required to attend field trips both on and off campus. CSU; UC											
OCEANSIDE/SAN ELIJAH CAMPUS											
1592	Th	6:00pm-7:50pm	EHRLINGER C	3.0	OC7051	Room #					
&S		9:00am-11:55am			SAN406						
HORT 118 Arboriculture											
This introduction to the care and management of landscape trees prepares students for the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certification exam and provides ISA Continuing Education Units (CEUs). CSU											
LATE-START/OCEANSIDE CAMPUS											
2753	W	5:30pm-8:00pm	STAFF	3.0	OC7051	Room #					
&S		11:00am-2:30pm			OC7051						
THIS IS A LATE-START CLASS, (09/04-12/11).											
HORT 126 Landscape Irrigation											
This course introduces site analysis, component selection, and the operation and maintenance of water efficient landscape sprinkler systems. CSU											
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS											
1594	M	5:00pm-9:50pm	EHRLINGER C	3.0	OC7051	Room #					
HORT 127 Landscape Design											
This introduction to landscape design covers the principles and process of design, drafting, hand drawn graphics, and presentation methods. Projects emphasize residential and small commercial sites. Students are required to attend field trips. CSU											
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS											
1600	W	9:30am-2:20pm	ALLISON M	3.0	OC7051	Room #					
HORT 144 Nursery Management and Production											
This course covers nursery operations and management, including propagation methods, crop scheduling, cultural practices, soils, pest management, fertilization, and environmental issues. Students are required to attend field trips to local nurseries. CSU											
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS											
1598	T	5:30pm-7:20pm	KINNON C	3.0	OC7051	Room #					
&S		8:00am-10:55am			OC7053						
HORT 145 Sensory Analysis of Wines											
(Material Fee: \$85.00) This course surveys the history and development of winemaking and grape varieties produced in the world's major wine-producing regions. It covers tasting techniques and a wide variety of wines. Students must be 21 years old to enroll and pay a lab fee. They are also required to attend field trips to local wineries. CSU; UC											
LATE-START/OCEANSIDE CAMPUS											
1597	F	6:30pm-9:50pm	COLANGELO D	3.0	OC7053	Room #					
THIS IS A LATE-START CLASS, (09/06-12/13).											
HORT 147 Wines of California											
(Material Fee: \$85.00) This course introduces the wines and major wine producing regions of California. Students must be 21 and are required to attend field trips. CSU											
ADVISORY: HORT 145.											
LATE-START/OCEANSIDE CAMPUS											
2136	W	6:30pm-9:35pm	STAFF	3.0	OC7001	Room #					
THIS IS A LATE-START CLASS, (09/04-12/11).											
HORT 148 Introduction to Wine Production											
This course provides beginning winemakers with basic "how to" instructions and advanced technical training on aspects of winemaking. Students must be 21 and are required to attend field trips. CSU											
LATE-START/OCEANSIDE CAMPUS											
2785	M	6:30pm-9:05pm	HART J	1.5	OC7053	Room #					
&ARR											
THIS IS A LATE-START CLASS, (09/09-11/18)											
+10 hours arranged on two Saturdays.											
HORT 299 Occupational Cooperative Work Experience											
This course is for students who are employed in a job directly related to their major and who seek to learn new skills or improve existing skills at work under the instruction of a MiraCosta faculty-mentor. CSU											
COREQUISITE: Complete 75 hrs paid or 60 hrs non-paid work per unit.											
ENROLLMENT LIMITATION: Career Center approval. May not enroll in any combination of cooperative work experience and/or internship studies concurrently.											
+2605 ARR STAFF 3.0											
Go to www.miracosta.edu/dataform or the Career Center in Bldg 3700, OC, to complete an employer contact information form. Faculty mentor will visit your worksite twice, unless you are employed more than 25 miles from any of MiraCosta's three campuses. You then may be required to travel to one of the campuses to meet with your instructor and to meet virtually. Call the Career Center if you have questions: 760.795.6772.											
THIS IS A LATE-START CLASS, (09/03-12/16).											

+Repeatable course

CSU; UC: Transferable course

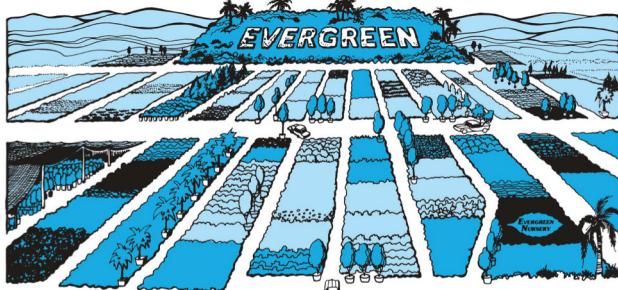
What's Happening? for AUGUST 2013

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@sdshortsoc.org.

▼ SDHS Sponsor

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- 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

August 3

Citrus & Avocado Varieties & Care

How about some fruit fresh off the tree? Wow your family and friends with your delicious fruit right from your yard!! You will learn all about your favorite Citrus and Avocado varieties and the best way to care for them. We will also have some fruit ready to taste!

To view our entire seminar schedule, visit us at
www.evergreennursery.com

Send questions and comments to:
info@evergreennursery.com

Two Convenient Locations:

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

OCEANSIDE
3231 Oceanside Blvd.
(760) 754-0340

Events at Public Gardens

❖ Alta Vista Gardens contact info on other side

Aug. 17, 1-3pm, Pet Friendly Gardening: Learn to create a garden that pleases you and is safe and fun for all your furry pets! Topics such as safe and hardy plant choices, (indoors & outdoors), natural non toxic pesticides, & techniques for negotiating with the "yard terrorist!" Join us for this fun and useful class, and get informative handouts to take home. Only \$5, free to Alta Vista Garden members. See www.avgardens.org for events & classes.

❖ San Diego Botanic Garden contact info on other side

Most are FREE with membership or admission.

Through August 29, Family Fun Night: The Garden stays open until 8 pm on Thursday nights. Special interactive Environmental Science Programs on July 18, & August 29. We will have activities for children every Thursday in the Hamilton Children's Garden from 4:30 – 6 pm, followed by entertainment.

Through April, 2014, Sculpture in the Garden: Sculptures from regional artists installed in natural setting.

August 3, 9am-12pm, Build Your Own Hydroponic Summer Garden: Learn the principles of the hydroponic wick method by building your own sustainable garden to take home. Members \$75, non-members \$90.

August 24 & 25, 9am-5pm, Bromeliad Bazaar: Bromeliads for sale and on-going workshops on culture and care.

❖ The Water Conservation Garden

contact info on other side

August 3, 10am-noon, Irrigation 101: Tune up your existing irrigation. Tips for retrofitting existing systems and installing new, basic drip system. Members free, non-members \$10.

August 18, 9:30-10:30am, Free Special Access Tour: Explore The Garden from the comfort of the Verbeck Shuttle with a Garden docent.

Events Hosted by SDHS Sponsors:

Please thank them for supporting SDHS!

❖ Barrels & Branches Classes & Workshops

Info: www.barrelsandbranches.com, (760)753-2852 or danica@barrelsandbranches.com

❖ Cedros Gardens, Saturday and Sunday FREE classes.

Details at www.cedrosgardens.com; address in ad on page 17.

❖ City Farmers Nursery Classes

Aug. 4, 1pm, Build a Solar Cooker: Learn about solar cooking while building the All Seasons Solar Cooker. \$40 fee includes cooker; register online. See www.cityfarmersnursery.com or call (619) 284-6358.

❖ Evergreen Nursery FREE Seminar Each Month

See column at left for details.

❖ Grangetto's FREE Workshops - register in August

TBA - Info & registration: www.grangettoscardenclub.com/workshops

❖ Sunshine Care FREE Workshop

Aug. 17, 10:30am, Preparing for your Fall & Winter Gardens.

Sunshine Care - ad on page 14. Info: (858) 752-8197 or www.sunshinecare.com.

❖ Walter Andersen Nursery FREE Saturday Classes

Details at www.walterandersen.com; addresses in ad on page 15

Point Loma, 9am

- | | |
|---------|----------------------|
| Aug. 3 | Grafting Plumerias |
| Aug. 10 | Summer Rose Care |
| Aug. 17 | Winning the Weed War |
| Aug. 24 | Container Gardening |
| Aug. 31 | Houseplants |

Poway, 9:30am

- | |
|---------------------------|
| Insects: Good, bad & ugly |
| Plumeria |
| Citrus & Avocados |
| Orchids |
| Herbs |

❖ Weidners' Gardens classes & workshops

See website for summer classes for kids.

Details & registration at www.weidners.com.

Next SDHS Meeting

August 12 - Nan Sterman on

Drip is Hip

See page I for details

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

Other Garden-Related Events:

Check with hosts to confirm dates & details

- ◆ **August 3, 10am-noon, Solana Center Composting Workshop:** Mt. Hope Community Garden. 4261 Market St., San Diego. Free. Info & registration: www.solanacenter.org.
- ◆ **August 3, 11am-4pm, Palomar Orchid Society Orchid Auction:** Viewing at 11am, auction starts noon for hundreds of flowering orchids. Learn about orchids and their cultivation. Admission and parking Free. Lake San Marcos Pavilion, 1105 La Bonita Drive, San Marcos. Info: www.palomarorchid.org or (760) 720-9424.
- ◆ **August 3 (noon-4pm), Aug. 4 (10am-4pm), Dahlia Society Show& Sale:** Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park. Info: David Tooley, 858-672-2593
- ◆ **August 11, 12:30pm, Begonia Society Annual Picnic and Garden Tour:** Bring food for pot luck to share. Tour of the garden after the meeting and pot luck. 467 E. Fulvia, Encinitas. Info: Marla Keith, (760) 815-7914.
- ◆ **August 17, 18, 9am-5pm, Cactus & Succulent Society Intercity Show and Sales:** Huge event! 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. Info: (626) 798-2430, (661) 297-5364 or www.sdcss.net.
- ◆ **August 17 (noon-5pm) & 18 (10am-4pm), Fern Society Show & Sale:** Casa Del Prado, room 101, Balboa Park. Info: www.sandiegofernsociety.com.
- ◆ **August 24 (noon-4pm) & 25 (10am-4pm), Bonsai & Beyond:** Casa Del Prado, room 101, Balboa Park. Info: Phil Tackill, 858-259-9598.
- ◆ **August 31 (noon-4pm), Sept. 1 (10am-1pm), Plumeria Show & Sale:** Hawaiian dance and music entertainment both days. Casa Del Prado, room 101, Balboa Park. See www.plumeriafestival.com.

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.

San Diego County Farmers Markets

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
Horton Square
Linda Vista
North Park
Oceanside CFM
Oceanside Sunset
Pacific Highlands
Poway-Alliant Univ.
San Carlos
UTC

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.sdfloral.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 or (760) 945-3954.

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

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

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

MASTER GARDENER HOTLINE: Gardening questions answered by trained volunteers Mon.-Fri., 9-3, (858) 822-6910, www.mastergardenerssandiego.org.

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

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

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

BALBOA PARK:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Garden TV and Radio Shows:

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

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

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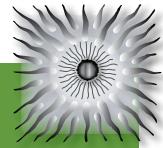
MiraCosta College
Calendar/Resources/Ongoing Events

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. For questions contact membership@sdhort.org or Jim Bishop at (619) 296-9215.



SAN DIEGO
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

MEETING SCHEDULE

5:00 – 6:00 Meeting room setup
6:00 – 6:45 Vendor sales, lending library, plant display
6:45 – 8:30 Announcements, door prizes, silent auction, speaker

MEETINGS & EVENTS

(**FW** = Free Workshops; Register at www.sdhort.org)

August 3

Growing organic fall & winter vegetables (**FW**)

August 10

Summer Fruit Tree Pruning (**FW**)

August 17

Featured Garden, Del Mar

September 9

Greg Richardson on Right Plant for the Right Place:
Invasive Plants and Horticulture in California

September 13-15

Fall Home/Garden Show (see page 2)

September 28

Garden Tools (**FW**)

October 14

Ruth Wolfe on Gardens for All Seasons:
Designing with Waterwise Plants and Bulbs



www.SDHort.org

COVER IMAGE: The plants in this raised bed benefit from drip irrigation.
Learn more at the August meeting.



Next Meeting: AUGUST 12, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

Topic: NAN STERMAN ON “DRIP IS HIP: UPGRADING WASTEFUL IRRIGATION SYSTEMS”

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

We welcome member Nan Sterman, garden designer, author, botanist, and award-winning garden communicator. She is host, co-producer, and co-writer of the award winning TV show, *A Growing Passion*, which celebrates all the ways that San Diego “grows,” from farms and nurseries to backyards and schoolyards, to native habitats and more. She is dedicated to the transformation of planted landscapes from overly thirsty and resource intensive to climate appropriate and sustainable. Her efforts combine age-old techniques with modern technologies. Nan will discuss how drip irrigation saves water, one of the main goals of sustainable gardening. She shows the best of new irrigation technology components, how they are made, how easy they are to install and maintain, and where to learn more about them. Learn how to apply this technology to specific irrigation situations, such as vegetable gardens, ornamental gardens, slopes, and mixed plantings.

Nan speaks, teaches, and writes about low water, sustainable and edible gardening, all of which she designs for clients' homes and school gardens. She seeks out plants, methods, and technologies that ensure client gardens are as water-efficient, low maintenance, and beautiful as possible. She is author of *California Gardener's Guide Vol. II*, about low water, Mediterranean climate gardens written specifically for California home gardeners. Her next book, due in Fall 2014, is *Hot Colors, Dry Garden*, which illustrates how colorful low water gardens can be.

Nan lives in Encinitas, is an advisor to the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College, the San Diego County Water Authority, and sits on the Invasive Plant Committee for the City of Encinitas. She co-founded a 5,000 square foot school garden and founded the annual Encinitas Garden Festival & Tour. Nan is a board member of the Garden Writer's Association and a founding board member of the Association of Professional Landscape Designers, San Diego District.

To learn more, visit www.plantsoup.com and see page 3. ☺

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Established September 1994

BOARD MEMBERS

Patty Berg – Volunteer Coordinator

Jeff Biletnikoff – Meeting Room Coordinator

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Bryan Diaz – Member at Large

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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 92023-1869. We NEVER share your email or address with anyone!

BECOME A SPONSOR!

Do you own a garden-related business?

SDHS sponsorships have high recognition and valuable benefits, including a link to your website, discounts on memberships for your employees, and free admission to SDHS events. This is a wonderful way to show your support for the SDHS. Sponsors help pay for our monthly meetings, annual college scholarships, and other important programs. Sponsorships start at just \$100/year; contact Jim Bishop at sponsor@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

COORDINATE FREE WORKSHOPS

Our free monthly workshops have been a big hit, and we're looking for a member to take over as head of the 6-person committee that organizes them. As coordinator, you'll work with the committee members to schedule workshops and enter the details into our website, etc. This should only take a few hours a month. To discuss the details of this fun task please contact Susi Torre-Bueno at (760) 295-2173.

September Board Opening: Garden Tour Assistant

Do you like gardens and have good organizational skills? We are looking for someone to work with existing Garden Tour Chair, Dannie McLaughlin, to help organize the 2014 Spring Garden Tour. You would work with Dannie in 2014 and become the Garden Tour Chair in 2015. Some of the tasks are: identify the tour area; schedule the tour date; find and review tour gardens; and work with homeowners, sponsor(s), and vendors. You would work with and supervise other volunteers that staff the gardens, create publicity materials, and sell tickets. Requires familiarity with email. Contact Jim Bishop at president@sdhort.org.

VOLUNTEERS FOR FALL HOME/GARDEN SHOW INFO TABLE

The Fall Home/Garden Show at the Del Mar Fairgrounds is on Sept 13, 14, and 15th. There are time slots available for volunteers to staff our information table. The shifts are just four hours and you'll have free admission to see all the great vendors, displays and speakers before or after your shift. Parking will be reimbursed, too. This is part of our outreach to the community and a chance to show and tell San Diegans about all the great benefits of being a SDHS member. You need not be a horticulture expert but you do need to be outgoing. If you're not too shy, this is lots of fun! To volunteer, please contact Patty Berg at PattyBerg@gmail.com or 760-815-0625.

September Board Opening: Membership Chairperson

Are you an outgoing "people person"? Our membership chair is a job you'd enjoy! You'll recruit new members, interact with current members, set membership policies (with board review), and answer questions regarding membership renewals. Best of all: the majority of the routine membership tasks are done by our bookkeeper and automated on our website. Requires familiarity with email and computer editing skills. Contact Jim Bishop: president@sdhort.org.

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.

IS YOUR NAME HERE?

Please pick up your name badge at the next meeting you attend.

Gloria Alexanderson	Lori Dekker	Jon Hatch	Chip Milligan
Eric Anderson	Susan D'Vincent	Ann Hoepner	Mimi Mortensen
Cecilia Baetge-Jolly	Don Doerfler	Faith Hoiberg	Sharon Muczynski
Gladys Baird	Yvonne Doerfler	Barbara Huntington	Marvin Murphy
John Beaudry	Andy Fincham	Joyce James	Patricia Neal
Jane Coogan Beer	Linda Fiske	Donna Johnston-Taylor	Susanna Pagan
Lisa Bellora	Jennifer Garson	Elizabeth Jones	Tom Sadler
Ellen Bevier	Margaret Grasela	Tami Joplin	Elizabeth Segil
Chris Brawner	Angelina Guinn	Britta Kuhlow	Laura Tezer
Forrest Breese	Jon Guinn	Laura Lefebvre	Kathy Walsh
Constanze Christopher	Lillian Gutierrez	Patricia Leon	Penelope West
Susan Clark	Julie Hardie	Libby Levine	John Wiedenhoff
Leslie Costello	Mike Hardie	Betsy Markle	
Jenise Deeter	Julie Hasl	Jerry Markle	



TO LEARN MORE...

Drip Irrigation and Other Water-Saving Factoids

By Ava Torre-Bueno

The history of drip irrigation goes through such very dry countries as Australia and Israel:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drip_irrigation

In addition to all things drip, this excellent book, *Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands and Beyond*, covers every conceivable way to use water wisely in the garden:

www.harvestingrainwater.com

And here are two videos on using ollas (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olla>; see photo above) to irrigate your vegetable gardens:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=KGxqShoGKF1

www.youtube.com/watch?v=lOVfnppdn28

Here's a local pottery that sells ollas:

www.prettytotsandbeyond.com/ollas.html

And check out their cool birds made of garden tools:

www.prettytotsandbeyond.com/beyond.html

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 visit www.sandiegofriendscenter.org/volunteers.htm. ☺



FROM THE BOARD

By Jim Bishop

Thank you to the many volunteers who hosted our exhibit at the Fair. Located right at the entrance to the Flower and Garden Show, we had a constant stream of visitors. Over 325 volunteer hours were needed to staff all 88 time slots. Thanks again for your help and support with our largest education and outreach activity of the year.

Thanks to Marty Schmidt (shown here) for designing and installing our highly awarded garden. You'll still be able to visit many of the plants that were in the garden at his office (ENVIRONS; www.environs.us) on San Diego Avenue in Little Italy. Special thanks to Dave Ericson of Secret Gardens Landscape for watering the garden throughout the Fair. A very special diverse and artistic garden that Dave maintains in Old Del Mar will be our featured garden in August. Thanks also to the San Diego Water Authority (see page 21) for sponsoring our garden. Check out their water saving programs at www.watersmartsd.org.



Marty Schmidt

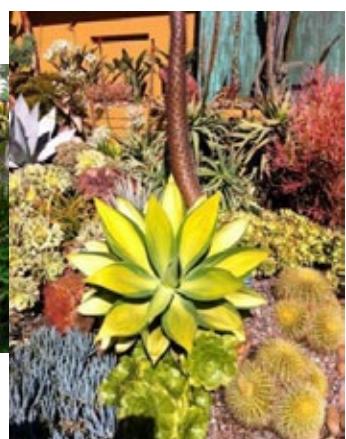
Thanks to Cassidy and Robin Rowland in Escondido for sharing their garden with us in June. Despite the unusually hot weather, we still had a very good turnout. Their garden is full of wonderful succulents, traditional garden plants and many edibles. You can view pictures of this Featured Garden on the inside front cover and also on our Facebook page.

Beat the Heat

As you may know, most months we explore a Featured Garden. For our hottest months, we head to coastal communities to explore some outstanding private gardens. The July, August and September gardens are all in older communities (Mission Hills, Point Loma, and Del Mar), but loaded with lots of new gardening ideas. They are also near tourist attractions or beaches, so you can easily make a day of your adventure. As each Featured Garden event is scheduled, reservations are added to the website. While on our website, you can also register for a free workshop, check out our speakers for upcoming meetings, view photos of our past events, and learn about all the outstanding Horticulturist of the Year honorees. Visit www.sdhort.org. ☺



Del Mar garden



Point Loma garden

WORKSHOP HOSTS NEEDED

We've completed 12 free workshops since starting this program in February, and are working on plans for future workshops. **We need your help.** Please volunteer to host a workshop at your home, especially if you live outside of North County. We're trying to identify host locations in other parts of San Diego County so that the workshops are more spread out. We need hosts beginning in October.

The hosts simply provide a venue for the workshop; you do not need to provide anything other than a suitable space. You talk with a committee member about what class would work best at your home, and you can decide on the date, time and number of participants. Some proposed workshop topics include:

- How do I collect & store rainwater?
- Designing container gardens
- Good Fertilizers
- Small kitchen gardens
- Gardening on a slope
- Building simple garden structures
- Growing native plants

To find out more about hosting a workshop, please contact Annie Morgan at mamx54@gmail.com. Also, let Annie know if you'd like to teach a workshop and/or if you have ideas for other workshops you'd be interested in attending or teaching. ☺



THE REAL DIRT ON...

Alexander von Humboldt

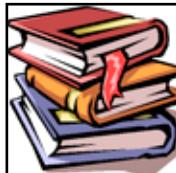
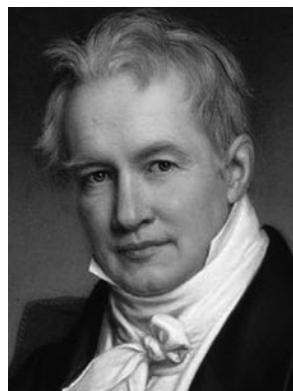
By Joan Herskowitz

Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859) was a German geographer, naturalist and scientific explorer, who had an insatiable curiosity about all aspects of the natural world. Through his writings, lectures and correspondence, he was very well known in his time, and is regarded to have laid the groundwork in the fields of geophysics and biogeography. Humboldt was born to an aristocratic family in Berlin and was educated by private tutors. He studied at several academies and universities but also conducted experiments on his own on geomagnetism, physiology, climatology and astronomy. In 1792, his interest in geology led to a position as government mines inspector and later as an administrator. Upon the death of his mother, he inherited a substantial income from her estate, which enabled him to satisfy his passion for travel.

Humboldt joined forces with the French botanist Aime Bonpland for an expedition to the New World Spanish-American colonies, which at that time included a huge area from Cape Horn to California, the West Indies, Central America, and one-third of the continental U.S. The resulting five-year expedition (1799-1804) covered six thousand miles, and took virtually the rest of Humboldt's life to fully digest and describe. He brought back forty-five cases of specimens, as well as a mass of astronomical, meteorological, botanical, and oceanographic data. The trip included extended stays in Venezuela, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, Cuba, and Mexico. The pair experienced severe hardships, but gathered an incredible amount of information on the natural sciences and indigenous cultures. Humboldt met with scientists in Philadelphia toward the end of the journey, and visited the White House at the invitation of President Thomas Jefferson.

In addition to the collection of 4,000 botanical specimens, many new to science, the pair conducted pioneering studies on the relationship between ecological factors and plant distribution, leading to the establishment of the science of plant geography. They mapped over 1700 miles of the Orinoco River, explored the topography and biology of the Andes, studied ocean currents (including one near the coast of Ecuador, subsequently known as the Humboldt Current), and made geomagnetic measurements which later became standard references. Humboldt's methodical measurements of natural phenomena served as a model for later scientific expeditions.

From 1807 to 1827, Humboldt lived in Paris where he worked on publication of his travel journals and the series entitled *Cosmos*, in which he attempted to unify various branches of science and nature. These were enormously popular writings, and Charles Darwin made frequent reference to Humboldt's work in his book *Voyage of the Beagle*. Humboldt received many awards in his lifetime and there are numerous geographical features, cities/counties, animals, and schools/universities, named in his honor. Among plant species named for him are: *Utricularia humboldtii* (shown above, a South American carnivorous plant); *Lilium humboldtii*, a California endemic; *Annona humboldtii*, the neotropical custard apple; *Phragmipedium humboldtii*, a Central



BOOK REVIEW

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh

Growing Chinese Vegetables In Your Own Back Yard

By Geri Harrington

I had just purchased a large section of fresh ginger when I picked up *Growing Chinese Vegetables* and was reminded that I might be able to plant it and get good results. I left the ginger on a window sill for several weeks until it started to sprout. Then I planted it, following the directions in the book. (The same system works for chayote squash. Be sure you have enough room, though. It's a vigorous vine.) Not all ginger will sprout. Some of it is sprayed with something (a hormone?) that prevents sprouting. Life's a gamble.

This book is an updating of one originally published in 1984, so you may have run into it before. It's formatted in the same way that dozens of other gardening books are: a description of the plant, how to plant, how to harvest, how to use. I have reviewed three other books that even had similar titles – *Growing Unusual Vegetables*, *Growing Tasty Tropical Fruit*, and *Growing Vegetable Soup* – as well as others more imaginative.

It has good production values – attractive photographs and brush paintings, clear instructions, and many recipes and suggested uses. The chapters, covering 41 different vegetables, include Greens, Cucurbits, Beans, Cabbages, Vegetable Potpourri [miscellaneous], and Herbs. There are also how-to chapters on water gardens and container gardens.

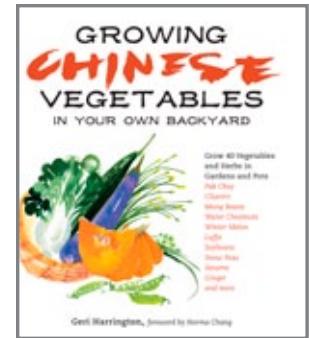
The main value of the book for me is that it encourages me to think about planting things that are new to me. Some of the vegetables are well-known from years of dinners in Chinese restaurants: snow peas, eggplant, cilantro, watercress, bunching onions. Others are things I'd heard of but never seen: mung beans, asparagus peas, lotus. Still others were a complete surprise. I didn't know that there were kinds of chrysanthemums and daylilies you could eat. I'd heard of amaranth as a grain. I didn't know you could eat the leaves. I was vague about sesame seeds – I thought they came from a tree – wrong again. They're produced on three-foot high plants that are quite decorative in the garden. And did you know you could grow water chestnuts or taro? I didn't.

Many of these plants have attractive flowers or foliage and can even be integrated into your flower beds.

Perhaps one of the more useful sections in the book is the appendix. It lists the botanical name as well as the common names in English, Cantonese, and Mandarin – very useful when you're trying to decipher a seed catalog.

Growing Chinese Vegetables (ISBN 978-1-60342-140-9) is paperback and 216 pages long. It includes 41 color photographs; a list of sources for seeds, roots, and supplies; and an index. It costs \$16.95 at your local bookstore.

I really like this book. I recommend it to you. ☺



Continued on page 12



TREES, PLEASE

Hurdle of the Myrtle

By Robin Rivet

Ask about "myrtle trees", and San Diegans typically think of "Crape Myrtle." Despite its common name, it is not in the Myrtaceae (Myrtle) family, but the Lythraceae (Loosestrife) family. True myrtles are typically some of the hardiest stalwarts amongst our region's ornamental trees. Melaleuca, Eugenia, Agonis, Metrosideros, Acca, Tristania, Leptospermum, and of course our beloved Eucalyptus – are pretty well known Myrtaceae genera, but there are many others.

To complicate matters, recent DNA analysis has reclassified some Eucalyptus into the related, but distinctive genera of Corymbia and Angophora. Adding to myrtle confusion, many Eugenia were renamed Syzygium, and some Tristania are now Lophostemon. Feijoa vanished, and became Acca... go figure! Even Callistemon (that once had its own genus), has apparently merged with Melaleuca. Is not botany fun?

Naming notwithstanding, myrtles transcend their classification issues, universally enhancing urban wildlife habitat. Many flaunt dazzling inflorescences intermittently all year; and this characteristic attracts swarms of hummingbirds, butterflies, songbirds and bees, who adore the recurring floral displays and seed production. Bottlebrush trees are constantly alive with life, but also nearly pest-free. Moreover, despite the angst of native plant advocates, monarch butterflies west of the divide now migrate and descend on groves of coastal eucalypts (also known as gum trees), especially as stands of native western sycamore have disappeared. The gum's year-round foliage actually improves their western protection, since sycamores traditionally defoliate by August.

Additionally, myrtles are broadleaf evergreens, with turgid foliage that mitigates our rainy season runoff problems. Some have exotic

and tasty fruit, like the pineapple guava (*Feijoa sellowiana*), which also boasts edible flowers. The rose apple's scent and flavor matches its namesake, and rare fruit gurus laud jaboticaba, pitomba, ugni, eugenia and Surinam cherry – all of which will grow here. Imagine a tree with fruit that tastes like a strawberry. *Psidium cattleianum* (strawberry guava) really does.

Over 100 diverse eucalyptus species grow readily in San Diego County. Unfortunately, the good species are often mentally lumped together with those with serious problems, which is unfairly far from the truth. Many species grow quickly; accept stressful urban conditions, tolerate smog, oxygen-deprived paved surfaces, infertile soils and erratic watering. They can be enormous, weeping, willowy or squat. Some are delicate and tender, while others are tough in the face of wind, cold, heat and pests. Despite the blue gum's (*Eucalyptus globulus*) reputation as horribly invasive in Northern California, only the red gum (*E. camaldulensis*) also makes the invasive species list for California (www.cal-ipc.org/paf).

Not only does this genus thrive here, Corymbia, Eucalyptus, Angophora and Melaleuca, are some of the only significant skyline tree species with large, carbon-sucking biomass that will temper climate change in San Diego County. Very few towering trees exist with the vertical stature of a proud hundred-year-old eucalypt. Unfortunately, too many people equate myrtaceae with invasive, riparian insult; and that is plain unfair. It is a hurdle for our myrtles.

Interesting links:

Myrtaceae: www.theplantlist.org/browse/A/Myrtaceae/

Eucalypts: www.anbg.gov.au/cpbr/cd-keys/euclid3/euclidsample/html/learn.htm#evolution

Microclimate: www.angelfire.com/bc/eucalyptus/selection.html

Interesting botany: <http://aob.oxfordjournals.org/content/53/3/421>

Member Robin Rivet is an ISA Certified Arborist, UCCE Master Gardener, Cal-Fire supported urban forestry educator and she welcomes public inquiries. robin@sandiegotreemap.org ☺



Top left: Eucalypt lit by the sunset
Bottom left: Pink flowering *Callistemon citrinus* 'Jeffersii'
Center: Fruit on the trunk of Jaboticaba (*Plinia cauliflora*)
Top right: *Eucalyptus leucoxylon*
Bottom right: Towering Eucalyptus tree





GOING WILD WITH NATIVES

What's Killing Your Ceanothus?

Part 2: Horticulture

By Greg Rubin

In the last article, we discussed the importance of sucking insects in the demise of native Ceanothus. In my experience, scale, aphids and whitefly are the worst offenders, but those three pests are promoted by the presence of Argentine ants. These critters inhabit nearly every yard in Southern California, and they are responsible for promoting, protecting, and placing these "cows" of the ant world in order to farm their honeydew secretions. If you have a suffering plant, you should first look for ants scaling the base of the trunk. Controlling ants is often the most effective means of stopping problems.

Interestingly, ants are also gardeners. They love to plant spotted spurge, I imagine for their seeds and a place to grow easy access aphids. So now they further add to our problems by planting invasive, difficult to eradicate weeds! If you are having trouble locating ant colonies, just follow the spurge, and get rid of both.

Sometimes a plant is so infested that the best course of action is to coppice the entire shrub. In other words, cut off all the branches at about 2-3 feet of height, control any scale left on the lower trunks with insecticidal soap, and let the plant stump sprout back, nice and clean. Any time you cut branches over $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter, it is essential that you paint the cuts with pruning sealer, available from any home improvement store. Although I don't generally recommend sealing pruning cuts, Ceanothus is a special case. The open wounds can allow airborne pathogens to enter and eventually kill the plant. Coppicing can often be a good last resort solution for Ceanothus or other natives that are severely stressed, as it gives the plants a break from transpiration and stimulates growth auxins (the plants react as if burned in a fire).

In general, Ceanothus is one of the most sensitive plants to inputs that are outside of their environmental norm. Their successful culture really depends on emulating native ecology as much as possible. Take drip systems, for instance. Most landscape Ceanothus come from more northern areas of the state, where they are used to higher levels of rainfall. This often makes them much more garden tolerant, but the water delivery method is critical, especially in summer months.

They, like many other drought tolerant natives, abhor having their soil saturated when it is warm, which seems to promote anaerobic bacteria and water molds rather than mycorrhizal fungi. Yet they also appreciate a little overhead irrigation a few times a month that wets the leaves and mulch, but doesn't soak the hot soil. It is no different than receiving fog drip or a summer thunderstorm. Usually we water up to $\frac{1}{4}$ " of equivalent precipitation two to three times per month. Rotator-type nozzles do a wonderful job of applying water in a rainfall-like manner.

An even more fundamental horticultural consideration is soil amending. Don't do it! High fertility encourages bacteria and discourages mycorrhizal fungal development. It causes the plants to be completely susceptible to pathogens. They react at first like they are on steroids, sometimes growing ten feet in one year. Then they literally blow up and die. Thus, the old myth of short life is confirmed again. Better to dig a hole, stick them in, don't plant too deep, compact the soil around the rootball, and water, water, water. Another fun trick is to put around three 6" to 12" boulders right on the root ball. This will serve to protect the roots, while keeping them cooler and retaining moisture.

Following these tips should allow your Ceanothus to live long, colorful lives.

Member Greg Rubin is the founder and owner of California's Own Landscape Design, Inc. (www.calown.com) and a very popular speaker. A specialist in the use of native plants in the landscape, he has designed over 600 native landscapes in San Diego County. His new book (coauthored with member Lucy Warren), *The California Native Landscape: The Homeowner's Design Guide to Restoring Its Beauty and Balance*, was the topic at our April meeting. ☺



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

By Patty Berg,
Volunteer Coordinator

Two-year member and volunteer Mollie Allan knows the value of having modest expectations in the garden and of relying on expert advice. That's how she has managed to create a thriving garden of California natives and succulents despite clay soil and sometimes intense, dry heat. Mollie says she's most proud of "choosing plants that don't burn up and die immediately" at her Poway home. How's that for a realistic, don't-set-the-bar-too-high approach?

Since the Allans once lived in Norfolk VA, with its stately old oaks, lush lawns, banks of azaleas and camellias thick with blooms, it's no wonder that Poway seems to require a bit more effort. So for guidance, Mollie turned to the guru of California native plants, Greg Rubin. And sure enough, she has a wonderfully appropriate and waterwise garden with plants that don't burn up and die. Yay!

All kidding aside, most of us know how challenging it is to find that synchronicity where the plants you like and the soil you have and the water supply are all nicely matched. Mollie's native plants approach has worked well for her, and yet she still gets to enjoy the occasional

gardening anomaly. For example, her very favorite plant, a calla lily, blooms prolifically every year without any care whatsoever.

As a child, Mollie's family moved quite a bit, but they eventually settled near Washington, DC. By college, she was off to the University of Kansas, where she and husband Gary first met. Now, two daughters and three adorable grandchildren later, they've been in San Diego for the past 25 years.

Mollie has been an SDHS Garden Ambassador at the Fair, and says she has enjoyed "seeing all the fabulous gardens of SD Horticultural Society members. You all continuously inspire me to work a little harder in the garden and provide lots of wonderful ideas for new plants to try out."

Well, that's exactly what we're aiming for. And it goes both ways, so thanks Mollie!

Four For Hort

In July we introduced our "Four for Hort" initiative that asks each member to volunteer just four hours each year. Be sure to stop at our table at the August meeting, where we'll have signups for future events and a special treat for recent volunteers. Please volunteer soon (see page 2) so you can join us for the annual Volunteer Appreciation Party later this year. ☺



FIELD TRIP TO SANTA BARBARA SEPTEMBER 17 TO 19

Join the San Diego Master Gardeners on a field trip to beautiful Santa Barbara on Tuesday September 17 through Thursday September 19, 2013. (See page 5 about a fabulous auction in Santa Barbara on September 21!) Don't wait long – only 10 spaces left as we go to press!

Itinerary includes guided tour of the home and gardens at Casa del Herrero; guided tour of La Huerta, the restored working edibles garden at the Living Old Mission Santa Barbara; and horticultural lessons at Seaside Gardens nursery in Carpinteria.

The price of \$330 includes bus transportation, driver tip, two nights hotel, two breakfasts, one lunch, and all guided tours. Additional opportunities are your chance to buy exceptional plants (plants not included). Your vehicle can be left at secured County parking (9335

Hazard Way, Kearny Mesa) during the trip.

To Sign Up: Send your check made payable to San Diego Master Gardener Association to Cindy Sparks, 4459 Orchard Ave, San Diego 92107. Non-MGs please include a University of California waiver form available online.

Questions? Contact Cindy plantsparks@gmail.com or 619-223-5515. Last day to cancel without penalty is August 12, 2013.



FABULOUS PLANT AUCTION AT LOTUSLAND

By Virginia Hayes, Curator of the Living Collection.

Rare plant lovers: on September 21 you have the opportunity to bid on exceedingly rare and unusual plants at the second annual **Exceptional Plants: Lotusland Auction and Sale** (see inside front cover). The Saturday event can be the highlight of a weekend visit to this plant paradise.

In 2012, Lotusland held its first ever plant auction event. Many of the plants in the auction were propagations from Lotusland's plants and some of these rare and exceptional plants have interesting stories. Here are some of those stories.

Palms were some of the early exotic plants to have been introduced to Santa Barbara and are some of the oldest plants in the collections at Lotusland. The renowned Italian horticulturist Francesco Franceschi introduced many palms to Santa Barbara, including *Brahea nitida*, a species of Mexican fan palm that is still relatively uncommon in cultivation. The one large specimen of this plant at Lotusland is believed to be one of the largest in the United States. Lotusland staff regularly collect seeds to grow a new generation of this beautiful palm.



Rick Carter

Growing on steep cliffs in the mountainous grasslands of the border region of South Africa and Swaziland is a cycad with a tenuous hold on survival – *Encephalartos heenanii*. It may now be more numerous in gardens than in the wild. At the end of 2010, to the excitement of Lotusland staff, a female *E. heenanii* developed a cone. Pollen of the same species was acquired and the cone was pollinated multiple times in early March 2011. The seed was harvested and cleaned on September 16, 2011. Seeds were sown on January 27, 2012 and the first germinated on February 20. After spirited bidding, one lucky live auction bidder won the privilege of growing this exceedingly rare plant in his collection.

One plant family has several bizarre species with swollen stems, which botanists refer to as a caudex, and grass-like foliage. *Calibanus hookeri* is only one of two species in its genus. Its caudices can reach truly monumental proportions, rivaling the profile of a Volkswagen "Beetle," according to Charlie Glass, who was among a party of botanists to rediscover this species in the 1960s before coming to work at Lotusland in 1972. *Beaucarnea recurvata*, known as the ponytail palm, has an enlarged base many feet in diameter, but also makes a significant trunk that can reach 20 feet in height. Both of these species are dioecious, meaning the pollen-producing flowers (male) occur on separate plants from the seed-bearing plants (female). At Lotusland, a female *Calibanus* that was planted by Glass was apparently close enough to a male *Beaucarnea* to achieve a fertile union. Seed collected from the *Calibanus* was sown and the resulting seedlings showed abnormalities that suggested they were not the pure species. A few of the resulting plants were planted in the cycad garden and grew there for over 25 years. Lotusland staff dug up some of these interesting hybrids to make room for the cycads and one of them was potted up for sale at last year's auction.

More specimens of these three rare and interesting plants will be on offer September 21 during the second annual **Exceptional Plants: Lotusland Auction and Sale**. For more details about the event and the plants that will be offered, visit www.lotusland.org.



Attendees at last year's Exceptional Plants had lively discussions before bidding on prime plants to take home.



LEAVING YOUR GARDEN AND EMBRACING CHANGE

By Susi Torre-Bueno

Saying goodbye

People move – it's a fact of life! Whether you're moving across town or clear across the nation, if you have a garden you'll need to figure out what to do with the plants you love most so they're not left behind. In my case, nine years ago my husband and I moved from our Encinitas home (with a 2-acre garden) to take up temporary residence in a small rental house on a very small lot while we were building the house in Vista (on a 1-acre lot) we now call home.

If you find yourself in this situation, say good-bye to your current garden and start thinking about what you would do differently in your next garden, and planning how you'll accomplish this. Focusing on the future makes it easier to leave the special garden you've nurtured. Here's what I did when I left my garden behind.

Plan ahead

I wanted to take a lot of my favorite plants with me so I could re-plant them when we settled in the new house. When we decided to move I started taking cuttings of my favorite plants so that I could bring them with me. I began saving 2- to 5-gallon pots so that I could put plants in relatively spacious temporary quarters until they could be transplanted into the ground at the new garden. Finally, I pretty much stopped pruning the Encinitas garden, and didn't divide overcrowded perennials or bulbs.

Enlist friends to be your plant “bank”

I had a party and invited all my gardening friends to come take cuttings and divisions of plants that needed to be separated. Because I had not been pruning or dividing for the previous few months, there was LOTS of excess plant material available; even though dozens of people took cuttings and divisions, you couldn't tell that anything had been thinned out. By doing this I was “banking” plants with my friends, and once settled in the new home I could get cuttings or divisions back from them. Not every plant survived, of course, but by spreading my plants over many people at least a few thrived. My friends also brought their excess large pots for me.

Get your plants ready to move to their temporary home

I didn't want to count on friends to entirely furnish the materials for my next garden, so I planted my own divisions and rooted cuttings in those pots I'd been saving. Also, you can collect seed from your favorites and sow it in your new garden.

For two years, while I was in the rental house, I was restricted to growing plants in pots. I had brought about 70 pots with me from the Encinitas house, and it was sooooo hard to resist buying new plants during the temporary period. I did buy a few, but mostly I channeled my plant-buying urges into plant-planning surges, making great strides in planning the new Vista garden. Caring for those special 70 plants and keeping them alive for their two-year hiatus was challenging, but it was worth the effort to have these old friends as the start of my new garden.

Planning the next garden

Be a good steward: leave good written instructions for the care of your garden with the person who will be taking care of it next (although they'll probably want to make lots of changes). If they're not garden-savvy, but want to learn, suggest they join the SDHS and also a local garden club. If you have hired good garden helpers in the past, pass that info along to the new owners.

Take photos of your favorite plant combinations and make notes about what you like best about your current garden. My old garden had a Mediterranean front yard and a sub-tropical back yard. I loved the lush look of all that bamboo (over 60 species!), the colorful foliage and flowers of cannas (70 species), and the many flowering vines and shrubs. But... having such a large garden meant many hours spent maintaining it, and I wanted the new garden to be a lot less work. So, I planned a mostly low-water and low-maintenance garden with many succulents, a large area for native plants, and a much smaller area for the sub-tropicals I loved.

From the start I decided to avoid planting species that had self-sowed too vigorously in Encinitas. Bye, bye to Pride of Madeira, ribbon bush (*Hypoestes aristata*), and yellow Chasmanthe. To save water I decided to skip bamboo and almost all of the cannas (although the herringbone stripes of *Canna 'Pretoria'* did make the cut and the ones my cousin Jeff took from Encinitas and nurtured in La Mesa now thrive in Vista). I'm using lots of succulents (way more than I had originally planned, in fact) and more California natives, too.

Reducing maintenance chores meant that I haven't planted any trees that are likely to get more than 20-30 feet tall (well, except for the one Jacaranda I just had to include) – and most will top out at 20 feet. The flowering shrubs here in Vista are mostly self-cleaning so I don't have to deadhead them. I'm also spacing plants far enough apart so I don't have to prune things to keep them smaller than they naturally grow. I didn't have any lawn in Encinitas, and don't have one now, using Dymondia as a very acceptable substitute where needed.

Embracing change

During those two years while we were building the new house, and before it was far enough along for me to start planting, I spent countless hours designing the new garden on my computer using a CAD program and researching plants on the internet. Using circles of various sizes to represent the mature size of each plant, I organized the garden into various areas: South African plants, Mexican species, a large labyrinth, small veggie area, and so on. When I finally was able to begin the new garden I laid out various areas, started putting in those precious 70 plants from the old garden, and began implementing my oh so careful plans.

But then life happened. Or, rather, Mother Nature made her plans known. The front yard had a steep slope, but where I had envisioned a tree-shaded incline the soil proved to be too shallow for trees to successfully root; this area is now home to a very few trees and an ever-increasing succulent tapestry (to borrow Debra Lee Baldwin's phrasing) interwoven between drought-hardy shrubs. Not quite what I had in mind in 2009, but it has great eye appeal with all that interesting succulent foliage and color.

The native area has exceeded my expectations (thanks to Greg Rubin getting it off to a great start), but the @#\$%^& gophers had other plans for a number of plants and it has been interesting to find things they won't eat. In fact, I'm also beginning to plant natives on a very steep slope where nothing but rosemary has been able to gain a toehold, and if I can keep the ants in check in this area I think it'll turn into a real beauty in a few more years.

Continued on page 19



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.

Hub of the Bay

In the late 70's, the city of San Jose had something of an inferiority complex with its neighbors San Francisco and the Silicon Valley cities. In an attempt to create an identity, there was a mercifully brief media campaign presenting San Jose as the "Hub of the Bay." While being at the lower end of San Francisco Bay did make it a freeway hub of sorts, the ads seemed to also acknowledge San Jose's reputation as the butt of Bay Area jokes. Still, for me living next door in Santa Clara, a lot of great places were readily accessible by car from the "Hub."

I spent my weekdays working long hours and stuck in the very congested Bay Area traffic. However, come Saturday morning I was out the door and off on some outdoor exploration adventure. I lived just a little over four years in Santa Clara, but a partial list of places I visited were: San Francisco, Palo Alto, Los Gatos, Saratoga, Oakland, Santa Cruz, Woodside, Half Moon Bay, the Santa Cruz mountains, Aptos, Capitola, Monterey, Pinnacles National Monument, Carmel, Big Sur, San Luis Obispo, Yosemite, Lake Tahoe, Reno, Sacramento, Sausalito, Muir Woods, Stinson Beach, Pt. Reyes, Bodega Bay, the Russian River, Guerneville, Sonoma, Napa, and Berkeley. In each place, I was always checking out the plants and trying to figure out what I was looking at. I was unaware of any local garden club or horticultural society to educate me, so I bought a few books on California plants, but most of my knowledge came from visiting places. I didn't even know what plants were growing along the freeways, and when I visited places like Strybing or Santa Cruz arboretums, with all of their exotic plants, I was on sensory overload.

Though I visited many of these places more than once, I frequented a few favorites. Closest, up against the Santa Cruz Mountains, was Los Gatos. Downtown runs along Santa Cruz Avenue, a quaint, walkable street, lined with restaurants and antique shops. There is lots of landscaping and places to sit. The primary street tree is *Melaleuca linariifolia*, with its domed canopy, needle-like leaves and shaggy bark. In June, they bloom with white fuzzy flowers that rightfully earned



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them the very appropriate common name, Snow-in-Summer. (Years later, I would plant one in my garden in Encinitas and also my current garden. There are some great local specimens in the Target parking lot in Mira Mesa.) In front of the Victorian that housed the Chart House restaurant was a very large monkey puzzle tree, *Araucaria araucana*. It must have been planted soon after the house was built in 1891.

My next quick getaway was Palo Alto and Stanford. The western part of the campus has rolling hills of grass dotted with huge live oaks. The hills back up to the mountains, with coast redwoods and California buckeye, *Aesculus californica*. In May, the buckeyes were covered with masses of sweet scented white panicles that looked way too exotic for an un-hybridized plant. The flatter east side of campus has one of the most diverse eucalyptus groves in California, with over 100 species. The city of Palo Alto, named after a 110' tall, 1,100 year-old coast redwood, takes its trees seriously. It has 36,000 city-owned urban trees and strict tree ordinances.

Another favorite spot was a bit further away, requiring a drive through the Santa Cruz Mountains. Located on Monterey Bay, just south of Santa Cruz, sits the picturesque Capitola Village-by-the-Sea. Originally a wharf for exporting lumber, in the 1890's it became Camp Capitola and later a resort, where people came to escape the inland summer heat. Today, it remains a cute town with Victorian homes and cottages dotting the bluffs above town. A small creek is dammed to create a lagoon that is lined on one side with restaurants. On the sea cliffs just to the north are several residential neighborhoods. Since it was nearly impossible to find a parking space in town, I usually parked in these neighborhoods and enjoyed the stroll to the beach while enjoying all the wonderful well maintained gardens.

In the first half of the 20th century, the tuberous "Pacific Begonia"

Continued on page 12

RED DOOR VEGGIE GARDEN

In response to our request for Sharing Secrets (see page 13), we got this extensive list of veggies. Many members will remember the gorgeous ½-acre organic vegetable garden that was included on our March 2012 garden tour in La Mesa. It is at the home of member Trish Watlington, owner of two San Diego restaurants: The Red Door Restaurant and Wine Bar and The Wellington Steak and Martini Lounge. Trish has shared with us her seed list (including the companies she purchased the seeds from, and her comments about these seeds. You can follow the garden at www.facebook.com/TheRedDoorFamilyGarden. ☺

Type & Company	Variety	Comments	
Arugula			
High Mowing	Surrey		
Beans			
Territorial	Golden Gate	Gold Romano, 66 days	
Territorial "	Velour Bush	Purple haricots	
"	Painted lady	Runner bean for fence line	
Sustainable	Gold Marie	Gold Romano – grew last year	
Carrots			
Seed Savers	Dragon	Long maturing purple	
	Scarlet Nantes		
	Jaune du daub	French yellow	
Cucumbers			
Seed Savers	Early Fortune		
West Coast	Sultan	Grew last year - excellent	
Chard			
Seed Savers	Rainbow chard		
Eggplant			
Seed Savers	Florida High Bush	Large black	
"	Listada de Gandia	Heat tolerant, slightly striped	
Territorial	Dairyu	Long Japanese, very productive	
Flowers			
Seed savers	Torch – Mex. Sunflower		
Lettuce			
	Torretto		
Melons			
Johnny's	Crenshaw	Good producer, protect	
Already Have	Hale's Best Cantaloupe		
Territorial	Honey ace	Green flesh	
	New Queen Watermelon	Orange flesh watermelon	
Onions			
Territorial	Red Bunching	To grow as micro onions	
Peppers			
Seed savers	Ancho Giganta	Ancho Poblano	
	Garden Sunshine	Bell type	
Baker	Shishito		
Baker	Padron		
Territorial	Early Jalapeno		
Sustainable	Chile de Arbol	For mole	
Annie's	Guajillo chile	For mole	
Radish			
Seed savers	Cincinnati Market		
	French Breakfast		
Salsify			
Seed savers	Mammoth		Tastes like oysters – long season
Spinach			
Seed savers	Strawberry		heat tolerant-climber -summer
	Red Malabar		
	Bloomsdale		Also heat tolerant
Territorial	Double Purple Orach		Similar to spinach grows to 5'
Squash/Summer			
Johnny's	Green Zephyr		Good producer/yellow w/ green
Territorial	One ball		Yellow ball – start 3 early
	Eight ball		Green ball- start 3 early
	Romanesco-Latino		OR Costata, not both
High Mowing	Romanesco-Costata		
High Mowing	Dario – Romanesco		Mildew resistant - try
Squash/Winter			
Seed Savers	Waltham Butternut		Good producer
	Rouge d'etampes		
	Marina di chioggia		Grey green
Territorial	Delicata		
	Small Sugar Pie		
	Fairytale		Like "Rouge" but brown
Tomatoes			
Territorial	Yellow Pear		
	Chocolate Cherry		New to us heard good reports
Seed savers	Dr. Wyche's Yellow		Will replace lemon boy
	Green Zebra		
	Italian Heirloom		To replace big beef, meaty
Johnnys	Juliet		Stagger planting?
High Mowing	San Marzano		Paste/plum
		Need orange beefsteak	
Turnips			
Seed savers	Purple Top Globe		Attracts bagrada bugs



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:**

Alice Brown
Jason Dobbie
Shawn Ellison
Maureen Flynn Caine
Cynthia Hays
Patsy Hughes
Amy Huie
Nancy Lombardi-Kohrs
Mary Jo Martin

Patti Morris
Tim Mumma
D. Christine Murphy
Susan Oliver
Heidi Parnell
Alice Pratt
Barbara Rangan
Anna Salvesen
Christina Sangster

Lewis Sherman
Joanne Stephens
Lisa Stockton
Maria Topper
Amy Walsh
Stephanie Wilde

NEW ADVERTISER: LOTUSLAND (INSIDE FRONT COVER)

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.

Alta Vista Gardens (Ed) (1)
Debra Lee Baldwin (1)
Jim Bishop (3)
Barbara Bolton (2)
Ann Dahnke (1)
Gigi Dearmas-Lopatriello (1)
Bryan Diaz (1)
Dave Ericson (1)
Terry Fox (1)
Carla Gilbert (1)

Irina Gronborg (1)
Heather Hazen (1)
Su Kraus (1)
Claudia Kuepper (1)
Vince Lazaneo (1)
Don Lowe (1)
Mike Masterson (1)
Toni Munsel (1)
Tandy Pfost (1)
Point Loma Garden Club (1)

Mo Price (1)
Virginia Ruehl (1)
Sally Sandler (1)
Sue Ann Scheck (1)
Sue & Dick Streeper (1)
Julia Swanson (1)
Marcia Van Loy (1)
Pat Venolia (1)
Lucy Warren (1)
Nancy Woodard (1)

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**Walter Andersen
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Waterwise Botanicals

Westward Expos

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)

Gerald D. Stewart

*Susi Torre-Bueno (2012)

& Jose Torre-Bueno

*Don Walker (2005) &

Dorothy Walker

Lucy Warren

*Evelyn Weidner (2001)

*Pat Welsh (2003)

Betty Wheeler

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What's Up

at

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Installation takes weeks and a lot of
patience, but over two dozen artists have
provided the San Diego Botanic Garden with
beautiful and unique art creations to display
throughout the Garden's **Sculpture in the
Garden** exhibit.

Among the artists participating this year
is local San Diego favorite and past Gala in
the Garden honoree, James Hubbell. Hubbell
has designed hundreds of commissions in
glass, sculptures,
and gardens.
He has created
school, homes
and parks, but
is best known
for the Chapel
at Sea Ranch,
California, as
well as several
sculptures for
the San Diego Botanic Garden. Most recently,
Jim has completed a fountain at the City
Complex on Coronado. James Hubbell has
provided the Garden with bronze cast iron
piece called "Visit."



Nick Ruddick

Another showcase artist is Bobbi
Hirschhoff who designed a fused glass and
stainless steel piece called "Celebration."
"Glass selections of opaque and transparent
reds and flowing organic lines create
energy and excitement in 'Celebration,'" said
Hirschhoff. After retiring in 2001, Bobbi took
classes in painting, sculpture/foundry, glass
fusing, enameling and lots more to grasp the
full range of her true talent of artistry. When
not creating art, she can be found at the San
Diego Botanic Garden where she is also a
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This unique exhibition showcases
sculptures from 23 talented artists set against
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an emphasis on diversity of media and scale.

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enjoy the visual stimulation as much as we
do. *Sculpture in the Garden* will be open to
the public until April, 2014, and each of the
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PACIFIC HORTICULTURE TOURS

Pacific Horticulture tours span the globe in 2014 with trips to Cuba, Morocco, England, Santa Barbara and New England on the schedule. April kicks off a busy year, with 4 days in lovely seaside Santa Barbara, where guests will visit the top public gardens and enjoy exclusive private gardens, including an afternoon tea in Montecito. Reprising the 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. July brings a terrific tour featuring the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, an international show for flowers, plants and gardening. Along with the show, tour guests will visit top public and private gardens in southeast England.



Great Dixter

Later in July, PacHort offers the brand new Massachusetts to Maine tour; starting with private garden visits in the Boston area then heading up the coast to see the best horticultural sights in Maine. Overnight stays in Boothbay Harbor and Bar Harbor are on the itinerary. Peak summer in beautiful New England, what could be better!

For more information about any of these tours, please visit www.pacifichorticulture.org.

SDHS is an affiliate member of the Pacific Horticulture Society, producers of the highly regarded Pacific Horticulture magazine. Tours are operated by San Diego-based Sterling Tours, a SDHS sponsor. More info at www.sterlingtoursltd.com. ☺

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■ The Real Dirt Continued from page 4

American ladyslipper orchid; and the South American willow (*Salix humboldtiana*) and oak (*Quercus humboldtii*).

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

■ My Life with Plants Continued from page 9

was hybridized. Growing and shipping begonia tubers became a large local industry. At one point, about 90% of all tuberous begonias sold worldwide originated in Capitola. The industry only wanted the tubers, and the flowers were thrown away. In an effort to promote late season tourism, the annual and very homespun Labor Day Begonia festival began in 1951. The begonias are used by local volunteer organizations to decorate floats that drift down the small creek to the lagoon. The floats are quite colorful and fun, covered with large blossoms that at first glance give the appearance of being made from crepe-paper flowers. One of the requirements is the rafts must be able to pass under the bridge from the creek to lagoon, so many of the floats have ingenious solutions to collapse and expand back up; occasionally some of the less clever entries capsize into the lagoon. (You can learn more about Capitola history at: http://www.capitolavillage.com/capitola_history.php and the begonia festival at: <http://www.begoniafestival.com/history.html>.)

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



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 July was:

What herbs and veggies have you planted this year and how are they doing?

We got so many replies that we're continuing them this month!

Answers to the August question follow these replies.

See page 10 for a long list from member **Trish Watlington**.

Katrin Utt has free veggies: I did not plant any vegetables this year, but I have lots of volunteer tomatoes! The small cherry tomatoes are sooo sweet! I think my birds planted them for me to thank me for feeding them.

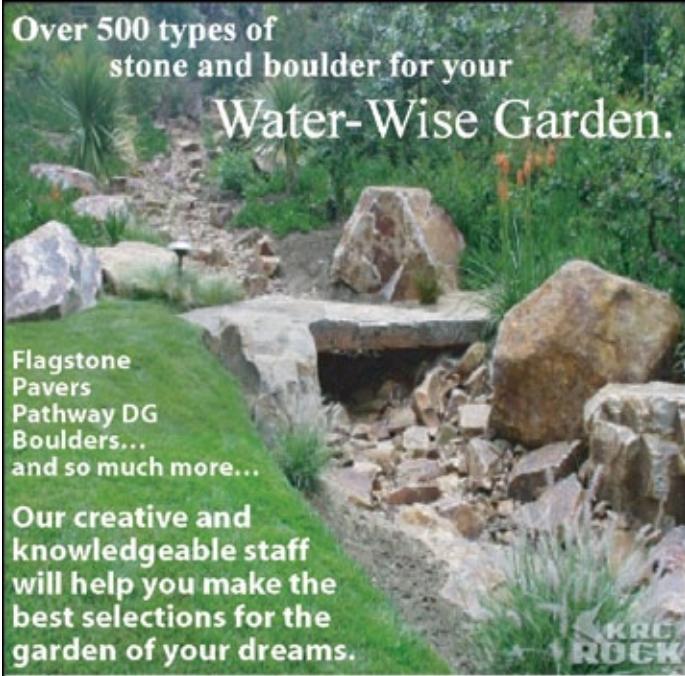
Mary Poteet is doing well with herbs: Pesto Perpetuo Basil and Tricolor Sage are doing great!

Cindy Sparks shared this with us: Hi from the longest running construction project in the county. My garden has been trashed by construction and repair work. One minute I think they are done, and the next minute they come back and make yet another mess. I am trying to grow tomatoes as usual, but in the fog belt of Pt. Loma, it's difficult. I am growing fava beans this year; and the one plant is limping along. I also started a brown sesame plant (who knew?). On the positive side, my perennial asparagus patch is as high as my head (it's out of their way, that must be why). I had a nice cherry crop and the four blueberry plants are bearing well, except for the few weeks when the sprinkler controller was ripped out. It's all about water, isn't it? I have squash and more beans ready to go in the ground, AFTER the construction boys are really done. I hope that is sometime before August.

Stephen Zolezzi has had some snail challenges: Having a set of raised beds where crops are protected from gophers and rabbits is a good starting place... but all that protection does not include SNAILS: they seem to come out of nowhere. Constant attention is the best way to get them among edibles. I started this year by purchasing well-along tomatoes and squash and chard to plant, which are with fruit, as opposed to starting them from seed. Have started basil from seed to transplant, but they are slow this year for lack of heat. Thymes, marjorams, oreganos and sages were pruned back from

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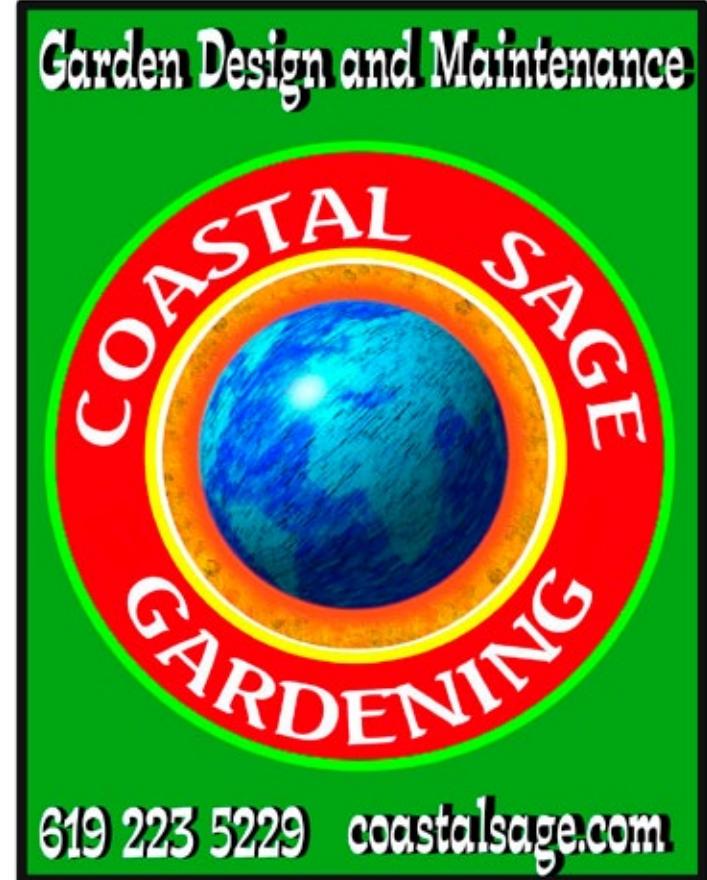
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winter-fertilized and are now doing great. I am heavily planted with no worry about over production now that I have 7 chickens. The eggs are pre-seasoned for delicious omelets!

Connie Forest is having problems: My problem this year is basil. I started a bunch of seeds this spring and they all came up. I hate throwing seedlings away, so I transplanted a number of them. So, now they are all ready at once. I know you are supposed to stagger your plantings so they mature at different times, but I am lucky if I get around to planting once. So, I made pesto and will make more and freeze it if I get around to it. I looked up recipes on the net using basil, but I don't want to have a primary diet of basil food. So what will happen is that I will let it go to seed and then wish I had basil later in the summer. I do so admire gardeners who are diligent and organized all the time, but it just isn't in me.

Kenneth Selzer is having success with herbs: Cilantro, parsley, and chives are all doing great.

Penelope Smith tried artichokes: I planted two artichoke plantings in my tomato bed from last year. I did not want to use as much water as for tomatoes, nor did I have the time to put in more plants. Naive me! These two are flourishing, but use the same amount of water. They are coming on in the slightly warmer weather, but no flowers yet.

Woon Lee is another member with good herbs: Rosemary, basil, chives, green onions and garlic greens.

Carol Hartman is also growing herbs and edible flowers: Dill, parsley, fennel, oregano, cilantro and mint so far. Also, I use various flowers when mixing my spices for salads or rubs. They grow large and well and I'm always reseeding to keep a constant supply. I also grow tomatoes (of course), kale, potatoes, and asparagus, plus several squash types and peppers.

Cathy Tylka is growing mint – with no water: I know some people complain about mint taking over their garden, but I am using it for a ground cover in spots nothing else seems to grow. It's surviving, and I do say surviving, as I do not water it at all. I treat it like a San Diego native, plant it, water it for about three months and if it lives, it lives. Now those areas look good and I can have mint tea whenever I like. Some may argue this, but do not treat it tenderly.

Vivian Blackstone reports that her organic veggies are producing a lot: I'm growing these veggies: New Zealand spinach, Early Girl tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, red currant tomatoes, yellow currant tomatoes, and Jerusalem artichoke plants. Also have these herbs: watercress, spearmint, peppermint, society garlic, lemon verbena, feverfew, pineapple sage, Hawaiian ginger and nasturtiums. Also growing Gotji berry.

**The question for August was:
How do you label the plants in your garden?**

Dale Rekus makes his labels from recycled blinds: I use a Number 2 pencil (good old plain yellow pencil) on a cut-to-size piece of mini-blind. It doesn't fade and lasts a long time. Especially nice for seeds because I can add whatever data I want (date planted, moved up to bigger pots, etc.). I also like to use these for plants I donate to my garden club and, besides the binomial and common name, I include some cultural info - full sun, rich soil, moderate water, etc.

Patti Vickery labels her roses: I purchase printed plastic labels and stakes with the names of all my rose bushes. When I enter a rose show I need to know the correct name. Any other significant plants I only list in a database on my computer. I also keep diagrams of landscape projects with names of trees and plants.

Laura Tezer ties on her labels: To label my plants in the garden, I use aluminum labels that I tie around each different plant. They are weather proof and light.

Susi Torre-Bueno uses a marker for every plant: My memory is terrible, so I'm pretty compulsive about labeling each plant, and I don't put a plant in the ground until I have the label ready. For about 18 years I've been very pleased with plant markers from Paw Paw Everlast Label Company (www.everlastlabel.com). They sell a number of different styles, including some you tie on the plants. I use their "rose labels," which have a replaceable zinc nameplate (1-14/16" high x 3-1/2" wide), and you can order from a variety of stake heights (11-1/2" works well for me); they call the label stakes "double wire standards." You can order the labels and standards separately, too. I write on them with a regular #2 pencil or a fine line paint marker (NOT a Sharpie, which fades quickly). To ensure the plant name doesn't fade away, I write the Latin and common name, along with the date planted, on both sides of the label. When the front fades I copy the info from the back side.

Tandy Pfost likes a natural look: I use wooden craft sticks and pencil. They look natural and are inexpensive.

Barb Strona has a tough love approach: I don't label my plants. I have tried metal tags that you use a gadget on, pre-printed, plastic. They all disappear, disintegrate, get lost, become illegible, or rust. I remember the first ones I planted... but if they die, I don't remember the names of their replacements. Sometimes I don't even remember planting stuff. I am definitely not a scientist nor am I a master gardener. I use the Darwinian method. If the plant can handle too much attention followed by total neglect, starvation and then being stuffed with whatever plant food seems appropriate, then I let it stay. If it gets sick, I give it a long time to recover by itself. If it dies and isn't planted too deeply, I chuck it. Otherwise, the corpse remains in the midst of its hardier peers.

Gerald D. Stewart says: There are multiple ways plants are labeled in the garden, both for plants in the ground and for plants in containers. Plants in the ground have zinc labels from Paw Paw Label Co. (thanks, Susi, for the lead years ago). For back-up, as planting areas are defined (the Kaleidoscopic Hedge, the Shade Hedge, the Kohuhu Hedge, Dahlia Dell, Canna Court, the Gay Glade, the Succulent Slope, etc.) a list is compiled in the computer from north to south or east to west, plus there is a field in each plant's record in the Plant Collection file to detail location. There are several stake heights so that labels don't have to be obvious, although plants new to me have the 18" stakes so I can see the name every time I walk by to ease memorizing the name. In containers, the nursery pot the plant is in is put in a cache pot so the roots don't bake. The plant's name is written on the nursery pot with a white grease pencil, and a Paw Paw mini label is usually in the pot itself for easier identification. Plants not in cache pots (stock plants, for example) have a plastic label sticking out of the soil for easy reading, plus a second plastic label for "insurance," pushed down into the soil along the pot's wall so it doesn't deteriorate in the sun or break off. As an aside, Paw Paw also offers flat zinc labels with a hole

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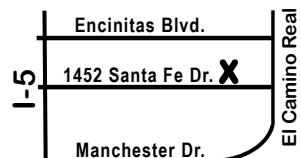
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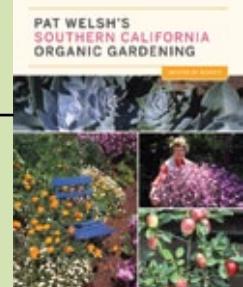
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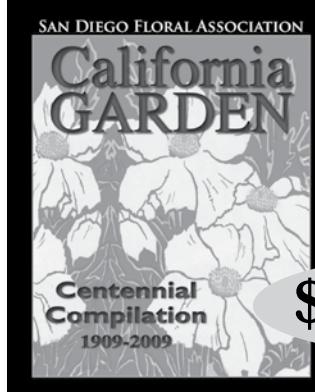
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and twist-em wire that I've found to be really handy for labeling stuff, like the location a strand of mini lights was crafted for, or what area an irrigation valve controls along with the line number and which time clock it is hooked to.

Mary Poteet uses: white plastic T-shaped labels that you push into the ground, written in permanent marker.

Robin Rivet got advice from a tagger: Garden graffiti anyone? Frustrated by forgetting the variety, cultivar or rootstock of a plant, even when I can remember the genus and species, I explored other people's methods for plant labeling. I experimented with prefab metal tags using so-called "permanent" marking pens or graphite pencils, but they all faded rapidly. I also purchased the soft copper tags you can etch and hang, but I found they're also pretty hard to read, especially over time, and they can strangle tree branches, if you're not mindful of how you connect them.

My latest idea is buying used silverware and wooden spoons at thrift stores, and gluing on whole or broken pottery or tiles, wood scraps, or just using an entire metal spatula or recycled stirring spoon as the label, with the handle stuck into the ground. The key is to use oil-based paint pens. I found white paint pens seemed to hold up to sunlight the best, especially against darker wood or tile colors. Long, wooden spoons currently explain my herb bed, and except for the brown oil-paint pen (which faded); the black and white markers are doing swell, and the wood stirrers proudly decree *Origanum dictamnus* 'Dittany of Crete oregano', *Foeniculum vulgare* var. *azoricum* - Florence fennel, and *Lavandula dentata* 'Goodwin Creek Gray lavender', for anyone fascinated by unusual herbs.

However, the latest and greatest suggestion came from a tagger I met who worked at a craft store. He directed me to what he described as "graffiti markers." I thought he was kidding, but sure enough, there are nifty stores that actually sell products to make street "art." Unsure if I'm ready to be caught shopping in such a place, I haven't bought any tagging markers yet, but I now have a large collection of stainless steel, thrift store knives for the handles, and loads of scrap tile and wood for the sign bases. Look out La Mesa, there's a tagger loose in my backyard.

Katie Jablonski said: I planted cucumbers in my front yard amongst the bushes and perennials. My husband is horrified. I'm eating cucumbers.

Cindy Sparks also uses mini blinds: I believe I have a wonderful plant label system. I use old metal mini-blinds. I have two colors, one for summer growers (most plants) and one for winter growers (some succulents, or whatever other category you want). I use a plain old #2 pencil to record Latin name, common name, and anything else that's brief. I have used some of these for 3 years and the lettering has held up. They can be cut to any length, and if I inadvertently step on a length of blind, it bends but does not break. The best part: cost is zero, and they are readily available.

Barb Potts and Nancy Gordon have gorgeous pottery markers: Since we have the convenience of a pottery studio in our yard, we have made large clay markers for all of our veggies. We start our veggies from seed, and if we want more information than just the name of the veggie, we write it on duct tape on the back of the marker. Permanent ink markers insure that the writing lasts through the watering. Once the markers are in the garden they show up well and also inform the kids, coming to summer art camp here, about what we are growing.



Barb Potts

Pottery markers from the Potts/Gordon garden

We have a small yard and have planted much of the front yard in vegetables. We recently took out an ornamental plum in the front and put in 6 artichokes and a kabocha squash in gopher cages. They seem to be doing well!

Susan Morse has labels with a funny name: My favorite plant marker is called DooHickey, by Yucca Do (www.yuccado.com), a Texas company that Steve Brigham told me about. They come in 2" and 3" sizes, and last forever. I find them particularly useful when I label multiple pairings of succulents in containers, à la Debra Lee Baldwin's inspiration. I can stack up 4-5 tags and discretely tuck them behind a leaf or plant. I know they are there but they are out of sight. Using a No. 1 or No. 2 soft lead pencil, I write whatever information I want to reference, such as source of plant, cost when purchased, planting medium used, date potted up, etc. To clean off the tag to rename, I rub it with a little cleansing powder (like Comet or Soft Scrub) to remove the pencil marks and I am ready to go. The malleable end is helpful to wrap around supports, such as tomato cage wires or the chain link fencing I use to grow sweet peas in the Spring. Even if these little guys were not so darn useful and last forever, I might buy them just because their name is so cute.

The question for September is:

What has been the biggest surprise in your garden this year?

Send your reply by August 5 to newsletter@sdhort.org.

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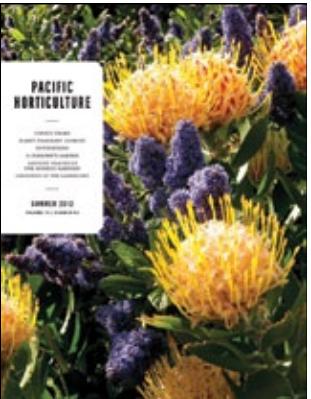
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JULY 2013 PLANT DISPLAY

By Charley Fouquette and
Susi Torre-Bueno

What is the Plant Display?

Each month members bring in plants, cuttings or flowers and put them in blue bottles on our display tables. What a great way to see what plants grow well in our area. EVERYONE is invited to participate. All plants are welcome. Write descriptions similar to those below, and put them with your plant(s).

Join the fun and bring something to the next meeting. We thank those people who brought in plants to show to other members.

Anisacanthus quadrifidus var. wrightii (syn. *A. wrightii*)
MEXICAN HONEYSUCKLE; WRIGHT'S TEXAS FIRECRACKER
(Acanthaceae) Mexico, Texas

If you're looking for a summer-to-fall blooming drought-tolerant shrub (often treated as a perennial) with brilliant scarlet flowers, this plant is a great choice. Although it is winter-deciduous, you should cut it back by about half in the cooler months, so it will sort of fade into the background during that dormant period. The tubular blooms appear starting in June or July, and go on blooming (and attracting hummingbirds) until cool weather in late fall. It grows to about 4' tall and wide (smaller in my garden because it gets almost no water in summer). It does self-seed a bit, although I haven't found it invasive. (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 7/13) – S.T.B.

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Paphiopedilum Kolosand SLIPPER ORCHID (Orchidaceae)

Horticultural Hybrid

This stunning slipper orchid is a hybrid between two species from Borneo. *Paphiopedilum kolopakingii* is a large terrestrial spring-blooming species, and *P. sanderianum* (with remarkable petals which can measure over 33" long!) was first discovered in 1885. However, this rare second species was lost to cultivation for most of the 20th century (and also thought to be extinct in the wild), until it was happily found again in 1978. Grow this orchid in a space that is shaded (or in dappled light), and with 60-70% humidity. Do not let it dry out between watering. It requires warm to hot conditions of 65°-85° F. According to the exhibitor, the petals will continue to elongate until they touch a surface; some people grow this plant hanging up to encourage especially long petals. (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 7/13) – C.F. & S.T.B.

***Ruellia peninsularis* (syn. *Ruellia californica* subsp. *peninsularis*)** BAJA CALIFORNIA RUELLIA, DESERT RUELLIA

(Acanthaceae) Mexico

This drought-tolerant desert shrub for full sun grows in a mounding form to about 3-4' tall and 4-6' wide. It has whitish zig-zag branches and dark green leaves. During summer to fall it sports lovely one-inch wide blue-violet flowers. It likes a lot of heat, and near the coast seems to have a shorter bloom than more inland locales mention. In Jon Rebman's excellent book, *Baja California Plant Field Guide*, 3rd Edition, he mentions that *R. peninsularis* has "fruits that explode and fling the seeds in a rather quick and violent dispersal event at maturity. To test this process in the field, wet the older, tan fruits and watch the fruits expel their projectile-like seeds within seconds." I'm looking forward to trying this in my garden. (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 7/13) – 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 for details on how to order this valuable reference tool.

Can you spot the phony plant this month? The phony plant in the June newsletter was *Cerinthe minor 'Purpurascens'* HONEYCHILD.

Aeonium arboreum var. *rubrolineatum*

(Susanna Pagan, San Marcos, 7/13)

3 *Asclepias physocarpa* MILKWEED, SWAN PLANT, GOOSE PLANT, FAMILY JEWELS (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 7/13; Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 7/13)

3 *Caesalpinia pulcherrima* PRIDE-OF-BARBADOS, DWARF POINCIANA (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 7/13)

Coelogyne Burfordiense (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 7/13)

Crinum cv. or sp. (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 7/13)

Dendrobium Andreé Millar (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 7/13)

Echeveria pulvinata PLUSH PLANT, CHENILLE PLANT (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 7/13)

3 *Monardella odoratissima* MOUNTAIN PENNYROYAL (Pat Pawlowski, El Cajon, 7/13)

3 *Nigella damascena* cv. LOVE-IN-A-MIST (Tony Foster, Oceanside, 7/13)

Origanum 'Bristol Cross' BRISTOL CROSS OREGANO (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 7/13)

Origanum 'Double Cross' DOUBLE CROSS OREGANO (Plant Fanatic, Vista, 7/13)

Watsonia cv. or sp. (pale orange) (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 7/13) ☺



JULY MEETING REPORT

By Susi Torre-Bueno

It takes an almost infectious enthusiasm to be able to write three best-selling books on one kind of plant, and SDHS life member Debra Lee Baldwin has that kind of passion – in spades – for succulents. The near-capacity crowd at our meeting was testament not only to the popularity of these plants but also to her well-earned status as a highly sought-after speaker. Her beautiful images and insightful comments about succulents kept us all pleasantly engaged, and the lively bidding on the Silent Auction plants was proof that our members are as fond of succulents as she is.

Debra's 2007 book, *Designing with Succulents*, spent 19 weeks on Amazon's list of the top 10 gardening books, and virtually all the photos in it were taken in Southern California. Her 2010 book, *Succulent Container Gardens*, has been nearly as popular, and is a good choice for people who can't grow succulents directly in soil in the garden, either because they live in a condo or in a location with cold winters. She describes her recently published *Succulents Simplified* as "demystifying succulents," and notes that it also provides pest information, a "meaty overview" of what succulents are, projects to show off your plants (there's lots more than just succulent wreaths!), and her "top 100 favorite succulents," some of which are still very rarely seen.

While it is probably the striking foliage of succulents that first capture the imagination – from the nearly black leaves of the popular *Aeonium 'Swartkop'* to the Fibonacci spiral forms of the medusoid euphorbias – many species sport beautiful flowers, too. Blooming in winter when there isn't much color in most gardens, aloes have flowers in shades from pale yellow to deep red. Aloes are useful, too, such as when the mucilaginous gel of *Aloe vera* is applied to soothe burns or minor cuts (Debra's son calls this "aloe snot"). Because they store great quantities of water in their leaves, they can make a good fire break, and she mentioned that the succulent garden on the cover of the first book actually saved the adjacent Rancho Santa Fe home from wildfire in 2007.

Succulents are increasing in popularity, and Debra shared some interesting statistics with us. About 2500 people attended the first Succulent Celebration held at Waterwise Gardens (in Escondido) in June. Go to YouTube and you'll find 17,000 results when you type in "succulents" – and 45 of those are videos that Debra made. There are over 6.3 million Google hits for "succulents," and that doesn't count all the hits for named species.

Discussing seminal influences on the increase in succulent gardening, Debra cited several reasons. One is the growing use of succulent gardens in public gardens such as the San Diego Botanic Garden, the Huntington Gardens, the South Coast Botanic Garden, and the San Diego Safari Park (formerly the Wild Animal Park). There is an exceptional succulent garden at the Water Conservation Garden in El Cajon, too. People see these gardens and want these plants in their home landscapes. Also, the more magazines and other media (and garden tours like ours) showcase home succulent gardens, the more those examples also influence other gardeners.

Additionally, several SDHS members have been important in showcasing succulent gardens. Patrick Anderson's Fallbrook garden, which was heavily featured in Debra's first book, has also been seen "in every major garden publication" in the US. Michael Buckner has been an influential judge for 25 years for the Cactus & Succulent Society of America, and his work as a nursery owner and designer has

popularized the use of bright "vulgar color" in gardens. His mentoring of other designers has also spread this "more is more" philosophy of succulent color and design.

Debra talked about new directions in succulent use. They're increasing being used in floral arrangements (even wedding bouquets), and for indoor wall gardens. Hybridizers, including Kelly Griffin right here in San Diego (www.altmanplants.com/press/articles/Kelly_Griffin_Article.pdf), are developing new cultivars with colors and forms not previously available. These include *Echeveria 'Blue Sky'* (glaucous deep blue leaves), *Aloe 'Christmas Carol'* (one of a line of "boutique aloes good for growing in pots"), *Agave lopantha 'Quadricolor'* (four colors of foliage on one plant!), and the chocolate-spotted *Mangave 'Macho Mocha'*, an "intergeneric cross that won't die after flowering."

Thanks, Debra, for keeping us in the loop on recent developments with succulents and for sharing your insights with us. Members can borrow the video of Debra's talk at the video loan table at our meetings. You can learn more at www.debraebaldwin.com, where you can read Debra's blog and sign up for her fun newsletter, and you can purchase Debra's artwork on a variety of items at www.zazzle.com/debraebaldwin. ☺

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APLD experts who answered questions at the Plant Display table

Leaving your garden Continued from page 8

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And so it goes... I make plans and Mother Nature makes revisions. It's coming together slowly, not as I originally pictured it, but in perhaps more interesting ways.

If you've been embracing change in your garden, describe what's going on in an email to me (newsletter@sdhort.org) and we can try to include your story in a future newsletter. ☺

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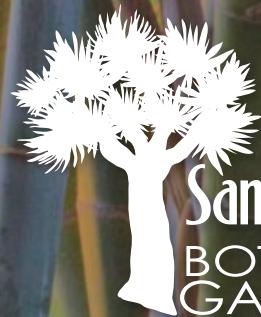
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