

# Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

January 2014, Number 232

## Native Plants of Chile

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**WINTER BLOOMING ALOES, PAGE 10**

**FREE WORKSHOP SURVEY (SEE INSERT)**



On the Cover: *Lion's Paw* in Chile



## Israel Tour with San Diego Botanic Garden March 8-18, 2014

San Diego Botanic Garden (SDBG) will sponsor a spring tour to visit Israel and our sister garden, the Jerusalem Botanical Gardens (JBG). Led by botanists from JBG, we will see spring wildflowers in natural areas from Mt. Meron in the north to the Negev Desert in the south. Explore dozens of wildflower species, including native irises, poppies, tulips, and cyclamen.

Along with many outstanding gardens, discover famed cultural and historical sites of Israel that stretch back thousands of years, including the Old City of Jerusalem, the Sea of Galilee, Ein Gedi, Masada, Jordan's ancient city of Petra and the lowest elevation on the Earth - the Dead Sea.

Dave Ehrlinger, former SDBG Director of Horticulture will lead the trip. He has traveled to Israel and led tours to East Africa, Egypt, and India. For more information, please contact us at [info@SDBGarden.org](mailto:info@SDBGarden.org) or 760/ 436-3036 x201

For more information  
visit  
**SDBGarden.org**



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**2014 Free Workshops Survey:** Please take a few minutes to complete this form and bring it to the January meeting. Add your comments or suggestions on the back. You can also mail it BY JANUARY 11<sup>th</sup> to: Susi Torre-Bueno, 1941 Vista Grande Dr., Vista, CA 92084. Thanks!

**GET A CHANCE TO WIN A PLANT WHEN YOU TURN IN THIS SURVEY at the January meeting.**

We are planning the FREE WORKSHOPS for 2014 and need your input. We need members to teach and host workshops (at their home or business) in each part of the county. 🍏 Don't be shy! Wouldn't you like to get some project started in your garden or share your expertise with others? 🍏 If you have a special talent or a garden-related business, this is your opportunity to show off your skills (and perhaps get some new clients). Most workshops last 2 hours; the instructors and hosts will determine the date, time and format.

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

I WANT TO:			Given in 2013 (X) or scheduled for 2014	TOPICS (workshops given in 2013 can be repeated if there is sufficient interest) <b>Register for January &amp; February workshops at <a href="http://www.sdhort.org">www.sdhort.org</a></b>
TEACH	HOST	ATTEND		
				<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>
				1- Building simple garden structures ( <b>CIRCLE the ones you'd like to attend</b> ): sheds, gazebos, vertical succulent frames, arbors, trellises, fences, etc. DIY projects, including hardscape for patios, etc.
				2- Creating raised beds
				3- How to light your garden for night use
				4- Fencing ideas, both living and traditional, for privacy & decoration.
				5- Designing good garden drainage (pipes, walls, swales and/or artificial waterways)
				6- Basic info & care on ponds, waterscapes, & fountains
			X	7- Hardscape ideas for simple pathways
				<b>PLANTS &amp; GROWING</b>
				8- Using plants with colorful foliage
			March 2014	9- Plant propagation: annuals, succulents, perennials, shrubs, etc.
			Jan. 25, 2014	10- How to grow Mediterranean plants, including proteas & plants from Australian, So. African, New Zealand, Chile
			X	11- Veggies & herbs: selecting, when to plant, organic pest control, etc.
				12- Plants to use as companions to succulents
				13- Growing palms
			Jan.15, 2014	14- Selecting & planting bare root fruit trees
			X	15- Success with orchids
			X	16- New varieties of plants
			X	17- Bromeliads in the garden
				<b>GARDEN TECHNIQUES &amp; PRODUCTS</b>
			Feb. 1, 2014	18- Companion gardening with chickens
				19- Gardening basics for new gardeners or people new to San Diego
				20- Getting started with organic gardening, and/or what is permaculture?
				21- Shade gardening
				22- Creating a fire-wise & sustainable landscape
				23- How to extract, preserve, & save seeds from plants in the garden
				24- Preserving garden bounty ( <b>CIRCLE the ones you'd like to attend</b> ): food (canning/freezing/drying) or ornamentals (how to dry); garden crafts for gifts & home décor.
				25- How to carve a watermelon and/or other foods
				26- Soil improvement: types of soil, amendments, techniques
				27- Weed control & getting rid of lawns (incl. using chemicals & tools)
			X	28- Landscaping design to attract birds, butterflies, bees & other wildlife
			X	29- Gardening on a slope
			X	30- Garden design & remodel
				OTHER – be specific (use other side)

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

### MEETING SCHEDULE

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

### MEETINGS & EVENTS

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

January 4	Featured Garden, Mission Hills (register at <a href="http://www.sdhort.org">www.sdhort.org</a> )
January 15	Selecting & Planting Bare Root Trees (FW)
January 25	Mediterranean Climate Plants and Proper Irrigation (FW)
February 1	Companion Gardening with Chickens (FW)
February 10	Kelly Griffin, Manager of Succulent Plant Development for Altman Plants
Feb. 28 - March 2	Spring Home/Garden Show
March 10	Tracy Kahn on Citrus in Today's Gardens
April 5	Spring Garden Tour (see page 2)
April 14	Fred Roberts on Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Native Plants of San Diego County
May 4	Wine Country Garden Tour (see page 5)



**[www.sdhort.org](http://www.sdhort.org)**

**COVER IMAGE:** The rare and endangered Chilean garra de león or lion's paw (*Leontochir ovallei*). Photographed by January speaker Kathy Musial. Hear about this gorgeous perennial, and many other interesting plants, at our January meeting.

## NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 13, 2014, 6:00 – 8:30 PM Speaker: Kathy Musial on *Native Plants of Chile*

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

It is a pleasure to welcome back Kathy Musial, Curator of Living Collections at the Huntington Botanical Gardens. She will speak on the native plants of Chile, specifically those found in the Norte Chico and mediterranean regions. The long thin country of Chile is home to habitats ranging from the Atacama Desert in the north to temperate rainforest in the south to alpine in the Andes along the country's eastern edge. At the edge of the Atacama is the Norte Chico, where in years of good winter rainfall the Desierto Florido ("flowering desert") phenomenon occurs, when carpets of bulbs and annual flowers spring from the seemingly barren sand. Kathy's presentation will focus on two particularly prolific years for the Desierto Florido, 2010 and 2011.

Kathy holds a BA in Biology from UCLA and a Certificate in Horticulture from UCLA Extension. She has served on the boards of the Southern California Horticultural Society, Pacific Horticultural Society, and was a founding board member of the San Diego Horticultural Society. She edited *Conifers Around the World*, published in 2011, and is editor of the SDHS Plant Forum Compilation. She has travelled widely to study and photograph plants and has lead botanical tours in Australia, New Zealand, Chile, Taiwan, China, Japan, Ecuador, South Africa, Madagascar, and Peru.

For more information visit <http://tinyurl.com/janmusial> (on the Pacific Horticulture website) and see page 3. 🌿



# SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Established September 1994

## BOARD MEMBERS

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**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  
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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; look for "SDHS Sponsor" above their ads. We thank them for their support.

## SPRING GARDEN TOUR:

### Exceptional Surf & Turf Gardens

By Jeannine Romero and Dannie McLaughlin

The term *Surf and Turf* has significance, and this year it is particularly significant when it comes to gardens. Our annual Spring Garden Tour, being held on Saturday, April 5, will feature outstanding gardens in Solana Beach (the surf) and Olivenhain (the turf). Fine artists will display their work in each garden, and over a dozen vendors will tempt you with jewelry, garden art, pottery, birdhouses, and other garden-related merchandise. A performance by an ensemble from the San Diego Youth Symphony will be a special bonus. This month we highlight two of the Solana Beach gardens; next month read about two of the Olivenhain gardens.

An artists' enclave and a modern day victory garden are two of the Solana Beach gardens included in the Spring 2014 Surf And Turf garden tour hosted by the San Diego Horticultural Society. The artistic personalities of Irina and Erik Gronborg are embedded in the colorful home and garden they have nurtured over 35 years (<http://tinyurl.com/janirina>). Yellow, orange, red, blue and lavender brighten the house. The garden continues to evolve with "creative maintenance," as Irina likes to say. World travels influence the features in the garden, and visitors will note an eye popping red Chinese wall and a Zen dry garden that was inspired by a trip to the temple gardens of Kyoto. The raised koi pond shown here, with a small fountain, is colorfully decorated with ceramic tiles created by Erik. He is a sculptor, and has a passion for cactus. One of his (many) favorite plants is a thorny acacia that originates in Central America. Erik said he has about 20 species of aloes, ranging from single rosettes to large trees, and 15 species of agave in his garden. The property also features a dragon tree (*Dracaena draco*), and a floss silk tree (*Chorisia speciosa*) that he planted from seed 35 years ago. Irina, a botanical artist, maintains a raised bed of vegetables and fruit trees, including orange and pomegranate.



Erik Gronborg



Nathalie Belanger

Vegetables and fruit trees are the heroes of Paul Nyerges' garden, designed by Ari Tenenbaum of Revolution Landscape ([www.revolutionlandscape.com](http://www.revolutionlandscape.com)). This modern victory garden features drip irrigation and 12 to 18" raised beds (made from sustainably harvested juniper wood from eastern Oregon, where it has become invasive). Wire mesh underneath prevents gopher invasions, and gravel paths surround the beds. Large boulders create seating, while smaller flat rock are steps on a slope, which is planted with yellow Mexican sunflowers (*Tagetes* sp.), Santa Barbara daisies, blue marguerite (*Felicia amelloides*) and blue chalk fingers (*Senecio* sp.). The one-year-old garden is producing brilliant red and yellow chard, artichokes, beans and tomatoes, and includes potted herbs and a bay tree. There are numerous fruit trees, including three varieties of apple, avocado, fig, persimmon, citrus, several stone fruits, and a Kaffir lime. One Meyer lemon tree remains from the previous owners. Grapes are planted along a wooden fence in the back of the garden and blueberries are planted in pots.

## You Can Help

Volunteer ASAP to help with: logistics, publicity, organizing, signage and map preparation, plant ID, ticket sales strategy, etc. Some tasks involve just a few phone calls, while others will keep your organizational skills well-honed. Contact Patty Berg for details at pattyberg@gmail.com. 🌱



## FROM THE BOARD

By Jim Bishop

### 2014 Meetings Now Online

The program committee, chaired by Mary James, has completed scheduling the 2014 programs. You can view the entire lineup of speakers and topics online at [www.sdhort.org/meetings](http://www.sdhort.org/meetings). So you don't miss any meetings, add the meetings to your online calendar by clicking the "Add to My Calendar" link in the upper right corner on each meeting page. Also, help us get the word out about our great meetings, by inviting your Facebook friends to join us. There is a *Like* button under the meeting title on each meeting page.

We think you'll be as excited as we are about the lineup of great topics and speakers. We kick off the year hearing about the plants of Chile (see page 1 for full details). February we greet local plantsman Kelly Griffin. You likely grow one or more plants that he has introduced. The June meeting is the always-popular *Night at the Fair*, where we also present our *Horticulturist of the Year* award. In August, we'll hear from knowledgeable and entertaining Tom Piergrossi. You may remember him from his many years living and working in San Diego and his participation in SDHS. November will be our second annual *Holiday Marketplace*. This year's event was very popular and brought together San Diego horticultural enthusiasts for a fun evening. We'll continue the tradition next year.

We'll conclude 2014 with a very special meeting about the horticultural significance and legacy of the 2015 Panama-California exposition. The meeting is our kick off of a year of "Garden Party of the Century" events in Balboa Park, and should not be missed. In conjunction with the Centennial, we are raising funds to restore the gardens adjacent to lily pond (see photo at right)). Our goal is to raise \$10,000 in donations to help complete this pilot project in 2014 for the Friends of Balboa Park. Please consider a year-end tax-deductible

donation. Visit our website, [www.sdhort.org](http://www.sdhort.org), for information about making an online donation or instructions for contributing by mail. Additionally, consider make a small cash donation each time you attend one of our free member events in 2014. Small donations add up and help us reach our goal.

Mary has already started working on the 2015 programs. If you'd like to volunteer or have ideas for meetings, email Mary at [programs@sdhortsoc.org](mailto:programs@sdhortsoc.org)



### Spring Garden Tour

Speaking of updating your calendar, this year's garden tour is Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> (see page 2). This is garden tour chair Dannie McLaughlin's last year organizing the tour, and you can count on it being one of the best. It is also a great opportunity to learn about the tour and become the 2015 garden tour chair. If you have good organization skills we can use your help with the 2014 tour as well as coordinating the 2015 tour. For 2015, we are looking at a tour in conjunction with the Balboa Park centennial, perhaps featuring some of the historic Kate Sessions gardens near the park. Contact Patty Berg for details at [pattyberg@gmail.com](mailto:pattyberg@gmail.com).

The board of the San Diego Horticultural Society wishes you a bountiful and rewarding year in horticulture. 🌿

## TO LEARN MORE...

### Native Plants of Chile

By Ava Torre-Bueno

Project Noah is a crowd sourced database of images of organisms that can be searched in many ways. Here's what you get when you search on "Plants Chile":

[www.projectnoah.org/organisms?search=plants+chile](http://www.projectnoah.org/organisms?search=plants+chile)

You can go to each spotting to see the image in a larger format, and if you register at the site, you can provide identifications for plants you know that the photographer didn't know. Give it a try; it's fun!

Chilebosque is a comprehensive site that covers the native plants of Chile in some detail and with lots of pictures. While some pages are not in English, most are, and you can always use Google Translate when needed.

[www.chilebosque.cl/index\\_en.html](http://www.chilebosque.cl/index_en.html)

The Royal Botanical Garden Edinburgh will be publishing a lovely-looking book soon on Plants from the Woods and Forests of Chile. You can see some of the beautiful illustrations here:  
<http://chileanplants.rbge.org.uk/en/index.php/paintings/>

And the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew are involved in a seed saving project of Chilean plants:  
<http://tinyurl.com/JanKew>

~~~~~  
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](http://www.sandiegofriendscenter.org/volunteers.htm). 🌿

## THE REAL DIRT ON...

John Kirk

By Carol Buckley



Reading about Scotsman Sir John Kirk (1832–1922), an explorer in the Victorian Age, one is reminded that in this era of industry, empire, and scientific experimentation, exotic plants were not collected for their novelty or beauty alone, but also for their potential for use in medicine and manufacture. Instrumental to David Livingstone's second Zambezi expedition, from 1858 to 1863, Kirk was tellingly titled an economic botanist. Holding an MD from the University of Edinburgh, he was also Livingstone's medical officer.

Kirk's father, a minister, had a deep interest in botany, which he passed on to his son, who studied botany while obtaining his medical degree. Kirk was a medic in the Crimean War, and collected on Mt. Ida and Mt. Olympus various botanical species not yet known in Europe. One was *Muscari latifolium*, broad-leaved grape hyacinth.

In 1857, he had a fortuitous meeting with Sir William Hooker, director of The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. During his sojourn with Livingstone, Kirk sent specimens to Hooker. Unfortunately, keeping botanical findings safe proved difficult. When Kirk entrusted four cases of botanical specimens to someone returning to England, they were lost until twenty years later, when a dockyard worker in Portsmouth contacted Sir Joseph Hooker, then director of Kew, asking him to retrieve the cases that had been at the dock all that time.

Kirk was a rugged character who nearly drowned (losing his notes and drawings) at the Kebrabasa Rapids in Mozambique, and returned home from Africa only after a severe bout with dysentery. When he returned to Africa as a diplomat, he convinced the sultan of Zanzibar to stop the slave trade in Eastern Africa, and developed another lucrative trade source for the sultan with the rubber manufactured from the vine *Landolphia kirkii*. He investigated the use of fiber from the succulent *Sansevieria kirkii*, and studied and guided the successful production of varnish from Zanzibar copal. Kirk's medical expertise and botanical interest combined in his experimentation with a plant of the genus *Strophanthus*, the source of arrow poison used by the people of the Zambezi. He narrowed down its effect on the heart and sent it back for study in Edinburgh. The drug strophanthin is still used as a heart stimulant, and its discovery led to a source of industry in Central Africa.

Kirk was a larger than life character. He explored Africa and its botanical and zoological treasures, and then employed his diplomatic skills as the continent heated up under colonization. He was an early amateur photographer, and took the first photographs of vegetation in the Zambezi. The wax negatives are held at Kew. He married his wife, Helen, in Zanzibar, and they had five children. He spent his last years in England.

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Member Carol Buckley is Assistant Librarian at the Athenaeum Music & Arts Library in La Jolla, as well as a freelance writer, editor, and poet. She is an informal student of plants and gardening. 🌿

## BOOK REVIEW

*The New Tech Garden*

By Paul Cooper

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh

Most of the time I'm content with my lot in life, but when I see a book like this, I do have a tendency to think about what I could do with a few million dollars and little imagination.

*The New Tech Garden* is a knock-your-socks-off book. You'll turn pages and just say, "Wow!" I certainly did. Paul Cooper uses the word "tech" both in the sense of technical and technique. He laments

the fact that in the 20th century, while the rest of the design world moved through various phases and interests such as art nouveau, dada, and modernism, garden design stayed rooted in the Victorian era of grass, shrubs, and flowers with a gazebo or two thrown in. Materials used in modern gardens were primarily stone, concrete, and wood. For the most part, designers ignored the versatile newer materials such as plastics, plexiglas, metals, glass, and synthetic fabrics. Cooper's goal in this book is to show us what we're missing.

There are some caveats, as far as I'm concerned. Few of these gardens would be ones I'd let my dog out to romp through, or my grandchildren. Many don't invite you to drag a lawn chair over and sit a while. All of them would require at least one full-time gardener. Still, they're fun to look at as we would look at the latest fashions on a Paris runway. We can dream about how we'd be the envy of all our neighbors and even adapt ideas to our own circumstances.

Cooper was a sculptor before he became a garden designer, and it follows that the gardens he includes have strong textural qualities. Some are soft and flowing, others hard and industrial in their look. The rest are somewhere in between. Some say, "Caress me with your eyes." Others seem to say, "Watch out!"

The color palettes in many of these gardens are also different from what you usually see: intense blues, metallic reds, bright yellows, and vibrant purples.

Many have water features, not something we're likely to copy in dry Southern California. Others have structures that appear to be pools of water, but in fact, are "pools" of blue glass mulch, stunning in contrast to growing plants.

Some are decorated with found objects. They work as far as I'm concerned, except for the few that don't. But you decide what you think, and we can talk about it. I can guarantee you'll want to share the ideas in this book with someone.

*The New Tech Garden* (ISBN1-84533-291-1) covers 37 gardens and includes a directory of materials and an index, and Cooper provides a landscape plan for most of the gardens. One strange omission, though—no plant lists. It is large format, paperbound, and \$24.95. 🌿



# TREES, PLEASE

## Touch Trees

By Tim Clancy

Recently a friend of mine visited Southern California for the first time. She has lived most of her life in the Great White North in a town on Lake Huron many miles north east of Toronto. While there are many big and beautiful trees in Canada, their climate limits what they can grow.

She often walks in the woods near her home with whatever dog she is caring for that day and admires trees of all shapes and sizes in their natural habitat. She often posts pictures of interesting trees on social media for friends and family to admire. Some of her pictures are fabulous. Once in a while she inquires about why some tree has grown in a particular way. In some ways, I envy her because the trees are in their natural habitat, growing as nature intended, both mature specimens and seedlings in their social groups.

After we picked her up we went for a drive. The first tree that caught her eye was a large California sycamore. As we drove around North County more trees caught her eye, and these were identified by yours truly.

In Solana Beach we got out to have a closer look at some of the exotic trees we grow here. One of the first was a Japanese black pine. As she touched the needles she remarked about how she didn't realize that there were pines in San Diego. She felt the needles and was delighted by her new discovery. We then looked at a California fan palm and I warned her about the sharp barbs on the fronds. She again felt them and admired the beauty of the palm.

On we went to look at a Canary Island date palm, which she promptly hugged. Next was a tree aloe; while not technically a tree, it is still a marvel to someone who knows only of the aloes sold in pots at her local nursery.



My friend was in town for the California Council of the Blind winter conference. She has Stargardt's disease and is legally blind. She has 20/400 vision and uses many low vision aids. The disease mercifully preserves peripheral vision, and that is how she sees the world and the trees she so dearly loves. The disease developed rapidly in her late teens and for the last thirty years her world has been seen through a different lens, so to speak.

She thoroughly enjoyed our rich and varied botanical wonders, even though she has a great amount of difficulty seeing them as most of us do. It just goes to show you that the trees and plants we see everyday are indeed special to many people in many ways. Touch trees.

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

# TOUR GARDENS OF THE CALIFORNIA WINE COUNTRY WITH THE SDHS

Just a few spots open on the Hort Society's "Gardens of the California Wine Country" tour, May 4-8.

**Sunday** Gather at our hotel for a welcome dinner with wine.

**Monday** After breakfast, depart for the garden of Mary and Lewis Reed, offering expansive views to the surrounding Sonoma County forests and valleys. We next see the Asian-inspired garden of Ann Hatch and Paul Discoe, before continuing to the private garden of Carol Brant, featuring a diverse and unusual assortment of plants. Next, it's Western Hills Garden, undergoing a true renaissance. Enjoy the garden once described by the *New York Times* as the "Tiffany of plants."



The hummingbirds are back, as are ducks, turtles, fish, and an occasional heron in the big pond. Enjoy a boxed lunch in the garden before a private guided tour. Next stop is the Healdsburg Nursery, carrying a wide array of bedding plants, bulbs, seeds, ornamentals, perennials, fruits and vegetables, plus a nice selection of gifts. We then continue to Healdsburg, where we can stop in at Williamson Winery, offering complimentary tastings of exceptional wines paired with tiny bites of what they call "fridge food." You'll have plenty of time for an early dinner on your own at one of the many restaurants around the square before returning to the hotel.

**Tuesday** After breakfast, we visit the garden of Sara Malone, surrounding her home on a private horse ranch, with an emphasis on foliage, bark, and form. After another private garden, we arrive in lovely Petaluma. Enjoy lunch on your own in one of the many bistros downtown or along the revitalized riverfront. Next, visit the eclectic Cottage Garden Nursery, offering a large selection of grasses, succulents and more. More private garden visits before arriving back at the hotel.

**Wednesday** After breakfast, we head for Quarryhill Botanical Garden, one of the best Asian botanical gardens in the world. With 25 acres of mature, flowering trees and shrubs including magnolias, dogwoods, maples, birches, roses, lilies and rhododendrons, the garden is laced with paths and hidden places to sit and relax while surrounded by ponds, waterfalls, and lovely vistas. Next stop is Cline Cellars for a picnic lunch amid the gardens. Thousands of rose bushes line the drive to the winery's 1850s farmhouse tasting room. After lunch we'll visit Cornerstone Gardens, an ever-changing series of walk-through gardens showcasing new and innovative designs from seventeen of the world's finest landscape architects and designers. We'll enjoy a guided tour of the gardens and have time to shop. After a private garden visit, we enjoy a farewell dinner with wine at the Glen Ellen Inn.

**Thursday** Tour ends after breakfast.

For information and reservations: Sterling Tours, Ltd., (619) 299-3010 or [info@sterlingtoursltd.com](mailto:info@sterlingtoursltd.com). 🌿

# GOING WILD WITH NATIVES

## Integrating Vegetables Into the Native Plant Garden

By Susan Krzywicki

Vegetable gardens and native plants are “ripe” for combining. There are two approaches that work. One is to zone an area for vegetable production, including separate irrigation for high-water users, and then using natives in the surrounding spaces. The other is to integrate vegetables with native edibles and ornamentals.

These two approaches reflect the ideas of permaculture: a complex system focused on high density food production. We don't normally think of permaculture, or urban farming, as having a place for native plants. But natives play many roles, including attracting beneficial insects, crowding out weeds, and maintaining soil health.

Creating zones is straightforward: design your garden with raised beds for production. Fill them with the loamy soil, run drip irrigation, and set the timer to match your particular microclimate. Then surround this with natives that don't mind a bit of extra irrigation, such as Cleveland sage (*Salvia clevelandii*), penstemon (*Penstemon* ‘Margarita BOP’), and yarrow (*Achillea millefolium* spp.).

There is an alternative “mosaic” approach that integrates vegetables and natives into the same space. This necessitates using the native riparian species that naturally prefer more moisture.

But this is not just about water. Contrast the soil preferences: chaparral species are found in fungus dominated soils with low nitrogen levels. Vegetables prefer bacterially dominated soils with higher available nitrogen. The miracle of our California Floristic Province is that our less-often used riparian species do, indeed, prefer bacterially dominated soils.

How pretty can a riparian-vegetable mosaic garden be? Think of the softer, greener look of trees like buttonwillow (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) and colorful bulbs like the leopard lily (*Lilium pardalinum*) or Douglas iris (*Iris douglasiana*). These species break up the vegetable monoculture and interrupt pest vectors. Native plants act as alternatives for insects, drawing them away from the vegetable species and attracting beneficial insects.

Grow Mexican elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*) and make wine. Add a native cherry tree to your garden, like Catalina cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia* subsp. *lyonii*).

The native California wild rose (*Rosa californica*) can be grown for its hips. Golden currant (*Ribes aureum*), wood strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*), the native Pacific blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*), and huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*) will all provide you with berries. Edible annuals, such as chia (*Salvia columbariae*), and miner's lettuce (*Claytonia perfoliata*), are easy to grow.

Use our popular deer grass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*) or ‘Canyon Prince’ wild rye (*Leymus condensatus* ‘Canyon Prince’) in attractive clumps. Add ornamental shrubs and perennials such as yerba mansa (*Anemopsis californica*) or cinquefoil (*Potentilla gracilis*). Near the coast, Menzies' goldenbush (*Isocoma menziesii*) attracts butterflies, and marsh fleabane (*Pluchea odorata*) is a bee attractant.

As you decide on plants for your garden, remember to consider dormancy or “down periods,” with varying periods of die-back, leaf drop, and crop harvesting aftermath. Miner's lettuce (*Claytonia parviflora*) disappears and reappears; California gooseberry (*Ribes californicum*) is deciduous.



Susan Krzywicki

Combining natives and eatable plants, such as cinquefoil, strawberries, tomatoes, and basil, typifies the mosaic garden design.

With these techniques, you can develop a permaculture that is beautiful, includes our California heritage, and also provides healthful food for the birds and butterflies we all love to see.

~~~~~  
Member Susan Krzywicki is the Horticulture Program Director for the California Native Plant Society. She has been a landscape designer in San Diego, and is co-chair of the San Diego Surfrider Foundation Ocean Friendly Gardens Committee. This article originally appeared in Vol. 43, No. 3, July–September 2013 of the *CNPS Bulletin*. Reprinted courtesy of the California Native Plant Society. This article has been shortened slightly from its original format. 🌿

## Cymbidium Orchid Sale

**Saturday  
January 18, 2014**

**Sale hours: 8am to 3pm**

**Come early for best selection**

### 1- and 2-gallon potted Cymbidiums

Well known orchid collector, show official, breeder, and grower is retiring and selling some classic and awarded plants, including best of show divisions.

**2604 Ridgeway Drive, National City, 91950**  
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Call Charley Fouquette (cell-619-921-1455)  
for more information





## Purchase SDHS Note Cards at the January meeting

In September we had a photo contest for striking images to be used on a set of note cards for the Society's correspondence needs and also for sale. We received over 100 lovely photos of San Diego plants and gardens, and, with much effort, selected 10 outstanding images.

Our thanks to all the entrants. The winners are: Neal King, Carol Lane, Linda Lawley, Peter Muzzy Crosby (photo above), Barbara Raub, Robin Rushmore, Sam L. Seat, Robin Shifflet, and Pat Venolia.

The photos used range from succulents to seeds to garden vistas. These beautiful note cards are blank inside, making them perfect for gift giving, thank you cards, holiday greeting cards, birthday cards, or any special occasion (or you can frame them). In fact, they're so lovely that using them will make any message special. Our corresponding secretary, BJ Boland, came up with this terrific idea, and we thank her so much. View all the entries at [www.sdhort.org/PhotoContest](http://www.sdhort.org/PhotoContest).

**You may purchase sets of 10 cards  
(for \$10/set) at any regular meeting.**



Sam L. Seat

Barbara Raub



RobinShifflet



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### Long and Winding Road Leads Math Major to the Farming Life

By Patty Berg, Volunteer Coordinator

When Roy Wilburn first volunteered to help out at our meetings, check-in leader Nancy Woodard knew just where to put him. With his big smile and easy-going manner, Roy was just the guy to be our greeter, so at many meetings you have seen him graciously welcoming one and all.

Then he jumped in on the Workshop Committee and helped organize one of the most successful new initiatives in many years. And then he agreed to open his organic gardens at Sunshine Care in Poway for the SDHS 2013 Spring Garden Tour.

Guess you could say that Farmer Roy is a volunteer extraordinaire – the kind of person who never lets being very busy stop him from doing more.

It was a farmer's daughter, Kathleen, who turned Roy's thoughts from math to farming. His father-in-law-to-be taught him everything he could about growing tomatoes in Baja. That was followed by several years in corporate agriculture in Oceanside, long enough for Roy to know that wasn't where he wanted to be. So when the opening at Sunshine Care (see page 14) came to his attention, he was ready to pursue growing healthful organic produce on site for the residents, many of whom have impaired memory. His plan was to embrace the Seed to Table concept to control every step of the growing process in the most beneficial ways. But it didn't stop there.

Today, Roy farms five organic gardens on the property and tends a greenhouse, orchard and memorial rose garden. He offers free monthly gardens seminars and workshops open to the public (see our monthly calendar for details). He is especially proud of the intergenerational gardening program where the residents and local school kids work together in the gardens. Roy also has an informative and entertaining blog on The Mulch's website (<http://tinyurl.com/farmerroy>), a lively Facebook page and has recently been named to the board of San Diego Community Gardens Network. And still finds time to volunteer!

Currently, Roy and Kathleen live in Carmel Valley. Their daughter Karla works for Poway Unified as a speech and hearing pathologist while their son Harry is at MiraCosta College and on his way to SDSU. And when they really want to see their dad, they know where to find him – in the midst of an amazing organic farm in the middle of Poway. 🌱



**Be part of the action: volunteer  
needs are on page 9.**

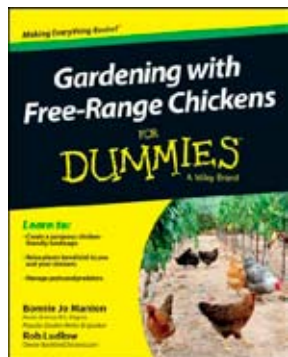
# GARDENS OF THE YEAR 2014 CONTEST DEADLINE IS MAY 5

## It's Time To Take Photos!

Is your garden in fabulous bloom this month? Your chances to win *San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles* magazine's Gardens of the Year contest improve dramatically when the photos submitted with your entry capture your garden at its best. Several past winners have been on the SDHS annual garden tour. The 2013 winning garden of Dannie and Craig McLaughlin will be part of our Spring Garden Tour! Visit <http://tinyurl.com/magcontest> for information and entry forms for your chance to win!

## GOT CHICKENS?

### Free Workshop: Companion Gardening with Chickens



Have you been thinking about building a chicken coop? A FREE workshop on **Companion Gardening with Chickens** will be held on Saturday, February 1, 2014. On-line registration will begin in January at [www.sdhort.org](http://www.sdhort.org). The teacher will be Bonnie Manion, co-author of the new book *Gardening with Free-Range Chickens for Dummies*. Bonnie will talk about and demonstrate how to successfully companion garden with

chickens, and all that they give back to one's garden. She will cover raising chicken basics, how to create a garden which is advantageous for chickens, beneficial plants, and predator-proof tactics. Bonnie has written the following article to explain the fascination with backyard chickens – we're sure you'll want to learn more at her workshop.

## THE “YIN” AND “YANG” OF CHICKENS

By Bonnie Manion

Raising chickens in an urban setting is a very popular and growing gardening trend for many reasons. The U.S. Department of Agriculture doesn't officially keep track of the number of chicken enthusiasts raising chickens in their backyards, gardens, or personal properties, but chickens might very well be this country's third most popular pet after dogs and cats.

This trend and interest in chickens touches people in many ways. It's a winning combination of people's love of pets, companionship, and nurturing a life; combined with many reasons why we garden: for healthier and tastier food, having more control over how our food is grown or raised, backyard sustainability, the fun of growing something, and closer ties to our local seasons and ultimately our planet Earth.

Chickens are very adaptable and can be raised in urban, suburban, and rural settings, and can be adapted to any number of lifestyles. Chickens provide tremendous beneficial garden help by keeping weeds and pests down, aerating the soil, producing a fabulous fertilizer called

manure, and providing us with a home grown protein source in fresh tasty eggs.

There is what I call a “Yin” and “Yang” of chickens to be aware of, which helps you better understand companion gardening with chickens. Chickens can be socially endearing family pets, yet are considered livestock and must be managed. Chickens are little garden warriors, yet are susceptible to disease and predators. Chickens are low maintenance and easy to care for, yet require

daily chores and responsibilities to maintain them. Chickens are cute and cuddly, yet can transmit disease. Chickens can leave a small imprint on your garden overall, yet can destroy plants or an entire garden if unmanaged.

In a way, we are in a bit of uncharted territory, as historically chickens were raised and managed on small family farms, or confined in calculated housing. Raising them in our own gardens and properties is something relatively new. Luckily, chickens are one of the few types of livestock that have an innate sense of what is good for them and what is not. Although there are always exceptions, for the most part chickens do not eat potentially harmful plants like sheep, goats, and other livestock will. It may surprise you, but many of our common garden ornamental plants have varying degrees of toxicity to them.

It is important to know what kind of garden landscape benefits chickens, and what plants to grow that are compatible and purposeful for chickens. What plants, shrubs or trees are potentially harmful to your chickens? What edibles to grow for you and your chickens. What methods you can employ to successfully free-range or confine-range your chickens to have that winning balance in your garden.

Do your research first when it comes to chickens. What breeds might work best for you? What are your city/county ordinances on raising chickens? Do you have the proper space allowances for a chicken coop, secure outside pen, and garden space for a flock? There are books and websites on chickens available today to help guide you.

It is really easy to garden with chickens, and the two are a natural complement. Educating yourself on chicken garden basics and chicken essentials goes a long way in having a vibrant thriving garden that flourishes with happy, healthy, and productive chickens.



Rachel Cobb

SDHS member Bonnie Jo Manion is a garden writer, speaker, and author out of coastal North San Diego County. Bonnie has been combining her love of gardening and her joy of chickens for more than a decade. She is co-author of the newly released book, *Gardening with Free-Range Chickens for Dummies* (Wiley). Follow Bonnie at [www.VintageGardenGal.com](http://www.VintageGardenGal.com) and [www.lowes.com/socal](http://www.lowes.com/socal). Bonnie will be hosting and teaching a “Companion Gardening with Chickens” workshop for SDHS members on Saturday, February 1, 2014. 🐔



## 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.*

### Middle-Earth, Land of Ferns

I first became aware of New Zealand's unusual plants 35 years ago when visiting Strybing Arboretum (now the San Francisco Botanical Garden) in Golden Gate Park. Many of the plants were remnants of plants relocated from the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exhibition in the Marina District. I marveled at the unusual and strange plants that had evolved in isolation from the rest of the world. Today, like many Californians, I grow a number of New Zealand plants in my garden. In 2001, I did a cycling tour of New Zealand's South Island and had wanted to return and explore more ever since. Last November, Scott and I were able to visit the North Island and get a closer look at what the Kiwis call "The Bush." Here is a look at some of the unusual plants.

New Zealand has about 200 native fern species. Around 40% grow nowhere else in the world. They grow from less than one inch tall to over thirty feet. Most obvious, and some of the most beautiful, are the palm tree-sized tree ferns. There are ten species of tree ferns native to New Zealand, three hairy *Dicksonia* and seven scaly *Cyathea*. Tree ferns are almost everywhere in New Zealand and provide a tropical, ancient look. No wonder New Zealand was used for Middle-earth in the Lord of the Rings movies. My favorite is the black tree fern, *Cyathea medullaris*. As the name suggests, the thick new fronds and frond stems are black. *Dicksonia squarrosa*, wheki, is another common tree fern, so common, in fact, the tree trunks are used for retaining walls and fences. Unlike most tree ferns, wheki has buds on the trunk and can resprout. You frequently see living fences of tree ferns throughout New Zealand, as shown in this photo.

One of the most ubiquitous plants of the bush is Phormium, New Zealand flax. While not a flax (the flax plant used for linen is *Linum usitatissimum*), the name comes from the fibrous leaves that were used for rope, clothing and countless other uses by the Maori and European colonists. There is much more variety in wild phormiums compared to the hybrid phoriums we grow in our gardens. In general, they are larger, with wider, less colorful leaves and much more prominent blooms. When taking photos of scenery, there seem to always be some robust looking flax plants in the foreground framing the view.

Another common tree in gardens and the wild is the New Zealand Christmas tree, *Metrosideros excelsa*, known to the locals as Pohutukawa. The common name comes from the red flowers that were just beginning to open during our trip, a month before Christmas. This live oak-sized tree is often seen as a street tree here in San Diego, but I remember them most on the hillsides and shore of the Coromandel Peninsula, a gorgeous area of the North Island. The tree is good at colonizing lava flows and many have long aerial roots hanging from their branches. There is a smaller hybrid, *Metrosideros collina* 'Spring Fire', with lime green foliage and orange-red flowers, that is a more appropriate size for San Diego gardens.

Another distinctive tree in the landscape is Cordyline, the

cabbage tree. The Cordylines in New Zealand look exactly like the mature ones frequently seen in front of Victorian houses in San Francisco. More recently, the colorful hybrids between the various species of cordylines have become popular garden plants in San Diego. You don't see many of the hybrids in New Zealand, but in the bush you do see large areas of native Cordylines with their long narrow leaves and small flowers at the end thick trunks.



Often seen growing as understory in the forests and/or mixed in with tree ferns is the only palm species native to New Zealand, the nikau palm, *Rhopalostylis sapida*. You occasionally see these in California gardens, where due to their shape they are often called shaving brush palms. The palm grows very slowly, but can eventually reach 45 feet. There is considerable variation in the wild growing plants, and they were most notable in coastal areas. An especially beautiful memory of them was on the steep hillsides next to the wide Marokopa falls, where countless palms grew amongst the tree ferns.

But back to ferns. *Cyathea dealbata*, the Ponga or silver tree fern, has become the symbol most commonly associated with New Zealand and New Zealand sports teams. It can grow to over 30 feet, and its waxy secretions create a silver underside on older fronds. The Maori and European colonizers are said to have used pieces of the frond laid upside down on trails to mark their paths through the bush.

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

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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### Special Thank You

Our Holiday Marketplace was made extra special by the plant giveaway that sent our guests home with a free plant at the end of their shopping. A special thank you to member Sue Pellerito and her son Steve Secviar for providing the beautiful signage and plant care handouts for the display table. Thanks so much!

### Spring Home Garden Show – Come Help SDHS and Have Fun!

This year's Spring Home/Garden Show takes place on the weekend of February 28 to March 2 at the fairgrounds in Del Mar. Can you help staff our table? It's an enjoyable few hours talking to folks about SDHS and signing up new members. Contact Volunteer Coordinator Patty Berg at pattyjberg@gmail.com or call 760-815-0625.

### College Scholarship Representative

Every year the SDHS donates a \$1000 scholarship to a student majoring in horticulture at each of these three colleges: Cuyamaca College, MiraCosta College, and Southwestern College. The colleges pick the winners and notify us. The College Scholarship Representative coordinates with the colleges, invites the students to our meetings, and arranges for them to get their checks. This takes a few hours each year;

*Continued on page 20*

## ALOES DAZZLE WITH WINTER COLOR

By Don Newcomer

Aloes are known for being rugged, extremely drought-tolerant, fire-resistant, and for their sculptural shapes. But have you noticed how they change their appearance throughout the year? Aloes really have personality. Some respond to drought conditions in summer by developing beautiful copper and red toned leaves, while in the winter, the same leaves, now hydrated, plump up and develop a white powdery quality.

But something even more exciting happens to many aloes in the winter – they bloom! Winter-blooming aloes add dazzling color to landscapes that may otherwise be drab during the winter months.

Starting in late November and extending through January and February, our aloes produce spectacular flowers in a riot of vibrant colors from fiery reds and oranges, to coral tones and yellows; some are even bi-colored. Depending on the variety, the blooms are torch-shaped or resemble a candelabrum; some of the smaller types sport delicate flowers shaped like parasols.

Not only will winter blooming aloes brighten your landscape, they'll also attract beneficial wildlife. Hummingbirds feed on the aloe nectar produced in the tubular blossoms. Bees and other insects are also attracted to aloes for pollen.

Here are some of my favorite aloes, on schedule to bloom in our Fallbrook nursery:

*Aloe arborescens*, the most common aloe along the California coast,

is also one of the showiest varieties with its bright red conical flower spikes. It is useful as a hedge or firebreak.

*Aloe sinkatana* is a small aloe that grows into dense clusters and has a capitate yellow flower with a flat umbrella-like top.

The majestic *Aloe marlothii* is a single-headed tree-forming species that grows up to about 10' tall and boasts big, beautiful, bi-colored red and yellow flowers that branch out horizontally.

*Aloe striata*, prized for its soft leaves outlined with beautiful coral tones, sports clusters of salmon-colored flowers.

*Aloe cameronii* is a gorgeous red-leaved aloe from Zimbabwe, with spikes of bright red flowers.

*Aloe verdoorniae* is one of our more striking plants, with its dark blue leaves bordering on black and its bright pink flowers.



*Aloe cameronii*

For reddish-orange blooms, try low-growing *Aloe congolensis* as an interesting groundcover for small areas, or the graceful blue solitary *Aloe elegans*.

*Aloe spicata*, aka Bottle-Brush Aloe, is a tree-forming type growing to six feet and produces three-foot long spikes of densely packed sessile greenish-yellow colored flowers dripping with nectar.

Keep in mind that the flower tissue of aloe blossoms is delicate and a cold snap will burn the flowers off the stalk. But the show doesn't have to end there. After the bloom, many of the dried stalks have such fascinating shapes, we've been known to cut them off, spray paint them, and display them on a fence or throughout the garden as natural sculpture.

Serra Gardens is a sponsor of SDHS. You can see these beautiful aloes, and many more succulents, by visiting Serra Gardens in Fallbrook. For details, and to make an appointment, see [www.serragardens.com](http://www.serragardens.com). 🌵

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*Aloe marlothii*

Pamla J. Eisenberg/DominusVobiscum Images

**FREE WORKSHOP SURVEY:** Please take a moment to complete the workshop survey included with this newsletter and hand it in at the January meeting or mail it by January 10th to Susi Torre-Bueno, 1941 Vista Grande Drive, Vista, CA 92084.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

**We welcome Botaniscapes by Tracey as our newest sponsor.  
See their ad on page 17 and visit [www.botaniscapes.com](http://www.botaniscapes.com).**

Clint Abbott & Clara Smith  
Pamela Bain  
Claris Everett & Chris Stawney  
Sandy Jacobs

Vicki Lugo  
Dale Mason  
Karen Miller  
Gary & Desiree Moring

Courtney Smith  
Merlene Williams  
Robert Wright

## 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)  | Carla Gilbert (1)   | Mike Masterson (1)      | Tammy Schwab (1)        |
| Debra Lee Baldwin (1)        | Irina Gronborg (1)  | Pat Miller (1)          | Dale Serafin (1)        |
| Tom Biggart (1)              | Nancy Groves (1)    | Desiree Moring (1)      | Robin Shifflet (1)      |
| Jim Bishop (5)               | Marilyn Guidroz (1) | Toni Munsel (1)         | Sue & Dick Streeper (1) |
| Vivian Blackstone (1)        | Cynthia Hays (2)    | Anne Murphy (1)         | Julia Swanson (1)       |
| Barbara Bolton (2)           | Heather Hazen (1)   | Lisa Newberg (1)        | Susi Torre-Bueno (1)    |
| Linda Bresler (4)            | Lorie Johansen (3)  | Tandy Pfost (1)         | Marcia Van Loy (1)      |
| Heather Callaghan (1)        | Neal King (1)       | Pt Loma Garden Club (1) | Pat Venolia (1)         |
| Susan Currie (1)             | Su Kraus (1)        | Mo Price (4)            | Elaine Villanova (1)    |
| Ann Dahnke (1)               | Claudia Kuepper (1) | Virginia Ruehl (1)      | Lucy Warren (2)         |
| Gigi Dearmas-Lopatriello (1) | Vince Lazaneo (1)   | Sally Sandler (1)       | Barbara Weiler (1)      |
| Bryan Diaz (1)               | Jen Jen Lin (1)     | San Diego Home/Garden   | Anne-Marie Weller (1)   |
| Dave Ericson (1)             | Don Lowe (1)        | Lifestyles (1)          | Roy Wilburn (1)         |
| Terry Fox (1)                | Mary Jo Martin (1)  | Sue Ann Scheck (3)      | Nancy Woodard (2)       |

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## LIFE MEMBERS \*Horticulturist of the Year

\*Chuck Ades (2008)

\*Walter Andersen (2002)

Norm Applebaum &  
Barbara Roper

\*Bruce & Sharon  
Asakawa (2010)

Gladys T. Baird

Debra Lee Baldwin

\*Steve Brigham (2009)

Laurie Connable

Julian & Leslie Duval

\*Edgar Engert (2000)

Jim Farley

Sue & Charles Fouquette

Penelope Hlavac

Joyce James

Debbie & Richard Johnson

\*Vince Lazaneo (2004)

\*Jane Minshall (2006)

\*Brad Monroe (2013)

\*Bill Nelson (2007)

Tina & Andy Rathbone

\*Jon Rebmam (2011)

Peggy Ruzich

San Diego Home/Garden

Lifestyles

Gerald D. Stewart

\*Susi Torre-Bueno (2012)

& Jose Torre-Bueno

Dorothy Walker

Lucy Warren

\*Evelyn Weidner (2001)

\*Pat Welsh (2003)

Betty Wheeler



# What's Up at

## San Diego BOTANIC GARDEN

By Lesley Randall, Plant Recorder

The Erythras are a widespread genus of trees and shrubs in the Fabaceae, or Pea Family. It is a large genus, with about 130 species that are found in tropical and subtropical regions worldwide. Many species grow well in southern California and are popular landscape plants. Erythras, or Coral Trees, are known for their striking flowers. Most species have bright red or orange flowers, but a few species have flowers that are pink, white or greenish.



Rachel Cobb

Erythras are bird pollinated. Typically, species from the New World are pollinated by hummingbirds and those from Old World regions are pollinated by perching birds. One can tell from the shape of the flower which type of bird is the pollinator. Flowers that are long, tubular, and oriented with their opening outward are pollinated by hummingbirds. Erythras with broader, gaping flowers, and an opening oriented back towards the branch are pollinated by perching birds. The legumes, or pods, of Erythras can be as interesting as the flowers. Many species have pods that are black that open to reveal bright red or red and black seeds. The pods often twist and contort into attractive, dramatic shapes.

San Diego Botanic Garden currently has 21 species of Erythra in its collection. Three specimens were planted during the Larabee era: *E. lysistemon*, behind the Gazebo; *E. coralloides*, outside the walled garden; and *E. caffra* at the top of the South American Garden. Another notable specimen is a yellow flowered variety of *E. caffra* planted in the Seeds of Wonder. Many of our Coral Trees begin to flower in early winter; some will begin in the spring, so for the next few months they will put on a show.

In recent years SDBG has acquired some species that are of conservation concern. We plan to continue this focus; working with staff at the San Diego Zoo to safeguard species that are threatened in the wild. ☘



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## PACIFIC HORTICULTURE TOURS

Don't miss the boat on Pacific Horticulture Society 2014 small-group tours. Although the April trip to Santa Barbara and July trip to England are sold out, limited space is open on three other fascinating journeys. May's trip to Morocco is small-group travel at its finest, featuring exclusive garden visits, cultural adventures and dinners in private homes. "From Boston to Bar Harbor" in July hits top public and private gardens in Boston before heading up the coast of Maine to see some terrific villages and gardens.



Wrapping up the tour season is a November safari "down under." Just when days here are getting shorter and nights are chilly, spring is bursting out all over Australia. What a great time to avoid winter blues and visit some of Australia's top horticultural highlights. We'll start in Sydney, then head off through the Blue Mountains and scenic highlands of New South Wales to the capital city of Canberra, then continue to the state of Victoria, where we'll visit charming townships like Daylesford, Dunkeld, and Sorrento, and Grampians National Park. The tour will end in the cultural city of Melbourne, where the annual Garden DesignFest will be taking place.

SDHS is an affiliate member of the Pacific Horticulture Society, producers of Pacific Horticulture magazine. Tours are operated by SDHS sponsor, Sterling Tours. More info is at [www.sterlingtoursld.com](http://www.sterlingtoursld.com).

## 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.

Fruit tree pruning workshop taught by Patty Berg

**FREE WORKSHOP SURVEY:** Please take a moment to complete the workshop survey included with this newsletter and hand it in at the January meeting or mail it by January 10th to Susi Torre-Bueno, 1941 Vista Grande Drive, Vista, CA 92084.

## UPDATING YOUR MEMBER PROFILE IS QUICK AND EASY

By Jim Bishop and Susi Torre-Bueno

Members can register for all our events at [www.sdhort.org](http://www.sdhort.org). And since this is the *only* way to register for featured gardens or workshops, and to access your digital newsletter, please take a minute to check that your member profile is up to date with your current email address. Be sure that there is a *different* email address for *both* people in your household membership, too, so you can *both* register for things. (An email can only be used *once* in the database, so two members cannot have the same email.) Here's the quick way to do this:

Login using your email address and password. (If you have a *new* email address, login using your last email address and edit your profile.) In the left column, above the newsletter image, click on **View profile**. This brings up a page with **My profile** at the top. Just below that is the **Edit profile** button you click on to make changes. Click the Edit profile button and a new screen shows all the information we have for you. Just move your cursor to any item (for example, your email address) and update it. While editing your profile, you can also tell us your volunteer interests and availability. *When you have finished entering your change(s) click the **Save** button near the bottom of the page to save this information.*

Near the top of the edit page you'll see **Bundle Summary**. If you have a **family** membership, the **Bundle limit** will be 2. If you have previously given us information for the other member in your family, the **Used so far** will also be 2.\* Below that, **Your members** will show the name of the other person and a link to their profile.

To update that person's profile, you simply click on their link, then click on **Edit profile** on the top of *their* page to add an email for the other member of your household (this must be different from your email). When finished editing click the **Save** button near the bottom of the page.

\* If **Used so far** is 1 when it should be 2, just add information about the other member of your household so they can register for events. Do this by clicking the **Add Member** button below Used so far and fill in the requested information. Then click the **Save** button near the bottom of the page.

\*\* If you have a *new* email address, login using your last email address and follow the instructions above to edit your profile to change the email address on your account.

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## SHARING SECRETS

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

**NOW 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 January was:

How do you mark the paths of your underground landscape wiring, and/or your dormant bulbs or perennials, so as to avoid slicing into them when you plant? (Thanks to Julie Hasl for suggesting this topic.)

**Bill Homyak**, a board member and also the Program Coordinator of the Landscape and Nursery Technology at Southwestern College, had provided this detailed reply:

Underground sprinkler control wires can be a pain, especially when they were not installed in the ground correctly. These wires only carry 24 volts, so they can legally and safely be directly buried in the ground without protective conduit. However, when they come out of the ground to join up with the controller, they should always be encased in a conduit pipe.

Most professional installers will bury the wire directly under the main line pipes that supply the valves. If they install the main line pipe at the proper depth of 18", then accidentally hitting the wires should never or very rarely occur. Sometimes they have to put them under a lateral pipe (a pipe that is downstream of a control valve), but even here the wires will be buried at 12" deep if the installer installed the lateral pipes at the proper depth.

However, there are times when these wires are in a trench all by themselves. Hopefully they were installed at least 12", deep but I have seen some lazy installations where they were only buried a few inches down. In this case, wire accidents are bound to happen.

Your best bet when discovering a poorly installed wiring system would be to remove the shallow wires and replace them into a deeper trench. Of course, this is a lot of work. I had one situation where I could not replace the entire wire system, but took out the shallow wires in the part of the landscape that the client wanted to frequently dig in. We had to cut the wires in two places and then re-route and re-dig them into a new deeper trench. This brings up a very important point:

Whenever you cut or break wires out in the landscape, make sure you do two things. First, encase all your new wire connections in water-proof splice connectors that you get from your local irrigation supply dealer. A simple wire nut and electrical tape will not do the job, and wire nuts that have gel in them also don't work well. Second, wherever you have to make any splices or repairs, cover those areas with a small round valve box. You never want to bury any splices with just soil, as you want to be able to find all splices that have been made out in the landscape should future wire problems occur.

One final idea would be to encase wires that might be frequently hit in conduit. Use grey schedule 80 PVC conduit pipe for this so that the pipe is not confused with an irrigation pipe.

**Barbara Patterson:** Sadly, I haven't marked anything, so I'm really, really, really looking forward to these answers. Not marking the location of bulbs, etc. does, however, provide some wonderful surprises!

**Cheryl Leedom:** I take photos of the underground wiring and irrigation lines as they're being installed. It shows me where they are for future planting and also for maintenance on the systems. I've found this to be invaluable and a real time saver. Not so lucky with the bulbs. Looking forward to seeing others' ideas for this one.

**Marilyn Wilson:** Alas, those little colored flags you buy at Home Depot don't hold up to the weather. I take cut flowers with me for visiting friends, the doctor, and the library. My garden is virtually inaccessible to visitors, so it doesn't have to look presentable. Most of irrigation and wiring is above ground; the fountain and all lights are solar anyway. For patches of bulbs, I outline with rocks. I will be interested to see how others solve the problem. I would *really* like colored flags to mark areas that need attention for another day, since my short-term memory was stolen by the government when they issued my Medicare card.

**Sue Fouquette:** I have accidentally sliced bulbs a number of times. When we moved here 26 years ago, Charley was using our rototiller, and white PVC and gopher fur were flying. I was dying laughing. We haven't had a gopher since.

**Gerald D. Stewart:** Thirty years ago, irrigation time clock direct burial wire was placed under the PVC pipes when the system was installed. Later, wires were covered with 8' lengths of extruded aluminum that were part of a system for holding double poly covers on the greenhouse roofs, back when the greenhouses were heated. Both have been successful in preventing wire damage. A more easily obtained solution would be to put the wire in PVC conduit. For marking bulbs I use PawPaw Label Company's zinc labels to mark the spot.

**Gary Raub:** Our low voltage garden wiring follows under and along the brick mow strip and/or along and under the edge of walkway hardscape. This took some planning early on when the yard was designed, but it makes the wiring location easy to remember.

**Dale Serafin:** I use zinc labels purchased at the Green Thumb Nursery and write in them with an oil based, thin point, black Sharpie.

**Tena Navarrete:** My partner suggested making a map of your yard. He is a contractor and does this for his projects.

**Vivian Blackstone:** I try to leave a telltale sign. For example, with iris, I trim them back but leave three little spikes sticking up until they grow another season. For several others I draw a sketch of the placement in the garden, and check back to see what's there.

**Katrin Utt:** I just use ordinary metal plant signs labeled "Bulbs here." I dig up some of the bulbs every two years to thin them out.

**Dan Petersen:** From long experience I've learned to put valve wiring in 1/2" electrical PVC. I don't accidentally slice it, my garden assistants do, even after warning. When I install wire I also install multi-strand wire, because I inevitably need it. Virtually all of my low-voltage lines get compromised within two years. I believe in lots of mulch, so beds are not static.

**Susi Torre-Bueno:** I mark my bulbs (actually, I do this for all my plants) with what is sold as a "Rose Label" from Paw Paw Everlast

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Label Company ([www.everlast.com](http://www.everlast.com)). I've been using these for at least 20 years, and they're amazingly rugged. The part you write upon, called a zinc nameplate, is 1-1/4" tall x 3-1/2" wide. This is enough room for me to write the Latin name and the date it was planted. I write this information twice. On the front of the label I write it first in a #2 pencil (which lasts virtually forever) and then go on top of this with a Deco Color opaque paint marker (I like a black fine line size). Then, I repeat the plant info on the reverse side in pencil only. The marker fades after 4-5 years, but the pencil should remain legible forever; so the info is always on the back even if it disappears from the front. I have found that Sharpie-type markers fade very quickly and using just the #2 pencil is sometimes hard to see.

### The question for February is:

What plant would you not want to be without, and why?

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

## SDHS FUNDRAISING FOR THE BALBOA PARK RESTORATION PROJECT

As described by Jim Bishop on page 2, we are raising funds to restore the gardens adjacent to the lily pond in Balboa Park. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 to help complete this pilot project in 2014. Visit our website ([www.sdhort.org](http://www.sdhort.org)) for information about making donations online and by mail. You can also make a donation at our meetings and other events. Every contribution is very welcome, and helps us reach our goal.

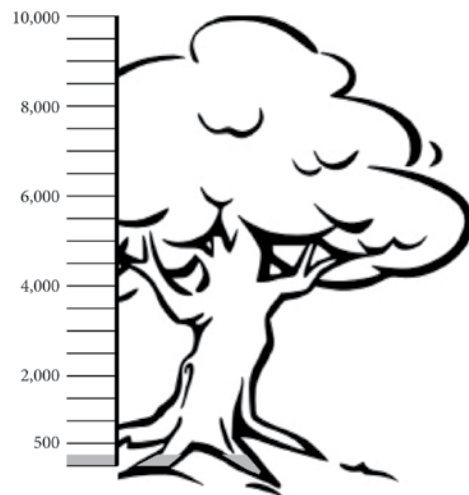
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## DECEMBER 2013 PLANT DISPLAY

By Steve Brigham, Pat Pawlowski 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.

#### **Phygelius 'Passionate Pink' CAPE FUCHSIA**

(Scrophulariaceae) Horticultural Hybrid

Cape Fuchsias originated in South Africa, and these evergreen shrubs are an asset in gardens, providing nectar for hummingbirds and very long blooming periods. They make good cut flowers, too. This new cultivar has tubular, hot pink flowers on sturdy stems. The blossoms are about 1-1/2" long, with a pale yellow center and hot pink stamens extending about 1/2" beyond the flower edge. It will grow from 18" to 30" tall and about 24-36" wide. Sources differ as to bloom period, but you can expect flowers at least from spring through fall (the specimen displayed was blooming in mid-December). It does well in the ground or in containers in full sun. Needs only moderate water; best in well-drained soil. Hardy to 25°F. (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 12/13) – S.T-B.

#### **Verbena lilacina 'De La Mina' BAJA BUTTERFLY FLOWER, CEDROS ISLAND VERBENA, BAJA VERBENA (Verbenaceae)**

Horticultural Selection

When considering the concept of "native" plants for San Diego gardens, we should always remember that we here have much more in common climate-wise with Baja California than we do with Northern California. In that sense, the showy and drought-tolerant Baja Butterfly Flower may be considered a "native", and in fact it is perfectly suited to our climate. This is an evergreen shrub that grows to around 18" tall and 3' wide, with lacy foliage of olive-green divided leaves. From spring through fall, it bears many clusters of small lavender flowers (they have a slight spicy fragrance) that attract butterflies. Hardy to at least 15°F, it grows quickly in full sun to part shade with average to very little watering. Rabbit resistant. The San Marcos Growers website



*Verbena lilacina 'De La Mina'*

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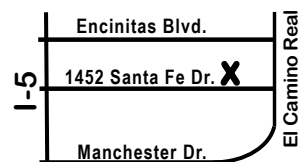
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([www.smgrowers.com](http://www.smgrowers.com)) notes that, "This plant was collected by Carol Bornstein, then Director of Horticulture at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, in the Canyon de la Mina on Cedros Island, an island off the west coast of Baja California. Although not native to California proper, the northern Pacific Ocean islands off Baja California have a mediterranean climate and are considered to be part of the California floristic province and so plants of this area are often treated as 'California Natives'. This selection differs from previous introductions of the species by having much deeper colored flowers." (Buena Creek Gardens, San Marcos, 3/05, 1/06, 1/07; Pat Pawlowski, El Cajon, 12/13) – S.B. & P.P.

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

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

Can you spot the phony plant this month? The phony plant in the November 2013 newsletter was *Salvia leucantha* 'Cotton Velour' MEXICAN PLUSH SAGE.

*Bulbophyllum* hybrid (Jim Wright, San Diego, 12/13)

*Grevillea* 'Constance' ORANGE AUSTRALIAN SPIDER-FLOWER  
(Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 12/13)

*Justicia fulvicoma* MEXICAN PLUME (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 12/13)

3 *Plectranthus comosus* (syns. *Coleus grandis*, *C. shirensis*, *Solenostemon shirensis*) (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 12/13)

*Salvia wagneriana* WAGNER'S SAGE (Marilyn Wilson, Vista, 12/13)

*Salvia wagneriana* 'White Bracts' PINK AND WHITE WAGNER'S SAGE (Marilyn Wilson, Vista, 12/13)

*Salvia wagneriana* 'Yellow Bracts' UNDISCOVERED WAGNER'S SAGE (Garden Lover, Vista, 12/13)

*Senna bicapsularis* (syn. *Cassia bicapsularis*)  
(Susanna Pagan, San Marcos, 12/13) ☞



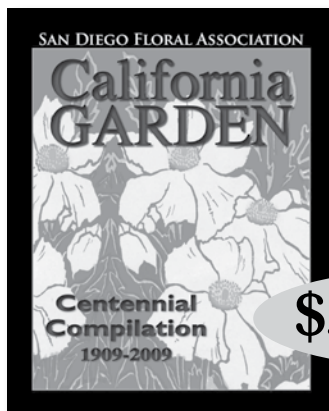
*Bulbophyllum* hybrid

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# DECEMBER MEETING REPORT

By Susi Torre-Bueno

Photos by Leigh Adams

It was a rare night for the SDHS – we were able to sip a delicious champagne mojito prepared at the bar! What fun to end the year with such a delightful speaker: the effervescent Amy Stewart, whose latest book, *The Drunken Botanist*, enjoyed a long stay on the New York Times Best Sellers list and was one of Amazon's top 100 books for 2013. Amy has been criss-crossing the country this year with a jam-packed speaking schedule, and we were her final presentation.

The inspiration for writing this book came from a chance encounter with a bottle of Aviator gin: in a flash of insight, Amy realized that *all* alcoholic beverages were derived from plants. When she also realized that the book about these plants had not yet been written, she was off and running. There are a multitude of plants that have been prepared for millennia to make intoxicating drinks. Some plants are fermented and distilled to make alcohol, others have their distinct scents and/or tastes extracted and infused into drinks, while a third category of plants is used to “muddle, mix and garnish” the cocktails and martinis we cheerfully imbibe.

Amy gave us a 2-minute science lesson: plants make and store glucose (in their fruit, tubers, stalks, etc.), which they can turn into sugar. Add sugar to a vat of tiny yeast organisms and the fermentation waste product of these organisms is alcohol and carbon dioxide. You can then distill the alcohol to increase its potency (or *proof*). Many liquors are made from a variety of plants, and vermouth, for example, is the tasty end product of about 5-10 kinds of plants,



Nancy Carol Carter with the San Diego Floral Assoc. sold gingerbread men and cut proteas

including grapes, rosemary, mace, saffron, vanilla, and more.

We learned about what goes into making a Manhattan; who knew that bourbon can be prepared from malted barley, corn, rye or wheat? Among other fascinating tidbits of fermentation lore, Amy told us that in the U.S. bourbon must be aged in a *new* oak barrel, which imparts the flavor of vanilla. There is a special mint used in Cuba to make Mojitos, and thanks to a secret (and savvy) tourist, this mint is now available in this country.

The story of today's mass-produced, highly processed, dyed and chemically-flavored maraschino cherries is enough to make you stop buying them. Fortunately, real maraschino cherries are still available for purchase- or you can make your own with the simple recipe in her book. Space doesn't permit me to provide more details here, so I urge you to buy her fascinating and funny book that will have you looking at your garden in a new way, champagne flute or highball glass in hand.



Rachel Cobb

Shopping for succulents.

In her closing remarks, Amy suggested that we take advantage of the bounty of citrus available in our gardens by checking out the recipes for citrus drinks at [www.drunkenbotanist.com](http://www.drunkenbotanist.com). Thanks, Amy, for a thoroughly enjoyable evening. 🍷

## THANK YOU MEETING DONORS!

We had a wealth of door prizes this month, and we thank all the donors for their generosity:

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MiraCosta College students sold poinsettias

## ■ Volunteers Needed Continued from page 9

and is a great way to meet some enthusiastic future horticulturists and support their efforts. If you can help, contact Volunteer Coordinator Patty Berg at [pattyjberg@gmail.com](mailto:pattyjberg@gmail.com) or call 760-815-0625.

### Liaison to Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair

Every year the SDHS selects 1-2 horticulturally-relevant projects to each be granted a \$100 Award For Excellence in design and execution at the Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair (GSDSEF). The GSDSEF Liaison is the head of a SDHS screening committee which views the projects, talks to the students, and selects the winners. The Liaison coordinates with the GSDSEF, invites the students to our meetings, and arranges for them to get their checks. This takes a few hours each year (the actual judging is on March 26<sup>th</sup> in Balboa Park), and is a great way to meet some high school and junior high school students and support their efforts. If you can help, contact Volunteer Coordinator Patty Berg at [pattyjberg@gmail.com](mailto:pattyjberg@gmail.com) or call 760-815-0625.

### 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](mailto:president@sdhort.org).

**RENEW NOW**  
(or share with a friend)

Please visit [www.sdhort.org](http://www.sdhort.org) to renew (or join).  
It's quick and easy!

| Membership Type                                     | Online Newsletter | Printed Newsletter |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Individual 1 year                                   | \$30              | \$42               |
| Individual 3 years                                  | \$80              | \$116              |
| Household 1 year                                    | \$45              | \$57               |
| Household 3 years                                   | \$125             | \$161              |
| Group or Business 1 year                            | \$50              | \$62               |
| Group or Business 3 years                           | \$140             | \$176              |
| Student 1 year<br>(Proof of enrollment is required) | \$16              | \$28               |
| Life Member                                         | \$700             | \$700              |

**Renew now at [www.sdhort.org](http://www.sdhort.org)**

### Pay online for dues or events:

When paying online on the website you do not need a PayPal account. To pay with a Credit Card, click on the "Don't have a PayPal account?" link at the bottom of the payment page and this brings up instructions for paying with a credit card.

### Need 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](mailto:susannapagan@gmail.com). ☞

## DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS

(see ads for more discounts)

Get a 15% discount at Briggs Tree Co.  
([www.briggstree.com](http://www.briggstree.com); tell them to look up the "San Diego Hort Society Member" account).

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

Join Grangetto's FREE Garden Club for coupons and tips delivered to your inbox. [www.grangettos.com/garden](http://www.grangettos.com/garden).

Davey Tree Expert Company offers a 10% discount to SDHS members.

Get a 25% discount at all 5 locations of San Diego Hydroponics & Organics ([www.sdhidroponics.com](http://www.sdhidroponics.com)). ☞

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# SDHS Spring Garden Tour April 5th: Exceptional Surf & Turf Gardens



Nathalie Belanger

These views are from the lovely Solana Beach garden of Paul Nyerges and Lynn Weston. See page 2 to learn more.

## SDHS SPONSOR



### San Diego County Water Authority eGuide to a WaterSmart Lifestyle



The "eGuide to a WaterSmart Lifestyle" is your go-to resource for living water-efficiently in San Diego County. This free digital magazine includes:

- Inspirational plant & garden photos
- Helpful videos
- Plant finders
- Interactive maps
- Animated graphics
- Home & garden calculators
- Design tools
- Rebates & Incentives

Visit [watersmartsd.org/residential-guide](http://watersmartsd.org/residential-guide)



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## SDHS Spring Garden Tour: Exceptional Surf & Turf Gardens



This koi pond is one small area of the extraordinary garden of two Solana Beach artists, Erik & Irina Gronborg. See page 2.

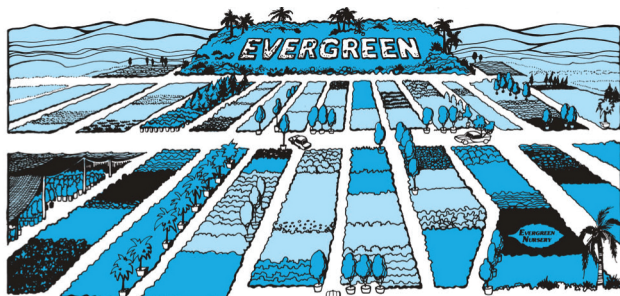
## What's Happening? for JANUARY 2014

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

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

### ▼ SDHS Sponsor

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### PROMPT DELIVERY AVAILABLE

**December Hours - call to confirm**

Monday–Saturday 7:30–8:00; Sunday 9:00–8:00

## Free Monthly Seminar

*First Saturday of every month*

*Starting at 10am at two locations:*

*Carmel Valley and Oceanside*

### January 4: Landscaping & Maintaining Your Garden in Winter

We are fortunate to be able to be outside in our garden all year. Lots of people are buried in snow while we can do the feeding, planting, and pruning (free pruners to all participants) necessary to have a beautiful garden throughout the year. We will discuss all these things and more.

Each FREE seminar is about 1 hour long. Refreshments will be provided. Seminar attendees will receive a coupon for an instant discount for any purchases made the day of the seminar!

To view our entire seminar schedule and check  
our hours of operation, visit us at

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

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

### Three Convenient Locations:

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*NEW location (limited hours, call first):

**EL CAJON**  
9708 Flinn Springs Rd., (619) 443-0873

## Events at Public Gardens

❖ **Alta Vista Gardens** contact info on other side  
See [www.avgardens.org](http://www.avgardens.org) for events & classes.

❖ **San Diego Botanic Garden** contact info on other side  
**Jan. 18, 10am-noon, Free Composting Workshop:** Basics of backyard composting and vermicomposting. To register visit [www.solanacenter.org/free-compost-workshops](http://www.solanacenter.org/free-compost-workshops).

❖ **The Water Conservation Garden**

Register at [www.thegarden.org](http://www.thegarden.org); contact info on other side

**Jan. 4, 10am-noon, Proper Pruning Practices:** Certified Arborist Jose Bedoya demonstrates the dos and don'ts of pruning. FREE.

**Jan. 11, 10am-noon, Hillside Gardening:** Landscape designer Connie Beck will show you how to make the best out of gardening on a slope. Topics include erosion control, proper plant choices, terracing and planting for retaining walls. A colorful slide show of several San Diego hillside gardens will reveal the creative possibilities unique to this style of gardening. FREE.

## Events Hosted by SDHS Sponsors:

Please thank them for supporting SDHS!

✿ **Barrels & Branches Classes & Workshops**

Info: [events.barrelsandbranches@gmail.com](mailto:events.barrelsandbranches@gmail.com) or (760) 753-2852. See ad on page 17.

✿ **Cedros Gardens, Saturday and Sunday FREE classes.**

Details at [www.cedrosgardens.com](http://www.cedrosgardens.com).

✿ **City Farmers Nursery Workshops**

See [www.cityfarmersnursery.com](http://www.cityfarmersnursery.com).

✿ **Cuyamaca College**

**Jan. 22, 6:00-8:00pm, Ornamental Horticulture Dept. Orientation:** For new and prospective students. Room M-111. FREE.  
See [www.cuyamaca.edu/ohweb](http://www.cuyamaca.edu/ohweb).

✿ **Evergreen Nursery FREE Seminar Each Month**

See column at left for details.

✿ **Sunshine Care FREE Seminar Each Month**

**Jan. 18, 10:30am, Life is too short for crummy roses:** Learn to simplify their care, and to make it easy to succeed. FREE.  
Address in ad on page 14. Info: (858) 752-8197 or [www.sunshinecare.com](http://www.sunshinecare.com).

✿ **Walter Andersen Nursery FREE Saturday Classes**

Details at [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com); addresses in ad on page 15.

|         | <b>Point Loma, 9am</b>           | <b>Poway, 9:30am</b> |
|---------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Jan. 4  | Deciduous Fruit Tree Pruning     | Rose Pruning         |
| Jan. 11 | Selecting Bare Root Fruit Trees  | Fruit tree pruning   |
| Jan. 18 | Pruning & Planting New Roses     | Spring Bulbs         |
| Jan. 25 | Camellia & Azalea Culture & Care | Xeriscape            |

**Jan. 15, 10:00am, Poway Nursery:**

**Bare Root Fruit Trees, Selecting & Planting:**  
**Free workshop for SDHS members!**

**Register at [www.sdhort.org](http://www.sdhort.org).**

Learn from expert David Ross. The best fruit comes from one's own trees, and the best selection of deciduous fruit trees is available right now! Trees planted now will begin producing as soon as next year. Make proper selections, and you could enjoy fresh fruit from your own yard, from late March until November or December.

✿ **Weidners' Gardens classes & workshops**

See [www.weidners.com](http://www.weidners.com) or call (760) 436-2194.

## Next SDHS Meeting

**January 13:**

## Native Plants of Chile

**See page 1 for details**

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

## Free workshops for SDHS members!

Details & registration at [www.sdhort.org](http://www.sdhort.org)

### Jan. 15, Bare Root Fruit Trees: Selecting & Planting

Make proper selections, and you could enjoy fresh fruit from your own yard from late March until November or December.

### Jan. 25, Mediterranean Plants & Proper Irrigation

A tour of a large garden in La Jolla; learn about the design decisions as well as the irrigation system installed.

### Feb. 1, Companion Gardening with Chickens (see page 8)

Learn how to successfully companion garden with chickens, and all that they give back to one's garden.

## Other Garden-Related Events:

### Check with hosts to confirm dates & details

♦ **Jan. 3, noon, Vista Garden Club:** Herb of the Year & Amendments for our Soil. McClellan Senior Center, 1200 Vale Terrace, Vista. Info: [www.vistagardenclub.org](http://www.vistagardenclub.org).

♦ **Jan. 8, 10am, Point Loma Garden Club:** Attracting butterflies and hummingbirds to your garden. 2818 Avenida de Portugal. Info: [www.plgc.org](http://www.plgc.org) or (619) 222-9304.

♦ **Jan. 8, 10am, Poway Valley Garden Club:** Learn about the Master Gardeners' new educational program, "Certified Earth-Friendly Gardens." 14134 Midland Road, Poway. Info: [www.powayvalleygardenclub.org](http://www.powayvalleygardenclub.org) or (760) 743-9500.

♦ **Jan. 14, 10am, Dos Valles Garden Club:** Earthworms in the Garden. 31020 Cole Grade Rd., Valley Center. Info: [www.dosvallesgardenclub.org](http://www.dosvallesgardenclub.org).

♦ **Jan. 14, 1:30pm, Begonia Society:** Bring your favorite begonia and tell attendees what you like about this begonia. 423 Rancho Santa Fe Road, Encinitas. Info: (760) 815-7914 or [marla.keith@cox.net](mailto:marla.keith@cox.net).

♦ **Jan. 16, 1-3:30pm, Bernardo Gardeners Club:** Evelyn Weidner on getting a head start on that spring garden and show. \$5. 16955 Bernardo Oaks Drive. Info: [www.bernardogardeners.org](http://www.bernardogardeners.org).

♦ **Jan. 26, 10am-noon, Solana Center Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop:** \$25/person. 137 N. El Camino Real, Encinitas. Info and registration: [www.solanacenter.org](http://www.solanacenter.org).

♦ **Jan. 27, 2pm Lake Hodges Native Plant Club:** Greg Rubin on solving the mysteries of California native plants. 17110 Bernardo Center Drive, San Diego. Info: (858) 487-6661 or [www.lhnpc.org](http://www.lhnpc.org).

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

## and may your garden delight you in 2014!

**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, our Calendar Editor, at [calendar@sdhort.org](mailto:calendar@sdhort.org).*

## San Diego County Farmers Markets

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

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

## Resources & Ongoing Events

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### BALBOA PARK:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Garden TV and Radio Shows:

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

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