

Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

May 2015, Number 248

Interesting and Rare Palms for Southern California

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On the Cover: *Roystonea regia*

SDHS GARDENS THEN & NOW TOUR A GREAT SUCCESS!

See page 3 and outside back cover.



Top left to right
Mediterranean Estate
Old Home, New Garden
Cosy Casita
(Jim Bishop & Scott Borden)
Gardeners Paradise

Bottom left to right
Canyon Comeback
History on a Canyon

Photos: Barbara Raub

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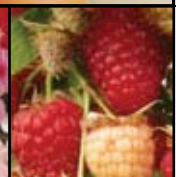
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sdhs



2015 Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale

Presented by

The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society

June 6th & 7th

At **Balboa Park** in

The Casa Del Prado

Show: Room 101, Sat June 6, 10 to 3, Sun June 7, 10 to 4

Sale: Courtyard, Sat June 6, 10 to 5, Sun June 7, 10 to 4
SDCSS Members only shopping Sat Jun 6, 9am to 10am

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

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

Potting service will be available along with cultural information

See a great selection of “water wise” plants for landscaping.

For additional information visit: www.sdcss.net

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



**SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM**

The newsletter, *Espinas y Flores*, is e-mailed to each member household each month. Annual dues (e-mailed newsletter) are \$15.00 per year per individual, and \$5.00 per year for each additional household member. **First class delivery of a paper copy of the newsletter is available for an additional \$10.00** to cover the cost of printing and postage. *Each member has all the rights and benefits of the organization.*

Annual Dues (E-mailed newsletter) \$15.00 _____

USA Delivery of Printed Copy (optional) \$ 10.00 _____

International Delivery of Printed Copy (opt.) \$15.00 _____

Additional Household Member(s) \$ 5.00 _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

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Check **ONE** for type of membership: **NEW** _____ **RENEWAL** _____

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

Member Information: (Please PRINT to fill in blanks below!!!)

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(Below, fill in new or changed info only)

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ADDITIONAL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS:

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

**SDCSS Membership Department
c/o Paul Maker
1245 San Pablo Drive
San Marcos, CA 92078-4816**

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a Fair to Remember
2018 SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR
A Fair to Remember

Please Join Us
June 5th
Opening Night In The Garden Show
For an Exclusive
Specially Priced Wine & Cheese Reception
&
Free Docent Tours
Hosted by
San Diego Horticultural Society
Meet at the Wine Bar in the Garden Show
Between 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm



WATERWISE BOTANICALS
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June 5th & 6th
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WHEN IN DROUGHT

Save every day, every way.

This is Serious
Water Conservation is Mandatory

Mandatory conservation measures include:

- Limiting outdoor watering days and times
- Watering only during the late evening or early morning hours
- Eliminating runoff from irrigation systems
- Repairing all leaks within 72 hours
- Using hoses with shut-off valves for washing cars (or use commercial car washes that re-circulate water)

Local rules vary. Find restrictions in effect in your community at **whenindrought.org**.

Severe Drought

San Diego County Water Authority

SDHS GARDENS THEN & NOW TOUR A GREAT SUCCESS!

See page 3 and inside front cover.



Top left to right
Classic Colonial, Mexican Connection. Milton Sessions Original

Bpttom left to right
Unrivald Spanish Revival, Richard Requa Classic, Blue Lagoon
Photos: Barbara Raub

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San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society
Calendar/Resources/Ongoing Events

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Renewal information is on page 20 and at www.sdhort.org.
For questions contact membership@sdhort.org
or Jim Bishop at (619) 296-9215.

MEETING SCHEDULE

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

MEETINGS & EVENTS

(FW = Free workshop; FG = Featured Garden; register at www.sdhort.org)

- May 5 Gardening for Birds and Butterflies (FW) – see page 2
- June 8 SDHS Night at the Fair
- June 13 Colorful Foliage for Low-Water Gardens (FW)
- July 13 Martin Grantham on Rush to Restios: Choices for San Diego Gardens
- August 10 California Bees & Blooms
- September 14 Rebecca Sweet on Refresh Your Garden Design



www.sdhort.org

COVER IMAGE: The graceful *Roystonea regia* (Cuban royal palm) on the cover was photographed by our speaker, Dr. Phil Bergman. Learn about this exceptional beauty, and many more, at our May meeting.

NEXT MEETING: MAY 11, 2015, 6:00 – 8:30 PM

Speaker: Dr. Phil Bergman on *Interesting and Rare Palm Trees That Can Be Grown in Southern California*

Meeting is open and everyone is welcome. Admission: Members/free, Non-Members/\$15. Parking is free.

Meeting Place: Del Mar Fairgrounds, Surfside Race Place, Del Mar; Info: (619) 296-9215

We welcome Dr. Phil Bergman, well-known author and speaker on palm trees and cycads in Southern California, and owner of Jungle Music Nursery in Encinitas, where he has been propagating and growing many types of rare tropical plants for the past 38 years. In Southern California you often see the same palms over and over again, such as the Queen Palm, Mexican Fan Palm and Pygmy Date Palm, but there are scores of other beautiful palm trees that thrive in our area and add diversity and beauty to the garden. With this presentation you will learn about over 75 beautiful and rare species that you can easily grow, including some newly introduced species of *Dypsis*, *Ravenea*, *Roystonea* and *Hyophorbe*. The presentation will cover cultural requirements, mature sizes, special needs and any hidden secrets to successful growth.

Dr. Bergman began Jungle Music Nursery in 1977, and there he grows over 1000 species of tropical plants, with a quarter million plants for sale. The specialty has been palms, and the nursery is known country-wide for being a source for rare plant material. His website, www.junglemusic.net, was one of the first palm websites in the world. It contains over sixty articles that he authored on the cultivation and care of palms and cycads, and more than 5000 plant photographs, including both habitat pictures and domestic plantings. Dr. Bergman holds a biology degree from Stanford University and a medical degree from UC San Francisco Medical School, and has been a practicing emergency physician with Scripps Hospitals for 38 years. He is past President of both the Southern California and International Palm Societies.

For more information on palms see page 6. 🌴



SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Established September 1994

BOARD MEMBERS

Kim Alexander - Member at Large
Cindy Benoit - Membership Chair
Patty Berg - Volunteer Chair
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Sam Seat - Treasurer
Susan Starr - Garden Tour Chair
Susi Torre-Bueno - Newsletter Editor, Past President
Roy Willburn - Member at Large

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

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

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

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New Email? New Street Address?

Please send all changes (so you will continue to receive the newsletter and important notices) to membership@sdhort.org or SDHS, Attn: Membership, PO Box 231869, Encinitas, CA 92023-1869. We NEVER share your email or address with anyone!

BECOME A SPONSOR!

**Do you own a
garden-related business?**

SDHS sponsorships have high recognition and valuable benefits, including a link to your website, discounts on memberships for your employees, and free admission to SDHS events. This is a wonderful way to show your support for the SDHS. Sponsors help pay for our monthly meetings, annual college scholarships, and other important programs. Sponsorships start at just \$100/year; contact Jim Bishop at sponsor@sdhort.org. Sponsors are listed on page 10; look for "SDHS Sponsor" above their ads. We thank them for their support.

FREE WORKSHOP:

Gardening for Birds and Butterflies
Saturday, May 5, 10 a.m. to noon or 1 to 3 p.m.

Our free workshop teacher, Marcia Van Loy, is a Master Gardener and has gardened for over 30 years in the Clairemont area. Her garden is a Certified Wildlife Habitat, and an Earth Friendly Garden, and was featured in the *San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles* magazine's April 2013 edition.

The workshop will focus on the benefits to your garden of attracting birds, hummingbirds and butterflies; the types of plants and habitat that provide food sources and shelter; supplementing nesting materials; and ways to keep the environment safe for these creatures. Marcia will also share how she removed her front lawn and replaced it with a beautiful bed of hummingbird and butterfly plants, and the challenges of growing on her backyard slope. Reference material will be provided. Marcia made the birdhouses shown here, in a photo by Jeannine Romero from her blog: gardenenvy.net/2013/05/this-garden-is-for-birds.html.

Class will be held on Saturday, May 5, and there are two sessions offered: 10 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.; each is limited to 25 members. Carpooling is recommended. Additional details and registration are at sdhort.wildapricot.org/Workshops. ☘



Jeannine Romero

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do more than belong: participate. Do more than care: help. Do more than believe: practice.

Do more than be fair: be kind. Do more than forgive: forget. Do more than dream: work.

(William Arthur Ward)

Docents Wanted for Opening Night at the San Diego County Fair

There will be a special wine and cheese reception in the Flower & Garden Show this year on Opening Night, Friday, June 5. We need about a dozen people to lead tours of the display gardens. You'll get free admission, a snazzy Fair 2015 shirt, and be among the first to see this year's marvelous display gardens. If interested and available from approximately 4-8 p.m. on Friday, June 5, please look for the sign up info on our website under EVENTS.

Garden Hosts Wanted for "A Fair to Remember"

As in past years, we will need about 100 shifts covered by volunteers at our display garden at the 2015 San Diego County Fair. In exchange for about four hours of your time, you'll get free admission to the Fair. Volunteers will answer questions about our display garden and plants in general, and encourage interested folks to become members of SDHS. See our website for details and to sign up for a shift or two.

Tech Support Help at Meetings:

Do you have video and tech support skills, and also love to garden? We need a tech-savvy volunteer to help load speaker presentations onto a laptop prior to our monthly meeting, and to assist the speaker. Also, we are looking for an individual who can load past presentations onto the internet. Contact Jim Bishop: president@sdhort.org.

Newsletter Advertising Manager Needed

Here's a fun opportunity for members who like to work with local garden businesses and clubs: we need a detail-oriented person to be our newsletter advertising manager. This takes only 1-2 hours per month, and you'll be working with current advertisers, plus potential advertisers. For details contact Susi Torre-Bueno at 760-295-2173 or storrebueno@cox.net.

☘



FROM THE BOARD

By Jim Bishop

Spring Garden Tour

With about 1500 garden enthusiasts attending, our April 11 tour was the largest and most successful event SDHS has ever hosted! *Gardens Then & Now* featured gardens in historic neighborhoods of San Diego near Balboa Park. The gardens showcased home gardens inspired by the 1915 California-Panama Exposition, with landscapes that featured outdoor living spaces marked by patios, fountains, pools, tile work, and plantings. The gardens recalled San Diego's romanticized past inspired by Balboa Park. We were able to observe how this legacy has been preserved and enhanced in gardens in neighborhoods near the Park.

Special thanks to Susan Starr, the Tour Chairperson. She is wonderful at organization and follow up, and such a pleasure to work with. Susan put in countless volunteer hours planning, scheduling and working to make sure that everything ran so smoothly. Her careful attention to detail created an enjoyable and educational experience for all who attended.

We partnered with the San Diego Floral Association, helping make the tour a success. Tour goers received a commemorative copy of their bi-monthly magazine, *California Garden*, with a special wrapper by Rachel Cobb, which also served as a guide to the gardens.

Thank you to Patty Berg for coordinating the volunteers, and, of course, to all of the volunteers without whose help the tour wouldn't be possible. Thanks also to Mo Price, who coordinated the large and successful vendor fair with Floral. Thanks to Barbara Raub for recruiting and organizing the artists in the garden, and for garden photography for the newsletter. Our thanks and appreciation goes to the vendors and artists who participated. And, of course, a BIG THANK YOU to all the garden owners for all the time and effort they put into preparing and sharing their gardens.

We are already looking for area or neighborhood to host next year's tour. If you know of an area of San Diego County with great private gardens, please let us know.

San Diego County Fair Garden Exhibit

This year's SDHS exhibition garden at the San Diego County Fair will be an interpretation of the Alcazar garden in Balboa Park. The Alcazar garden was designed in 1935 by San Diego architect Richard Requa, who patterned it after the famous gardens of Alcazar Castle in Seville, Spain. Our recreation will feature a large mural of Balboa Park as a backdrop, and a waterless interpretation of one of the fountains in the garden, surrounded by four benches. Behind these are four formal planting beds planted with a tapestry of succulents and low water plants.

We are fortunate to have SDHS sponsor and landscape designer Marilyn Guidroz help with the installation of the garden. Marilyn will be working with a class of Landscape Design students from MiraCosta College to implement the design.

We are privileged to again have the garden sponsored by the San Diego Water County Authority (see page 21). We will soon start signing up volunteers to staff the garden during the Fair. Look for more information in upcoming monthly email messages. This is our

largest outreach and education program, and a great way to tell the public about San Diego Horticultural Society. This year's message of saving water through proper plant choices and gardening techniques will be of particular importance to Fair goers as our epic drought continues.

And don't forget to save the date of June 8th when we'll have our exclusive "Night at the Fair" meeting and also honor our 2015 Horticulturalist of the Year, Kathy Puplava. From 1988 until 2005, Kathy was a horticulturist for the City of San Diego, Park & Recreation Department, and responsible for operation and management aspects of approximately 1200 acres of park land, including Balboa Park, Presidio Park and Mission Hills Park. 🌿

SPRING GARDEN TOUR AN AMAZING SUCCESS

By Susan Starr

What is the recipe for a record-breaking garden tour?

Take a 4-member coordinating committee who started looking for gardens six months in advance: Jim Bishop and Susan Starr (SDHS), and Kay Harry and Cheryl Gaidmore (SDFA). Add 12 homeowners who were willing to share their gorgeous gardens with us: Bobbie Bohannon, Paola & Piero Bonissone, Robert & Jane Bowen, Jim Bishop & Scott Borden, Beth Callendar & Pete Garcia, Wally & Frankie Hartwell, Jack & Deb Pate, Ellen Preston, Ron Rooney & Carlo Menor, Robin Shifflet, and Laura Wile. Mix in a spectacular marketplace and opportunity drawing, arranged by the imaginative and energetic Mo Price, who recruited most of the 28 vendors and single-handedly organized the drawing in which 800 tour goers participated. Whisk in an outstanding writer, Jeannine Romero, who visited and described each garden for the newsletter, website, and program. Then, slowly pour in an appealing website, beautiful flyers and an online ticketing system created by Jim Bishop.



Barbara Raub

Let sit for a couple of months

Now, add online ticket sales coordinated with amazing tact and patience by Susan Morse. Stir in feature articles describing two of the gardens, one article in the *Union Tribune* and another in *San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles*, written by the ever-talented Mary James, who also edited the final program. Combine all of these ingredients with wonderfully effective publicity in social media and flyers at local nurseries, both contributed by SDHS Public Relations Chair, Susanna Pagan. Flavor with 60-plus day of tour volunteers (see below), recruited and assigned by the incredible Patty Berg. Blend in six artists recruited and coordinated by Barbara Raub (who also took the photos in this issue). Top with plant descriptions from Joan Herskowitz, newsletter articles edited by Susi Torre-Bueno, and layout from Rachel Cobb.

Just before serving

Fold in signage and balloons from the creative Rachele Melious, who not only put up the wayfinding signs, but also assembled a stash of signs, supplies and placards so every SDHS homeowner could have what they needed. Enhance with smooth day of ticket

Continued on page 9

THE REAL DIRT ON...

Michael Heseltine

By Carol Buckley

Politics may make strange bedfellows, but what about a politician whose pasture upon semi-retirement becomes his compelling political statement? Michael, Lord Heseltine, former deputy prime minister under John Major, has proven that there are second acts in British politics, for he has become a noted arborist in Great Britain.

Heseltine and his wife, Anne, live on the grand estate of Thenford Hall, an 18th century Palladian structure built on the ruins of a medieval manor off the Banbury Road. Not to the manor born (he was made a peer in 2001), Baron Heseltine was born in 1933 in Swansea, Wales, and amassed a fortune from the Haymarket publishing firm cum media group. He purchased Thenford (up to 70 acres according to the source) in 1976 and began a project that culminated in the largest arboretum in Europe. To transform the overgrown garden, he consulted the late Sir Harold Hillier of Hillier Nurseries, who replenished Britain's plant stock after World War II. Hillier was notable for his collection of seeds from around the world. The estate preserves the old, including medieval fishponds, but overlays contemporary touches, such as in its garden of modern sculpture, which boasts a bust of Lenin. Playful postmodernist George Carter redesigned the two-acre walled garden.

When Heseltine was made vice president of the Royal Horticultural Society at the annual at Hampton Court flower show, RHS president Giles Coode-Adams remarked that the arboretum included "4,000 different varieties of trees and shrubs." (Local residents refer to it as Tarzan's Jungle, a reference to 1980s cartoons of Heseltine as Tarzan.) Proving that handing a spade to a child spurs a lifelong love, Heseltine responded, "I have been a gardener to my certain knowledge since I was seven" (HorticultureWeek.co.uk, July 10, 2009). He gave credit for the prominence of his garden to his wife and their head gardener, Darren Webster, who was the top student in his class at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, School of Horticulture, and who, as late as 2012, was collecting plants in Africa for Kew and the Edinburgh Botanic Garden (Lydia Elkington, Facebook, October 5, 2012).

Heseltine takes gardening seriously and has used it to take the British love of gardens to a new level: economic. In 1984, Liverpool was the site of the first International Garden Festival, an idea of Heseltine's to help revitalize Liverpool's flagging economy. Derelict dockyards on the Mersey were transformed into 60 individual gardens. As he stated before a horticulture conference in 2009, "We have picked up on the concept of how horticulture is a force for change economically, culturally and socially. It is the very essence of how we live" (HorticultureWeek.co.uk, August 7, 2009). His garden is open to booked tours. 🌿



Financial Times

BOOK REVIEW

Monet's Garden: Through the Seasons at Giverny

By Vivian Russell

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh

I don't generally fall in love with famous people, but I have with Claude Monet.

He first came to Giverny, France, and to the property, an abandoned cider farm, that was his home the rest of his life, after one of his many evictions. He could no longer afford the rents in Paris. He moved his two children, his mistress, later wife, and her six children to the country, and started his work on the garden and garden paintings for which he was so famous. He was 43 years old, and one of the founders of Impressionism.

Monet was never a rich hobbyist. He was an obsessed gardener who loved every moment he spent there. He loved to plant the latest discovery. He traded plants and gave plants, cuttings, vegetables, fruit, and flowers to his visitors and friends. He welcomed casual passersby in to see the latest changes. And, of course, he was always looking for new colors in flowers that he hoped to reproduce in his paintings.

Gradually, his paintings started to sell. When they did, he invested more and more in the garden. Finally, he bought adjacent property and, in 1893, built his famous water garden with its iconic water lilies.

He loved his garden so much, that when he died in 1926 after 43 years there, he asked that his gardeners be his pallbearers at his unpretentious funeral, during which he was buried in his beloved soil of Giverny.

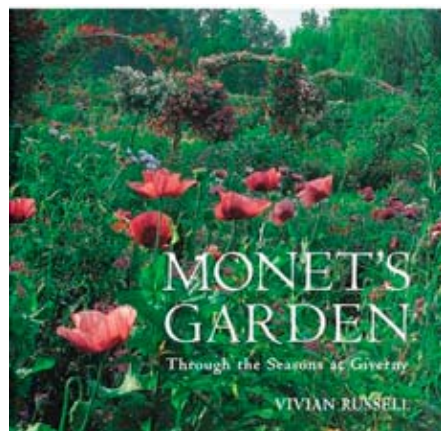
After his death, the garden sat not quite abandoned, but with minimal upkeep for fifty years due to lack of money. Then, thanks to work and donations from America, it was reestablished and opened to the public. And you can do something no one else could do in Monet's time. You may paint where he did.

This book is stunning. The garden is so beautiful it's hard to imagine taking bad photos. These lush swaths of color astonish the eye. The author has provided us with photos of the garden (most by her) paired with the paintings of the same scene. The result is wonderful.

The book includes chapters devoted to spring, summer, and fall and a comparison of the building of the original garden with the effort to reawaken it in 1975.

A year ago, I favorably reviewed *Renoir's Garden* by Derek Fell, published in 1992 by the same publisher, Frances Lincoln, as *Monet's Garden*. It might be worth your while to check out their catalog on line. Gardening books are one of their specialties.

Monet's Garden (ISBN 978-0711209886) is not a recent book. It was published in 1995, but it's easily available on the internet and well worth finding. 🌿



TREES, PLEASE

Dutch Elm Disease

By Tim Clancy

The American elm (*Ulmus americana*) was not prized for wood. They were hard to split, held so much water they were difficult to burn, and rotted quickly when used as fence posts and when cut for lumber warped and twisted so much it was unusable. The tree, however, was greatly admired for its beauty and grace and reminded many European settlers of home due to its resemblance to the English elm (*Ulmus minor*).



Dutch Elm Disease affecting a mature English Elm

The American elm was also a very tough tree. It was able to survive the harshest conditions of American cities, and was heavily planted in the late 19th century. Minneapolis had 600,000 specimens, Detroit and Cincinnati each had 400,000, while Dallas had 150,000. By the 1930s, some 25 million trees were planted throughout the country. Americans had found the tree that would shade their picnics and homes. It was, however, a love affair that was doomed.

It is apt that when we pronounce the acronym for Dutch elm disease (DED) we are also describing the outcome of the disease for the infected trees, which is dead. Near the end of WWI, trees in Holland were exhibiting symptoms of leaf scorch and bark die-back in massive numbers. At first the war itself was blamed as the culprit, the thinking being that the trees were reacting to heavy artillery fire and nerve gas. But the disease spread to areas not involved in the conflict and scientists suspected something else was causing the problem. The disease was identified as a fungus (*Ophiostoma ulmi*) by a Dutch research scientist in 1922. The fungus moved from tree to tree courtesy of the elm-bark beetle.

A quarantine against importing nursery stock, which was enacted in 1918 (a reaction to chestnut blight), was thought to be a defense mechanism against DED. Pathologists were worried that the disease would eventually make it to the United States and they were correct. In 1930, an infected tree was identified in Cleveland. The USDA found an additional 8 trees and had them destroyed to try and contain the disease. By 1933, 361 trees in New Jersey were infected and trees with the disease were found in New York.

The disease was tracked to elm burls imported to the country for use in furniture making. The burls contained both the fungus and its vector. Because the burls were shipped to furniture makers in Ohio, the disease showed up there. The burls had been coming to America for four years prior to the Cleveland outbreak.

The government spent untold millions of dollars to combat the disease and tried multiple strategies to protect the tree that had become an integral part of the American landscape. It was, however, futile and by 1980, 77 million American elms were just memories. It was also a lesson that spawned the birth of urban forestry. We realized that we had all our eggs in one basket and change was needed. ☘

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

She Fancies Trees without the Sneeze

By Patty Berg, Volunteer Coordinator

Just like the old recruiting posters promised, if you marry a sailor, you'll get to see the world.

Or a good part of it, for sure. That was how perennial volunteer Rachele Melious learned to love gardening in so many varied climates around North America and even exotic locales such as Egypt.

Rachele grew up playing in the woods of Virginia, building tree forts and splashing through creeks. Those woodlands and riparian habitats eventually gave way to new postings in Florida, Connecticut, the Middle East, and finally to our Mediterranean climate here in coastal San Diego. Since her husband has now retired from the Navy, Rachele expects to enjoy gardening here for a good long time. After exploring the new plant palette, she found that she favors California natives and has also become a tireless advocate for planting more trees.

A certified arborist, Rachele is the former owner of Mr. G's Trees, a nursery that specialized in trees known to be low on the allergy-causing spectrum. She became an Aeroallergen specialist and is able to identify annoying pollen in air samples. Although she closed the nursery awhile back, she continues to be involved in fighting the good fight for more trees throughout San Diego County.

"We need more trees!" says Rachele. "People think they take too much water, but in fact they use far less water than turf. And there's nothing better than to stop for a rest or to eat lunch in the shade of a big tree on a hot day."

An avid hiker who gets out there almost every weekend, Rachele loves to share her passion for plants. Helping others become more knowledgeable so that they, too, will enjoy gardening is something that just comes naturally.

And thanks to Rachele, many allergy-prone gardeners have a great resource that lets them go play in the dirt, just like the rest of us, sneeze-free. ☘



2015 ENVIRO FAIR

Join the Fun on June 6
At the San Diego County Fair



Save the Date and join us for the 16th Annual Enviro Fair on Saturday, June 6, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Garden Show at the San Diego County Fair. Sponsored by Albertsons/Vons, the San Diego County Ford Dealers and Think Blue (sandiego.gov/thinkblue), Enviro Fair will stress the importance of sustainable living, pollution prevention and healthy eating. Non-profit organizations, eco-friendly vendors and local farmers will be on hand to share information.

Additionally, there will be a special Farm to Table Dinner in the evening incorporating local sustainable food. Join us in this unique dining experience with local farmers.

For Exhibitor booth space please contact the Enviro Fair Office at 858-792-4298. ☘

GOING WILD WITH NATIVES

Soil Health - A Radical Approach

By Susan Krzywicki

Our gardening world is oftentimes a mystery, especially the hidden depths of our soils. Getting to know how “dirt” works is a good place to start with plant health. Of course, as a native plant advocate, I believe in this stack: native soils with native plants with native bees, birds and butterflies; with fresh clean air and water surrounding them.

But, how do you get there, and what are the benefits, and do the benefits outweigh the downsides?

Basic Four

Soils are a combination of minerals, organic matter and living organisms. Those living organisms are the key to successful gardens that copy the time-tested, long cycles of nature. Sometimes referred to as “biomimicry,” this strategy moves us away from short cuts and into a fascinating realm where all things are connected. The basic four organisms we need in our soils are: bacteria, fungi, nematodes and protozoa. Bacteria form the most basic step: “food” for the rest of the cycle. Fungi create networks between plants and soil. Nematodes and protozoa are consumers of nutrients and other organisms, and they produce the building blocks of what we refer to as soil.

There is no such thing as “bad soil”

Many gardeners describe their soil as “bad,” especially if clay is present, and think that sandy loam soil is the holy grail. Gardeners feel forced to amend and compost and adjust their soil until it doesn't resemble its natural state at all.

This may be fine for vegetable gardening, which requires high levels of nitrogen in order to produce so prolifically. But if we are to garden sustainably, we must separate our gardening into separate zones, akin to the way we hydrozone for water use. Use your compost and water to sustain your tomatoes and beans. But in the decorative parts of your garden, look to the soil as a guide for beauty and enjoyment: find native plants that prefer your soil conditions. For example, here are three plants that go together well in clay soils: California Buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), Tecate Cypress (*Hesperocyparis forbesii*), and Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*). Voila! Instant garden design. 🌿



Act naturally for benefits to all

When you organize your landscape so that the high water, high nitrogen feeders are together, you can stop amending the remainder of your soil where the low nitrogen, low water users thrive. Mulch if you want, but skip the compost. A side benefit of this strategy is that your plants will not over-produce lots of leafy growth, which is only waiting to be pruned. Slow the growth cycle, improve plant health, and reduce green waste. The downside: where will we put all the compost being created by our green waste industry? But I am firmly convinced the benefits outweigh this.

Member Susan Krzywicki has been a native plant landscape designer in San Diego, as well as chair of the San Diego Surfrider Foundation Ocean Friendly Gardens Committee. 🌿

TO LEARN MORE...

Palms for San Diego

By Ava Torre-Bueno

We think of palm trees as being the quintessence of the Southern California landscape, but there is only one palm that is native to our region: the California Fan Palm which was an important resource for the Cahuilla Indians of Southern California: tinyurl.com/may-palms-1

This history of palms coming to California has many wonderful old-postcard pictures: tinyurl.com/may-palms-2

Another brief history has many links to other points of interest about palms in California: tinyurl.com/may-palms-3

Since California isn't where they're from originally, some palms do better here than others. You can find suggestions for which palms do well, and when to plant here: tinyurl.com/may-palms

And put “palm trees california plein aire” into Google images for many really lovely paintings of palm trees. 🌿

MAY GARDEN TOUR SCHEDULE

By Mary James & Susi Torre-Bueno

May 1-3: 18th Annual Alpine Sage & Songbirds Garden Tour.

Five private gardens, plus a hummingbird haven and a raptor rehabilitation facility. Sponsored by CHIRP for Wildlife. Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets: \$20. Info: chirp.org or (619) 445-8352.

May 2: Clairemont Town Council 19th Annual Garden Tour.

About 10-12 fascinating gardens in Clairemont, Bay Ho and Bay Park. Includes an Expo with seminars, water-saving info, and refreshments. Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets: \$15 (\$12/seniors) in advance; \$20 on tour day (\$15/seniors). Children 12 and under are free. Info: gardentour.clairemontonline.com.

May 9: "Inspiration and Influence," the 17th Annual Mission Hills Garden Walk.

A walking tour stops at exceptional gardens. Wine reception and Garden Festival at Mission Hills Nursery. Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (rain or shine). Tickets: \$25 in advance; \$30 on tour day. Free for children 12 and under. Info: missionhillsgardenclub.org.

May 9: Fallbrook AAUW Country Garden Tour.

A selection of lovely gardens, plus a marketplace and refreshments at Palomares House, 1815 Stage Coach Lane, Fallbrook. Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets: \$20 in advance; \$25 on tour day. Info: aauwfalbrookca.org.

May 9 & 10: Annual Mother's Day Weekend Art, Garden and Studio Tour.

Ten charming gardens in Encinitas include artwork displays by artist-members of the San Dieguito Art Guild, tour sponsors. Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets: \$20, children under 12 are free. Info: offtrackgallery.com or (760) 942-3636.

May 16: 17th Annual Secret Garden Tour of La Jolla.

Several gardens, displays and musicians and artists in residence. Garden boutique with plants and gifts. Platinum Tour includes brunch, shuttle and bonus garden. Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets: \$50 in advance (\$40 for members of the La Jolla Historical Society, tour sponsor); \$60 on tour day. Platinum Tour, \$150 (\$140/LJHS members). Info: lajollahistory.org.

CENTENNIAL GARDEN RAILWAY EXHIBIT

In Balboa Park at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum

Here's a request for volunteers (some gardening experience preferred) from the San Diego Model Railroad Museum (sdmrm.org/education):

We are looking for outgoing individuals to become volunteers for our newest exhibit. The exhibit consists of a miniature train running through an outdoor garden area featuring 3D printed model replicas of Balboa Park buildings. The exhibit is interactive, so guests will be able to answer questions and watch the layout come alive, via lights and sounds, as they answer correctly. As part of your training, you'll get to learn about the history and



significance of Balboa Park, the 1915 Exposition, and the history of the original Balboa Park buildings, as well as pick up a few miniature train facts along the way. Garden experience preferred, as you will be in charge of tending to the garden and assisting in its upkeep. Hours are flexible.

If you are interested in this exciting opportunity please contact Angela Bacon at 619-696-0199 ext. 1608 or by email: abacon@sdmrm.org



Fun in Balboa Park on May 9

Come celebrate 100 years of history and horticulture as the City of San Diego Park & Recreation Department presents The Garden Party of the Century on Saturday, May 9, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Everyone is invited to enjoy this all day event highlighting the plants and programs that make Balboa Park the gem of San Diego and one of the world's most interesting civic gardens.

The Kid's Floral Wagon Parade (SDHS will have a plant-decorated wagon!) will begin at 9:30 a.m. near the Natural History Museum and continue through the park to the Plaza de Panama along El Prado. Immediately following the parade, a battalion from the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego will join civic leaders in a special "plant restoration ceremony," and then recreate an historic march across the Cabrillo Bridge, first done by the Marines in 1915. At 4:00 p.m., the Youth Orchestra of the Californias, a collaboration between some of the finest string players of Tijuana and San Diego, will present an afternoon concert featuring great classical music.

The party continues all day and will feature a floral show, special presentations by horticulture hosts (visit the SDHS booth near the garden we planted next to the Lily Pond) and a wide variety of music, special events and activities for the whole family. Each of the museums and other institutions in the park will be open to help celebrate this unique event.

ALL DAY EVENTS

- San Diego Floral Show (Balboa Park Club)
- Food Trucks
- Plein Air Painters
- Floral Artisans
- Organ Pavilion Concerts
- Garden Tours
- Master Gardener Demonstrations



Rachel Cobb

MEET THE SDHS HORTICULTURIST OF THE YEAR: KATHY PUPLAVA



Since 1996, the San Diego Horticultural Society has been proud to recognize someone as our Horticulturist of the Year for her or his lifetime of achievement and service in horticulture in Southern California. Some previous honorees include Walter Andersen, Pat Welsh, founder Don Walker, Vince Lazaneo, Steve Brigham and, in 2014, Julian Duval, President and CEO

of the San Diego Botanic Garden (a complete list is on page 11). This year, as we celebrate the Centennial of the 2015 Exposition in Balboa Park, our award goes to Kathy Puplava, who for many years was an important advocate for Park horticulture. She will be recognized at our June 8 SDHS Night at the Fair; details on this exciting event will appear on our website and in the June newsletter. Kathy has graciously written about her life in horticulture in this article, the second half of which will appear in the June newsletter. Congratulations, Kathy!

The East Coast and my start in gardening

As all of us are, I am a product of my era and my family. I was born in the mid-1950s in Daytona Beach, Florida to a hardworking parents from the mid-West. My father was a first generation Greek-American; my mom was not Greek, but adopted the culture and the Greek Orthodox religion. My parents had a restaurant, as many immigrant Greeks do! Growing up, my brother and I both worked in the restaurant with our parents. I started out in the back peeling potatoes and washing dishes at about eight years old, and graduated to a waitress and cashier at 12 years old through high school.

Growing up in Daytona Beach was fun because we only lived a few blocks from the ocean and our high school was just one block from the beach. The worst part for me, as a "local girl," was the tourist seasons that included Spring Break, Motorcycle week and the Daytona 500, when the population in the town would swell and overflow. Even though the crowds were overwhelming, those weeks were very important to the local economy.

My interest in plants started with my grandparents who lived in Indiana and always had a vegetable garden. They also had an earthworm box that they would raise fishing worms in. I was fascinated with adding kitchen scraps to the compost and checking the worms daily! Whenever I spent time in Indiana, I would follow my grandparents around the garden and help. I tried to plant a garden back in Florida but was disappointed when our sandy soil didn't produce the same quality vegetables as the rich, dark soil at my grandparents' house.

And then came the green movement of the 1970s, which corresponded to me heading to college. The first Earth Day was in 1970, and that decade was a time when growing tropical houseplants became a popular hobby. Even though I wasn't able to grow a good vegetable garden in the sandy soil of Daytona Beach, growing tropical

houseplants was easy in Florida! So that is the direction I took at the University of Florida.

I received a great education in Gainesville, where I earned a BS of Agriculture, with an Ornamental Horticulture major. Cloning was just starting to be developed, and tissue culture was the cutting edge technology at the University of Florida. I was fortunate to have attended a school with such good professors and greenhouse facilities. My college jobs included greenhouse keeper in a research facility and a summer forestry program called YCC (Youth Conservation Corps). The YCC was modeled after the CCC program of the 1930s.

A sad twist of fate brought me to California. My father died suddenly of a heart attack when he was 50 years old. My mother married a man from San Diego and moved there, where my older brother was also stationed in the Navy. So I followed them out to the West Coast in 1979. Along the way, I spent three months traveling with my dog in a VW bus on an extended road trip exploring the southern U.S. It was a fun adventure and a bucket list item before I knew the definition of the term!

The West Coast and my career in horticulture

In 1980, I was hired at the Wild Animal Park to work in the plant shop, and eventually became a plant propagator in the nursery. In 1985, I transferred to the San Diego Zoo. During this time I learned so much about African and Australian plants, conservation issues, and maintaining a public park. I loved working around the animals every day, and the dedicated keepers and gardeners inspired me. Even though I only worked there for a total of 8 years, I still maintain some very good friends from that time.

In the 1980s, I was a founding member of a network group called Professional Women's Horticulture and Landscape Association. PWHLA met once a month to share information and job leads. It was because of that group that I met Sue Fouquette, the Balboa Park Nursery Supervisor, who encouraged me to apply for the Balboa Park Horticulturist position.

I was hired by the City of San Diego, Park & Recreation Department in 1988 as the first Balboa Park Horticulturist. 1988 was a big year because I also married my husband, Dan. Dan would rather ride a motorcycle than plant a garden, so although he won't be mentioned much in this horticultural biography, his support for the last 29 years helped me accomplish all that I have.

At Balboa Park, my first assignment was to do a tree inventory for the development of the Balboa Park Master Plan. It took me months to walk the entire park and to identify and map the trees. Computer systems were basic and cell phones uncommon. I used a Polaroid camera and a DOS program to catalog the trees. There was no internet to research plant ID, so I poured over giant reference books like *Hortis Third* and *Tropica*. Because planting records were



Kathy Puplava working at the Wild Animal Park, about 1983

SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS

By Cindy Sparks

The Greater San Diego Science & Engineering Fair was held in March in Balboa Park, and we sent a team to determine winners of our two annual awards. Our judges were Dayle Cheever, Kate Engler, Dale Rekus, Hanna Richardson, Al Myrick (our beloved Judge Emeritus, who kindly helped us out when some of the regular judging staff was unable to attend), and Cindy Witt, with the administration taken care of by Cindy Sparks.

This year the Senior High School field was quite sparse, but the Junior field was rich with candidates. Our two winners are Asdil Rehan, an 8th grader from Rhoades School, with his study of "Avocado Root Rot, a Novel Approach," and Samuel Kahn, a 7th grader from Classical Conversations School, with his entry titled "Plant Growth in Coastal Sage Scrub Burned vs. Unburned Areas." Both of these students have agreed to join us at our August meeting to show their projects and answer questions about their work. In addition, they each get \$100 cash award plus a year membership in the San Diego Horticultural Society. You may well see more of these two, as they both intend to continue work on their respective topics. And I'm sure you will enjoy their projects as they have worked toward results both expected and extraordinary. 🌱

■ Garden Tour Continued from page 3

sales coordinated by SDHS Treasurer Sam Seat; and tables, chairs and canopies assembled by SDHS Meeting Room Coordinator Jeff Biletnikoff. Then add almost 100 SDHS and SDFA volunteers for the day of the tour, some of whom, such as Kathryn Blankinship, who worked early and late at the marketplace; and BJ Boland, who volunteered for two shifts; went far beyond the call of duty.

NOW: Serve with pride to 1500 happy tour goers

Thanks to all of these participants and all the many volunteers listed below. We needed each and every one of you. It was indeed a spectacular event. Our intent was to commemorate the 1915 Panama-California Exhibition in Balboa Park. *Together we found the successful recipe!*

Volunteers not named above:

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Kathy & Tony Arciero | Jeff & Wendy Hunt | Jacquie Reilly |
| Cecilia Baetge-Jolly | Joyce James | Cassidy & Robin |
| Bob & Barbara Bandhauer | Ellie Knight | Rowland |
| Annette Beaty | Carol Lane | Terri Seat |
| Cindy & Kailani Benoit | Victoria Lea | Linda Shaw |
| Ken Blackford | Ginny & Mark | Diana Shurtleff |
| Linda Bresler | Mahigian | Marcy Singer |
| Sheila Busch | Yvonne Mao | Dee Starr |
| Linda Canada | Kat Marshall | Paula Suttle |
| Karen Cassimatis | Anne Murphy | Marcia Van Loy |
| Kathleen Downs | Al & Dora Jean | Pat Venolia |
| Connie Forest | Myrick | Paula Verstraete |
| Bev Fritschner | Don Nelson | Sandi Wiksten |
| Thelma Gerome | Chris & Nancy | Marilyn Wilson |
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| California Native Plant Mix | |
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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.

Lots of Blocks

This is a continuation of last month's article about challenges creating a garden in our new home in Mission Hills.

One of the frequent questions we get about our garden is where did all the retaining walls come from and who built them? All of them, except some of the most recent walls, were built by me and my partner, Scott. We learned from trial and error as we went, but we were much younger and more energetic when most of them were installed. We read the brief instructions on how to create a retaining wall and then mostly did what worked for us. For example, the walls are supposed to be set on gravel and backfilled with gravel. However, you have to buy gravel and carry it down the hill, so we just laid the walls on top of the native soil. Construction rubble we found on the hill while digging was used as backfill for drainage. And, surprise, 15 years later none of the walls have fallen over.

We gradually worked our way down the hill, building from the top down. We'd lay steps as we went, which would open a new level for more walls. Steps are supposed to be laid from the bottom up. However, since most of the hill was too steep to stand on, they were built from the top down. Many of the walls didn't work out quite right and were either removed or re-laid until they looked the way we wanted. The blocks were mostly carried one or two at a time down the hill. Scott did try using long boards a few times to slide the blocks down the hill. However, an occasional block would go airborne and tumble down the hill to the fence at the bottom. Retrieving it by going through the chaparral and climbing back up carrying it without any steps is about the equivalent amount of work and time as carrying 15 blocks one at a time down the hill.

When we started building the walls, about the only easily obtainable retaining wall block was the polygon shaped one with a lip

on the back to lock it to row below. Over the years, as new types of blocks were introduced, we started using those. There wasn't, and still isn't, any block that is made for making steps. So I've improvised many different ways to build steps with different materials.

I have no idea how many pallets of blocks we had delivered, but it is surely in the hundreds. The delivery truck is too long to get down our street. So they park in front of the school at the top of our street and use a forklift to deliver the blocks down the hill to the brick sidewalk in front of the house. Much to Scott's dismay, he'd come home from work to find that RCP had delivered another full truckload of blocks. The RCP driver still remembers where we live after 17 years of deliveries.

The most difficult part of creating a wall is laying the first course of blocks. After that, stacking goes pretty fast and carrying blocks is the main activity. When we started, carrying the blocks down was the most difficult part. However, now that we are 7 stories below the street, walking back up is now the most difficult part. Since you can get quite warm carrying blocks, I'd often carry blocks down after work for an hour or so in the dark when it was cooler. There is just enough ambient light from hotels on I-8 to be able to see where to step. I've occasionally hired younger and supposedly stronger help to carry blocks. They always start out by running up the hill after carrying a load of blocks. I've warned them that they will be sorry tomorrow that they did that. Later in the day, I usually find them sitting down partway up the hill resting and catching their breath. Only a hardy few have returned for second day of work, and they work at much slower pace.

In 2003, I saw an article in *Sunset* magazine about a new home garden in the Bay Area. It had wonderful curved walls that looked like stone, but they were made from concrete block. At the time, we were in the process of completing the project of filling in the swimming pool and building the stair tower and casita. I thought these blocks would be perfect for retaining walls in that area. I looked up the resource in the magazine and found out it was a Keystone Block product. I knew that RCP was the Keystone distributor for San Diego, so I called them up. It took a while to find someone that could help me, but it turned out they were just in the process of making their first batch of these blocks and didn't want to sell them to me until they were fully cured (a drying process to harden the concrete).



Stairs - before



Stairs - after, ready to plant

Continued on page 16

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:

| | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Linda Addison | Melissa Fitzgerald | Debbi Dodson | Ray Stives |
| Yara Bertran | Patricia Fredericks | Barbara Metz | Ronda Tambasco |
| Hope Booth | Linda Gilleran | Tina Miklos | Ariel Tenenbaum, |
| Paulette Brown | Samuel Kahn | Eva Miller | Revolution Landscape |
| Richard & Therese Callahan | Linda Ketcham | Lynn Neagley | Linda Trettin |
| Judy Childs | Linda Knoebel | Carey Orielly | Frank Walker |
| Richard Cooke | Lynn Langley | Adam Purcell | Mark Wilcox |
| Klarisse Dexter | Diane Lieberman | Aadil Rehan | Andy Willis |
| Fotine Fahouris | Joy Lyndes | Carrie Seeman | Paul Wittman |
| Tom Fiss | Michael Meacham & | Linda Smith | Susan Wronski |

HORT BUCKS ARE GREAT!

Kudos to these members whose friends joined in 2015; 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.

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Diedre Avery (I) | Joyce James (I) | Barbara Raub (I) |
| Jim Bishop (I) | Nelda Johnson (I) | David Ross (I) |
| Deborah Brenner (I) | John Kramer (I) | Tammy Schwab (I) |
| Sharon Corrigan (I) | Dannie McLaughlin (I) | Jeanne Skinner (I) |
| Shirey Doig (I) | Joan Oliver (I) | Lynda Waugh (I) |
| Susan Getyina (I) | Laird Plumleigh (I) | |
| Heather Hazen (I) | Kathy Puplava (I) | |

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LIFE MEMBERS *Horticulturist of the Year

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| *Chuck Ades (2008) | Laurie Connable | *Vince Lazaneo (2004) | Peggy Ruzich |
| *Walter Andersen (2002) | *Julian (2014) & Leslie Duval | *Jane Minshall (2006) | Gerald D. Stewart |
| Norm Applebaum & | *Edgar Engert (2000) | *Brad Monroe (2013) | *Susi Torre-Bueno (2012) |
| Barbara Roper | Jim Farley | *Bill Nelson (2007) | & Jose Torre-Bueno |
| *Bruce & Sharon | Sue & Charles Fouquette | Deborah & Jack Pate | Dorothy Walker |
| Asakawa (2010) | Caroline James | *Kathy Puplava (2015) | Lucy Warren |
| Gladys T. Baird | Joyce James | Tina & Andy Rathbone | *Evelyn Weidner (2001) |
| Debra Lee Baldwin | Debbie & Richard Johnson | *Jon Rebman (2011) | *Pat Welsh (2003) |
| *Steve Brigham (2009) | | Mary Rodriguez | Betty Wheeler |

DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS

(see ads for more discounts)

Get a 15% discount at Briggs Tree Co. (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.

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What's Up
at

San Diego
BOTANIC
GARDEN

THINGS TO DO IN MAY AT SDBG

If you have never met a chocolate that you didn't like, this is your day. San Diego Botanic Garden will have its annual **Chocolate Festival on Saturday, May 9, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.** Your taste buds will thank you when savoring the many varieties of chocolate treats. Enjoy the day relaxing in the garden oasis while sampling the many chocolate treats and taking in chocolate demonstrations and tips. Food and music will round out the day in addition to gift vendors and the Garden Gift Shop where you can find the perfect something for yourself or a Mother's Day gift. Plus, we have Kidzone where children can have fun making crafts and gifts for Mom.

The Garden will celebrate **Endangered Species Day Friday, Saturday, May 15, from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.** by providing guests with a map guiding visitors to see some of our notable endangered species, both native and from other parts of the world. The Garden will offer free admission to San Diego Audubon Society Members. Living Coast Discovery Center Members, and San Diego Botanic Garden members will enjoy reciprocal admission on Endangered Species Day.

On **Saturday, May 23, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.** San Diego Botanic Garden hosts the **Palm, Cycad, Bamboo and Tropical Plant Sale**. This one-of-a-kind event features rare and exotic species of palms, cycads and other tropical plants. These will be provided by exceptional Southern California nurseries. This event is co-hosted by the Palm Society of Southern California and San Diego Botanic Garden.

For more information, visit SDBGarden.org/events.htm

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MAY 9 BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL

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The Water Conservation Garden invites the public to its second-annual Butterfly Festival on Saturday, May 9, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for an exciting program of activities that will engage all ages with butterflies. The event highlights the important role that these insects play in our ecosystem and how visitors can attract and support butterflies in their home gardens using drought-tolerant plants. Activities include:

- Butterfly pavilion tours & "Butterfly Discovery Lab"
- Butterfly habitat plant sale & workshops by local experts
- "Pollinator Party" with Ms. Smarty-Plants™ and Miss Metamorphosis
- Live music, food, crafts and jewelry by local artisans

Children are encouraged to dress as a caterpillar or their favorite winged pollinator for the Pollinator Party at 11:30 am. A complete program is at thegarden.org/butterfly.

Admission: \$5 (18+ years) and \$1 (3-17 years). Water Conservation Garden members and young children get in free, with ample free parking for all.

Location: The Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. W, El Cajon 92019



About the Water Conservation Garden:

The 6-acre Water Conservation Garden is dedicated to helping southern Californians save water in the landscape. How-to workshops are offered monthly, free docent-led tours are offered Saturdays at 10:30am, and self-guided tours may be enjoyed 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., daily. The Garden's Ms. Smarty-Plants™ program provides environmental education to nearly 50,000 children each year. The Garden is supported by memberships, donations, grants, and water agency support. For more information, please visit thegarden.org or call 619-660-0614 x10. 🦋



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SHARING SECRETS

Edited by Dayle Cheever

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

The question for May was: Is there a new or unusual pest that you have been trying to manage in your garden and what technique(s) have proven successful? (Please include your zip code.)

Donna Star: I live in South Park (92102) and have some gophers that I never see but seem to enjoy rooting through my garden mounds. How can I move them down the hill to other garden spots that I don't care about? I also have a special visitor that I love in my garden – a mockingbird that serenades me by the hour. I caught his song on audio and made a little video; maybe some of you gardeners might enjoy it too! Visit youtu.be/zGb429gLEGU.

Mary Poteet: I've had a terrible time with geranium budworm (*Heliothis virescens*, aka tobacco budworm) on my ten giant geranium hanging baskets in Cardiff, 92007. These are year-round baskets. The pupa are probably overwintering in the baskets' soil and the problem is most apparent in late summer. I've tried repeated and frequent treatments of 'Bt' as well as Spinosad (.05% in a product called Captain Jack's Deadbug) but haven't had much success and would welcome other approaches.

Lori Kilmer: I have a very large, 70 pound, garden pest wreaking havoc in my greenhouse full of plants. It is after a rabbit that has decided to make its winter home in the greenhouse. The pest has climbed over, on top of and broken many delicate branches of plumeria in the process. The pest goes by the name of Bailey. It's a good thing she is so cute, or she would be going back to the pound, where we got her. My zip code is 92029.



Enid Sherman: Raccoons, and nothing has been successful! (92104).

Sharon Corrigan: Help: grasshoppers. The first group nipped fresh green veggies in the bud. The cold chased them away, the heat is bringing them back. I flushed him down the toilet and felt guilty. (92011)



Rachel Cobb

Stephen A. Zolezzi: It's not a new pest – Rats – it's just that they keep learning new ways to avoid what worked successfully in the past. They are smart rats, they are ever present and never give up. They especially relish whatever it is I like the most. They will not be intimidated. They reproduce like weeds in the garden. They are the devil in disguise. Their image will not show in a mirror. Are we doomed? NO: the California school for the control/eradication of rats is in session. Using more sophisticated tools we can get this job done. Secret weapon: my wife setting baited and electric traps at 5:30am, while they sleep. Anyone up for fricassee of rat in a red wine? Thanks for indulging my sense of humor.

Tami Van Thof: California Ground Squirrel, San Juan Capistrano, 92675. Using the squirrelinator.

Carol McCollum: THRIPS!!!! While they are definitely not new to my yard in Chula Vista (I've been here 44 years, along with the thrips), what is unusual is that many people don't know that thrips bite! They are eensy-beensy (maybe 1/16" long), thin like a sliver; some are brown and some shine golden in the sun. They like many garden plants: roses, carnations, gladiolas, etc., and veggies and lawns. Their bites are itchier and longer lasting than a flea or mosquito bite! Some people get red welts from the bites. If you've ever gotten an itchy red bump from being out in the garden, you might have been lunch for a thrip! Or if you've found yourself with an intensely itchy rash, you've been a feast for a flock of thrips! When I 'had thrips' recently, I learned that, of course, thrips will dine on pets too! So that might explain the rash on my daughter's Corgi's belly. I've never tried to eradicate the thrips. If someone has a suggestion, please let me know.

Susi Torre-Bueno: After almost 2 years of being gopher-free, I'm plagued with one gopher which will not die. I've tried the fabulous anti-gopher plant I've used in the past with great success (see the October 2014 newsletter), I've tried drowning it, and I've tried yelling at it (well, okay, cussing at it). It is contained in one small area, and if it doesn't die soon I'm getting out heavier artillery – like poisons. (92084) 🌱

GARDEN OF THE YEAR CONTEST DEADLINE IS MAY 4TH

YOU Could Win!

HURRY! May 4th is the deadline for the Garden of the Year contest from *San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles* magazine. SDHS members have won in previous years, so we hope many members will enter. For entry forms and info go to sandiegohomegarden.com/goy%20entry%20form_2015.pdf. 🌱



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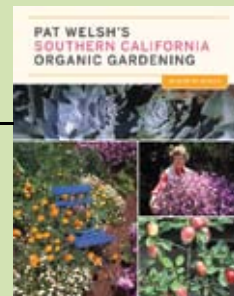
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SUCCULENT CELEBRATION

At Waterwise Botanicals on June 5 & 6

North San Diego County's Waterwise Botanicals nursery and gardens, a sponsor of SDHS (see page 21), will be hosting for the 3rd time the spectacular two-day event, "Succulent Celebration," on Friday and Saturday June 5th & 6th.

This one of a kind event in Southern California celebrates the versatility, beauty and popularity of these water-wise plants. Come to Waterwise Botanicals to enjoy a kaleidoscope of color, inspiration, creation and education on drought tolerant landscaping at its best. Meet exciting authors highlighting their books for purchase and signing.

All are invited to experience the "best garden event of the year" with acres of nursery and display gardens to explore with hands-on workshops, celebrated speakers, an outstanding assortment of succulents and low-water plants for sale, the chance to speak with the experts, arts and crafts vendors with garden friendly gifts, food vendors and more.

The event hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. both days, with free parking and admission. Event details can be seen at succulentcelebration.com.

Waterwise Botanicals, established in 2010, is a 20+ acre wholesale/retail nursery located in the rolling hills of North County, San Diego located just off Interstate 15, northwest of the highway at 32183 Old Hwy 395, Escondido, CA 92026 ☞



■ My Life with Plants Continued from page 10

However, I persisted, and we received one of their first deliveries of Keystone Country Manor blocks. These blocks use fiberglass pins to hold them together so walls can be vertical. A cap is glued on top to complete the wall. They are fairly easy to make curved walls, pilasters and other shapes from. I loved the look so much that almost all of the walls since then have been built from Country Manor blocks.

~~~~~

Jim Bishop is President of the San Diego Horticultural Society and a garden designer. ☞



# SDHS FUNDRAISING FOR THE BALBOA PARK RESTORATION PROJECT

We are raising funds to restore the gardens adjacent to the lily pond and other areas in Balboa Park. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 to help complete this pilot project. Visit [sdhort.org](http://sdhort.org) for information on making donations. You can also donate at meetings and other events. Every contribution is very welcome. As of April 13 we have raised \$8614. **Thank you to these generous donors:**

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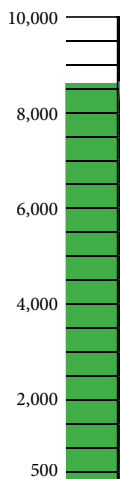
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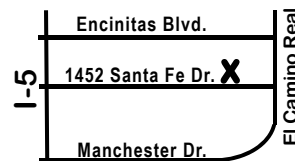
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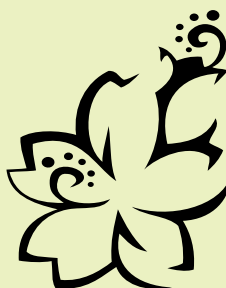
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## SDHS PLANTS ROSES

### At the Marston House Garden

By Jim Bishop

On March 22, our volunteers completed the planting of the formal garden at the Marston House in Balboa Park. Marilyn Guidroz, landscape designer and SDHS sponsor, created the planting plan (you can view it at [sdhort.wildapricot.org/SDHSNews/3270626](http://sdhort.wildapricot.org/SDHSNews/3270626)). We planted 18 Iceberg roses, 9 Pink Cadillac roses, and 9 Old Gay Hill Red China roses. The three beds surrounding the roses were planted with the coral colored 'Balboa Park' geranium developed by Jim Zemcik.

There were enough volunteers that we were able to help plant the garden nearby as well. It all went very well and looks fabulous! There will be many weddings and other events here over the next few months and we're so glad we could help make the garden look its best. Special thanks to the San Diego Floral Association for partnering with us on this Adopt a Plot project.

Hats off to the volunteers: Jim Bishop, Nancy Carol Carter, Marilyn Guidroz, Sam Seat, Jorge Robles, Jose Cruz, Donna & Pat Tierney, Chuck Carroll, Recina Han, Linda Johnson, Kim Petersen, Joseph Petersen, Madison Petersen, Jonathan Petersen, Linda & Bill Shaw, Julie & Stanley Rone, Ed Thielicke, and Arlene Watters.

You can view our efforts at 3525 7th Ave., San Diego 92103. To learn more about the Marston House, visit [sohosandiego.org/main/marston2.htm](http://sohosandiego.org/main/marston2.htm). George Marston served as chairman of the Buildings and Grounds Committee for the 1915 Panama–California Exposition in Balboa Park. The Marston House garden is free to visit, and a lovely quiet spot for a picnic.

On April 27 our volunteers also weeded and mulched the gardens we planted last year on both sides of the Lily Pond (next to the Timkin Museum of Art and the Casa del Prado).

Many thanks to everyone involved! You can still play an important role by donating at [sdhort.org](http://sdhort.org) towards this project. We've started looking for other gardens in the Park that can use some restoration 🌱.



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:

### Help the San Diego Zoo's Restoration Crew with Native Shrub Planting!



Home to more than 100 species classified as rare, sensitive, threatened, or endangered, Coastal Sage Scrub (CSS) is one of the most endangered ecosystems in the continental United States. San Diego County encompasses some of the largest tracts of intact CSS, but this important vegetation type is declining throughout the county due to development and increasing fire frequency. As fires become more frequent and burn larger areas, invasion of annual grass species may convert shrub lands to increasingly fire-prone and lower-diversity grasslands, and these processes may be exacerbated by changing weather regimes associated with climate change. The invaded grasslands cannot support the many unique species that depend on CSS, leading to declines across many types of native flora and fauna. However, if post-fire invasive plant spread is actively curtailed and restoration actions are implemented, native vegetation will recover.

The San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research is working with several partners in the Lake Hodges area to restore and preserve our local CSS vegetation, ensuring homes for local wildlife, establishing fire-resistant vegetation, and improving recreational opportunities and open space quality. The Lake Hodges area is of particular importance to conservation efforts because it is home to 15 sensitive plants, 21 San Diego birds of special concern, and four reptiles of special concern. The area surrounding Lake Hodges is a large tract of preserved land along a corridor that connects urban, coastal Del Mar to the less-developed mountains 55 miles to the east. Restoration along this corridor has the potential to be particularly effective as we link up isolated patches of healthy natural CSS using restoration techniques such as invasive plant control and outplanting of native shrubs.

We have planted 10,000 native shrubs at Lake Hodges, and we will be planting an additional 10,000 this coming winter, but we need your help! Volunteer labor has been an integral part of this effort, from student groups who helped plant to dedicated volunteers who grew the plants at the Institute's shade house. We need help with watering the thirsty shrubs this summer, growing the plants for next year's efforts, and planting later this winter.

Come see those California Natives you have growing in your drought-tolerant garden in their natural habitat! If you are interested in volunteering with this conservation effort, please contact Emily Howe at [ehowe@sandiegozoo.org](mailto:ehowe@sandiegozoo.org) or [AppliedPlant@sandiegozoo.org](mailto:AppliedPlant@sandiegozoo.org) for more information. 🌱

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## APRIL MEETING REPORT

By Jeannine Romero

The next time you hike a local canyon or mountain trail in San Diego county—or even anywhere in Baja California—consider downloading a portion of the San Diego Plant Atlas from the San Diego Natural History Museum website ([sdnhm.org](http://sdnhm.org)) to determine the native plants and flora residing in your neck of the...well, coast or desert.

Dr. Jon Rebman, curator of botany of the San Diego Natural History Museum (theNAT), spoke with great enthusiasm at the April 13th SDHS meeting, held in theNAT as part of the ongoing special 100th commemoration of the 1915 San Diego Exposition that put the city, and Balboa Park, on the map. His fast-paced and fascinating talk was a big hit with a sold-out audience of 300 members.

Rebman has a degree in botany and specializes in floristics. During his 22 years of experience, he has coauthored 52 publications and the *Baja California Plant Guide*. He is well known to the SDHS, who honored him as horticulturist of the year in 2011.

Rebman, and six other previous curators at theNAT, have been collecting and cataloging plants and flowers in San Diego County and in Baja California since the 1870s. The museum's herbarium still holds all their original plant collections. After his talk, attendees had the opportunity to see plants collected and pressed in the late 1870s in San Diego County, and some from Rebman's recent expeditions to Baja California. The entire collection, as well as rare botany books and old botanical magazines, can be seen by appointment with the librarian.

But theNAT also has digitized most of the information in the San Diego Plant Atlas project. Rebman said there are about 64,000 new plant specimens in the online Atlas, where anyone can have "a better understanding about what is in our own backyards."

"We built it for you guys so you can use it," Rebman told the audience. He added that theNAT is also planning an online field guide and map in the form of an eBook or an app on your smartphone, as well as a bird atlas and mammal atlas.

New plant species and hybrids are discovered on a regular basis, Rebman noted, due to natural hybridizing. He said plants change and look different due to environmental variables like climate and temperature. Rebman said that 37 new plants have been identified in this region since the year 2000, and 28 new ones have yet to be described. Rebman and 25 other botanists were recently on a nine-day trip to several islands in Baja California. This August, he will move his family to La Paz, Mexico, for a year while he conducts an extensive flora collection there. He said he hopes to rediscover species that were collected only once before in the late 1890s.

He explained that the Baja expeditions include botanists and other specialists, such as entomologists to identify insects that might have a relationship with particular flora or plant species, as well as local guides who know the area. Rebman started the expeditions for plant specimens in Baja California as a binational project that



Jon Rebman

Janet Ward (2)



Ellie Knight (left) and Nancy Woodard welcome members

includes more Mexican scientists than American scientists. Some 500 species have been identified so far, and they have found high elevation flowers that are probably brand new species.

Rebman said he recently finished a book, the *Annotated Plant Checklist For Baja California*, which he hopes will be his most important contribution in his field. He noted that he worked on the book for 19 years.

At the conclusion of Rebman's talk members toured theNAT's newest permanent exhibit, *Coast to Cactus in Southern California*, which is exciting and beautiful, and has many hands-on activities. Thanks, Jon, for an exceptional lecture. What a delightful event this was! 🌵

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## ■ Horticulturist of the Year Continued from page 8

sporadic, I depended on the memories of park staff including Sue Fouquette, Karl Schnizler, Gary Stromberg, and other long time employees and volunteers.

This first effort was a quick inventory for the Master Plan. Then, in 1998, The San Diego Foundation funded a grant to conduct a Balboa Park Tree Survey to not only map, but also to catalog the trees and evaluate the health of the urban forest. As I spent my days mapping and measuring each tree for the Balboa Park Tree Survey, two things became clear. I became increasingly impressed with the horticulture experimentation and legacy that was still growing there for San Diego. It was an incredible treasure that seemed underappreciated. The second issue was that the Balboa Park forest was an aging monoculture, and we needed to develop a reforestation plan.

The 1998 Tree Survey revealed that there were 15,271 trees (348 species) growing in Balboa Park. At the time, over 37% of the Park forest consisted of Eucalyptus, including the predominant species of 3,177 Sugar Gum Trees. The Sugar Gums, *E. cladocalyx*, were the tall eucalyptus skyline trees that framed the historic buildings. For about 140 years, Eucalyptus were fast growing, pest-free trees that were widely used in the California landscape. But in the mid-1980s pests and diseases started to infest the trees. The Balboa Park Reforestation Plan calls for eucalyptus to be replanted in fewer numbers, away from public sidewalks, and alternate species to be planted throughout the Park.

To be continued next month.

25 Years Experience in So. California



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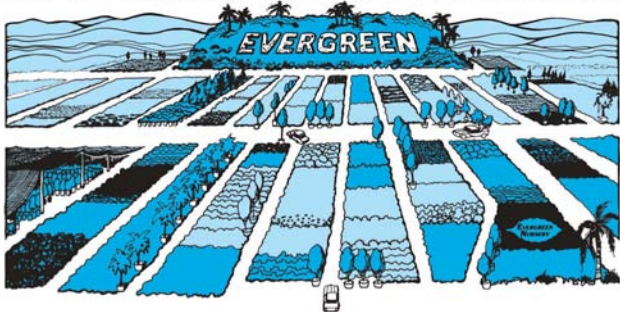


## What's Happening? for MAY 2015

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@sdhort.org](mailto:calendar@sdhort.org).

### ▼ SDHS Sponsor

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### PROMPT DELIVERY AVAILABLE

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Carmel Valley and Oceanside: Mon–Thurs 7:30-5:00,  
Fri–Sat 7:30-6:00, Sunday 9:00-5:00  
Blossom Valley: Mon–Sat 7:30-4:30, Sunday 9:00-4:30

## Free Monthly Seminar

*First Saturday of every month*

*Starting at 10am at two locations: Carmel Valley and Oceanside*

### May 9: Gardening just for KIDS

Students (6-12 years) will bring home a color bowl that they've planted with flowers. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

### May 23: Citrus & Avocado Varieties & Care

Learn all about your favorite citrus and avocado varieties and the best way to care for them.

Each FREE seminar is approximately 1 hour long. Come to the location nearest you! Refreshments will be provided. Seminar attendees 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)**

### Three Convenient Locations:

#### CARMEL VALLEY

13650 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

**May 2, 8am-2pm, 'Grow Getters' Plant Sale.**

See [www.avgardens.org](http://www.avgardens.org) for events & classes

❖ **San Diego Botanic Garden** Contact info on other side

**May 9, 10am-4pm, Chocolate Festival:** Spend the Saturday before Mother's Day at this famous Chocolate Festival. Free with paid admission or membership. Extra fee for tasting tickets. See website for \$2 off admission coupon.

**May 16, 9am-1pm, Build Your Own Hydroponic Garden:** Learn the principles of the hydroponic wick method by building your own sustainable garden to take home. Members \$75, Non-Members \$90. Register by May 8.

**May 16, 10-11am, Free Members Only Plant Clinic - California Gardenscapes Tour:** Learn landscape design aspects and see living examples.

**May 19, 9am-2pm, Succulent Wreath Class:** Take home a beautiful succulent wreath that you make yourself. Please bring small clippers or scissors to class. Members \$60, Non-Members \$72.

**May 23, 9am-3pm, Palm, Cycad, Bamboo and Tropical Plant Sale:** Features rare and exotic species of palms, cycads, and other tropical plants. Free with paid admission or membership. Info: (619) 291-4605

❖ **The Water Conservation Garden**

Contact info on other side

**May 9, 9am-4pm, Butterfly Festival:** Find out how to create a home butterfly garden of your very own. Non-Members \$5 admission. DETAILS ON PAGE 12.

## 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 & Sunday FREE classes.**

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

♦ **City Farmers Nursery Workshops**

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

♦ **Evergreen Nursery: 2 FREE Seminars in May**

See column at left for details.

♦ **Grangetto's Farm & Garden Supply: FREE Seminars**

Info: [www.grangettosgardenclub.com](http://www.grangettosgardenclub.com). See ad page 14.

♦ **Sunshine Care FREE Seminar Each Month**

**May 16, 10:30am, Vegetable Gardening 101 Lecture:** Small changes garner big rewards in your garden soil. 12725 Monte Vista Rd., Poway. RSVP: [roy@sunshinecare.com](mailto:roy@sunshinecare.com) or (858) 472-6059. Info: [www.sunshinecare.com](http://www.sunshinecare.com). See ad on page 13.

♦ **Walter Andersen Nursery FREE Saturday Classes**

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

#### Point Loma, 9am

May 2 Tropical Plants

May 9 Strawberries

May 16 Compost Class

May 23 Unusual Plants

May 30 Garden Trends

#### Poway, 9:30am

Heat-Loving Veggies

Strawberries

Rose Show

Flower Arrangements

Summer Flowers

♦ **Weidners' Gardens classes & workshops**

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

## Next SDHS Meeting

May 11:

## Palms for So. California

See page 1 & website for details

## More garden-related events on other side

# Other Garden-Related Events:

Check with hosts to confirm dates & details

**Free Workshop: Details on page 2**  
**Gardening for Birds & Butterflies**  
Saturday, May 5, morning or afternoon  
The benefits of attracting birds & butterflies, and how to provide for them in your garden. To register go to [www.sdhort.org](http://www.sdhort.org) and click on the workshop link.

**April 1 to May 10, 9am-6pm, Master Gardener’s Demonstration Garden:** Garden features plants native to Mediterranean regions. The Flower Fields, 5704 Paseo Del Norte, Carlsbad. Info: [www.mastergardenerssandiego.org](http://www.mastergardenerssandiego.org).

**May 2, 1-2:30pm, County Farm and Home Advisors Lecture:** Control Ants the Healthy Way. Ramona Library, 1275 Main Street, Ramona. Info: <http://cesandiego.ucanr.edu>.

**May 3, 4-5pm, Attracting Barn Owls to your Garden:** Solana Center for Environmental Innovation, 137 N. El Camino Real, Encinitas. Fee: \$20. Info/register: [www.solanacenter.org](http://www.solanacenter.org).

**May 4, 12:30pm, Palomar District Floral Design Forum:** "Downward thrust" or "Cascading" how to use fruits and vegetables with your flowers. Shinoda Design Center, 7170 Miramar Rd. Info: [www.powayvalleygardenclub.org](http://www.powayvalleygardenclub.org).

**May 6, 10am-noon, Point Loma Garden Club:** Succulent Art. Learn how you can transform your garden spaces into works of succulent art! 2818 Avenida de Portugal. Info: [www.plgc.org](http://www.plgc.org).

**May 8 (5-9pm), 9 (9am-9pm) &10 (9am-5pm), San Diego Floral Association's Standard Flower Show:** Balboa Park Club, Balboa Park, 2150 Pan American Rd W. Info: [www.sdfloral.org](http://www.sdfloral.org).

**May 8&9, 9:30am-5pm, Dos Valles Garden Club Flower Show "World of Learning":** Floral designs, flower and fruit exhibits, Master Gardener advice and more. Info: Connie Lee (760) 742-3905 or [www.dosvallesgardenclub.org](http://www.dosvallesgardenclub.org).

**May 9, 9am-4pm, Temecula Valley Garden Club's Flower Show and Plant Sale:** 30875 Rancho Vista Road, Temecula. Info: [www.temeculavalleygardenclub.com](http://www.temeculavalleygardenclub.com).

**May 13, 10:30am, Poway Valley Garden Club:** Alstroemeria talk; plants to purchase. Templars Hall, Old Poway Park, 14134 Midland Rd., Poway. Info: [www.powayvalleygardenclub.org](http://www.powayvalleygardenclub.org).

**May 13, 7am-2:30pm, County Farm and Home Advisors Training:** IPM Training for Professional Landscapers. Identification of landscape pests and diseases and cultural practices for improved plant health and water quality. \$50 registration fee (\$75 after May 8). McMillin Event Center, 2875 Dewey, San Diego. Info: (858) 822-7711 or <http://cesandiego.ucanr.edu>.

**May 16, 10-noon, Solana Center's Composting Workshop:** Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Dr W., El Cajon. FREE. Info/register: [www.solanacenter.org](http://www.solanacenter.org).

**May 16, 10-noon, Solana Center's Composting Workshop:** Harold J Ballard Parent Center, 2375 Congress St., San Diego. FREE. Info/register: [www.solanacenter.org](http://www.solanacenter.org).

**May 30, 10-noon, Solana Center's Composting Workshop:** Jacumba Library 44605 Old Highway 80, Jacumba Hot Springs. FREE. Info/register: [www.solanacenter.org](http://www.solanacenter.org).

## MAY GARDEN TOURS

Details on page 7

- **May 1-3: Sage & Songbirds Garden Tour:** [www.chirp.org](http://www.chirp.org)
- **May 2: Clairemont Town Council Annual Garden Tour:** <http://gardentour.clairemontonline.com>.
- **May 2, 10-12pm, Native Plant Society's Tour de Plants:** [www.cnpssd.org](http://www.cnpssd.org).
- **May 9: Mission Hills Garden Walk:** [www.missionhillsgardenclub.org](http://www.missionhillsgardenclub.org).
- **May 9: Fallbrook AAUW Country Garden Tour:** [www.aauwfalbrookca.org](http://www.aauwfalbrookca.org).
- **May 9 & 10: Mother's Day Art, Garden & Studio Tour:** [www.offtrackgallery.com](http://www.offtrackgallery.com)
- **May 16: Secret Garden Tour of La Jolla:** [www.lajollahistory.org](http://www.lajollahistory.org).

**Do you belong to a club or organization whose events aren't listed above?**

For a FREE listing (space permitting) send details by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month BEFORE the event to Neal King at [calendar@sdhort.org](mailto:calendar@sdhort.org).

**For an extensive list of garden club meetings and events, visit**  
**[sdfloral.org/calendar.htm](http://sdfloral.org/calendar.htm)**

## Resources & Ongoing Events:

**ALTA VISTA BOTANIC GARDENS:** Open Monday-Friday 7:00-5:00; 10:00-5:00 on weekends. Fee: members/free; non-members/\$2. 1270 Vale Terrace Drive, Vista. Info: [www.avgardens.org](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: \$14/adults, \$10/seniors, \$8/kids 3-12; 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. Info., events, road conditions, etc.: (760) 767-5311 or [www.desertusa.com/wildflo/wildupdates.html](http://www.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 [www.theodorepayne.org](http://www.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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday; \$5/family; \$2/adult, \$1/seniors/students; (619) 232-2721, [www.niwa.org](http://www.niwa.org).

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

**Balboa Park Ranger Tours:** FREE guided tours of architecture/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 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 [www.lifestyletalkradio.com](http://www.lifestyletalkradio.com).

### San Diego County Farmers Markets

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