

Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

October 2016, Number 265

The Ruth Bancroft Garden

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On the Cover: The Ruth Bancroft Garden

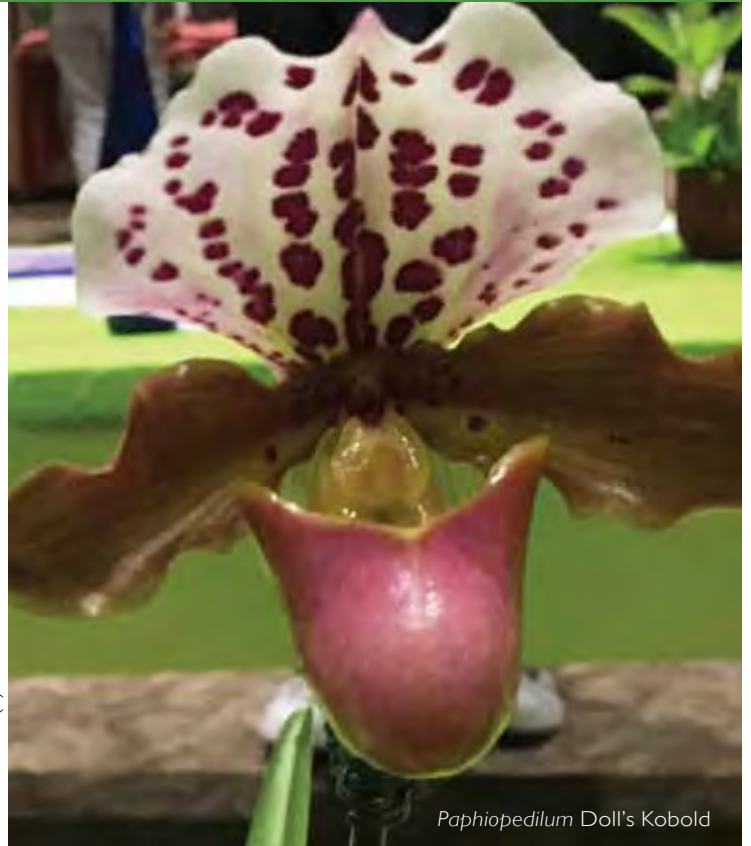
ORCHIDS FROM THE SEPTEMBER 2016 MEETING

Charley Fouquette brought these two lovely orchids to display at our September meeting.
Read about all the display plants on pages 16-18.



Neofinita falcata

Julia Chimento (2)



Paphiopedilum Doll's Kobold

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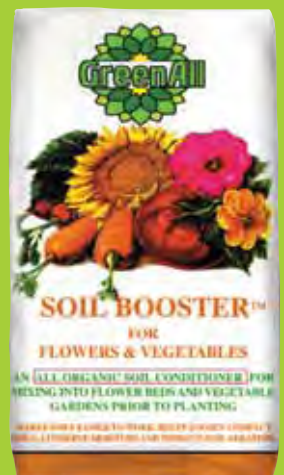
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SPECIAL EXPERT FORUM

**The Effects of Climate Change and
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Thursday, October 27, 6:00 pm

Specialists drawn from San Diego Zoo Global, the Natural History Museum, the Audubon Society, the Watershed Protection Program, and SDSU will share their insights about patterns in our climate and watersheds, as well as challenges facing our birds, insects, and indigenous plants. Initial presentations will be followed by a discussion moderated by Professor Emeritus Bonnie Kime Scott, a Docent and member of the Board of Directors at The Garden. The audience is encouraged to participate.

Seating is limited, pre-registration is recommended.

www.theGarden.org/events/forum

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San Diego County Water Authority

San Diego Botanic Garden

An Urban Oasis

Orchid Clinic

October 1

10 am - 2 pm

Fall Plant Sale

October 15-16

10 am - 4 pm

Cactus & Succulent Show and Sale

October 22 9 am - 5 pm

October 23 10 am - 4 pm

Family Fall Festival

October 29

10 am - 2 pm



230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas, CA

SDBGarden.org

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SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

OUR MISSION is to inspire and educate the people of San Diego County to grow and enjoy plants, and to create beautiful, environmentally responsible gardens and landscapes.



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Renewal information is at www.sdhort.org.
For questions contact membership@sdhort.org or call Cindy Benoit at 760-473-4244.

MEETING SCHEDULE

5:30 – 6:45 Vendor sales, plant display
6:45 – 8:30 Announcements, door prizes, speaker

MEETINGS & EVENTS

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| October 29 | Volunteer Appreciation Party |
| November 14 | Greg Rubin & Lucy Warren on their new book, <i>The Drought-Defying California Garden</i> |
| December 3 | SDHS Special Tour of the San Diego Safari Park |



www.sdhort.org

COVER IMAGE: The Ruth Bancroft Garden is noteworthy especially for the successful combination of great waterwise plants by a passionate gardener who was a pioneer in using succulents in the landscape. Learn more at our October meeting at our NEW meeting place. Details below and at www.sdhort.org.

NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 10, 2016, 5:30 – 8:30 PM

Speakers: Brian Kemble and Johanna Silver, on Inspiration from the Ruth Bancroft Garden

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

NEW MEETING PLACE: Congregation Beth Israel, 9001 Towne Centre Drive, San Diego 92122 (across the street from the Westfield UTC mall).

Parking is free – validate your parking ticket at check-in desk.



Join us as we welcome Brian Kemble and Johanna Silver, who will give us a glimpse into the inspiring and fascinating world of the Ruth Bancroft Garden. Since 1980, Brian Kemble has been curator of the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek, California, and he will share his unique knowledge of the Garden's evolution over the years. He is Vice President of the San Francisco Succulent and Cactus Society and is on the Board of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. Brian's passion for succulents has taken him to Africa, Madagascar, Mexico, and the American Southwest, where he seeks succulents in habitat.

Johanna Silver is a San Francisco-based writer, editor, and garden designer. She is garden editor of *Sunset* magazine and author of *The Bold Dry Garden*, a history of the Ruth

Bancroft Garden. She also manages *Sunset's* Test Gardens, and she will share a short presentation about the latest and greatest treasures in the five garden rooms of the Test Gardens at their new location in Oakland.

Johanna will be selling and signing her books before and after the meeting. For more information see ruthbancroftgarden.org and page 7. ☘



SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Established September 1994

BOARD MEMBERS

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

Copy Editor: Lisa Marun;
lisamarun@gmail.com

Advertising: Ellie Knight;
advertising@sdhort.org

Calendar: Send details by the 10th of the month before event to Barbara Patterson at 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!

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

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)



Members mingle at the August meeting

Looking for Volunteers to Organize the Spring Garden Tour

Our Spring Garden Tour is one of our largest and most successful events. In October we will begin planning for next year's tour, scheduled for Saturday, April 8, 2017. We look for exceptional gardens that are located a few minutes from each other in the same general geographic location. We try to highlight a diverse style of gardens designs, with a major emphasis on plants. If you know of an area or have a garden that would be appropriate for the tour, please let us know.



Sherrill Leist

One of the gardens
from the 2016 tour

The tour committee consists of a garden writer, garden photographer, volunteer coordinator (this responsibility could be shared by 2 people), vendor coordinator, garden artist coordinator, signage coordinator, online ticket sales manager, and a parking/traffic coordinator. Garden selection is in the fall, and many of the other tasks occur in late winter. Several previous tour committee volunteers mentioned above will likely be returning this year. However, we can always use more help. If you have ideas for a garden and/or are interested in helping plan or organize the tour, please email Jim Bishop at sdhspresident@gmail.com. 🌿

NEWSLETTER CHANGES

We want to thank three newsletter contributors who have just completed their writing efforts. Neal King has stepped down after being our very diligent calendar editor for the past seven years. Jeanne Meadow's thoughtful *The Dirt on Water Blog* column ends with this issue. Ellie Knight has completed her stint of doing some fine monthly meeting reports. And Donna Tierney's last informative monthly meeting report; she also took photos at some of our meetings and wrote some of the *Real Dirt On* columns. Thanks, too, to Kathy Ascher for the meeting photos she's taken in the past. Your help has been much appreciated!

This month we welcome seven new newsletter contributors. Barbara Patterson takes over as our new calendar editor. Board member Ari Tenenbaum's monthly column begins on page 5. We're also very fortunate to have Lisa Marun as our copy editor starting with this issue. Lynn Langley's first meeting report appears on page 19. Julia Chimento's excellent photos from our September 12 meeting appear on page 3 and pages 17-19. Diane Downey's photos and Betty Corvey's meeting reports will appear in future issues. Thanks to all of you for stepping up! 🌿

EMAIL OR ADDRESS CHANGES?

We know that you want to be informed about SDHS events and activities, such as the free Featured Gardens and upcoming tours, and to receive your newsletter in a timely manner. Please help us keep our membership info up to date by sending us your new email when you change it, and your new mailing address and phone number if you move. Send this info to membership@sdhort.org. 🌿



FROM THE BOARD

By Jim Bishop

We hope you were able to join us for the first meeting at our new location, Congregation Beth Israel in the University Towne Centre area. It's a beautiful location and most everything went well. Since this is our first new venue in over 20 years, it took a lot of coordination and changes and in the future we'll be making a few tweaks to make the experience even better. We'd like to thank CBI for leasing us this space for meetings and their employees for making us feel so welcome. It took a team effort of SDHS volunteers to accomplish the move and I want to thank all of the people who helped make it a success. Donna Tierney and B.J. Boland worked on the transition plan, as well as the meeting and hospitality room setup...including the cookies! Patty Berg coordinated the volunteers that directed everyone to parking and to the meeting room. Cindy Benoit organized the new check-in process (a big success!) and the membership tables. Cindy also printed and laminated many of the new signs. Thanks to Nancy Woodard and her team for greeting attendees and coordinating the door prize drawing tickets. Jeff Biletznikoff also returned from a brief hiatus to help coordinate the vendor tables. Thanks to Sam Seat for making sure that all the bills for the new space were paid. And also thanks to B.J., Sam and Mary James for helping to scout out the new location.

Continued on page 12



Julia Chimento

One of the plant vendors at the September meeting, William Skimina of SDHS sponsor Multiflora Enterprises.

NOT IN MY BACKYARD

By Giana Crispell, UCCE Certified Master Gardener



It is very likely that right now, in your garden, you or your gardener are planting bulbs, setting out vegetable seedlings, and possibly giving your plants one last dose of fertilizer before winter is upon us. Fall can indeed be a busy time, but I am not here to discuss Fall in the Garden. Au contraire. I want to bring two ugly creatures to your attention that may well be hiding in the very shrubs and trees that you take for granted: the Pine Bark Beetle and the Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer.

Evidence of the destruction caused by the Pine Bark Beetle is seen in the many pines you may see turning a rust color. These beetles are the number one cause of pine tree deaths in San Diego County. Due to the drought, trees are stressed, weakened, and nutrient-deficient. The beetles seize on this vulnerability and burrow under the bark. For the unhealthy trees that are do not have enough sap to trap and kill these insects, it's almost a sure death. The beetles lay eggs in their burrowing tunnels and when the future larvae hatch, they feed on the trees' living tissue and create additional tunnels.

There are two factors that can contribute to the death of a pine tree after a Pine Bark Beetle invasion. First, because the beetles feed on the trees' living tissue, the trees' ability to transport water and nutrients is compromised. Also, when adult beetles first arrive on a new tree, they can introduce fungal spores that they had previously been exposed to. These fungal spores grow and obstruct an infected tree's water-conducting tissue.

When the pines die off, the insects look for nearby pine to infect. This is why you'll see groupings of pine tree deaths. By the time an owner discovers the damage, it's usually too late and the tree HAS TO BE cut down. Unfortunately, insecticides have not proven successful in this battle.

Preventative maintenance is the best approach. If there is insufficient rain in the early winter, then your trees should be deeply irrigated in late winter and once or twice a month until fall. Also, remember to mulch in order to conserve water and keep down weeds.

CAVEAT: If you need to cut down a very tall pine, a permit may be necessary (in our area, a permit is required for trees over 60 feet tall). I recently learned this from the fire department, where there is also literature on the bark beetle.

Many of you are familiar with the Pine Bark Beetle, but you many not have heard about the nefarious Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB). It has caused enormous damage in Florida and it is now established in Los Angeles, Orange, and Riverside Counties. Until recently, in San Diego County, PSHB was thought to be limited to the areas of El Cajon and Escondido, where trees such as avocados and shrubs such as Camellias are affected. However, our household recently completed a study with University of California at Riverside and discovered that we had some beetles in our yard (on Mt. Helix) and word has it that they are spreading to other communities.

The borer itself is very small and difficult to see. It burrows a hole into the wood and then infects the host with a *Fusarium* fungus. The fungus attacks the vascular system of the tree and cuts off the infected tree's water supply. Evidence of a PSHB invasion is a visible white powdery substance on the tree trunk around the entry hole. Advisors from the University of California and the U.S. Department

Continued on page 12

THE REAL DIRT ON . . .

John Bartram

By Carol Buckley

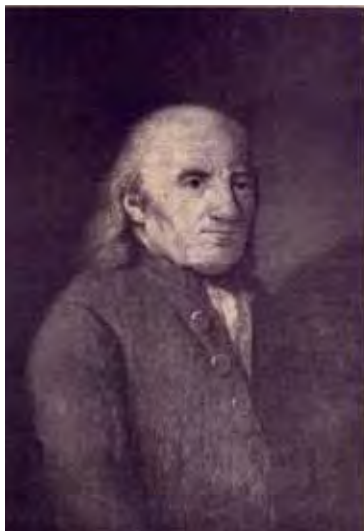
John Bartram, a third-generation American born on his father's farm near Darby, Pennsylvania, in 1699, is considered by many to be the first American botanist. A man with little formal education, he managed to befriend Benjamin Franklin, cofound the American Philosophical Society, join the Library Company of Philadelphia, and be elected to the Royal Swedish Academy of Scientists. His early interest in medicine led him to private study of Latin and other subjects, with books lent him by James Logan, William Penn's secretary.

After buying 102 acres three miles outside Philadelphia in 1723, a newlywed Bartram set up a farm, draining marshland and cutting stone for a house. But he kept several acres for a botanical garden, where he planted seeds and plant species from his explorations and from those sent to him from friends abroad. His garden (now 46 acres) is considered to be the first serious botanical garden in America.

A farmer, stonemason, and physician by trade, Bartram was commissioned by fellow Quaker Peter Collinson, a well-placed London merchant and botanist, to send him seeds and plants from the colonies. Because of this contact, over 200 American plant and tree species, including the magnolia and rhododendron, became part of the greatest estates in England, and in 1765, King George III appointed him a Royal Botanist, providing him with a much-needed stipend. He was commissioned to explore the recently acquired colony of Florida (ceded by Spain at the end of the Seven Years' War). With one of his 11 children, William Bartram, who became a noted botanist in his own right, John traveled the St. John River in East Florida for two years, beginning at age 66. His travel journal became part of a major work (with a very long title!) by Dr. William Stork about Florida at the time. On this trip, he discovered the Franklin tree (*Franklinia almatamaha*) and collected a specimen of Venus flytrap.

Bartram was a man of contradictions. He wrote derogatory remarks about American Indians (some suggest this was due to his childhood loss of his father in an Indian raid), but he also benefitted from their knowledge of native plants and was part of a peacemaking mission to the Six Nations of Onondaga. Also, true to the Quaker spirit, he was an abolitionist who had freed his slaves, paid them wages, and was familiar enough with their lives to study their use of medicinal plants. Carl Linnaeus, with whom he corresponded using the poor grammar he was known for, considered Bartram the greatest natural botanist, and Bartram's journals and records of medicinal plants were considered groundbreaking. In reading his descriptions of plants and their uses, one can see his plain genius and the keen observational skills that brought him fame.

Bartram died in 1777, survived by his second wife, Ann. 🌿



John Bartram, from the portrait painted by Charles Wilson Peale.

BOOK REVIEW

The Backyard Vintner:

An Enthusiast's Guide to Growing Grapes and Making Wine At Home

By Jim Law

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh

I was recently having lunch with a friend and he asked, "What do you know about growing grapes? I've got these beautiful vines, but no fruit."

"Not much," I said. "My vines are doing the same thing." Later that afternoon at the second-hand bookstore, the clerk ringing up my purchase asked, "Is that a good book? I've been growing grape vines for 10 years and so far, I've only managed to harvest one bunch."

I couldn't answer him at the time, but I can tell you that yes, it is a good book. I found out on page 16 that the reason my vines aren't producing is that the soil they're in is too rich. They're planted in an old asparagus bed that had lots of compost dug into it. They're a hardy lot, and they don't like to be coddled.

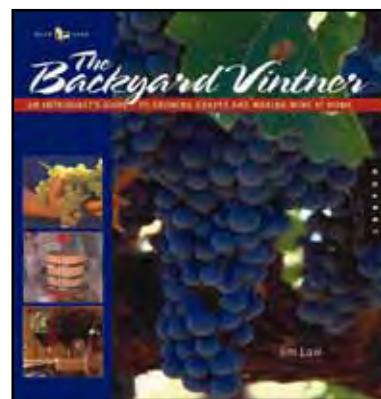
But back to the book. It has an unusual publishing history. My copy came out as a trade paperback in 2005. In 2011, a different publisher issued the book in hardcover and then, in 2015, reissued the paperback. That implies that it continues to be a steady seller, and I can see why. It's well-organized and well-written. Its 176 pages include 68 pages on creating and maintaining your vineyard and the rest has to do with making wine. It finishes with a glossary of winemaking terms, a list of suppliers, and an index.

The author, Jim Law, considered the dean of Virginia vintners, has been making wine there for the past 30 years. His Linden Vineyards produce about 4,000 cases a year, so he knows what he's writing about.

The first section covers selecting your space, planting the vines, building trellises, pruning and training young vines, and care of older vines. One of the subsections I found interesting was about pests. Law discusses the small, but deadly (to grape vines), phylloxera, a tiny insect that eats the roots. (I reviewed an interesting book on phylloxera, *The Botanist and the Vintner* by Christy Campbell in January 2009.) In the same subsection, Law discusses animal pests, including deer, raccoons, wild boars, bears, and even kangaroos. We're short on kangaroos here, but maybe they have a surplus in Virginia, or maybe he planned to sell this book in Australia.

The second half of the book covers the practical and scientific ideas behind winemaking with separate sections on making reds and whites. Law includes a series of "homework assignments" to help you improve your skills as a winemaker.

I don't plan to make wine, but I did find this book interesting. Maybe next year I might, at least, be able to harvest a couple of bunches of table grapes. 🍇



LOVE YOUR YARD AND EAT IT, TOO!

Fall Garden Tips

By Ari Tenenbaum

October is a time for transition - kids are back in school, tourists are going home, and the garden is ready for a little TLC. By now, most summer veggies have run their course and many of the drought-tolerant plants in our landscapes are ready for some tidying up. As summer comes to a close, here are a few chores to get your garden and landscape ready for the fall and winter seasons.

1. *Cut 'em back.* Many native plants go dormant in the late summer. For many of these plants, a hard pruning in the late summer or fall promotes healthy new growth in the winter and spring. Cleveland Sage and California Fuchsia are just two examples of native plants that look much better if they are cut back severely some time in the fall. Most ornamental grasses will also benefit from a hard trimming during this time to encourage lush new growth throughout winter and spring.

2. *Mulch.* Nearly all plants (with the exception of some desert species) benefit from having at least two or three inches of organic mulch around them. Organic mulches like woodchips, compost, or grass clippings help prevent soil erosion, suppress weeds, and increase the water retention of your soil. Wood chips and compost produced

from recycled green waste are available for purchase from the Miramar Greenery and the El Corazon Compost Facility (Agri Service is a SDHS sponsor; see ad on page 14 and <http://www.agriserviceinc.com/contact-elcorazon.html>). City Farmers Nursery, Walter Andersen Nursery (both SDHS sponsors), and other local nurseries also carry a variety of high quality composts and mulch products for your landscape and garden. Be sure to apply fresh mulch now in order to beat winter rains that can erode your bare soil.

3. *Transitioning Crops.* September-November can be a tricky time for veggie gardeners in San Diego. Although most summer crops are past their prime, warm weather can cause winter crops like lettuce and other greens to become bitter and bolt to flowering. As you transition your garden from warm to cool season crops, be sure to keep new plantings well watered, especially during warm weather. In some cases, you may even want to place a shade cloth over young winter greens to keep them tender and flavorful. For a general guide to warm and cool season crops, check out this resource from the San Diego Master Gardeners: <http://www.mastergardenerssandiego.org/Vegetable%20Planting%20Guide1.pdf>

If you need help getting your garden or landscape ready for fall, or if you have a garden that is in need of a major cleanup and you're not sure where to begin, you can contact us to schedule a consultation at www.revolutionlandscape.com. 🌿



Saffron buckwheat (*Eriogonum crocatum*) can be dead headed in October for a cleaner appearance and to encourage more flowers the following season.

GOING WILD WITH NATIVES

Watering Strategies from South Bay Botanic Garden

By Susan Krzywicki

After so much debate about how to water native plant gardens, you'd think it had all been said. Let me add some tips and techniques from Eddie Munguia, who is the Horticultural Lab Technician at the **South Bay Botanic Garden** on the campus of Southwestern College in Chula Vista. Eddie installed a native garden over four years ago and one of the key objectives of the botanic garden is to conduct closely observed research and analysis of the garden's watering needs.

Split Cycle Watering - preventing root zone waterlogging

Last July, after attending a professional workshop, Eddie decided to experiment with split cycling - taking the duration of watering proposed, and dividing it into two segments with a two-hour gap in between. For example, instead of running a sprinkler zone for 10 minutes, he runs the zone for 5 minutes twice in the early morning hours. This allows for absorption by the soil, while avoiding swamping the plant, which can lead to disease and plant death. Eddie has decided that his clear mandate is to "imitate rainfall" by providing supplemental irrigation that looks more like our natural pattern: gentle, sparse summer rains, not heavy storms. During Santa Anas, he recommends a two-minute spritz to cool the plants off. If a plant is suffering from summer stress, he doesn't dump a lot of water on it. He just refreshes it.

The garden, which is well over 5,000 square feet, is mostly Diablo clay with native hybrid species originating in San Diego county and the Channel Islands.

Results: longer bloom times, good growth

Within two weeks of implementing this strategy in July, everything was flourishing. Coast sunflower (*Encelia californica*) now blooms two months longer. Bladderpod (*Isomeris arborea*) now produces flower for him all year round. Showy penstemon (*Penstemon spectabilis*) is



Eddie Munguia, Horticultural Lab Technician at the South Bay Botanic Garden, with California wild grape (*Vitis californica*).

blooming later in the year. Bush poppy (*Dendromecon rigida*) species doubled in size. The garden stays a little greener into summer. And Eddie even observed a third flowering cycle for San Miguel Island buckwheat (*Eriogonum grande rubescens*).

Advice: Experiment and adjust

Eddie says, "Don't be afraid to experiment with your watering cycles. As long as you are not bogging [the plants] down, or the root zone is [not] getting drenched, they will do OK." He says he got lucky on the first try with his split-cycle low-impact changes. So, if you follow his method, note garden changes over at least a month, then adjust again.

Would you consider this for your native garden? Please let us know your thoughts and, if you try this method, please do keep us up-to-date with your progress and observations.

Susan Krzywicki is a native plant landscape designer in San Diego. She has been the first Horticulture Program Director for the California Native Plant Society, as well as chair of the San Diego Surfrider Foundation Ocean Friendly Gardens Committee and is on the Port of San Diego BCDC for the Chula Vista Bayfront. 🌿



The South Bay Botanic Garden, located on the campus of Southwestern College in Chula Vista, in late-summer calm.

THE DIRT ON WATER BLOG

Water Update and Resources...and Good-bye ☹️

By Jeanne Meadow

Water is essential for all living things. It has fascinated me since I was a child. My journey into the world of succulents has been no less than pure joy. My garden is an important place for me and I want to be sure it can survive if our California drought continues.

Let me give you the latest update. First, we are still in a drought. According to the Metropolitan Water District, "this is one of the worst droughts on record." Many people find it confusing that most of the water restrictions here in San Diego County have been lifted. Why then, if we are still in a drought, did San Diego lift many restrictions? This is a topic of much debate, but the short answer is that a lot of pressure was put on the California Water Authority with regards to what some call an unfair playing field. Some cities in Northern California had to cut back when they had plenty of water; and other cities were considered to have special circumstances. While farmers in some cities received water price reductions, other farmers were forced to reduce their water usage. The State decided to transfer the management of YOUR water to YOUR local water company. If you want to know how I feel about this, check out my latest blog.

It has never been more important to understand the operations of your local water organization. Just about everything it does is public information and is usually easily accessible online. At a recent meeting, my local water agency decided to let a large reservoir go empty. When I asked about the reasoning behind this decision, the response was that the San Diego County Water Authority had assured the agency that we have plenty of water in reserve. But do we? Whether or not you agree depends on if you are a glass half empty person or half full.

Let's get back to our gardens. People tell me they have done everything they can to reduce potable water usage in their gardens. When I ask, "How did the FREE property Water Smart Check-up go?" they say, "What?" If you have not taken advantage of this free program, please do! Certified irrigation professionals go to your house and check irrigation issues, make recommendations in a formal report, and share the latest research and program information with you. Check it out at sdewa.org.

Another great resource compiles many various sources into one. The Pacific Institute at <http://www.californiadrought.org/drought/current-conditions/> has an Impact and Solutions section that I really appreciate and it covers everything from power generation to fires. And finally, it is time to say good-bye. Thank you for reading and for all the great comments you've shared. It has been a privilege to bring you my ideas about water. If you want to read more, please check out my blog! Bye for now!

~~~~~

Visit my blog at [TheDirtOnWater.com](http://TheDirtOnWater.com) to read my latest rants or contact me at [jeanne@jeannemeadow.com](mailto:jeanne@jeannemeadow.com). ☺️



Tim McCabe / Photo courtesy of USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### Rob Ashley and Joy Lyndes

By Patty Berg

Volunteers Rob Ashley and his wife, Joy Lyndes, come from different backgrounds and from different places, but they'll tell you that here in San Diego, they've found the perfect setting to build their future together. Here's some of what Joy shared with me about garden experiments, favorite plants, why the couple values membership in the Horticultural Society, and more.

### Feeling Right at Home in the Encinitas...

My husband, Rob Ashley, was raised in England, where garden stewardship is carried on by generations as an honor and privilege. I am a licensed landscape architect who has designed water conserving

*Continued on page 15*



## TO LEARN MORE

### The Dry Vegetable Garden

By Ava Torre-Bueno

While October's presentation will be about lovely succulent gardening, I have veered off course again to dry vegetable gardening. In many parts of the world, including the deserts of the American Southwest, people have been carefully husbanding water to grow food. Here's a summary article: [http://www.harvesttotable.com/2009/02/dry\\_gardening/](http://www.harvesttotable.com/2009/02/dry_gardening/)

NPR did a story on dry gardening back in 2013 that highlighted the flavorful impact of gardening with less water: <http://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2013/08/23/214884366/to-grow-sweeter-produce-california-farmers-turn-off-the-water>

Another article from 2014 focuses on California: <http://modernfarmer.com/2014/07/well-runs-dry-try-dry-farming/>

The last two dry gardening articles are more academic, but still but readable. The first one focuses on wine grapes: [http://agwaterstewards.org/index.php/practices/dry\\_farming/](http://agwaterstewards.org/index.php/practices/dry_farming/) and the second is more general: <http://cropsfordrylands.com/wp-content/uploads/Dryland-Farming-Crops-Tech-for-Arid-Regions.pdf> Be sure to search YouTube for videos about dry farming, too. ☺️



## 2016 GARDENING WITH CLASS CONFERENCE:

### Diggin' in for Health

By Lisa Marun

If you have any interest in the latest best methods and practices when it comes to creating and utilizing school gardens to their greatest educational potential, mark your calendar. Hosted by The San Diego County Master Gardener Association, the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual School Gardens Conference, Gardening with Class, is geared toward preschool through high school educators and administrators, parents who coordinate school garden programs, and other interested parties. This one-day conference will be held on Saturday, October 15 at the Del Mar Fairgrounds Grandstand.

This year's Conference theme, Diggin' in for Health, provides the framework for educators and garden and landscape professionals to share their expertise. Session topics include Creating your School Garden; Cultivating School Nutrition; Healthy Soil, Healthy Garden; Creating a Pollinator Garden; NGSS and Common Core Garden Lessons; Ecological and Healthy Schoolyards; and Vermicomposting, among others. Additional presentations, demonstrations, workshops, exhibits, resources, prizes, free plants, and other goodies will complete a fun and informative day. A continental breakfast and lunch are included in the \$50 registration fee.

Event registration is available at [www.mastergardenerssandiego.org/schools/schools.php](http://www.mastergardenerssandiego.org/schools/schools.php). Garden clubs, PTAs, and educational foundations are potential resources for requesting scholarships to cover the conference cost. Teachers can receive 1.5 quarter units of UCSD Extension in-service credit for the day. Space is limited to the first 125 registrants, so early registration is advised. 🌱



## CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY FALL PLANT SALE

If you're looking for a way to attract birds and butterflies to your garden, save water, and protect San Diego's natural heritage, you don't want to miss California Native Plant Society-San Diego Chapter's Fall Plant Sale. The event will be held at Balboa Park on Saturday, October 15, 2016, from 10AM to 3PM.

The plant sale will take place during the ideal planting season for starting or supplementing a native garden, and the wide range of native plants available for purchase include grasses, trees, and succulents.

Also, there will be seeds, books, posters, and other plant-related items. Friendly and knowledgeable experts will be on hand for plant selection advice. We will be accepting cash, checks and credit cards for payment. A convenient curbside-loading zone is available for your convenience.

This plant sale will be in Balboa Park's Theater Courtyard between Casa Del Prado Theater and Casa Del Prado, just across

## MASTER GARDENERS PLANT EXTRAVAGANZA

October 22 in Balboa Park

Thousands of plants will go on sale at discounted prices when the Master Gardener Association of San Diego County holds its annual Plant Extravaganza on Saturday, October 22, 2016, from 9AM to 3PM in Room 101 at Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Over the years, this free event has attracted thousands of San Diegans looking for locally grown plants from Master Gardeners who are trained by the University of California Cooperative Extension.

Unique specimens that are particularly suited for the area's many microclimates will be available for purchase, including succulents, vegetables, flowers, and many drought-tolerant species. In addition, garden art and handmade birdhouses created by the Master Gardeners will be for sale.

Master Gardeners will be on hand to offer free gardening advice and there will be exhibits and demonstrations of some of the latest trends using compost, drip irrigation, plant propagation, and other earth-friendly techniques. Also, attendees may potentially qualify their home gardens as "Certified Earth-Friendly" by reviewing a check list at the event.

Free parking is available throughout Balboa Park and a holding area will be available for event attendees' convenience as they shop and to facilitate loading. For more information, please visit the Master Gardener website [www.mastergardenerssandiego.org](http://www.mastergardenerssandiego.org) 🌱

Master gardeners Shoppers choose from a wide variety of plants



from the west side of the San Diego Natural History Museum. As a member, you may start shopping at 9AM, or if you know what you want, you may pre-order plants. There is a minimum pre-order amount of \$100 for members. Membership information and pre-ordering are available at [www.cnpssd.org](http://www.cnpssd.org).

For further information, including a list of most of the plants available for purchase, please visit: [gardennative.org](http://gardennative.org). 🌱

# TREES, PLEASE

Native or Not?

The Answer is Complicated

By Robin Rivet

It's October, the best season to plant trees in San Diego County, unless you have winter freezes – in which case you'll want to wait until late spring. Tropical and sub-tropical fruit species also prefer warm weather to ease establishment. I'm talking shade trees. Big ones. In the summertime, these might be twenty degrees cooler under their



Old oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) photographed at Daley Ranch in Escondido



Torrey Pine at  
Cuyamaca  
College

Robin Rivet

canopies than surrounding areas just ten feet away. We really need large species planted soon to ensure that the next generation can still breathe oxygen by the time they are grandparents. So what to plant? A lot of summer hot air is exhaled touting the virtues of native plants. Natives tend to use available water resources efficiently. There are numerous ways to incorporate native shrubs, vines, and perennials into landscapes, and our county is revered for beautiful native gardens, yet they often incorporate few trees. Can you name ten or twenty species? Most people cannot. Our region is home to few native trees that provide ample shade, drought tolerance, and root systems compatible with hardscape. The dilemma is that urban ecosystems need to include us.

Ironically, many natives go dormant during heat spells, disposing of their foliage before it crisps in late summer. Our California sycamore is a case in point, losing its leaves as early as August, which is long before hot Santa Ana winds ravage our landscapes. It should be noted that native sycamores are indigenous to riparian streambeds, and are not particularly drought-tolerant. As a result, they thrive in moderately-watered home gardens, but often fail miserably as street trees. Similarly, native white alders, box elders, willows, and cottonwoods all prefer moister environments. Foliar loss can help reduce a plant's surface area, decreasing evaporation; but they adapt to water scarcity with extensive root systems. By shutting down early, what little water remains in the soil is used to maintain vital cambium and root tissues. Conversely, our evergreen Torrey pine and coast-live oak cast decent shade, make awesome wildlife habitat, and need little water; but be sure you have enough space for them to reach their full maturity. Black walnuts are native and delicious, but are highly allelopathic (like oaks), meaning they chemically deter adjacent plants, which is a trait not often welcome in residential yards. Redbud, toyon, and manzanita might make lovely patio specimens, but these are not valued for shade. What to do? I checked UFEI (<http://ufe.calpoly.edu>), the best ornamental tree resource in California. If you query what California natives are useful as shade trees, the site turns up nothing. Zero. I recommend you consider non-native, but well-adapted species from the Mediterranean belts in Europe, Chile, South Africa, or Australia.

Member Robin Rivet is an ISA Certified Arborist, UC Master Gardener, and

City of La Mesa Environmental Commissioner - [treetutor@gmail.com](mailto:treetutor@gmail.com)



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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.

### Agavaceae, Part I: The Adoration

We have a lot of agaves in our garden. However, it took me a while to warm up to agaves. One of the first that I grew was *Agave victoriae-reginae* (Queen Victoria agave). It looks like a giant artichoke with stiff leaves that have a sharp spine at the end of each. I fell in love with it for its symmetry. These agaves are very slow growing and they rarely offset, so they usually command a higher price than similarly sized agaves. They can take up to 30 years before they bloom, so in spite of the large initial investment, they can last a long time in the garden. I bought small ones whenever I found them and I have now a potted collection of them by the front gate. I had one that I acquired over 25 years ago that first bloomed this summer. Right now, I'm waiting for the seedpods on the 20-foot tall bloom stock to ripen. Hopefully, I'll be able to collect some seeds and grow many more plants.

Our current property had several *Agave americanas* (a.k.a. sentry plant, Century plant, maguey, and American aloe) on the back slope when we moved in and a number of them bloomed the first year we lived here. However, one was continually attacked by gophers that ate all the pups, but not the central plant. This may be the reason it grew so large—almost ten feet across. When we were putting in steps on the hill, we had to make a sharp turn to go around this giant agave. Since you looked down into this agave while walking down the steps, a friend of mine named it the “Jaws-of-Death” garden. It bloomed a few years later sending up a giant asparagus-like spike that eventually reached the height of the living room window some 40 feet above it. The blooms drew many hummingbirds, orioles, and other birds, each waiting their turn to get to the nectar. However, it would take almost another three years before it would decompose enough for removal from the garden.

We also had one *Agave attenuata*, the foxtail agave, growing on the property at the very bottom of the hill. It had some pups on its



*Agave oviata*



Agave Collection



*Agave bracteosa* bud

main growing stalk, so I rooted them and planted them in a small bed between the steps and the dry creek bed. However, it didn't take long for them to get too big for the space, so I replanted them on a large hillside section. Over the years, we've had to move a few more that got too big, of which only a few have ever bloomed. Unlike many other agaves, they seem to be shunned by gophers.

I love using agaves as a focal point in the garden. The thick leaves make a good contrast to leafy plants and grasses. And many have attractive leaves that are variegated, white, blue, or lined with a beautiful margin or small teeth that make them attention-getting specimens. Some of the larger ones have beautiful imprints or shadows from earlier leaves that have pressed against them.

Most of the other agaves we currently grow were acquired in the last 18 years as I slowly started collecting agaves that were of unusual form or interest. Most were grown in pots, and since many get large quickly, I usually buy one gallon size or smaller and up-pot them when they get too large for their containers. I learned that growing them in pots also helps slow their growth. Still, many grow too big and get transplanted into the garden. As the potted agaves grew in size, many of them proved to be somewhat dangerous to have where people could bump into them. After Debra Lee Baldwin included a photo of our garden wall with mostly potted succulents in front of a large tile talavera sun mural in her book *Succulent Container Gardens*, I realized that this might be the perfect spot to arrange all the potted agaves. It is one of the hottest spots in the garden in the summer and somewhat out of the way so visitors can't easily bump into the plants. Today, there

*Continued on page 20*



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We encourage our 1200+ members to be active participants and share in the fun; to volunteer see page 2. A warm hello to these new members:

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Kudos to these members whose friends joined in 2016; 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.

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## SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN'S ANNUAL FALL PLANT SALE

It's the event you've been waiting for! Don't miss San Diego Botanic Garden's annual Fall Plant Sale on October 15-16 from 10AM to 4PM. Featuring plant donations from over 100 local growers, wholesalers, retail nurseries, and individuals, this is one of the most interesting and diverse plant sales in San Diego County!

Plant selections include California natives, cacti, succulents, bromeliads, fruit trees, and subtropicals. The sale also features beautiful water-wise plants to enhance your garden and save on your watering bill.

Be sure to visit our Botanic Attic for garden-related items, as well as our used book sale. Enjoy a tasty treat at our Bakery Shoppe, where you can find cookies, cakes, pies, specialty jellies, coffee, and more.

This event is free with paid admission and for members. Members also enjoy presale privileges at 9AM on October 15. For more information, please visit [sdbgarden.org/plantsales.htm](http://sdbgarden.org/plantsales.htm). ☺



Lisa Reynolds





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## ■ From the Board Continued from page 3

Just a couple of reminders about the new location. The CBI is a kosher facility, so we ask that people who bring food before the meeting enjoy their food off premises and not in any of the CBI rooms. For an early dinner, there are many dining options to fit just about any budget in the nearby UTC or the Renaissance Towne Centre shopping centers. If you were unable to attend our first meeting, directions and map links are located on our website.

The Plant Forum table is now front and center in our new reception hall. We encourage you to bring in plants, flowers, and cuttings to display on the table. We'd like to see the table full of all the wonderful plants and flowers our members grow—bring them to share with our members.

## Meeting Survey

An online survey about the new meeting location was made available for the week following the meeting. We received nearly 100 replies, of which 84 attended the meeting. Almost all rated the new meeting room as wonderful or much improved and said the new location was easy to find. A few problems were noted that we'll work to improve. Most notable was that the foyer was too cold, the meeting room lights need to be a bit brighter, and there were some issues with everyone exiting the parking lot at the same time. Just a reminder, it is a large meeting room and right now there are plenty of open seats, so feel free to change seats if you have difficulty seeing, hearing, or there is too much or too little air conditioning. We hope to see you at a future meeting and bring a friend! 🌿

## ■ Not In My Backyard Continued from page 3



of Agriculture have advised that there is no good solution for this borer and fungus. They recommend preventative maintenance (i.e. proper irrigation). Trees have been infested after either over-watering or under-watering. If a tree shows evidence of a PSHB invasions, cut off

any infested branches, taking care to sterilize tools between cuts.

This is potentially an explosive problem as the PSHB population can travel about 12 miles per year. And if care is not taken in the handling of infested cut wood, borers can hitch a ride to a far-off destination.

The tree species to date that have been by PSHB affected are: Box Elder, Avocado, Castor Bean, English Oak, Coast Live Oak, Silk Tree, Liquid Ambar, Coral, Titoki, California Sycamore, Blue Palo Verde, Big Leaf Maple.

**IMPORTANT:** If you think you see holes in any of these trees on your property, contact your local farm advisor, UCR's Dr. Akif Eskalen at 951-827-3499. Another good contact is the California Avocado Commission 949-341-1955. For more on the PSHB, including what to do with infected wood, visit [eskalenlab.ucr.edu/handouts/decisionmaking.pdf](http://eskalenlab.ucr.edu/handouts/decisionmaking.pdf). 🌿



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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 October was: **Do you have a favorite horticulture/gardening information resource (website, person, book, podcast), and what is it?**

**Marilyn Wilson:** When I have a question about a plant, I check with the websites for Dave's Garden and San Marcos Growers.

**Rebecca Prater:** Can't beat the *Sunset Western Garden Book*. I also find myself regularly checking Pat Welsh's Southern California Gardening and I walk around the Water Conservation Garden when I am looking for ideas.

**Bobbie Stephenson:** The California Native Plant Society gardening webpage at <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/grownative> and the San Diego Chapter's Garden Native website at <http://www.gardennative.org/>.

**Ruth Sewell:** Whenever I am at Home Depot, I always stroll through the garden section; you never know what might catch your eye. This morning I brought home a beautiful Caladium (what it said on the pot label).

**Ava Torre-Bueno:** I go straight to the horse's mouth when I have a question or concern: Bill Tall of City Farmer's Nursery. He's hugely knowledgeable and is always happy to help. I bring sick plants in zip-lock baggies so I don't introduce anything bad to the Nursery. I also go to a Facebook group I belong to, called San Diego Backyard Growers.

**Gerald D. Stewart:** My favorite horticulture information source is the internet—more specifically Facebook's plant specific "Planets" and Nan Sterman's San Diego Gardening Group; Google; and Wikipedia. As an example, I recently acquired many new pelargonium cultivars, some of which came with the wrong name. Planet Geranium-Pelargonium members have been very helpful posting pictures and leads to finding the correct cultivar names. In over 50 years of collecting pelargoniums this is the first time I have had immediate access to hobbyist experts in England, Europe, and Australia, the other three countries/continents where multitudes of hobbyist 'pel' cultivars have been created.

**Beth Escott Newcomer:** Our favorite resource is our own website! Check out [www.cacti.com](http://www.cacti.com) for growing tips, cultural information and other interesting facts about many succulent plants. We have compiled this information from many sources—all of which are cited. But our most valuable resource is Don Newcomer, owner of Serra Gardens, who has a lifetime of experience growing succulents for the landscape.

**Susi Torre Bueno:** It is so hard to pick just one favorite resource. For info about many of the water-thrifty plants I'm interested in, I like the website for San Marcos Growers ([smgrowers.com](http://smgrowers.com)), which has excellent descriptions and discussions. To learn about the experiences of hands-on gardeners with particular plants, and to research mail-order

nurseries, I like DavesGarden.com. For local pest issues, the Master Gardeners have an excellent website (mastergardenerssandiego.org) and they also have a help line that you can call and discuss your problems with a Master Gardener. For questions about veggies, I like Pat Welsh's books.

**Patty Berg:** The San Diego Gardener group page on Facebook is a great resource for our region. It's well-managed and there is always a wealth of good information; the greenest new home gardeners, as well as veteran professionals, post regularly. Occasional disagreements among experts can be informative and entertaining—the admin folks [Nan Sterman and John Clements] never let anything get out of hand. Especially valuable for plant and pest ID and from time to time, showing off whatever looks fabulous in your yard.

**Sandy Burlem:** Person(s): Nan Sterman and Debra Lee Baldwin. Book: *Sunset's Western Garden Book*.

**Tom Biggart:** I do have an incredible source for all questions horticultural. The good thing about my source is that it has three parts. With a question, three heads are better than one, right? This source is three members of my Hort meeting dinner group—Sheila Busch, Sue Fouquette, and Marie Smith. The three of them spent their entire careers working with plants and have an incredible amount of knowledge. I am very lucky to have such a source!!

**Tandy Denny:** I work with plants every day, and the most frequently used websites for me are San Marcos Growers, Las Pilitas Nursery, and Tree of Life Nursery. For care and problems, ipm.ucdavis.edu. For plant botany and a great weekly newsletter, I like Dave's Garden. It is the place to get correct pronunciation and the origins of botanical names.

**Stephen Zolezzi:** Best resources are the county-wide or regional Societies/Clubs I belong to. Rich resource for every type of information, education, plants, and best of all, associating with Great People—would be lost without them.

**Viv Black:** I have been caring for and encouraging worms in my three-tiered worm bin for years and, of course, this time of year, there's their favorite food, melons. So I have been making worm tea throughout the summer and putting it in 6 oz and 12 oz jars to use and share with friends whose plants are not doing well. I first was told about this amazing liquid gold by a soil inspector from the El Centro area, about 20 years ago. He suggested I do more research at the University of Oregon at Portland, which I did, online. Ever since then, worms in my garden and worm tea have been my inspiration for healthy soil.

**Janet Segvich:** I used to use Gardenweb.com, which is now under Houzz. Select Garden Forums and pick a topic from A-Z, such as California Gardening, to see answers to gardening questions. I also love the San Diego Gardener site on Facebook.

**Lisa Robinson:** Great, *Sunset's Western Garden Book*.

**Lisa Bellora:** San Marcos Growers website.

**Jan Thomas:** My favorite horticulture resource person is Debra Lee Baldwin. Her website is <http://debraleebaldwin.com>. I have found not only inspiration from several of her books, but also answers to previously unanswered questions regarding container succulents, which I have found to be very helpful and informative. Two of her books, *Designing with Succulents* and *Succulent Container Gardens* include some of the most spectacular photos I've ever seen before!

**Susan Krzywicki:** This is where you can find which native plants that are specific to your very own piece of earth! Type in your address

or a zip code and the California Native Plant Society (Calscape) resource gives you plant choices and cultural information, as well as a downloadable plant list and places to buy the plants. (<http://calscape.org>).

**Tynan Wyatt:** My favorite sources for their reliability and personal touch are Dave's Garden (website) and plantzafrica (website). Secondary sources are many state-run agriculture/horticulture websites such as those of Florida, Texas A&M (Aggies), and Missouri.

**Giana Crispell:** For fairly comprehensive and in-depth information on a variety of gardening topics, it's hard to beat the Master Gardener Handbook. Depending on the gardening issue, I may consult the *Sunset Western Garden Book*, but for more details and tricky issues about insects, propagating, and pruning, I always consult the most up-to-date copy of *The Handbook*. It's kind of the Bible of gardening. 🌱

## ■ Volunteer Spotlight Continued from page 7

municipal landscapes in Arizona for 30 years. My passions are natives and rain water harvesting. We moved to Encinitas three years ago and we feel pretty comfortable in this historic floriculture capital of the world.

## Experimenting in the Garden and Garden Favorites...

We have been removing turf and higher water use plants from our front yard and part of our back yard, and replacing them with low water use natives, South African, Australian and Mediterranean plants. My favorites are grevilleas and we are also testing some proteas. I love salvias, but I am having mixed success. Because I'm in the landscape industry, I have relationships with nurseries and they

*Continued on page 19*

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This 340-page, 1000+ color photo book is both a cultural overview and encyclopedia of aloes and agaves in cultivation. These African and Mexican plants are shown thriving in our Southern California suburban habitat, with growing advice and observations from a local succulent nursery owner. Also shown and discussed are the smaller related genera, such as yuccas, beaucarneas, haworthias, gasterias, etc..

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## SEPTEMBER 2016 PLANT DISPLAY

By Joan Herskowitz 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).

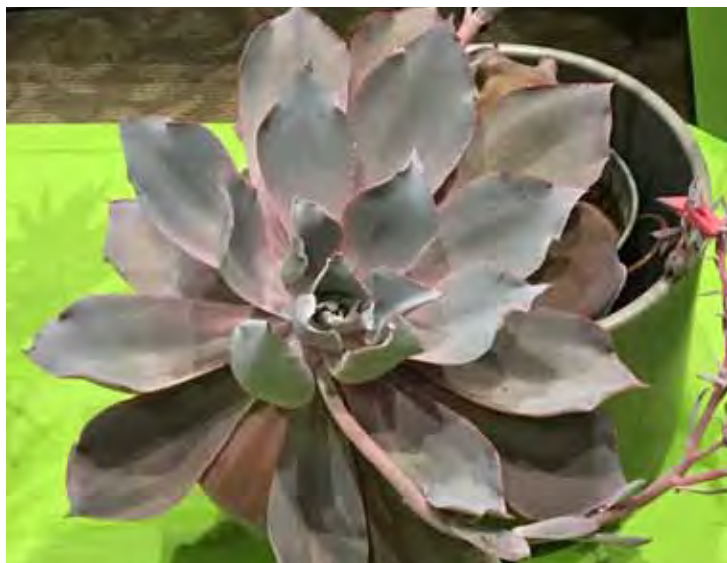
Join the fun and bring something to the next meeting. We thank those people who brought in plants to show to other members.

Available **FREE** on our website –  
all 22 years worth of plant descriptions!  
Go to [tinyurl.com/Plant-Descriptions](http://tinyurl.com/Plant-Descriptions).

***Brillantaisia subulugurica*** (= *Brillantaisia cicatricosa*) TROPICAL GIANT SALVIA (Acanthaceae) Zimbabwe, Tropical West Africa  
This little-known soft wooded shrub grows 5'-7' tall and has large green heart-shaped leaves to about 6" long and 5" wide. Does best when grown in sun to light shade (needs some sun to bloom); it needs moderate water. The large violet-blue salvia-like flowers appear in long spikes over along period in summer; and are about 2" long and about 1" wide. They have a broad bottom petal and an upper petal that is a curved hood-shaped form with spots and tiny purplish glandular hairs. Prune hard after flowering to encourage new flower spikes to form; easy to grow from cuttings. This plant is top-heavy and probably would need staking in most gardens unless it grows up through other supporting plants. It can grow to 15' in its native Zimbabwe, where it is common ([www.zimbabweflora.co.zw/speciesdata/species.php?species\\_id=153070](http://www.zimbabweflora.co.zw/speciesdata/species.php?species_id=153070)). Not frost tolerant. The brilliant flowers are reason enough to grow it in a large pot in a prominent location, where it can get the extra water it needs to thrive. (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 9/16) – S.T.B.

× ***Chitalpa tashkentensis*** 'Morning Cloud' WHITE CHITALPA (Bignoniaceae) Horticultural Hybrid

This is an extremely attractive deciduous tree growing to 20-25 feet with multiple branching near its base, and forming a broad oval crown with abundant showy clusters of white flowers. It is an inter-generic hybrid and its genesis is described in a very interesting article entitled "Chitalpas" by Thomas Elias in the Winter 1991 edition of the *Pacific Horticulture* magazine. He describes the tree's origin as follows: "The desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis*) from the desert washes of the American Southwest, and the southern catalpa (*Catalpa bignonioides*), from the southeastern United States, were brought together in the central Asian Republic of Uzbekistan in the Soviet Union in the early 1960s. From this unlikely event came one of the most exciting drought-tolerant woody plants for arid and semi-arid regions of the world." The name "Chitalpa" is a combination the two genera from which it is hybridized. Flowering begins in May in Southern California and continues into early fall. The inch long foxglove-shape white flowers, which have a slight tinge of pink, are arranged in clusters at the branch ends. The flowers are sterile, with the advantage of avoiding messy seed pods. The tree is drought tolerant and best grown in full sun and in a well-drained soil, but it is said to benefit from consistent and even moisture. Powdery mildew problems have been reported in humid coastal areas and in shade locations. (Anne Murphy, Vista, 9/16) – J.H.



Julia Chimento

*Echeveria* 'Afterglow' from Sue Fouquette

***Echeveria* 'Afterglow'** AFTERGLOW ECHEVERIA (Crassulaceae)  
Horticultural Hybrid

This succulent hybrid is a stunning and vigorous accent plant for low-water landscapes or containers. It consists of a short stem and a large rosette up to 12-16 inches wide with powdery lavender-pink leaves that practically give off a glow of color. The plant produces multiple flowering stalks of orange-red flowers that emerge from below the lower leaves, or sometimes as a terminal flower stem. Some gardeners remove the flowering stalks in order to retain the vigor and succulence of the rosette of leaves. The best leaf color is achieved when the plant is grown in full sun, although it can also be grown in part shade. It thrives in heat and tolerates drought when established. San Marcos Growers reports that based on research by Brian Kemble, Curator of the Ruth Bancroft Garden, this plant was hybridized by the succulent grower Don Worth who crossed *Echeveria cante* (seed parent) with *Echeveria shaviana* (pollen parent) to create both *Echeveria* 'Afterglow' and its sister seedling *Echeveria* 'Morning Light'. The genus *Echeveria*, with approximately 180 species, is native to the Americas but has its main distribution in Mexico and Central America. (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 9/16) – J.H.

***Neofinita falcata*** SAMURAI ORCHID (Orchidaceae)  
China, Korea, Japan

Grown mostly for foliage, this small epiphytic orchid has sparkling white fragrant flowers and grows on branches and trunks of deciduous trees in its native habitat. The plant grows up to about 5" tall. Many hybrids have this species as one of the parent plants. According to www.calorchid.com, it is "one of the oldest known orchids in cultivation. It is a native to Japan, Korea, and China and there are societies of growers who grow this orchid exclusively, and membership is by invitation only. These plants have been cultivated in Japan for centuries and is known as the 'Orchid of the Shoguns', who maintained private collections, some of them added to by the Samurai soldiers who were perhaps attempting to gain favor with their Shogun." Another source (www.orchidweb.com) notes that this orchid was grown as a house plant as early as the 1600s! (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 9/16) – S.T.B.

***Thevetia peruviana* 'Apricot'** (= *Cascabela thevetia* or *Thevetia neriiifolia*) YELLOW OLEANDER, LUCKY NUT (Apocynaceae)  
Horticultural selection or cultivar

This large shrub or small tree is a cultivar (or perhaps a horticultural

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Seedpods from *Manihot esculenta* (left) and *Thevetia peruviana* 'Apricot' (right) from Susi Torre-Bueno

selection) of a species from Central America, Peru, and the West Indies that eventually reaches about 12'-20' tall and 10'-15' wide. It is related to oleander, and all parts are poisonous to ingest. The glossy bright green evergreen foliage is narrow and about 3"-5" long. It bears apricot colored tubular flowers from spring through fall (March through December in my garden). The green fruit are about 1" wide and mature to black. It grows best in full sun with well-drained soil. According to Bob Perry's excellent book, *Landscape Plants for California Gardens*, this species is "the most widely planted [*Thevetia*] species in California and is popular as a screen and foundation plant along walls particularly in low desert communities. It can be clipped and maintained as a formal hedge and be pruned as it matures to become a small specimen tree. It is highly adapted to hot summer temperatures and full sun as long as it received regular water." In my garden it gets very little water once a week. (Susi Torre-Bueno, Encinitas, 9/16) – S.T.B.

**In addition to the plants described above, the plants listed below were displayed; all have been previously described.**

What's that in front of the plant name? Plants marked **3** are fully described in the SDHS *Plant Forum Compilation*, available online for FREE at [tinyurl.com/Plant-Descriptions](http://tinyurl.com/Plant-Descriptions).

*Can you spot the phony plant this month?* The phony plant in the June newsletter was Boophone distictica COWBANE, EVIL-EYE FLOWER, CARPE DIEM POISON BULB.

*Aeonium* sp. (from Cuernavaca, Mexico)  
(Roger & Gerry Martin, San Diego, 9/16)

3 *Agave vilmoriniana* OCTOPUS AGAVE  
(Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 9/16)

3 *Amaryllis belladonna* (possibly a hybrid) NAKED LADY  
(Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 9/16)

3 *Ampelopsis brevipedunculata* HUCKLEBERRY CLIMBER,  
CERAMIC BERRY, CERAMIC VINE  
(Garden Lover, El Cajon, 9/16)

3 *Ampelopsis brevipedunculata* BLUEBERRY CLIMBER,  
PORCELAIN BERRY,  
PORCELAIN VINE  
(Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 9/16)

3 *Cyrtanthus* species, hybrid or  
cultivar (Susi Torre-Bueno,  
Vista, 9/16)

3 *Helianthus maximilianii*  
MAXIMILIAN SUNFLOWER  
(Marie Smith, San Diego, 9/16) –  
The plant displayed was a  
flowering stem at least 10' tall!

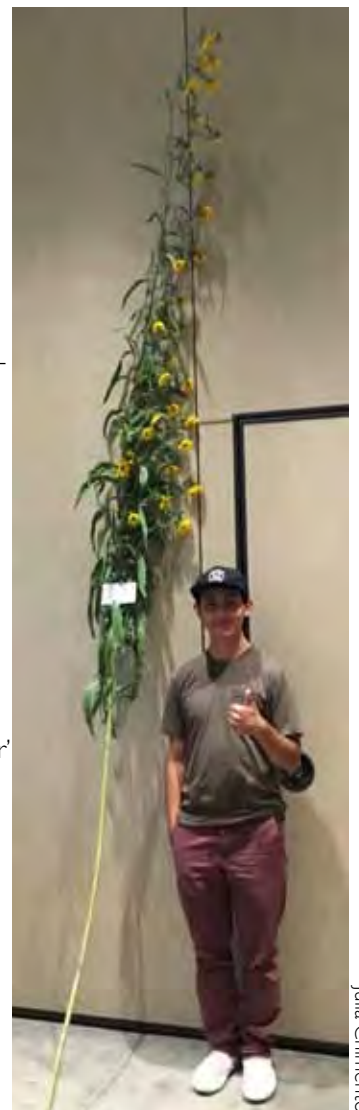
3 *Kalanchoe daigremontiana*  
(= *Bryophyllum*  
*daigremontianum*) MOTHER  
OF THOUSANDS  
(Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 9/16)

3 *Manihot esculenta*  
CASSAVA, TAPIOCA  
(Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 9/16)

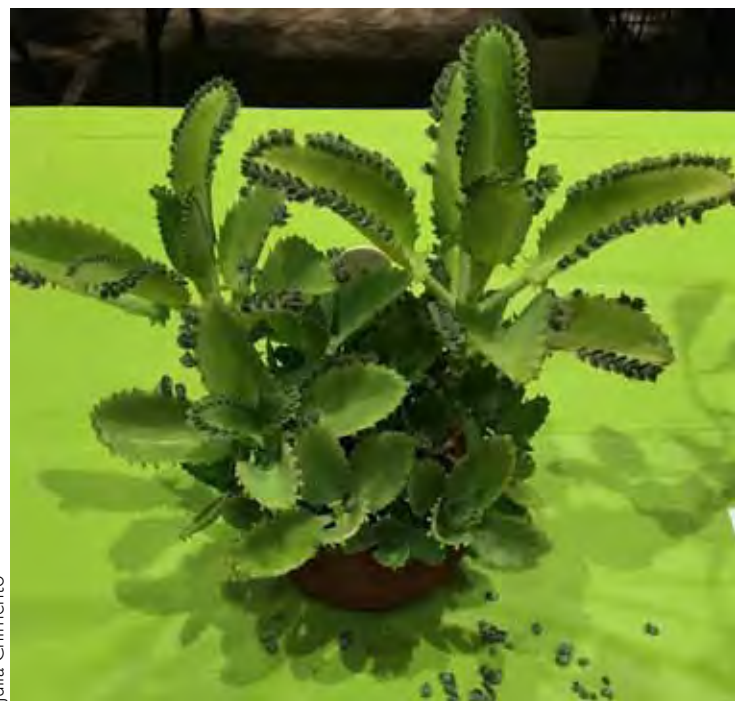
3 *Pandorea jasminoides* 'Pink Panther'  
BOWER VINE  
(Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 9/16)

*Paphiopedilum* Doll's Kobold  
MINIATURE SLIPPER ORCHID  
(Charley Fouquette,  
El Cajon, 9/16)

3 *Schotia brachypetala* WEEPING  
BOER BEAN, TREE FUCHSIA  
(Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 9/16)



*Helianthus maximilianii* from  
Marie Smith



*Kalanchoe daigremontiana* from Sue Fouquette

# SEPTEMBER MEETING REPORT

By Lynn Langley

The September meeting took place on an important date for the Horticultural Society. It marked the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Society in San Diego. The speaker for the evening was Jeff Moore, owner of Solana Succulents, who shared the release of his second book, *Aloes and Agaves in Cultivation*. Speaking to the Society for the second time in less than two years, Jeff mentioned that he was an early fan of low water succulents and has been pleased to see the interest in and availability of succulents grow in response to the continuing challenges of water in San Diego. The last time Jeff was a presenter at the Horticultural Society, he discussed his first book, *Under the Spell of Succulents*. He thanked Society members for their generosity on that evening, when he had one of his first successful book sale events. Also, he announced that at this month's meeting, he had sold all of the copies he had brought of his new book, and that members still wanting a signed copy could visit him at his nursery.

Having been an aloe collector for over 25 years, Jeff eventually also became a fan of agaves. He showed several slides of aloes and agaves together to illustrate the differences between the two. He had a tough time finding the picture he wanted for the cover of his book, so with a potted aloe in tow, he went in search for the perfect agave. He then placed the aloe in front of that agave, covered the roots, and took his book cover picture.

Jeff organized his new book for succulent enthusiasts. He grouped the aloes by color, rather than by family. Agaves, on the other hand, are grouped from large to small varieties because that is how Jeff organizes them mentally. His focus is to show how these plants grow in our habitat, so the reader knows what to expect when selecting plants for his/her garden.

He spent some time at the meeting discussing aloe cultivation methods, propagation, diseases, and pests. Aloes are Old World plants, originating in Africa. They usually bloom once a year, and have supple thorns and flexible leaves. Jeff joked that if you happened to cut yourself on an aloe, you would be healing the cut at the same time. Jeff advises that when planting aloes in gardens containing primarily native clay soil, they should be placed in mounds of cactus soil on top of the clay soil instead of amending the native soil.

Propagation of aloes can be easy if there are pups, but this is not always the case. Sometimes, new plants have to be grown from seed, and the collection of and growth from seeds is a slow process. Aloe diseases can also be a time-consuming part of working with aloes. The aloe mite is an ugly, but non-fatal, disease involving mites that create big, ugly galls. The best way to stop this disease is to remove the galls, within which lie the majority of the mites, and spray with an insecticide. A second option is to make an organic spray of 5% Simple Green mixed with water and a crushed baby aspirin. Jeff joked that he wouldn't be surprised if a little chemical insecticide was also slipped into that spray to increase its effectiveness! Another issue with aloes can be aphids in the center of the plant. The easiest way to get rid of the aphids is to hit them with a blast of water.

As for agaves, Jeff described them as low water plants from areas that receive summer rains. As such, he suggested that they need to be watered about twice a week in summer months. Beginning in October, watering can be reduced to once per week. Agaves are from the New World and are very rigid and sharp. They make pups early in their lives and then stop. Jeff called it "agave menopause." Agaves have one big flowering event, after which they will die.

A member of the audience asked Jeff if cutting off the flower



Julia Chimento

Ausachica Nursery plants 9/16 meeting

spike of the agave could stop the flowering event and keep the agave from dying. Jeff answered, "I don't think that would work because the process has already begun with the formation of the flower spike. In some instances, I've seen the agave develop a lot of pups at the site, but that destroys the center of the plant. My advice is just to enjoy the wonderful flower event, and then come to my nursery and buy another one!" What a wonderful way to end an informative and entertaining evening. 🌿

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Ray Brooks (hand-carved wooden bowl)

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## ■ Volunteer Spotlight Continued from page 15

often give me plants to try out. It can lead to a yard that looks a bit experimental but also to some unexpected results. I'm testing a Dalea ground cover right now that I got from Mountain States Nursery and I am happy with how it's performing. Rob's passion is for roses and we just planted 24 roses in a border.

## Our Fellow Plant Geeks...

We joined SDHS to learn about the plants that grow here. We love the monthly talks and have followed up on what we have learned by experimenting with plants in our garden. We have several palms we bought from Phil Bergman of Jungle Music in Leucadia after his talk. We have bought bromeliads at the speaker events and we now have a tillandsia and bromeliad collection on the wall in our courtyard.

Volunteering gives the opportunities to meet other plant geeks and learn more about plants. 🌿





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Join us this  
October

for an in-depth exploration of Japanese gardens, culture, and cuisine. We will enjoy the beautiful countryside, see lovely gardens, and enjoy exotic foods. Guests will have an opportunity to add an optional extension to Kyoto.

San Miguel de Allende is a city in central Mexico that manages to be both quaint and cosmopolitan at the same time. With its narrow cobblestone streets, leafy courtyards, fine architectural details, and sumptuous interiors, San Miguel de Allende is arguably the prettiest town in Mexico.

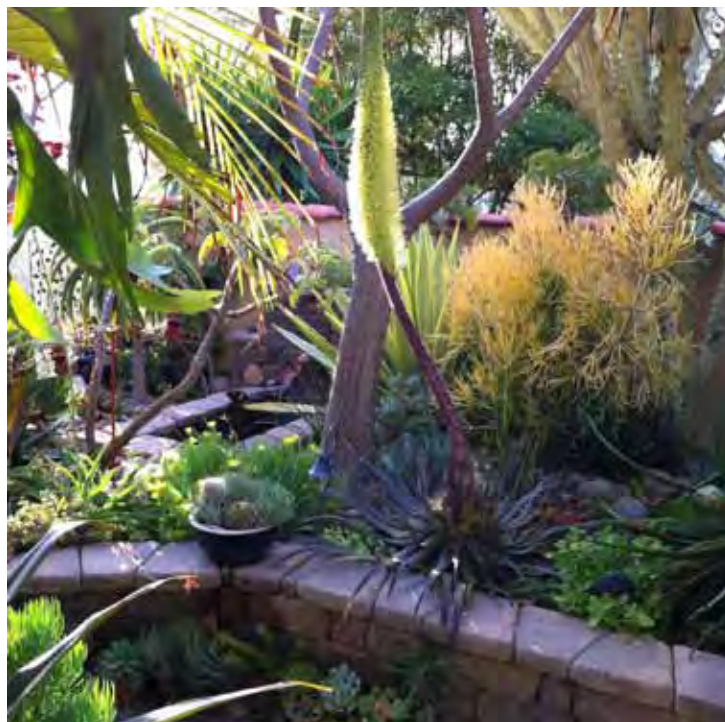
Our visit to Provence, France, will be a great opportunity to discover the work of some of the area's finest landscape artists from the past, as well as the gardens, views, and vistas that inspired the artwork of Renoir, Cézanne, van Gogh, Matisse, Chagall, Gauguin and Picasso.

Coming in September 2017, we will explore New York City and the Hudson River Valley. We'll visit the High Line and the 9/11 Memorial in Manhattan, as well as the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and Wave Hill, Tarrytown, and Sleepy Hollow.

PacHort believes in supporting the power of gardens and SDHS is a Pacific Horticulture Partner. Visit [www.pachort.org](http://www.pachort.org) for more tour info or to subscribe to *Pacific Horticulture* magazine. A special rate of \$24 is available for new and renewing members using discount code SDHS2016. 🌿



## ■ My Life With Plants Continued from page 10



*Agave braceata* bloom (center)

are about 35 different species of agaves and a few other plants in this area. Their forms nicely echo the sunrays in the tile mural.

Next month's column will be "The Aggravation", Part 2 about growing agaves. 🌿

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- Borrowing privileges from our extensive Horticultural Library of 3500+ books
- Reduced fees for selected events
- Quarterly meetings with informative programs
- Regular newsletters



**Don't Miss Out**  
**[sdfloral.org/membership.htm](http://sdfloral.org/membership.htm)**

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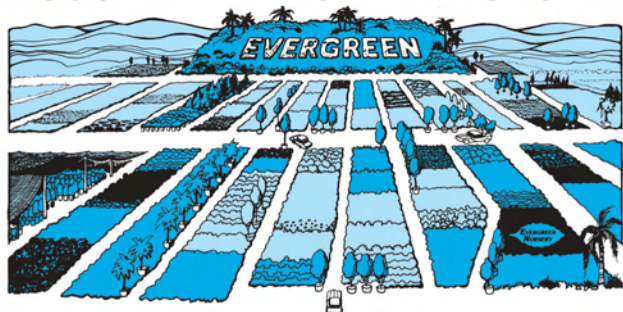
**[sdfloral.org](http://sdfloral.org)**

## What's Happening? for OCTOBER 2016

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 Barbara Patterson at [calendar@sdhort.org](mailto:calendar@sdhort.org).

### ▼ SDHS Sponsor

## DISCOVER EVERGREEN NURSERY



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### WHY PAY MORE?

**BUY DIRECT FROM THE GROWER AND SAVE!**

### ONE STOP SHOPPING

Incredible selection. Over 500 varieties on 400 acres.  
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- 1 gallon plants starting at \$3.50
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**PROMPT DELIVERY AVAILABLE**

### Hours - call to confirm

ALL LOCATIONS:

Monday – Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## Free Monthly Seminar

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

### October 1: Four Seasons Gardening

Wouldn't it be wonderful to enjoy your garden throughout the year? Find out how you can create a garden that looks beautiful in all four seasons. Yes, even winter can provide amazing color and contrast in the garden

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)**

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

### Three Convenient Locations:

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

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

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

## Events at Public Gardens

❖ **Alta Vista Gardens** Contact info on other side  
TBA – check their website calendar.

❖ **San Diego Botanic Garden** Contact info on other side  
**October 1, 10am-3pm, Orchid Clinic:** Lectures by experts and orchid sale. Free with admission and to AOS members. Sale is open to the public.

**October 15-16, 10am-4pm, FALL PLANT SALE:** Huge selection of plants and other garden-related goodies. See page 11 for more details.

**October 22 (9am-5pm) & 23 (10am-3pm), Cactus & Succulent Show & Sale:** Great selection of plants to purchase. Free with paid admission or membership.

**October 29, 10am-2pm, Family Fall Festival:** Activities for the whole family. Free with paid admission or membership. Small fee for some craft activities.

**Last Saturday of month, 10:30am, Waterwise Tour:** There are so many alternatives to using large amounts of water in the garden. Come see our gardens and take home lots of tips for conserving water in your own garden.

### ❖ The Water Conservation Garden

Contact info on other side. For ALL events below, register online or at (619) 660-0614.

**October 1, 10am-noon, Fall is for Planting:** Class by Horticultural Director Clayton Tschudy. Planning and early preparation are the keys to a sustainable, low water garden, and an extraordinary spring bloom. Members free; Non-Members \$10.

**October 15, 6pm, Enchanted Garden Gala:** An enchanted evening amidst moonlight gardens! See insert.

**October 26, 6-8pm, The Effects of Climate Change and Drought on our Local Ecosystem:** Specialists drawn from San Diego Zoo Global, the Natural History Museum, the Audubon Society, the Watershed Protection Program, and SDSU will share their insights about patterns in our climate and watersheds, as well as challenges facing our birds, insects, and indigenous plants. Fee: \$5/members, \$10/non-members. Seating is limited, register online.

## Events Hosted by SDHS Sponsors

Please thank them for supporting SDHS!

### ◆ Barrels & Branches Classes & Workshops

Info: [www.barrelsandbranches.com](http://www.barrelsandbranches.com). See ad on page 17.

◆ **City Farmers Nursery** – see [www.cityfarmersnursery.com](http://www.cityfarmersnursery.com)

◆ **Evergreen Nursery: FREE Seminar** Details in left column

### ◆ Sunshine Care FREE Seminar Each Month

**Oct. 15, 10:30am-noon:** Using Hydroponic Systems to Grow a Kitchen Garden. Seating is limited to the first 45 people who register. RSVP: (858) 472-6059 or [roy@sunshinecare.com](mailto:roy@sunshinecare.com). [www.sunshinecare.com](http://www.sunshinecare.com). See ad page 13.

### ◆ Walter Andersen Nursery FREE Saturday Classes

Details at [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com); address in ad on page 16.

#### Point Loma, 9am

Oct. 1 – All About the Bulbs!  
Oct. 8 – Harvesting Rainwater  
Oct. 15 – Keyhole Gardening  
Oct. 22 – Super Yummy Fall Vegetables to Plant Now  
Oct. 29 – Fall is for Planting Natives-WHY?

#### Poway, 9:30am

To Be Announced  
To Be Announced  
To Be Announced  
To Be Announced  
To Be Announced

◆ **Waterwise Botanicals' 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Garden Party** –  
**Nov. 5, 9:00am-3pm:** Workshops, food & fun! Details at: [www.waterwisebotanicals.com](http://www.waterwisebotanicals.com)

## Next SDHS Meeting

**October 10:**

**Ruth Bancroft Garden**

**See page 1 & website for  
details**

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



## Other Garden-Related Events:

Check with hosts to confirm dates & details

**Oct. 1, 9am-noon OR 12:30pm-3:30pm, How to Raise Monarch Butterflies:** Workshop on raising monarchs. Fee is \$30; pre-registration requested; class is expected to fill quickly. Register at <https://its2.guhsd.net/newonlinereg/default.aspx>; go to Super Saturday Class (on left) and select Animal Care.

**Oct. 1, 10am-4pm, American Begonia Society Annual Plant Show:** Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego.

**Oct. 12, 9am, Poway Valley Garden Club:** Program TBA. Templars Hall in Old Poway Park, 14134 Midland Rd., Poway. Info: [www.powayvalleygardenclub.org](http://www.powayvalleygardenclub.org) or (858) 231-7899.

**Oct. 12, 10am, Point Loma Garden Club:** Divine fall bulbs. 2818 Avenida de Portugal. Info: [www.plgc.org](http://www.plgc.org).

**Oct. 14, 1pm-4pm, Good Earth Plant Company:** 7922 Armour Street, San Diego, 92111. Open house & plant sale. Celebrate fall and score some great deals on beautiful plants and amazing pots and planters. Staff will be on hand will show you how to add living architecture to your space – business, home, school, church - indoors and/or out! RSVP or questions to: [erin@goodearthplants.com](mailto:erin@goodearthplants.com)

**Oct. 15, 10am-3pm, Native Plant Sale:** California Native Plant Society's annual plant sale is a must for local gardeners. LOTS of plants to choose from, experts on hand to answer questions. Also seeds, books and more. Balboa Park's Theater Courtyard between the Casa Del Prado Theater and Casa Del Prado and across from the West entrance of the San Diego Natural History Museum. Info: [www.gardennative.org](http://www.gardennative.org).

**Oct. 22, 9am-3pm, Fall Plant Extravaganza:** The Master Gardeners will sell lots of plants and other garden-related items. There will be exhibits and demos, too. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado. Info: [www.mastergardenerssandiego.org](http://www.mastergardenerssandiego.org).

**Oct. 28, 11am, San Diego Floral Association:** Join the SDFA for a free docent led tour of the Balboa Park Botanical Building. Meet at the south end of the Lily Pond, Balboa Park. Info: 619-232-5762, [www.sdfloal.org](http://www.sdfloal.org).

**October 29 (noon-5pm), Oct. 30 (10am-4pm), Fall Orchids in the Park Show & Sale:** San Diego County Orchid Society will have lots of great orchids to see and purchase. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, Info: [www.sdorchids.com/FallShow\\_2016.html](http://www.sdorchids.com/FallShow_2016.html).

**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**  
**[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/\$5. 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)