

Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

September 2009, Number 180

California Native Plants for the Garden

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SAN DIEGO
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

On the Cover: California Collection of the Leaning Pine Arboretum

**AUGUST SPECIAL EVENT AT QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS
PHOTOS BY JANINE FREE**



Steve Brigham addressing the crowd.



Julian Duval (left) and Steve Brigham (right) at the Hamilton Children's Garden.



Cathy Tylka (right) and Mo Price (left) cutting our 15th Birthday cake.

**SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY
ANNUAL SHOW & SALE**



**September 26 & 27
(Sat. & Sun.)
10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.**

**Room 101, Casa del Prado
Balboa Park**

www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html

Begonia Show & Sale



The San Diego County branches of the American Begonia Society will hold a **Plant Show & Sale** on **Saturday & Sunday** **October 3 and 4** from **9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

The show will be in Room 101 of Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Spectacular foliage and blossoms of the Begonias will be on display. There will be many beautiful begonia plants for sale. Begonia experts will be available to answer questions.

**For more information call
Marla Keith at (760) 753-3977 or
e-mail nandmkeith@att.net**

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COVER IMAGE: The photograph was taken by our September speaker, David Fross. It is the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo California Collection of the Leaning Pine Arboretum. The plants in this dry border include the following: Foreground: *Eschscholzia* 'Mahogany', *E. californica*, *E. 'Moonglow'*, *Verbena lilacina* 'De La Mina', and *Calliandra californica*. Midground: *Dudleya* species, *Agave* hybrid, *A. shawii*, *Eschscholzia californica*, *E. 'Moonglow'*. Background: *Agave shawii*, *A. deserti*, *Dudleya* species, *Eschscholzia maritima*, and *Aristida purpurea* var. *purpurea*.

The San Diego Horticultural Society

MEETINGS

The San Diego Horticultural Society meets the 2nd Monday of every month (except June) from 6:00pm to 9:00pm at the Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd. Meetings are open and all are welcome to attend. We encourage you to join the organization to enjoy free admission to regular monthly meetings, receive the monthly newsletter and numerous other benefits. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

MEETING SCHEDULE

- 5:00 – 6:00 Meeting room setup
- 6:00 – 6:45 Vendor sales, opportunity drawing ticket sales, lending library
- 6:45 – 8:15 Announcements, speaker, opportunity drawing
- 8:15 – 8:30 Break for vendor sales, lending library
- 8:30 – 9:00 Plant forum; vendor sales, lending library

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

To join, send your check to: San Diego Horticultural Society, Attn: Membership, P.O. Box 231869, Encinitas, CA 92023-1869. Individual/one year—\$30, two years—\$50, five years—\$120; Family/one year—\$35, two years—\$60, five years—\$140; Group or Business/one year—\$50; Students/\$16 (w/proof of enrollment); Contributing/\$90 or more; Life/\$700. For membership questions contact membership@sdhortsoc.org or Sheldon Lisker at (951) 244-3502.

FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS IN 2009

September 18-20 Fall Home/Garden Show, Del Mar Fairgrounds

October 12 Brian Endress on *Native Seed Gene Bank Project*

November 9 Liu Fan Yuan - From Dream to Reality: Development of The Huntington's Chinese Garden.

www.SanDiegoHorticulturalSociety.org

Next Meeting: September 14, 2009, 6:00 – 9:00 PM Topic: MIKE EVANS ON: "CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS FOR THE GARDEN: A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE"

**Meeting is open and everyone is welcome. Admission: Members/free, Non-Members/\$5.
Parking is free. Meeting Place: Del Mar Fairgrounds, Surfside Race Place, Del Mar; Info: (760) 295-7089**

Horticulturist David Fross will present a very timely program titled "California Native Plants for the Garden: A Personal Perspective," which will inspire us to try native plants as we face increasing water restrictions. The California flora is celebrated for its remarkable diversity and many of the state's best known parks and wildlands are defined by their plant life, from redwood forests to rolling oak woodlands. The cultivated landscape of the state – even after years of native plant advocacy from horticulturists and organizations – continues to be filled with plants from outside the state. This presentation will consider the history of native plant use and offer a reminder that California native plants can serve almost every garden and landscape function imaginable. From formal hedges and lawns to perennial borders and containers, our flora provides durable and useful selections suitable for all garden styles.

David Fross is the founder and president of Native Sons Wholesale Nursery, a grower specializing in plants from the Mediterranean climate regions of the world. He teaches horticulture at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo and is the co-author of *Ceanothus* and *California Native Plants for the Garden*. An extremely popular and dynamic speaker, Fross has a passion for native plants that is contagious! Copies of his books will be available for sale.

To learn more visit www.NativeSon.com and see page 5. ☞



The Mission of the San Diego Horticultural Society

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.

ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER 1994

SDHS BOARD MEMBERS

- Judy Bradley** – First Vice President, Co-Chair-Program Committee
Mark Collins – Finance/Budget Committee
Julian Duval – Quail Botanical Gardens Representative
Jason Kubrock – Second Vice President, Co-Chair-Events & Outreach Committee
Carol Ann Lewin – Co-Chair-Program Committee
Sheldon Lisker – Co-Chair Membership Committee
Jackie McGee – Treasurer, Chair-Budget & Finance Committee
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Susi Torre-Bueno – President, Newsletter Editor
Paula Verstraete – Volunteer Coordinator
Don Walker – Past President
Lucy Warren – Secretary, Liaison to H&G Shows

Let's Talk Plants!, the newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society, is published the first Monday of every month.

Editor/Advertising: Susi Torre-Bueno; 1941 Vista Grande Dr., Vista, CA 92084; voice (760) 295-7089, fax (760) 295-7119, newsletter@sdhortsoc.org.

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

Sponsorship Info: Susan Morse, sponsor@sdhortsoc.org

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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 Susan Morse at sponsor@sdhortsoc.org.

Sponsors are listed on page 9; those with ads in the newsletter have the words **SDHS Sponsor** above their ads.

We thank them for their extra support!

Important Member Information

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

1: Treasurer

Jackie McGee has done a fabulous job as our Treasurer since 2006, and during her term she's gotten many things streamlined, so most transactions are now handled by the bookkeeper. Our bookkeeper, Teresa McGee (no relation), does the data entry, invoicing, bill paying, and many other tasks. Jackie is ready to train a new Treasurer, so if you have a head for numbers and like working with spreadsheets, this is your dream job! We estimate that Jackie spends about 4-5 hours per week. Please call Susi at (760) 295-7089 and let's talk!

2: Volunteer Coordinator Co-Chair

Paula Verstraete, our Volunteer Coordinator, is looking for a co-chair to assist in monthly meetings with check-in tables and to help her coordinate the Volunteer Appreciation Party in summer (venue, food, door prizes, etc.). The co-chairs also help members to volunteer at fun activities like the Spring Home/Garden show, the annual Special Speaker event (on June 8 this year), etc. To find out more contact Paula at pverstraete@cp-sandiego.com.

3: A/V Backup Person

The folks who run the A/V equipment at our meetings need someone who can be an occasional backup for them. This is a fun task for someone who is familiar with using PowerPoint, slide projectors, and/or a video camera. If you can be on stand-by for this, call Susi at (760) 295-7089.

4: CALENDAR EDITOR

We need a volunteer to prepare the monthly calendar that is the gold insert in the newsletter. Basically, you get e-mails from local garden groups about their upcoming events, take this info, condense it, and format it chronologically for the newsletter. This takes about 12-14 hours per month. It's a great task for a detail-oriented person; please call Susi at (760) 295-7089.

5: Membership Committee

Express your outgoing nature, or overcome your shyness by meeting new people in a very friendly setting! The membership committee welcomes more members to increase our hospitality toward new members and in attracting new members. Be a greeter at meetings, visit nurseries and provide membership brochures for their customers, or help with community outreach programs. Contact Susan Morse, (760) 599-0550.

SDHS SPONSOR ↓



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Spring/Summer HOURS
 Monday-Thursday..7:30am-5:00pm
 Friday-Saturday.....7:30am-6:00pm
 Sunday.....9:00am-5:00pm

To Learn More...

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS FOR THE GARDEN

By Ava Torre-Bueno

This month's speaker is David Fross of Native Son Nursery. Here is their web site: <http://nativeson.com/>

Here's a blog spot about turning a front lawn into a meadow:
<http://bammorgan.blogspot.com/2007/09/my-california-meadow-almost-like-turf.html>

A mid-West power company turns some of its land back into prairie, saving themselves money and work, and fighting global warming in the process:

www.daytondailynews.com/news/dayton-news/experts-proposed-meadows-will-absorb-greenhouse-gases-90175.html

and

<http://www.climatechange-globalwarming.com/tag/earth-day>

This is a manifesto about the down-side of lawns and the upside of a more complex ecosystem:

<http://www.humanhabitatrestoration.com/turfisdead.htm>

And it always pays to check out the water conservation garden at Cuyamaca College to see how much water and fertilizer and MONEY your lawn is eating:

www.thegarden.org/gardensExhibits.html

Member Ava Torre-Bueno is a psychotherapist in private practice and the organizer of Gardeners 4 Peace. This group of volunteers is helping to create a peaceful, organic, permaculture garden at the San Diego Friends Center. To learn more contact Ava at gardeners4peace@hotmail.com and visit <http://www.sandiegofriendscenter.org/volunteers.htm>. ☘

Helping Others

By Louise Anderson

Don't let your extra garden produce go to waste! Got too much in the way of fruits, vegetables or other food that you want to share? The North County Food Bank is the place to go. The address is 680 Rancheros Drive, at Santar Place in San Marcos. They take donations Mon. to Wed. from 9:30am to 3:30pm, and Thurs and Fri from 9:30am to noon. They will provide a tax deduction letter for your donation.

For information call (760) 761-1140 at their location or I'll be glad to tell you what I know. You can contact me at spinner@pacbell.net or (760) 591-7644. Maybe other members in other areas of the county would be interested in sharing their information about places to donate home-grown produce, too. If you know of a place, let Susi know at info@sdhortsoc.org.

THANKS VOLUNTEERS!

We'd like to thank Sandi Feiock, our former calendar editor, for three years of excellent volunteering. Sandi did a superb job of getting as many local garden events as possible into our calendar each month - no mean feat! If you belong to another garden-related organization and you don't see your events listed in the calendar, please ask your P.R. person to send details by the 10th of the month before the event to calendar@sdhortsoc.org.

Also, thanks to everyone who helped out at our very special event at Quail Botanical Gardens on August 10th: Louise Anderson, Connie Forest, Jane Morton, Mo Price, Sandy Shapiro, Cathy Tylka, Paula Verstraete and Melissa & Chris Worton.

From The Board

By Susi Torre-Bueno

STEVE SAID IT BEST

On August 10 we were proud to honor one of our founders, Steve Brigham, at a terrifically fun event at Quail Botanical Gardens. In accepting his award as our Horticulturist of the Year, Steve eloquently expressed his heartfelt belief that volunteering is the key to long-term survival of any non-profit group, and he graciously thanked the SDHS and Quail volunteers for all they've done over the years. More importantly, he talked about the intrinsic value of being a volunteer: as a way of making friends, spreading useful information, connecting with other people, and doing one's share of supporting a community benefit. His hope, and ours, too, is that through the on-going efforts of volunteers the SDHS and Quail will exist far beyond our lifetimes.

On page 4 of the newsletter we've been listing our needs for volunteers – and haven't had much response to some of these requests. You might not realize it, but with the exception of our bookkeeper, ALL the work of the organization is done by volunteers. We need YOUR help to continue having the myriad of events and benefits that you now enjoy.

If you are not already a volunteer, now is the time for you to step up and help out. In addition to the tasks on page 4, we need volunteers to help with meeting check-in and outreach events. Just call and tell me you want to do your part – and thanks in advance!

There's More On-Line



Hope you have checked our upgraded website, which with Sally Sandler and Rachel Cobb have worked wonders. When you see the MORE ON-LINE symbol in an article it means we've added additional information on our website – more images, references, plant lists, etc. Also, check the website frequently for Plant Superstars and other exclusively on-line features you'll appreciate.

Changes on the Board

In late September we have our annual board elections, but as we go to press we don't have the results for that yet. However, we can say goodbye to board member Jim Wright. He joined us last fall for a one-year member at large position, and his input at our meetings and his generosity in opening his fabulous garden for our New Member Orientation were both much appreciated.

We're very pleased to announce that Sally Sandler, another member at large, has agreed to remain on the board for a three-year term as our Website Coordinator. Her work to upgrade our website has been fabulous! ☘



Open

Cuyamaca College Ornamental Horticulture

Golf tournament proceeds to benefit the Cuyamaca College Botanical Society Scholarship Fund and the Ornamental Horticulture Department's Programs.

Bonita Golf Club
5540 Sweetwater Road
Bonita, California

**Friday
October 23, 2009**

10:30 a.m. Registration
Putting Contest - Free Range Balls

11:00 - noon Free Lunch

Tee Time: 12:30 p.m.

Register by October 9th

\$90 per person:

Includes Green Fees, Cart,
Range Balls, Tee Gifts,
Lunch & Barbecue Dinner
(\$100 after Oct. 9)

For More Information:
Call Brad Monroe
619-660-4261

Successful Drought Tolerant Gardening

Edited by Cindy Sparks

This is the eight installment of *Successful Drought Tolerant Gardening*: how to deal with water as a precious resource, using low-water, high-performance plants; and how to design, install and maintain a successful water-miserly landscape.

To Design or to Not Design: That is the Question

By Pamela Homfelt

These days almost everyone is redesigning landscapes for one reason – to conserve water. We know lawn is the biggest water user and have chosen not to spend our water there. Would you remodel a kitchen without the benefit of some serious planning, either by yourself or by a professional designer? No!

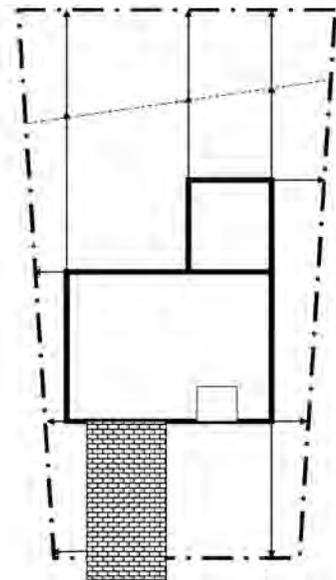
Now your questions arise: How do I want to create a water saving landscape: simply take everything out and lay down gravel, create a state-of-the-art outdoor kitchen, or create a magnificent Mediterranean garden? Other questions might include:

- How can I turn this big blob of former lawn into garden?
- Where will my children play if we remove the lawn?
- My front entrance is unwelcoming. How can that be remedied?
- We need space to hang out in the back yard. We love to entertain. How can we do that?
- My current landscape is a maintenance nightmare. How do I prevent that from happening again?
- How can I pick a theme: e.g. formal/casual, Asian/Mediterranean, cottage/contemporary?
- Our front yard is really big but wasted, kind of like our living room, we never use it! What to do?
- What should stay and what should go? Where do I begin?

Asking and answering these questions is the first step to designing an aesthetic, functional garden that matures with grace and serves your needs. Are you starting to see how designing and planning can enhance your results?

After answering the questions, creating a plot plan is the next critical step. With a picture of the house and elements you want to keep, you will see the canvas evolve. To draw a scaled plot plan (like the one shown here) you will need a measuring tape (50' or longer), a scale ruler and grid paper or a computer.

- A scale of 1" = 8' or 1/8 scale is most common.
- Measure from the corners of the house to place it on the property.
- Place all elements to remain: patios, shade structures, etc.



- Draw all existing trees and plants to scale, using a circle the actual size of the drip line.
- The bottom of all slopes, called the toe, is designated by a dashed line.
- Be aware of local area setbacks.

A few basic design tips to get you started

- All hardscape should begin and end in relation to an architectural feature. This is most often a corner, but it could be a window or door. Hardscape should look as if it were designed at the same time as the home.
- For small spaces avoid numerous small elements. Clutter will make the space look and feel even smaller.
- Generally, straight geometric lines work best in small spaces and more organic, curved lines enhance larger areas.

Next Month: answers to the questions!

Member Pamela Homfelt, of pH Exterior Design, has been researching, studying, practicing, designing with and lecturing on low water use landscape techniques since the early 90's. Collaborating with the Wild Animal Park, City of San Diego Environmental Services, and recently the County Water Authority on low water use demonstration gardens has been the highlight of her career. 🌿

Plants That Produce

FIGS

By Richard Frost

It is September and here in San Diego many varieties of figs will ripen from now through November. If tasting figs has you thinking about planting them, our climate will accommodate that even in September or October. As for choosing a variety to plant, you may wish to peruse the over 400 fruiting figs at <http://figs4fun.com/Varieties.html> compiled by San Diego resident Jon Verdick. Several of the figs listed there are available from local and online sellers, although Jon certainly has a larger collection available by appointment at Encanto Farms Nursery, <http://www.encantofarms.com/>.

Plant your tree in the ground away from the house and water pipes. Dig a hole about 32" by 32" by 18" deep to loosen compacted ground and amend if necessary so that the soil is a loamy mixture. Alternately, choose one of the "container" varieties below and plant in a 20 to 40 gallon pot. After planting, cover the soil with at least 3" of mulch. Water trees in the ground once per week, about 5 gallons for young trees and 15 gallons for larger established trees. Feed your tree monthly during the growing season with subtropical or citrus formula, such as 9-3-6 or 28-8-18.

The San Diego County environment does not have enough accumulated heat early in the year to fully ripen "spring" or "breba" crops on fig trees. Therefore, all local trees should be pruned about waist high each year in early January. If the tree does not already have a crotch formation at this height one will certainly form. For containers, the crotch should be at the soil level. In the spring, long flexible whips will grow skyward bearing figs on the new growth as summer arrives. This single crop will mature by Fall.

Selected Fig Varieties For Regions of San Diego County

Name	San Diego Climate	Skin	Flesh	Fruit Size
Atreano	Inland, containers	green	pink	medium
Bamisotte aka Nero	Coastal, Inland	yellow-green	red	large
Beall	Inland	dark	purple	med-large
Black Mission	Coastal, Inland	dark	red	med-large
Celeste	Inland, cold hardy	brown-violet	red	small-med
Danny's Delite	Inland, very cold hardy	purple	red	medium
Deanna	Coastal, Inland, cold hardy	gold	amber	med-large
Dottato	Long warm & hot summers	yellow	amber	medium
English Brown Turkey	Inland, very cold hardy	bronze	red	large
Excel	Inland, possibly Coastal	yellow	amber	medium
Hardy Chicago	Mountains	dark brown	pink to red	small-med
Janice-Kadota	Coastal	yellow-green	amber	large
LSU Gold aka Golden Celeste	Inland, possibly Coastal	yellow	red	large
LSU Purple	Inland, containers	purple	purple	med-large
Mary Lane	Coastal, Inland	yellow-green	amber	medium
Osborn's Prolific	Coastal, Inland	bronze	amber-red	medium
Panachee	Coastal, Inland	striped	red	small-med
Rouge de Bordeaux	Inland, possibly Coastal	violet	red	medium
St. Jean	Inland, possibly Coastal	bronze-grey	pink	medium
Verte aka Green Ischia	Coastal	green	red	med-large
Violette de Bordeaux	Inland, Coastal, containers	purple	red	small
Vista	Inland, Coastal	dark	red	med-large
White Genoa	Coastal	very light	amber	medium

SDHS member Richard Frost is a certified edible gardening nut. For copies of past articles and more information, please see www.PlantsThatProduce.com. ☞

Multi-Dimensional Gardening

By Nick Stavros

My secret to gardening is understanding and treating it as multi-dimensional.

Too often people look at a two-dimensional drawing of their garden and layout what plants they want where. In reality, a garden is at a minimum three-dimensional (length, depth and height). But, like the universe, a garden is more complex than just a three dimensional space. In our garden we have "stories." The top story is occupied by large trees forming a high canopy and is home to hawks and crows. The next story down has the small under canopy trees that provide habitat for mockingbirds, woodpeckers and owls. Below the small trees, is the shrubby story where are large shrubs that are pruned-up allowing for a "ground floor." At these two levels is where the hummingbirds and numerous "twitter" songbirds live.

Obviously, you can't achieve all these stories in a new garden and it takes time, which provides us an entry into more dimensions of the garden. There are two aspects of time that need to be considered in a garden: linear time and periodic time. A gardener needs to plan for both. Linear time is the "long haul." In other words, the trees grow slowly, year after year and the garden and the gardener need to use this to their advantage and adapt and evolve accordingly.

Periodic time basically refers to the seasons. In Disneyland, they want it to have a certain "look" that is unchanged, some would say perpetual spring. To Disneyland, this is important because it is part of the Disney brand. Real gardens vary through the seasons, and this is wonderful, exciting and acceptable. In San Diego, we need to understand and accept that August and September are our dormant times and gardens will start to look faded and worn, this is ok since everything is getting ready for the cooler weather and the rains (if they come).

As I've gotten older, I relate more and more to this season ... faded and worn. Much like the Serengeti ... things slow down and for the most part the status quo is maintained. Trying to keep everything looking like springtime is a mistake. Yes, there are plants that really shine during this time period, but they need to be part of the overall scheme.

Member Nick Stavros was born on a farm in the flat Midwest where there were basically only two dimensions. "We had a 5-acre woodland around our house and I noticed the richness and diversity of the animals that used the prairie for foraging and claimed our woodland as home. I studied Botany, Plant Pathology and Plant Ecology at Colorado State University in Fort Collins in the late 60s and earlier 70s. ☞

How To Compost In Your Backyard

By Bonnie Manion

Would you like to do something great for your garden, rewarding for you, and green for planet earth? It is called composting. All you need is about three square feet in a tucked away corner of your backyard, and a little discipline.

The rewards of composting are many. One, you save money on conserving water and by not having to buy commercial fertilizers and soil amendments. Two, you enhance your soil health, fertility, and inhibit weed growth. Three, your garden will require less water because the soil is able to retain water moisture more efficiently. Four, by composting and recycling, less of all of this is going into landfills, and the organic humus material is going back into your garden, for your benefit.

Think of making compost just like you would follow a recipe. Add alternate layers of approximately 50% greens and 50% browns. Add water as needed to keep your mixture moist throughout the entire process. Stir or turn over your compost pile to aerate on a regular basis, as much as every 1-2 days or as little as every 1-2 weeks. When your compost pile doesn't heat up anymore after stirring, your compost pile is finished. Let your compost pile cool completely for a few weeks before using it in your garden. The entire composting process time is really dependent on the size of your ingredients (the smaller or shredded the better), and how often you stir or turn over your compost pile. Generally speaking, you can have wonderful compost in 1-3 months. Finished compost looks like rich dark humus.

The greens in your compost pile represent the nitrogen or the fire. The browns in your compost pile represent the carbon or the fuel. Adding water and oxygen to this mixture creates optimum conditions for beneficial microorganisms to consume and break down organic material, and in turn generate heat.

For fun, splurge and buy a compost thermometer, which has a long stem to poke down into the heart of your compost bin, and read the temperature. Ideally, your compost pile should heat up to 120-150 degrees F to start the decomposition process and kill any weed seeds, pathogens, and insects.

Greens are fruit and vegetable clippings, fresh grass clippings, yard trimmings, egg shells, tea bags, coffee grinds and filters, and breads. Manure is nitrogen, and also considered greens, which is an extra bonus to your compost. Make sure to add greens other than manure to your mixture. Horse, cow, sheep, and chicken manure are wonderful to use. Be mindful that manure can be "hot," as in having



the potential to burn your plants, if not composted adequately and given time to break down.

Browns are dried leaves, wood materials, ground branches, twigs, bark, straw, hay, pine shavings, sawdust, shredded paper, and wood ashes. Some browns, such as pine needles, take a long time to break down, so I do not include them.

What does not go in your compost bin? Think of your compost pile or recipe as vegetarian, therefore no meat, fish, poultry, bones, oils, lard, grease, and dairy products. No dog or cat manure, or cat litter. No treated wood products, charcoal, or pressed-log ashes. If you are unsure of something, leave it out.

If you want to begin composting, check with your city first to see if they subsidize a "compost bin program." For instance, the City of Encinitas is proactive in recycling, holds compost workshops, and encourages residents to compost by subsidizing Smith & Hawken brand compost bins. Over a

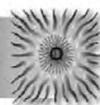
\$100 value, Encinitas residents can purchase them for \$35 each. Limit two per year/per Encinitas household. These compost bins are available for non-Encinitas residents, too, for a special non-profit reduced price. The price and availability are subject to change. For further information visit, www.solanacenter.org, or call (760) 436-7986, x222.

Member Bonnie Manion writes the garden lifestyle blog, www.VintageGardenGal.com, cultivating the best of gardening, vintage containers, home-grown food, and vineyard lifestyle. 🌿

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Welcome New Members!

We now have over 1300 members! Hope to see all of you at upcoming meetings. We encourage you to become active participants and share in the fun; to volunteer see page 4. A warm hello to the following folks who have joined recently:

Backyard Aquafarms
Barbara Anderson
Michael Epstein
Fallbrook Future Farmers of America
Linda Fiske
Michael Lee Garrow
Gary D. Lamb
Deanna & Bill Livesey
Jeff Lorenz
Heidi Parnell

NEW ADVERTISERS:

Begonia Show & Sale, PAGE 2
Bromeliad Show & Sale, PAGE 2
Plants Comprehensive, PAGE 21
Southwestern College
Green Scene (INSERT)

HORT BUCKS ARE GREAT!

Kudos to the members below who brought in new members and therefore received Hort Bucks worth \$5 towards raffle tickets, name-tags, *Plant Forum* CDs or dues. To get **your** Hort Bucks just ask your friends to give your name when they join. The number after the person's name indicates how many members they recruited in 2009:

Kimbery Alexander (1)	Susan Morse (1)
Connie Beck (1)	Al & Dora Myrick (1)
Cecily Bird (1)	Jan Neill (1)
Linda Bresler (1)	Jackie Ravel (1)
Karylee Feldman (1)	Cindy Sparks (1)
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*Horticulturist of the Year

Chuck Ades* (2008)	Debbie & Richard Johnson
Walter Andersen* (2002)	Lois Kline
Norm Applebaum & Barbara Roper	Vince Lazaneo* (2004)
Gladys T. Baird	Jane Minshall* (2006)
Debra Lee Baldwin	Bill Nelson* (2007)
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Wayne Carlson	Peggy Ruzich
Laurie Connable	Susi & Jose Torre-Bueno
Julian & Leslie Duval	Don Walker* (2005) & Dorothy Walker
Edgar Engert* (2000)	Lucy Warren
Jim Farley	Evelyn Weidner* (2001)
Sue & Charles Fouquette	Pat Welsh* (2003)
Penelope Hlavac	Betty Wheeler

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

Doris Engberg
Philip Tackill & Janet Wanerka
René van Rems
Village Garden Club of La Jolla

What's Up at Quail Botanical Gardens?



Gala in the Gardens is the biggest fundraiser of the year for Quail Botanical Gardens, and it's one of the most enjoyable party experiences in all of San Diego County. In fact, the *Gala* was included in *San Diego Magazine's* March 2009 "A-List Parties." This year will be particularly exciting as PBS television host **Huell Howser** will be the annual honoree.



The Tenth Anniversary **Gala in the Gardens**, a spectacular outdoor party with an anticipated 500+ guests, will be **Saturday, September 12th at 5:00 p.m.** Tickets for the evening are \$175 per person and can be purchased at www.qbgardens.org. As the honored guest, Huell Howser will receive the Paul Ecke, Jr. Award of Excellence. Huell visited the Gardens in 2005 and toured on-camera with Julian Duval, President and CEO, to tape one of his successful California Gold Road Trip segments.

All proceeds from this year's **Gala in the Gardens** will contribute directly to the Garden's special blend of programs and exhibits, including the newly opened Hamilton Children's Garden. The evening includes fine cuisine, beverages, entertainment and beautiful floral displays all while strolling the many Garden trails and vignettes. A fabulous silent auction will also take place in a beautifully decorated open-air pavilion. The program will include an exciting announcement about the future of Quail Botanical Gardens and a tribute to Huell Howser; followed by dessert and dancing.

Sponsorships are still available. For **Gala in the Gardens** information, please contact Development Special Events Coordinator, Cheryl Mergenthaler, at (760) 436-3036 x 218 or cmergenthaler@qbgardens.org.

To purchase tickets go to www.qbgardens.org.

Book Review

FLOWER CONFIDENTIAL: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE BEAUTIFUL

By Amy Stewart

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh



They say you should never watch sausage being made. If you agree with that statement, this is not the book for you. But if you buy cut flowers from time to time, you may find this fascinating. A single statistic exemplifies the information in this book. Americans buy one and a half billion roses every year—yes, that's billion with a "b." And that's not to mention the fern, baby's breath, lisianthus, carnations, gerberas, and all the other cut flowers and accessories that are sold with them.

Amy Stewart starts out wondering whether she'll still be able to love flowers after she learns about the industry. In her epilogue, she confesses that she does. I'm not so sure I can. And I definitely look much more favorably on the less-than-perfect flowers in my own back yard.

Cut flowers are a commodity in the international market the same way automobiles, clothing, and that perfect bunch of grapes at your supermarket in January are. Stewart points out that the bouquet of flowers on your living room table has probably been in more countries than you have and that you'd be astonished at how many languages have been spoken around those flowers by the locals and migrant labor in the U.S., Holland, Ecuador, Columbia, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Israel, to name just some of the countries that participate in the international flower trade.

Her book is divided into three main sections—breeding, growing, and selling. The section on breeding covers several different flowers, but the book as a whole comes to center on the world rose trade. We learn a lot about factory farms, international transportation, migrant labor, employee health problems, environmental impact and degradation, and other things you don't usually think about when you think about flowers.

Her statistics are overwhelming, and in a way, that may be the one bad thing about this book. Numbers begin to blur, and I found it difficult at times to focus on the reading. I've written about a number of other books with this same basic format: the writer goes on a personal quest to understand an aspect of the plant world, for example: *Coming Home to Eat*, *Otherwise Normal People*, and *People with Dirty Hands*. In each case I said I'd found the author so interesting that I'd like to live next door to him or her. This book isn't like that. Although Stewart writes in the first person, you really get no sense of her as a person. It's all flowers all the time.

Still, I'd recommend this book to you. It will astonish you over and over. You'll definitely look at that bunch of flowers at the checkout counter of your local supermarket with a different eye.

Stewart has also written two other favorably reviewed books: *The Earth Moved: On the Remarkable Achievements of Earthworms* and *From the Ground Up: The Story of a First Garden*. Her newest book, *Wicked Plants: The Weed that Killed Lincoln's Mother & Other Botanical Atrocities*, is getting smash reviews [your editor is reading it now and loves it!], and she'll be speaking to us about the poisonous plants in this book at our January 2010 meeting.

Flower Confidential (ISBN-13: 978-1-5652-603-9) is available in paperback at your local bookstore for \$13.95. It includes a list of markets and growers you can visit. ☘

Community Outreach

By Linda Johnson

FOOD AND WATER

SEEDS AT CITY URBAN FARM

"Seeds at City unites people of all ages, cultures and backgrounds with the common goals of improving the quality of the earth and the lives of those who work the land and who share in the harvest. The farm provides local, healthful organic foods to those who have little or no access to such produce and offers an education in the art of sustainable living to all."

With the above mission statement, and the goal of developing Southern California's first-ever certificate program with a focus on sustainable organic agriculture, Seeds at City was begun. Located at City College, on the corner of C Street and 14th Street, the farm demonstrates methods to divert organics from the waste stream for compost and on-site use. As a result of the college's Environmental Stewardship Committee's dedication to "greening" the campus, funding was provided to start the program. Directed by Paul Maschka, Seeds at City Urban Farm is creatively integrated with the campus, and also provides internship scholarships to students of SD City College, SD High School, and Garfield High School.

The urban farm demonstrates appropriate use of natural resources, reducing energy consumption, and reducing CO2 emissions. Climate-appropriate crop selection is a research focus, and the viability of small-scale organic urban farms is explored. Volunteers are an important part of the program, often enjoying the harvest after a Saturday farm work day by sampling some of the produce. Volunteers are welcome on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9 am to noon.

The program is funded exclusively through grants and donations, and contributions of funds and/or tools and supplies are welcome. Visit www.seedsatcity.com/donate.html to help, and to obtain more information about this community effort. Contact: Karon Klipple, Urban Farm Coordinator, at kklipple@sdccd.edu or (619) 388-3638

Seeds at City Urban Farm



Photo: Linda Johnson

WALKING 4 WATER ON OCTOBER 4TH

"The goal of Walking 4 Water is to both create awareness about the growing global and local water crisis and to promote water conservation." Sponsored by the ECOLIFE Foundation, the Walking 4 Water event will further educate people about and promote conservation methods, actions and products. Water scarcity

Continued on page 13

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The Real Dirt On...

LOCKWOOD DE FOREST

By Linda Bresler

Lockwood de Forest was born into an artistic family in 1896 in New York City. His father, also named Lockwood de Forest, was a landscape artist as well as an interior designer and amateur architect. He specialized in Indian-inspired designs and owned a wood carving factory in India. The elder de Forest traveled extensively, co-founding with Louis Tiffany a highly influential decorating firm.

Lockwood de Forest III (he was known as Lockwood de Forest, Jr.) was the youngest of three children. At the age of sixteen, he was sent to Ojai, CA, to attend the Thacher School. While there, he often went on weekend sketching and camping trips with his schoolmate and best friend, Wright Ludington. After graduating in 1916, de Forest went to Williams College in Massachusetts. However, World War I interrupted his college career. While awaiting his army assignment, he attended his first class in landscape design at Harvard University.

After the war, de Forest attended the University of California at Berkeley. There, he took several courses in landscape architecture. This field was so new that the studies were offered by a division of the College of Agriculture. De Forest left U.C. Berkeley after one year because he was eager to begin landscape design work. Eventually, he became licensed by the state as a landscape architect and became a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

De Forest's first job was working for Ralph Stevens, a successful Santa Barbara landscape architect, who was responsible for landscaping a number of the area's most impressive estates. He found Stevens' style too inflexible and conventional. After six months, de Forest quit to pursue an independent career. Before resuming landscape design work, he and his school friend, Wright Ludington, traveled to Europe for a leisurely tour of great Italian Renaissance villas and gardens, and beautiful Moorish gardens in Spain.

From 1922 until his death in 1949, de Forest practiced landscape architecture in the Santa Barbara area. Although he studied traditional European designs, his own design style reflected his belief that each site should inspire its own natural landscaping. His designs showed a strong regional identity, and were notable for their simple detailing and bold, almost theatrical effects achieved entirely with plants. He disliked the ubiquitous use of lawns in the landscape, and was one of the first landscape architects to question the heavy use of water to irrigate them.

De Forest pioneered the use of native plants in the landscape. This was especially evident in his design of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, in collaboration with Beatrix Farrand. In fact, this garden represents the earliest application of native plants in a botanical collection in California. De Forest and his wife, Elizabeth, used the botanic garden as a laboratory and classroom to promote the use of native plants and championed these ideas in the monthly periodical, *The Santa Barbara Gardener*, which he and Elizabeth started as a regional gardening publication in 1925.

The Santa Barbara Gardener carried articles on every aspect of gardening, many written by nationally known horticulturists. It continued until 1942, when it was discontinued due to de Forest's World War II military service. It began as the only magazine of its kind in the state, and ended as a popular, widely copied periodical.

De Forest spent a good amount of his career educating Santa Barbara gardeners. Along with writing articles for his gardening

Continued on page 13

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Dirt Continued from page 12

magazine, he taught horticulture courses at Santa Barbara State College (now the University of California, Santa Barbara) and acted as an advisor to city and county planning groups. He played a major role in introducing and experimenting with new plants from South Africa. His work influenced Thomas Church, a leading twentieth century landscape architect. After his untimely death at 53 in 1949, his wife became a landscape designer and completed his unfinished landscape projects.

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

[NOTE]: To enjoy the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and seven other exceptional gardens in Santa Barbara, including Ganna Walska Lotusland, consider attending the Lessons in Sustainable Gardening symposium on October 2-4. The symposium is being organized by *Pacific Horticulture* magazine; details are at www.PacificHorticulture.org/programs.php.

Community Outreach Continued from page 10

is an issue that affects the majority of the world's population, and particularly affects those of us living in Southern California. San Diego County imports over 85 % of its water, and is faced with depletion of the two main sources of water, the Colorado River and the California State Water Project. As all gardeners know and appreciate, water is a precious resource to be carefully utilized. Become part of the solution to help preserve our water, and our gardens.

Walking 4 Water will take place at Mission Bay on October 4, 2009. The course will end at a Water Education Expo where water conservation organizations will share their sustainable water solutions and gardening/landscaping tips. Entertainment, food and drinks will also be available.

COLIFE, in collaboration with the San Diego Zoo and Groundwork San Diego, also coordinates an education program that works with underserved students in San Diego. The hands-on course teaches them about watersheds and provides them with simple tools to protect their local watersheds. Funds from Walking 4 Water will help ECOLIFE Foundation launch additional conservation and education programs in San Diego. Visit www.ecolifefoundation.org to sign up and to learn more about ECOLIFE Foundation and its programs.

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SHARING SECRETS

This column is written by you, our members! Each month we'll ask a question, and print your responses the following month.

The question for this month was:

How did your garden fare with the water rationing this summer, and what changes did you make to reduce your water use?

Kara Calderon uses compost: "My garden did pretty well with the water cutbacks due to the fact that most of the new plantings have been mulched with about 3" of compost. The major changes I have made are getting plants in the ground so they don't suffer through the summer in small pots, wilting and trying to bounce back again, and buying only natives to my area so I know they are content with the actual rainfall they will be receiving, with minimal watering once they are well established."

Julie Ann Callis' garden did great: "Great is the word! We have no grass or ground cover and our yard has been in for two years. With the use of standard landscape plants and perennials which were all established, we haven't had a problem. Those more delicate or water hungry plants we planted in what we call the woodland garden. Situated between the two houses, ours and the neighbors, the house shadows make for a lot of shade and the relatively narrow space, 10 to 15 feet wide, makes even sprinkler coverage easy. Occasional watering here is all that's necessary. The house faces south, so the back yard has a lot of shaded areas for much of the year. Paying attention to the different exposures can make a real difference, and a small yard is an advantage."

Margaret Davis gets help from mulch and umbrellas: "My California native garden is in the front of my home in Fallbrook. I have spread mulch 3" deep over the area to conserve water. The neighbors say it looks good, too! Old beach umbrellas are a good source of extra shade for heat sensitive plants and they look funky-cute in the corners of my garden."

Mary Feyk says, "I live in Rancho Palos Verdes and so far we have not had water rationing, although we have been asked to reduce our water usage. My husband installed drip irrigation in the garden several years ago, and that has reduced our water usage, but if rationing is established we will have a low point to start from. We have a small lawn and use sprinklers twice a week for that. We change the length of time we run the sprinklers according to the season. Our hanging pots have automatic drip irrigation and it runs for four minutes three times a week. I have my plants grouped according to water usage, and I use native and drought tolerant plants more now and they are easier to find in nurseries. South Coast Botanic Garden has a very active Native Plant Society. Last year the rainfall total was 7 inches. I think that's a little higher than San Diego County, but still not very high. I hope El Nino brings us rain but not floods next year."

Irina Gronborg has an artist's eye: "Visitors to our garden comment on how few flies and mosquitoes we have. Perhaps because the ground is dry this summer and because we no longer hose off the leaves, the flies and mosquitoes that have escaped our resident birds have ended up in the gauze yardage of our resident spiders' webs that drape our succulents and cacti. (It's a nice look – kind of like Old California – dusty, golden, and shimmering)."

Al Horowitz has an intriguing story about chlorine: "I have in place all the known methods of conserving water before the current shortage, ie. drip irrigation, mulching, and stretching out the watering cycle. I recently put in a total water conditioning system for the landscape and the house after receiving a city generated water report that showed the chlorine content in the city water to be 89 mg. per liter for my area. The acceptable level is 14 mg. per liter. The surprising result was that my clematis started blooming again and three plants that have not grown to any noticeable extent for two years are now thriving. After about 3 weeks, the whole garden took on a new, healthy look. Vines that were hardly growing or flowering before were now doing just that! In the past, an area with baby tears would wilt under a direct spraying of water. Now, between longer intervals of direct watering, no wilting occurs. I mentioned this change to the supplier of this system and he said that when the weather gets hotter, the bacterial count in the water goes up, so apparently chlorine levels go up to bring the bacterial levels down. All my efforts to improve the soil, etc. pale in comparison to the effect that has occurred in my garden from just removing the chlorine in the water."

Janice Johnson is using indoor water for plants: "We have lived in Poway for 40 years and have over an acre of land on the Green Valley Creek. This last spring we removed 8 very large 50-year old eucalyptus trees as they were diseased, caused a huge mess, and cost us time and money, but we will miss the shade. When August and September are over we will see how well our garden survived. We are eliminating sprinkler heads to areas that seem unnecessary and evaluating which plants might go. I have eliminated some potted plants. I can water most of my potted plants with the water saved from washing vegetables in the kitchen sink and some from the shower. I calculate we recycle about 21 gallons a week from these two sources. Later I will move roses to one area instead of scattered all over. We both take short showers, as our plants are more important! We have giant redwood trees that must be saved! We are monitoring our water meter and water our back lawn carefully. Our front lawn has been gone for over 10 years and was replaced with mulch edged in shrubs and rocks. We heavily mulched everything with the eucalyptus tree mulch. My husband spoke at the Poway City Council session concerning our water rate hike penalizing those of us who have large lots, but to no avail."

Anne Murphy tells us, "I had already been incorporating natives, succulents and Mediterranean plants in my garden. What I have done in the last year is to look a lot more carefully at plants that I buy to see if they will be able to survive on minimal watering after becoming established. I am also removing plants that take too much water and giving them away or moving them to a shadier location where they might survive under minimal watering. I am making sure that I am getting trees in my new garden early, as they bring down the temperature of the garden and help reduce watering needs. This whole process has been educational and fun. I realize that eventually I will have less work as less water means less weed growth. I have come a long way since I started gardening in Vista, using roses, pansies, hollyhocks and foxgloves reflecting the gardens that I grew up with in England!"

Katrin Utt says, "I have cut down my water usage by one third by watering every fourth day for longer periods instead of every second day for shorter periods. I water before sunrise and after. I also use soaker hoses for deep watering once a month. And I mulched everything to the max. We keep our patio umbrellas up all the time to lend some shade to the roses. Everything is doing just fine! But I sure hope we get that El Niño they promised!"

Continued on page 16

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Secrets Continued from page 14

Marilyn Wilson has a refreshingly light-hearted response: "The budget didn't allow for installing drip irrigation nor purchasing drought-tolerant plants. So, patches of lawn are losing their green color. Flowers are fewer. Hibiscus has become infested with giant white fly for the first time in many years. Squirrels ate all my peaches (they're thirsty too). I considered avoiding all bathing, but instead I installed a little push-button cutoff at the showerhead. I eat with my hands more often so there is less tableware to wash. And I have started drinking out of the can and out of the bottle. Soon I am enrolling in a class to learn how to rain dance."

The question for next month is:

What do you always bring with you when you go into your garden? Send your e-mail reply by September 5 to info@sdhortsoc.org. ☞

Rainwater Harvesting News

By Susi Torre-Bueno

As I write this in mid-August we're very much in drought mode in San Diego County. However, the rains will come in a few months, and some folks are even predicting an El Niño year with above-average rainfall, which would be a welcome respite after three dry years. Don't let the rain that falls on your property go to waste and run down the storm drains. Capturing rainwater, sometimes known as rainwater harvesting, can be accomplished in many ways and can help reduce your water bill and also keep this valuable resource from being wasted.

Capture techniques don't necessarily mean storing it for long-term use in containers, either, although that's a great way to get pure water for orchids and other special plants. You can establish berms and other earth features on your property to channel the rainwater into low-lying areas, where it can slowly seep into your soil and raise the water table (I'm doing this at my garden in Vista).

Our May 10, 2010 speaker will be Brad Lancaster, who literally wrote the book on rainwater harvesting – two books, in fact! I heard him speak a year ago and he was terrific – very inspiring (he sure got me to do this!) and full of great information. For details visit www.harvestingrainwater.com.

Felice Tackill, the Engineering Specialist at Encinitas' San Dieguito Water District (and daughter of Phil Tackill, who brings the great bonsai to our meetings), has sent the following link for, "rainwater harvesting and the proposed state of California graywater regulations (they are working to ease up restrictions). [Gray water is the water from your showers, bathroom sinks, and washing machine, which can be re-used in the garden.] Here's the link:
www.hcd.ca.gov/codes/shl/graywater_emergency.html

She also sent a link for the Tucson take on water capture. There is an interesting Rainwater Harvesting Ordinance for new commercial buildings in Tucson, AZ:
<http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/jul/05/us-rainwater-harvesting-070509>

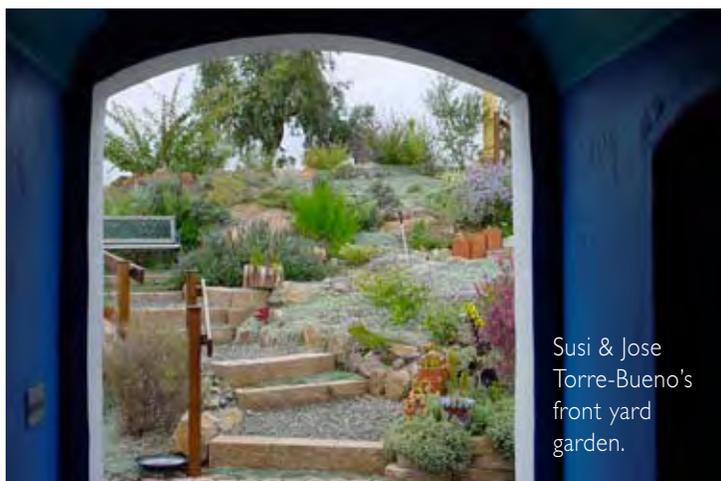
To learn more about what they're doing in Los Angeles, go to:
<http://larainwaterharvesting.org> ☞

California-Friendly® Landscape Contest Winners

Winners of the sixth annual California-Friendly® Landscape Contest gathered to collect their prizes at the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College on May 16th. Twenty homeowners from across the county received honors for outstanding examples of beautiful, drought-tolerant landscapes. Creative winners walked away with prizes ranging from \$250 - \$500. A tie in the Professionally Designed category saw Susan Hurwitz (San Dieguito Water District) and Cynthia Winters (Otay Water District) each receive \$500, as did the regional best in Do-It-Yourself, Maggie Walton (Helix Water District), and Native Landscape, Fritz Brecke (Lakeside Water District).

The San Diego Horticultural Society was one of the sponsors, and each winner received a 1-year family membership. Each of the participating water agencies also chose a Best of District winner, with a \$250 prize:

- Santa Fe Irrigation District: *Paul and Ruth Parker*
- City of Oceanside: *Mike Garrow*
- Otay Water District: *James and Cynthia Ciolli*
- Padre Dam Municipal Water District: *Rick and Rosi Crouch*
- Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District: *Ellen Pettit*
- Ramona Municipal Water District: *Ron Parks*
- City of Escondido: *John and Barbara Horst*
- Olivenhain Municipal Water District: *Lorene Rice*
- San Dieguito Water District: *Costa and Allison Haramis*
- City of San Diego: *Katharina Krause*
- Helix Water District: *Peggy Chambers*
- Sweetwater Authority: *Glenda DeVaney*
- Lakeside Water District: *Frank and Cheryl Barraco*
- Vallecitos Water District: *Gisela Gelbing*
- City of Poway: *Patrick and Roberta Korch*
- Vista Irrigation District: *Susi and Jose Torre-Bueno*



Susi & Jose Torre-Bueno's front yard garden.

When asked why she decided to have a drought-tolerant landscape, Peggy Chambers said, "It was to cut down on water use and expense. I wanted an easier to maintain landscape, and I was slowly drawn to the so-called 'California-friendly' shrubs and

Continued on page 17

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Happy 15th Birthday to Us!

By Susi Torre-Bueno

Our annual birthday report always begins with a warm thank you to the far-sighted founders who sowed the seeds of our Society in 1994: Don & Dorothy Walker, Steve Brigham, Diana Goforth, Laurie Bussis, Linda Teague, Adele Snyder and Kathy Musial. Their vision was of having a friendly group, sharing information and the joy of gardening with members from beginners to skilled professionals. In the past 15 years we have grown to include over 1300 members, making us one of the largest and most active garden groups in the nation. Our wide-ranging meetings attract a diverse audience, and our volunteers make possible a wide variety of other activities.

If you're one of the members who joined this year I hope you'll become an active participant (see pages 4 and 5). We've also gained new sponsors, and we thank all our sponsors (see page 9) for the financial support that enables us to accomplish as much as we do. Some of the year's highlights are below. For the names of all the volunteers and more details, see previous newsletters.

What new things have we done since last September? We initiated New Member Orientation gatherings, which have been a very popular way for our new members to meet old members and find out more about the SDHS; thanks to everyone who participated. In order to save resources we began sending dues notices via e-mail. To save money and reduce our carbon footprint we've been encouraging members to get the newsletter in digital format. We amended the by-laws to have a First and Second Vice President who will be learning the ropes so they're ready to move up when the President's term ends (mine ends in 2011). In early 2009 we distributed a questionnaire to members to learn what they'd like the SDHS to be doing; results will be available soon. This May, as one of the sponsors of the California Friendly Landscape Contest we awarded 18 family memberships to contest winners across San Diego County. Finally, our website received a total overhaul and is now both beautiful and greatly expanded, thanks to board member Sally Sandler and graphic artist Rachel Cobb.

Our monthly meetings are the heart of what we do, and we are grateful for help every month from these great volunteers: Everett Mehner for video taping, Sandy Shapiro for running the projector, librarians Bonnie McNamara and Tim Thornton, and Jeff Belitnikoff for setting up the meeting room. Hats off to Janet Warneka & Phil Tacktill for setting up the blue bottles for the Plant Forum, and Evey & Ava Torre-Bueno who sell raffle tickets. We appreciate Diana Goforth, who handles the membership table with the very able assistance of Pat Venolia. Bill Teague arranges for the Opportunity Drawing and Plant Forum speakers. Other regular meeting helpers we want to thank include Cheryl Leedom, Susan Morse, Teri Schmidt, Jerry Thirloway, Paula Verstraete and Lucy Warren. Thanks to all of our check-in volunteers, vendors and to everyone else who helps out on occasion.

Judy Bradley and CarolAnn Lewin, our Program Co-Chairs, and their committee do an exceptional job of bringing exciting speakers; about 350 people attend our meetings. Topics this past year ranged from Bamboo, The Earth and Us and Backyard Vineyards in San Diego County to How to be Part of Your Native Plant Garden. In May we held our second plant nerd night, and five horticulturists

Landscape Winners Continued from page 17

plants." She discovered, however, there were other benefits. "I love watching the birds and butterflies flit around the shrubs. The colors and scents are intense, and I love being in the midst of it all."

Cynthia Winters came to be a California-Friendly gardener by an entirely different route. "About 5 years ago a friend introduced me to a few succulents. The plants were much easier to take care of than my flowers. Then 2 ½ years ago I met Karen Suggs who lives in Campo, and her entire yard is California Natives and succulents. The design and her unique approach to 'reusing every cutting' were appealing to me. I purchased many books on how to garden this new way and became committed to moving in this direction."

On the other hand, Susan Hurwitz made the decision in conjunction with her landscaper and her architecture. "We like the southwestern flora. It was recommended by our landscape designer, and of course the water issue was considered. Our inspiration was from Santa Fe, New Mexico. The fact that our house is a flat-roofed Santa Fe style building was a consideration, and we worked closely with our designer to achieve a cohesive look."

The winning sites are superb examples of landscapes appropriate for San Diego and its increasingly dry climate. Water shortages and cutbacks will continue to be a fact of life in Southern California. The winners of the contest influence their neighbors and friends and serve as inspiration for other county residence.

Photos of the Landscape Contest winners can be seen at the Water Conservation Garden, located on the grounds of Cuyamaca College and can be viewed at: www.landscapecontest.com. 🌿

talked about their specialties: heirloom tomatoes, herbs, low-chill blueberries, Japanese veggies and rare fruits to grow at home. At our Special Evening in June garden artists George Little and David Lewis, of the Little & Lewis Garden on Bainbridge Island, Washington, spoke about the garden they created, a water- and plant-filled garden that draws thousands of people a year to this little corner of the Pacific Northwest.

Our newsletter continues to be a major member benefit, and is now available on-line at our website. I truly love being the newsletter editor (this is my 13th year), and I want to thank those folks who have been regular contributors this past year: Linda B. Bresler, Sharon Corrigan, Stacey Does, Sandi Feiock, Richard Frost, Joan Herskowitz, Linda Johnson, Cheryl Leedom, Alice Lowe, Caroline McCullagh, Christy Powell, Carl Price, Ellen Reardon, Cindy Sparks, Trudy Thompson, and Ava Torre-Bueno. This year we had additional articles and photos from Louise Anderson, Marsha Bode, Steve Brigham, Janine Free, Pamela Homfelt, Will Johnson, Roxanne Kim-Perez, Vince Lazaneo, Bonnie Manion, Sue Marchetti, Jeff Moore, Al Myrick, Gayle Olson, Sally Sandler, Sandy Shapiro, Dave Shaw, Nick Stavros, Pat Venolia, Lois Walag, Lucy Warren and Pat Welsh. Also, many members contributed to the Sharing Secrets and Plant Forum columns.

Every month a great group of folks gets the newsletter ready to mail. I want to thank this cheerful crew: Louise Anderson, Joyce Berry, Doris Engberg, Linda Freithaler, Pat Lang, Marianne Light, Susan Morse, Mo Price, Diane Scharar, Janet Smith, Catherine & John Swan, Evey Torre-Bueno, Cathy Tylka, and Sandy Wiksten. Also, many thanks to graphic artist Rachel Cobb, who makes it look so wonderful every month! We're thankful to our advertisers who help pay the printing costs, and especially those who give discounts to our members.

Plenty of other members volunteered this year, and we appreciate their efforts. Thanks to the volunteers for the Spring and Fall Home/Garden Shows. We couldn't manage without Al Myrick, who coordinates our college scholarships and our awards for the Greater San Diego High School Science & Engineering Fair. Thanks to Pat Venolia, who mails dues notices; and Victoria Schaffer, our historian. Members who staffed information tables at various events include our membership co-chairs Sheldon Lisker and Susan Morse. We thank Paula Verstraete for organizing our Volunteer Appreciation Party. Finally, our board members work overtime to keep things running smoothly – their names are on page 4.

I want to thank all our volunteers for making it a joy for me to be your president. I also know you get so much more out of the group because of your increased participation in it. If you haven't volunteered yet – you can start now (see page 4). We have plenty of opportunities available for you to share your knowledge and enthusiasm working with some terrific people!

So... what's in store for the coming year? The board has been working on some exciting plans, and we'll be keeping you posted through the newsletter and the website. We're hoping to have at least one garden trip or tour in 2010, maybe two (including a possible out of town tour). Many of our 2010 speakers have been selected (see page 16 for info about Brad Lancaster's talk on Rainwater Harvesting), and we'll start listing those upcoming meetings on page 3. You'll see some changes in how we do the Opportunity Drawing at our meetings, and we'll continue to add valuable information to our website. How much we can accomplish really depends on you, so volunteer now and get involved and make friends with some truly dedicated gardeners. ☘

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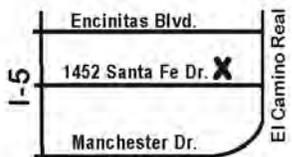
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Fall Home/Garden Show

How to Save Water and Still Have a Beautiful Landscape

By Lucy Warren

The Fall Home/Garden Show is coming right up on September 17, 18 and 19. In keeping with the season, this show is more about home than garden, but knowledgeable Southern California gardeners know that fall is one the most important times in the garden.

This year the show is featuring more in-depth information important to gardeners. We have developed a two-hour seminar that will be given twice daily on "How to Save Water and Still Have a Beautiful Garden." Leading local experts will share their knowledge, tips and experience in water saving plants and landscaping techniques that will increase the beauty and minimize water resources, as well as maintenance.

- * Learn how to take out your lawn and create beautiful living spaces in its place.
- * Find out about low water using lawn-alterative plants
- * Learn why and how trees save water
- * Learn the importance of design in keeping a lush look but still minimizing water use.
- * Take the tour of the display gardens to see the water thrifty plants up close and personal.
- * And much, much more.



PHOTO: RACHEL COBB

Learn how to take out your lawn and create beautiful living spaces in its place.

It's all FREE for the price of admission.

Of course, the San Diego Horticultural Society will have a booth and would love to have your help (see page 4). Bring your questions to the Master Gardeners and learn from the experts about other gardening groups you may want to join. ☺

August Special Event Report

In August we held a Special Event at Quail Botanical Gardens in lieu of a regular meeting at the Fairgrounds. Several hundred members attended this enjoyable afternoon-into-evening occasion, which combined garden tours with an award ceremony and a peek into Quail's future. Photos of the event are on pages 2 and 23, with more on our website. It was a relaxing and low-key change of pace in a gorgeous setting.

People began arriving at 4 PM, and it was very special to have the gardens almost entirely to our own at that hour. Shortly thereafter we enjoyed docent-led tours of the marvelous new Hamilton Children's Garden. Members walked through a labyrinth, sat in chairs so large they felt like dolls, and played various user-friendly instruments. We climbed up and into an amazing treehouse, and checked out the water features. Opened in June, this garden is a delight for kids of all ages, and it was especially fun to see our members enjoying it thoroughly with nary a youngster in sight. SDHS is proud to be a supporter of this important garden, which will help kids connect with nature at a time when opportunities to do so are becoming scarcer. If you haven't yet visited we urge you to do so, with or without your offspring or grandchildren in tow.

By 6 PM everyone was near the gazebo area, enjoying our annual birthday cake and assorted beverages. The SDHS was founded at Quail (more about that later), so it was quite fitting to celebrate our 15th birthday there. Without the distractions of plant vendors, printed handouts, or a plant forum, we were able to sit around and have a nice old fashioned visit with each other, and it was great to see people at Quail who don't come to many meetings. The celebrity of the day, of course, was Steve Brigham, our 2009 Horticulturist of the Year, and everyone wanted to catch up with him (and his charming wife, Donna).

Once we were happily full of cake, it was time for a talk by Julian Duval, President/CEO of Quail. After a brief overview of the history of the Gardens, which started as the home garden of Ruth and Charles Larabee, Julian talked about the future. One important change is a new name. Quail will now be called the San Diego Botanic Garden – which will make it easier for people to find the garden when searching for it on-line, and will identify it with the larger community it is part of. However, he was also quick to point out that to him, and for many of us, it will always remain Quail Botanical Gardens. Attendance at the Garden has been increasing every year, and it is probable that over 250,000 people will visit in 2009! SDHS members get a 10% discount on their memberships, so if you aren't

already a member please consider joining to show your support and also take advantage of the many member benefits.

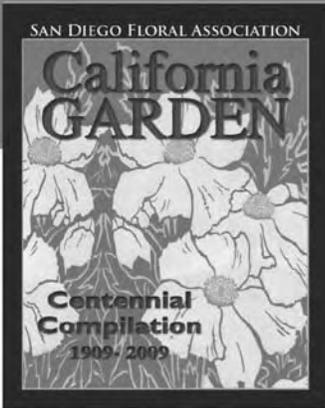
Susi Torre-Bueno then reminisced about the night of SDHS's first meeting, held at the Ecke Building, which was then being remodeled and had minimal electrical power (Don Walker ran an extension cord from the gift shop to run the projector) and no doors on the restrooms. Our Society has strong ties to Quail, even though we grew so quickly than in just two months we had to find a larger meeting space. She talked about our co-founder, Steve Brigham, and how the nursery he founded, Buena Creek Gardens, remains a destination nursery for gardeners from all over the Southwest. Susi gave Steve a plaque commemorating his being honored as our Horticulturist of the Year, along with a pair of Felco pruners, the traditional gift we bestow on our annual awardee.

In a short and modest speech Steve talked about his life in horticulture and his love of plants. He stressed the importance of volunteering – for the Society and for Quail – as a way to share your love of plants. He urged us to become volunteers to insure the future of these fine institutions, and also as a great way to meet like-minded individuals. Steve recalled his years at Quail when it was first becoming a real botanical garden and had a miniscule budget, and that many of the plants he planted were from his personal collection.

As the sky darkened we left this scenic garden, but we know that our members will return again and again to enjoy all that Quail has to offer. What a fitting place to celebrate another successful year as one of the largest garden societies in the U.S., and we thank the Quail staff and our volunteers for making this evening possible. 🌿

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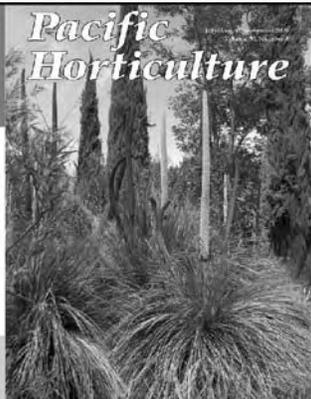
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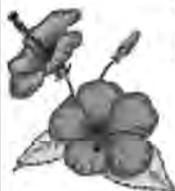
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What's Happening? for September 2009

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 calendar@sdhortsoc.org.

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Hello to all and welcome to our September garden tips and update.

What's New:

- Fun ornamental Peppers in all of the colors (2", 4" & 6") – great for an early Fall touch.
- Cyclamen – first arrivals for the coming "cooler" season. We have them in 2", 4" & 6" in all colors.

Some very interesting vines:

- Vigna caracalla 'Thomas Jefferson'. 'Snail Vine', 'Corkscrew Vine'. A fast growing perennial vine to 20ft. Summer flowers are beautifully fragrant. Named from the variety grown by Thomas Jefferson at Monticello.
- Dalechampia dioscoreifolia ('Purple Wings', 'Bow Tie vine') – A fast growing vine from the Euphorbia family, the flowers are not nearly as showy as the two surrounding fuchsia-purple bracts that measure 2-3 inches wide and long. These "flowers", looking like purple butterflies appear nearly year round.
- Mascagnia macroptera (Butterfly Vine) - An evergreen vine native to Mexico, this vine produces clusters of showy orchid-shaped flowers followed by papery, winged chartreuse seed pods that turn tan. Fruit resembles a green to brown butterfly, hence the common name Butterfly Vine".

Cool season **Tomatoes** are in plentiful supply. Cool days and nights slow tomato plant growth. Fruit will not set or ripen if nights dip below 55 degrees. Cool-season tomatoes grow and produce fruit despite these conditions. Some good varieties are Legend, Taxi, Siberia and Glacier.

Late summer and fall favorites also arriving in the Greenhouse – check out the Crossandra - glossy green leaves and vibrant orange flower spikes. We should be able to see some early Cymbidiums this month too. Also big (4-5 ft. tall) Breynea 'Hawaiian Snowbush'. Super color for inside or out.

Some September thoughts for your gardens: Unwritten rules of gardening ...

The best way to garden is to put on a wide brimmed straw hat and some old clothes. And with a hoe in one hand and a cold drink in the other, tell your husband where to dig.

(continued on other side)

The Water Conservation Garden (contact info on other side)

Sept 10, 6:30-8:30pm, Bye Bye Grass Part 1: Nan Sterman, gardening expert and host of the PBS show "A Growing Passion," will talk about how to exterminate your lawn for good. Learn how to prepare soil for anew garden, along with lots of creative ideas on what to replace it with. Pre-registration required. \$45/Members, \$55/Non-members.

Sept 12, 9-11am, Bye Bye Grass Part 2: Nan Sterman on how to prepare soil for a new garden after you have removed your grass, plus lots of creative ideas of what to replace it with. \$45/members, \$55/Non-members.

Sept 26, 9am-12 noon Toss the Turf; Less Water, Less Grass, More Fun! Join Vickie Driver for a short course in turf removal, including tips for evaluating your soil and irrigation system and creative ideas for low water use landscape in lieu of lawn. Two registrations for the price of one (same household only). \$20/Members; \$30/Non-members.

Sept 26, 1-3 pm, H2O 911! At Cuyamaca College: See Sept 22 entry for Quail Botanical Gardens below. \$20/Members; \$30/Non-members.

Sept 29, 6 – 8pm, Firewise Landscaping with Native Plants: Greg Rubin or California's Own Native Landscaping Design, will guide you through the essentials of Firewise landscaping using native plants, identification and selection, proper placement and grouping, and native plant care. Two registrations for the price of one (same household only). \$20/Members; \$30/Non-members.

Quail Botanical Gardens (contact info on other side)

Sept 12, 5-10pm 10th Anniversary Gala in the Gardens: Celebrate a decade of QBG milestones and community support while honoring Huell Howser of PBS fame who will be receiving the Paul Ecke Junior Award of Excellence. Exceptional cuisine & entertainment in the festive gardens. \$175 per person. Tickets available at website or call QBG.

Sept 17 & 24, Oct 8, 7-9 pm, Oct 10 9am - noon, Secrets of Tree Care (4 class series): Learn about plant selection, planting and establishing your tree, pruning, watering, and fertilizing. Also covers equipment and techniques for tree care. \$80/Members; \$100/Non-members.

Sept 17 & 24, 6-7 pm Family Night - Violin Concert. Park is open every Thursday night through September until 8pm. Children's activities available. Free with admission to the park.

Sept 20, 2-3:30 pm Firewise, Waterwise Landscaping: Debra Lee Baldwin will describe how to create lush and lovely landscapes that are both firewise and waterwise. Her presentation will include a booksigning. \$10/Members; \$12/Non-members

Sept 22, 6-8 pm, H2O 911! Vickie Driver will discuss dealing with the water shortage and will offer simple steps for saving water and money in your home, both inside and out. \$20/Members; \$30/Non-members.

Sept 25, 10 am -12 noon, Soil Building and Water Conservation through Cover Crops: Class taught by Diane Hollister on improving your soil during the wet winter months through the use of cover crops. Also covered are basic principles of water harvesting with a simple how-to rain barrel made from a trash can. \$25/Members; \$30/Non-members.

Sept 5 and Sept 12, 10 am, Grangetto's Fruit Tree Pruning Seminar: Richard Wright will teach you how to prune your fruit trees so that they will produce an abundance of fruit each year. Free. Sept 5 at Fallbrook location: 530 E. Alvarado Street; Sept 12 at Valley Center location: 29219 Juba Rd. www.grangettos.com

Sept 5, 9 am - noon, Gardeners 4 Peace Work Party: Help create a peaceful, organic, permaculture garden. 1:00 Free composting class with Connie Beck. Bring vegetable & fruit waste, chopped & frozen for compost bins. Peace Resource Center, SD Friends Meeting, Church of the Bretheren, 3850 Westgate Place, San Diego 92105. www.sdfriendscenter.org

Sept 5 & 6, 10 - 4pm, California Plumeria Society's Hawaiian Plumeria Festival: Annual show and plant sale. Members available to answer questions and growing instructions; and books for sale. Free admission. Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park. Information: (619) 461-5942. www.socalplumeriasociety.com

Sept 5, 9 am - 3 pm, Southwestern College - South Bay Botanic Garden (SBBG): Second annual "Green Scene". Community event featuring educational talks and entertainment. Event is free and no parking permit will be required that day. 900 Otay Lakes Rd, Chula Vista. For more information, email whomyak@sweed.edu

Sept 5, Walter Andersen Nursery: 9 am, Pest Control, San Diego, 3642 Enterprise Street, (619) 224-8271; 9:30am, Container Gardening. (Poway, 12755 Danielson Court, (858) 513-4900). www.walterandersen.com

Sept 5, 9-11 am, Calif Coastal Rose Society: Final deadheading during work day at Magee Park Rose garden, located at SW corner of Magee Park, corner of Beech Ave and Garfield St., Carlsbad.

September 12, 8:30am – 3:00pm: San Diego Fall Gardening Seminar

Sponsored by the Master Gardener Association; held, at Marina Village Conference Center in San Diego. Six classes on water smart landscaping (including natives and succulents), sustainable landscape design, colorful plants for winter, growing cool season vegetables organically and raising backyard chickens will be presented by local experts. Class descriptions & registration form at www.mastergardenersandiego.org or call (85) 694-2859. Preregistration required. The cost for each class is \$15.00. A selection of plants and gardening items, including new and gently used "Green Elephants" will be sold during the lunch break.

Sept 12, Walter Andersen Nursery: 9 am, Autumn Herb Care, San Diego, 3642 Enterprise Street, (619) 224-8271); 9:30am, Nan Sterman. (Poway, 12755 Danielson Court, (858) 513-4900). www.walterandersen.com

Sept 12, 10 am, San Diego Bromeliad Society: Preparing Your Bromeliads for Show: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Free. Visitors welcome. (858) 453-6486. www.bsi.org

Sept 12 & 13, 8 am - 4:45 pm, Fullerton Arboretum Salvia Spectacular Plant Sale: This event marks the official reopening of The Potting Shed, the Arboretum's retail nursery plant sales and garden shop. This event will feature more than 100 salvia species and varieties for sale. 1900 Associated Rod, Fullerton. www.fullertonarboretum.org

Sept 13, 10 am - 4 pm, San Diego Iris Society Fall Iris Rhizome Sale: Casa del Prado courtyard, Balboa Park. www.sdfem.com

September 14, details on page 3 California Natives for the Garden

Sept 17, 7:30 pm, San Diego Fern Society Monthly Meeting: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.sdfem.com

Sept 15, 7 pm, California Coastal Rose Society monthly meeting: Guest speakers Dr. Ketih and Debbie Zary from Jackson and Perkins, on "Roses of the 21st Century;" will discuss rose hybridizing. New roses of 2009 reviewed and new 2010 roses to be introduced. Meets third Tues of each month at Heritage Hall, 2650 Garfield St., Carlsbad. www.californiacoastalrose.com

Sept 19, Walter Andersen Nursery: 9 am, General Orchid Growing, San Diego, 3642 Enterprise Street, (619) 224-8271); 9:30am, Winter Veggies with Richard Wright. (Poway, 12755 Danielson Court, (858) 513-4900). www.walterandersen.com

Sept 19, 1:30 - 2:30pm, Agri Service, Inc. Community Gardening Series: Free monthly classes with Master Gardeners Diane Hollister and Pete Ash. In September they will discuss "Planting for Fall - winter rains to grow great veggie gardens." El Corazon Compost Facility, 3210 Oceanside Blvd. Reserve space: (800) 262-4167 ext. 4.

Sept 19, 8 am - noon, Alta Vista Gardens: Volunteers needed for general garden and nursery work at Alta Vista Gardens, Vista. (760) 945-3954. www.altavistagardens.org.

Sept 26, Walter Andersen Nursery: 9 am, Fall Bulbs, San Diego, 3642 Enterprise Street, (619) 224-8271); 9:30am, Fall Bulbs. (Poway, 12755 Danielson Court, (858) 513-4900). www.walterandersen.com

Sept 26-27 10 - 4pm, San Diego Bromeliad Society Annual Show and Sale: Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. (858) 453-6486. www.bsi.org

Sept 23 6 pm social, 6:30pm speaker, Mission Hills Garden Club Meeting: Robin Pokorski will speak on the garden club movement in the US with emphasis on California. George Speer will demonstrate a sampling of floral arranging. State Chapter of National Garden Clubs is honoring MHGC for their recent membership award. Refreshments served. Free for members, \$10 for guests/visitors. United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdraw St, San Diego 92103. (619) 923-3624 or www.missionhillsgardenclub.org

Resources & Ongoing Events

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS: Open daily 9-5 (closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day); 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas. Fee: \$10/adults, \$7/seniors, \$5/kids; parking \$1. Free to members and on the first Tuesday of every month. (760) 436-3036; www.qbgardens.org

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN: Open 9-4 daily, free. Docent-led tours every Saturday at 10:30am & Sunday at 1:30pm. 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, (619) 660-0614 or www.thegarden.org

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

MASTER GARDENER HOTLINE: Gardening questions answered by trained volunteers Mon.-Fri., 9-3, (858) 694-2860, www.mastergardenerssandiego.org

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

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

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

BALBOA PARK:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Garden TV and Radio Shows

NEW SHOW: Gary Walker's GreenTree World Radio Show. Saturdays, noon at KCEO AM 1000. Live call-in line: (800) 292-5236. *Gardening, trees and a whole lot more!*

Down To Earth with Host Tom Piergrossi. Award-winning TV show on local gardening, daily at 12:30pm and 7:30pm. CTN (County Television Network, www.ctn.org). Tapes avail. from SDHS library.

Garden Compass Radio Show. Saturday and Sunday, 8-10am. XEPE 1700AM radio, hosts Bruce and Sharon Asakawa, John Bagnasco. Call-in questions: (619) 570-1360 or (800) 660-4769.

Garden Tips for September:

September is our transition into Fall here in Southern California and the start of the best planting season of the year. Start cleaning out faded flowers and vegetables but leave the good ones in place to enjoy as long as they last.

Remember - The basis for every good garden is the soil; if you take care of the soil you won't have to worry about the plants. Autumn is the time to plant the cool-season annuals, perennials and vegetables all of which will thrive in our lovely San Diego-area autumn weather.

New Plantings:

--**Sweet Peas.** For sweet peas by December plant seeds now. Look for varieties designated "early flowering;" spring or summer-flowering types won't bloom

--**Peas.** Choose a good variety. There are three basic type of peas: snow peas, snap peas and English peas. The first two have edible pods - English peas have to be shelled. Peas need a trellis for vines to climb.

--**Cool-season Vegetables.** Plant cool-season vegetables such as broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, kale, kohlrabi, mustard, lettuce and other greens.

--**Cool-season Flowers.** Plant cool-season flowers including calendula, cineraria, dianthus, delphiniums, Iceland poppies, nemesia, pansies, snapdragon, stock, wild flowers, violas and violets.

Garden Maintenance:

-- **Cut back flowered ornamental grasses** to 1.5" (that's not a typo - 1.5 INCHES) tall by November (or sooner).

-- **Hydrangeas** (macrophyllas) - cut back by end of this month and if you want to turn pink flowers to blue start with Hydrangea Blue regime.

--**Camellias.** Keep camellias well watered this month. Letting them go dry will cause the buds to drop off depriving you of their beautiful blooms. Some varieties of camellias form a great many more buds than they can support and so will naturally drop buds. The naturally-dropped bud will be green whereas a water-stressed plant will drop brown buds

--**Citrus.** Make sure citrus trees are adequately and evenly watered during this month. If the roots go dry the result can be split fruits.

--**Cymbidiums.** Switch cymbidiums to a lower nitrogen, higher phosphorous & potassium fertilizer to encourage development of bloom spikes.

--**Irises.** Clean up the iris beds now. Cut off damaged leaves, remove debris and mulch beds. Irises will not bloom if over-crowded and need to be divided about every three years. If your irises need dividing - do it now.

--In California there are two major planting seasons--spring and fall. Spring gets plenty of attention but one of the best kept secrets is the beauty of fall planting. Although trees and shrubs are not actively growing above the ground they are very busy sending out strong roots and getting themselves established for the spring.

--**Roses** should be encouraged to continue blooming by making sure they get the supplemental food they need. Feeding them becomes the number one item if gardeners want to have cut roses in their home during October, November and maybe even December.

Planting Tips For The Month: If you're expecting guests for the winter holidays from the East Coast or Midwest and you want to impress them with your winter flower garden, start planting the winter annuals after the middle of this month. Pansies, stock, Iceland poppies, California poppies and calendulas should all be in glorious bloom in time if they are planted this month.

Protect Against Wildfire: September is the start of the Santa Ana wind season. If you live in an area that is prone to wildfires you should prune off dead tree limbs, clean your yard of brush and dead leaves and clean leaves from the roof and gutter.