

# Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

May 2012, Number 212

## Small is the New Big

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On the Cover: Living large in a small garden



# Sustainable Garden Maintenance Workshop

*presented by the San Diego Horticultural Society*

Our concentrated bi-lingual\* Sustainable Garden Maintenance Workshop is designed for homeowners who do their own maintenance, and also for people who feel that they *and* the gardeners they employ would benefit from this hands-on training. Instructor Lynlee Austell-Slayter is a sustainable landscape expert; Spanish translation will be provided by a professional gardener. SDHS will give a Certificate of Completion to attendees.

## You will learn about:

- ✓ Making existing irrigation more efficient (materials, methods, scheduling)
- ✓ Shrub and tree pruning and maintenance
- ✓ Plant and soil health (disease control, mulching)

**Cost:** \$20/person. Maximum of 25 people. Lunch is included.

**Date/Time:** Saturday, May 26 from 11:00am to 2:00pm

**Location:** MiraCosta College, Oceanside

**Questions:** Lynlee Austell-Slayter at laustell@cox.net or (619) 339-7087

**\*Translation:** See registration page for a Spanish translation

**Registration:** [www.sdhortsoc.org/events.htm](http://www.sdhortsoc.org/events.htm)

Sponsored by AgriService, Hydro-Scape, MiraCosta College, Rain Bird, and the San Dieguito Water District

*Before*



*After*



**HURRY ONLY  
2 SPACES LEFT!**

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## SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

### MEETING SCHEDULE

5:00 – 6:00 Meeting room setup

6:00 – 6:45 Vendor sales, opportunity drawing ticket sales, lending library, plant display

6:45 – 9:00 Announcements, Hot Hort Picks, speaker, opportunity drawing

### MEETINGS & EVENTS IN 2012

**May 17-20** SDHS Tour – San Francisco Area (sold out)

**May 26** May 26 Sustainable Garden Maintenance Workshop  
(see page 2 & inside front cover)

**June 8 - July 4** San Diego County Fair

**June 16** Coffee in the Garden, Poway

**May 26** Coffee in the Garden, Fallbrook

**June 11** SDHS Night at the Fair (see page 3)

**COVER IMAGE:** Our May speaker has this to say about her cover photo, "Fashioned from a substantial water jar that looks like it belongs in an old world landscape, a self-contained water feature lends rustic charm as well as an enchanting soundtrack to the lush and textural Forkner garden. This project is one of over 30 found in Lorene's new book, *Handmade Garden Projects*."

[www.SanDiegoHorticulturalSociety.org](http://www.SanDiegoHorticulturalSociety.org)



## Next Meeting: MAY 14, 2012, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

### Topic: LORENE EDWARDS FORKNER ON "SMALL IS THE NEW BIG: 3 BIG RULES (& 4 SMALL ONES) FOR DESIGNING SMALL GARDENS WITH IMPACT"

**Meeting is open and everyone is welcome. Admission: Members/free, Non-Members/\$10.**

**Parking is free. Meeting Place: Del Mar Fairgrounds, Surfside Race Place, Del Mar; Info: (619) 296-9215**

We're very excited to have the always upbeat Lorene Edwards Forkner speaking in May about designing small gardens with impact. City-sized gardens, high density urban housing, fewer hours for leisure (and even fewer for slaving in the garden) – you have to be a master of invention or mistress of ingenuity when it comes to fitting a garden into a busy 21<sup>st</sup> century life. Lorene offers us a lively evening illustrated with slides and stories of gardens infused with personality and passion, structure and changing seasonal interest. You can have a landscape that lives large regardless of the size of its footprint and still have time left over to enjoy it.

Author, speaker and avid gardener/cook, Lorene Edwards Forkner revels in the seasonal pleasures and broad scope of gardening life that the Pacific Northwest affords. Working from home and tending a small city garden provides her with a living workshop and practical skills in her hands-on pursuit of color, textures, form and delicious flavor every day of the year. A designer's eye for re-purposing objects and a keen sense of conservation and thrift infuse her every effort with personality, wit and sustainability.

Lorene is the new editor of *Pacific Horticulture* magazine and the author of *Handmade Garden Projects: Step by Step Instructions for Creative Garden Features, Containers, Lighting & More*, and two other books. She regularly blogs where she recounts her explorations, sometimes hapless experiments, and spins stories about home, garden, work and play.

To learn more visit her blog at <http://Plantedathome.com> and see page 3. ☘





# SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Established September 1994

## BOARD MEMBERS

**Jeff Biletznikoff** – Meeting Room Coordinator

**Jim Bishop** – President, Membership Chair

**Linda Bresler** – Member at Large

**Mark Collins** – Finance/Budget Committee

**Julian Duval** – San Diego Botanic Garden Representative

**Mary James** – Program Committee Chair

**Dannie McLaughlin** – Tour Coordinator

**Susan Oddo** – Publicity Coordinator

**Stephanie Shigematsu** – Member at Large

**Susi Torre-Bueno** – Newsletter Editor, Past President

**Cathy Tylka** – Treasurer

**Don Walker** – Past President

**Nancy Woodard** – Volunteer Coordinator

**Lucy Warren** – Secretary

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

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

**Calendar:** Send details by the 10th of the month before event to calendar@sdhortsoc.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@sdhortsoc.org or SDHS, Attn: Membership, PO Box 231869, Encinitas, CA 92023-1869. We **NEVER** share your email or address with anyone!

## BECOME A SPONSOR!

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

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

## SUSTAINABLE GARDEN MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP

### Only 2 spaces left! – See inside front cover

SDHS is offering a concentrated workshop on Sustainable Garden Maintenance, inspired by UCCE Master Gardener Lynlee Austell-Slayter's 2011 lecture about this important topic. It is designed for homeowners who do their own maintenance, and also for people who feel that they *and* the gardeners they employ need training in sustainable maintenance.

This workshop will be held in Oceanside on Saturday, May 26 from 11:00am to 2:00pm. It will be taught by Lynlee Austell-Slayter, a sustainable landscape expert, with help from a professional gardener who is bi-lingual (English/Spanish). The workshop will be hands-on as much as possible. Attendees will get a certificate of completion. The workshop is limited to 25 people; the fee of \$20/person includes lunch. Thanks to the following sponsors for their support: MiraCosta College, AgriService (see page 14), Hydro-Scape, Rain Bird, and the San Dieguito Water District.

Details are on the inside front cover. 🌿



## IMPORTANT MEMBER INFORMATION

### Are You Reading This In COLOR???

Our monthly eblast has the password for the digital newsletter; featuring all color images and live links. Back issues are also on our website. To switch to the digital edition exclusively send an email saying "online only" to membership@sdhortsoc.org.

## Be a Garden Ambassador at the Fair

During the SD County Fair, from June 8 to July 4, spend a few hours as a friendly "Horticulturist of the Day" at our Fair display garden and get to spend the rest of the day at the Fair for FREE. It's a fun way to tell people about plants and gardening, answer their horticultural questions, and share information about the SDHS. Volunteer on line at <http://tinyurl.com/HortOfDay> – more details are on page 3. Questions: 619-296-9215 Option 4

## Membership Table at Meetings

We are looking for a few friendly folks to staff our membership table at meetings from 6pm until about 6:45pm, signing up new members and help current members renew their membership. You'd also take orders for nametags and distribute nametags at meetings. If you have an outgoing personality this is a fun opportunity. Lorie Johansen and Nancy Groves are already doing this for most months – we need a few volunteers to help them and as backups when they aren't available. To learn more or volunteer; email volunteer@sdhortsoc.org.

## Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is looking for 2 people; one to manage our sponsorship program, and another to manage membership relations and sign up new members. If you can help a few hours a week, have good email skills, and enjoy working with people, contact Jim Bishop at president@sdhortsoc.org or 619-296-9215.

## Events and Outreach Committee

We are seeking committee members and volunteers to help plan and participate in exciting special events and organize workshops. Committee members who help out at an activity get to attend it for FREE! This committee organizes and installs our booths for the Spring and Fall Home/Garden Shows. For more info and to volunteer please contact Jim Bishop at president@sdhortsoc.org or 619-296-9215.

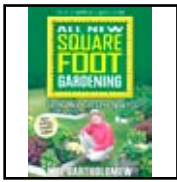
## Corresponding Secretary

We are looking for a volunteer to write and send thank you letters and emails to volunteers, significant contributors, speakers, and sponsors. This job can be done in a few hours a week from home, contact Jim Bishop at president@sdhortsoc.org or 619-296-9215.



## Thanks So Much!

Many thanks to Dennis & Pamela Mudd for hosting our April 15 Coffee at their delightful Poway garden – great way to take our minds off income tax! Look for photos on our Facebook page. 🌿



## TO LEARN MORE...

By Ava Torre-Bueno

### Small Space Gardens

There are a number of blogs about Small Space Gardens: <http://tlc.howstuffworks.com/home/favorite-blogs-about-small-space-gardening.htm> including Lorene Edwards Forkner's own blog <http://plantedathome.com/>

An inspiring video on gardening in small spaces can be found on YouTube at: [www.growingagreenerworld.com/episode214/](http://www.growingagreenerworld.com/episode214/)

There's always Square Foot Gardening: [www.squarefootgardening.org](http://www.squarefootgardening.org)

And Square Inch Gardening: <http://urbangardencasual.com/2011/11/19/micro-gardening-the-square-inch-way/>

And finally, to go even smaller, Google the words "miniature gardens" and click images to see teeny-tiny little container gardens complete with teeny-tiny furniture.

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](mailto:gardeners4peace@hotmail.com) and visit <http://sandiegofriendscenter.org/volunteers.htm>. 🌱



Barbara Raub

A true sculpture garden seen on our March 31 tour, the graphic look of this specimen cactus planting elevates the simple stucco wall of this mid-century modern home to that of an art gallery.



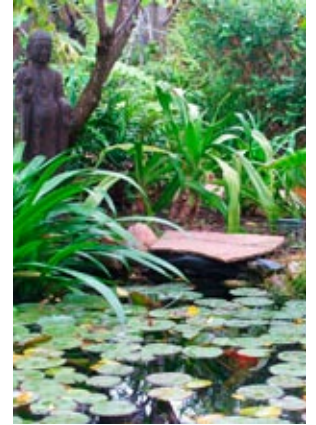
## FROM THE BOARD

By Jim Bishop

### Spring Garden Tour an Outstanding Success!

The nearly 700 garden enthusiasts who attended the "Garden Tour of the Senses" on March 31 makes this the largest and most successful event SDHS has ever hosted! Congratulations to Tour Chair Dannie McLaughlin for planning and running this incredible event. From the artistic Briercrest Park used for check-in to the nine diverse Mount Helix gardens, everyone had a wonderful day on our unique horticulture tour. Special thanks to La Mesa Beautiful for planting and staging the park and managing the vendor fair.

Board member Susan Oddo nicely summarized the day: "Congratulations are in order for a truly amazing accomplishment. The SDHS garden tour was raised to a whole new level. The gardens were a wonderful mix of large and small, challenging pathways with rock stairs and flat walkways with easy access, all with wonderful plants and garden art; at least one artist in most gardens and sometimes more, music, vendors in gardens and at the vendor area, shuttles, an amazing map filled with informative directions and guidance, excellent garden signage, wonderful parking volunteers, terrific garden docents – and the registration area beautifully organized and running smoothly."



Barbara Raub

### May Meeting

Don't miss our May 14 general meeting to learn more about Pacific Horticulture Society (PHS). As a sponsoring organization of PHS, our members are eligible for discount membership that includes a subscription to *Pacific Horticulture* magazine. Our May speaker is Lorene Edwards Forkner, the new editor of *Pacific Horticulture*. Lorene's multi-use camper/trailer folly in her Seattle garden was the inspiration for our award-winning 2011 garden exhibit at the San Diego County Fair. Her garden was also on our tour of Seattle gardens in 2006.

### San Diego County Fair

Be sure and save the date of June 11 for our exclusive members-only viewing of the 2012 San Diego County Fair Flower & Garden Show. The evening event replaces our regular meeting. We will be honoring Susi Torre-Bueno, our 2012 Horticulturist of the Year, at the event. Since the Fair is closed to the public that day, we'll get a private and close up view of all the outside gardens including our own display garden exhibit. See the preview article about our exhibit on page 5 and watch for more information about this fun event in the June newsletter.

During the Fair's 22-day run, SDHS volunteers will staff a "Horticulturist of the Day" position at our display garden and we'd love to have you participate. This is a great opportunity to tell the public about the San Diego Horticultural Society. You'll answer questions about our display garden, about other gardens at the Fair, and general garden questions. There are handouts and instruction sheets to assist you, and we'll provide training at the Fair on Monday, June 11th. Both morning and afternoon shifts are available daily from June 8 to July 4. If you are an outgoing person and would like free admission to the Fair (not including parking) sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/HortOfDay> or call 619-296-9215 Option 4. 🌱



## THE REAL DIRT ON...

By Linda Bresler

### Pierre Cusson

Pierre Cusson (1727-1783) was a physician and French professor of Botany at the University of Montpellier in France (some sources also say he was a Jesuit and a mathematician). As a young man, he traveled through Majorca, Spain and the Pyrenees collecting plants of those regions. He had an excellent specimen collection of Umbelliferae (Carrot Family of aromatic herbs). He belonged to "numerous academic societies across Europe, including those of Montpellier where he resided, Madrid, Toulouse and Paris."

Cusson had a voluminous correspondence with Carl Linnaeus, the noted Swedish naturalist and educator who developed the revolutionary plant and animal classification system using genus and species. In time, Linnaeus's successor, Carl Peter Thunberg, a Swedish naturalist, named the genus *Cussonia* after Cusson. There are currently eleven species of this small to medium-sized tree called the Cabbage Tree found in South Africa.

According to one source, "Antoine Gouan and Pierre Cusson stimulated [Joseph] Dombey to pursue natural history." Dombey had a long and distinguished career, studied plants in Europe and Peru, and "introduced the Araucanian pine, named after him, into naval construction and presented to the Jardin des Plantes, Paris, a great number of specimens and his herbarium, containing more than 1,500 new species."

A sad anecdote is related in Cusson's biography. In his later years, while Cusson was away from his home one day, an elderly relative with whom he lived cleaned up his study in his absence. The woman discarded his entire collection, even scraping off his dried specimens for the sake of the paper on which they were pasted.

Linda Bresler is a Landscape Designer living in Poway. She specializes in drought-tolerant, low maintenance designs that provide four season beauty. 🌿



*Cussonia paniculata*

## Local Garden Tours

May is a peak garden tour month in San Diego County and a list of tours is in our monthly calendar insert. Some may offer discounts for early reservations, so don't delay in making plans. Each tour will feature inspiring gardens, often with a similar theme, and you're sure to learn something to try in your own garden.



## GOING WILD WITH THE NATIVES

By Pat Pawlowski

### Godzilla Alert

By now, we all know that natural pest control is a great idea. A lot of us don't want to use chemical pesticides in the garden; instead, we might consider using beneficial insects to keep the destructive ones under control. That way, we think we won't be harming butterflies, hummingbirds and other cutie pies that give us so much visual pleasure when flitting through our yards.

Some of us install nectar-bearing plants that attract ladybugs, lacewings and other pest gobblers. Makes sense.

But some of us skip the plant stage and just sprinkle pints of ladybugs or other kinds of insects into our garden stew.

Hopefully so far, that's okay, right?

Well, it depends. While ladybugs and some others may be okay, there is one, to my mind, that is very much NOT okay.

I call it Godzilla; others call it the praying mantid (or praying mantis – the names are used interchangeably. I could explain the taxonomic difference but believe me you'd eventually fall asleep).

Harken to this: Praying mantids, I found out, are far from saintly. A friend of mine told me about a video on YouTube dramatically entitled "Praying Mantis Murders Hummingbird."

"You've got to be kidding," I told her. "You've had too much fermented grape juice."

But no, she was right... there it was on the small screen, for all to see: The cagey mantid was perched on a hummingbird feeder; just waiting. Soon there appeared several hummers looking suspiciously at the mantid; they flew off, but then another hummer, possibly missing a few brain cells, came close enough to the Godzilla mantid, which grabbed the bird and disappeared from view.

You know how computers can suck you in – five minutes on the small boobtube turns into an hour: I wound up watching more videos of mantid-inspired mayhem; in one, a mantid scarfed up a series of honeybees.

Aaaaaaaaah!

Some gardening catalogs sell mantid egg cases. When you place the cases in the garden the little buggers eventually hatch out, grow quickly, and stride Godzilla-like around the yard, indiscriminately consuming whatever they catch.

It turns out that those sold to gobble pests are the Chinese mantid and European mantid, both of which are not native to America. The U.S. does have native mantids, but they are not sold as pest control. And let's face it: one or two indigenous Godzillas would not do the collateral damage that a whole herd of lumbering ravenous exotic mantids might do.

Forego Godzilla and use native plants as pest control – first to attract other kinds of bennies, and then to keep them hanging around. To find out which plant varieties work best, visit a local native nursery, a native plant garden designer, the library or the internet. Maybe we'll even have a list of beneficial-attracting native plants in a future issue.

The hummingbirds and I pray that we do.

Member Pat Pawlowski is a writer, lecturer, garden consultant, and hummingbird bodyguard. 🌿

Continued on page 15





## TREES, PLEASE

By Tim Clancy

### Leave Well Enough Alone

*"broad-leaved (brôdlvd) also broad-leafed (-lft) adj. Having broad or relatively broad leaves rather than needlelike or scalelike leaves."\**

This article refers to trees in the category defined above.

The most frequent "treatment" performed on trees is the removal of leaf matter. This activity is known as pruning and is often performed under the guise of being of benefit to the tree. The main purpose of leaves is to perform photosynthesis. This is made possible by a pigment named chlorophyll. There are other pigments in leaves that perform other functions. In addition to photosynthesis there is another process carried out by leaves called respiration. This process converts carbohydrates to usable energy. To carry out these two processes, leaves absorb CO<sub>2</sub> and release H<sub>2</sub>O and O<sub>2</sub> through tiny pores on the leaf surface that are opened and closed as needed by the tree.



Trees generally fall into two categories: evergreen and deciduous. Evergreen trees keep their leaves for a year or more in most cases. I am often asked to help choose a tree that is not messy. Most people think evergreen right away. This does seem logical after all. However, evergreen does not mean permanent. So evergreen trees will shed all of their leaves over their typical cycle.

Deciduous trees drop their leaves each year. We mostly see this happen in the fall as winter comes on us. There are some trees that as part of a water conservation strategy will drop leaves in times of low water availability. Deciduous trees tend to be found in places where climate extremes exist and evergreens are found where climate fluctuation is minimal.

Leaves have evolved to give us some important and interesting adaptations. Most trees will angle their leaves to take advantage of the surface and catch as much sun as possible. In some climates the sun gets so hot the leaves angle the edge towards the sun so the surface doesn't get harmed. Some leaves have hair on them to disrupt airflow or deter insects. Some leaves have long points that are referred to as drip tips; this configuration helps water drain and guards against fungus or algae.

Leaves come in many shapes and sizes and are useful in tree identification. There are many good field guides available to aid in leaf identification as well as an infinite number of sources on the internet.

One thing to remember is that trees make the amount of leaves they need to function properly. They don't make extra leaves in case of an accident. Sure, they are able to respond to accidents or the deliberate removal by humans. This response, while programmed into the genetic code of a tree, upsets the preferred order of events and will be paid for at some point in the tree's life.

Leaves are a wonderful adaptation conjured up by trees many thousands of years ago when the atmosphere was changing. Let's honor that adaptation by leaving them alone. As my friend Mark Wisniewski is fond of saying they are called "leaves" for a reason!

\* The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition, ©2000 by Houghton Mifflin Company.

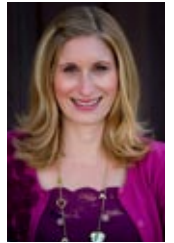
Member Tim Clancy is an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist #WE-0806A. Tim welcomes comments and questions and can be reached at [treemanagers@gmail.com](mailto:treemanagers@gmail.com).



## SEE US AT THE FAIR

Summer is almost here and that means Fair time is almost upon us! Every year we pull great talent from our membership base to design our large display garden for the Paul Ecke Jr. Flower & Garden Show at the San Diego County Fair, which will be open from June 8 to July 4.

This year we have selected member Susanna Pagan, a landscape designer and garden enthusiast. Susanna has great experience designing gardens in San Diego's North County area with her company Susanna Pagan Landscape Design ([www.SPGardens.com](http://www.SPGardens.com)). She brings her art background, flair for beautiful color, art, and love of gardening to our garden design for 2012! Susanna has been busy finalizing her design and acquiring local resources that tap into this year's Fair theme, 'Cosmic Spaces.'



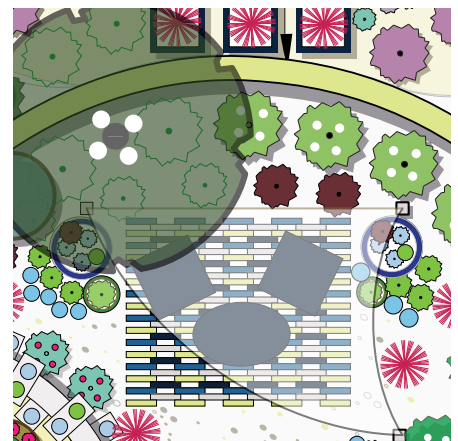
Susanna's garden design will utilize soft whites and silvers to produce a beautiful celestial moon garden. A stunning day and nighttime palette will be created by contrasting the white flowers and silver foliage of unique succulents and perennials against plants with darker green, purple, and blue foliage that shine during the day and glow in the moonlight. Colorful curving walls and circular forms serve as a striking backdrop for the plants and trees, as well as reflecting the shape of cosmic spaces such as solar systems and planets. Repurposed materials will also play a part in the exhibit via garden art, wine bottle lined pathways, and other garden materials and accessories. Susanna is working closely with local artists to incorporate one of kind focal points in the garden.

Landscape contractor Jeremiah Turner, of Turner Landscapes ([www.turnerlandscapes.com](http://www.turnerlandscapes.com)), who has won numerous awards at the Spring Home/Garden Show for his garden installations, will be collaborating with Susanna on the garden installation, making her vision for the garden come to life!

During the garden installation Susanna will also be working closely with landscape designer Marilyn Guidroz ([www.Marilynsgarden.com](http://www.Marilynsgarden.com)), who teaches a Fair Exhibit class for MiraCosta College horticulture students. The students Marilyn recruits will gain credit for this exhibit class by volunteering for the San Diego Horticultural Society display garden. Susanna will be coordinating with Marilyn on delegating tasks to the students during the garden installation, grading students, and organizing tasks (such as watering schedules) that the students will get experience with at the Fair this year. What a great learning experience for the students!

Also, on June 11, instead of our regular meeting, we'll have a SDHS members-only special event at the Fair Flower & Garden Show from 5:45-7:45pm (details TBA). Parking will be free, and because the Fair is closed to the public that day we'll have the outdoor display gardens all to ourselves.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Fair!





## BOOK REVIEW

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh

### ***The Gardener's Year***

By Karel Čapek



I wish I could give each of you a copy of *The Gardener's Year*. It is an absolute delight. I'll bet it would inspire you to do exactly what I did. I kept saying to my husband, "Hey, let me read this part to you," until he gave me *that* look and said, "I'm reading."

I mentioned this book to you in my December review of *We Made a Garden* by Margery Fish.

It's part of a series of relatively new editions of classic garden books produced by the Modern Library Gardening imprint. As I mentioned then, you may recognize Čapek's name (pronounced *chop-uk*) as the author of the play *R.U.R. (Rossum's Universal Robots)*. He coined the word "robot." In America, that's what he's best known for, but he was a prolific writer of plays, novels, stories, essays, and just about anything else you could name. I will definitely look for more of his writing.

Everything about this book is good. It includes the series introduction by Michael Pollen, a not-to-be-missed introduction to the book by Verlyn Klinkenborg, and illustrations drawn by Čapek's brother Josef that will remind you of James Thurber.

Čapek wrote in Czech. I'm not familiar with the challenges of translation beyond what I had to do in a Spanish class, but this translation is excellent. Although it was done in 1931, two years after the book was originally published in Prague, it doesn't feel dated.

Čapek writes humorously, but he has deep insights into the nature of gardeners and gardening. In his chapter "How a Man Becomes a Gardener," he writes,

"Odd as it may appear, a gardener does not grow from seed, shoot, bulb, rhizome, or cutting, but from experience, surroundings, and natural conditions. ... One day you may plant one little flower with your own hand; I planted a house-leek. Perhaps a bit of soil will get into your body through the quick, ... [or] you may catch it from your neighbours [sic], you see that a campion is flowering in your neighbour's garden, and you say: "By Jove! Why shouldn't it grow in mine as well? I'm blessed if I can't do better than that."

He sees gardening as the ultimate expression of man's optimism. People plant trees that they will never see at full height, and no matter how difficult the weather, the soil, the insects, or the plants, they always look forward to the next spring.

*The Gardener's Year* (ISBN 0-375-75948-4) was published in 2002. It's a small paperback, only 117 pages. It sells for \$11.95 (probably less on the web) and is worth every penny. I highly recommend it to you.



**Editor's note:** Caroline's new book, co-written with Richard Lederer, is called *American Trivia: What We All Should Know About U.S. History, Culture & Geography* (ISBN 978-1-4236-2277-2). It's not a garden book, but well worth a read! It's available at your local bookstore for \$9.99 (or from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)).



## INVASIVE PEST THREATENS SAN DIEGO CITRUS

A dangerous pest called the Asian citrus psyllid has been found in San Diego and threatens the ability



of homeowners to continue growing citrus in their backyards. The Asian citrus psyllid can be the carrier of a plant disease called Huanglongbing (HLB) or citrus greening disease. While not harmful to human health, HLB is fatal for citrus plants. You can help protect San Diego citrus by:

- Inspecting citrus trees for the pest each month or whenever watering, spraying, pruning or tending trees.
- Buying citrus trees only from reputable, licensed retail nurseries.
- Not bringing plant material into California from other states or countries and not moving citrus plants out of quarantined areas, like San Diego County.
- Drying or double bagging plant clippings before putting them in green waste recycle bins.
- Cooperating with agriculture officials on detection and treatment of the Asian citrus psyllid.

For more information and to find out what to look for, visit [www.CaliforniaCitrusThreat.org](http://www.CaliforniaCitrusThreat.org). Report possible finds by calling 1-800-491-1899. 🌿



## LA MESA BEAUTIFUL ANNUAL PLANT SALE

By Linda Johnson

La Mesa Beautiful, a nonprofit volunteer organization, is dedicated to keeping La Mesa beautiful and supporting other efforts to improve the community. Their 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Plant Sale, being held on Saturday, May 5 from 9am-4pm, and Sunday May 6 from 9am-2pm, will feature trees, shrubs, bedding plants, cacti, and succulents. There will also be an "Ask the Master Gardener" table to provide gardening advice and assistance to attendees. Location: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church, 4816 Glen Street, La Mesa.

During its 30-year history, La Mesa Beautiful has planted about 2,000 trees, including memorial trees. Arbor Day is celebrated by donating plants and trees to elementary and middle schools in the La Mesa-Spring Valley School District, and teaching the students about Arbor Day and the importance of trees. The group also holds an annual "Spirit of La Mesa" award, recognizing beautiful front yards in the community. By celebrating individuals and businesses that make La Mesa a prettier place to live, they continue to improve the city. Providing annual horticultural scholarships to schools, including Cuyamaca Community College and El Capitan, furthers the beautification efforts. Please support these efforts by attending the Annual Plant Sale. 🌿





## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS! THE MASTER GARDENER SUMMER PLANT SALE IS COMING, SO START YOUR SHOPPING LIST!**

Our famous annual event will be held Saturday, June 16, in Balboa Park from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Room 101 and the patio of Casa Del Prado. This is the place to be for great bargains on plants and garden-related items, as well as the opportunity to speak one-on-one with Master Gardeners.

Below-retail pricing on a large selection of plants is one reason not to miss this yearly event. Many plants were propagated by Master Gardeners, while others were donated by specialty growers and collectors. Plants for sale will include a wide variety of annuals, perennials, succulents, heirloom and unusual vegetables, staghorn ferns, bromeliads and other plants for home landscapes.

In addition, the Master Gardener Marketplace will offer a variety of garden-related items such as colorful planters, hand-crafted birdhouses, pest ID cards, denim aprons and totes, gauntlets, mosaics and china butterfly dishes, sharpening hones, and more! There's sure to be something for every gardener.

Master Gardeners will also be available to help customers with plant selection and provide growing information.

Plant and merchandise details and updates will be posted as the sale nears on the Master Gardener website, [www.mastergardenerssandiego.org](http://www.mastergardenerssandiego.org) and the Master Gardeners facebook page.

Horticultural and pest control advice also will be provided by MGs on a variety of gardening subjects. Exhibits will include information on the following topics:

- Attracting birds and butterflies to your garden
- Identifying insect friends and foes in your garden
- Safe pest control
- Landscaping tips to help defend homes from wildfires
- Composting how-tos
- Tomato, avocado and citrus tree care
- Identification of invasive plants
- Sustainable gardening
- How to make your garden more drought tolerant

Park free of charge in Balboa Park lots. A holding area and an easy loading zone are available for shoppers' convenience.

The June issue of the MG's e-newsletter, *Dig It*, will have complete plant sale information, as well as other helpful articles on plants, gardening and pest control. To sign up for the free newsletter and other Master Gardener email-alerts, visit the website ([www.mastergardenerssandiego.org](http://www.mastergardenerssandiego.org)) and click the "Go Green" button.

Questions about the plant sale, other Master Gardener events or home gardening are answered by Master Gardener volunteers Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on our Hortline, (858) 694-2860. ✂



## **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*

### **Kansas City Here I Come**

Kansas City, Missouri, is the only place I've lived that has four very distinct seasons. The winters were cold with snow, then everything would burst into bloom with the first warm days of spring. Summers were hot, humid and green, with frequent thundershowers. In autumn the deciduous trees and shrubs turned brilliant shades of red, orange and yellow.

We were very excited when my father was transferred to the Kansas City area. Over spring break, we took a house-hunting trip to KC. Compared to Wichita, it looked like paradise. While Kansas was still brown, Missouri already had tulips, daffodils and many trees and shrubs in bloom. There seemed to be a deeper sense of history, permanence, and civic pride. People were proud of their home landscaping. Public parks were designed by landscape architects. My parents bought a house in the suburban town of Gladstone (called Happy Rock by the locals). The surrounding countryside had rolling hills, woods, picturesque pastures, many streams, ponds, small lakes, and the mighty Missouri River.

Between our house and the neighbors grew a large black walnut tree. My mother used a hammer to break open the walnuts on the garage floor and then added them to homemade vanilla ice cream. Down the hill behind the house was an undeveloped wooded area with a small stream. My younger brother and I would spend countless hours exploring the area. We found two arrowheads and the neighbor found a cannon ball, presumably from the Civil War. Wild redbud trees bloomed in the spring and in summer fireflies lit up the woods. In early fall sumac and poison oak turned scarlet. In the winter we'd walk on the frozen creeks and sled down the hills when the snow was deep enough.

But the best season was spring. There was a progression of flowers unlike anything I've seen anywhere else. The landscape would quickly turn from winter brown to vibrant green. The season was heralded with fragrant hyacinths and yellow forsythia, followed by tulips, white spirea and flowering trees. It concluded in May with peonies, heavy-scented lilacs and roses. Everyone acted differently and I understood the meaning of spring fever – you know – the desire to be outside immersed in nature. All of these colorful plants, unknown to me, seemed to be begging for attention.

In our yard, mother would grow the most beautiful rainbow-colored tall tulips in front of the house. In the summer on the south side of the house she grew lilies, roses and zinnias. At the edge of the lot she would grow tomatoes. Knowing it was unlikely we'd live there long enough to see them mature; she planted fruit and maple trees in the lawn.

My father was born in and grew up in Branson, Missouri. We frequently visited his mother there. The drive through the Missouri countryside with old red barns and pastoral farms looked like Currier and Ives paintings come to life. As you approach Branson, the hills became taller and more wooded. My grandmother owned a small souvenir shop on Lake Taneycomo where she hand-colored and sold

*Continued on page 16*

**Sustainable Garden  
Maintenance Workshop  
See page 2 & inside front cover**



## WATER AUTHORITY SPONSORS NEW WATERSMART LANDSCAPE MAKEOVER WORKSHOPS

In collaboration with its 24 member agencies, the San Diego Botanic Garden, and MiraCosta College, the San Diego County Water Authority is sponsoring a new series of hands-on landscape workshops. This series is designed to provide homeowners with the basic skills necessary to successfully transform a traditional turf yard into a beautiful WaterSmart showcase. WaterSmart Landscapes rely on the latest design concepts to integrate a climate-appropriate plant palette with a state-of-the-art irrigation system.

The series consists of three workshops and two personal coaching sessions with design professionals. Upon completion of the program, participants will have developed a set of site-specific plans to guide the implementation of their own retrofit project. Whether you plan to hire a contractor or do-it-yourself, this series will ensure you have covered the bases to ensure project success. The workshop series, valued at more than \$250, is FREE to selected participants (application required). Space is limited and qualified applicants will be enrolled on a first-come, first-serve basis. Below is the schedule for the spring 2012 series, which starts in May. Additional series are planned starting in fall 2012.



**STEP 1: TOSS THE TURF.** May 19, 9am-12pm.  
Site Analysis & Turf Removal

**STEP 2: PICK YOUR PLANTS.** June 2, 9am-12pm.  
Planning, Plant Selection & Design

**DESIGN COACHING SESSION 1.** June 9 (time TBD).  
Free 45 min. consultation on your planting plan.

**STEP 3: INTELLIGENT IRRIGATION.** June 16, 9am-12pm.  
Smart Irrigation System Components & Installation

**DESIGN COACHING SESSION 2.** June 23 (time TBD).  
Free 45 min. consultation on your irrigation plan

All classes will be held at the San Diego Botanic Garden in Encinitas. To obtain an application, please visit [www.sdbgarden.org/classes.htm](http://www.sdbgarden.org/classes.htm). ☘



## SPRING GARDEN TOUR THANKS, EVERYONE!

By Dannie McLaughlin

Despite the overcast skies and early morning mist, the third annual spring garden tour lived up to its billing as "A Garden Tour for the Senses" and was a great success, with over 700 participants. Many thanks go to the wonderful hosts who opened their gardens to us: Bob & Carole Caparas, Linda Clark, Trish Watlington, Bryan Vess, Lee & Maun Knight, Vince & Kay McGrath, Gary & Carol Prior, Paul Schatz & Juan Carlos Ruiz, and Chris Wotruba. Chris had many wonderful plants for sale at her home nursery, Perennial Adventure. Also, thanks to Pete Pickslay for hosting the vendor fair in his large circular driveway and for his interesting display of classic cars and motorcycles, and to Joan Martin for organizing the vendor fair.

A special thanks to all the folks at La Mesa Beautiful – especially Carol Lockwood and Bob Bradshaw – for their tireless efforts in making Briercrest Park the perfect jumping off spot for our tour. They truly embraced the concept of a tour for the senses with their beautiful new plantings of herbs and fragrant flowers.

Many thanks also to Linda Johnson for coordinating between SDHS, La Mesa Beautiful, and the City of La Mesa to make the tour the success that it was. Linda was involved from the very beginning in identifying gardens for the tour, facilitating local advertising in East County, and directing traffic at the park on tour day. Hazel Ross from the Foothills Art Association did a fine job orchestrating the artists in each garden.

I'm extremely appreciative of Susan Oddo for handling the on-line registrations and all the software glitches involved with that, and of Susan Morse for handling pre-tour in-person ticket sales. Mary James wrote a fine piece about the tour for the Union-Tribune, and we know quite a few people attended as a direct result of reading it. Not to be overlooked, Jim Bishop and Susi Torre-Bueno are two people who work tirelessly for the SDHS.

They say it takes a village to raise a child, and in this instance it takes a lot of volunteers to put on a garden tour. We couldn't have done it without you.

Charlene Arthur	Dora Myrick	Cynthia Stojeba
Cadence Baron	Don Nelson	Shirley Steeber
Jeff Belitnikoff	Louise Parks	Laura Tezer
Lisa Bellora	Sally Pendergast	Jackie Tipple
Jim Bishop	Stella Ramos	Marcia Tolin
Kathryn Blankinship	Barbara Raub	Susi Torre-Bueno
Debbie Brenner	Jean Reilly	Cathy Tylka
Pat Crowl	Joan Roberts	Marcia Van Loy
Crystal Fairley	MJ Ross	Judy Walton
Connie Forest	Terry Seat	Roy Wilburn
Ann Heinemann	Jeanette Shields	Nancy Woodard ☘
Rosemary Hokanson		
John Kramer		
Britta Kuhlow		
Karen Lakomy		
Maria Mata		
Janet Mika		
Annie Morgan		
Linda Morse		
Anne Murphy		
Al Myrick		



Pat Crowl





## SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS

By Al Myrick

Each year SDHS promotes education in botanical sciences among junior high and high school students by awarding \$100 each to two of the top science fair projects exhibited at the Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair finals in Balboa Park. The awards also include one-year honorary Society family memberships and a subscription to our newsletter. This year our team of volunteer science fair judges struck GOLD in both Junior and Senior Divisions!! We congratulate our winners for their exceptionally well-executed studies.

Our winning senior high school project was by Jillian Drake, a junior at Fallbrook High School: "An investigation of chromosomally integrated bacteriophage in *Candidatus liberibacter*." This bacterium is a strain related to that (Huanglongbing) vectored by the Asian Citrus Psyllid, which has caused destruction of citrus groves worldwide! Jill's study experimented with DNA extracted from symptomatic and asymptomatic tomato and potato plants (i.e., plants with differing levels of symptom expression when infected with the bacterium), using rigid laboratory methodology involving large samples and many tests. The basic approach was to determine the amounts of bacteriophage (a virus that infects bacteria) DNA within infected plant samples, comparing those which appeared to be symptomatic with those which had no symptoms.

Jill found that the presence of bacteriophage plays a "...significant role in the amount of the disease expression for the *Candidatus Liberibacter psyllaeus*." Cool huh? One step closer to eradicating Huanglongbing? Jill's project was awarded a first place in the general judging and won her an opportunity to compete at the State Science Fair later this spring.

Erica Barrett, a 7th grader at Rhoades School, was our junior high school winner with "Osage Orange: Does it have antibacterial or insect repellent effects?" Last year, "...a grove of trees that bore lime-green warty balls of fruit," led her to research the literature on Osage Orange (also known as hedge apples), where she learned that the tree was thought to contain antibacterial and antifungal compounds and the fruit might repel insects. She launched her investigation using many controlled samples of fruit peel and pulp extracts over time.

She found that instead of inhibiting microbial growth, her samples produced mold and bacterial colonies "too numerous to count." In testing its insect-repellent attributes (she used crickets with DEET as the base line) "...there was a 35% greater cricket activity in the osage orange quadrant... [It] seemed to attract rather than repel them." Experiments did indicate that there might have been a slight repellent response with fruit pulp. Her results caused her to reach cautious conclusions that she says "...invite further study." In addition to our award, Erica's project was recognized by other organizations and was nominated to compete in the Broadcom MASTERS program. It took a first place in general judging and was nominated to compete at the State Science and Engineering Fair. Last, but not least, it won the Junior Division Sweepstakes Award! Not too bad for a study of hedge apples, wow!

This year's great judging team included Janet Wanerka, Joan Herskowitz, Cindy Sparks, Dale Rekus, Bob Dimattia, Phil Tackill, Donald Starr, and Al Myrick: SDHS' "2012 Dream Team." Our two science fair winners have agreed to exhibit their projects at our August monthly meeting. Be sure to attend that one, folks! ☺



## CALIFORNIA GARDEN AND LANDSCAPE HISTORY SOCIETY

By Thea Gurns

### Our Aims:

- Celebrate California's historic gardens and landscapes, their beauty and diversity
- Promote wider knowledge, preservation and restoration of California's historic gardens and landscapes
- Organize study visits to historic gardens and landscapes, relevant archives and libraries
- Offer opportunities for lively interchange among members at Conferences and Tours and Talks

**Conferences:** Attend an annual conference at various locations in California. Focus on regional landscape history through lectures, receptions, tours of private and public gardens, as well as cultural landscape. Visit archives, libraries and nurseries. Network with people of similar interests. Learn new concepts. During our previous conference, *Ranchos to Castles: a Tour of San Luis Obispo County*, we visited the Dana Adobe and gazed in all directions at a landscape preserved just as seen by the adobe's builder. The house itself has national historic status, but in California's fastest-growing county the vista is unlikely to last. We literally saw the impact of viewscape and why it is as worthy of preservation and protection as is its building. In Santa Barbara, we walked through a pathway labyrinth typical of California's Spanish era cultural landscape. Between houses, footpaths remain public right of way. The pathway system was eliminated in the American period when gridiron street patterns were laid out.

### SAVE THE DATE! Annual Conference: Plants, Passion and Propagation, September 8 & 9, Sonoma County:

From winegrower Agoston Haraszthy and plant creator Luther Burbank through to today, Sonoma County (see photo above) has harbored folks whose lives and livelihoods have connected with the plant kingdom. Horticulture, agriculture, nurseries, garden designers, and human culture have all thrived here. Join us to see where, when, who, how, and why!

**Tours and Talks:** Come along on one-day events throughout the state. We explore cultural landscape, celebrate well-known garden designers, and investigate important archives. In 2010, we visited Scripps College Campus (Claremont, CA), repository of 1930s architectural and landscape elegance with its grand allee of American elms; toured the King Gillette Ranch (Calabasas, CA); and walked the grounds of the Huntington Gardens, Cal Tech, and Occidental College to study the work of eminent landscape designer Beatrix Farrand.

**Our Journal:** *Eden*, the journal of CGLHS, is published quarterly and offers original research and reprints from other sources of interest, book reviews, news, and a calendar of garden and landscape events.

**Become a Member:** Memberships start at \$30/year. Members receive a subscription to *Eden*, and other benefits. Contact the Membership Secretary for a sample copy of *Eden*: membership@cglhs.org.

Learn more at our website: <http://cglhs.org>. ☺

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

Arlene Baker	Meredith French	Roselyne Smith
Tom & Liz Barber	Lynn Grant	Penelope Smith
Erica Barrett & Patricia Barrett	Sky & Deris Jeannette	Paula Tuckerman
Janis Berges	Susan Krzywicki	
Phyllis Blum	Suzanne & Joe Marcolivio	
B. J. Boland	Doris Payne-Camp	
Sheryle Drake & Jillian Drake	Tina Schultz	
Nancy & Tessa Floodberg	Kathleen Slayton	

## NEW ADVERTISERS:

**ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE'S CENTER**  
PAGE 12

**SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY**  
PAGE 19

## HORT BUCKS ARE GREAT!

Kudos to these members whose friends joined in 2012; they earned Hort Bucks worth \$5 towards Opportunity Drawing tickets, name-tags, Plant Forum CDs or dues. To get your Hort Bucks ask your friends to give your name when they join.

Lynlee Austell (1)	Shirley Littler (1)	Patty Sliney (1)
Jim Bishop (2)	Pat McDougal (1)	Marcia Van Loy (1)
Patricia Bockstahler (1)	Kay & Vince McGrath (1)	Janet Wanerka (1)
Kay Harry (1)	Gabriel Mitchell (1)	Dick & Gail Wheaton (1)
Julie Hasl (1)	Karin Norberg (1)	Roy Wilburn,
Joan Herskowitz (1)	Katie Pelisek (1)	Sunshine Care (1)
Jeannine & John Le Strada (1)	San Diego Floral Assoc. (1)	



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### Sunshine Gardens

### The Wishing Tree Company

Tree of Life Nursery

### Walter Andersen Nursery

### Weidners' Gardens

### Pat Welsh

Westward Expos

## LIFE MEMBERS \*Horticulturist of the Year

Chuck Ades* (2008)	Laurie Connable	Jane Minshall* (2006)	Susi & Jose Torre-Bueno
Walter Andersen* (2002)	Julian & Leslie Duval	Bill Nelson* (2007)	Don Walker* (2005) & Dorothy Walker
Norm Applebaum & Barbara Roper	Edgar Engert* (2000)	Tina & Andy Rathbone	Lucy Warren
Bruce & Sharon Asakawa* (2010)	Jim Farley	Jon Reberman* (2011)	Evelyn Weidner* (2001)
Gladys T. Baird	Sue & Charles Fouquette	Peggy Ruzich	Pat Welsh* (2003)
Debra Lee Baldwin	Penelope Hlavac	San Diego Home/ Gardens Lifestyle	Betty Wheeler
Steve Brigham* (2009)	Debbie & Richard Johnson	Gerald D. Stewart	
	Lois Kline		
	Vince Lazaneo* (2004)		

## CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

Philip Tackill & Janet Wanerka

## DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS

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

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

For the Grangetto's Preferred Savings Program go to [www.Grangettos.com](http://www.Grangettos.com).

### SEE THESE ADS FOR MORE DISCOUNTS:

Anderson's La Costa Nursery Barrels & Branches, Botanical Partners, Buena Creek Gardens, California BeeWorks Cedros Gardens, IGS, Pacific Horticulture, Solana Succulents, Southwest Boulder & Stone and The Plant Man.



Is it true? Chocolate is good for our waistline? Over recent years, several studies on the benefits of chocolate (dark chocolate in particular) have popped up in the news. Such benefits of chocolate include, but are not limited to, lower blood pressure and lower cholesterol. In addition, the antioxidants found in dark chocolate help the body's cells resist damage caused by free radicals we are exposed to every day. Never have we seen a result that proves consuming chocolate will help your waistline.

Recently, lead author of the study and associate professor of medicine at the University of California, San Diego, Beatrice A. Golomb, M.D., Ph.D. and her colleagues discovered that adults who eat chocolate on a regular basis are thinner than those who do not.

The study proved those adults who ate chocolate more days a week had a lower BMI (body mass index) than those who ate chocolate less often. The authors hypothesized that modest, regular chocolate consumption might be calorie-neutral, which really means that modest amounts of chocolate might lead to a smaller amount of fat storing per calorie and approximately offset the added calories. To assess this hypothesis, the researchers examined dietary and other information provided by approximately 1000 adult men and women from San Diego, for whom weight and height had been measured.

If you would like more details about this study, which was published on March 26, 2012, please visit the Archives of Internal Medicine online.

San Diego Botanic Garden has great news for all of our chocolate lovers out there: We are hosting our Annual Chocolate Festival on May 15 from 10am until 4pm. This is the Saturday of Mother's Day weekend. We have close to two dozen different chocolate vendors, including Jer's Chocolates, The Melting Pot, Eclipse Chocolat, Dallmann Fine Chocolates and many more. What better way to celebrate Mom or Grandmom and, of course, your love of chocolate? After all, chocolate isn't just a remedy for the sweet tooth.

This family-friendly event also features lots of children's activities and a variety of Mother's Day gifts. This event is free with paid admission or membership. "Tasting" tickets will be sold on site. For details and coupons visit [www.SDBGarden.org](http://www.SDBGarden.org). ☺





## COFFEE IN THE GARDEN JUNE 16

### Sunshine Care Organic Gardens and Greenhouse

On June 16 our monthly Coffee in the Garden will be at Sunshine Care, a community of assisted living homes on 32-acres nestled beneath the Green Mountains in Poway. The property, blanketed in California wildflowers, boasts five organic growing fields, two fruit arbors, a greenhouse, a rose garden, a pine tree forest, composting, worm bins and a children's garden. Out in the fields, Roy Wilburn, the Director of Horticulture, grows seasonal crops to order for the kitchen to incorporate fresh, organically grown produce and herbs into the house menus. In 2012 over 14,000 pounds of produce was harvested and put to good use for Sunshine Care residents and the greater community.

In the Greenhouse our residents work side-by-side with local children (babies to age 10) who are learning the seed to table process. Together they seed, transplant into the Children's Garden, tend, harvest, and ultimately taste-test lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, carrots, broccoli, cauliflower, radishes, strawberries, sugar snap peas and herbs. This twice-monthly Intergenerational Garden Club meets twice a month and is free to local families (a parent or grandparent needs to be in attendance).

Additionally, Sunshine Care provides the land, water, power, horticultural and fundraising expertise for three additional 25' x 50' plots that are Food Bank gardens. The Backyard Produce Project maintains these gardens, and the fruits of their labor are donated to local families in need.

On the 3rd Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m., Sunshine Care hosts a FREE garden lecture series where industry professionals share their knowledge and give hands-on demonstrations. For a schedule and details visit [www.sunshinecare.com/AssistedLivingGardenLectures.html](http://www.sunshinecare.com/AssistedLivingGardenLectures.html).

### About Sunshine Care:

In 1990 Sunshine Care's CEO Sam Stelletello opened one 6-bed home with a vision of creating assisted living that truly feels like home, providing the highest level of care in an "at-home" setting. "Holding on to Home" is one of the strongest desires people have, so they have created an environment with all the comforts and reminders of home – familiar sights, sounds, smells, furnishings and activities. "Growing older with dignity is what we want for ourselves, our parents and our loved ones," says Stelletello. The place has the feel of private homes with all the amenities of a larger scale retirement community in five ranch style houses and two larger memory care facilities. There are fountains, walking paths, arbors, meditation areas, aquariums and aviaries. Sunshine Care is known for cutting-edge unique programs for residents and volunteers, including daily exercises to keep the mind and body active, a Garden Club, parties, outings, etc. – over 100 activities each month! Visit them at [www.sunshinecare.com](http://www.sunshinecare.com). ☺



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## GROW! A GARDEN FESTIVAL

(FORMERLY THE LA GARDEN SHOW)

GROW! A GARDEN FESTIVAL, May 4-6, at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden, is the exciting new incarnation of the LA Garden Show. The weekend event is a great way to celebrate the spring gardening season with one-stop shopping for plants, garden ideas, horticulture tips and fun!

The event will feature all the familiar favorites of past LA Garden Shows, plus new cutting edge garden information and demonstrations. There will be art installations in the garden, the debut of the newly designed Garden for All Seasons, 25 specialty plant vendors and societies, and over 50 vendors offering garden accessories and tools. Plus there will be fun activities for kids and the whole family, live entertainment, food trucks, and Beer for Books (proceeds from beer sales go toward book purchases for the Arboretum Library).

The festivities will begin with a special Friday evening event, May 4 from 5 – 8 p.m., where you will meet the eight artists featured in the art exhibition, Earth Dreams: Beyond the Sculptural Landscape. Shown here is James Hill's piece, *The Model*. Enjoy music from the Big Band Theory, tequila cocktails from Nobleza Tequila, wine flights from Phantom Rivers Wine as well as appetizers catered by Chef Claud Beltran of Claud & Company Catering and executive chef of Noir Food & Wine. Get first choice of plants and accessories at the Marketplace.

The festival continues all day on Saturday, May 5, and Sunday, May 6, from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. both days. For full information about the schedule of events, admission and parking, visit [www.arboretum.org](http://www.arboretum.org).



## PACIFIC HORTICULTURE TOURS

By Scott Borden

San Diego Horticultural Society is one of six West Coast societies providing support for the 44-year old Pacific Horticulture Society. Well known for producing the highly respected *Pacific Horticulture* magazine, Pac Hort also offers a series of small group tours each year designed to educate and inspire plant enthusiasts everywhere.



2012 tours to Charleston & Savannah, Santa Cruz Island, and Madagascar are fully booked, but reservations are still being accepted for PacHort's November tour to the Hawaiian islands of Oahu & Kauai Nov 9-17. Guests will spend three nights on Oahu, home to world-famous Waikiki and an extraordinary collection of public and private tropical gardens. A short flight to the Garden Island of Kauai transports guests to a 5-night stay at the Sheraton Kauai on sunny Poipu Beach. Kauai has lush rain forests, emerald valleys, spectacular beaches and Waimea – the Grand Canyon of the Pacific. Guests will enjoy a special invitation to visit the late Doris Duke's Shangri-la on Oahu, a sunset tour of the Allerton Estate on Kauai and much, much more.

2013 tours to Morocco/Andalusia, Scotland, and Seattle (see photo) are currently under development. For more information and reservations for any of these Pacific Horticulture tours, visit [www.pacifichorticulture.org/tours](http://www.pacifichorticulture.org/tours), call 800-976-9497, or email [info@sterlingtoursltd.com](mailto:info@sterlingtoursltd.com).

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## SHARING SECRETS

This column is written by you, our members! Each month we'll ask a question, and print your responses the following month. **You can find copies of previous Sharing Secrets on our website at [www.sdhortsoc.org/sneak\\_peek\\_3.htm](http://www.sdhortsoc.org/sneak_peek_3.htm).**

**The question for this month was:**  
**What veggie varieties are you planting this spring, and do you have any tips for growing them?**

**Louise Anderson** is starting from seed: "I've put some beefsteak tomato seeds in dirt in an egg container. Prayer seems to be the only thing I haven't tried yet."

**Marsha Bode** told us: "My favorite crop last year for my garden in Vista was Japanese cucumber. They grew quickly to be a very satisfying size and I was able to make a refreshing, old-fashioned cucumber salad with vinegar and a little sugar. It is very portable for a picnic. I did, however, have to make a Rube Goldberg style system to keep the squirrels away."

**Jane Coogan Beer** is growing many different veggies: "**Tomatoes:** Early Girl, Sweet 100, Yellow Pear, SunGold, Green Zebra. I step them up several times; bury them deep each time. When planting in the ground again leave only one or two sets of leaves. This results in advantageous roots along the buried 'stem.' Sun Gold is my new garden candy. It and Yellow Pear are lower in acid according to an old wives' tale, making them suitable for pregnant and nursing mothers and others sensitive to acid. **Cucumbers:** Japanese, Armenian, and lemon; growing them up the side of 8-foot tall wire cages with the tomatoes inside. **Squash:** Butternut and Kaboucha, for sure; haven't decided on summer varieties yet. Also, Hasta la Pasta, a spaghetti squash that is darker (towards orange) than the regular one, supposedly more flavorful and more nutritious. **Beans:** Resolved to use up the various saved seeds."

**Willa Gupta** is trying "grafted tomatoes. You can order them at [www.GardenLife.com](http://www.GardenLife.com). I joined John Bagnasco and Sharon Asakawa (from the Garden Life radio show) at the San Francisco Garden show."

**Brenda Kueneman** said, "We are really going over-board this year; if it is successful we will be knocking on our neighbors' doors with baskets of veggies to share (beg them to take). I plan on canning as much as possible; my family truly enjoys the fruits of our labor. We will be planting corn, beets, potatoes (for the first time), pole beans, dry beans, peas, tomatoes, carrots (4 different varieties), asparagus, radishes, eggplant, squash, cabbage and several new herbs. We have just planted new blackberries, raspberries, blueberries and grapes to add to our old varieties, and added new apple and apricot trees. So with all the fruit to can, I will be very busy. We are going all heirloom this year and hope they will do well. I joined the Seed Savers Exchange and find it very interesting. My husband is busy building new boxes and trellises, and we put in gopher wire and fencing to try to ward off the critters a little. We have trouble with the ground squirrels too;

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they are the worse ones, actually. We really have bitten off more than I planned... We have a lot of work ahead of us to make this garden a success, and so far it is looking beautiful."

**Maxine Levine** has beautiful chard: "I have some fairly newly planted tomatoes in pots growing now in addition to some beautiful Swiss chard. The plant is so pretty that I just want it to keep going. My big surprise, however, is that there are two tomatoes growing out of the side of the compost bin."

**Annie Morgan** wrote: "I have limited space with sun, so am only growing tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplant, and herbs in my raised beds. But instead of using cages I'm building an upside down L-shaped trellis and will let the tomatoes grow up and over the top which will be about three feet off the soil in the beds and five feet off the ground next to them. My neighbor does this and it eliminates much of the staking and tying and it is easy to pick the tomatoes from under the top of the horizontal trellis section. I'm also trying something new this year that I learned from his successfully growing pumpkins planted in pots to make watering more efficient. I'll be planting squash in 5-gallon pots and will let them hang down over a retaining wall since I don't have room otherwise. I'm hoping the heat from the wall will make up for them only getting sun until early afternoon, and if the wall is too hot I'll put some cardboard behind the vines hanging down."

**Anne Murphy** has a neat tip: "A trick that I got from Fine Gardening magazine's website: I plant empty 1-gallon pots close to my new veggies, with the top of the pot just above soil level. The pots that I use do not have holes in the underside but in the sides next to the base. When I want to water the plants, I pour water into the pots; they drain low in the garden to encourage root growth but add none to the surface, which encourages weeds. When veggies grow bigger most pots are hidden from view."

**Susan Oddo** said: "We bought seven heirloom tomatoes at the SDBG Tomato Mania sale and are looking forward to tasty, hardy plants. No corn this year but will have most everything else thanks to our 'grow everything' climate. Listening to Jimmy Williams [at the March meeting] we decided to amend the soil this year with E.B. Stone Edna's Best Potting Soil (yes, potting) instead of the usual mulch or planter mix. A lot more expensive but, for one year, we're betting it will be a big boost to the quality of our vegetables. Time will tell. Also adding worm casings to a bed to increase the worm population throughout the garden, again, thanks to Jimmy and his wonderful grandmother for some terrific ideas."

**Katie & Steve Pelisek** shared a tip from Bill Teague: "We use almost of all our sunny space for tomatoes - thirty plants and eight or nine varieties. We always have at least six 'Early Girls' (dependable on the coast) and two 'Sungolds' (our favorites!) along with a collection purchased at Tomatomania! Bill Teague taught us that putting stakes around the raised beds and wrapping with two feet of black plastic keeps the critters out. Since they can't see beyond the plastic, they won't go there for fear of predators. It is inexpensive and works great! Plus it blocks the wind and heats up the beds too - which the tomatoes love. Not the best looking solution, but the harvest is well worth it!"

**Una Marie Pierce** told us: "I've got green beans well started. Lauren, my new helper from City College, had me cut the bottoms out of plastic pots and planted the beans in them. I also started several kinds of squash in 'cow pots' and have them in the garden now. We

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have some seedling tomatoes (volunteer) and one 'bought' tomato doing very well. I think the secret is good preparation with organic fertilizer, worm castings and a light turning of the soil."

**Ruth Sewell** planted "several varieties of leaf lettuce. Hint... Plant less or eat more salads."

**Barbara Thuro** said: "I use a product called Walls of Water that provide columns of water warmed by the sun to promote faster growth. They are advertised for use with tomato plants, but I use them for many different veggies. I also use them for planting veggies late in the summer to extend the growing season."

**Susi Torre-Bueno** loves leftovers and volunteers: "I had some red mustard left over from our 2010 Fair display garden and planted it in my raised veggie garden. It has self-sown and the volunteers are providing yummy greens for stir frying and adding to hot dishes of all kinds. Added bonus: the wine-red foliage is gorgeous!"

**Katrin Utt** is growing heirlooms: "I am again planting two heirloom tomato plants that a friend gave me. They are super delicious and easy to grow. Best tomatoes we ever tasted! The name is Cherokee Purple. I plant them in big pots so I can move them around with the sun."

**Ron Wheeler** is using 2 clever devices: "This year I constructed a 'grow box' out of a 35-gallon Sterilite tote box bought at Home Depot. This box has a false floor that sits on top of eight 1-gallon pots. The lower chamber holds water and the upper chamber has the soil and plants. The water seeps up to soil above through columns of soil at both ends of the box. The idea is that the water reservoir helps maintain even soil moisture over a long period, without constant irrigation. See details on how to construct the grow box at [http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/travis/docs/Grow\\_Boxes\\_2009.pdf](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/travis/docs/Grow_Boxes_2009.pdf). I also obtained a used vertical post card display rack (15" wide and 6' tall), which I am using as a trellis for Kentucky Wonder pole beans. Such display racks can often be found as discarded equipment in the trash area behind stores."

**Tynan Wyatt** is excited about NOT hand watering: "While I am very excited about the potatoes, carrots, scarlet runner beans, watermelons, squash, and more that I plan on growing, the thing that I'm anticipating most this season is the new drip system I've set up for my raised vegetable beds. Last year my veggie harvest came in much under my expectations and the biggest reason for that was the time it took to adequately water the beds nearly everyday from June through August. Taking a couple days off from watering caused the whole thing to dry up and the water from my next irrigation would simply run off, forcing me to do multiple short waterings that day to re-wet everything, which took FOREVER! So, this winter I installed drip irrigation with 1/2-gallon emitters every 12 inches with four lines per every 12' x 6' bed. One turn of the faucet and I can enjoy the fruit trees while the vegetables are watered. We'll see how this works!"

#### The question for next month is:

What did you plant because it was so pretty but it became a constant invasive nightmare? (Thanks to Lorie Johansen for suggesting this.) Send your reply by May 5 to [newsletter@sdhortsoc.org](mailto:newsletter@sdhortsoc.org).

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■ My Life Continued from page 7

postcards and photos of the Ozarks taken by her husband in the 1920s. After my grandfather's sudden death in 1925, she ended up owning a sizable part of downtown Branson. Over the years she would sell off parcels...but it would all be gone before the re-birth of Branson with country music and all that followed.

My grandmother only had one flowering plant in her yard, four o'clocks, *Mirabilis jalapa*. They weren't much...but they were fun to watch open each afternoon. However, a neighbor had a gigantic vegetable garden with towering tomatoes, corn and squash. She grew giant beefsteak tomatoes that were the size of grapefruit and tasted fantastic.

The lake was just down the hill from her house and was set in a narrow wooded valley with a cliff on the far side. The lake was very cold because the dam that formed the lake was inoperable, so the warm water flowed over the top. Upstream, Table Rock Dam pulled cold water from the depths of the lake and fed it into Taneycomo. Rarely reaching 50 degrees, the lake was too cold for swimming, but perfect for trout. On a balmy summer evening, my brothers and I took rented paddleboats out on the lake and watched the summer fog rise up from the cold clear water. That night we'd be awakened by the sound of thunder echoing through the Ozark Mountains.

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



**APRIL PLANT DISPLAY**

By Sue Fouquette, Pat Pawlowski and Susi Torre-Bueno

**What is the Plant Display?**

Each month members bring in plants, cuttings or flowers and put them in blue bottles on our display tables. What a great way to see what plants grow well in our area. EVERYONE is invited to participate. Each month the display highlights one type of plant, and an expert talks informally about the plants and answers questions. All plants are welcome, but we hope you'll try to bring plants in the categories shown here. Write descriptions similar to those below, and put them with your plant(s).

**Join the fun and bring bonsai to the May 14 meeting.** Member Phil Tackill, a bonsai expert and teacher, will be on hand to answer your questions. We thank Greg Rubin for being our expert on California native plants at the April meeting and bringing over 25 plants for the lively talk he gave after the lecture.

***Clarkia unguiculata*** MOUNTAIN GARLAND, CLARKIA (Onagraceae) Western South & North America

This annual California native wildflower grows 1-4' tall and has reddish stems and 1" – 1-3/4" leaves. The springtime flowers appear in shades of rose, purple and white. Some varieties have double flowers. (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 4/12) – S.F.

***Penstemon heterophyllus*** 'Margarita BOP' MARGARITA BOP FOOTHILL PENSTEMON (Scrophulariaceae) California

This low-growing evergreen perennial is always good looking even



when not in bloom. A chance seedling introduced by Las Pilitas Nursery from Santa Margarita, the original plant was found blooming near the back porch (BOP = back of porch). Many blue-violet flowers appear in spring and on and off during the summer. Tolerates a wide variety of garden conditions and grows 1'-2' tall and 2'-3' wide in full sun to light shade; prefers good drainage and needs little water once established. (Pat Pawlowski, El Cajon, 4/12) – P.P.

***Quercus douglasii* BLUE OAK** (Fagaceae) California

This deciduous oak from the Central Valley and interior valleys of Southern California grows 30'–50' tall and 40' to 70' wide. It has light gray bark and bluish green leaves. Best grown in dry soil in full sun, if you have the room. Some specimens have been dated to around 500 years old. (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 4/12) – S.F.

***Sisyrinchium idahoense bellum* BLUE-EYED GRASS** (Iridaceae) Coast of California and Oregon

This iris relative grows to 2' tall clump of bluish-green leaves. It has star-shaped violet-blue ½" flowers (with a yellow eye) in the spring. Best in full sun to part shade with good drainage in moist to wet locations; can take less moisture when established. Can gently self-sow. (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 4/12) – S.F.

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

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

Can you spot the phony plant this month? The phony plant in the April newsletter was *Cyrtanthus felonius* EVIL CROOK.

*Arctostaphylos* 'Sunset' MANZANITA (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 4/12)

*Artemisia pycnocephala* 'David's Choice' SANDHILL SAGEBRUSH (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 4/12)

**3** *Beschorneria* sp. (Art Henning, Carlsbad, 4/12)

**3** *Calochortus* sp. or cv. (Sheldon Lisker, Temecula, 4/12)

*Ceanothus* 'Concha' CALIFORNIA LILAC (Pat Pawlowski, El Cajon, 4/12)

*Ceanothus* 'Julia Phelps' CALIFORNIA LILAC (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 4/12; Ron Wheeler, Valley Center, 4/12)

*Ceanothus* 'Ray Hartman' CALIFORNIA LILAC (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 4/12)

*Calliandra eriophylla* FAIRY DUSTER (Ron Wheeler, Valley Center, 4/12)

*Clarkia* sp. CLARKIA (? , 4/12)

*Collinsia heterophylla* CHINESE HOUSES (? , 4/12)

*Cupressus goveniana* ssp. *goveniana* GOWENS CYPRESS (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 4/12)

**3** *Dendromecon rigida* BUSH POPPY (Ron Wheeler, Valley Center, 4/12)

*Dichelostemma capitatum* BLUE DICKS (Sheldon Lisker, Temecula, 4/12)

*Dodonaea viscosa* 'Purpurea' PURPLE HOP BUSH (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 4/12)

*Encelia californica* BUSH SUNFLOWER (Pat Pawlowski, El Cajon, 4/12)

*Eriogonum fasciculatum* FLATTOP BUCKWHEAT (Pat Pawlowski, El Cajon, 4/12)

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Continued on page 18

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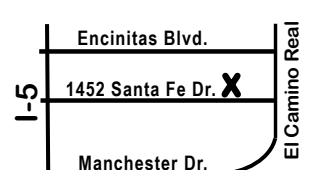
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*Fremontodendron* sp. or cv. FLANNEL BUSH  
(Sheldon Lisker, Sun City, 4/12)

**3** *Galvezia speciosa* ISLAND BUSH SNAPDRAGON  
(Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 4/12)

*Gilia* sp. (Sheldon Lisker, Sun City, 4/12)

**3** *Heteromeles arbutifolia* TOYON, CALIFORNIA HOLLY  
(Al & Dora Myrick, San Diego, 4/12)

**3** *Hippeastrum papilio*, syn. *Amaryllis papilio* BUTTERFLY AMARYLLIS  
(Art Henning, Carlsbad, 4/12)

*Lasthenia* sp. GOLDFIELDS (?4/12)

*Lavatera assurgentiflora* MALVA ROSA  
(Al & Dora Myrick, San Diego, 4/12)



*Lupinus microcarpus densiflorus* GOLDEN LUPINE  
(Sheldon Lisker, Sun City, 4/12)

*Malacothamnus clementinus* SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND BUSH  
MALLOW (Ron Wheeler, Valley Center, 4/12)

*Mimulus aurantiacus* ORANGE MONKEY FLOWER  
(Sheldon Lisker, Sun City, 4/12)

*Mimulus* sp. MONKEY FLOWER (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 4/12)

**3** *Prunus ilicifolia* ssp. *lyonii* CATALINA CHERRY  
(Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 4/12)

*Rhus integriflora* ORANGEADE BERRY  
(Garden Lover, El Cajon, 4/12)

*Rhus integrifolia* LEMONADE BERRY  
(Al & Dora Myrick, El Cajon, 4/12)

*Salvia* 'Celestial Blue' SAGE (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 4/12)

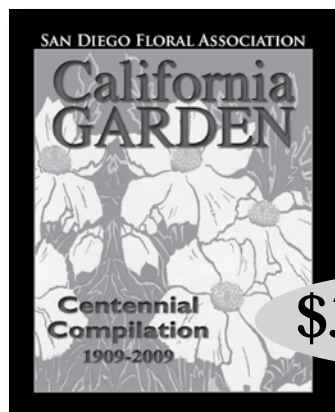
*Salvia greggii* AUTUMN SAGE (Joan Herskowitz, Encinitas, 4/12)

*Sambucus mexicana* BLUE ELDERBERRY  
(Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 4/12)

*Sphaeralcea ambigua* APRICOT MALLOW  
(Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 4/12)

*Trichostema lanatum* WOOLLY BLUE CURLS  
(Pat Pawlowski, El Cajon, 4/12)

*Tulipa clusiana* LADY TULIP (Sheldon Lisker, Sun City, 4/12)



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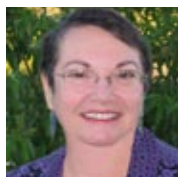
Learn the San Diego Floral Association history  
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**Volunteers Needed  
See page 2**





## APRIL MEETING REPORT

By Susi Torre-Bueno

Susan Krzywicki is an enthusiastic cheerleader for using California natives, and expert at designing gardens with these time-tested plants. She was quick to point out that "native plants provide a grounding and a therapeutic effect." These often water-thrifty species help us to "create a sense of place looking into the past and the future." Imagine how the native tree you plant this year will look 50 years from now, and you'll understand why, while it is "not easy to translate the look of native plants seen in the wild into home gardens," the results can be stunning if you thoughtfully select just the right species.

There are many aspects of design to consider in planning any garden, and Susan had images of different gardens using natives, including a Zen garden, a formal space, poolside vegetation, and a landscape with artistic whimsy. Using a permeable ground cover insures that rainwater is added to your garden's groundwater reserves, and is very important to prevent runoff from being wasted. "Every home is its own watershed," Susan reminded us, so "keep rain on site."

Native plants have lots of different foliage and flower colors and textures to make your garden interesting in all seasons. By judicious selection you can get year 'round color because some plant will be in bloom any time of the year. When planting natives it is wise to leave lots of open space between plants, just as you see in wildlands. This can mean a sparse look when the garden is first planted, but you'll be rewarded as the plants grow in fairly quickly and get established. Planting with appropriate spacing means less work trimming and pruning and less greenwaste, too. Filling in with annual wildflowers can give a full look very quickly as the permanent plants grow. Not all California native plants are drought-tolerant, and none are drought-tolerant until they are established, which can take a couple of years, so select well for your needs and be patient.

There are some signature plants that Susan recommends for home gardens. Manzanita species (*Arctostaphylos* sp.) range from 6" to 15' tall, and have gorgeous bark and little urn-shaped flowers followed by attractive red berries. Ceanothus (*Ceanothus* sp.) can be evergreen groundcovers to 12' tall shrubs; different species boast flowers of blue, violet or white. Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) is an evergreen shrub or small tree with large, glossy leaves and red berries. Lemonade Berry (*Rhus integrifolia*) is a rangy evergreen shrub with pink flowers followed by berries with a tart edible coating. Buckwheat (*Eriogonum* sp.) has soft flower puffs in pink, white or yellow. Perennial penstemons (*Penstemon* sp.) can form large mounds covered in colorful blooms.

Thanks, Susan, for your beautiful images and an inspiring talk. Susan's website is loaded with great photos, including some from our March 31 garden tour: [www.susankrzywicki.com](http://www.susankrzywicki.com). If you missed this presentation and want to learn more about gardening with California native plants, you can borrow the video of it when you attend an upcoming meeting. 🌿

### Thank You To Our Generous Donors For The April Meeting Door Prizes:

AgriService (see page 14)

Evergreen Nursery (see calendar)

Grangetto's (see page 21)

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## SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY SALE AND SHOW

**BALBOA PARK  
CASA DEL PRADO PLAZA**

**EPI'S ON WHEELS**

**SALE: MAY 12 & 13, 2012 9:00 - 4:00**

**SHOW: MAY 13, 2012 11:00 - 4:00**



[www.SanDiegoEpi.org](http://www.SanDiegoEpi.org)

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Individual 5 years (includes free Plant Forum CD)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120	<input type="checkbox"/> \$180
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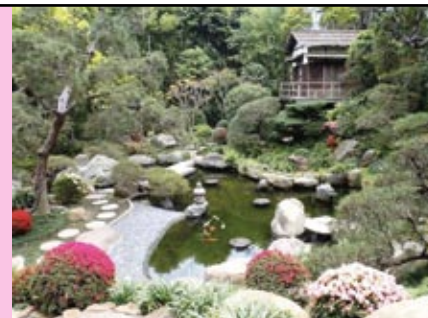
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Join online at: [sdhortsoc.org](http://sdhortsoc.org)



I've got too many herbs - come and dig your own rosemary, lavender, thyme and oregano. Susi Torre-Bueno, [newsletter@sdhortsoc.org](mailto:newsletter@sdhortsoc.org).

## Save the Hannah Carter Japanese Garden



A place of natural beauty and quiet retreat in Los Angeles, the Hannah Carter Japanese Garden is modeled on the gardens of Kyoto. The beautiful garden was designed by noted Japanese garden designer Nagao Sakurai and is one of the finest examples of Japanese gardens in America. It was donated to UCLA in 1964.

Sadly, the garden is now closed to the public and its survival is threatened. In November 2011, UCLA announced plans to sell the garden, citing rising maintenance costs, deferred maintenance, and the lack of attendance due to limited parking. The garden was donated to UCLA by the Carter family with a promise that it would **not** be sold.

Time is running out fast... before May 15 go to  
**[www.hannahcarterjapanesegarden.com](http://www.hannahcarterjapanesegarden.com)**  
to sign a petition, mail a letter, and learn more.

**Thanks for your support!**

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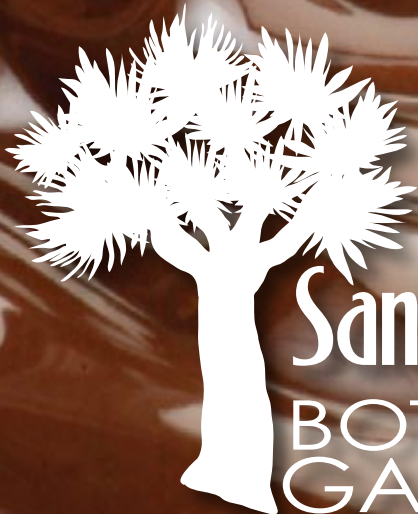


# Chocolate Festival

**May 12**

**10 AM – 4 PM**

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



**San Diego**  
**BOTANIC**  
**GARDEN**

**Cost: Free with admission  
or membership.  
Free Parking.**





# 2012 Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale

Presented by

*The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society*

## June 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>

At **Balboa Park** in

### *The Casa Del Prado*

**Show: Room 101, Sat June 2, 10 to 3, Sun June 3, 10 to 4**

**Sale: Courtyard, Sat June 2, 10 to 5, Sun June 3, 10 to 4**  
**SDCSS Members only shopping Sat Jun 2, 9am to 10am**

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

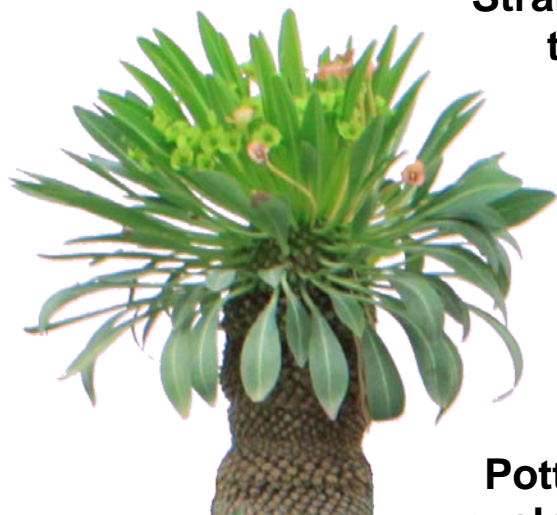
**Courtyard sale of choice  
specimen plants for the novice  
and collector as well as  
handmade stoneware  
planters and pots!!**

**Potting service will be available  
along with cultural information**

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

**For additional information visit: [www.sdcss.net](http://www.sdcss.net)**

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



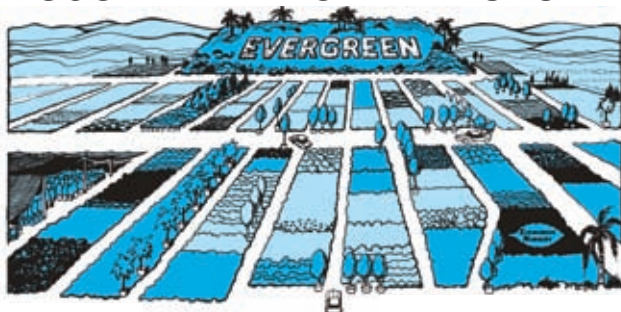
## What's Happening? for May 2012

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

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

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**Fri. & Sat. 7:30 – 6:00 Sun. 9:00 – 4:30**

### FREE MONTHLY SEMINAR

*First Saturday of every month*

*Starting at 10am at both locations*

#### May 5 - Choosing & Caring for Fruit Trees

How to choose, plant, and grow stone fruit trees. Fruits of  
topic will be: Apples, Apricots, Figs, Nectarines, Pears,  
Peaches, Persimmons, Plums, and Pomegranates

#### May 19 - All About Roses

Come see and enjoy our huge selection of colorful roses  
and become a garden rose expert. We would love to see  
some of your "best" roses, please bring 'em in and show  
'em off and share your own secrets of success!

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All participants will get a coupon for future purchases.

For more details or to view our entire seminar  
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### Two Convenient Locations:

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**OCEANSIDE**  
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(760) 754-0340

## Events at Public Gardens

❖ **Alta Vista Gardens** contact info on other side

**May 12, 10am-3pm, MiraCosta Horticulture Club Plant Sale:** Over  
1000 inexpensive plants. See [www.miracostahc.org](http://www.miracostahc.org).

**May 19, 10am-5pm, Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society Plant Sale.**

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

**May 1-September 3,** Blue Star Museums program: Active duty military and  
their families (card carrier + 5) will have free admission to the Garden.

**May 5, 10am-noon, Free Composting Workshop:** To register:  
[www.solanacenter.org](http://www.solanacenter.org) or (760) 436-7986 x218 or [elizabeth@solanacenter.org](mailto:elizabeth@solanacenter.org).

**May 12, 10am-4pm, Chocolate Festival - see page 10.**

**May 19 - June 23, WaterSmart Landscaping Makeover Workshop  
Series:** Three workshops and two coaching sessions. Comprehensive overview  
and basic skills necessary for the successful conversion of the typical front yard  
into a WaterSmart Landscape. \$250

**May 26, 9am-3pm, Palm, Cycad, Bamboo and Tropical Plant Sale:**  
Rare and exotic species of palms, cycads and other tropical plants. Free with  
admission or membership. For info call (619) 291-4605.

#### ❖ The Water Conservation Garden

contact info on other side

**May 3, 6:30-8:30pm, Secrets Of The Best Landscape Designers:**  
Principles that lead to a beautiful, functional, and low water landscape. Members  
\$20, Non-Members \$25.

**May 12, 10am-noon, Free Home Composting Workshop:** Learn the  
basics of composting; composting using worms. Register: (760) 436-7986 x225

**May 15, 8am-2pm, Free! Water Smart Gardening Workshop for  
Teachers:** Info: Susan Bohlander at (858) 522-6720 or [sbohlander@sdcwa.org](mailto:sbohlander@sdcwa.org).

**May 17, 6:30-8:30pm, Intro To Mulch & Fertilizers:** Different types of  
mulches, the pros and cons of each, fertilizers and proper application methods.  
Members free (registration required), \$15 Non-Members.

**May 19, 9-11am, Color Magic In Your Garden:** How to choose colors  
for your garden design. Members \$20, Non-Members. \$25

**May 22, 6:30-8:30pm, Water Smart Landscape:** Why Xeriscape is not  
"zero-scape. Members free (registration required), \$25 Non-Members.

## Free Events by SDHS Sponsors:

Please thank them for supporting SDHS!

❖ **Cedros Gardens, Saturday and Sunday FREE morning  
classes.** Details at [www.cedrosgardens.com](http://www.cedrosgardens.com); address in ad on page 17.

May 5, 10am and May 6, 11am -- Early summer garden maintenance.  
May 6, 11am and April 8, 11am -- Citrus Trees

❖ **City Farmers Nursery FREE Classes**

See [www.cityfarmersnursery.com](http://www.cityfarmersnursery.com) or call (619) 284-6358

May 27, 1pm, Using your citrus harvest

❖ **Evergreen Nursery FREE Workshops on May 5 & May 19**  
See column at left for details.

❖ **San Diego Water Agencies FREE Plant Fair**

**9am - 2pm, May 5 (Fairmount)** Get information from experts and save as  
much as 50% on low-water-use plants at San Diego County Garden-Friendly Plant  
Fairs at some The Home Depot locations. Details at [www.watersmartsd.org](http://www.watersmartsd.org).

❖ **Sunshine Care FREE Workshop** (see page 11)

**May 19, 10:30am, California Native Plants**

Address in ad on page 14. Info: (858) 752-8197 or [www.sunshinecare.com](http://www.sunshinecare.com).

❖ **Walter Andersen Nursery FREE Saturday Classes**

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

**Point Loma, 9am**

May 5 Cactus & succulents  
May 12 Peppers, the HOT ones  
May 19 Bromeliads & tilandsias  
May 19 (1pm) Grow with a pro  
May 26 Budding & grafting

**Poway, 9:30am**

Cymbidium Orchid Repotting  
Fruit trees  
Summer veggies  
no afternoon class  
Houseplant care & selections

❖ **Weidners' Gardens Classes & Workshops**

May 26, 10:30am-12pm, Basic Gardening Class: Fertilizers, soils and watering.  
Address in ad on page 21. Info: [www.weidners.com](http://www.weidners.com) or (760) 436-2194.

### Next SDHS Meeting:

**May 14, 6:00pm - Small is the new Big**  
**See page 1 for details**

## More Garden-Related Events

See other side



## Other Garden-Related Events:

**Check with hosts to confirm dates & details**

◆ **May 4 (5-8pm), 5 & 6 (9am-4:30pm), LA Country Arboretum And Botanic Garden Grow! A Garden Festival:** See page 12 and [www.arboretum.org/index.php/la-garden-show](http://www.arboretum.org/index.php/la-garden-show)

◆ **May 5, 1-4pm, Calif. Coastal Rose Soc. Show:** 3096 Harding St., Carlsbad. Info: [www.californiacoastalrose.com](http://www.californiacoastalrose.com) or [originalsbydiana42@verizon.net](mailto:originalsbydiana42@verizon.net).

◆ **May 5, (2-5pm) & 6 (10am-5pm), Vista Garden Club Flower Show:** Plant sale on Saturday 12-5pm and Sunday, 10am-4pm. Brengle Terrace Park, Vista. Info: (760) 630-0383 or [www.vistagardenclub.org](http://www.vistagardenclub.org).

◆ **May 6, 10am-4pm, San Diego Iris Society Spring Show & Iris Sale:** Balboa Park - Casa del Prado, Rm 101. Info: [www.sandiegoirissociety.org](http://www.sandiegoirissociety.org).

◆ **May 6, 1:30pm, American Begonia Society:** Tour Kartuz Greenhouses, 1408 Sunset Dr., Vista. Info: (760) 753-3977 or [marla.keith@cox.net](mailto:marla.keith@cox.net)

◆ **May 8, 10am-noon, Dos Valles Garden Club:** Bats are our gardens' best friends. FREE. 31020 Cole Grade Road, Valley Center. Info: (760) 751-7470 or [www.dosvallesgardenclub.org](http://www.dosvallesgardenclub.org).

◆ **May 9, noon, Ramona Garden Club:** New aloes. 524 Main St., Ramona. Info: [www.ramonagardenclub.com](http://www.ramonagardenclub.com) or (760) 789-8774.

◆ **May 12, 10am-noon, Urban Plantations Seminar:** Vermiculture, learn about how worms can eat your food scraps. 10300 Campus Point Dr. \$45. Info: [www.urbanplantations.com](http://www.urbanplantations.com).

◆ **May 12 (noon-5pm) & 13 (9am-4), SDRS Rose Show:** Amateurs invited. Bouquets and gifts for sale. Entries will be received 7-9:45am May 12. \$5. 1895 Camino Del Rio South. Info: [www.sdrosesociety.org](http://www.sdrosesociety.org) or Linda at [linsline@cox.net](mailto:linsline@cox.net) or (619) 448-0321.

◆ **May 12, 1-4pm, San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society:** Topic TBA. Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 101. Info: [www.sdcss.net](http://www.sdcss.net).

◆ **May 15, 6:30pm, California Native Plant Society:** Otay Mountain Natives and Awakening the Wilderness Within. Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado Botanical Library, Room 104. Info: [www.cnpssd.org](http://www.cnpssd.org) or (619) 282-8687.

◆ **May 17, 1pm, Bernardo Gardeners:** What's up with the Bees? Free. 12578 Oaks North Drive. See [www.bernardogardeners.org](http://www.bernardogardeners.org).

◆ **May 19, 9am-2pm, Point Loma Garden Club Plant Sale:** Free. 3598 Talbot Street. Info: (619) 223-2051 or [www.plgc.org](http://www.plgc.org).

◆ **May 19 (9-noon) or 23 (4-7pm), Free Schoolyard Habitat Workshop:** Learn how to start a schoolyard habitat with native plants in this workshop for teachers, parents, PTAs, and gardeners; offered by San Diego Children and Nature Collaborative. Info: <http://sdcnhabitatworkshops-eivtefrnd.eventbrite.com>.

◆ **May 22, 2pm Lake Hodges Native Plant Club:** Integrated pest management. 17110 Bernardo Center Drive, San Diego. Info: [www.lhnpc.org](http://www.lhnpc.org) or (858) 487 6661.

◆ **May 28, 6:30pm, San Diego Edible Garden Society:** Topic TBA. FREE. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, rm 104. Info: [www.sdedible.org](http://www.sdedible.org).

◆ **May 29, 12:30pm Fallbrook Garden Club:** Proven Winners: What's New in 2012. 17110 Bernardo Center Drive, San Diego. Info: [www.fallbrookgardenclub.org](http://www.fallbrookgardenclub.org).

## LOCAL GARDEN TOURS:

◆ **May 4-6, "Water-wise and Butterflies" Sage & Songbirds Festival and Garden Tour:** Visit 6 gardens in Alpine, a raptor rehabilitation facility, butterfly release, plant sale, more. Tickets: \$20. Info: [www.chirp.org](http://www.chirp.org).

◆ **May 5, 10am-3pm, Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club Garden Tour:** Five charming gardens, artists, food, more!. Tickets: \$35. in advance, \$45 day of tour. Info: [www.RanchoSantaFeGardenTour.com](http://www.RanchoSantaFeGardenTour.com) or (858) 756-1554.

◆ **May 5, 9:30am-4:30pm, Clairemont Town Council Garden Tour:** Fifteen lovely gardens, talks by experts, more!. Tickets: \$12. in advance, \$10/seniors, \$15 day of tour. Info: [www.clairemontonline.com](http://www.clairemontonline.com).

◆ **May 9, 10am-3:00pm, Bonita in Bloom Garden Tour:** Walking tour of seven exciting gardens, optional box lunch, plant sale. Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$20 day of tour. Info: (619) 479-0429 or <http://californiagardenclubs.com/content/bonita-valley-garden-club>.

◆ **May 12, 10am-4pm, Mission Hills Garden Walk:** A dozen fascinating gardens, marketplace, refreshments. Tickets: \$25 in advance, \$30 day of tour. Info: [www.missionhillsgardenclub.org](http://www.missionhillsgardenclub.org).

◆ **May 12, 10am-4pm, AAUW Country Garden Tour:** Seven lovely Fallbrook gardens, art sale, refreshments. Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$25 day of tour. Info: <http://aauwfllbrookca.org> or (760) 728-8700.

◆ **May 12 & 13, 10am-4pm, Art & Garden Tour:** San Dieguito Art Guild's tour of nine unique North County Coastal gardens with artists & art for sale. Tickets: \$20. Info: [www.offtrackgallery.com/tour](http://www.offtrackgallery.com/tour) or (760) 942-3636.

◆ **May 19, 10am-4pm, Rosecroft Revisited - Historic Gardens of Point Loma:** San Diego Floral Assoc. tour of six outstanding gardens, plus a marketplace. Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$25 day of tour. Info: [www.sdfloal.org](http://www.sdfloal.org).

◆ **May 19, 10am-4pm, Secret Garden Tour of La Jolla:** The secret gardens are always delightful. Tickets: \$50 (regular) or \$150 (includes brunch and bus). Info: <http://lajollahistory.org/events/secret-garden-tour>.

◆ **May 19, 10am-2pm, Loma Portal Home & Garden Tour:** Eight lovely gardens & homes, more. Tickets: \$20. Info: <http://lomaportalelementary.com>.

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

## Resources & Ongoing Events

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### BALBOA PARK:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Garden TV and Radio Shows:

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

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