

# Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

October 2011, Number 205

## Wicked Bugs

**SEE PAGE 1**



**Digital Newsletter is FREE**  
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**SDHS Bay Area Tour**  
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**My Life With Plants**  
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**Children and Nature  
Collaborative**  
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**Pac Hort Spring Tours**  
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On the Cover: A wicked bug

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## August Coffee in the Garden



Photos Pat Crowl



Members had a marvelous time in August at Katie Pelisek's fascinating garden.

More photos on page 21 and on our Facebook page.

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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 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

### FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS IN 2011

**October 2** New Member Orientation

**October 2** Coffee in the Garden, Elfin Forest

**October 15 & 16** Succulent Container Planting talk & workshop with Debra Lee Baldwin

**November 5** Pomegranate & Persimmon Picking, Valley Center

**November 14** Jon Rebman on SD Plant Atlas Project, and Horticulturist of the Year Award Presentation

**December 12** Ben Gill on Growing Proteas in Your Garden

**COVER IMAGE:** The creature on the cover is a Corn Rootworm. Learn about the critters that wreak havoc on human affairs, from the world's most painful hornet, to the bookworms that devour libraries. Amy Stewart will present a fascinating look at wicked bugs at our October meeting. (Cover image is copyright Briony Morrow-Cribbs, from the book *Wicked Bugs*, courtesy of Algonquin Books.)

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



**Next Meeting: OCTOBER 10, 2011, 6:00 – 9:00 PM**

**Topic: AMY STEWART ON "WICKED BUGS: THE LOUSE THAT CONQUERED NAPOLEON'S ARMY AND OTHER INSECT MONSTROSITIES"**

**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**



For October we welcome back bestselling author Amy Stewart. She will guide us on an exploration of the sinister side of the plant world as revealed in her latest book, *Wicked Bugs: The Louse that Conquered Napoleon's Army and Other Insect Monstrosities*. Amy will take us on an entertaining, and undoubtedly creepy crawly, tour of some of the world's most notorious garden inhabitants. From the world's most painful hornet, to flies that transmit deadly diseases, millipedes that stop traffic, and the Japanese beetles munching on your roses, she will delve into the extraordinary powers of six and eight-legged creatures. You probably will never garden again without wearing gloves!

Amy is the award-winning author of three New York Times bestsellers, *Wicked Bugs*, *Wicked Plants* and *Flower Confidential*. Stewart has appeared on hundreds of national and regional radio and television programs, including CBS Sunday Morning, NPR's Morning Edition, Fresh Air, and Good Morning America. She has written for the *New York Times*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and every national garden magazine, including *Fine Gardening*, where she is a contributing editor. She is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship, the American Horticulture Society's Book Award, and a California Horticultural Society Writer's Award.

After the talk Amy will be happy to autograph *Wicked Bugs* and/or *Wicked Plants*, which will be sold at about a 40% discount to members. For more information visit [www.amystewart.com](http://www.amystewart.com) and see page 3.

# SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Established September 1994

## BOARD MEMBERS

- Jeff Biletnikoff** – Meeting Room Coordinator
- Jim Bishop** – President, Membership Chair
- Judy Bradley** – Co-Chair-Program Committee
- Linda Bresler** – Member at Large
- Mark Collins** – Finance/Budget Committee
- Julian Duval** – San Diego Botanic Garden Representative
- Mary James** – Member at Large
- 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!



## IMPORTANT MEMBER INFORMATION

### SDHS Is On Facebook!

We have a NEW Facebook page. The new page gives us more options to grow and share and replaces our old Facebook group. We encourage you to LIKE us at our new page by going to:

[www.facebook.com/#!/pages/San-Diego-Horticultural-Society/169836313077520](http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/San-Diego-Horticultural-Society/169836313077520)

Please join our community of mad gardeners, share your garden questions, and get to know fellow Hort members. You will still get our fabulous newsletter and email blasts, and our website will continue to be a great resource. But... if you like news coming to you effortlessly, this is the easy way to do it.

Sharon Corrigan is happy to help if you if you don't want to see SDHS member posts in your Facebook personal news feed and would rather go to the page when you have a minute. If you need help selecting your Facebook settings contact her at tallsharon@yahoo.com.

### Events & Outreach Committee Needs Your Input

Share your passion for plants! We are seeking a committee chair and also volunteers to help plan and participate in exciting events. This committee organizes and installs our outreach tables at the Fall and Spring Home/Garden Shows. They also help with our display for the San Diego County Fair; workshops and special events. For more info and to volunteer please contact Susi Torre-Bueno at (760) 295-2173.

### Thanks So Much!

Thanks to neighbors Katie Pelisek and Barbara Jenkins-Lee for hosting our August Coffee-in-the-Garden at their two charming gardens in Solana Beach. It was great fun to see two gardens at the same time and enjoy the two different approaches. Photos of these gardens are on the inside front cover and also on page 21. Our FREE monthly Coffee events are a fun and relaxing way to meet up with other SDHS members in a beautiful garden. Registration info is in your monthly member e-mail, which has details about upcoming meetings and other events. Some of the coffees are completely filled up in a few hours, so check the e-mail as soon as you can and reserve a space right away!

Three cheers to Dannie McLaughlin and her husband, Craig, for hosting our annual Volunteer Appreciation Party. Paula Verstraete, our outgoing Volunteer Coordinator, organized a terrific afternoon. Next month we'll thank the volunteers and donors who made the day so special. ☺

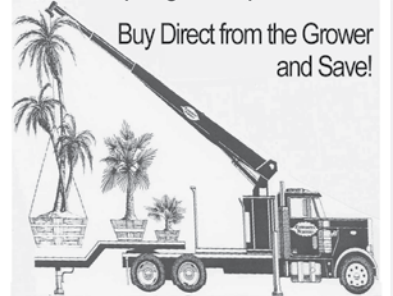
See page 13 to order your SDHS nametag

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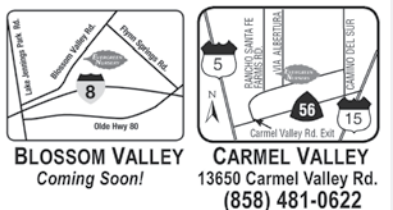


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**Spring/Summer Hours**  
Monday-Thursday.. 7:30am-5:00pm  
Friday-Saturday .... 7:30am-6:00pm  
Sunday..... 9:00am-5:00pm

## Please Share Your Garden

Do you have a great garden that you would like to share with other SDHS members? If so, we are looking for gardens to host our popular monthly Coffee –in-the-Garden in 2012. We know our members have the *best* gardens in San Diego and we want to see them all. If you have a garden that can accommodate 50 or more guests on a Saturday or Sunday we'd love to learn more about your garden. To find out about hosting a Coffee-in-the-Garden contact Jennifer Axelrod at: [axelrods@cox.net](mailto:axelrods@cox.net) or (760) 632-8273.



## TO LEARN MORE...

By Ava Torre-Bueno

### Wicked (Or Not) Bugs

Leaving their wickedness (which our October speaker will discuss) aside, there are a lot of interesting and beautiful web pages about insects, some of them local.

Our own Zoo has a page on insects:

<http://www.sandiegozoo.org/animalbytes/a-insects.html>

Our own Natural History Museum has a FAQ page you can send questions to about the insects you see in your garden, from which I learned that we have no Brown Recluse Spiders in San Diego, and not to worry too much about Black Widows (whew):

<http://www.sdnhm.org/research/entomology/entofaq.html#golden>

Our own San Diego Botanic Garden has an insect festival but it is already over for 2011 – next year!

<http://www.sdbgarden.org/insect.htm>

Pictures of beetles of Torrey Pines Reserve:

<http://www.torreypine.org/animals/Insects/Beetles.html>

Here's more information on the insects and spiders of Torrey Pines Reserve:

<http://www.torreypine.org/animals/insects.html>

For one man's obsession with insects, view this full and luscious site:

<http://www.insects.org/index.html>

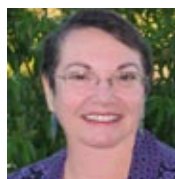
And for even more pictures, and lots of them, go to:

[http://flyaway.smugmug.com/keyword/insects/1#216154052\\_tSbZT](http://flyaway.smugmug.com/keyword/insects/1#216154052_tSbZT)

If you need to know the meaning of every word related to insects, you can buy the Torre-Bueno Glossary of Entomology (no kidding – this book was written by my grandfather, and has undergone several revisions since its original publication in 1937):

[http://books.google.com/books/about/The\\_Torre\\_Bueno\\_glossary\\_of\\_entomology.html?id=FtEIQgAACAAJ](http://books.google.com/books/about/The_Torre_Bueno_glossary_of_entomology.html?id=FtEIQgAACAAJ)

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 [sandiegofriendscenter.org/volunteers.htm](http://sandiegofriendscenter.org/volunteers.htm). ☺



## FROM THE BOARD

By Susi Torre-Bueno

### Changes On The Board

I'm excited about the recent changes to our board. In September I briefly introduced new president **Jim Bishop**, who has been on the board since 2009; many of you know him from the coffee in the garden events he organizes. His narrative, "My Life with Plants," which began last month, continues on page 7. Jim brings great energy and enthusiasm to the job, and I'm sure you'll find him as talented, fun and friendly as I do.

We added five new board members last month; please join me in welcoming them. The first two will serve for three years. Volunteer Coordinator **Nancy Woodard** has been a member for two years, and has volunteered for many events and is on the Tour Committee. She's also active in the Fallbrook Garden Club, and is eager to share her plant knowledge and organizational skills with SDHS.

**Jeff Biletnikoff** has been in charge of our meeting room setup since 2007, just a few months after he joined SDHS, and I'm sure you've seen him busy getting things organized before our monthly meetings. He's our liaison with the meeting vendors and the Fairgrounds, and is now our Meeting Room Coordinator. A Master Gardener, Jeff is also an active member of the Ramona Garden Club and has propagated thousands of plants and organized plant sales for them. A retired police officer and passionate gardener, Jeff collects plants from all over the world.

Three new Members at Large will each serve for one year. **Linda Bresler** has been a member since 2003, and in April we enjoyed coffee in the garden at her Poway home. For three years she's written the "Real Dirt On" newsletter column (alternating with Joan Herskowitz). She was a Horticulturist of the Day at the Fair, and is a very active member of the Lake Hodges Native Plant Club, chairing their spring tour for three years. Linda is a landscape designer and also lectures about plants.

**Mary Hellman James** is well-known from her years of award-winning writing about gardening for the *San Diego Union Tribune* (she was the home and garden editor) and *San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles* magazine. She is the Executive Editor for *California Garden*, the century-old magazine of the San Diego Floral Association. A SDHS member since 2001, Mary is an active Master Gardener and in her role as chair of the MG Publicity Committee, she helped launch and produce Dig It!, the MG quarterly e-newsletter, and the MG facebook page. Mary and her husband, Ron, live and garden on Mt. Helix; their garden has been featured in local and national magazines and been on several garden tours.

**Stephanie Shigematsu**, who joined SDHS over 10 years ago, is a garden consultant and landscape manager; for many years she worked as the head of horticulture at SeaWorld. She has volunteered at Meals on Wheels, the San Diego Food Bank, the California Native Plant Society, and elsewhere. Stephanie says, "I would like to be a SDHS board member to better support this organization, to collaborate with other members in sharing horticulture expertise for the benefit of the greater community, and to expand my knowledge and skills gained from involvement in these activities." ☺



NANCY



JEFF



LINDA



MARY



STEPHANIE



## THE REAL DIRT ON...

By Joan Herskowitz

### Charles Sprague Sargent

Charles Sprague Sargent (1841-1927) was a botanist who made a significant mark on the American landscape by the introduction of new plants from collecting expeditions and through his botanical publications. He is also highly regarded for his successful management of the Arnold Arboretum, which he developed into a natural platform for disseminating botanical information, and for his efforts in bringing forestry issues into the public domain. His excellent illustration of the Loblolly Pine is above.



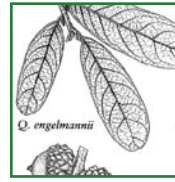
Sprague was the son of a wealthy Boston merchant and banker, and he grew up on the family's 130-acre estate in Brookline, Massachusetts. He attended Harvard College, and upon graduation enlisted in the Union Army and served during the Civil War. After traveling in Europe for three years, he took over management of the family estate. Under his direction, the estate was landscaped as a recreation of nature with windy lanes, overhanging branches and a profusion of trees and shrubs.

Although he had no formal botany education, he had a strong interest in horticulture, particularly trees. In 1872, he was appointed director of Harvard's Botanic Garden, where he worked closely with botanist Asa Gray. The following year, Sargent was selected to direct the new Arnold Arboretum and hired Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. to assist with the site planning. Due to insufficient funds, at Olmsted's recommendation, the ownership of the arboretum was transferred to the City of Boston with a long-term lease to Harvard and a City commitment to fund the project. The benefit to the city was that the arboretum became a prime destination in Boston's "Emerald Necklace" park system.

Under the auspices of the arboretum, Sargent travelled widely on plant collecting expeditions, introducing exotic Asian plants to American gardens while also celebrating native flora. Through his efforts, the arboretum collected, propagated and studied all the trees and woody plants that could be grown outdoors in Boston, no matter where they originated. He was the nation's leading expert on trees and the author of two books, the 14-volume *Silva of North America* and *Manual of Trees of North America*. In 1900 he began studying the American species *Crataegus* (hawthorn), describing 730 new species and introducing many into the arboretum. Plants first described by Sargent are identified by the abbreviation "Sarg." following the plant scientific name.

In addition to his work at the arboretum, Sargent was a major advocate of forest protection. He served as chairman of the National Forestry Commission that surveyed timber reserves in the U.S., recommended creation of new reserves, and submitted a permanent policy for governing them. John Muir accompanied the Commission on several excursions, and Sargent joined Muir in his campaign against flooding of the Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite. Sargent worked on the survey team for Glacier National Park and helped create the first conservation policy for the Adirondack Region in New York. He held the directorship of the Arnold Arboretum for 54 years until his death in 1927, and under his tenure it became a prestigious botanical collection and a world-renowned institution.

Member Joan Herskowitz worked as a Biologist for many years, including time spent on staff at the County of San Diego Department of Planning and Land Use. Now retired, she is a docent at the San Elijo Lagoon and at San Diego Botanic Garden.



## GOING WILD WITH THE NATIVES

By Greg Rubin

### Restoration Revelation

Back in the late nineties, I was called out to meet a couple who owned ten acres of property outside of Ramona. They had 40 mature Engelmann oak trees (*Quercus engelmannii*, shown above) that appeared to be dying; they looked like skeletons. I returned to the office on a mission to save them, if possible.

This was not that new. I had been seeing oaks in various stages of failure for years. Grades had been changed, root systems compromised. These were clear problems.

This situation was not so obvious. The trees were surrounded by grass, but nothing appeared amiss. No plowing or construction work to blame. It was Bert Wilson, owner of Las Pilitas nursery, who provided an absolute revelation, profound yet simple. The weeds were killing the oaks.

Bert explained that weeds and natives are an ecological switch. He pointed out that these invasive plants were robbing moisture and nutrition from the system, without returning anything to this delicate, interdependent ecology. Worse, the non-natives were so woody that when they died they remained as a thatch on top of the ground, with all their precious spoils, eventually to be lost to fire. Indeed, this property had burned just a few years before, damaging many of the trees. This is in contrast to annual wildflowers, which leave little evidence of their prior existence.

Now dying oaks seemed everywhere, surrounded by weeds. Yet oaks growing with their companion plants were often intact. Unlike coast live oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*), the Engelmann oaks don't have a thick blanket of leaf litter underneath them, being semi-deciduous. Their shade is not dense. They seemed more susceptible to weedy invasion and increased fire damage. So they are disappearing.

For the next 16 months a variety of tools were used to rid these ten acres of weeds. Pre-emergents were used in rainy weather to kill seed and help control annual weeds. Hand pulling was used around the oaks where exotics could easily be pulled from the mulch. Herbicide (especially grass-specific) was used to spray growing weeds prior to their going to seed. By the following winter, most weeds were gone.

With some trepidation, I returned to the site in April. It was very dramatic. As I crested a small rise that obscured my view, I could see that every one of the Engelmann oaks was in bright yellow bloom, covered in catkins. They were the only flowering oaks in the whole valley. Tears welled in my eyes.

As I got closer to the trees I noted with delight that all the oaks were surrounded by wild peonies (*Paeonia californica*) and white flowered currant (*Ribes indecorum*). We had no idea they were there. In a couple of cases the white currants came up right next to the pink currants (*Ribes sanguineum glutinosum*) we had planted. In the meadows we found yarrow (*Achillea lanulosa*), goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.), blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*), and delphiniums (*Delphinium parryi*). It was miraculous. Oak flowers led to acorns, then baby oaks.

I have managed to save quite a few oaks since. Ailing oaks are telling us that something is fundamentally wrong with their ecology. Treating problems at this level, rather than symptoms, has led to repeatable success. The latest involves two mature coast live oaks at Aviara in Carlsbad that, despite being protected, were failing from myoporium and Japanese honeysuckle. Removing the exotics and replacing them with native understory plants has brought the trees roaring back to life in less than twelve months.

Member Greg Rubin is the founder and owner of California's Own Landscape Design, Inc. ([www.calown.com](http://www.calown.com)) and a popular speaker. A specialist in the use of native plants in the landscape, he has designed over 500 native landscapes in San Diego County.



## TREES, PLEASE

By Robin Rivet

### Don't Fell, It's Fall

Did you know that San Diego is short about 300,000 trees? According to American Forest's research from July 2003, the city lost 27% of its urban tree canopy in seventeen years. Since that time, a heavy toll of fire, disease and construction continues to devastate mature urban trees. Many are replaced with smaller species, or not at all. Although historically our county is a desert, bereft of large, native trees, increased urbanization heightens the need for large photosynthesizing plants.

The good news is that October is the best month to address this dilemma. When saplings are planted now, winter rains will stimulate healthy root development. Come spring, autumn planted trees will literally "spring" to life with fresh vigor.

Let's say you're motivated. It is not enough to cultivate happy trees; we need appreciative property owners and contented neighbors, otherwise tree decline spirals ever faster. Impossible you say? The bad rap bestowed on many large trees stems from poor cultural practices, pitiable nursery specimens and foolish placement, not species. I confess to having long lists of grand-scaled choices, all having a perfect home somewhere. If you get it right, we can transform bleak, hot, noisy and polluted urban sprawl into neighborhoods of calmer, cleaner, quieter and more alluring spaces. By wisely situating a large tree at your home, or convincing a neighbor, collectively we can reclaim the environmental health of our cities.



Incense cedar (species can be mistaken for a sequoia, but it's hardier) – San Jacinto mountains.

Since native trees have the added benefit of expanding wildlife habitat, always look to these options first. Our slow-growth, majestic Incense Cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*) would make a statement on any property, and the fast-growing, spectacular and airy Torrey Pine (*Pinus torreyana*), both adapt to a wide range of soils and climate. Flourishing in low-lying wetlands, our Western Cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) is an underutilized species, and cottonwoods are known to clean toxins from soil. With its native population largely lost, Englemann Oaks (*Quercus englemannii*) should grace dryer residential locations, and oaks are true ecological wonders – helping to sustain local flora, fauna and soil.

Does your green lawn yearn for summer shade? Two atypical deciduous trees are Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) and the wider-spreading Cape Chestnut (*Calodendrum capense*). The former has erect form, and is known to pull harmful ozone, carbon monoxide and sulfur dioxide from the air. The latter sports one of the most glorious flower shows on any tree, and as a member of the Rue family it attracts swallowtail butterflies. Although not terribly drought tolerant when young, they'll both tolerate competition from turf, while allowing winter sunlight penetration.

One evergreen seldom mangled by ignorant pruning is the Deodar Cedar (*Cedrus deodara*). Even in modest-sized yards, this conifer is

*Continued on page 16*



## SDHS GARDEN TOUR GARDENS OF THE BAY AREA

May 17-20, 2012

Every other year SDHS organizes an exceptional tour to outstanding gardens in another part of the country, and our tour next year is sure to fill up quickly. Join us for a spring tour of the San Francisco Bay Area, touring some of the best public and private gardens and select nurseries. Our members-only tour includes:

- Exclusive private garden visits in the East and North Bay
- Visits to UC Berkeley Botanical Garden, San Francisco Botanical Garden
- Nurseries: Annie's Annuals, Flora Grubb
- 3 nights all-suites accommodation
- Breakfast and lunch daily
- Wine and appetizer reception each evening
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- Tour Leader Scott Borden
- Limited to 42 guests



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## DIGITAL NEWSLETTER FOR FREE

We urge members to get the newsletter *exclusively* online. This environmentally-friendly option saves SDHS money and reduces our use of trees and energy. Send an e-mail to [membership@sdhortsoc.org](mailto:membership@sdhortsoc.org) to make the switch at any time.

The digital newsletter features all color photos, live links, the ability to enlarge it for easy viewing, and the option to print out only the pages you want to keep. Back issues are available on our website for instant access. We are confident that the newsletter will continue to be a major benefit of your membership, bringing you news about our activities and practical, reliable and appealing articles about gardening in San Diego. All members get an e-mail the 4th Monday of every month with the password to access the newsletter online, plus news about the next coffee in the garden and other events.

Starting with renewals in October 2011, members who choose to receive the printed newsletter will pay an annual surcharge of \$12 (in addition to their yearly dues) to help offset the printing and mailing expenses.

**RENEW ONLINE BY SEPTEMBER 30 and you can continue to get the printed newsletter for FREE if you extend your membership for 1, 2 or 5 years. Best deal: renew for 5 years and you pay for only 4 years!**



## BOOK REVIEW

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh

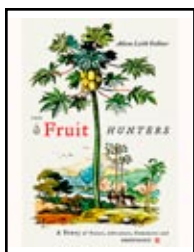
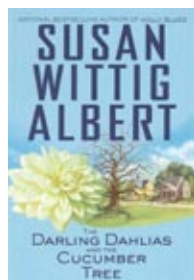
### ***The Darling Dahlias and the Cucumber Tree***

By Susan Wittig Albert

and

### ***The Fruit Hunters***

By Adam Leith Gollner



I've previously reviewed two novels by Susan Wittig Albert that featured her herb-growing heroine, China Bayless. I don't especially like China as a character, but I do like the women of the Darling Dahlias garden club, even though I have a little trouble keeping them straight. Although the title is a little "precious," the characters are lively, the plot fun, and the mystery satisfying.

The story takes place during the Great Depression in Darling, Alabama. Albert does a good job of capturing the time and place. Lizzy, Ophelia, Verna, and their friends are believable and interesting. And although Albert pushes it a little by having one of her characters do something that is "out of character," and even stupid, we can forgive her because the rest of the story works. And the book even includes some recipes of the day. I always like that.

The cucumber is a fruit, so maybe that's a good segue into *The Fruit Hunters: A Story of Nature, Adventure, Commerce and Obsession*. This one is completely different, not fiction, but a review of the interesting facts about fruit across time and around the world.

I'll start out by saying that if I were Gollner's mother, I'd slap his wrist, and I were his editor, I'd have done a lot more work on this book. Gollner has what we might call "an earthy sense of humor." I hoped that once we got past the section of the book on fruit sex—come on now, we're talking pollen and bees and seeds and stuff like that—he'd move on past that, but no luck. Why, then, am I reviewing this book and even recommending it to you? Well, there's some wheat in all that chaff. There are many parts of this book that I enjoyed.

It follows a usual format. Gollner becomes interested in fruit, decides to follow up on his interest, and travels the world meeting others who are passionately interested in growing, selling, and/or eating fruit.

He starts out regaling us with lists of fruit: white blueberries, blue apricots, magic beans, sundrops, cannonballs, delicious monsters, zombi apples, gingerbread plums, swan egg pears, little skulls, Congo goobers, bastard cherries, bignays, belimbings, bilimbis and biribas, and that's just the beginning. I'm as besotted as the people he interviews. I can't resist; you probably won't be able to either.

*The Darling Dahlias and the Cucumber Tree* (ISBN 978-0-425-24216-2) is 290 pages in paperback. It's \$7.95 at your local bookstore. *The Fruit Hunters* (ISBN 978-0-7432-9694-6) is 279 pages in hard-bound, and costs \$25. ☞

**Note to my readers: I've spent nine years recommending books on gardening and plants to you. I'd love to know if you have any to recommend to me. If so, send them to me at [carobil.1@netzero.com](mailto:carobil.1@netzero.com).**



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

By Linda Johnson

### **De-Clutter Your Garden and Donate to Good Causes**

As summer fades and thoughts of fall garden chores begin, it's a good time to assess your garden and garden storage areas for unused, excess stuff. Do you have unneeded garden materials such as bagged soil, mulch, compost, portable garden sheds, wheel barrows, shovels, rakes, pitch forks, digging forks, spades, hoes, hoses, water wands, trowels, hand planting tools, sledge hammers, loppers, hand pruners, pruning saws, and/or irrigation parts/tools? If yes, rather than these items cluttering up your garden, consider donating them to a number of worthy causes – see below for ideas. Some groups also need plant material.

#### **School and Community Gardens**

The Spring Valley Elementary Community Garden is in need of these items: irrigation supplies, bricks, cement, fill dirt, fish meal, and tomato cages. Contact Barbara Warner at [bwarnar2@cox.net](mailto:bwarnar2@cox.net), or to find and donate to this and other community gardens visit <http://sandiegocommunitygardennetwork.org>.

Project New Village is developing the People's Produce Project in central San Diego. It is a resident-driven urban farm intended to address the growing need for food and health advocacy in Southeastern San Diego. Donations of any gardening or farming related items are much appreciated. Contact Diane Moss, [ndm@projectnewvillage.org](mailto:ndm@projectnewvillage.org), 619-262-2022, or [www.projectnewvillage.org](http://www.projectnewvillage.org).

San Diego's Master Gardeners support various school and community gardens in San Diego County; they can coordinate any donations to go towards areas of need. Contact Tammy Schwab at 858-461-0335 or [tschwab58@gmail.com](mailto:tschwab58@gmail.com), or visit [www.mastergardenerssandiego.org](http://www.mastergardenerssandiego.org) for garden locations.

Trees for Health project is a demonstration garden maintained by volunteers from the San Diego Herb Club. An educational arboretum, it is located on the NW corner of Balboa Park and includes over 60 trees and plants of medicinal value. (Note: not a non-profit, so can't provide donation receipt for taxes). Visit [www.followingseasons.com/thesandiegoherbclub/treesforhealth.html](http://www.followingseasons.com/thesandiegoherbclub/treesforhealth.html) or contact Charlotte Tenney at 619-527-4030.

#### **Other Horticultural Programs**

TERI, Inc., is a non-profit agency serving the needs of children and adults with autism and other developmental/learning disabilities. Their Agricultural Program serves as an outdoor classroom and vocational training site. Donations of plants and garden supplies are much appreciated. Contact Kimmy Roberts at [kimmyr@teriinc.org](mailto:kimmyr@teriinc.org) or 760-721-1706 and visit [www.teriinc.org](http://www.teriinc.org).

St. Madeleine Sophie's Center, a sponsor of SDHS located in El Cajon, is a non-profit agency that trains adults with developmental disabilities. Their organic garden program provides opportunities for students to earn a paycheck while learning gardening skills. Donations are vital to the ongoing future of the program. To donate, call 619-442-5129 or visit [www.stmsc.org](http://www.stmsc.org).

Habitat for Humanity not only builds homes for low-income families, they also sell donated items at their ReStore in Mission Valley, with proceeds funding Habitat projects. They accept donations of plants in containers, hand/power tools, building materials (brick, pavers, etc.), fencing materials, and many other items. Call 619-516-5267 or visit <http://www.sdhfh.org/ReStore.aspx>.

Recycle and Raise Money for California Native Plant Society. Wondering what to do with all those empty pots cluttering up your garden? Bring EMPTY 1-, 5-, and 15-gallon plastic pots in good condition to various locations; CNPS gets 10 cents for every pot dropped off. These funds support education and conservation of native plants and their habitats. For drop-off locations, visit [www.cnpsd.org](http://www.cnpsd.org). (If the pots are not useable you can put them out in your curbside recycling bins.) ☞





## MEET THE SDHS HORTICULTURIST OF THE YEAR FOR 2011: JON REBMAN

Since 1996 the SDHS has been proud to recognize someone as our Horticulturist of the Year for her or his lifetime of achievement and service in horticulture in Southern California. Some previous honorees include Chuck Kline, Walter Andersen, Pat Welsh, Evelyn Weidner, Chuck Ades, Vince Lazaneo, Steve Brigham and, in 2010, the wonderful team of Sharon and Bruce Asakawa. This year the honor goes to Dr. Jon Rebman, who will be recognized at our November meeting. Jon has graciously written about his life in horticulture in this article, the second half of which will appear in the November newsletter. Congratulations, Jon!

Jon P. Rebman, Ph.D., was born and raised in Rushville, Illinois. Being from the land of corn and beans, he can remember his fascination with the bizarre forms and shapes of cacti and succulents at a very early age and would even grow them on his window sill. However, he did not really pursue a botanical degree until he was an undergraduate at Millikin University, where a couple of really good biology/botany professors sparked his interests and academic curiosities about plants. Subsequently, he earned a Masters degree at Southwest Missouri State University, working on floristics of a natural area in the Ozarks region; and then a Doctoral degree at Arizona State University, focusing on



Rebman doing botanical field work at Cedar Creek in San Diego County.

Wären Schmichmann

the taxonomy of cholla cacti in Baja California. While pursuing his doctorate Jon was very lucky to obtain a Fulbright/Robles Fellowship to Mexico, and he spent a year at the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California in Ensenada doing research and completing field work in the region for his degree. This amazing professional and cultural opportunity in Mexico spurred on his interests in the entire flora of the Baja California/Southern California region, and he is still specializing in this region's flora at present. He also enjoys gardening as a hobby, and has recently converted his entire front yard into a succulent xeriscape.

Since 1996 Jon has been the Mary and Dallas Clark Endowed Chair/Curator of Botany at the San Diego Natural History Museum (SDNHM). Dr. Rebman is a plant taxonomist and conducts extensive floristic research in Baja California and in San Diego and Imperial Counties. He leads various field classes and botanical expeditions each year and is actively naming new plant species from our region. His primary research interests have centered on the systematics of the Cactus family in Baja California, especially the genera *Cylindropuntia* (chollas) and *Opuntia* (prickly-pears). Rebman also does a lot of general floristic research, and he co-published the most recent edition of the

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## MY LIFE WITH PLANTS

By Jim Bishop

This is a continuing series of articles that chronicle Jim Bishop's experiences with plants and the effect they have had on his life.

In 1959 we were transferred from Monahans, Texas, to Houston. Though both are very flat with spring thunderstorms and long hot summers, they have drastically different climates. Houston annually receives over 50 inches of rain compared to Monahans' meager thirteen. The result in Houston is steamy tropical weather for nine or more months a year. The difference in flora was remarkable. Most of Houston is under a forest of native loblolly pines, oaks, sweetgums and Southern magnolias. Houston had been a lumber town long before oil was discovered in east Texas. We had azaleas growing the front yard and my mother tried growing bananas in the back. The neighbors down the street had pine trees over 75 feet tall.

On a pleasant spring day, mother would put our play table on the back patio and cover it with an embroidered tablecloth. My younger brother and I would pick a vase of dandelions and serve Kool-Aid and homemade cookies to the twin girls next door. Was this the precursor of our popular Coffee-in-the-Gardens?

As a result of moving every 12 to 18 months, mother had developed impressive skills painting, sewing drapes and curtains, and reupholstering furniture. As soon as possible, she would plant a flower garden from seeds saved from the previous home. I remember the petunias, rose moss (*Portulaca grandiflora*), marigolds, touch-me-nots (*Impatiens balsamina*), and bread poppies (*Papaver somniferum*) that grew so well in Houston's wet springs and summers. Helping collect seeds and put them in paper envelopes was my first hands-on gardening experience. As a four year old, I found gathering seeds strange and fascinating. It became my first plant obsession.

The different ways each plant produced seed was totally amazing to me. Gathering petunia seeds required looking down each plant stem for a dried flower. Underneath there would be a small brown dried dome surrounded by the sepals. Squeeze the dome to crack it and seeds poured out.

I loved the bright flower colors, plump leaves and red stems of rose moss. It was my favorite plant and also my first succulent. It has a semi-spherical dome that covers the seeds. The top easily pops off when the seeds are ripe. Turn over the little cup that remains on the plant and out drop the seeds.

When I first collected seeds from marigolds, I would put the entire dried flower in the envelope. Over time, I learned to break open the dried flower. Inside would be straw-like material and things that looked like black grains of rice. You could see where the tiny true flower was attached to the top of each grain. These were fertile seeds and the rest could be thrown away.

The favorite plant for collecting seeds, as well as for the other kids in the neighborhood, were the touch-me-nots. After each flower fell off a juicy green and fuzzy pod would form at the end of a little stem. Squeezing the ripe pod results in the sides splitting open and curling up around your fingers and the seeds inside shooting out in all directions. These were lots of fun to explode, but difficult to actually

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Double Poppy

Jim Bishop



# NATURE IS NEARBY, AFFORDABLE AND AWESOME!

By Anne S. Fege,  
Chair, San Diego Children and  
Nature Collaborative

Most of us have fond childhood memories of nature, and we want today's children to also learn in nature and play outdoors. Fortunately, nature is as close as our garden, local park, or neighborhood canyon.

## What's Nearby and Affordable about Nature?

Nature is an outdoor classroom in which students experience science, math, language, and group learning by observing, touching, listening, smelling, telling and doing. Most school classes can walk to a natural area within ten minutes. A Schoolyard Habitat can be established on each campus that shows off native plants and attracts birds and butterflies.

Playing outdoors in nature is a high-touch and low-cost alternative to a technology-saturated lifestyle. Parents, grandparents and caregivers can choose a "green hour" for children each day. They can ask that nature walks and activities be part of after-school and youth programs. Families can choose nature-based community service activities together.

## What's so Awesome about Children and Nature?

- Children are happier: Nature play increases self-esteem, improves psychological health, and reduces stress. Children learn self-discipline and are more cooperative.
- Children are healthier: Nature play improves physical conditioning and reduces obesity. Children develop lifelong habits of fitness and recreation.
- Children are smarter: Nature play stimulates creativity, imagination, and problem solving. Students learn to care for nature, get a sense of their place in the world, and better understand how they impact the environment.

## MILLENNIUM AWARDS LUNCHEON

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Millennium Awards Luncheon, hosted by the Friends of Balboa Park, will be held on October 25th in the Balboa Park Club. This event honors volunteer leadership and provides public recognition of people and projects in Balboa Park. The Millennium Award is presented to individuals or organizations committed to the betterment of the park. The honorees for this year's event are Dick and Dorothea Laub and Las Patronas. The Laubs' record of support for individual museums goes back many decades, and they have generously underwritten a number of park-wide projects including water conservation. Las Patronas is an all-volunteer fundraising organization whose philanthropy has benefitted many museums in the park since 1946. The event will kick off with a reception and raffle featuring live barbershop quartet music. Keynote speaker David Marshall, AIA, will be illuminating this year's theme, *A Walk in the Park in 1915*, by utilizing historic postcards and photos to travel back in time.

Tickets are \$70 and proceeds will help fund park-wide programs and projects. For information and reservations call (619) 232-2282 or visit [www.friendsofbalboapark.org](http://www.friendsofbalboapark.org).



Anne Fege

## What is this Collaborative?

The San Diego Children and Nature Collaborative was founded in 2009 by individuals and educational, environmental and community groups concerned that today's children have less and less opportunity to experience nature. Over 50 organizations and corporations are working together to increase opportunities for San Diego's children to learn in nature and play outdoors ([www.sdchildrenandnature.org](http://www.sdchildrenandnature.org)). The Collaborative is building on a national movement called the Children & Nature Network, inspired by Richard Louv's book, *Last Child in the Woods*.

## What can Gardeners do?

Ask the Collaborative to give a presentation at your garden club or society. Get involved in developing or caring for a schoolyard habitat—or fund the seeds, tools and supplies for a year. Offer to pay for a trained naturalist guide to lead nature lessons or after-school explorations. Build memories together with your children and grandchildren—take a walk in your nearby canyon, pull weeds together in the garden, look for insects, or just sit quietly in the dark. ☘

## ■ My Life with Plants Continued from page 7

collect the seed. I still remember the smell of the pod and the feeling of being pelted by seeds.

The oddest of all were the bread poppies. My mother grew large hot pink double and semi-double "carnation flowered" poppies. After the petals fall off, a one-inch diameter spherical shaped container with a flat top is left behind. When the seed inside ripens, it spills out of holes at the top like salt out of a shaker. I thought this was really cool... and it is next to impossible to catch all of the seeds. When I bought my first house in 1983 mother mailed me some of the poppy seeds she was still collecting. They didn't flourish in my crowded Encinitas garden, but did well enough that I was able to collect and bring some of the seeds to our current house in Mission Hills. I scattered the seed on the hill behind the house just before the first fall rain, like mom did 50 years ago in Houston. They've been coming up annually (alas, mostly in the gravel pathways) ever since.

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



## GREEN GARDENS GROW PROGRAM

When he knows that the life of the plants that have been sown depends upon his care in watering them...without which the little plant dries up...the child becomes vigilant, as one who is beginning to feel a mission in life. Maria Montessori



In urban low-income communities exposure to nature is limited. However, small urban parks, undisturbed canyons, and community gardens can play an enormous role in bringing environmental themes to life and creating a lasting love of our natural world and a deep desire to protect it. Rebuild Global, a San Diego non-profit organization, has launched the Green Gardens Grow program to foster an understanding of how things grow, where our food comes from, how we can protect our precious resources, and how we can improve our own lives through healthy habits. Beginning with an innovative curriculum emphasizing problem solving and decision making, students will take ownership and pride in what they have done in the garden and they will gain a lifelong understanding of science and biology in the real world and the need to protect our environment so that it may continue to provide for us.

On the school grounds of Matthew Sherman Elementary, in the vibrant community of Sherman Heights, the first Green Gardens Grow garden in San Diego will be an immersive outdoor classroom. It will include organic gardens, rainwater collection, solar powered lighting, and built almost entirely from re-used and recycled materials. The garden will demonstrate many different gardening and planting techniques so that students and visitors can learn how they might plant at their own homes with whatever space, sunlight, or water limitations they may have. There will be planted areas on vertical walls, planted areas in the shade, planted areas in direct sunlight, drought resistant gardens, and the materials used to create the gardens will demonstrate creative ways to re-use found and salvaged items that anyone in the community can afford.

The garden will be a place of beauty that motivates and inspires. Award winning local architect Kevin deFreitas and landscape architect Leslie Ryan have donated their time and expertise to design an amazing outdoor learning environment at Matthew Sherman Elementary. Once complete, the Matthew Sherman Elementary school garden will become the demonstration project for the School Garden Initiative. By encouraging and supporting a garden in every school, we create opportunities for our children to discover the benefits of eating healthy and learning about the world around them. The garden is a space where science, environment, health, and real life lessons all come alive.

Your support can make a real difference in these children's education. A complete proposal is available that includes detailed descriptions and renderings of the garden and a budget estimate for the garden construction and educational materials. For more information, please visit <http://rebuildglobal.org>.



## PACIFIC HORTICULTURE SPRING TOURS

The San Diego Horticultural Society is proud to be a sponsor of Pacific Horticulture Society. PacHort has released its Spring 2012 tour schedule, beginning with **Gardens & Historic Houses of Savannah & Charleston**, a March 25 departure featuring walking tours, private garden visits, and memorable dining experiences with true Southern hospitality. PacHort president Greg Graves will provide expert commentary during the trip, which will be escorted by SDHS member Scott Borden of Sterling Tours, with new SDHS president Jim Bishop along as well.

April's trip is **Mallorca & Menorca: Gardens, Art and Cuisine** – a 10-day journey to these fascinating islands in Spain hosted by Katherine Greenberg, past president of PacHort and the Mediterranean Garden Society. Guide Sofia Barroso will be along to give guests a true insider's look at the unique local art and culture.

**Kyoto: More Than Gardens**, departs May 9 for an 11-day Japanese experience hosted by noted garden photographer Allan Mandell, who took the photo shown here. A trip to California's Channel Islands is under development for June. Space is limited on these tours; early reservations are recommended. More information can be found online at [www.pacifichorticulture.org/tours](http://www.pacifichorticulture.org/tours) or contact Sterling Tours at (800) 976-9497 or [info@sterlingtoursld.com](mailto:info@sterlingtoursld.com).



Allan Mandell

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**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:

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**NEW ADVERTISERS:**  
California Native Plant Society Plant Sale (insert)

**HORT BUCKS ARE GREAT!**

Kudos to these members whose friends joined in 2011; 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.

Ann Beckett (1)	Pat Crowl (1)	Barbara Komur (1)	S.D. Floral Assn. (1)
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Jim Bishop (2)	Chris Drayer (1)	Cathy McCaw (1)	Pam Skirgaudas (1)
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The kids are back in school, which means one thing: the autumn months are rapidly approaching. For some garden aficionados, this is the time to prepare your garden for the winter months, which means no planting until next spring. Think again! Due to our unique climate here in San Diego, we have the ability to revamp our garden during our fall months just like we would in the Spring.

Here at the Garden, we have a striking plant called the *Cordia boissieri*. Commonly named the Texas Olive, this large shrub can grow 10-20' tall and 10-20' wide. Not to worry; this plant can be maintained at a smaller size. The Texas Olive grows in warm, sunny sites with good drainage. Once established, they are quite drought-tolerant, which is convenient for our dry areas.

So what makes this particular plant special? The Texas Olive plant has showy clusters of 2.5" white blooms (shown above). "Unlike most desert trees and shrubs, the Texas Olive, with its large leaves and flowers, looks lush, luxuriant, and tropical," says the San Diego Botanic Garden Director of Horticulture, Dave Ehrlinger. The fruits resemble white olives. Their large 3-5" leaves look exotic and not like typical, sparse-foliaged desert plants. Although evergreen along the coast, further inland Texas Olives lose their leaves in winter. They can be grown as background shrubs or as a featured specimen plant.

Next time you take a stroll through the Garden check out the shrubby Texas Olive in the parking lot by the Seeds of Wonder Children's Garden. You will also notice that their leaves are covered with short hairs, giving them a rough texture. Historically, they were used as sandpaper.

It's now time to begin your Fall garden and you're in luck! The Garden is hosting their Annual Fall Plant Sale on October 15-16. You have the chance to purchase all of the plants you need for your garden to flourish. Plant donations from over 100 local growers, wholesalers, retail nurseries, and individuals make this one of the most interesting and diverse plant sales in San Diego. Plant selections include California natives, cacti, succulents, bromeliads, fruit trees, and sub-tropicals. Also, be sure to check out our selection of used books and homemade goodies. This event is FREE with paid admission. Parking is FREE both days. Get outside and garden! ☘



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**LIFE MEMBERS** \*Horticulturist of the Year

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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	Jim Farley	Jon Rebman* (2011)	Evelyn Weidner* (2001)
Asakawa* (2010)	Sue & Charles Fouquette	Peggy Ruzich	Pat Welsh* (2003)
Gladys T. Baird	Penelope Hlavac	San Diego Home/ Gardens Lifestyle	Betty Wheeler
Debra Lee Baldwin	Debbie & Richard Johnson		
Steve Brigham* (2009)	Lois Kline		
	Vince Lazaneo* (2004)	Gerald D. Stewart	

**CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS**

Philip Tackill & Janet Wanerka René van Rems

**DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS**

Get a 15% discount at Briggs Tree Co. (see page 11; 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.

For the Grangetto's Preferred Savings Program go to www.Grangettos.com.

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■ Horticulturist of the Year Continued from page 7

*Checklist of the Vascular Plants of San Diego County.*

He has over 22 years of field experience with surveying and documenting plants, including rare and endangered species. He is a very active collector of scientific specimens: his personal collections number over 22,400. Since 1996 he has been providing plant specimen identification/verification for various biological consulting companies on contracts dealing with plant inventory projects and environmental assessments throughout southern California.

Rebman is the director of the San Diego County Plant Atlas project and identifies/verifies all of the new specimens (currently over 54,000) coming into the herbarium through this scientific endeavor. As the curator of the SD Herbarium at the SDNHM, he is in charge of this dried plant specimen collection that contains over 210,000 specimens dating back to the 1870s. Dr. Rebman is in the process of finishing a book entitled *Ferns and Lycophytes of San Diego County*, co-authored with Annette Winner. This local natural history publication should be available early next year (2012). It contains detailed information on 60 different ferns and lycophytes from our region. Rebman also just finished a new edition of the *Baja California Plant Field Guide*, with co-author Norman Roberts, due out in December 2011, and is working on a new specimen-based checklist for the plants of Baja California.

### San Diego County Plant Atlas Project

One of the regional floristic research projects that has been consuming much of Rebman's time in the last few years is the San Diego County Plant Atlas project, of which he is the director. This multi-year project is designed to improve scientific knowledge of regional plants through better documentation of the flora of San Diego County by using volunteers from the community (called *parabotanists*) to properly survey, collect herbarium-quality voucher specimens, and record field data about plants in natural areas throughout the County. Since its inception in August 2003, the project has developed a comprehensive website ([www.sdplantatlas.org](http://www.sdplantatlas.org)) to assist parabotanists and provide an outlet to the public, and designed an efficient system for online data submission and delivery of specimens to the SDNHM.

It has already added over 54,500 new voucher specimens to the SD Herbarium (including more than 350 discoveries of new county records and two new taxa for science), that are fully databased (with precise geographic coordinates), created online floristic search processes and resources for mapping plant distributions, and trained over 600 volunteers. Consequently, this project is fostering the public's awareness and respect for local natural history, increasing our scientific collections of the regional flora, and providing essential



*Pentagramma triangularis*  
subsp. *rebmanii*

Jon Rebman

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botanical data on the distribution, variation, and diversity of the plants found in our County.

Even though the Plant Atlas project is not yet complete, it has still produced very important results that have altered our understanding about our regional flora. In respect to diversity, the Plant Atlas has increased our knowledge by adding many new native and non-native plant records (more than 350) to the County. Consequently, San Diego County is considered to be one of the most botanically diverse counties in the U.S., with more than 2500 different native and naturalized plants present. New county records have been added, and at least two new plants for science have been discovered.

One of the new plant discoveries was collected by Dr. Rebman on Viejas Mountain near Alpine during field surveys for that particular atlas grid square. This new entity was studied by botanists and technically described for science and named in honor of Rebman. The new fern (in the family Pteridaceae) occurs only in south-central San Diego County and extreme northwestern Baja California, and is called Rebman's Silverback Fern (*Pentagramma triangularis* subsp. *rebmanii*).

With the continuing documentation of plant populations in the County through the Plant Atlas, some new distributional trends and concepts about our flora are also emerging. For example, we are starting to observe a consistent trend in various Sonoran desert plants found in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park (on the eastern edge of our county) that also occur in the extreme southwestern part of our county near the Pacific Ocean, but do not have any populations in between. This discovery may result in the need for more detailed studies on the biogeography of some desert species that could have arrived in southwestern San Diego County via an historical desert corridor that occurred between mountain ranges in northern Baja California.

As part of the Plant Atlas project and its influence on significantly increasing popular interest in local plants, SDNHM has developed an online searchable photographic archive of digital plant photos from San Diego and Imperial Counties. This web-based resource is accessible through the Plant Atlas website ([sdplantatlas.org/SD\\_PhotoSearch.aspx](http://sdplantatlas.org/SD_PhotoSearch.aspx)). At present, this photographic database contains more than 11,500 digital plant images from Southern California (mostly San Diego County) that are available online; it is growing each week with additional georeferenced, digital field photos following botanical field outings. Many of the plant photos in this online collection are especially valuable because they are directly linked to herbarium specimens and are cross-referenced to reliable locality/field data. Our hope is that this resource will become an essential utility for educating the public and will directly connect to the distributional data that is being accumulated by the Plant Atlas project.

To be continued next month. ☞

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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:**

You can't pick your neighbors, but often you can congenially work through garden issues with them. What solutions have been effective for you with neighbors who don't mow their lawn, have broken fences, let noxious weeds grow, etc?

**Irina Gronborg** wrote: "As pacifists we have learned to rely on Garden Protection by Design. We planted a queen palm to hide our view of the neighbor's antenna, a grove of giant timber bamboo and giant bird of paradise to hide their bathroom window, and a dense planting of acacia and flax to keep their pickups out of sight. We like our improved and leafy views."

**Lorie Johansen** emailed to say: "Yep, I have a few DNNs (do nothing neighbors). When they weren't home, I planted a few succulent cuttings, salvias, and pelargoniums that survived on no water other than what Mother Nature gave them. When they finally noticed, they thanked me. I mentioned that I had extra and I just couldn't stand to throw them away. After five years the large areas are filling in nicely and I have something nice to look at."

**Sandra Knowles** told us that, "years ago at places where we would meet and chat with neighbors over the fence, we installed gates complete with arbors. This has allowed a path to share garden tools, weed eaters, sprayers and me (since I enjoy pulling weeds). We also share plants and exchange travel/garden care. We have been fortunate to have long time neighbors who love their gardens also."

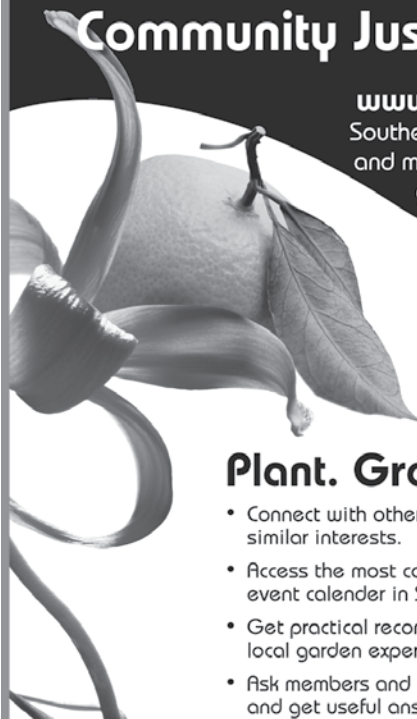
**Brenda Martin** admitted that, "Sometimes I *am* that neighbor, and right now, I have *that* neighbor. In my experience, mulch covers a multitude of sins in the neglected garden! [I have mulched a neighbor's] parkway, while they were on vacation. Luckily, they were cool with it and we all had beers and laughed! I would caution – don't try this unless you have a really good relationship with your neighbors!"

**Rachele Melious** had some great solutions: "Luckily only a small sliver of my neighbor's property abuts ours. We've been neighbors 10 years. Their lawn is usually not overgrown because they don't water. To combat a dead, dusty lawn I have given them free drought-tolerant plants. The Crassulas (Jade Plants) are green and lovely most of the year. They planted a lone sago palm, which shrank and yellowed from lack of water and exposure to full sun. I could not keep my grass alive along the property line, so I planted a large shade tree, which shaded the little sago and now also shades my driveway! What little water the sago takes from the tree has made it grow beautifully. We have planted some succulents around the jade and the rest is natural; weeds only grow when it rains. I manage the weeds myself and must remove their rogue Tecoma capensis from between the fence boards or they break. In other words...we do it all...or it wouldn't be done, but it is small and the cost is nominal. Would be a whole different story if the property was large or if they watered. I recall other neighbors who mowed on

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different days, we would simply mow the sections that were 'attached' to ours so that it looked right, and we would fix the fence(s) because we have dogs. My neighbor on the other side, which abuts much more of their property, has to deal with dead plants in homemade pots (coffee cans, milk containers, and black nursery pots). She has erected a decorative lattice fence in her front yard to hide the worst parts!"

**Diane Scharar** said, "An 8-foot high cinder block wall covered with a nice green vine has helped us stay friendly with the neighbors."

**Ruth Sewell** said she told her neighbors that she "would put up new fence if they paid for lumber. They did. We did. Everybody happy."

**Gerald D. Stewart** has "had six different neighbors to the north in the 34 years he's lived at New Leaf. None of them have been gardeners. The second one planted hedges of yucca along a shared driveway and a vigorous opuntia along the street, both found as prunings left on someone's curb for the trash collector. When the yucca grew and leaned 15' over a shared driveway and the opuntia blocked the view of oncoming traffic, none of the later inhabitants would let him prune them back. Then the real estate bubble burst, and the fifth set of neighbors moved due to foreclosure. While the bank went through their processes Jerry filled 8 cans a week with yucca, and whatever space was left in the landfill trash can with opuntia (the yard trash collector said cactus couldn't be put in the yard trash cans). Three months later the problem was gone. (And the new neighbors welcome the help with pruning.) All it took was 15 years of patience."

**Cathy Tylka** wrote, "A neighbor was running a fence about 10 feet from ours, but on the same route. My husband wanted to push out our fence and join in with them. The neighbor was concerned as the fence was actually inside their property line. We signed a statement, and had it notarized, that we were aware of this, in other words, that our fence was connected to their fence inside their property line. This made them happy."

**Katrin Utt** has a friendly approach: "I help my elderly neighbor by pulling weeds and fertilizing and I monitor her sprinkler system. We both win!"

**Marilyn Wilson** replied, "I used to live next door to a woman who removed half of her front lawn and let weeds grow on the bare earth. My solution was to write to the homeowners' association and THEY worked out the 'congenial' solution. The neighbor didn't speak to me for the remaining 12 years that I lived there, but that was OK with me. I recently moved and I DID pick my neighbors – there aren't any, and that is OK too."

**The question for next month is:**

The economy stinks, budgets are tight... but we still want to garden. What is the BEST thing you purchased for \$25 (or less) for your garden?

Send your reply by October 5 to [newsletter@sdhortsoc.org](mailto:newsletter@sdhortsoc.org).

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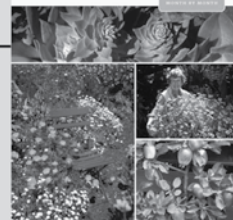
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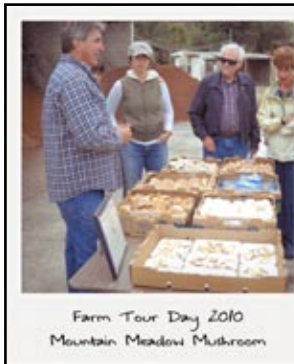
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The tour stops are clustered in North Escondido and the Twin Oaks Valley and feature a mushroom farm, a wholesale nursery specializing in low water use plants, an organic farm that supplies its own restaurant, a vineyard/winery, an international supplier of rare and endangered cactus and succulents, and an avocado grove.

NOTE: Farm Tour Day is a guided walking tour event. Tour stops are active farming operations where the ground may be uneven, unpaved, sloped, and contain steps. Tour participants are urged to wear sturdy, close-toed footwear. Strollers are not recommended. If you have accessibility concerns, please contact Farm Bureau before the event.

Tour stop information is available at [www.sdfarmbureau.org](http://www.sdfarmbureau.org). Reservations can be made online or by calling the Farm Bureau at (760) 745-3023 (reservation deadline: Oct. 11). Tickets purchased in advance are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children ages 6-17 (children under 6 are free). Registration wristbands and additional tour information will be awaiting each visitor at their first tour stop. ☘

■ Trees, Please Continued from page 5



always magnificent. Another underused species often maligned as a weed is the Blackwood Acacia (*Acacia melanoxylon*). Just maintain its leader and this tree ages into handsome maturity. With deep-green dense foliage and strong structure, it can add great value to property, plus it produces stunning wood. Wouldn't you be proud if your descendants could one day harvest lumber to craft a fine guitar, clock or cabinet? Don't be afraid, large trees have more reasons to fear you than you should fear them.

Member Robin Rivet is an ISA Certified Arborist, UCCE Master Gardener and serves on the San Diego Regional Urban Forestry Council, City of San Diego Community Forest Advisory Board and the Environmental/Sustainability Commission for the City of La Mesa. She welcomes public inquiries and rebuttals at [robin.rivet@energycenter.org](mailto:robin.rivet@energycenter.org). ☘

For a list of websites with information about American Forest's research and discussed trees, go to the Newsletter Extras part of SDHS website: [www.sdhortsoc.org/newsletter.htm#newsletterextras](http://www.sdhortsoc.org/newsletter.htm#newsletterextras)



## SEPTEMBER PLANT DISPLAY

By Sue Martin, Pat Pawlowski and Susi Torre-Bueno

### What is the Plant Display?

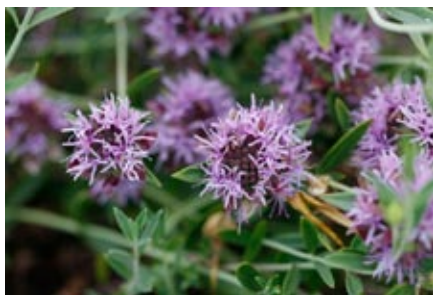
Each month members bring in plants, cuttings or flowers and put them on our display tables. What a great way to see what plants grow well in our area. All plants are welcome – EVERYONE is invited to participate. We encourage you to write descriptions similar to those below, and put them with the plant on the Plant Display tables.

### **Gomphrena decumbens** AIRY BACHELOR BUTTONS (Amaranthaceae) Mexico

This charming perennial is a low-water plant that does well in our gardens with little fussing required. It roots from cuttings and self-sows a little. The papery flowers (which dry well) are little magenta balls borne in great profusion on wiry stems. The plant grows to about 2-1/2' tall by about 3' wide. Best in full sun; cut way back in winter for fresh growth in spring. See a good photo and read more about it at the Fresh Dirt blog from *Sunset* magazine (<http://freshdirt.sunset.com/2010/12/bloggers-bloom-day.html>). (Sue Martin, Point Loma, 9/11) – S.M. & S.T-B.

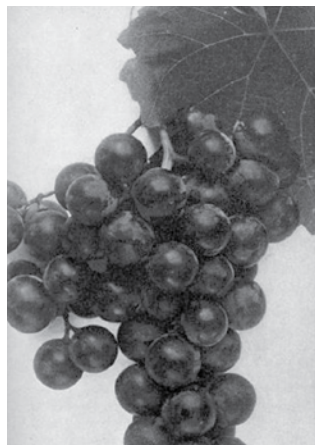
### **Monardella linoides ssp. viminea** WILLOWY SAN DIEGO MINT (Lamiaceae) California

This evergreen San Diego County native subshrub (also classified as a perennial herb) grows 12-18" tall and up to 2' wide. It is very drought-tolerant and does best in well-drained soil. The foliage has a wonderful scent. Charming flowers (in shades from white to rose pink) attract butterflies, hummingbirds and people! The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service notes that this is an endangered subspecies. It is found growing wild in only a few locations in San Diego County and Baja California. There is an excellent description of it at [www.californianativeplants.com](http://www.californianativeplants.com), the extremely helpful website of our sponsor Tree of Life Nursery (which may also sell this plant). (Pat Pawlowski, El Cajon, 9/11) – P.P. & S.T-B.



### **Vitis labrusca x 'Isabella'** CALIFORNIA CONCORD GRAPE (Vitaceae) Horticultural Hybrid

This deciduous grape is a vining plant developed in the United States (New England area). It does best in full sun and likes heat. Needs only moderate to low water. There are two types: with or without seeds. The grapes taste like Welch's grape jelly, but better. They have a wonderful aroma and a richer flavor than varieties sold in supermarkets. (Pat Pawlowski, El Cajon, 9/11) – P.P. & S.T-B.



Continued on page 18

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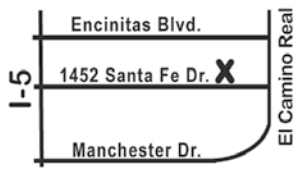
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■ Plant Display Continued from page 17

**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 September newsletter was *Lemmaphyllum microbrewery* JAPANESE SAKI FERN.

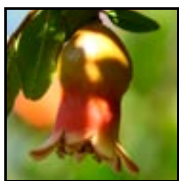
- 3 *Amaryllis belladonna* NAKED LADY (Darlene Villanueva, El Cajon, 8/11)
- 3 *Amaryllis belladonna* (green form) NAKED ENVY (Garden Lover, El Cajon, 9/11)
- 3 *Amaryllis belladonna* (white form) NAKED LADY (Darlene Villanueva, El Cajon, 9/11)
- 3 *Bauhinia galpinii*, syn. *B. punctata* RED BAUHINIA (Sheila Busch, Escondido, 9/11)
- Hymenocallis* sp. SPIDER LILY (Darlene Villanueva, El Cajon, 8/11)



**Naked Lady**

**HOW TO READ THE PLANT DISPLAY ENTRIES**

- [1] *Pastryrus dulcis* [2] 'Cheerio' [3] DONUT PLANT ([4] Pastryaceae)
- [5] 7-Eleven to Vons [6] This fast-growing annual produces copious quantities of distinctive edible fruit that is circular in shape with a central hole. The fruit resembles a donut, from which the common name derives. Provide ample moisture. ([7] Betty Crocker, San Diego, 5/96) — [8] K.M.
- [1] Latin name (*Pastryrus dulcis*); bold names indicate plants with full descriptions.
- [2] Cultivar ['Cheerio']
- [3] Common Name [DONUT PLANT]
- [4] Family [Pastryaceae]
- [5] Distribution [7-Eleven to Vons]
- [6] Description, comments, cultural directions [This fast-growing..]
- [7] Name and city of member, date plant displayed [Betty Crocker, San Diego, 5/96]
- [8] Initials of person who wrote description [K.M.] G



## SEPTEMBER MEETING REPORT

By Susi Torre-Bueno

Once a year – on our birthday – we have refreshments at our meeting, and there was a yummy selection of cakes available on September 12<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to the Fairgrounds for supplying coffee and tea, and also to our members who organized and served the cake. Hope you got a slice!

This meeting was also very special because it was the last one at which I was the president. Incoming president Jim Bishop surprised me with some wonderful gifts, including a fabulous succulent planting he had created featuring my favorite color – purple – with a pair real shoes holding a variety of plants. I also received a heavy-duty long-handled pruner (will definitely need that to prune my fruit trees!) and a special spade with strong teeth to make garden chores easier. Sue Ann Scheck made a stunning necklace of glass and beads, which I promise to wear at a future meeting. I am so grateful to everyone who thanked me that night, and to all the wonderful SDHS members who have done so much over the years.

Tom Spellman, the Southwestern States Sales Manager for the Dave Wilson Nursery, gave a fast-paced, funny, and very pertinent talk on “Backyard Orchard Culture.” He started out by noting that, “There really are no rules for backyard orchard culture. It needs to be fun! We can grow pretty much anything we want in San Diego County.”

One problem people often face is trees that are too large for home gardens. “It is easier to keep a small tree small than to make a big tree smaller,” Tom said. When buying trees look for ones that are low and bushy in order to have small trees in the future. If a too-large tree produces much more fruit than you can use, it is a waste of space, water and effort. Low-branching trees are easiest to harvest, and if you keep your trees to 8’ tall or lower you won’t need a ladder to harvest the fruit. You can control the height of trees with high-density pruning. Also, pruning after the fruit has set will help keep the tree trimmed. Tom discussed a variety of pruning options and also suggested using a chainsaw to cut too-tall trees way down to get them back to where you want them.

Tom’s suggestion for growing your own fruit is that you plant 3-4 varieties of each type of fruit. Chose cultivars that bear fruit at different times of the year so you can harvest for many months instead of all at once. You could plant a citrus hedge with plants on 4’ centers and have both evergreen plants, fragrant flowers, and fruit virtually all year long. Planting 4 trees about 18-24” apart in one hole saves space in your garden; you should prune these trees so that they all remain about the same size to avoid undue competition for resources.

One brilliant planting suggestion was to build a raised bed with any kind of material available (rocks, downed trees, etc.), fill it with mulch and plant trees right in the mulch without having to dig a hole in the soil. Fruit trees should be thoroughly irrigated each time you water them, then let go slightly dry between waterings. Tom said that “a \$6.99 moisture meter is a great investment,” and that over-watering should be avoided. He’s also a big advocate for mulching everything, noting, “this is the most important thing you can do for your landscape. Mulch is crucial for bioactivity.” About 2” to 4” of mulch is best, using a coarse mulch so that it helps oxygenate the soil.

When it comes to fertilizer, “a little bit of nitrogen goes a long way.” Using a 3-12-12 formula is perfect, and applying it once in the late winter to early spring, and again in summer, is all you need. Do not give any fertilizer after September 1<sup>st</sup> because that’s when trees start to go dormant. It is also important to understand the growth habits of



Flanders Fig

Rachel Cobb

your trees – do they fruit on new wood or old wood, how much sun and water do they need, and do they need a pollinator tree?

As for insect pests and diseases, Tom stressed that the first thing to do is to find out exactly what problem you have so you know how to treat it. Bring a sample leaf (in a sealed plastic bag) to a good nursery and ask if they can identify the culprit. Try to solve the problem organically. High-pressure water can control about 90% of insect problems and is the cheapest and best solution in many cases.

Thanks so much, Tom, for encouraging us to be bold in selecting our fruit trees and especially for reminding us that maintaining them isn’t a mysterious art but can be a relatively simple chore. See page 20 for the names of those who generously donated to our Opportunity Drawing and Door Prize. ☺

Tom Spellman has generously allowed us to post his handouts on backyard fruit cultivation on the Plants page on our website: [www.sdhortsoc.org/plant\\_gallery.htm](http://www.sdhortsoc.org/plant_gallery.htm).

Master Gardener Lynlee Austell-Slayter has put together a file with numerous links to websites with useful information about many topics related to sustainable gardening (the topic of her August 2011 lecture). Go to the NEW page for Sustainable Gardening on our website: [www.sdhortsoc.org/sustainability.htm](http://www.sdhortsoc.org/sustainability.htm).



## YOUR MONTHLY MEMBER EMAIL

Two weeks after our monthly meeting we send all members an email with important information. If you haven’t been getting this it means we don’t have a current email address for you, so please send that address to [membership@sdhortsoc.org](mailto:membership@sdhortsoc.org). We never share your email address with anyone!

The email always has these items of interest (plus sometimes a few more):

- ❖ Password for reading the newsletter online (this changes every month)
- ❖ Invitation to Coffee-in-the-Garden events (register ASAP – they usually fill up in under 24 hours!)
- ❖ Details about the talk at the next meeting
- ❖ Description of volunteer opportunities

Ready to replace your turf with a more sustainable landscape?

## REIMAGINING THE CALIFORNIA LAWN

*Water-conserving Plants, Practices, and Designs*

A new book by Carol Bornstein, David Fross, & Bart O'Brien

Available online for a 20% discount at [www.cachumapress.com](http://www.cachumapress.com).



## THANK YOU

To these generous donors for our September Opportunity Drawing:

Miramar Wholesale Nurseries  
The Wishing Tree Company (see inside front cover)  
Evergreen Nursery (see page 2)  
and to

Laird Plumleigh for a ceramic art tile  
([www.lairdplumleigh.com](http://www.lairdplumleigh.com))

Thank you to Grangetto's  
(see page 21) for donating door prizes.

SDHS members...  
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## What is the Plant Display?

Each month members bring in plants, cuttings or flowers and put them on our display tables.

What a great way to see what plants grow well in our area. All plants are welcome – EVERYONE is invited to participate.

Join the fun and bring something from your garden for the October 10 meeting.

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## August Coffee in the Garden



Members had a marvelous time in August at Barbara Jenkins-Lee's marvelous Oriental garden.

More photos on inside front cover and on our Facebook page.

Photos Barbara Raub

## NATIVE WILDFLOWERS

Read about Dr. Jon Rebman, our Horticulturist of the Year, on page 7.

These photos of California native plants were taken as part of his work on the San Diego County Plant Atlas Project.



*Cylindropuntia californica* var. *californica*



*Salvia carduacea*



*Lathyrus splendens*

Photos Jon Rebman

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# Fall ANNUAL PLANT SALE

at SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN  
October 15-16

Plant donations from over 100 local growers, wholesalers, retail nurseries, and individuals make this one of the most interesting and diverse plant sales of San Diego County. Also includes a wide selection of used books, garden related items, gourmet jams and jellies, and baked goods.

For special discounts and times  
visit our website at  
[www.SDBGarden.org](http://www.SDBGarden.org)

San Diego Botanic Garden  
230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024  
760/ 436-3036



San Diego  
BOTANIC  
GARDEN



# California Native Plant Society FALL NATIVE PLANT SALE



**Saturday, October 15, 2011**  
**Balboa Park, San Diego**  
**Casa del Prado Theater Courtyard**  
**1700 Village Place**

**11 AM - 3 PM**

**Open to CNPS members at 10 AM**  
**Join or renew membership at the sale**

- *Native shrubs, trees, flowering plants*
  - *Seeds, books, posters*
  - *Convenient curb-side parking for loading plants*
  - *Friendly, knowledgeable experts to assist you*
  - *Freebies for kids*
  - *More information at [www.cnpsd.org](http://www.cnpsd.org)*
- *cash, checks, & credit cards accepted*

***Why Native Plants?***  
***Attract birds and butterflies, save water,***  
***and preserve San Diego's natural heritage!***

*All proceeds support the San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of native California flora*



# Courses and Careers in Horticulture CUYAMACA COLLEGE

## ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE FALL 2011 CLASS SCHEDULE AUGUST 22, 2011 - DECEMBER 16, 2011

<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Day/Time</u>
Xeriscape – Water Conservation	Schultz	T 3:00 – 4:50 pm
Floral Design II	Citrowske	M 4:00 – 8:50 pm
Wedding Design II	Butler	T 4:00 – 8:50 pm
Fundamentals of OH	Schultz	M 5:00 – 6:50 pm
	Sat 8/27, 9/17, 10/1, 10/15, 10/29, 11/12, 12/3	8:30 am – 3:20 pm
Plant Materials: Trees & Shrubs	Schultz	W Noon – 2:50 pm
Plant Materials: Trees & Shrubs	Schultz	W 4:00 – 6:50 pm
Landscape Drafting	Holladay	8 Weeks 8/29-10/22 – M 5:00 pm – 9:45 pm
Intro to Landscape Design	Holladay	T 5:00 – 9:50 pm
Annuals & Perennials	Rottke	M 2:00 – 4:50 pm
Advanced CAD Landscape Design	Sumek	F 12:00 – 3:05 pm + online
Principles of Landscape Irrigation	Monroe	W 5:00 - 9:50 pm
Greenhouse Plant Production	Palafox	T 5:00 – 6:50 pm
	Sat 9/10, 9/24, 10/8, 10/22, 11/5, 11/19, 12/10	8:30 am – 3:20 pm
Landscape Water Management	Schultz	TH 1:00 – 4:50 p.m.
Sustainable Urban Landscapes	Wreschinsky	TH 5:00 – 6:50 p.m.
Urban Forestry	Rottke	5 Weeks 8/22 – 9/24 Th 5:00 – 6:50 pm
	Sat 9/10, 9/24	8:00 am – 2:25 pm
Arboriculture and Palms	Simpson	5 Weeks 9/26 – 10/29 Th 5:00 – 6:50 pm
	Sat 10/8, 10/22,	8:00 am – 2:25 pm
Tree Surgery and Special Pruning	Rottke	5 Weeks 10/31 – 12/10 Th 5:00 – 6:50 pm
	Sat 11/5, 11/19	8:00 am – 2:25 pm
Business Management for OH	Switzer	W 7:00 – 9:50 pm
Cooperative Work Experience	Butler	Hours To Be Arranged

*Cooperative Work Experience Required Orientation Friday, 8/26 5:00 pm in M-111*

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CALL (619) 660-4262 or

VISIT THE ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE WEBSITE

[www.Cuyamaca.edu/ohweb](http://www.Cuyamaca.edu/ohweb)

APPLY AND REGISTER ONLINE AT THE CUYAMACA COLLEGE WEB SITE

[www.Cuyamaca.edu](http://www.Cuyamaca.edu)



**15<sup>th</sup> Annual Aggie Open  
Golf Tournament  
Bonita Golf Club  
Friday, October 21, 2011**

**Reserve Early  
Sold Out in 2010**

To benefit the Cuyamaca College Ornamental Horticulture  
& Cuyamaca College Botanical Society

10:30 a.m. Registration

12 Noon Tee Time

Corporate Sponsor:

  
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**For More Information Contact: Brad Monroe 619-660-4261  
Or Online at: [www/Cuyamaca.edu/ohweb](http://www/Cuyamaca.edu/ohweb)**



**Cuyamaca College  
Ornamental Horticulture Department Orientation**

*Majors include:*

Sustainable Urban Landscapes ~ Irrigation Technology ~ Landscape Technology ~ Arboriculture  
Golf and Sports Turf Management ~ Landscape Design ~ Nursery Technology ~ Floral Design

**Wednesday, August 17, 2011 ~ 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

**Cuyamaca College ~ Room M-111**

**900 Rancho San Diego Parkway ~ El Cajon, CA 92019**

For more information, please call John Thomas at 619-660-4262

Or visit us online at [Cuyamaca.edu/OHweb](http://Cuyamaca.edu/OHweb)

The free presentation is open to everyone, including new and continuing students.  
Meet the professors, find out about classes, careers, job opportunities, and the  
Ornamental Horticulture Program at Cuyamaca College.

# Fall Garden & Home Festival

## The Art of Conservation

Saturday  
Nov 5th, 2011  
9am-4pm

\$3 admission  
FREE: Members &  
Kids 12 & under



Kidz Zone featuring  
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with each paid admission



Sustainable Homes Tour 2011



- Self guided tour of sustainable homes in San Diego County.
- \$20 Admission includes Festival entrance
- Sat. Nov. 5, 2011 10am - 3pm
- To purchase passes or for more information:  
[www.GardenandHomeFest.org](http://www.GardenandHomeFest.org)

Sustainable Homes Expo  
Gardening Experts  
Cooking Demos  
Live Music  
Plant Sale  
Art Show  
Food

The Water Conservation Garden  
12122 Cuyamaca College Dr W  
El Cajon, CA 92019

Hosted by



For more information visit [www.gardenandhomefest.org](http://www.gardenandhomefest.org) or call 619-660-0614

# What's Happening? for October 2011

The SDHS is happy to publicize items of horticultural interest. See other side for resources & ongoing events.  
Send calendar listings by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month before the event to Neal King at [calendar@sdhortsoc.org](mailto:calendar@sdhortsoc.org).

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## Hello to all and welcome to our October garden tips update.

The Secret Garden and gift shop (with lots of creepy, scary stuff) have evolved into Halloween Central. Also to complete our entrance into fall we have loose Narcissus Paperwhite bulbs.

❖ Lots of cool season bedding plants for you – Pansies (of course) in Yellow, Blue, Lilac, Orange, Black and the popular Orange 'Jack O'Lantern' mix. Also Snapdragons, Violas, Sweet Peas, Coreopsis, Sunflowers, Portulaca, Nemesia, Poppies, Primroses, Gaillardia and Mums - all of the beautiful fall shades.

❖ Cyclamen are now here in 2", 4" and 6" in all the colors.

❖ Ornamental Peppers – yellow, orange, purple – a great "mood" plant for the fall.

❖ In the Secret Garden all the cool season veggie starters are in full flow - Sugar Snap Peas, Snow Peas, Lettuce (Mesclun Mix, Arugula, Italian Gourmet to name a few). Also Onion, Kale, Swiss Chard, Runner Genovese Beans, Cherokee Beans, Chives, Malabar Red Stem Spinach for starters.

❖ We're getting on to Azalea and Camellia time and we'll be seeing substantial deliveries of both this month, especially the Sasanqua Camellias.

❖ Edible and beautiful - Passiflora edulis 'Frederick' is the premier fruit producing Passion Vine for warmer areas of Southern California and will grow inland with protection. The flowers are fragrant and large. The fruit is as large as a goose egg with a purple skin and delicious pulp when ripe.

❖ Lots of nice Asclepias – essential food for any Frittelaria and Monarch butterfly caterpillars looking for a food source.

❖ This is the time to plant Sweet Peas. We have starter 6 packs and seeds. Annual climbers bearing clusters of fragrant flowers in a wide variety of colors including red, pink, blue, white and lavender. The flowers look like butterflies. They have a long season of bloom and make excellent cut flowers – and the more you pick them the more they bloom.

Continued on other side



We're on Facebook! "Like" us for info and news as it happens. You'll find us under Andersons La Costa Nursery.

## Alta Vista Gardens

### Oct. 8 – Fall Fun Festival

See <http://www.AltaVistaGardens.org> for upcoming events.

## San Diego Botanic Garden

See page 10 for more upcoming events

Details/registration at [www.sdbgarden.org](http://www.sdbgarden.org) or (760) 436-3036

**Oct. 1, (9am-5pm), 2 (9am-4pm) Orchid Show and Sale:** Countless varieties of orchids grace the grounds, some in exhibits and some for sale. Sept 30, 3:30–5:30pm members-only presale and preview. Free on Saturday. Sunday event is free with Garden admission or membership (AOS members free).

**Oct. 8, 9am-noon, Designing with Native Plants:** Learn how to design a garden using our very own California native plants. Members \$25, non-members \$30. Please register by Oct. 5.

**Oct. 22, 9am-noon, Build Your Own Hydroponic Fall Garden:** Learn the principles of the hydroponic wick method. Build your own sustainable garden to take home, filled with fall veggies. Members \$70, non-members \$90. Please register by Oct. 19.

## The Water Conservation Garden

Details/registration at [www.thegarden.org](http://www.thegarden.org) or (619) 660-0614

**Oct. 13, 6:30-8:30pm, Home Composting Workshop:** Learn the basics of composting, how to compost with worms, and how to save water. Free.

**Oct. 15, 10am-noon, Hillside Gardening:** Topics include erosion control proper plant choices, terracing, and plantings for retaining walls.

**Oct. 21, 9:30am-11am, Green Roof Seminar:** Learn the benefits of planting a green roof. Members: \$15, Non-Members \$25. Register early.

## Cedros Gardens, Saturday 10am FREE classes:

Oct. 8 and 9, 10-11am, South African Bulbs and their applications

Oct. 15 and 16, 10-11am, A Backyard Orchard

Oct. 22 and 23, 10-11am, Winterizing Your Citrus Trees

Details at [www.cedrosgardens.com](http://www.cedrosgardens.com); address in ad on page 17.

## City Farmers Nursery FREE Classes

Oct. 1, 1:30-3:30pm, Small Space Gardening

Oct. 15, 11am-1pm, Pumpkin Growing Contest

Oct. 23, 1:30-3:30pm, Fall Planning and Planting

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

## Evergreen Nursery FREE Seminars

Oct. 1, 10am – Fall is the Time for Planting

Carmel Valley and Oceanside Nurseries (see map on page 2)

Details at [www.evergreennursery.com/seminar-schedule-2011](http://www.evergreennursery.com/seminar-schedule-2011)

## Grangetto's Farm & Garden Supply FREE Workshop

Oct. 22, 10-noon, Dormant Sprays & Winter Pruning, Escondido

Details at [www.grangettos.com](http://www.grangettos.com); see ad on page 21.

## Walter Andersen Nursery FREE Saturday Classes:

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

## Oct. 1, 10am-4pm SD Master Gardener Association Garden Tour & Market

Eight open gardens highlight diverse water-wise landscapes.  
\$20 advance tickets at [www.mastergardenersandiego.org/gardentour](http://www.mastergardenersandiego.org/gardentour)  
Info: (858) 694-2860 Monday-Friday, 9am-3pm.

**Oct. 1 & 2, 10am-4pm, Begonia Society Plant Show and Sale**  
Spectacular begonia display and beautiful begonia plants for sale. Room 10 Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Info: (760) 815-7914 or [marla.keith@cox.net](mailto:marla.keith@cox.net).

**Oct. 1, noon-5pm, East County Rose Society Rose Show:** Entries accepted 7:00-9:45am. 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon. In [www.eastcountyrosesociety.com](http://www.eastcountyrosesociety.com).

**Oct. 7, 1:30pm, Vista Garden Club:** Water conservation in the landscape. 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista. See [www.vistagardenclub.org](http://www.vistagardenclub.org).

**Oct. 10, 17, 22 and 24, Landscaping with California Native Plants**  
Garden designer Greg Rubin teaches a 4-part evening class at MiraCosta College in Oceanside. Special emphasis on native ecology, plant selection, native landscape design, irrigation, hardscape, and maintenance. Fee: \$59. To register call (760) 795-6820 or visit <http://miracosta.augusoft.net>.

## October 10, 6:00pm Wicked Bugs See page 1

**Oct. 20, 1pm, Bernardo Gardeners Club:** Seabreeze Organic Farms Tour, \$42.50. No visitors without a reservation paid in advance. Carpool from Oaks North Community Center, 12578 Oaks North Dr. See [www.bernardogardeners.org](http://www.bernardogardeners.org). Reservations: [cmassad@san.rr.com](mailto:cmassad@san.rr.com).

**Oct. 13, 5:30-7:30pm, Planting Fall Trees for Spring Vigor:** An in-depth presentation about how to plant trees. Detailed information about properly situating a tree to allow mature size, choosing the best tree species for the site, how to select quality nursery stock. FREE. 8690 Balboa Ave., Ste 100, San Diego. Register at [www.energycenter.org/forestry](http://www.energycenter.org/forestry). Info: (858) 244-1177 or [events@energycenter.org](mailto:events@energycenter.org).

**Oct. 15, 9:30am-3:30pm, Farm Tour Day: SEE PAGE 16.**

**Oct. 15, 11am-3pm**

### California Native Plant Society Plant Sale

**SEE INSERT.** Native shrubs, trees, flowering plants, more. Open to members at 10am. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. See [www.cnpssd.org](http://www.cnpssd.org)

**Oct. 18, 7:30pm, California Native Plant Society:** Julian Duval presents a visual tour of the San Diego Botanic Garden. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 104. See [www.cnpssd.org](http://www.cnpssd.org) or call (619) 282-8587.

**Oct. 20, 9:30-11am, SD Floral Association Class:** Propagation: learn the secrets of success with at-home multiplication. Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. \$15 members/\$20 non-members. Register and pay with PayPal at [www.SDFloral.org](http://www.SDFloral.org) or call (619) 232-5762 by Oct. 14.

**Oct. 22, 10:30am-noon, Sunshine Care Garden Lecture:** Fall and Winter Crops. FREE. 12695 Monte Vista Rd., Poway. Info/RSVP: (858) 752-8197 or [lisa@sunshinecare.com](mailto:lisa@sunshinecare.com).

**Oct. 29, 11am-5pm, San Diego Rose Society Show:** Entries are accepted from 8-10:30am, judging happens from 11am-1pm. Show is open until 5pm Saturday and 9am-5pm Sunday. See [www.sdrosesociety.org](http://www.sdrosesociety.org).

For an extensive list of garden club meetings and events, visit the website for the San Diego Floral Association: [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. 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).

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month start at 9:00 am. Call (760) 436-3944 for details.

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

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

### BALBOA PARK:

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

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

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

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

**Canyonier 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, (619) 235-1122.

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

**S.D. Zoo:** Garden day 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 from 8-9am and Sunday from 8-10am. KCEO 1000AM radio, hosts Bruce and Sharon Asakawa, John Bagnasco. Call-in questions: 866-606-TALK. **If your local station does not carry GardenLife, hear it streaming live on [lifestyletalkradio.com](http://lifestyletalkradio.com).** GardenLife shows are also archived at [lifestyletalkradio.com](http://lifestyletalkradio.com)

October is a great planting month especially for permanent landscape plants and California natives. We have some great varieties of Ceanothus, Mimulus and many other California natives. If you have a special variety of plant you are searching for we can special order it for you from the many growers we work with in northern and southern California.

**Remember, all San Diego Hort Society members receive 10% discount on all purchases (except items already on sale).**

**And we'd love to have you join us on our Facebook page for updates on interesting plants as they appear here at Anderson's La Costa Nursery.**

### October in the Garden:

October is when we see our first true days of autumn and a peak month for planting our cool-season flowers and vegetables. It is also a great month to shop for trees and shrubs as they're showing their true colors at the nursery.

It's easy to forget about watering duties in the middle of fall, but proper moisture now is key to your plants' successful survival over the colder winter months. Also, it is time to cut back the watering on deciduous trees to help them remember to go dormant.

❖ **Slugs** don't slow down as the weather gets cooler use whatever measures you prefer-salt, slug bait, saucers of beer-to eliminate slugs

❖ **Keep staying ahead of weeds this month** - they serve as homes for pests and bugs and destroying them before they flower and seed will save you work in the future.

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

❖ After **evergreen daylilies** have finished blooming renew plants by cutting back the leaves to 4 inches and divide over-crowded daylilies this month.

❖ To encourage re-growth during the winter cut back garden **geraniums** (*Pelargonium hortorum*) by half.

❖ Early in the month feed **roses** for the last time this year. Give roses up to 1 inch of water twice a week unless it rains.

❖ If you planted **sweet peas** last month thin them out and pinch them back to force branching.

❖ The fungus that causes **petal blight in azaleas and camellias** over-winters in fallen flowers, leaves and old mulch. To decrease the chances of blight remove all the debris under the plants and apply new mulch.

❖ **Birds of Paradise:** Cut off dead leaves. After flowers fade pull out bloom stems. Small plants can be divided with a sharp knife. Left alone these plants will eventually make such large clumps that the only way to easily divide them is to use a chain saw and replant salvageable sections.

❖ **Amaryllis Belladonna:** *Amaryllis belladonna* (Naked Ladies) eventually form big clumps that push up out of the ground and need dividing. You want to divide these plants after they bloom but before new roots and foliage have begun to grow. If the bulbs are transplanted during this brief period of dormancy, next year's flowering will not be interrupted. If you did not divide large clumps in September because they were in bloom, do so this month as soon as the flowers fade.

❖ Throughout the fall and winter months you can plant or transplant both evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs.

❖ One last effort at weeding will help to improve the appearance of your garden throughout the winter. Any weed which you can eliminate from the garden this fall will possibly prevent thousands of weed seeds from sprouting in the garden next spring!

❖ This month remove all fallen fruit from around fruit trees and any fruit that has mummified on the trees. Such fruit will harbor over-winter pests and disease organisms.