

Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

April 2012, Number 211

Fitting California Natives into California-Style Gardens

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On the Cover: Native plant pairing

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SDHS GARDEN TOUR GARDENS OF THE BAY AREA

May 17-20, 2012

By Scott Borden



Scott Borden

Next month 40+ members of the Hort Society head north for our 4-day Gardens of the Bay Area tour. Private garden visits are sure to be memorable, including Katherine Greenberg's garden in Lafayette, a monument to sustainability and home to a wide variety of artfully-used natives. A favorite stop is sure to be Raul Zumba's fanciful garden in Oakland, shown here, where guests will enjoy wine and cheese while strolling the expansive property. Raul describes his garden: "Imagine: 25 years ago this land was home to eleven llamas, complete with areas to forage, a rustic living quarters, and bare land overflowing with trash, chicken coops, and mounds of garbage. Imagine moving in 3,000 yards of soil to build paths, terraces, and walls with moss rocks and bricks to create a garden that is completely organic. Zumba Garden was created for you to forget your world of the moment and enter a place where you can reflect, dream, remember, and celebrate through a world of plants growing in their natural state. You will encounter areas with terraces, sculptures, different species of plants and trees, all intertwined with places you can stop, reflect, and create your own sense of place and pleasure. Feast your eyes and immerse your soul. Forget the moment and get lost in your own world of the past and future."

Very few spaces remain for this tour! For more information and reservations, visit www.sterlingtoursltd.com or contact Sterling Tours at 800-976-9497, or info@sterlingtoursltd.com.



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SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

MEETING SCHEDULE

5:00 – 6:00 Meeting room setup

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

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

MEETINGS & EVENTS IN 2012

- April 15** Coffee in the Garden, Poway
- April 27** Rancho La Puerta Spa Tour (SOLD OUT)
- May 14** Small is the New Big: 3 Big Rules (& 4 Small Ones) for Designing Small Gardens with Impact
- May 17-20** SDHS Tour – San Francisco Area (inside front cover)
- May 26** Sustainable Garden Maintenance Workshop (see pages 2 & 9)
- June 8 - July 4** San Diego County Fair
- June 16** Coffee in the Garden, Poway

COVER IMAGE: Susan Krzywicki, our April speaker, took this striking photo and says "California native plants are stylish bloomers for the modern garden: low maintenance and low water use are the side benefits. Gardeners who knew this plant as *Zauschneria californica* are adapting to the new name, *Epilobium canum*, and love that it produces firecracker red flowers in late fall - hummingbirds drink deeply."

www.SanDiegoHorticulturalSociety.org



Next Meeting: APRIL 9, 2012, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

Topic: SUSAN KRZYWICKI ON "FITTING CALIFORNIA NATIVES INTO CALIFORNIA-STYLE GARDENS"

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

California Native Plant Week is April 15-21, and for our April 9 meeting we welcome a leading authority on California native plants, Susan Krzywicki, who will discuss the exciting place that California native plants have in our gardens if we understand which plants perform well in which conditions. They bring a sense of heritage and look to the future. They offer an ecologically sound way of blending the requirements for a highly cultivated place with a need to conserve resources and minimize exposure to chemicals. We can change our image of native plants as being appropriate mainly for the hiking trail and hillsides, to seeing their great potential in all sorts of garden settings. When we understand the criteria for selecting the right plants they will perform well and bring beauty, color, scent, and their friends in the animal world.

Susan owns Krzywicki Consulting, a California native plant landscaping firm. She has lived in San Diego off and on since she was five. Her passion for native plants began in 2003, when she bought a 1960s ranch house with neglected gardens. After intensive study into native plants and their applicability for home gardens, she not only created her own garden, but also has become a leader within the California native plant community. Susan is on the board of the California Native Plant Society of San Diego, the state of California committee for California Native Plant Week, and is co-chair of the CNPS gardening committee.

To learn more visit www.susankrzywicki.com, www.cnpssd.org, and see page 3. ☘



SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Established September 1994

BOARD MEMBERS

Jeff Biletnikoff – Meeting Room Coordinator

Jim Bishop – President, Membership Chair

Linda Bresler – Member at Large

Mark Collins – Finance/Budget Committee

Julian Duval – San Diego Botanic Garden Representative

Mary James – Program Committee Chair

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Cathy Tylka – Treasurer

Don Walker – Past President

Nancy Woodard – Volunteer Coordinator

Lucy Warren – Secretary

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

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

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

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☛New Email? New Street Address?

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

BECOME A SPONSOR!

Do you own a garden-related business?

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

SUSTAINABLE GARDEN MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP

Sign up TODAY – See page 9

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

This workshop will be held in Oceanside on Saturday, May 26 from 11:00am to 2:00pm; the cost is \$20/person. It will be taught by Lynlee Austell-Slayter, a sustainable landscape expert and UCCE Master Gardener, with help from a professional gardener who is bi-lingual (English/Spanish). The workshop will be hands-on as much as possible. A box lunch is included. We will give a certificate of completion to those who take the workshop. The workshop is limited to 25 people; the fee is \$20/person.

Details are on page 9. ☘



IMPORTANT MEMBER INFORMATION

Are You Reading This In COLOR???

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

Membership Table At Meetings

We need a few folks to be the smiling face at our membership table at meetings from 6pm until about 6:45pm, signing up new members and helping current members to renew their dues. You'd also take orders for nametags and distribute nametags at meetings. If you have an outgoing personality this is a really fun opportunity. Lorie Johansen and Jim Wright are already doing this for most months – what we need are a few members to help them and act as backup for some months. To learn more or to volunteer contact Nancy Woodard at sdhsvolunteers@gmail.com.

Membership Committee

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

Events and Outreach Committee

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

Corresponding Secretary

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

Thanks So Much!



Many thanks to Cielo Foth for hosting our March 18 Coffee at her fascinating Point Loma garden. Look for photos on our Facebook page. As we go to press our March 31 garden tour is still a few days away – we'll thank everyone involved in the May newsletter.

Our information table at the Spring Home/Garden Show was a big hit, and we had a lot of interest in our plant displays. Thanks to Jim Bishop and the members of the Events & Outreach Committee who made this possible: Kimberly Alexander, Bryan Diaz, Chris Herman, Myrna Hines, Sherrill Leist, Sue Ann & Bill Scheck, Susi Torre-Bueno, Darlene Villanueva, and Kim Walker. During the show these outgoing volunteers answered questions, helped with the speakers, and signed up new members and we appreciate all their efforts: June Andersen, Diane Bailey, Barbara & Bob Bandhauser, Lisa Bellora, Susan D'Vincent, Cielo Foth, Ben Gill, Linda Johnson, Sue Kelly-Cochrane, Hilda & Neal King, Sheldon Lisker, Janet Mance, Annie Morgan, Susan Morse and Jane Morton. ☘



TO LEARN MORE...

By Ava Torre-Bueno

California Native Plants

There is one main reason to be thinking about replacing most of our gardens with California native plants: the water crisis we are in already: <http://www.calwatercrisis.org>

Thankfully, there are resources available to help us learn about the many beautiful plants that are native to our region. For example, there's a little demonstration garden at the north end of Balboa Park – who knew? www.balboapark.org/in-the-park/california-native-plant-garden

The non-profit California Native Garden Foundation site has information on all the different plant communities we have in California: <http://cngf.org>

Founded in 1960, the Theodore Payne Foundation operates a year-round California native plant nursery and education center with classes and field trips for all ages. It's in Sun Valley, CA or on the web at www.theodorepayne.org

There is always our own chapter of the California Native Plant Society: www.cnpsd.org

Get used to it; we will be drinking reclaimed water soon, or we'll be very, very thirsty. Reclaimed water is actually cleaner than the water coming out of our taps now. To see that this is true, you can go on a tour of the City of San Diego Water Purification Demonstration Project. "In an effort to keep San Diegans informed about this important project, free public tours of the Advanced Water Purification Facility are available, as well as project presentations to all interested groups and opportunities to learn more about the project at community events throughout San Diego."

www.sandiego.gov/water/waterreuse/demo

Water will become a bigger concern for us as gardeners and citizens every year. It behooves us to know much more about it than we do now:

www.thebigthirst.com/the-book

and to act like every drop of water mattered:

www.rainthanks.com

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

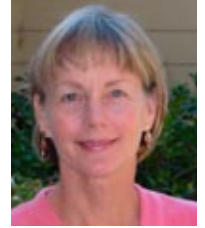
Local Garden Tours

April and May are the peak garden tour months in San Diego County, and I hope you'll attend at least one or two. Space doesn't permit descriptions of the tours, so a listing of tours is in our monthly calendar insert. Many offer discounts for early reservations, so don't delay in making plans. Each tour will feature inspiring gardens, often with a similar theme, and you're sure to learn something to try in your own garden.



FROM THE BOARD

By Jim Bishop



Thank You, Judy!

Judy Bradley has served as chair of the Program Committee since 2004 and has done a fantastic job finding and scheduling our wonderful array of monthly speakers. Thanks to Judy's efforts, our meetings have featured an eclectic mix of speakers and topics for the diverse horticultural environment of San Diego. This is no easy task given the varied interests of our membership: from home gardeners to design professionals, growers to nursery owners. Judy also represented SDHS on the Pacific Horticulture board for six years and served two years as president of that board. Unfortunately for us, Judy will be relocating to Portland Oregon. Please join me in thanking Judy for the professionalism and years of service that she provided to SDHS. She will be missed, but hopefully will visit us from time to time.

Replacing Judy as Program Chair is Mary James. Mary joined the board last summer. She is executive editor of *California Garden*, the magazine of the San Diego Floral Association, and chair of Master Gardeners Publicity Committee. She is also an award-winning garden writer for the *San Diego Union Tribune* and *San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles* magazine. With Mary's wonderful experience and connections, we look forward to many more great speakers.

San Diego County Fair Exhibition Garden

Landscape designer Susanna Pagan (www.spgardens.com) has been selected as lead designer for our display garden at the San Diego County Fair. Last year Susanna grew the lettuce plants for our garden, which helped us win Kellogg Garden Products *Grow Your Own Award* presented to "the best garden/display that incorporates edible components." Landscape designer Marilyn Guidroz (www.marilynsgarden.com) will again coordinate the installation and will supervise a group of horticultural students from MiraCosta College who will help with the installation. The generous donation of time and talents of these skilled professional members makes the garden possible.

Thank You Volunteers

I would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped with our booth at the Spring Home/Garden Show in early March. It was the unveiling of our new SDHS banner and it drew lots of attention. We had 102 people join our interest list and handed out many more SDHS brochures and tour flyers.

I would also like to thank all of the volunteers and attendees at this year's garden tour in La Mesa. Tour chairperson Dannie McLaughlin has done a wonderful job planning and organizing the tour. This is our biggest SDHS fundraiser of the year. Look for a complete report about the tour in the May Newsletter.

We are always looking for volunteers. If you would like to share your time and talents, contact Nancy Woodard at (760) 645-3323 or send her an email at SDHSVolunteers@gmail.com.

Tours and Events

Speaking of tours, we have two upcoming tours: a horticultural tour of Rancho La Puerta in Tecate, Mexico on April 27 and Gardens of the Bay Area, May 17-20 (see inside front cover). Detailed information about all our upcoming tours and events is on the Events page of our website: www.sdhortsoc.org/events.htm. ☘



THE REAL DIRT ON...

By Joan Herskowitz

Phillip A. Munz

Botanist and educator Phillip Munz (1892-1974) is best known for his scientific and popular publications on California flora, and his accomplishments as Director of the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. Munz was born in Saratoga, Wyoming and received his Ph.D. in entomology at Cornell University. In 1917, despite his having only minored in botany, became an Assistant Professor of botany at Pomona College in Claremont. He immediately set out to learn about the local flora, conducted fieldwork, established the College Herbarium, and began research on the Onagraceae (primrose family) and other plant groups. His knowledge of Southern California flora increased rapidly and led to his publication of *A Manual of Southern California Botany*. During his fieldwork at Pomona, Munz became concerned about conservation issues, and it is thought that his intervention in 1936 resulted in preservation of an area of desert that became Joshua Tree National Monument.



In 1944 Munz accepted a professorship at Cornell University. However, two years later he moved back to California to be a botanist at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden (RSABG). The garden was established by Susanna Bixby Bryant on the family's Orange County ranch. She set up a foundation with ongoing funding to maintain RSABG for scientific research, study, and appreciation of native California flora. Shortly after Munz returned to California, Bryant died and Munz succeeded her as director. In 1950, under his directorship, the Garden moved to its current site in Claremont, the herbaria and libraries of the botanic garden and Pomona College were combined, and the Garden became formally affiliated with Claremont Graduate School. Under Munz's leadership, RSABG developed as a research institution in systemic and evolutionary botany, encouraged the use of native plants in home landscapes, and provided educational programs on native plant culture. The 86-acre Garden remains open to the public and is the largest botanic garden dedicated exclusively to California native plants.

Munz worked with his former student David Keck on the publication *A California Flora*, published in 1959, a year before his retirement. This monumental work contained descriptions of 6,002 native and introduced species. As Director Emeritus, Munz published a *Supplement to the California Flora* (1968), and *A Flora of Southern California* (1974), which remains an essential tool for plant identification. In the 1960s he authored a series of popular plant guides entitled *California Wildflower Books* for general readers untrained in formal taxonomy.

Plants named in honor of Munz include *Salvia munzii* (Munz's Sage, shown at top of page), *Cereus munzii* (Munz's hedgehog), *Layia munzii* (Munz's tidytips), and the genus *Munzothamnus* (a monotypic endemic of San Clemente Island).

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. ☞



Greg Rubin

GOING WILD WITH THE NATIVES

By Greg Rubin

Native "Japanese" Garden

At first glance, creating an Asian style garden from California native plants is completely counter-intuitive. This style developed half-way around the world, in a completely different climate! However, there are many native plants that lend themselves beautifully to an Asian garden, creating an effect that is authentic to the style, yet very native.

Most plants in the Asian garden are evergreen. Subtle foliar color and texture are much more important than gaudy splashes of flower color. Trees and shrubs, especially small pines, are carefully maintained to appear contorted, suggesting windswept age (like large bonsai). Lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta contorta*) is an excellent substitute for Japanese black pine, and much more drought tolerant.



Greg Rubin

Coffeeberry (*Rhamnus californica*) is an elegant evergreen shrub with red stems, dark green oval leaves, and large colorful berries. It comes in a number of varieties ranging from low mounds to large shrubs.

Dramatic red-branched Manzanitas (*Archostaphylos* spp.) are perfect subjects for the Japanese garden. Use tall species to display their impressive sculptural scaffolding. Medium shrubs create near perfect evergreen mounds with dense flowers and brilliant berries. Low growing varieties with close, evenly-spaced leaves form lush carpets. Different varieties add interest and contrast.

Other superlative choices include native azalea (*Rhododendron occidentale*), which holds its own with the exotic varieties. Pacific coast iris (*Iris douglasiana*, shown at top) is evergreen, spiky, and available in many colors. Native sedge and spike rush are highly reminiscent of Asian varieties. *Juniperus communis* is a beautiful, ground hugging silver juniper, ideal in this type of landscape.

Appropriate colorspots include thrift (*Armeria maritima*), with low grass-like leaves and bright pink pom-pom flowers. California bush anemone (*Carpenteria californica*) is like an upright gardenia, with its lovely fragrance and evergreen character. *Mahonia nervosa* strongly resembles the Japanese forms of barberry. Mock orange (*Philadelphus* spp.), California redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*), and snowdrop bush (*Styrax officinalis californica*) are striking for both their beautiful flowers and delicate deciduous nature. Our native birch (*Betula occidentalis*), has lovely fall color and beautiful bark. Buttonwillow (*Cephalanthus occidentalis californica*) and native dogwoods (*C. glabrata*, *C. nuttallii*, *C. stolonifera*) are attractive deciduous shrubs. And finally, vine maple (*Acer circinatum*) or even miniature box elder (*Acer negundo californicum* 'Bert's Toy Box') can be used to emulate the color and form of the Japanese maple (*Acer palmatum*).

Large trees for an Asian style garden include white alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*), big-leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), and redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens* and *Sequoiadendron giganteum*). These are used primarily in the background or to define large garden spaces. Appropriate native understory plants include evergreen currant (*Ribes viburnifolium*), creeping mahonia (*Mahonia repens*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos* sp.), and woodland strawberry (*Fragaria californica*). Plants like the

Continued on page 15

San Diego Horticultural Society



TREES, PLEASE

By Robin Rivet

Thin, and You'll be Rich

Have you ever grown carrots from seed? You know what I mean. Those darn seeds are so tiny it is tempting to dump the whole packet, rather than plant one seed at a time. But who needs 700 carrots? The answer, of course, is to pinch some after they sprout, although that means plucking out most of the package. However, if you don't, they'll be distorted and small, and transplanting is problematic.

For most deciduous fruit trees, thinning is equally vital – but just as odious a task. The problem lies partly with the grafting process. Typical fruit trees are asexually reproduced from “scion” wood removed from a mature tree and grafted onto hardy rootstocks. (A “scion” is essentially a hardwood cutting.) Some fruit trees, like figs and pomegranates, can be rooted directly without grafting. Such propagation strategies reduce the 5-9 year wait normally associated with seed-grown trees to set fruit, and they may bear within 2 -3 years. Structurally however, young grafted trees need time to grow so their productive fruit sets don't break those small, youthful branches. In the first year after bare root planting it is best remove ALL fruit buds. Although leaving ONE fruit to taste a new cultivar may be okay, resisting the temptation to harvest bowls of fruit the first year or two will pay off later – with healthier and stronger root systems. Besides, this is when you should be training primary leaders for your fruit trees, not picking fruit.

Once your trees have grown a few years and you've trained young branches for structure, you'll need to mercilessly thin out the excess on mature trees. A rule of thumb is to leave several inches between each fruit, more for larger nectarines and peaches, less for plums and apricots. An often-overlooked virtue of thinning fruit is that when trees are small, there is less foliage and therefore insufficient carbohydrate production (photosynthesis) to sweeten large amounts of fruit. Thinning fruit almost always improves quality.

Not thinning a copious fruit crop can also block the sunlight necessary to aid fruit ripening and may stimulate a tree to alternate bear: producing scant fruit set following a prolific year. Also, excessive fruit production can literally wear a tree out or increase spread of pathogens. Like humans, although reproduction is possible at adolescence, it doesn't necessarily follow that there is sufficient maturity to bring progeny successfully into adulthood, and trees frequently self-thin by dropping fruit. There is also some evidence that organically grown fruit trees develop increased flavor over time, although this may be due to improved soil richness and not just hand thinning. The bottom line is thinning your fruit trees is a tough but necessary task, and you'll be rewarded with riches later.



These fruits are too close and should have been thinned.

Websites for information about fruit trees and thinning:

- <http://homeorchard.ucdavis.edu/8047.pdf>
- <http://cesacramento.ucdavis.edu/files/24549.pdf>
- http://ucanr.org/sites/sacmg/Fruit_and_nuts/Fruit_Thinning
- www.organicguide.com/organic/gardening/fruit-thinning
- www.biodelice.com/organic-food-taste.asp

Small image at top: North Carolina Extension Service; illustration by Nickola Dudley.

Member Robin Rivet is an ISA Certified Arborist, UCCE Master Gardener and welcomes public inquiries and rebuttals. ☞



BOOK REVIEWS

Reviewed by Susi Torre-Bueno

Growing California Native Plants

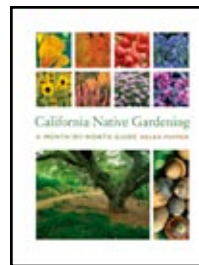
By Marjorie G. Schmidt and Katherine L. Greenberg

April 15-21 is California Native Plant Week, and an updated edition of an old classic on using these plants has just hit the shelves. First published 32 years ago and written by Marjorie Schmidt, *Growing California Native Plants* was an early guide to help gardeners achieve success long before growing natives was as popular as it is now. This welcome update has 200 new color photos, drawings and maps. Author Katherine Greenberg's award-winning native garden will be on our tour of the Bay Area, and she has extensive experience with natives as both a hands-on gardener and garden designer.

The book begins with an overview of native plant habitats and brief discussions of sustainability, fire safety, gardening for wildlife, propagation, maintenance, etc. I especially liked the Plant Selection Guide, with lists of plants for coastal conditions, dry situations, and 16 other garden requirements. Some of these are quite detailed; the Sun/Dry Situation includes lists for trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, bubs, vines and grasses. It's a handy way to plan a simple garden for someone new to growing natives. There is also an excellent glossary, extensive lists of books and resources, and a good index.

Plant descriptions occupy almost 200 pages, with information about size and growing conditions. Not every species or cultivar has a photo, but there are many good photos that will be helpful in judging the overall form of the plant in the landscape. For some plants there are excellent close-ups of the flowers.

This is a handy take-along book (it's the size of a paperback novel) to bring with you to nurseries as you look for the perfect specimen to add to your garden. Published by the University of California Press, it is ISBN 978-0-520-26669-8 and available in paperback for \$26.95. ☞



California Native Gardening A Month-By-Month Guide

By Helen Popper

A second book published by the University of California Press crossed my desk about two weeks after the one reviewed above; neither author mentions the other in her bibliography, which is a shame, as they compliment each other. Popper's book is the first guide to the annual cycles of caring for our native plants, and it will be especially welcome to those who have just begun to appreciate these beauties by adding them to their gardens.

The California garden year begins in the fall with the start of our rainy season, so it makes sense that the first monthly chapter is October. Each month has its own chores: planting wildflowers,

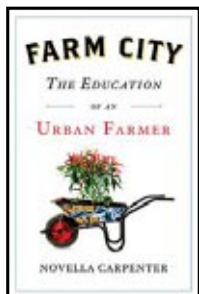


BOOK REVIEW

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh

Farm City: The Education of an Urban Farmer

By Novella Carpenter



Just when you think you've read everything someone could write about gardening, something different comes along. *Farm City* is definitely different. Novella Carpenter, the daughter of two back-to-the-soil hippies, finds that what called her parents to farming calls her

too. But she has one small problem. She lives in a city.

She thought she'd be satisfied as a gardener. She didn't really plan to become a full-fledged farmer. But her starter garden gradually expanded to take over the vacant lot next door in the lower working class neighborhood where she lived in Oakland. She even kept bees.

Her neighborhood was adjacent to a freeway, and as a low rent area, it attracted a number of individuals "living off the grid" in different ways. These neighbors supported Novella's endeavors, more or less, some more practical in their help than others, and they willingly shared the bounty of her garden, sometimes without being invited.

A concrete slab covered most of the vacant lot she used. It was the former floor of a long ago demolished building. She and her boyfriend, Bill, built raised beds with salvaged lumber, and it might be better if we don't inquire too closely about where it was salvaged. They planted in well-rotted horse manure acquired from a riding stable and toted home in the bed of a borrowed pickup truck when it was available and in the trunk of their car when it wasn't.

Their hard work paid off and their skills improved over the years, as they built a web of friendship with other urban farmers.

Fair warning to more squeamish readers: Novella included chickens, ducks, turkeys, rabbits, and even pigs on her tiny urban farm, and they were not pets. If you're not up for a thoughtful discussion of the ethics and methods of raising animals for meat, this is not the book for you.

Although raising animals for meat is not gardening, it is part of farming and a very interesting section of the book. Carpenter writes of her midnight forays to the dumpsters behind Chinese, Mexican, and Italian restaurants searching for food for her various animals, and her apprenticeship with a gourmet Italian chef who taught her all the things you can do with a pig. Strangely, no one, official or unofficial, ever complained about her raising two full-sized pigs in an urban neighborhood.

There were times when I admired Novella for her can-do attitude. Although she was concerned about what the neighbors thought, she didn't let it stop her from achieving her goals. Still, at other times, she seemed flat-out crazy to me. I'm thinking about those pigs again. In these reviews, I often say that I'd like to live next door to the author. I'm not sure about Novella. But life would always be interesting if I did.

Farm City (ISBN 978-1-59420-221-6) is 276 pages and hard-bound. Published by The Penguin Press, it retails for \$25.95 at your local bookstore. ☞



HOW TO GROW SUCCULENTS IN UNCONVENTIONAL CONTAINERS

Text and photos by Debra Lee Baldwin



An antique French salt box holds assorted cuttings. Design by Chicweed florist shop and garden boutique, Solana Beach.

Second-hand shops, flea markets and garage sales are great sources of containers in which to showcase succulents. You needn't hunt only for flower pots; succulents can grow in numerous vessels that are unsuitable for other plants.

Combinations such as a red-leaved gasteria in a copper pot, itty-bitty ball-shaped cacti in a beaded wire box, or a colander brimming with echeverias make appealing additions to outdoor living areas and intriguing, one-of-a-kind gifts.

Depending on your personal style and what you run across, your compositions might range from whimsical to sophisticated. Examples in my book, *Succulent Container Gardens*, include a child's fire engine full of sedum, by SDHS member and SDBG volunteer Bette Childs of The Flower Girls; and a soufflé dish planted with echeverias and aeoniums by Chicweed, a florist shop and garden boutique in Solana Beach.

You're not limited to containers with drainage, nor do you need to drill holes in the treasures you find. (The latter is a good idea, however, if you plan to sell or give away your arrangements, unless your recipients understand that succulents in nondraining containers should be watered very minimally.)

Succulents can thrive in non-draining loaf pans, muffin tins, fish bowls, brandy snifters and watering cans. True, the plants are native to arid climates, and if their roots sit in water, they'll rot. Yet because they store moisture in fleshy leaves and stems, succulents can go dry for long stretches. So if you *underwater* them, they're fine, whether the container drains or not. They may not grow much, but it's likely you don't want that anyway.

Succulents also can last a long time without soil---something you may have noticed if you've delayed planting cuttings of rosette succulents such as echeverias, agaves or aloes; or of stem succulents such as jade, senecios or kalanchoes. The majority of succulents have the ability to seal cut ends and send forth roots (even new leaves) from leaf axils, and may do it into thin air.

This means you can place cuttings in a teacup, vase or sugar bowl, and they'll look good for weeks. When they've begun to etiolate (stretch toward light) or their leaves lose their sheen and start to shrivel, plant the cuttings in the garden or in a soil-filled container. My preferred potting mix is half-and-half pumice or perlite and any commercial potting soil, but you can simply use bagged "cactus mix."

How often should you water succulents in nondraining containers? Spit at them now and then. (I'm kidding.) Depending on the size of the container, dribble several ounces of water at the base of the plant every ten days to two weeks. Keep the arrangement out of full, hot sun (two or three hours of morning sun is ideal) and where it won't get soaked by rain or automatic irrigation.

The secret to growing succulents in glass containers so that algae doesn't form inside the glass is to place soil-filled pots within the vessel and hide them with pebbles. I show how to do this in a 3-minute YouTube video, "How to Plant Succulents in Glass Containers" at www.youtube.com/watch?v=F8D6aSC9H9I.

Garden photojournalist (and SDHS life member) Debra Lee Baldwin authored *Designing with Succulents* and *Succulent Container Gardens*. She is giving a potting demo and hands-on workshop at Oasis Water Efficient Gardens on Sat., May 5 (registration required; see www.debraleebaldwin.com or email her at sunwriter7@cox.net). ☞



APRIL 6 DEADLINE FOR CALIFORNIA- FRIENDLY® LANDSCAPE CONTEST

Last month we announced that 12 local water districts are inviting customers to showcase their water-wise landscaping in the Water Agency California-Friendly Landscape Contest (see page 12). One winner in each district will receive a \$250 gift certificate and recognition on the agency websites and in newsletters. The deadline to enter is April 6.

Entries will be judged for overall attractiveness, appropriate plant selection, design, appropriate maintenance, and efficient methods of irrigation. This contest is open to customers of the cities of San Diego and Escondido, Helix Water District, Olivenhain Municipal Water District, Otay Water District, Padre Dam Municipal Water District, San Dieguito Water District, Santa Fe Irrigation District, Sweetwater Authority, Vallecitos Water District, Vista Irrigation District, and California American Water. For rules and an application visit www.landscapecontest.com. For questions contact Mike Ismail at (619) 533-5312 or your local water agency.

JoEllen Jacoby, Supervising Landscape Conservation Designer for the City's Water Conservation Program, says "Studies have shown that more than half of the water people use goes towards irrigating landscapes, which is why our program continues to encourage San Diegans to use California-Friendly® plants as a way to waste no water." You should "provide pictures that show both the landscape and some or all of the house to give a sense of proportion and scale. Look before you shoot! Are there trashcans, hoses, tools, or nursery pots visible? Angle your shots to avoid cars, overhead utility lines or other less than inspiring elements. Focus on special design 'vignettes' such as a little sitting area, stream bed or sculpture." Also, include close-ups of plant combinations that show the color, texture and variety of your plant palette. Yank weeds and use mulch over any open soil. ☘

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**Sustainable Garden
Maintenance Workshop
See pages 2 & 9**



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

Return to Kansas

On a white-hot day in July of 1965 our family returned to Wichita. The thermometer at a roadside bank read 105°F. Florida had been warm and humid, but never this hot. My father was transferred back to Kansas to work on a second power plant, next to the one he worked on four years earlier. We dreaded leaving our beloved South Florida – my brothers and I had taken up snorkeling, swimming and exploring the nearby swamps. I was developing a serious interest in plants and knew that Kansas was not nearly as interesting. However, I think the move was most difficult for mother, who left behind her many friends, parents (they had retired and lived nearby) and the garden she had created. Though we didn't know where we would be transferred after Wichita, we took solace knowing we would move again in two years.

We lived on the far west side of Wichita... just before the Great Plains started in earnest and the wheat fields stretched all the way to the horizon. Our brick ranch house had a Bermuda lawn and bag-worm infested juniper foundation plantings. The only blooming plants were three sickly roses beside the front porch. The backyard had two full-grown silver maples and one sycamore tree – which let us experience some fall color and the joys of raking leaves. The perimeter of the lot had a 15-foot hedge of cedar trees. After a particularly rainy period, odd-looking apple-sized fleshy growths with orange tentacles appeared on the cedar branches. I now know that these were the spores of cedar-apple rust. The rust has a strange life cycle and requires that apple and cedar trees grow nearby. A couple of ornamental flowering peach trees next door poked through the hedge and each year put on a beautiful display for a couple of weeks.

Fortunately, we were able to take long trips to more interesting locations, including frequent trips to my paternal grandmother's home in Branson, Missouri. My older brother and I attended Boy Scout camp in the southern Colorado Rockies, and the next summer in southern Wyoming. Our family took a car trip to Yellowstone. Along the way we stopped in tiny Belgrade, Nebraska, where my mother was born and lived until her veterinarian father lost everything in the Dust Bowl and moved back to his parents' home in Pennsylvania. We were amazed at the enormous silos of Nebraska corn; the rugged Badlands, Black Hills, and Mount Rushmore of South Dakota; the scenery of Yellowstone and the Tetons; and the fossils of Dinosaur National Monument.

Being in the middle of America's breadbasket, almost every open space was planted with winter wheat, immortalized in song as amber waves of grain. Imported from the Ukraine for dryland farming, winter wheat is planted in the fall, germinates, lies dormant until the spring, and is harvested in the early summer. Snow fences were strung across the fields to capture the moisture from drifting snow. Farmers' fields were frequently lined with windbreaks of a native Texas plant, Osage-orange (*Maclura pomifera*). The sharp-thorned trees, in the mulberry family, were one of the primary trees used in 1934 WPA project "Great Plains Shelterbelt." At the height of the Dust Bowl the project was an ambitious plan to modify weather and prevent soil erosion in the Great Plains states. We would use the orange-sized fruits in closets to deter spiders.

Continued on page 16



PACIFIC HORTICULTURE TOURS

By Scott Borden

San Diego Horticultural Society is one of six West Coast societies providing support for the 44-year old Pacific Horticulture Society. Well known for producing the highly respected *Pacific Horticulture* magazine, PacHort also offers a series of small group tours each year designed to educate and inspire plant enthusiasts everywhere. Following sold-out spring tours to Charleston, Mallorca and Santa Cruz Island, PacHort has just opened reservations for a November tropical tour From Shangri-La to Bali Hai.

Join PacHort board member Josh Schechtel on an exclusive Pacific Horticulture Society garden adventure to the Hawaiian islands of Oahu and Kauai. Oahu, the Gathering Place, is home to world-famous Waikiki and an extraordinary collection of public and private tropical gardens. Kauai, the Garden Island, has lush rain forests, emerald valleys, spectacular beaches and Waimea – the Grand Canyon of the Pacific. We've arranged a special invitation to visit Doris Duke's Shangri-la on Oahu, a sunset tour of the Allerton Estate on Kauai, and a visit to fabled Hanalei Bay on Kauai's north shore, the setting for Oscar-winning movies like *The Descendants* and *South Pacific*.



For more information and reservations, visit www.pacifichorticulture.org/tours or call 800-976-9497 or email info@sterlingtoursltd.com. 🌿

■ Book Reviews Continued from page 5

pruning shrubs, cleaning up dead limbs, watering if needed, etc. It's very handy to have these monthly chapters to help us organize and prioritize what we will be doing. The title chapters capture the year in a nutshell: October: Change in the Air, November: Spring is Here, February: Clean and Weed, May: Collect Your Seeds, etc.

Popper's planting advice is practical and her friendly tone is like a conversation with a more experienced friend. In October she encourages us to avoid the pitfall of "an instant filled-in look" by not buying large plants and, instead, to "space large plants appropriately and fill in with annuals or low, fast-growing native perennials that are either short lived or easy to pull out later." For May her advice is to allow some wildflowers to set seeds, both for more plants next year and to attract seed-eating birds. July's advice includes suggestions for reducing the risk of wildfires by removing "accumulated leaves and needles from the roof and gutters," trimming trees so they don't touch buildings, and "removing limbs below six feet" to slow the spread of fires. A chapter on Native Garden Styles includes discussions of herb gardens, Japanese gardens, cottage gardens, etc. Especially handsome photos illustrate this useful book, and remind us that native plants belong in all kinds of garden settings. A guide to when to take cuttings for propagation, bibliography, and other useful reference material is included.

This useful book should be close at hand as you plan your garden chores and make lists of what to add to your garden during the coming year. Published by the University of California Press, it is ISBN 978-0-520-26535-6 and available in paperback for \$29.95.



ORGANIC GARDEN IN EL CAJON VISIT ON APRIL 14

The mission of St. Madeleine Sophie's Center is to empower adults with developmental disabilities to discover, experience and realize their full potential as members of the greater community. The Center's campus in El Cajon is the site of a thriving two-acre organic garden that includes a flourishing natural habitat complete with meandering pathways, contemplative spaces and opportunities to commune with nature. Sophie's Organic Garden includes two 1,500 square foot shade houses (one is pictured here), a 1,000 square foot climate controlled greenhouse, a full citrus orchard, organic vegetable and flower gardens, ornamental trees, shrubs, herbs and a worm farm.

The gardens serve as a reality-based work-training environment where students receive individualized support from managers who are trained in horticulture and also excel at working with the developmentally disabled. The gardens and greenhouses are open to the public six days a week and specialize in California acclimated succulents, perennials, trees, and house plants.

Sophie's Organic Garden has many exciting new aspects! We are currently working on a vegetable garden that will enhance the daily menu offerings of our on-site kitchen. We've recently added additional



raised garden beds available to individuals with limited strength, endurance and flexibility. One of the signature items available for purchase in the garden are our seasonal succulent arrangements, and our St. Patrick's Day arrangement will feature Oxalis.

We cordially invite everyone to participate in our 14th annual Morning Glory Brunch fundraiser in support of Sophie's Organic Gardens on Saturday, April 14. For more information, please visit www.morningglorybrunch.org.

Here's a few exciting things guests will experience at Morning Glory Brunch:

- 20-minute "Sophie's certified classes" on topics of flower arranging, garden mosaics, propagation methods, and advice from garden professionals.
- Garden vignettes: thematic vignettes of potted plant arrangements and artwork created by Sophie's Gallery participants.
- Living succulent walls and framed art designed by STMSC students.
- Each Morning Glory Brunch features signature plants available for purchase. This year we will feature the Asiatic Lily and Sunflower.

St. Madeleine Sophie's Center is a long-time sponsor of the San Diego Horticultural Society – see their ad on page 9 for information about this exciting event. To learn more about their programs, visit www.smsc.org. 🌿

Sustainable Garden Maintenance Workshop

presented by the San Diego Horticultural Society

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

You will learn about:

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

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

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

Location: MiraCosta College, Oceanside

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

Registration: www.sdhortsoc.org/events.htm

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

Before



After



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14th Annual Morning Glory Brunch



Saturday April 14, 2012

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

St. Madeleine Sophie's Center Organic Garden
2119 E. Madison Avenue, El Cajon, CA 92019



Plants cultivated from
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Garden demonstrations from
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Appearance by Mary James from
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For more information:

call 619-442-5129 ext 115

www.morningglorybrunch.org

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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:

Ed Attix and Val Caskey	Sally Garrett	Rosa & Icela Santellanes
Wanda Bass	Catherine Hall	Lois & Dennis Shive
Patricia Bockstahler	Robert Hemedes	Chona Shumate
Barbara Brink	Jill Landry	Mary Ann Stepnowsky
Tony & Linda Cardona	Steven Levinsky	Cristina Underhill
Constanze Christopher	Jen-Jen Lin and Tzung- Horng Yang	Michael Wassman
Kathy Doran	Gerry & Roger Martin	Cyndi Ybarra
Deb Doud	Toni Munsell	
Anthony Embrey	Lewis & Nancy Nygard	
Lisa England & Maggie Doolittle	Diana Pico	
Lorraine Flegenheimer	Noel Rivera	
Diane Foote	M. M. Rochford	
	Steven & Suzanne Rose	

HORT BUCKS ARE GREAT!

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

Lynlee Austell (1)	Jeannine & John Le Strada (1)	Marcia Van Loy (1)
Jim Bishop (2)	Kay & Vince McGrath (1)	Janet Wanerka (1)
Patricia Bockstahler (1)	Gabriel Mitchell (1)	Dick & Gail Wheaton (1)
Kay Harry (1)	Katie Pelisek (1)	Roy Wilburn,
Julie Hasl (1)	Patty Sliney (1)	Sunshine Care (1)



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What's Up at

San Diego
BOTANIC
GARDEN

Ikebana, the Japanese art of fresh flower arranging, can be traced back to the mid-sixth century when Buddhism was introduced in Japan and floral arrangements were laid at the altars. Japan's deep communion with nature in the form



of flowers, wild plants and trees is apparent even in the earliest Japanese writings. Ikebana will be making its annual appearance at San Diego Botanic Garden on Saturday, April 14 and Sunday, April 15 from 9am to 5pm each day. We will celebrate the art of Asian horticulture with outstanding displays, lectures, and demonstrations during our **Asian Arts in the Garden.**

Ikebana is more than a collection of colorful blooms: it's a disciplined art form in which nature and humanity are brought together. These arrangements usually only have a minimal number of blooms among stalks and leaves.

Our Ikebana exhibition will feature floral arrangements from the Sogetsu School made by students of Rumi Rice, the Keiri Study Group, who has been teaching Ikebana since 1972. Sogetsu, one of three main Ikebana schools, promotes the idea that Ikebana may be created any time, anywhere, by anyone, and with any material.

Complimenting the Ikebana display, a Bonsai Show in our Walled Garden features styles of bonsai from Japan, China, Vietnam, and the West. There will be displays from Tray Landscape, Saikei, Kusamono, Penjing, Hon Non Bo, Suiseki, and Scholar Rocks. This show is provided by the Bonsai and Beyond Club, whose members study and practice each of the above art forms.

All visitors will have the chance to experience the wonderful world of origami on Saturday. On Sunday, Soryo Ayako Stott will perform a tea ceremony at noon for all to participate. Also, at 2 pm the Shokenji Taiko, a Japanese-style drumming group from the Vista Buddhist Temple, will perform traditional music. Experts with international recognition will be available all weekend at both exhibits to answer questions and give lectures and demonstrations.

This event is free with paid admission or membership. For additional details, visit www.SDBGarden.org.

LIFE MEMBERS *Horticulturist of the Year

Chuck Ades* (2008)	Laurie Connable	Jane Minshall* (2006)	Susi & Jose Torre-Bueno
Walter Andersen* (2002)	Julian & Leslie Duval	Bill Nelson* (2007)	Don Walker* (2005) & Dorothy Walker
Norm Applebaum & Barbara Roper	Edgar Engert* (2000)	Tina & Andy Rathbone	Lucy Warren
Bruce & Sharon	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	Gerald D. Stewart	
	Vince Lazaneo* (2004)		

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

Philip Tackill & Janet Wanerka

DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS

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

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

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

SEE THESE ADS FOR MORE DISCOUNTS:

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

Congratulations to all the Garden Masters for the beautiful gardens they designed for the Show! We're proud that so many of them are SDHS members (members are shown in **BOLD**). To see photos of these gardens, go to www.springhomegardenshow.com.

- *Best of Show: First Place; Most Dramatic; Best Intimate Garden*
Outside the Box, Ryan Prang and Bret Belyes, Falling Water Landscape
- *Best of Show: Second Place; Award for Design Excellence; Best Water Feature; Best Hardscape Feature*
Naturally Modern, Micah Helkenberg, DC West Construction
- *Best of Show: Third Place; Water Smart Award; Best Compatibility of Plant Materials; Best San Diego Adapted Garden; Perfection in Nomenclature*
The Spot, Kristi Beach, Akana Design and Emma Almendarez, Glorious Gardens
- *Best Interpretive Signage*
In The Swim, Wally Kearns, Evergreen Nursery
- *Best Interpretation of Theme*
There's No Garden Like Your Own, Ryan Doughty, Weidners' Gardens
- *Best Specialty Garden*
Drawn to Succulents, Jeff Moore, Solana Succulents
- *Best Topiary Feature*
Who's Eating in the Garden?, Paige Perkins, Garden Chat
- *Most Educational; Perfection in Nomenclature*
Modern Meets Native, Navid Mostatabi, Envision Landscape Studio
- *Best Home Landscape; Most Creative Use of Space*
Family Garden, Shellene Mueller, Designs by Shellene
- *Pacific Horticulture Award for Horticultural Excellence Judges' Choice*
The Elemental Garden, Jeremiah Turner, Turner Landscape
- *Most Experimental*
Floating in Life, Jesse Cryns and Gabriel Cryns, JCMS Landscaping
- *Most Appealing to Children*
There and Back Again, Scott Ensign, Scotty's Plantscapes
- *Best Combinations of Plant Materials*
Stairway to Home, Brian Best, Garden Spirit
- *Best Use of Rock, Perfection in Nomenclature*
Desert Springs, Juan Dorta-Duque, Stonebook Landscape
- *Best Use of Lighting*
Natural Beauty, Barry Thau, Chris Tiffany and Azlynn Hare, Eco Minded Solutions

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More Info: (619) 533-4136 or www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation

This program is partially funded by a Prop 50 Integrated Regional Water Management Grant administered by the California Department of Water Resources and by the City of San Diego Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program.



**Paul Ecke, Jr. Flower and Garden Show
"Cosmic Spaces"**
2012 San Diego County Fair - June 8 - July 4
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- Other Specimen Blooms, Roses, Dahlias, Gladiolus
- Bonsai and Tray Landscapes

Registration Deadline: Friday May 4th

3rd Annual Floral Design Competition on June 24th Registration Deadline: May 18th

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Registration Material Available online mid-March at www.sdfair.com

For additional information contact:

Jayna Wittevrongel, Coordinator
(858) 755-1161 ext. 2462 • jwittevrongel@sdfair.com

Leah Winetz, Assistant Coordinator
(858) 755-1161 ext. 2461 • lwinetz@sdfair.com



SHARING SECRETS

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

The question for this month was:

Succulents are the hottest ornamental plants these days. How are you fitting them into your garden and what 3 are your favorites?

Louise Anderson wrote, "I'm fitting succulents in wherever I'm trying to get rid of what used to be lawn on side yards. My favorite one is the one that lives without my attention. I'm especially enamored with the blooms - always a surprise - and with those that get red."

Sheryl Bennett replied, "How can succulents not be the hottest ornamentals in San Diego? We have the ideal growing conditions and they are so gorgeous! Weaving the vast variety of succulents into the garden color scheme is a lot of fun. I have a multitude of specimens worked into my garden. I like the big and bold ones as backdrop plants (Jade, *Aloe arborescens*, *Agave attenuata*) and then use small echeverias and trailing succulents close to a path for premium viewing!"

Nants Gordon & Barb Potts emailed to say, "We have them all in pots, mostly all handmade. They line our walkways and veggie beds. We love many, but our favorites are kalanchoes (for the blooms), the tiny toes, and the hens and chicks."

Karen Hoffman said, "One of the lawns we removed about eight years ago is now a cactus garden with an antique railroad wagon. The area around the wagon is planted with two Madagascar Palms, Pachycerus, totem pole cactus, and an old cluster of five ponytail palms, set on a mound of dirt. The area is held together with many golden barrel cactus. This is also a great area for displaying some great variety old cactus plants. My favorite, is of course, the clustered ponytail palm, Peruvian stove top cactus and the golden barrel cactus."

Kay McGrath told us, "They are through the garden - anywhere there was an empty spot not getting much water. I just choose the height and color of a succulent that will blend with adjacent plants. Also put extra cuttings in the landscape to use in to grow for future cutting for new planters and to give to friends."

Gerald D. Stewart writes that, "most succulents are put on a slope made from dumping thousands of pots of Tom Jesch cactus and succulent soil mix from Propagation Concepts Nursery, back in the 1970s. They really like that double well-drained location, and besides, the slope created the name of the area: Succulent Slope. Two favorites (at the moment) are Sticks-on-Fire (*Euphorbia tirucalli* 'Sticks-on-Fire'), purchased in a 6" pot from the Buckners fifteen years ago and now 12' across and over 10' tall, and Hummel's Sunset Jade (*Crassula ovata* 'Hummel's Sunset') that has been in a large container since the 1980s, and now is about 7' tall, container included. Those two provide huge splashes of orange, and yellow. Finally, at the opposite end of the

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height spectrum, with no common name ever found, is what he calls Chartreuse Spreader (*X Sedadia amecamecana*). It has chartreuse leaves and if not contained, stays about 6" tall. It is used to trail over retaining walls in Dahlia Dell, which is full of black-leaf dahlias, creating a dramatic contrast. Chartreuse Spreader is covered with yellow blooms in the cooler times of the year when the dahlias are dormant, and responds well to the irrigation necessary to keep the small area of dahlias happy."

Ava Torre-Bueno uses succulents for security: "I took out my lawn about 11 years ago and trucked in 28 cubic yards of cactus mix and planted a low water garden. I had no idea what I was doing at the time, but I find that my favorites now are the aloes because they attract hummingbirds. I'm also very fond of *Oscularia deltoides* because it's a great ground cover and can be seen here: www.projectnoah.org/spottings/7695979. And finally, I love my Durango Prickly Pear and my other prickly pears planted under windows to burglar-proof my house."

Susi Torre-Bueno is using, "many succulents, especially in my front garden, and giving them very little water. I've been surprised with how quickly they grow and enjoy taking cuttings from one area and using them to start a new succulent area. I've grown succulents for only six years or so, and I'm learning that I prefer the look of fewer large succulents instead of more very small plants of lots of different kinds. For me it's all about the foliage color and texture, and I often remove the flowers when they appear. We have a courtyard in our house and it is planted with about 90% aloes (my husband's favorite plant), with some other succulents and blue fescue grass. My three favorites (this week) are a very large-leafed aeonium (possibly *Aeonium undulatum*), *Crassula marginalis rubra* 'Variegata', and *Aloe speciosa*.

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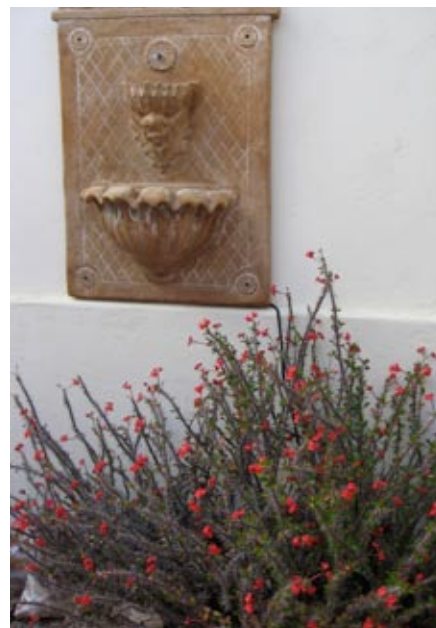
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Katrin Utt has a favorite, "My favorite cactus is the *Euphorbia millii* (Crown of Thorns). It is always in bloom in our courtyard, which is our cactus garden. We excavated the soil two feet down when we moved here and filled it in with sand. We seldom water. Several of our other cacti are now over 20 ft tall. Most of the plants are cuttings I picked up over the years."



Katrin Utt took this photo of her favorite succulent

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

Send your reply by April 5 to newsletter@sdhortsoc.org.

■ **More** Continued from page 4

enormous giant chain fern (*Woodwardia fimbriata*), western sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*), and wood fern (*Dryopteris arguta*) complete the look of the Japanese shade woodland.

Non-plant materials: Carved rock or concrete lanterns lend or imply lighting along paths. Locally available boulders like gneiss, with its beautiful striations, and colorful gravels complete the effect. Structures may include fences, railing, arbors, benches, even a tea house, generally built from bamboo. Good substitutes are straight willow limbs or collected *Arundo donax*, (a noxious Mediterranean reed destroying native wetlands). Be careful the reed is fully dead, as it loves to sprout and multiply!

See you at the April Meeting, where I will be the plant display expert. Bring native plants from your garden to show off your beauties.

Member Greg Rubin is the founder and owner of California's Own Landscape Design, Inc. (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.



LIVING WITH GOPHERS PART 3

By Susi Torre-Bueno

We've run several suggestions about living with gophers, and here's one more. Email me at newsletter@sdhortsoc.org with your gopher experiences, especially if you ARE happily co-existing with gophers *without* trying to kill them. I'll print replies here and/or on our website.

Liz Youngflesh has had good experiences using a plant to repel them: I've found that planting *Plectranthus neochilus* (known as Dog Gone, Dog Bane, or Skunk Plant) in an area that I've had problems with gophers has totally eliminated them. I stumbled upon this solution when I lived in Rancho Santa Fe and later learned that Steve Brigham used the plant whenever planting a new demo garden.

When I moved to Vista, the property that is now my nursery was full of gopher holes. I began planting garden areas and wherever those pesky burrows showed up I planted a *Plectranthus neochilus* or simply put a pot of it in the area. I've been here in "gopher territory" Vista (we have streets named after those critters!) for seven years and had no problems after the first year.

It's very easy to grow, low water use, no pests. The growth habit is low and mounding (8" tall x 3' wide). Both green and a very attractive variegated variety are available; they have bluish-purple blooms year round. Some people don't care for the odor this evergreen plant emits when crushed. I find its benefits far outweigh the momentary fragrance. Some really like the scent and think it smells like grilled onions. You wouldn't even know about the fragrance unless the plant is disturbed by stepping on it or having water hit the leaves, but somehow the gophers know and stay away. If I can naturally trick the critters into staying out of my garden and nursery, I'm happy.

I keep it planted in key areas until the gopher problem goes away, or use it in perimeter areas to deter the varmints. I have it in the front garden area to remind any wandering neighborhood gophers to keep moving down the road. I sell 4" pots of it in the nursery – that's all you need to get going, as it is easy to propagate.

To find out more about Liz's Vista nursery, Garden Glories, visit www.gardengloriesnursery.com.

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■ My Life Continued from page 7

Across the street from our house, next door to the neighbor in whose basement we took refuge whenever we heard tornado sirens, was an incredibly tall, sparse tree. It would rain pollen, leaves and seeds on the neighborhood. It was an America Elm, *Ulmus americana*, and it succumbed to Dutch Elm Disease decades ago.

Our piano teacher's house sat in a giant field of zinnias and petunias that her husband grew from seed. In wet spots along roadside fences, native tiger lilies, *Lilium superbum*, bloomed with abandon in early summer. Another neighbor grew what my mother called "flags," better known as bearded iris. I thought they were the most beautiful thing I'd ever seen. Most everyone grew a patch of vegetables, usually corn, tomatoes, squash and melons. For a Boy Scout merit badge I would grow my first vegetable garden and harvest a few green beans and summer squash; however, I really wanted to grow a giant field of zinnias.

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

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MARCH PLANT DISPLAY

By Sue Fouquette and Susi Torre-Bueno

What is the Plant Display?

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

Join the fun and bring native plants to the April 9 meeting. Member Greg Rubin, a native plant expert (see page 4) and leading local garden designer, will be on hand to answer your questions. We thank Mary McBride for being our expert on bulbs at the March meeting.

- May 14 – Bonsai (expert: Phil Tackill)

***Babiana stricta* BABOON FLOWER** (Iridaceae)

South Africa

This summer-deciduous corm from the Cape Province of South Africa, a wonderland of bulbs, has distinctive pleated foliage. The late winter to spring blooms are pink, blue or violet, and a number of cultivars are available. It readily reproduces from corms and also sets seeds that can produce blooming plants in just a few years. The plant grows about 6-12" tall with the blooms somewhat taller. Does best in full sun to light shade; okay to withhold water in summer. Baboons love eating the corms, though this is rarely a problem in San Diego County. (Darlene Villanueva, El Cajon, 3/12; Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 3/12) – S.T-B.

***Boophane disticha* OXBANE, SORE-EYE FLOWER** (Amaryllidaceae) South Africa

This uncommon deciduous bulb is worth growing for the unusual foliage of wavy-edged sword-shaped green leaves to about 20" long that fan out from the top of the large bulb. Pink or red funnel-shaped flowers appear on older plants. Grows best in full sun with very good drainage; nice in pots. All parts of the plants are poisonous to eat, so plant where pets won't be tempted to taste it. (Ken Blackford, San Diego, 3/12) – S.T-B.

***Narcissus poeticus* 'Actaea' DAFFODIL**

(Amaryllidaceae) Europe, No. Africa

This easily-grown perennial bulb is grown for the large early spring flowers that have white perianths and a broad cup with a yellow edge. Grow it in full sun to light shade with good drainage. It tolerates drought and isn't bothered by rabbits or deer. (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 3/12) – S.F. & S.T-B.

Stenomesson incarnatum (syn. *Clinanthus incarnatus*)

(Amaryllidaceae) Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru

Perhaps one of the rarest bulbs to appear at our meetings, this vigorous South American beauty is native to the Andes and prefers "moderate temperatures (less than 80° F), and if kept dry and

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dormant in the winter can take light frost. Suitable for cool greenhouse or outdoors in mild climates. The leaves of this *Stenomesson* are light green, and the umbels of flared tubular flowers are light apricot tipped green," each flower can be 3"-6" long. Flower color can vary from yellow to red. [Learn more at www.pacificbulbsociety.org and www.telosrarebulbs.com.] (Ken Blackford, San Diego, 3/12) – S.T-B.

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 for details on how to order this valuable reference tool.

Can you spot the phony plant this month? The phony plant in the March newsletter was *Cercis accidentalis* MISFORTUNE REDBUD.

- Albuca spiralis* (Ken Blackford, San Diego, 3/12)
- Allium* cv. or sp. (Marie Smith, San Diego, 3/12)
- Boophane haemanthoides* OXBANE (Ken Blackford, San Diego, 3/12)
- Brunsvigia litoralis* (Ken Blackford, San Diego, 3/12)
- Bulbine torta* (Ken Blackford, San Diego, 3/12)
- 3** *Chasmanthe floribunda* var. *duckittii* YELLOW AFRICAN CORNFLAG, ADAMS RIB (Marie Smith, San Diego, 3/12)
- Cyrtanthus falcatus* SHEPHERD'S CROOK (Ken Blackford, San Diego, 3/12)
- Cyrtanthus felonius* EVIL CROOK (Garden Lover, San Diego, 3/12)
- Cyrtanthus smithii* (Ken Blackford, San Diego, 3/12)
- 3** *Freesia* cv. (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 3/12)
- Gladiolus splendens* (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 3/12)
- 3** *Iris germanica* var. *florentina* ORRIS ROOT, WHITE FLAG (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 3/12)
- Narcissus* 'Jet Fire' DAFFODIL (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 3/12)
- 3** *Scadoxus puniceus* PAINTBRUSH FLOWER (Ken Blackford, San Diego, 3/12)
- Scilla peruviana* PERUVIAN SCILLA, GIANT SCILLA (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 3/12)
- 3** *Sparaxis tricolor* HARLEQUIN FLOWER (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 3/12)
- 3** *Veltheimia bracteata* (Ken Blackford, San Diego, 3/12)
- Watsonia* sp. or cv. (dwarf) (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 3/12)
- Watsonia* sp. probably *Watsonia meriana* var. *bulbilifera* (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 3/12) ☞




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MARCH MEETING REPORT

By Susi Torre-Bueno



Our March meeting featured a pair of garden speakers and veggie growers, whose book, *From Seed to Skillet*, is sure to please on several levels. Jimmy Williams comes from many generations of farmers and learned his craft from his African-American grandmother who carried on a venerable Gullah tradition of growing food from treasured heirloom seeds. His other grandmother was half Shinnecock Indian and her heritage also informed his gardening ethic. Susan Heeger, his co-author and fellow speaker, has many fine articles on gardening and related subjects to her credit, and they make a great team. Jimmy's responses to Susan's questions about his experiences was an interesting format, and the photos from their book were so enticing – they sold nearly every copy that was available that night.

Jimmy started gardening at four years old, and loved the process as much as the results. His nostalgic comments about growing up with a garden-wise grandmother who wasted nothing left me eager to go home and start more worm beds and consider pit composting. He grows the same plants – from seeds he saved – that she grew, and sells his seedlings at three L. A. farmers' markets and elsewhere. He is a strong advocate for continuously enriching your soil, using raised beds (which he thinks should be 12" – 18" deep), and starting seeds in pots before transplanting them into the garden. "Good soil is 80% of the whole thing," Jimmy assured us. He uses worm tea as both a foliar spray on plants and a soaking liquid for seeds to speed up their germination.

After hearing Jimmy talk about the heirloom Gosecreek tomatoes he grew up with (and still loves), it's comforting to know they can be mail ordered from <http://heirloomtomatoplants.com>. We learned about perennial collard "trees" that grow to 15' tall and produce edible leaves all year; about fava beans (all parts of the plant are edible), and also that the leaves of broccoli and cauliflower are good to eat. Among the tips Jimmy shared: separate your beet and carrot seedlings when they're about 4-5" tall and plant them in the garden at the correct spacing; Charles Darwin was "the first earthworm nut;" use a rolling pin to break up the seeds of chard and beets for quicker germination; while we can grow many plants all year 'round in our climate, some (like lettuce, kale and broccoli) taste better in winter.

If you missed this inspiring talk and want to learn more about veggie gardening, you can borrow the video of it – and/or their excellent book – when you attend an upcoming meeting. ☺

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April 14 . 9 am – 5 pm AND April 15 . 9 am – 4 pm

ASIAN ARTS IN THE GARDEN

Ikebana floral arrangements from the Sogetsu School made by students of Rumi Rice—the Keiri Study Group.

Demonstrations at 1 pm and 3 pm both days

- Bonsai displays of Tray Landscape, Saikei, Kusamono, and more
- Sunday 12pm Tea ceremony by Soryo Ayako Stott
- Sunday 2 pm, Shokenji Taiko, a Japanese-style drumming group
- Experts with international recognition will be available all weekend

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



www.SDBGarden.org

Patricia Fuchs

Save the Date



Spring brings flowers and flowers bring the annual Encinitas Garden Festival & Tour. This year, we visit a little-known corner of Leucadia where gardens overflow with art and with artists. Sculptures stand aside sculptural succulents, columnar cacti, and fancy foliage. One garden looks like the old west, another is home to a collection of cows.

Shop in the Gardener's Marketplace, learn gardening tips from experts, enjoy fabulous food. **Join us!**

Tickets on sale
March 10



7TH ANNUAL

Encinitas Garden Festival & Tour

April 21, 2012 • 10 am to 4:30 pm

Visit a little-known corner of Leucadia to stroll through

- A tropical oasis filled with rare plants
- A private sanctuary garden with French touches
- A historic Spanish home and garden
- A birder's paradise of native plants
- Canyonside gardens with stunning views of habitat and ocean
- Artists' gardens and much, much more!

Shop the FREE Gardeners' Marketplace

Purchase plants, garden supplies, art and crafts and more. Hear talks on topics such as backyard vineyards, gardening with natives, chicken gardening, and using art in the garden.

Garden Tour Admission

Adults \$21 in advance (\$25 on the day)

Children (10 and younger) \$7 (\$10 on the day).

Become a volunteer or sponsor today!

Information

info@encinitasgardenfestival.org

760.753.8615

www.EncinitasGardenFestival.org



facebook

Purchase Tickets at these Nurseries

Anderson La Costa Nursery

400 La Costa Ave, Encinitas 92024 • (760) 753-3153

Barrels & Branches

1452 Santa Fe Drive, Encinitas 92024 • (760) 753-2852

Cedros Gardens

330 S. Cedros, Solana Beach 92075 • (858) 792-8640

Glorious Gardens Landscape

495 Leucadia Blvd., Encinitas 92024 • (888) 493-7472

Green Gardens Nursery

4910 Cass Street, Pacific Beach 92109 • (858) 483-7846

Green Thumb

1019 W. San Marcos Blvd, San Marcos 92078
(760)744-3822

Sunshine Gardens

155 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas 92024
(760) 436-3244

The Madd Potter

310 North Coast Hwy 101, Encinitas 92024
(760) 635-1641

Weidner's Gardens

695 Normandy Road, Encinitas 92024
(760) 436-2194

Or online www.EncinitasGardenFestival.org

Voices for Children invites you to a lecture by

Vanessa Diffenbaugh

Child advocate and bestselling author
of “The Language of Flowers”

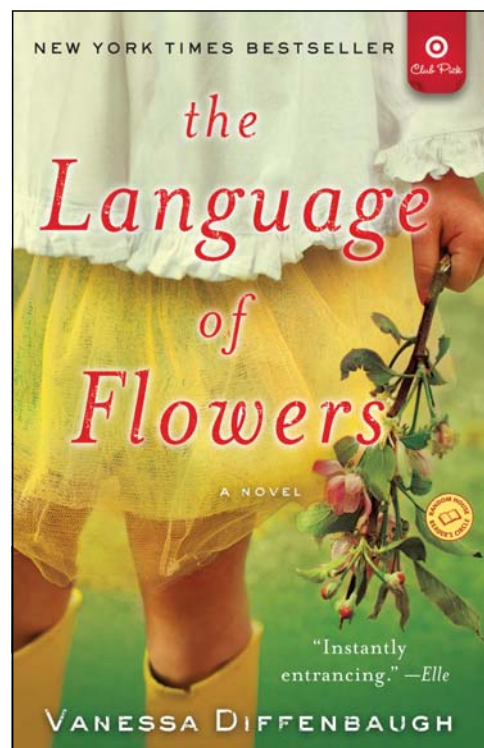
Thursday, April 26, 2012

7 p.m. Lecture; 8 p.m. Book signing

Irwin M. Jacobs Qualcomm Hall
5775 Morehouse Drive, San Diego, 92121

Free to Voices for Children volunteers
\$10 General Public

**To register for the event and for more
information, visit the Voices for Children
website at www.speakupnow.org or
call (858) 598-2232**



Vanessa Diffenbaugh, author of *The New York Times* bestseller, *The Language of Flowers*, is joining forces with Voices for Children to help raise awareness about the realities of the foster care experience, the inspiration for her novel.

The Language of Flowers creates a portrait of a young woman whose gift for flowers helps her change the lives of others even as she confronts her own difficult past. This poignant story is true to the emotional complexities of the foster care journey. The Victorian tradition of the “language of flowers” was used in the 19th century to convey romantic or emotional expressions. But for Victoria Jones, the protagonist in Diffenbaugh’s novel, it has been more useful in communicating grief, mistrust, and solitude. After a childhood spent in the foster care system, she is unable to get close to anybody, and her only connection to the world is through flowers and their meanings.

Warwick’s will be at the event, with books available for sale.

A CHILD HEARD.



**VOICES
FOR
CHILDREN.**

A LIFE CHANGED.

For more than 30 years, Voices for Children has provided San Diego County foster children with volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) to ensure the children’s needs are met in the courtroom, classroom and community. Have 10-15 hours a month to help change the life of a foster child? Learn more by calling (858) 598-2235.

www.speakupnow.org • (858) 598-2232



Do you have 10-15 hours a month to help a foster child, or know someone who does?

Voices for Children needs volunteer advocates to help the 360 most vulnerable children on our waiting list

For 32 years, Voices for Children has provided volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) to abused and neglected children in San Diego County to ensure their needs are met in the courtroom, classroom and community. This year, Voices' more than 800 volunteers will serve 1,400 children, from infants to teens, in all corners of the county.

However, Voices for Children has identified 360 children on our waiting list who are in urgent need of a CASA, and just launched our largest volunteer recruitment effort ever to find new advocates. Called Campaign 360, the name reflects the 360 children and the initiative's focus: to use the community's circles and networks to help recruit CASAs. We need YOU to become a CASA or your help to find one!

What you can do:

- Come, or bring a friend to a 90-minute information session about becoming a CASA volunteer
- Have Voices for Children speak at your company, association or community group
- Include an article about this volunteer opportunity in your newsletter, on your website, etc.
- "Like" us on Facebook so that you can easily share news with your friends and family
- Distribute Voices for Children volunteer recruitment flyers in your community

With your help, we can change foster children's lives!
Learn more about becoming a volunteer advocate at www.speakupnow.org



Have ideas on how to raise awareness of Campaign 360? Contact us!
Jennifer Morrissey, Communications & Marketing: jenniferm@speakupnow.org





SPRING GARDEN FESTIVAL

Saturday, April 28 • 9am to 4pm • Cuyamaca College

www.cuyamaca.edu/springfest

 gardening	Plant Sale Garden Clubs Animal Encounters International Food Plaza Horticulture Demonstrations Expert Landscape Design Advice Water Smart Gardening Plaza Gardening Books Face Painting Arts & Crafts Live Music	 urban farming
 sustainability	 education	
 art	 family & community	

Cuyamaca College

900 Rancho San Diego Parkway • El Cajon, CA CA 92019 • www.cuyamaca.edu/springfest



FREE PARKING • FREE ADMISSION • FREE PARKING • FREE ADMISSION

The Spring Garden Festival

“Urban Farming”

Saturday, April 28, 2012

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Urban Farming

- Bee Keeping and Honey!
- Creating your own small scale urban farm
- Raising Chickens, goats and more in an urban setting

Plant Sale

- Largest Plant Sale of the year at the Ornamental Horticulture Nursery!
- Horticultural demonstrations and displays

Animal Encounters

- Meet “Hoot and Holla”, the nesting barn owls and their brood of owlets at the Water Conservation Garden!
- Barnyard Petting Zoo

“Ask the Experts”

- Talk with experts about landscape design, tree care, composting and worm composting, water conservation methods, fire resistant landscaping and veggie gardening tips.

Water Smart Plaza

- San Diego water agencies and water smart technology vendors help you save water inside and outside the home.
- Greywater to Garden - How to Install a Washing Machine Greywater System

Exhibitors and Vendors

- Featuring horticulture organizations and educational demonstrations, conservation and sustainability information, gardening-related products, and arts and crafts.

Children’s Activities

- Ms. Smarty Plants will entertain and educate!
- Face Painting, Bounce House, Paper bag Hat making

Live Entertainment

- Bagpipes, tribal music, country blue-grass and more!

Our Sponsors



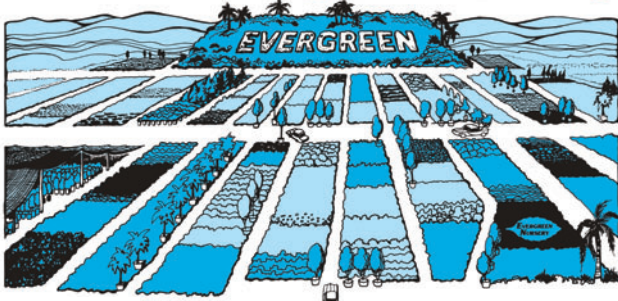
What's Happening? for April 2012

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

Send calendar listings by the 10th of the month before the event to Neal King at calendar@sdhortsoc.org.

▼ SDHS Sponsor

DISCOVER EVERGREEN NURSERY



Landscaping? Relandscaping?
Just Sprucing Up Your Yard?

WHY PAY MORE?

BUY DIRECT FROM THE GROWER AND SAVE!

ONE STOP SHOPPING

Incredible selection. Over 500 varieties on 400 acres.
From small color packs to huge specimen trees.

DRIVE THRU SHOPPING

Use your car as a shopping cart!!!



UNBEATABLE VALUE

The discount houses and depots can't compete
with our grower direct prices.

Come on out and see for yourself!

- 1 gallon plants starting at \$2.90
- 5 gallon plants starting at \$9.00
- 15 gallon plants starting at \$35.00

PROMPT DELIVERY AVAILABLE

Our New Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 7:30-5:00

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

FREE MONTHLY SEMINAR

First Saturday of every month

Starting at 10am at both locations

April 7 - Landscape Design Workshop

Do you have a new yard or one that needs to be rejuvenated? Are you a do-it-yourselfer? Learn about amending your soil, irrigation dos and don'ts, planning, choosing, and planting your landscape correctly.

April 21 - Starting a Vegetable/Herb Garden

What it takes to grow your own vegetables and herbs. Learn the best techniques for growing in containers, or raised beds, or just planting directly into your garden.

Seminars are free; refreshments will be provided.

All participants will get a coupon for future purchases.

For more details or to view our entire seminar schedule, visit us at

www.evergreennursery.com

Send questions and comments to:
info@evergreennursery.com

Two Convenient Locations:

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

OCEANSIDE
3231 Oceanside Blvd.
(760) 754-0340

Events at Public Gardens

❖ **Alta Vista Gardens** contact info on other side
April 1, 2pm-5pm, Guided Walkabout: Tour of the garden & the garden art; \$5 incl. 1 drink.
April 28, 10am-3pm, Earth Day Festival: Members free; non-members \$2.

❖ **San Diego Botanic Garden** contact info on other side
April 12, 10am - 12:30pm, Ladybug Day - see website for details.
April 14-15, Asian Arts in the Barden: See back cover & page 10.

❖ The Water Conservation Garden

contact info on other side

April 4, 10am-12pm, Hillside Gardening: Learn how to make the most of gardening on a slope. \$20/Members, \$25/Non-Members.

April 14, 9:30-11:30am, Nature's Tiny Treasures: Succulent Craft Class: a succulent planter in your tiny container. \$10/Members, \$20/Non-Members.

April 17, 8am - 2pm, FREE Water Smart Gardening Workshop for Teachers: Info: Susan Bohlander at (858) 522-6720 or sbohlander@sdcwa.org.

April 24, 6:30 - 8:30pm, Designing a Drought-Tolerant Landscape: Learn the principles of landscape design, examine the ways plants are used. \$20/Members, \$25/Non-Members.

April 28, 9am-4pm, Spring Garden Festival: Ask the Experts, Exhibitors, Vendors and more.

Free Events by SDHS Sponsors:

Please thank them for supporting SDHS!

❖ **Cedros Gardens, Saturday and Sunday FREE morning classes.** Details at www.cedrosgardens.com; address in ad on page 17.

April 1, 11am -- Eat-able Landscape

April 7, 10am and April 8, 11am -- Citrus Trees

April 14, 10am and April 15, 11am -- Succulents in a Container

April 21, 10am and April 22, 11am -- Mia's "Tomato Talk"

April 28, 10am -- Container Herb Class

April 29, 11am -- Steve Goto's "Tomato Talk"

❖ **City Farmers Nursery FREE Classes**

See www.cityfarmersnursery.com or call (619) 284-6358

April 1, 1pm, Raising Chickens: How to care for our feathered friends.

April 14, 1pm, Rising Goats in the City: Great for goat milk.

April 22, 1pm, Hard Aged Cheeses: Learn the basics of aging cheeses.

April 29, 1pm, Beginning Beekeeping: Got honey? Learn the basics.

❖ **Evergreen Nursery FREE Workshops on April 7 & 21**

See column at left for details.

❖ **Grangetto's Farm & Garden Supply FREE Workshops**

April 7, 10am-noon, Planting Spring Veggies Workshop: The best soils to use, planting care, feeding and maintenance. Valley Center. See www.grangettos.com; see ad page 21.

❖ **Walter Andersen Nursery FREE Saturday Classes**

Details at www.walterandersen.com; addresses in ad on page 15

Point Loma, 9am

April 7 Herbs: Care & Uses

April 14 Houseplantss

April 21 Azaleas

April 21 (1pm) Soil & Amendments

April 28 Tomatoes: Variety & Care

Poway, 9:30am

no class

Citrus & Avocados

Burpee Vegetables

no afternoon class

Children's Garden

❖ **Sunshine Care FREE Workshop**

April 21, 10:30am, Gowing Heirloom & Uncommon Tomatos.

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

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

9am - 2pm, April 14 & 21 (various locations)

Get information from gardening experts and save as much as 50% on select varieties of low-water-use plants at San Diego County Garden-Friendly Plant Fairs at some of The Home Depot locations. Details at www.watersmartsd.org.

Next SDHS Meeting:

April 9, 6:00pm - Fitting California Natives into California-Style Gardens

See page 1 for details

Other Garden-Related Events:

Please check with hosts to confirm dates & details

◆ **Apr. 6, 1:30pm, Vista Garden Club:** Designing for the flower show. Gloria McClellan Senior Center, Brengle Terrace Park, 1400 Vale Terrace. See www.vistagardenclub.org.

Other Garden-Related Events:

continued from other side

Check with hosts to confirm dates & details

◆ **Apr. 7 & 8, 10am-4pm, Southern California Plumeria Society:** Annual Plumeria Cutting Sale. Cash or check only. FREE. Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, room 101. Info: www.socalplumeriasociety.com.

◆ **Apr. 10, 10am-noon, Dos Valles Garden Club:** How to build healthy garden soil. FREE. 31020 Cole Grade Road, Valley Center. Info: (760) 751-7470 or www.dosvallesgardenclub.org.

◆ **Apr. 11, 10:30am, Poway Valley Garden Club:** Hydroponics, Aquaponics and Organics. 14134 Midland Road, Poway. Info: www.powayvalleygardenclub.org or (858) 672-2593.

◆ **Apr. 11, noon, Ramona Garden Club:** Local wildflowers. 524 Main St., Ramona. Info: www.ramonagardenclub.com or (760) 789-8774.

◆ **Apr. 14, 9am-3pm, Poway Valley Garden Club:** Standard Flower Show and Giant Plant Sale. Old Poway Park, 14134 Midland Road, Poway. Info: www.powayvalleygardenclub.org or (858) 748-1025.

◆ **Apr. 14, 10am-noon, Urban Plantations Seminar:** Organic Pest Management and Disease Prevention. 10300 Campus Point Dr. \$45. Info: www.urbanplantations.com.

◆ **Apr. 14, 1-4pm, San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society:** Plants and Habitats of Mexico & Cuba; talk by Jeremy Spath. Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 101. Info: www.sdcss.net.

◆ **Apr. 16, 10am - 4pm, Point Loma Garden Club:** 50th anniversary plant sale. 3598 Talbot St.. Info: (619) 223-2051 or www.plgc.org.

◆ **Apr. 17, 6:30pm, California Native Plant Society:** On The Brink: The Ten Most Endangered Plants In San Diego County. Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado Botanical Library, Room 104. Info: www.cnpsd.org or (619) 282-8687.

◆ **Apr. 21, 1-5pm & April 22, 10am-4pm, Coronado Flower Show and Plant Sale:** Sale 7:30am-noon Saturday, show starts 1pm. 601 Orange Ave. \$5, under 12 and CFA Members free. Info: www.coronadoflowershow.org.

◆ **April 23, 6:30pm, Raised Bed & Row Gardening:** Tips and Tricks for a successful harvest! S. D. Edible Garden Society. FREE. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, room 104. Info: www.sdedible.org.

◆ **Apr. 24, 2pm Lake Hodges Native Plant Club:** Challenges in maintaining natural lands. 17110 Bernardo Center Drive, San Diego. Info: www.lhnpc.org or (858) 487 6661.

◆ **Apr. 26, 7pm, "The Language of Flowers":** with Vanessa Diffenbaugh, author of the bestselling novel. **Details on insert;** for more information, visit www.speakupnow.org or call Voices for Children at (858) 569-2019.

◆ **Apr. 27 - 28, 9:30am-5pm, Del Mar Rose Society Rose Show:** Hundreds of roses on exhibit at the Del Mar County Library. Free. 1309 Camino Del Mar, Del Mar.

◆ **Apr. 28 (1-5pm), 29 (10am-5pm), 30 (10am-4pm), Dos Valles Garden Club:** Flower and Horticultural Show "A Moment in Time"; plus a Plant Sale. Free. 24596 Crown Hill Lane, Escondido. Info: www.dosvallesgardenclub.org.

◆ **Apr. 28 (2-6pm), 29 (10am-4pm), Fallbrook Garden Club Flower Show:** "A Victorian Party Among the Petals." Free. 341 Heald Lane, Fallbrook. Info www.fallbrookgardenclub.org.

LOCAL GARDEN TOURS:

◆ **April 13, 10am-3pm, Lake Hodges Native Plant Club Spring Garden Tour:** Five private Poway gardens. \$15. Info: www.lhnpc.org/LHNPC/Garden_Tour_Information.html.

◆ **April 15, 2:00pm, FREE Native Plant Garden Tour:** Walking tour of 15 native plant gardens in Oceanside, with experts leading the tour. Meet at 2:00pm at St. Mary's School parking lot, 515 Wisconsin Ave.. Info & map: www.bvaudubon.org/native_plant_club.htm.

◆ **April 19, 10am-3:30pm, Bernardo Gardeners Spring Garden Tour:** Five private Rancho Bernardo gardens. \$15. Info: <http://bernardogardeners.org>.

◆ **April 21, 10am-4:30pm, Encinitas Garden Festival & Tour:** Advanced tour tickets are \$21, \$25 the day of event (if available). Info: www.encinitasgardenfestival.org. **SEE INSERT FOR DETAILS.**

◆ **April 28, 9am-3:30pm, Ramona Garden Club Garden Tour & Plant Sale:** 7 gardens on tour. 1275 Main St., Ramona. Tour \$20. Info: www.ramonagardenclub.com or (760) 789-1910.

◆ **April 28, 10am-4pm, Point Loma Garden Walk:** Self-guided walking tour of private residential gardens, and a fantastic garden boutique; \$25, www.pointlomagardenwalk.com.

◆ **April 28 & 29, Native Plant Garden Tour:** 25 gardens all over San Diego County, \$20, www.cnpsd.org

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

Resources & Ongoing Events

ALTA VISTA BOTANIC GARDENS: Open Monday-Friday 7:00-5:00 ; 10:00-5:00 on weekends. Fee: \$2. 1270 Vale Terrace Drive, Vista. Info: www.avgardens.org 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

BALBOA PARK:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Garden TV and Radio Shows:

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

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