

Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

June 2009, Number 177

Annual Special Evening

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**SAN DIEGO
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY**

On the Cover: Little & Lewis Garden

MAY MEETING PHOTOS BY STACEY DORES



xGasteraloe 'Bill Baker'



Euphorbia inermis var. *huttonae*



Rebutia flavistyla



Tillandsia fasciculata



Vriesea hybrid



Curcuma longa



Paphiopedilum Ho Chi Minh



Aeonium arboreum var. *rubrolineatum*



Brassica juncea 'Red Giant'

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San Diego County Fair Flower &
Garden Show

COVER IMAGE: Although small in size, the Little and Lewis Garden feels "monumental" as you wander through the pathways and rooms. The placement of architectural plants and sculptures (notice the alligator lower center) adds to feeling of discovery and mystery at every turn. Photo by Barbara Denk.

The San Diego Horticultural Society

MEETINGS

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

MEETING SCHEDULE

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

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS IN 2009

- June 12 – July 5** San Diego County Fair Display Garden
- July 13** Perennials, Trees and Shrubs for the Southwest, by Mary Irish
(members free, non-members \$5)
- August 10** Special event to honor Steve Brigham as Horticulturist of the Year

www.sdhortsoc.org

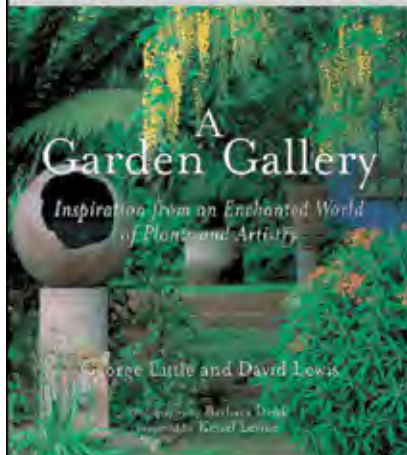
The Garden as Companion

A Special Evening with the enchanting George Little & David Lewis

Monday, June 8, 7:00PM (door open 6:15pm)

SPECIAL LOCATION in Mission Valley:

Scottish Rite Event Center, 1895 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego, CA 92108



In the ongoing relationship with a garden, the gardener soon finds him or herself in a partnership as vital as any in life. As a work of passion and imagination, one's garden soon takes on personality, becomes a living entity that returns as much - or more - than it receives. George Little and David Lewis, internationally celebrated artists and gardeners, will speak of their experience in developing this deep companionship and of learning to let the garden speak of what it wants to be. Their gorgeous book will be available for sale.

Seating is Limited - \$15/members, \$20/non-members
Reserve your seat TODAY at www.SDHortSoc.org



The Mission of the San Diego Horticultural Society

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

ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER 1994

SDHS BOARD MEMBERS

- Judy Bradley** – First Vice President, Co-Chair-Program Committee
Mark Collins – Finance/Budget Committee
Julian Duval – Quail Botanical Gardens Representative
Jason Kubrock – Second Vice President, Co-Chair-Events & Outreach Committee
Carol Ann Lewin – Co-Chair-Program Committee
Sheldon Lisker – Co-Chair Membership Committee
Jackie McGee – Treasurer, Chair-Budget & Finance Committee
Susan Morse – Co-Chair Membership Committee, Program Committee
Sally Sandler – Member at Large
Cindy Sparks – Chair-Publicity Committee
Bill Teague – Co-Chair-Events & Outreach Committee, Opportunity Drawing & Plant Raffle
Susi Torre-Bueno – President, Newsletter Editor
Paula Verstraete – Volunteer Coordinator
Don Walker – Past President
Lucy Warren – Secretary, Liaison to H&G Shows
Jim Wright – Member at Large

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

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

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

Sponsorship Info: Susan Morse, sponsor@sdhortsoc.org

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BECOME A SPONSOR!

Do you own a garden-related business?

SDHS sponsorships have high recognition and valuable benefits, including a link to your website, discounts on memberships for your employees, and free admission to SDHS events. This is a wonderful way to show your support for the SDHS. Sponsors help pay for our free meetings, annual college scholarships, and other important programs. Sponsorships start at just \$100/year; contact Susan Morse at sponsor@sdhortsoc.org.

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

We thank them for their extra support!

Important Member Information

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

1: Volunteer Coordinator Co-Chair

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

2: Garden Tours Chair

Now that Pat Hammer has left the board (see page 5), we're looking for someone to take over the leadership of our Tour Committee. This person will help plan future local and out-of-town garden tours. Much of the detail work for the long distance tours is done by a travel agent, greatly simplifying your task. If you'd like to learn more call Susi Torre-Bueno at (760) 295-7089.

WIN A PLANT BEFORE THE BREAK!

At our monthly meetings we sell Opportunity Drawing tickets for swell plants that are donated and/or sold to us by local nurseries. But not all our members can stay for the very end of the meeting (when we have done the drawing). We're now doing the drawing BEFORE the break, so everyone will have the opportunity to win a great plant. Proceeds from the drawing go to support the SDHS and help pay for the meeting room.

THANKS VOLUNTEERS!

Thanks to the fine volunteers who helped staff our membership and information table at events in April and May. On April 25 Sandy Wiksten and Pat Venolia represented us at the Earth Day event at Alta Vista Garden in Vista. That same day Membership Co-Chair Susan Morse and Mark Collins handled our table at the Master Gardeners' Spring Seminar. At the April 26 Earth Day event at Mission San Luis Rey our booth was staffed by Susan Morse, Jane Morton, Cathy Tylka, and Nancy Woodard. The following folks helped Susan Morse at the Flower Fields on May 2-3: Nikki Alexander, Zepher and Judy Carlyle, and Jane Morton.

GARDEN TOUR POSTPONED

We had planned to have our next local garden tour on June 13, but have postponed this until next fall. Details will be in a future newsletter. ☺

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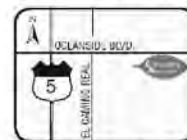
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Spring/Summer HOURS
 Monday-Thursday..7:30am-5:00pm
 Friday-Saturday.....7:30am-6:00pm
 Sunday.....9:00am-5:00pm

To Learn More...

ART IN THE GARDEN

By Ava Torre-Bueno

This month's speakers, George Little and David Lewis, are both artists and gardeners. Their web site is <http://www.littleandlewis.com>. Make sure to click on all the picture thumbnails to see the variety of their sculptural work.

Another sculpture garden is in San Francisco and belongs to a refuse company. Their garden is graced with found-object art:

<http://www.sunsetscavenger.com/AIR/sculpturegarden.php?t=d>

Scroll down to "Art in the Garden" and click on any picture and it will take you to a slide show of all the sculptures.

Smaller and more local sculpture for the garden can be found at Clay Associates in San Diego, which also has a beautiful low-water succulent garden out front which you can visit any time:

<http://www.clayassociates.org/june2007/index.htm> and

<http://www.clayassociates.org/sales.htm>

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

FREE Mosquito Fish

By Linda Johnson

As if the swine flu is not scary enough... West Nile Virus, transmitted by mosquitoes, may be lurking in a pond, birdbath, or fountain in your garden! Mosquitoes are carriers of many diseases in addition to West Nile Virus. They thrive in neglected pools, animal troughs, and other standing water sources, and are a threat to public health and safety. Prevent the spread of this virus by taking advantage of a County of San Diego Vector Control Program that offers free mosquito fish! Protect yourself and your community by eliminating the threat of West Nile Virus with mosquito fish, which eat mosquito larvae. There are 11 locations where fish are provided to the public. For distribution locations and more information on mosquito fish and West Nile Virus, visit www.sdfightthebite.com or call (858) 694-2888. ☞



Master Gardener Plant Sale

The San Diego County Master Gardener Association will be holding its 4th Annual Summer Plant Sale on Saturday, June 20, 2009 from 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Casa Del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park. The sale will feature a large selection of drought tolerant plants, heirloom and unusual vegetables, flowering perennials, tropicals, ferns, bulbs, herbs and much, much more. Come early for best selection. Info: call (858) 694-2860; website: www.mastergardenerssandiego.org. ☞

From The Board

By Susi Torre-Bueno

TREASURER NEEDED

Jackie McGee has done a fabulous job as our Treasurer since early 2006, and we thank her for her cheerful dedication, attention to detail, and willingness to take on new tasks. During her term she's gotten many things streamlined, too, so most of the transactions are now handled by the bookkeeper. Our bookkeeper, Teresa McGee (no relation), does the data entry, invoicing, bill paying, and many other tasks, and the Treasurer meets with Teresa about once a week.

Jackie is ready to train someone new to take over as Treasurer, so if you have a head for numbers and like working with spreadsheets, this is your dream job! We estimate that Jackie spends about 4-5 hours per week (on average). Please call Susi at (760) 295-7089 and let's talk!

FAREWELL, PAT

In late April I accepted the resignation of Pat Hammer, who has been an invaluable board member since 1997. Serving for many years as the Vice President, Pat was a very active member of several committees: working on the San Diego County Fair, the Spring and Fall Home/Garden Shows, the Garden Preview Party, garden tours, and much more. She was tremendously effective, and her frequently-sought advice guided us through many important decisions. Pat has a special gift for looking at several sides of an issue, and also a keen understanding of people, that was a great asset to the board. Pat will continue to help out in other ways, and is now helping to plan the August 10 special event to honor Steve Brigham; this will be held at Quail Botanical Gardens. Thanks, good friend, for a dozen years of excellent service – you'll be sorely missed.

OUR NEW WEBSITE

Watch your e-mail for an announcement that our new and greatly improved website is up and running. We're confident you'll be very pleased with the significant changes made by the website committee, which is led by Sally Sandler and includes Bill Teague, Shari Matteson and Jason Kubrock. Rachel Cobb, who is the graphic talent behind our newsletter, is also very much part of this effort.

The new website has a significantly updated look and feel. It also has new features, a more user-friendly approach, and will make it easy for people to learn more about the SDHS. There's even a link to Google Maps to make it easier for people to locate our meetings!

Many thanks to all the folks involved for such a terrific job on this portal to the Society. ☞



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Successful Drought Tolerant Gardening

Edited by Cindy Sparks

Drought Tolerant Gardening with Succulents: Consider This

By Jeff Moore, owner of Solana Succulents in Encinitas, and Cindy Sparks

This month we look into the world of succulents for good additions to your drought tolerant garden.

Why Succulents?

They are a designer's dream. They come in all colors: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple black, white and gray, and that's before they bloom. They come in all sizes: lush groundcover forms, striking specimen trees or shrubs, and any height from 20 feet to 1 inch. They have many different textures, from spiky to smooth, to downy soft to rock hard. They mix well with Mediterranean plants of similar water needs. Put the slower-growing succulents in front of faster-growing Mediterranean plants. (*Festuca glauca* is often paired with a succulent and won't out-pace it.) Aloe or gasteria blooms will practically guarantee hummingbirds. Want something foolproof? Try the As which thrive anywhere: aeoniums, aloes and agaves. There is only one "bad citizen" of the succulent world: invasive freeway iceplant, *Carpobrotus edulis* (*C. chilensis*) so it's tough to make a bad choice.

There are two things you need to do for a successful succulent garden design. First, elevate. Use a berm, raised bed or mound to give your plants the good drainage they require. It won't matter what kind of native soil is below the bed. If you don't have good garden soil for the berm, use any good amended topsoil.

Second, think rock. A designer's rule of thumb is to use half your budget for rocks. Rocks don't need water, you never prune nor feed them, and they always look their best. So rocks make a good garden investment. Plus, they give the plants their own special microclimate, soaking up heat from the sun and re-radiating it slowly at night. They mimic the natural conditions succulents like. Some plants, like the Dudleya, are happiest tucked in a rock crevice in a warm spot.

Succulents like it warm. Yes, it can be excessively warm in the furthest inland areas, where you might want to design with more cactus and place succulents with extra care. However, succulents tolerate a wide range of conditions, thriving in mixed shade to full sun. They also take miserly watering in stride because their leaves and stems store water. Watering once or twice a month is fine for all



Median planting at Nimitz Blvd. and Catalina Blvd., in Point Loma, design by Michael Buckner

but the "tiny guys" whose little root areas can't harvest over a wide area and who might like a hose squirt periodically during the hottest weather. Succulents seriously dislike heavy leaf litter and freezing temperatures, and simply won't take overwatering, which causes rot and death. Otherwise, they are easy-to-like garden citizens.

So what is the downside here? You need to do your homework, and commit yourself to either some study or the help of a professional. Plan for mature sizes, don't be afraid to mix sizes, and pay attention to the few winter dormant plants, best left in pots so you can bring them under cover during a wet winter. With these few tips, you are ready to explore a rich world of these drought tolerant beauties.

Next Month in our Series: Make Room for Birds in Your Yard

Series editor Cindy Sparks is a member of the SDHS board and also an enthusiastic Master Gardener. ☺

Plants That Produce

GREEN VEGGIES AND HERBS FOR EVERY GARDEN, PART II

By Richard Frost

If you want to have a really good thyme in your garden, I recommend you taste your herbs before buying them. Go ahead – break off a leaf and taste the plant you are considering. Smelling them is not good enough because culinary herbs usually taste differently than they smell.

Now for Thyme in particular, please taste-test 'Mother Of Thyme', 'English Thyme', and 'Golden Lemon Thyme'. For specialty applications such as herb bread or confections, you might also consider one of the many other thyme varieties such as 'Coconut' or 'Orange Spice'.

For Dill, go with Stephan Facciola's suggestion of 'Superdukat' (see *Cornucopia II*, Vista Press). Since Dill looks similar to Sweet Fennel, grow these plants in separate areas. A third notable herb with feather-leaf textures is Delfino Cilantro – a 2006 All-American selection that lives longer and provides a larger harvest than the standard variety.

To go with your feathery herbs, you might as well grow some spiky things like Chives and Scallions. They not only provide zest to a wide range of dishes, but also add interesting texture, colorful blooms, and scent to the garden.

Speaking of sweet things, most of you will probably grow Sweet Basil. But have you tried other annual basil cultivars like 'Blue Spice', 'Lime', and 'Red Rubin'? (Warning – there are as many varieties of Basil as there are Tomatoes.) Further, did you know that the flower buds contain more oil than the leaves? Let the buds develop ½ to 1 inch in length and then make fresh pesto or dry them for sprinkles. If you don't like the buds, you should still remove them from the annual varieties to prolong the life of the plant. Finally, if you are growing the *perennial* basil varieties 'Blue African' or the peppery 'Greek Columnar', then you can let these blossoms grow to a full 6 or 8 inches without worry of the plants terminating.

When it comes to Oreganos, there are opinions as strong as the herb can be in taste. The standard kind that you find generically labeled in U.S. supermarkets is 'Italian'. On the milder, sweeter side is 'Sweet Oregano', which many people know by the name 'Marjoram'. The white oregano cultivar 'Kaliteri' is even milder but with a traditional oregano taste. For regular oregano with a peppery taste, try 'Greek' (a small bite will be sufficient for most people). The middle-eastern variety 'Za'atar' is the main ingredient of a sauce of the same name and has pleasant cumin-like overtones. The most pungent oregano I have ever tried is 'Syrian', which will stand out in almost any dish. In impoverished regions from Turkey through Pakistan, people eat two or three meals a day of wild Syrian oregano 'salad' gathered from the hillsides.

If you enjoy making teas and flavored drinks, then there are mints, mints, and more mints to entice your taste buds. In my non-rigorous poll, the white mint cultivar 'Mojito' is popular with almost everyone and the hands-down winner. The second runner-up for teas is the spearmint cultivar called 'The Best'. Another popular spearmint cultivar is 'Mint Julep'. More on the culinary side, 'Chocolate', 'Lavender', and 'Orange' are in strong demand. Mint is very invasive and should be grown in a pot on a hard surface (so that roots coming out of the bottom of the pot can't root in soil).

For natural sweeteners, you can grow Stevia and the Verbena relative Aztec Sweet Herb. I prefer the latter because it is a bit hardier in our climate and is beautiful flowing out of a pot or mounding in the garden. Stevia may also be contraindicated for some medical conditions.

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

Garden Gourmet

IT'S THE BERRIES

By Alice Lowe



I'm basking in a strawberry glow. Since February, every one of my CSA (Community-Supported Agriculture) deliveries has included anywhere from one to four boxes of freshly picked, ripe, organic strawberries. Our long season extends throughout spring and summer, sometimes into fall. Lucky you if you grow them yourself, in beds, strawberry pots or hanging baskets. But even if you don't, there's not likely to be a scarcity for quite a while at Farmers' Markets and stores like Baron's, Henry's and Ocean Beach People's Market, that feature local produce. (But watch out for the ones that have white centers – they've been picked too soon and won't be as sweet.)

The best thing you can do with strawberries is, of course, to just eat them, straight out of the carton – the riper and fresher the better. And, of course, there are all the all-American desserts – strawberry pie and strawberry shortcake, or sliced on top of breakfast cereal, waffles, yogurt, or ice cream. But strawberries aren't just for breakfast or dessert – they can add color and cachet to so many warm-weather meals.

Spinach and strawberry salads have been luncheon favorites for a long time, with countless recipes appearing in newspapers and magazines, or passed around workplaces. I recently came up with one that I liked so much I had it on four consecutive days. I tossed them with avocado, sliced mushrooms, blue cheese, slivered almonds, and crisp-fried pancetta bits. My dressing was a simple vinaigrette with shallots, Dijon mustard and sherry vinegar, rather than the sweet dressings often served with fruity salads.

Strawberries make a wonderful chilled soup or gazpacho. Cucumber, red onion, and peppers are the perfect contrasting ingredients, along with other seasonal fruit. Keep a little of each aside, and puree the rest in the food processor with water. Before serving, stir in some lime juice and perhaps some sparkling wine (Prosecco is my choice). Dice the reserved fruit and vegetables, and use them as a garnish with parsley, cilantro, or other fresh herbs, finishing with a dollop of sour cream or plain yogurt.

Try a sandwich of sliced strawberries with herbed cream cheese and arugula on whole grain bread. Or make a burrito out of leftover chicken, with strawberries, cabbage, feta cheese, and Kalamata olives. And don't forget strawberry salsa, mixed with mango or pineapple, green onions or chives, cilantro and/or mint leaves, jalapeno and lime juice – great on fish tacos. If you love strawberries as I do, you'll find lots of different and delicious ways to use them.

Member Alice Lowe loves to read, garden, cook and eat, not necessarily in that order. ☞

2009 Horticulturist of The Year: Steve Brigham



THE BIRTH OF A PLANTSMAN

By Steve Brigham

Every year the board of the San Diego Horticultural Society selects an important member of the local horticultural community to honor as our Horticulturist of the Year. The award recognizes an individual for a lifetime of achievement and service. For our 14th Annual Horticulturist of the Year Award for Excellence in Horticulture we are proud to honor a founding board member: passionate horticulturist and nurseryman **Steve Brigham**. Steve is the author of the SDHS book, *Ornamental Trees for Mediterranean Climates*, and for many years he wrote a monthly newsletter column on important local gardening issues. Congratulations, Steve!

Previous recipients of the award have been Chuck Kline, Charles Coburn, Sinjen, Charles Ledgerwood, Edgar Engert, Evelyn Weidner, Walter Andersen, Pat Welsh, Vincent Lazaneo, our founder Don Walker, Jane Minshall, Bill Nelson, and Chuck Ades. Steve lived in North San Diego County from 1980 to 2008. In the course of his 35-year career, he has worked both as an employee and a volunteer for several major botanical gardens and nurseries, and has introduced many flowering plants into the nursery trade. In 1988 he founded Buena Creek Gardens in San Marcos, a retail rare plant nursery that he owned from 1996 to 2008. Steve's mission is, "to collect, grow, display, promote, and distribute new and uncommon varieties of ornamental plants for California gardens."

We asked Steve to share some of his experiences with us, and he graciously has written the following account of his background in horticulture. Steve's story will continue in the next two newsletters. We hope you can join us as we honor Steve at a special event at Quail Botanical Gardens on Monday, August 10th – details in a future newsletter.

Over the course of any career, one comes to enjoy one's specialties more than anything else. But care must be taken, for the curse of the specialist is often to get so involved in esoterica that they lose perspective of the whole. That is something I have tried to avoid in my career, for as a nurseryman my job is to reach out to gardeners of all types, especially the beginners. Although I have spent some 35 furious years as a plantsman (with hopefully another 35 to go), I often think back to those innocent days when I too was a beginner. My story may not be all that special, but I hope it will interest you. If you're already "way into" gardening, perhaps you can identify with my story by remembering that time in your life when plants suddenly became a passion, not just an interest. If you are just now getting really interested in plants, perhaps you're curious as to how the mania begins. No matter what your experience level, all of us as gardeners have a great opportunity to share our love of plants and gardening with others. Perhaps my story will help.

Conventional wisdom teaches us that a passion for something is 10% inspiration and 90% perspiration. While that may be true in the long run, every passionate plant collector can remember moments of 100% inspiration that changed his or her life. In my case, I had long been interested in vegetable gardening since early childhood, and also interested in landscape gardening as a young adult. I had studied the *Sunset Western Garden Book*, and knew many of the most common ornamental plants. But as a college student I found myself working as a gardener at the University of California, Santa Cruz Arboretum, and that's when things began to change. Tending a large collection of proteas there made me realize that there was more to the world of plants than what was commonly available in nurseries. (My professor, the great naturalist and horticulturist Dr. Ray Collett, had by then already established an enormous collection of many kinds of unusual flowering plants at the Arboretum, and I was just getting to know them.) And then it happened.

One day, I went into one of the greenhouses to do some weeding, and I could not believe what I saw! An exotic and spectacular bright yellow flower had just been produced by a small subtropical tree that I had never paid much attention to before. The next day, there were more flowers, and more after that, and I was captivated! What I was seeing was *Tabebuia chrysostricha*, the Golden Trumpet Tree – a Brazilian plant that would change my life. I decided to do some homework, and soon found out that although this tree could in fact grow and bloom outdoors in Central California, it was practically non-existent in the local nursery trade. Even experienced nurserymen were stumped (but also rather embarrassed when I pointed out that it was in the *Sunset Western Garden Book*!). Somehow, I had to find out how I could get this plant!

And so I went to my professor, Ray, and told him how much I loved the Trumpet Tree. Ray could tell I had a newly found interest in subtropical flowers, and told me of the large collection of Trumpet Trees at the Los Angeles Arboretum in Arcadia. He also told me about a book, which I promptly found at the University library. More even than the Trumpet Tree, this one book really did change my life! The book was *Color for the Landscape*, edited by Dr. Mildred Mathias of UCLA (it was later revised and reprinted as *Flowering Plants in the Landscape*, which may still be available for sale at www.ucpress.edu). *Color for the Landscape* was a compilation of five color booklets that had been produced in the 1960's by the finest horticulturists in the Los Angeles area and featured page after page of beautiful color photos of the best subtropical flowering trees, shrubs, vines, perennials, and natives for California gardens. With great anticipation, I took this book to several Bay Area nurseries, but was disappointed to find out that practically none of the plants in the book were available for sale! This only made me more determined to find them, however, even if it meant a trip to (gulp!) *Los Angeles!*

Although it took a lot of courage for a Northern California boy to negotiate the gigantic Los Angeles Freeway System, I was undeterred in my search for the plants. As it turned out, at that time most of the plants I was looking for were rare even in Southern

Continued on page 16

Welcome New Members!

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

Meghan Blair	Chris & Grace Mathenson
Annalece Bokma	Eleanor Morrison
Linda Espino	Steve Skinner
Delores Fangon	Coraline Tucker & Caral Voss
Patrick Gutschow	Theresa Wilkinson
Bill Guy	Bob & Cindy Workman
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Kimberly Alexander (1)	Al & Dora Myrick (1)
Connie Beck (1)	Jan Neill (1)
Cecily Bird (1)	Jackie Ravel (1)
Linda Bresler (1)	Cindy Sparks (1)
Karylee Feldman (1)	Marcia Van Loy (1)
Lori Johansen (1)	Darlene Villanueva (1)
Susan Morse (1)	

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Take 10% off membership fees at **Quail Botanical Gardens**.

SEE THESE ADS FOR MORE DISCOUNTS: **Barrels & Branches, Botanical Partners, Buena Creek Gardens, Cedros Gardens, Courtyard Pottery, IGS, Kniffing's Discount Nurseries, Pacific Horticulture, The Plant Man** and **Solana Succulents**.

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Debra Lee Baldwin	Tina & Andy Rathbone
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Doris Engberg
Philip Tackill & Janet Wanerka
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Please join Quail Botanical Gardens as we open our world-class Hamilton Children's Garden on June 13 from noon to 4:00p.m. The grand opening festivities will include a ribbon cutting ceremony, entertainment and activities for the entire family all afternoon, light refreshments and more. The entertainment stage will feature a steel drum band, professional interactive story tellers, and an accomplished dance troupe. Throughout the garden exhibits there will be kid's crafts, musical entertainment, basket weaving, lima bean planting, and of course exploring the colossal Toni's Tree House. Please come prepared with walking shoes, sunscreen, hats, and smiles!

Remembering your own childhood, you may recall that it's often the uncomplicated joys of climbing, being on top, crawling through, looking under, and being first that inspire great memories. Toni's Tree House and the many other new exhibits won't disappoint. The opportunities for natural discovery are numerous. Just meander your way through Hamilton Children's Garden and be sure to visit Garden Rhythms, Earth Builders, the Elephant Foot Tree Forest, Quail Haven, Incredible Edibles, and more.

The Hamilton Children's Garden was made possible thanks to generous gifts of all sizes from hundreds of individuals and organizations within our community. On behalf of the children and families who will discover, explore, and experience the magic of nature within this special new Garden for generations to come, we thank them all.

Join us June 13th for a family-friendly celebration. Consider purchasing a commemorative tile, becoming a new member of the Gardens, or simply enjoying the merit. There will be a bonus of two extra months for those that become members at the grand opening. If you would like more information please visit our website at www.qbgardens.org or call (760) 436-3036 x218. ☘

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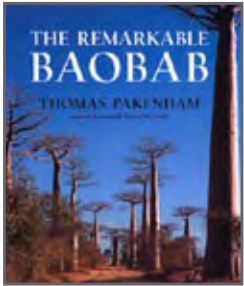
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Book Review

THE REMARKABLE BAOBAB

By Thomas Pakenham

Reviewed by **Caroline McCullagh**



For those of us who have been lucky enough to read *The Little Prince*, by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, there is a warning we'll never forget: "Children," I say plainly, "watch out for baobabs." And good advice it is, too. Irish author Thomas Pakenham has taken it to heart and has traveled around the world photographing these incredible trees in their natural habitat and "in captivity,"

that is, grown elsewhere.

"Why would I care?," you ask. Believe me, when you see these photos, you'll know why he and you care. Unfortunately, baobabs aren't native to California, so we can't grow them. (Who would have room?) This book may be as close as we'll ever get to the experience.

There are eight species of baobabs in the world. Six are native to Madagascar. One grows in much of the rest of sub-Saharan Africa, and one lonely species in Australia. (Pakenham believes the Australian species arrived there in the form of floating seeds.) Many are so impressive they are named individually by the people who live near them.

They're called "the trees that were planted upside down" because they have massive trunks and relatively scant branches and foliage that looks like roots to many observers. They can be as much as 150 feet in circumference, as much as 100 feet high, and as much as 2,000 years old. Establishing their age is difficult, though, because they don't form growth rings as other trees do. Their remarkable trunks are primarily water storage structures. The wood is so spongy, according to Pakenham, that you can drive a nail into it without a hammer. Because of that, they could be classified as succulents. And in fact, I chanced on this book at a sale at the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society meeting.

Pakenham's prose is relaxed and accessible. It reads much like a letter home. For example, he writes of arriving at Khubu Island in Botswana: "Our plane landed with a hiss on the shimmering flats; and I counted 30 baobabs commanding the ridge above me. Most of them took strange forms. There were slim bottles and fat bottles, all swaying like drunks. There was a vegetable market of carrots and parsnips. There was a zoo full of seals and sea lions. Some of the pink trees had adopted the shape of the pink rocks [on which they grew.]...If the African baobab is a prodigy, go to Khubu to see it in its most miraculous shape."

I do like his writing, but in case you don't that's okay, because the heart of this book is comprised of the photos and drawings of these wonderful trees.

Pakenham's other books include *Meetings with Remarkable Trees* and *Remarkable Trees of the World*, as well as a number of books on Irish and African history. *The Remarkable Baobab* (ISBN 0-297-8433-7) is hard bound and 143 pages long. It would make a good companion book to our own *Ornamental Trees for Mediterranean Climates*. ❧

Community Outreach

SUMMER OFFERS GARDENERS MORE THAN JUST WARMER WEATHER... FREE STUFF, TOO!

By Linda Johnson

FREE "Home Grown" Community Gardening Classes

Learn how to garden and grow food in your own backyard - or even in your community garden. Take advantage of free monthly classes with Master Gardeners/Composters Diane Hollister and Pete Ash. Diane, with a certificate in Ecological Horticulture from UC Santa Cruz, has been gardening for the past 29 years throughout California. She specializes in edible landscapes and teaches at Quail Botanical Gardens. Pete has extensive experience in agriculture and horticulture, including avocado and citrus grove management in San Diego County. He traveled to India, where he did hands-on intensive training in Biodynamic Agriculture and taught several workshops in organic gardening.

Classes are hosted by Agri Service Inc., and are held on the third Saturday of every month from 1:30 – 2:30 pm at the El Corazon Compost Facility, 3210 Oceanside Blvd, Oceanside. The summer schedule includes:

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The Real Dirt On...

WILLIS LINN JEPSON

By Joan Herskowitz



Willis Linn Jepson (1867-1946) is known as California's most eminent early botanist. He was an interpreter of the California flora and one of the greatest of American regional botanists. He published numerous books and articles that led thousands to appreciate California plants and natural settings, and his

Manual of the Flowering Plants of California, completed in 1925, was the first attempt to provide an informative identification manual for all the wild plants of California. It became a standard reference for students, teachers, and naturalists.

Jepson was born in 1867 in California near Vacaville in Solano County, and became interested in botany as a young boy, cataloguing plants of the southwestern Sacramento Valley and adjacent mountains and wetlands. A trip he made alone in the early eighties to the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco may have further determined his future career and life-long devotion to natural history and native plants. In 1899, he became the first person to receive a doctorate in botany from the newly established University of California. Almost at once he became an Assistant Professor at U.C. Berkeley, and he spent his entire career at Berkeley teaching and conducting studies in systematic botany. An outspoken conservationist, Jepson founded the California Botanical Society in 1913, and the Save-the-Redwoods League in 1918. He was 25 years old in 1892 when he, John Muir and Warren Olney, at an attorney's office in San Francisco, endorsed the incorporation papers for the formation of the Sierra Club.

Jepson's ultimate goal was to produce a flora of California that would treat all vascular plants at an almost monographic level. To this end, for many years he worked on the production of his ambitious, multi-volume *The Flora of California*, considered his greatest achievement and perhaps the outstanding regional flora thus far produced in this country. Although it was not completed when he died in 1946, his estate provided U.C. with funds to continue his work. The unit he endowed, the Jepson Herbarium and Library, is committed to Jepson's vision of increasing botanical knowledge and enthusiasm for native plants among the people of California.

In 1993, the UC Press published *The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California*, an updated version of Jepson's original manual. With contributions from 200 botanists, it incorporates the hundreds of new species identified over the years and new botanical research. *The Jepson Manual* has been the botanical bible of California flora for thousands of students and has contributed to an understanding and appreciation of the remarkably diversified vegetation of the state. (For details visit <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/jepman.html>.)

Jepson received many honors during his long, productive lifetime. A Saxifragaceae genus of flowering herbaceous plants, *Jepsonia*, and a host of commemorative specific plants, are named for him.

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 volunteers for the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy and at Quail Botanic Gardens, and is Co-Chair of the Conservation Committee of the Buena Vista Audubon Society. ☞

Above: Photo of Young Jepson in the Sierra Nevada (1911) reprinted with permission from the University & Jepson Herbaria, University of California, Berkeley

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- Visit the legendary *Ganna Walska Lotusland* for a private luncheon and tour of this extraordinary and passionate garden.
- Hear award-winning landscape designer **Pamela Berstler**, on *Digging Deeper with Eco-Restorative Practices*.
- Hear a leading native plant specialist and author, **Carol Bornstein**, on *Using California Native Plants in the Landscape*.
- See why *Santa Barbara Botanic Garden* is a treasure trove of California native plants, and mingle at a twilight wine reception.
- Hear landscape architect and author **Owen Dell** on *Sustainable Landscaping: A Visionary Look at the Future of Gardens*.
- Arrive a day early and relax with our optional Wine Country Tour on Friday, October 2.

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Regular early registration fee of \$320* includes the above PLUS

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For a registration form or questions contact Susi Torre-Bueno at medskies@sdhortsoc.org or (760) 295-2173
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SHARING SECRETS

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

The question for this month was:

What is your oldest potted plant?

Walter Andersen says: "Most of my containers have tomatoes in them, so not very old. I do have one pot that has *Sansevieria* growing in it. I think it is about 10 years old; requires almost no care. It is lucky to get some water once a month. Bullet proof plant."

Louise Anderson has a 23 year-old old goldfish: "*Nematanthus gregarius* (AKA Lipstick plant or goldfish plant); bought the original piece in 1986 at the swap meet in Costa Mesa right after I moved here from Detroit. It's still going well."

Barbara Clark has a really old plant: "My oldest potted plant is about 42 years old. It is a *Dracaena* with graceful ribbon-like leaves striped with rose and white. As I have moved around to three different homes it has gone with me in its container. It is about 5 feet tall and down to one trunk (the other trunks have died over the years even though I have cut them back, no new sprouts have grown.) I have planted new *Dracaenas* at the base of the plant and placed a large paper sunflower stalk in the pot to fill in the bare spot between the new plants and the leaves of the elder *Dracaena*. The arrangement gets visitor's attention with many asking, 'Is that sunflower real?'"

Bonnie Cosgrove's plant traveled across the U.S.: "My oldest plant is a miniature jade that traveled with me by car from New Jersey in 1977. I think it will live forever – certainly longer than me! It is very happily ensconced in a clay pot, where it has been for at least 8 years. I give it an annual haircut, water whenever it looks thirsty, which isn't often, and fertilize 2-3 times a year (max). It's the ideal plant in many ways!"

Cheryl Hedgpeth says, "My oldest potted plant, once in the living room, is a 20 foot *Kentia/Howea* now planted in the ground. My pride & joy! The oldest still in the pot is a 15 year old Coconut palm we brought back as a sprouted coconut from Hawaii. It is still only 4 feet tall."

Pamela Homfelt has an old succulent: "Considering most of my container plants have become my landscape plants I would have to say my oldest potted plant is a *Portulacaria afra* 'Variegata'. Moving from apartment to apartment, growing up coastally yet adapting to an inland environment and extreme neglect has not phased this favorite that I have possessed for about 12 years now. So, so very slow growing; it is now hanging over the container quite beautifully and is one of my prize plants."

Marlene King's old plant has done some traveling: "When my former husband and I bought our first home in 1979, there was an old five gallon galvanized bucket, with four slits cut for drainage, in the corner of the back yard. It turned out to be planted with a night blooming cereus that the former owners had left. I suspect the NBC

could easily have been 10 - 20 years old at that point, as back then it was one ratty-looking bucket. We schlepped that plant from home to home, never giving it pride-of-place, and for the past twenty years it has been stashed behind a wall, in the 'back forty'. I'd be surprised if it was given fertilization on more than a couple of occasions. It hasn't had a bit of new soil in thirty years. (I just went to check on it, and while about 75% of the leaves are all dried up and should be trimmed, that little old NBC is plugging away like the proverbial Timex watch.) This plant has a remarkable desire to live!"

Sharon May has an aged fuchsia: "About 25 years ago I came across a brand new introduction at Roger's Gardens. It was described as a new, drought tolerant fuchsia called 'Gartenmeister'. Now quite common, I continue to enjoy its blooms, the satin leaves and the hummingbirds it attracts. Funny how the meaning of 'drought tolerant' has changed!"

Walt Meier loves his staghorn fern: "Bill and Helen Shortt of Baldwin Park gave me a 4" *Platycerium superbum* x *holtumii* 32 years ago. I met them at the L.A. County Fair where they garnered dozens of awards for their ferns. For 14 years I grew the single stem plant on a board. Nurseryman Earnie Sanchez offered me a price for the fern I couldn't refuse. He hung it in his nursery for 7 years. I decided I wanted my fern back and offered a sum he couldn't refuse. My stag returned home, where it will stay."

Sherry Park tells us, "My oldest potted plant? Oh, my...I think I'm embarrassed to say. This certainly must count as plant abuse. I have a very large bromeliad that was given to me that's been in a 14" terra cotta pot for long over 15 years. That's how long I've had it and it had been in that pot for a long time before that. Now that I think of it, I have billbergia and other bromeliads that have been in the same pots for many years. These guys are very forgiving. Now I'll really have to think about dividing and repotting."

Robin Rivet says, "My oldest potted plant is probably a houseplant, and I doubt you care about *those!* At any rate, I have an incredibly durable, nearly ever-blooming African violet called a "San Diego" violet, at least that was what it said when it was purchased maybe 15 years ago. It's not in a special pot, I use no unusual soil or fertilizer, but periodically I wash the whole thing with water, contrary to advice on never to wet the leaves. I figure it gets dusty and needs help breathing indoors, since in the jungle they must get wet sometimes. We have an agreement: I give it regular showers, and it gives me regular flowers. Once the pot broke and damaged the entire plant. All the leaves busted off. I had nothing but a few roots, but somehow it came back strong. It moved into a new pot, and eventually into a new home when I moved to La Mesa. It lives on my bathroom sink and must like the humidity. Sometimes it gets as many as 15 flowers at once. Outdoors, there's lots of things in pots, but most are just waiting to get planted in the ground someday, although a few have spent years waiting... I guess my oldest potted plant was a Society Garlic clump that just recently found a garden spot after maybe 10 years or more. Currently the oldest garden pot is an *Aloe vera*. I'm not a succulent fan, but I keep it around to alleviate stupid kitchen or beach burns."

MJ Ross loves her bargain oldie: "My oldest potted plant is an *Alocasia sandieriana* (AfricanMask or Kris Plant). I purchased him from the 'needsTLC' discount rack at the Morena Blvd. Nurseryland for \$3. He was in a 4" pot, had three leaves, one of which was bent over, and he was covered with spider mites. I had never seen one before and

Continued on page 16

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Jacki Williams has a very old and very special plant: "My oldest plant (genetically speaking) is a fig tree I started from my grandmother's tree in Mississippi some 40 years ago when I first left home. That tree and branches from it have traveled with me through some 47 moves (we counted!) relocating with the Navy and airlines. At each home, I planted a fig branch, and one in a 'to go' pot left with me. As a child, I earned 50 cents a gallon selling figs I picked during summers spent at my grandmother's home. Those figs (I think they are brown turkeys) taste very different from our California mission figs – smaller and sweeter. We have enjoyed their bounty, left others with a wonderful gift, and, each summer, have a taste of our heritage. We have also given starts to all the cousins and next generation as they settle, and even friends who request starts, so we all have a family connection that is very alive and special honoring our grandmother."

Nancy Woodard has an old "corn plant": "I received my oldest potted plant from my Grandmother about 38 years ago - she died 36 years ago. It was a small offshoot of her plant which she called a 'corn plant'. It has long strappy variegated leaves with sharp edges. I never knew the correct name until I gave Tom Piergrossi a small plant. He identified it as a screw pine or *Pandanus utilis*. My plant is only 4 feet tall and wide after all these years; in their natural setting they are small trees. I have given small plants to friends and relatives and they have all died, including Tom's! Most of my indoor plants die after a few years, but, for me, this one is infallible! I have never seen another one in a nursery in the indoor plant section. They do very well in Florida and Hawaii."

Peggie Wormington has a "Cymbidium orchid from 2001. Might have been older; but that's when we moved back to California from VA."

The question for next month is:

What native animal(s) have you been most pleased/surprised to see in your garden? Send your e-mail reply by June 5, to info@sdhortsoc.org.

Sharing Secrets Continued from page 15

that was about 20 years ago. He has been an indoor plant all of that time, and is now absolutely stunning. He needs to be transplanted, as he has outgrown the southwest decor pot in which he has lived about the last dozen or so years. (You know the pot, white with coral and turquoise accents.) He weeps all over my kitchen counter after he is watered, still gets spider mites a couple of times a year, but is so beautiful, I wouldn't trade him for anything."

Cindy Sparks says, "My oldest potted plant is a Euphorbia, un-named species with triangular cross-section, thorns, and no visible flowers. It was popular as an Executive Office plant at the time. I bought it on a sailing trip to Catalina Island about 30 years ago. From a 4 inch pot, I repotted it several times and it is now in the living room. More light in that location caused it to sprout leaves, a real surprise after about 25 years of no leaves. It is now 6 feet tall and it continues to add girth. One summer when we were away, the pot fell over and my poor cleaning woman didn't know what to do. She propped it up and I got home much later to find a 5 foot tall plant with two ninety-degree bends in it. How did it do that, I wonder? Once upright, it managed to straighten out again. I have since learned to harvest the side branches to make new plants, and to keep its center of gravity low. It's like an old friend and I cannot imagine not having it nearby."

Pat Venolia's plant was a gift – 37 years ago: "My oldest potted plant is a begonia that my 10-year old son gave me for my birthday in 1972. It's an amazing plant."

Steve Brigham Continued from page 8

California nurseries. But I did find them at botanical gardens. The L.A. Arboretum, the Huntington Botanical Gardens, and the UCLA Botanical Garden were the primary sources of cuttings and seeds which I took back to Santa Cruz to form the nucleus of my first backyard nursery. Not only did I find some great plants, I made some great friends at these gardens whom I visited again and again in what became a lifelong search for more and more uncommon (and uncommonly beautiful) plants. One yellow flower, then one book, and suddenly a career was born! (There have of course been many flowers and many books since, but none quite as special as those first ones. Now, after thirty-five years of searching, I've found almost all of the plants in *Color for the Landscape*, but there are still a few I don't have yet!)

As I have said, my story may not be all that special. But the lesson it can teach us surely is. I was fortunate enough as a young man to have a teacher that grew rare flowers, cared enough to tell me about a book, and encouraged me to "try my wings." Perhaps you know someone who is just getting interested in plants, or would like to. Take the time to show them some flowers. Take the time to give them a book (make sure it has lots of nice color photos!). Take the time to encourage them to get to know the plants, and grow them. For who knows, you may be the one to inspire the great plant collector of tomorrow! 🌱

May Plant Forum

By Jane Coogan Beer, Sue Fouquette, Mary McBride,
Tom Piergrossi, Susi Torre-Bueno, Cathy Tylka,
and Peter Walkowiak

What is the Plant Forum?

Each month members bring in plants, cuttings or flowers and one of our horticulturists talks about them. What a great way to learn how these plants perform. All plants are welcome – EVERYONE is invited to participate. We encourage you to write descriptions similar to those below, and put them with the plant on the Plant Forum tables. Any questions, call Susi at (760) 295-7089.

Alpinia galangal GALANGAL, THAI GINGER (Zingiberaceae)
So. Asia, Indonesia

Thai cuisine owes much to the distinctive taste of this perennial, which produces an edible rhizome that is used fresh or dried in many recipes and herbal remedies. The rhizome is also used in snuff and perfume, and flavors a liqueur in Russia. Probably the tallest specimen ever brought to our meetings: the stalk displayed was easily nine feet tall. It blooms several times a year in Los Angeles in light shade; orange-red fruits follow the greenish-white flowers. Grow it in full sun to light shade with good drainage; prefers moist soil. (Jane Coogan Beer, Los Angeles, 5/09) – J.C.B. & S.T-B.

Armoracia rusticana HORSE RADISH (Brassicaceae) S.E.
Europe (naturalized throughout Europe and No. America)

Horse radish is a perennial herb related to mustard, and grows from root divisions. Harvested in the fall, the white roots are peeled, grated and mixed with vinegar or cream. It can grow up to 5' tall and is best in full sun with good drainage. Can be invasive, spreading by roots, so plant it carefully and don't till the soil around it (which can spread it in the garden). The intact root is almost scent-less; grating it releases the pungent aroma. Cultivated since ancient Greek and Egyptian times, horse radish is found on the Passover Seder tables of Jews of Eastern European descent, and was considered medicinal in the Middle Ages. (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 5/09) – S.F. & S.T-B.

Brassica juncea 'Red Giant' RED GIANT MUSTARD
(Brassicaceae) Garden Hybrid

The species form of this annual herb, cultivated for its leaves, is native from Russia to Central Asia. Grow it in full sun – the large, crinkled, colorful leaves with strong red shading are an attractive addition to either the vegetable garden or the perennial border. Young leaves can be used as a salad green; older leaves are best cooked. Grows best in cool weather. (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 5/09) – S.F. & S.T-B.

Callistemon pinifolius 'Green' GREEN PINE-FOLIAGE
BOTTLEBRUSH (Myrtaceae) Garden Hybrid

Australia is home to many marvelous plants, and the species form of this evergreen shrub is one of them. This drought-tolerant plant grows to about 5' tall by 8' wide, and has glowing chartreuse green bottle

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Breakfast in the Gardens
Friday, June 12

Join us on Opening Day for Breakfast in the Gardens at 9:00 AM. Following breakfast, at 9:45 AM Eric Larson, Executive Director of the San Diego County Farm Bureau and a director of the Southern California Water Committee, will speak on the Farm Bureau and its role, a short history of farming in San Diego County, a description of the commercial horticulture industry in San Diego, challenges the industry is currently facing, and market trends that growers are responding to. After the talk, breakfast guests are free to enjoy docent led tours of the *Rhapsody In Bloom* themed gardens prior to the fair gates opening to the public.



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May Plant Forum

brush-type flowers in spring and summer. The pink pine-like foliage ages to dark green. Grow it in full sun to part shade. Will tolerate temperatures as low as about 23° F. (Tom Piergrossi, Vista, 5/09) – T.P. & S.T-B.

Euphorbia inermis* var. *huttonae (Euphorbiaceae)

South Africa

This dwarf succulent is just one of over 2000 species in the Euphorbia Family. It has fragrant flowers from spring through summer. The plant displayed is the form with yellow flowers. It is cold hardy and can be planted in the landscape. One source describes the form as follows: "medusoid species has a thick spherical, flattened main stem with many stiff spineless branches from the periphery." (Peter Walkowiak, Poway, 5/09) – P.W. & S.T-B.

***Hypoxis* sp.** STAR GRASS (Hypoxidaceae)

There are 150 species of cormous perennials in the Hypoxidaceae, and all are loosely referred to as Star Grass. The plants are found in North America, Africa, Australia and Tropical Asia. The plant displayed (probably *H. angustifolia*, which is one of the few that is common in the trade) is an evergreen bulb that blooms from late spring to winter, bearing small yellow star-shaped flowers. Grown in full sun, it is drought-tolerant and can go dry in summer. For lots more information on this interesting family visit www.plantzafrica.com/planthij/hypoxis.htm. (Mary McBride, Vista, 5/09) – M.McB. & S.T-B.

Rebutia flavistyla (Cactaceae) Bolivia

Mature plants of this cactus will bloom over a long season, giving many bursts of color. The bright orange funnel-shaped flowers are about 1" long and close at night. They need a dry resting period in winter. Best grown in a bright, sunny location. (Peter Walkowiak, Poway, 5/09) – P.W. & S.T-B.

Rumex scutatus FRENCH SORREL (Polygonaceae)

Sorrel is a low-growing perennial (to about 18" tall) for full sun; sow seeds in spring or fall. It spreads year after year by self sowing. The lemony green leaves (which are rich in vitamin C) are good in salad, or you can cook them like spinach, serve in soup or minced in an omelet. The oxalic acid in sorrel can be a problem if you have arthritis or kidney stones, and may worsen these conditions. (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 5/09) – S.F. & S.T-B.

Tillandsia aeranthos AIR PLANT (Bromeliaceae)

Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay

This species of *Tillandsia* has bright red bracts and deep indigo blue flowers. The leaf is thin and may curl when dry. It grows slowly into a large clump and seldom needs water. Does best in shade but can tolerate hot Escondido. The plant displayed was planted on an old yucca sheath and sits on the porch. (Cathy Tylka, Escondido, 5/09) – C.T. & S.T-B.

May Plant Forum

Thanks to everyone who participated in the May plant forum, especially to Michael & Joyce Buckner, Bob Dimattia, and Peter Walkowiak, who brought in some huge and amazing plants! Michael Buckner was an excellent Plant Forum Host, as he always is. 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 May newsletter was *Bletilla strident*, CHINESE SHRILL ORCHID.

Aeonium arboreum var. *rubrolineatum*
(The Plant Man, Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 5/09)

Anthurium whitelockii (possibly *Anthurium faustomirandae*)
(Pura Vida Tropicals, Bob Dimattia, Vista, 5/09)

Brassia Ryo Toyonaga SPIDER ORCHID (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 5/09)

Curcuma longa TUMERIC
(Pura Vida Tropicals, Bob Dimattia, Vista, 5/09)

Cyphostemma 'Fat Bastard' (*C. hardyi* hybrid. Per Miles Anderson, "this hybrid of questionable heritage whose mother was *C. juttæ* and father is still a mystery.") (The Plant Man, Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 5/09)

Drimiopsis maculata (syn. *Ledebouria petiolata*)
(The Plant Man, Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 5/09)

Dyckia 'Black Gold' (Mike Brewer, El Cajon, 5/09)

×*Gasteraloe* 'Bill Baker' (*Aloe variegata* × *Gasteria verrucosa*)
(The Plant Man, Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 5/09)

Kalanchoe beauverdii (The Plant Man, Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 5/09)

Ledebouria ovatifolia (The Plant Man, Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 5/09)

Oxalis gigantea (The Plant Man, Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 5/09)

Pachypodium bispinosum (The Plant Man, Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 5/09)

Pachypodium succulentum YEAST ROOT (The Plant Man, Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 5/09)

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May Plant Forum

Pachypodium yummytummyum FEAST ROOT (The Plant Nut, San Diego, 5/09)

Paphiopedilum Ho Chi Minh (*P. delenatii* × *P. vietnamense*)

SLIPPER ORCHID (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 5/09)

Paphiopedilum rothschildianum SLIPPER ORCHID (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 5/09)

Puya sp. (Kathy Walsh, San Diego, 5/09)

Salvia clevelandii 'Poza Blue' GREY MUSK SAGE (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 5/09)

Tillandsia fasciculata AIR PLANT (The Plant Man, Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 5/09)

Vriesea hybrid (Pura Vida Tropicals, Bob Dimattia, Vista, 5/09)

Vriesea imperialis (Pura Vida Tropicals, Bob Dimattia, Vista, 5/09)

HOW TO READ THE PLANT FORUM ENTRIES

[1] **Pastryus dulcis** [2] 'Cheerio' [3] DONUT PLANT ([4] Pastryaceae) [5] 7-Eleven to Vons [6] This fast-growing annual produces copious quantities of distinctive edible fruit that is circular in shape with a central hole. The fruit resembles a donut, from which the common name derives. Provide ample moisture. ([7] Betty Crocker, San Diego, 5/96) — [8] K.M.

- [1] Latin name (*Pastryus dulcis*); **bold** names indicate plants with full descriptions.
- [2] Cultivar ['Cheerio']
- [3] Common Name [DONUT PLANT]
- [4] Family [Pastryaceae]
- [5] Distribution [7-Eleven to Vons]
- [6] Description, comments, cultural directions [This fast-growing...]
- [7] Name and city of member, date plant displayed [Betty Crocker, San Diego, 5/96]
- [8] Initials of person who wrote description [K.M.]

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May Meeting Report

We had the most amazing meeting in May, with a virtually full room and a terrific group of five speakers. There were handouts, recipes, blueberries to taste, a lot of information to absorb and a marvelous sense that this was *the* place to be! Karan Cooper gave a brief (but fascinating) overview of the history of tomatoes: did you know that although this New World food was considered poisonous in Europe, once the French named it "Love Apple" sales went through the roof? There are over 7500 registered heirloom tomatoes: Karan explained what makes them "heirlooms" and why they're so worth trying in our gardens. Best tidbits: you only need to water tomatoes about every 2 weeks, and any tomato will grow well in a 15-gallon pot with well-amended soil and at least 6 hours of sun a day. Karan had a great selection of tomato plants to sell, and business was brisk indeed!

Ramiro Lobo has been working for a decade on improving blueberries for growing in California, and he had samples of a number of types for us to taste. These yummy relatives of the azalea plant are now a major California cash crop; in 2009 about 30 million pounds will be harvested and sold, making production in this state the largest in the nation. Even a 2-3 day improvement in earliness of the crop makes a big difference, and that's one thing he's been focusing on. Blueberries are a very healthy anti-oxidant and a good crop for home gardeners, with attractive shrubs that can bear for 15 years (maybe more!) given the acidic soil they need (you'll probably need to add peat moss to local soils) and plenty of sunshine.

Sporting a crown of bay leaves, and with infectious laughter, Karen England shared some Sweet Bay lore and a great recipe for a seasoning blend. Bay is the Herb of the Year for 2009, and Karen says the small plant you buy in the nursery can grow to 40' tall here (though it responds well to pruning). This Mediterranean evergreen tree does very well in local gardens – Karen suggests stripping the leaves from long stems and using them for BBQ skewers. She even cooker her oatmeal with a bay leaf, and suggests trying it for sweet dishes as well as the usual savory ones. Karen also sold books from the International Herb Association and dispensed great advice.

Why grow Japanese veggies? How about a sweet pepper that cooks in just 10 seconds, or a ginger plant with edible flowers growing at ground level? Mia Yamada McCarville, owner of Cedros Gardens (see page 19), shared lots of great suggestions with us about which Japanese vegetables to grow and how to use them, and provided tempting recipes, too. Did you know that you can use red shiso to make a pink-colored vinegar, or use it to wrap sushi? Mia sold some started veggies and also seeds from the Kitazawa Seed Company; I'm planning my Red Komatsuna now and expect to harvest it in just 21-40 days!

Our final speaker, Tom Del Hotal, specializes in rare fruits for growing locally, and we learned about five especially good ones. Acerola (*Malpighia glabra*) is an evergreen tree to about 15' tall, with pretty pink flowers that turn into fruit very high in vitamin C (65 times that of an orange!). The handsome Starfruit (*Averrhoa carambola*) hails from Sri Lanka. Also rich in Vitamin C (and anti-oxidants), it ripens in December and homegrown fruit is far better than anything you can purchase. Grumichama (*Eugenia brasiliensis*) is another large shrub or small tree with red new foliage, white flowers,

and very tasty, black, cherry-like fruit. For something completely different grow Jaboticaba (*Myrciaria cauliflora*), a very sweet Brazilian fruit which is borne directly on the trunk of the tree.

Our thanks to all these great speakers for their fine presentations and generous donations for the Opportunity Drawing. It was an especially good meeting and the feedback has been tremendously positive. Thanks go to Richard Frost (see page 7) for donating a dozen boxes of plants and fertilizer to the drawing. We also thank Green Thumb Nursery (San Marcos), which donated two \$25 gift certificates, and the brand new Gardens by the Sea Nursery (Leucadia), which donated five \$30 gift certificates. Buena Creek Gardens also supplied a very nice selection of plants for the drawing. ☘



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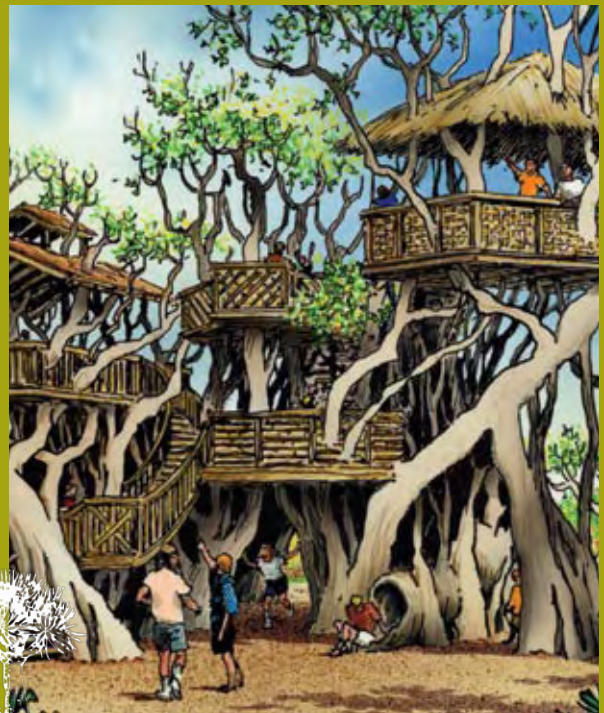
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Flower & Garden Show at the San Diego County Fair 2009 STAGE SCHEDULE



Fri, 6/12	11:30	Basic Rose Care		Dick Streeper
	1:00	Water Gardening	Santa Fe Nursery	Ed Simpson
	2:30	Landscaping with California Natives	California's Own Native Landscape Design	Greg Rubin
	4:00	Worm Composting	Mission Hills Nursery	Tiger Palafox
Sun, 6/14	San Diego Rose Society Day			
	11:30	Rose Care Basics And Potted Roses	San Diego Rose Society	Ruth Tiffany/Al Heck
	1:00	Landscaping With Roses	San Diego Rose Society	Sue Streeper
	2:30	Growing & Exhibiting Winning Roses	San Diego Rose Society	Bob Martin/Linda Clark
	4:00	Hands On Pruning Demo	San Diego Rose Society	Gary Bulman
Tue, 6/16	11:30	Fruit Tree Selection & Care	UCCE Master Gardener	John Marsh
	1:00	Trees: Things you don't know, and should	UCCE Master Gardener	Robin Rivet
	2:30	Super Market Bouquets from Store to Home	Dos Gringos	Suzy Long
	4:00	Orchid repotting	Sunset Valley Orchids	Fred Clarke
Wed, 6/17	11:30	30 Great Drought Tolerant Plants		Doug Kalal
	1:00	Getting Started with Drip Irrigation	DIG	Ben Raines
	2:30	Stunning flower arrangements	Floral Design Instructor	Betty Patterson del Sol
	4:00	Designing "Green" Lawn Alternatives	Benoit Exterior Design	Cindy Benoit
Thu, 6/18	11:30	Native Medicinal Plants	Herbalist	Carole Brown
	1:00	How to Conserve Water in Your Garden	Nature Designs	Steve Jacobs
	2:30	Color Your Garden Beautiful	Weidners' Gardens	Evelyn Weidner
	4:00	Drought Tolerant Gardening	San Diego Horticultural Society	Cindy Sparks
Fri, 6/19	11:30	Everything about Growing Plumerias	Southern California Plumeria Society	Carl & Joy Herzog
	1:00	Getting Started with Drip Irrigation	DIG	Ben Raines
	2:30	Epi's to Know & Grow	San Diego Epiphyllum Society	Phil Peck
	4:00	Benefits of Green Roofs	Good Earth Plants /GreenScaped Buildings	Jim Mumford
Sat, 6/20	Enviro Fair			
Sun, 6/21	Asian Arts Society Day			
	11:30	Bonsai & Beyond	Asian Arts	MaryAnne Monck
	1:00	Creating a Hon Non Bo	Asian Arts	Brenda Storey
	2:30	Tray Landscapes	Asian Arts	Chris Manion
	4:00	Vietnamese - style Bonsai	Asian Arts	Van Moch Nguyen
Tue, 6/23	11:30	The "New Green" Botanical Floral Design	The Dutch Flower	Jolene De Hoog Harris, CCF
	1:00	Organic Rose Care		Jack Shoultz
	2:30	Super Market Bouquets from Store to Home	Dos Gringos	Suzy Long
	4:00	Caudiciform Succulents	The Plant Man Nursery	Joyce & Michael Buckner
Wed, 6/24	11:30	30 Great Drought Tolerant Plants		Doug Kalal
	1:00	How to Conserve Water in Your Garden	Nature Designs	Steve Jacobs
	2:30	Agaves: A Growing Art	Horticulture Instructional Associate	Jason Kubrock
	4:00	Designing "Green" Lawn Alternatives	Benoit Exterior Design	Cindy Benoit
Thu, 6/25	Del Mar Rose Society Day			
	11:30	How to Grow Beautiful Roses	Del Mar Rose Society	Kathy Reed McCarthy
	1:00	Favorite Roses of the Del Mar Rose Society	Del Mar Rose Society	Virginia Holt
	2:30	Fragrant Roses	Del Mar Rose Society	Linda Gluckman
	4:00	Organic Rose Care	Del Mar Rose Society	Jerry Letteiri



Paul Ecke Jr.
Flower & Garden Show
at the San Diego County Fair
2009 STAGE SCHEDULE



Fri, 6/26	11:30	How to Conserve Water in Your Garden	Nature Designs	Steve Jacobs
	1:00	Worm Composting	Mission Hills Nursery	Tiger Palafox
	2:30	Taking Care of Store Bought Orchids	San Diego Orchid Society	Charley Fouquette
	4:00	Outdoor living with EZ Retaining Walls	Keystone Pacific/RCP Block & Brick, Inc.	Shelley Stevenson
Sat, 6/27	Palomar Orchid Society Day			
	11:30	Orchids 101	Palomar Orchid Society	Gil Ho
	1:00	Orchids	Palomar Orchid Society	Alex Nadzan
	2:30	Outdoor Orchids for Southern California	Palomar Orchid Society	Merle Robboy
Sun, 6/28	San Diego County Dahlia Society Day			
	11:30	How Red Worms Can Green Up Your Garden!	Vermicoast	Shelley Grossman
	1:00	Growing Dahlias	San Diego County Dahlia Society	David & Sharon Tooley
	2:30	Dahlias	San Diego County Dahlia Society	Steven Nakamura
Mon, 6/29	4:00	30 Great Drought Tolerant Plants		Doug Kalal
	11:30	Propagation of Staghorn Ferns	UCCE Master Gardener	Charles Robinson
	1:00	Plan your Green Garden Wedding	I Do "Wedding Flowers"	Carlotta Aros
	2:30	Adventures in Low Water Use Gardening	Proven Winners	John Rader
Tue, 6/30	4:00	Tropic Look in an Arid Region	Vice President of SD Bromeliad Society	Robert Kopfstein
	11:30	10 Outdoor Growing Orchids		Tom Biggart
	1:00	Organic Rose Care		Jack Shoultz
	2:30	Super Market Bouquets from Store to Home	Dos Gringos	Joan Saunders/Suzy Long
Wed, 7/1	4:00	Proteas	California Protea Mgmt.	Ben Gill
	11:30	Heirloom Tomatoes	Master Gardeners	Karan Cooper
	1:00	Feng Shui in the Garden		Kristina Ming
	2:30	Starting a Vegetable Garden	Master Gardeners	Karan Cooper
Thu, 7/2	4:00	Designing "Green" Lawn Alternatives	Benoit Exterior Design	Cindy Benoit
	11:30	Getting Started with Drip Irrigation	DIG	Ben Raines
	1:00	Cultivating African Violets	Carlsbad African Violet Society	Barbara Conrad
	2:30	Going Dry for Good	Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca	Vickie Driver
Fri, 7/3	4:00	Exotic Air Plants	San Diego Bromeliad Society	Ken Wolfson
	San Diego Epiphyllum Society Day			
	11:30	Epiphyllums	San Diego Epiphyllum Society	Phil Peck
	1:00	Epiphyllums	San Diego Epiphyllum Society	Phil Peck
Sat, 7/4	2:30	Epiphyllums	San Diego Epiphyllum Society	Phil Peck
	4:00	Epiphyllums	San Diego Epiphyllum Society	Phil Peck
	11:30	How to Conserve Water in Your Garden	Nature Designs	Steve Jacobs
	1:00	Organic Rose Care		Jack Shoultz
Sun, 7/5	2:30	Adventures in Low Water Use Gardening	Proven Winners	John Rader
	4:00	Designing "Green" Lawn Alternatives	Benoit Exterior Design	Cindy Benoit
	San Diego Bonsai Society Day			
	11:30	Bonsai	San Diego Bonsai Society	Steve Valentine
Sun, 7/5	1:00	Bonsai	San Diego Bonsai Society	Jim Rendina
	2:30	Small Bonsai	San Diego Bonsai Society	Shirley Kavanaugh
	4:00	Bonsai	San Diego Bonsai Society	Gary Jones

What's Happening? for June 2009

The SDHS is happy to publicize items of horticultural interest. See other side for resources & ongoing events.
Send calendar listings by the 10th of the month before the event to calendar@sdhortsoc.org.

▼ SDHS Sponsor

Anderson's La Costa Nursery & Garden Design Center

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.....Expect the Unusual



www.AndersonsLacostaNursery.com

Hello to all and welcome to our June & Father's Day garden tips update. We hope everyone had an enjoyable Memorial Day Weekend and a good start to the month of June. So much is happening in and around the nursery I'm not sure where to start so I'll plunge right in. June usually features mellow weather (and maybe some of that old June gloom) in our area and the mild conditions are just right for getting plants off to a good start. Note that many flowers and vegetables should be planted from bedding plants this month rather than seeds because time is growing short for warm weather plants to fully mature. Remember - now that the weather is warmer you can conserve water by watering at cooler times of day to prevent quick evaporation.

What's New:

- Plumeria - more & more coming in green and budded out.
- Hydrangeas - Mopheads & Lacecaps - In White, Pinks and Blues - simply gorgeous.
- For long lasting, low growing yellow flowers check out **Texas Sundrops** (*Calyophus drumondii*). Great in a hot, dry spot in the garden.
- Gaura** - becoming more popular each year. Why? Sports abundant pink flowers above dense burgundy tipped green foliage. Grows to 2' x 2' mounds with very long lasting blooms.

In our greenhouse:

- Orchids were fully replenished after Mother's Day rush. Some are also fragrant. The Paphiopedalum are amazing.
- Sensitive Plants (kids just love them). When you touch the leaves they fold up like shy little flowers (or like my cat).
- Vines including:
 - Beautiful blooming Clematis, *Mandevilla* 'Alice duPont' (they are really enjoying the hot sun that popped out as I am typing this). Also - Guinea Goldvine, *Lonicera* 'Gold Flame' (so fragrant) and *Dalechampia* 'Purple Wings'.
- Water plants arrived as I write this. Lots of Water Lilies in bud and bloom in pinks, cream, yellow, peach and blue - just gorgeous.
- Also other aquatic plants - Horsetail Reed, Yellow Snowflake, Water Cress, Pink Pickerel, White Fairy Lily.
- Calandrinia spectabilis* - great rock garden plant. Grey/green succulent type leaves with a gorgeous magenta flower on a long stem. Blooms on & off thru Spring, Summer & Fall (that's the "spectabilis" part).
- Euphorbia martinii* & *Euphorbia Rudolph* - fabulous lime green & chartreuse (there's that color again) flowers respectively.
- Lots of *Phormiums* (Flax). We have more than normal varieties in the smaller 1-gallon sized - Amazing Red, Tom Thumb, Dusky Chief and Jack Spratt. Drought tolerant and low maintenance.
- Mandevilla laxa* 'Chilean Jasmine' - Very fragrant white showy flowers - should stay green all year here.

The Water Conservation Garden (contact info on other side)

- Jun. 6, 9am - noon, A New California Garden:** Linda Whitney shares the process of creating a water smart landscape from the ground up. Two registrations for the price of one (same household). \$20/Members, \$30/Non-members
- Jun. 7, 1:30pm, Ask the Horticulturist Tour:** Informative walk through the Garden with David Yetz, a professional horticulture staff member. Free. Meet at main entrance.
- Jun. 09, 5:30 - 8:30pm, Ask the Landscape Designer:** Connie Beck will provide personalized 45-minute landscape design consultations at the Water Conservation Garden. Email info@theGarden.org or phone for appointments. \$60/members, \$75/Non-members.
- Jun. 15, 6:30 - 8:30pm, Bye Bye Grass, Part I:** Nan Sterman on lawn extermination options \$45/Member of either QBG or Water Conservation Garden, \$50/Non-member.
- Jun. 16, 6:30 - 8:30pm, Hillside Gardening:** By landscape designer Connie Beck. Registration and information (619) 660-4350 or www.cuyamaca.edu/preview. \$25.
- Jun. 18, H2O 911:** Join Vickie Driver for an introduction to dealing with the water-shortage. Two for the price of one (same household only). \$20/members, \$30/Non-members.
- Jun. 20, 3 - 5pm, Bye Bye Grass, Part II:** Nan Sterman on irrigation systems, much more. \$45/Member of either QBG or Water Conservation Garden, \$50/Non-member.
- Jun. 21, 9:30 - 10:30am, Free Special Access Tour:** Special shuttle tour for people with difficulty navigating the terrain of the Garden. Advanced reservations are required.
- Jun. 26, 10:30am - 1:30pm, Ask the Landscape Designer:** Linda Whitney will provide personalized 45-minute landscape design consultations at the Water Conservation Garden. Call to reserve your appointment. \$60/members, \$75/Non-members.
- Jun. 27, 9am - noon, Toss Your Turf, Less Water, Less Grass, More Fun!** Join Vickie Driver for a short course in turf removal. Get tips for evaluating your soil, your irrigation system, plus creative ideas for beautiful low-water-use landscape. Two registrations for the price of one (same household only). \$20/Members, \$30/Non-members.

Quail Botanical Gardens (contact info on other side)

- Jun. 4, 11, 18, 7-9pm, Jun 20, 9am - noon, Wonders Down Under: The Study of Australian Plants:** Background information on the Australian landscape along with basic information on the cultivation and care of these specimens. \$80/Members, \$100/Non-members
- Jun. 13, 10am - noon, Grow a Better Vegetable Garden by Thinking Like a Farmer:** Diane Hollister on basics for the home gardener. \$25/Member, \$30/Non-member.
- Jun. 13, 1 - 4pm, Hemerocallis Show and Sale:** Best daylilies from the garden - judged for ribbons; plus plant sale and tour of the daylilies at QBG. Free with Garden admission.

Jun. 2, 6:30pm, San Diego County Orchid Society: Program TBA. Beginners Class at 6:30 is in room 104, the general meeting begins at 7:30pm in Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Admission is free, everyone is welcome. www.sdorchids.com.

Jun. 3, 7pm, San Diego Herb Club: Discussion on Herbs; how and why we use them. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. <http://dir.gardenweb.com/directory/sdhc>.

Jun. 5, noon, Vista Garden Club: Visitors welcome to attend and share in our luncheon. Gloria McClellan Senior Center, 1400 Vale Terrace Dr. Vista. www.vistagardenclub.org

Jun. 6, Walter Andersen Nursery: 9:00am Fuchsias - Varieties & Care and at 1pm How to Grow Giant Pumpkins. (San Diego, 3642 Enterprise Street, (619) 224-8271); 9:30am, How to Grow Giant Pumpkins. (Poway, 12755 Danielson Court, (858) 513-4900). www.walterandersen.com.

Jun. 6, 9am - noon, Gardeners 4 Peace: Please bring tools, water and a cheerful spirit for the work party. Please chop up your vegetable and fruit waste and freeze in a paper bag. Bring the frozen bags for the compost bins. Info: gardeners4peace@hotmail.com.

Jun. 6, 10am - 5pm, Jun 7, 10am - 4pm, San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale: Strange and exotic plants will be gathered together for your viewing. There will be sale of choice specimen plants for the novice and collector as well. Potting service and cultural information. Room 101 and Patio, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.sdcss.org.

Jun. 6, 1 - 5pm, San Diego Rose Society Annual Rose Show: Enter the competition between 6 and 9:30am. The show will be held at the Barona Convention Center. \$5 cost. 1932 Wildcat Canyon Road, Lakeside. www.sdrosesociety.org.

Evergreen Nursery Seminars: 9am, 1350 Carmel Valley Rd., 11:30am 3231 Oceanside Blvd.; 2:30pm 12460 Highland Valley Rd. Rancho Bernardo (see maps on page 4)

Jun. 6, Choosing and Caring for Fruit Trees:

Jun. 13, Landscaping Steps in the Appropriate Order

Jun. 20, All About Screens and Hedges

Jun. 27, Creative Low Water Landscaping

June 8, 7:00pm, details on page 3

The Garden As Companion - Special Event & Location

Jun. 7, 10:30am, Hon Non Bo Association Meeting: Program TBA. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. (858) 689-0957.

Jun. 9, 7pm, San Diego Geranium Society: Program TBA. Everyone is welcome. Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. (619) 447-8243 or www.sdgeranium.org.

Jun. 10, 9:30, Bonita Valley Garden Club: Program TBA. Bonita Library Community Room, 4375 Bonita Road, Bonita. (619) 267-1585

Jun. 10, noon, Ramona Garden Club: Program TBA. Public is welcome to attend. Ramona Woman's Club, 524 Main Street, Ramona. (760) 788-6709 or ramonagardenclub.com.

Jun. 10, 7pm, San Diego Epiphyllum Society: Program TBA. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.epiphyllum.com.

Jun. 11, 7:30pm, Southern California Horticultural Society: Tom Fischer will discuss "Unraveling the Mysteries of Botanical Latin." Free. Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles. (818) 567-1496 or www.socalhort.org.

Jun. 12 through July 5, San Diego County Fair Flower and Garden Show: Closed Monday June 15 & 23. Master Gardeners will have a booth in the O'Brian Hall. Parking is \$10.00, Admission \$13/Adults, \$7/Seniors and children over 5 years. Check schedules, vendors and entertainers at www.sdfair.com (ALSO SEE INSERT)

Jun. 13, Walter Andersen Nursery: 9:00am. Shade Garden. (San Diego see Jun 6) 9:30 am. Worm Composting. (Poway see Jun 6). www.walterandersen.com.

Jun. 13, 10am, San Diego Bromeliad Society: Program TBA. Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html.

Jun. 13 - 14, 10am - 4pm, Fullerton Arboretum Perennial Plant Sale: Huge selection and variety of perennial flowering plants. Potting Shed at the Arboretum. 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton. (714) 278-3407 or www.fullertonarboretum.org.

Jun. 13, 1:30 – 2:30pm, Agri Service, Inc. Community Gardening Series: Free class with Master Gardeners Diane Hollister and Pete Ash on planting a second crop – crops that will go into the fall. 3210 Oceanside Blvd. Reserve space: (800) 262-4167 ext. 4.

Jun. 13, 4:30pm, South Bay Botanic Garden Walk: Accent trees for the Home with Mary Arbramenkoff. Southwest College, meet at the 1800 building, 900 Otay Lakes Rd, Chula Vista. (619) 421- 6700 x-5371.

Jun. 14, San Diego Bonsai Club: Program TBA. Open to visitors. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com.

Jun. 14, 1 - 3pm, San Diego Iris Society: Presentation of Spring Show Awards and Election of Officers. Free – Open to the Public. Lakeside Historical Society (Old Community Church) 9906 Maine Ave. Lakeside. <http://sites.google.com/site/sandiegoirissociety>.

Jun. 14, 1pm, Southern California Plumeria Society: Ken Ames & Carl Herzog on "Grafting Plumeria". Everyone welcome! Free. War Memorial Building, 3325 Zoo Drive, Balboa Park. (619) 461-5942 or www.socalplumeriasociety.com.

Jun. 14, 1:30pm, Mabel Corwin Branch, American Begonia Society: "Begonia Bests: A look at how we grow" A look at soil mixes, fertilizers, shading/light, etc. Encinitas Community Center, Room 120, 1140 Oakcrest Park Drive, Encinitas. (760) 230-1073.

Jun. 15, 7:30pm, San Diego Rose Society: Dr. Joel Ross on propagating roses. Free, visitors always welcome. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. sdrosesociety.org

Jun. 16, 7pm, San Diego California Native Plant Society: Greg Rubin's presentation challenges much of the conventional wisdom surrounding native plants. Open to the public. Free. Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. cnpsd.org.

Jun. 16, 7pm, California Coastal Rose Society: Program TBA. At 6:15pm Dr. Joel Ross will lecture. Heritage Hall, 2650 Garfield, Carlsbad. www.californiacoastalrose.com.

Jun. 16, 7pm, San Diego Floral Association: Paul Maschka on San Diego City Colleges' Seeds at City Urban Farming Programs. Open to the public. Optional Bar-B-Que dinner by paid reservations prior to June 11. \$12/Members; \$15/Non-members. (619) 232-5762 or www.sdflo.org

Jun. 17, 7pm, San Diego County Cymbidium Society: Program TBA. Visitors welcome. Carlsbad Women's Club, 3320 Monroe, Carlsbad. (858) 748-8355.

Jun. 18, 7:30pm, San Diego Fern Society: Guests are welcome. Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.sdfem.com.

Jun. 20, 8am – noon, Alta Vista Gardens: Workday, plant propagation. Directions: (760) 945-3954, info@altavistagardens.org or www.altavistagardens.org

Jun. 20, 8am – 1pm, Dos Vales Garden Club Plant Sale: Martin Gang Ranch, 28922 Cole Grade Road, Valley Center. www.dosvalesgardenclub.org

Jun. 20, Walter Andersen Nursery: 9:00am, Bromeliads & Tillandsias. (San Diego; see Jun 6) 9:30am, Summer Fruit Tree Pruning/Backyard Orchards. (Poway; see Jun 6). www.walterandersen.com.

Jun. 20, 10am – 3pm, 4th Annual San Diego County Master Gardener Association Summer Plant Sale: Large selection of drought tolerant plants, heirloom and unusual vegetables, flowering perennials, tropicals, ferns, bulbs, herbs and much, much more. Casa Del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park, 858-694-2860 or www.mastergardenerssandiego.org

Jun. 20, 10am, San Diego Garden Club Special: Program TBA. Malcolm X Library & Performing Arts Center, 5148 Market Street, San Diego. Meetings are free and open to the public. (619) 269-6184 or www.sandiegogardenclub.org

Jun. 22, 10:30pm, Carlsbad African Violet Society: Visitors welcome. Program TBA. Vista Library, 700 Eucalyptus Ave., Vista. (760) 295-0484.

Jun. 22, 2pm, Lake Hodges Native Plant Club: Program TBA. Rancho Bernardo Public Library, Community Room – 17110 Bernardo Center Drive. San Diego. www.lhnpc.org

Jun. 23, San Diego County Dahlia Society: Program TBA. Visitors welcome. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, (858) 672-2593.

Jun. 24, 9:30am, San Dieguito Garden Club: Program TBA. Ecke Family Building, Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. <http://Sdgc.klmmicro.com/main.htm>.

Jun. 24, 6pm, Mission Hills Garden Club: Tiger Palafox on improving irrigation systems in your garden. Open to the public; Guests/\$10. United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw St., San Diego. (619) 923-3624 or www.missionhillsgardenclub.org

Jun. 24, 7pm, California Rare Fruit Growers, San Diego Chapter: "The Surinam Cherry and the Fruiting Myrtaceae Family for Subtropical Climates" presented by Ben Poirer. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.crfgsandiego.org.

Jun. 27, Walter Andersen Nursery: 9:00am, Children's Gardens. (San Diego; see Jun 6) 9:30am, Summer Color. (Poway; see Jun 6).

Jun. 27, South Bay Botanic Garden Walk: Birds of South Bay presented by Eddie Munguia See Jun 13.

Garden Tours

Jun. 5, 9:30am, Carlsbad Garden Club Garden Tour: Meet at Sears Park and Ride, corner of Marron and Monroe. To organize into carpools.. (760) 494-7774 or www.carlsbadgardenclub.com.

Jun. 6, 10am – 4pm, San Diego Floral Association Historic Garden Tour: The annual historic self-guided tour features gardens in Banker Hill and Point Loma. Tickets: send check to San Diego Floral Association, 1650 El Prado, Room 104, San Diego CA 92101-1684. \$15 in advance, \$20 day of the tour. Tickets will also be available at Walter Andersen Nurseries, Mission Hills Nursery, Knifflings Nursery, Cedros Gardens and Weiders' Gardens. (619) 232-5762 or www.sdflo.org

Resources & Ongoing Events

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BALBOA PARK:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Garden TV and Radio Shows

Garden Compass Radio Show. Sat. and Sun., 8–10am. KPOP 1360, hosts Bruce and Sharon Asakawa, John Bagnasco. Call-in questions: (619) 570-1360 or (800) 660-4769.

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

--**Rose Campion** (*Lychnis coronarius*) – silvery foliage and bright magenta flowers. To 2.5ft tall and 1ft across, blooms spring through late summer. Don't plant beside anything red – it will clash.

Some things to keep us occupied in June:

June Bloom: Fuchsia, hydrangeas, lantana and zinnia are at the height of bloom in June. Fuchsias and hydrangeas need plenty of water. Lantana is one of the easiest full sun, drought-resistant plants to grow. Irrigate plants at ground level. Zinnias shouldn't be sprinkled or watered overhead.

Bougainvilleas – Transplanting & Care: Choose plants with the color and growth habit you want. Choose a spot in full sun and dig a hole twice as wide and the same depth as the container. Cut out the bottom of the pot and plant to allow root spreading downwards and wait 2 years to cut out the surrounding pot to minimize transplant shock. Add some more soil to make the top of the root ball level with the ground and add organic Dr Earth all purpose fertilizer and water in.

Keep Container Plants Well Watered - During the summer plants need to be thoroughly watered not just sprinkled. Pay careful attention to plants growing in containers as their water needs are much greater than plants grown in the soil.

Citrus Care: Unlike deciduous fruit trees most citrus trees don't require yearly pruning. However, you can often revitalize older citrus trees if you remove the dead branches and twigs from the interior of the tree. Keep citrus and avocados well-watered--deeply every 2 or 3 weeks--and add a 3"-thick layer of mulch to maintain uniformly cool temperatures. Feed fruit trees approx. every 3 weeks during their growing season.

Plant palms, cacti, and succulents. Let the soil dry between watering and provide light shade during the hottest portion of the day for the more sensitive ones.

Prune or sheer hedges so the top is slightly narrower than the base.

Lightly prune, feed, and water roses on a weekly or bi-weekly basis to encourage them to flower continuously into the late fall.

You can **use less water and still have a beautiful lawn** - water early in the morning (preferably before 7 a.m). Water deeply once a week (but not more than twice a week) to promote deep rooting and reduce evaporation. Proper mowing helps grass grow deeper roots and encourages much side-branching for a thicker carpet.

Feed all plants with a balanced slow release fertilizer containing micronutrients in addition to the basic nitrogen, phosphorous, and potash/potassium (N- P-K).

Water the garden deeply every week or two depending on how consistently hot the weather has been and whether plant roots have grown deep into the soil.