

Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

August 2009, Number 179

Steve Brigham, Horticulturist of the Year

SEE PAGES 3 & 8

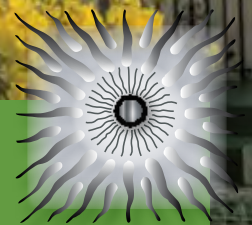
PAMPAS GRASS BE GONE
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A MAN NAMED PEARL AT QUAIL
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**ENGELMANN SAVES FRENCH
WINE INDUSTRY**
PAGE 12

On the Cover: *Tabebuia chrysotricha*



SAN DIEGO
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

JULY MEETING PHOTOS BY STACEY DORES



Achillea millefolium 'Royal Tapestry'



Echeveria 'Pulv-oliver'



Operculicarya decaryi



Agave victoriae-reginae



Asclepias physocarpa



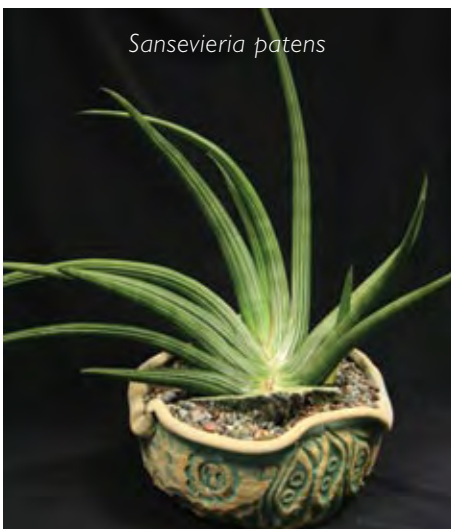
Paphiopedilum Houghtoniae 'Janet'



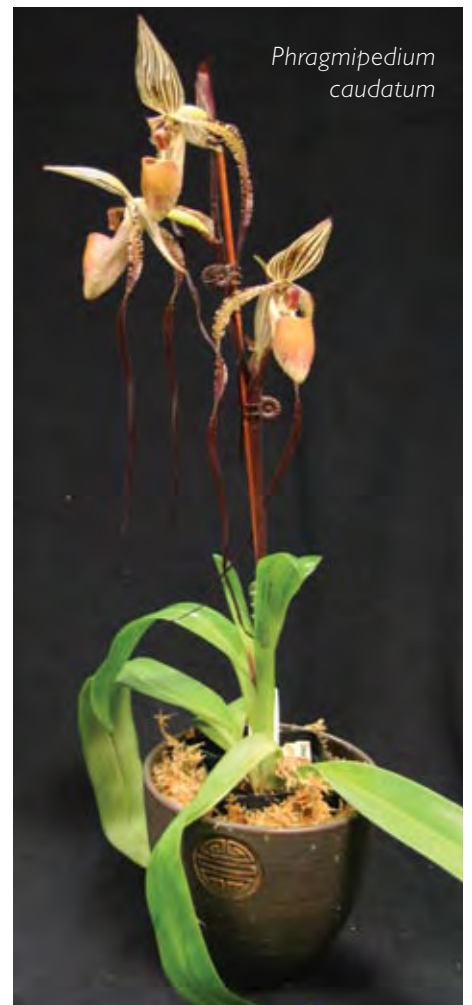
Echeveria agavoides 'Ebony'



Didyterra suberecta



Sansevieria patens



Phragmipedium caudatum

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COVER IMAGE: Steve Brigham wrote in the June newsletter that "*Tabebuia chrysotricha*, the Golden Trumpet Tree [is] a Brazilian plant that would change my life." See below about how we're honoring this gentle plantsman and SDHS co-founder as our Horticulturist of the Year. Photo taken and provided by Randy Baldwin, San Marcos Growers.

The San Diego Horticultural Society

MEETINGS

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

MEETING SCHEDULE

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

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS IN 2009

- September 14** David Fross on *Meadows, Grasslands, Prairies, and Turf: Another Gentle Plea to Reconsider Your Lawn*
- October 12** Brian Endress on *Native Seed Gene Bank Project*
- November 9** David MacLaren on *Overview of the New Chinese Garden at The Huntington.*

www.sdhortsoc.org

Monday, August 10:

Honoring Horticulturist of the Year: Steve Brigham

SPECIAL LOCATION: Quail Botanical Gardens, Encinitas

On Aug. 10 we'll have a private event at Quail Botanical Gardens honoring our Horticulturist of the Year, Steve Brigham. SDHS members will explore the grounds and take docent-led tours of Quail's newly-opened 4-1/2-acre addition featuring the Hamilton Children's Garden with its spectacular treehouse.

The program features Quail's president, Julian Duval, with a glimpse into Quail's future and new projects on the drawing board. Steve Brigham will be presented with SDHS's Horticulturist of the Year award, recognizing his many contributions to horticulture. The evening includes our annual tradition of sharing a birthday cake celebrating SDHS's founding at Quail in September 1994.

Quail will be open to SDHS members for free from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Bring your SDHS membership card to show at the ticket booth for free admission. **Due to space limitations, this event is for SDHS members only, and we strongly encourage you to carpool.** Here's the schedule:

- 4:00 Early entrance for SDHS members
- 5:00 - 6:00 Tours of the Hamilton Children's Garden
- 6:00 - 6:30 Cake and coffee served
- 6:30 - 6:50 Julian Duval gives a brief glimpse into Quail's future and new projects on the drawing board
- 6:50 - 7:00 Introduction of Steve Brigham, SDHS Horticulturist of the Year
- 7:00 - 7:30 Steve Brigham talks about his life in horticulture
- 8:00 Garden closes



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 Grande Dr., Vista, CA 92084; voice (760) 295-7089, fax (760) 295-7119, newsletter@sdhortsoc.org.

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

Sponsorship Info: Susan Morse, sponsor@sdhortsoc.org

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BECOME A SPONSOR!

Do you own a garden-related business?

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

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

We thank them for their extra support!

Important Member Information

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

1: Treasurer

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

2: Volunteer Coordinator Co-Chair

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

3: Garden Tours Chair

The chair of our Tour Committee helps plan 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 the task. If you like to plan great garden visits, and want to select exceptional places to tour, call Susi at (760) 295-7089.

LOOKING FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

In September we'll be adding new board members, so here's your chance to step up and take part. We meet every other month at Quail Botanical Gardens for about two hours. Board members decide how to allocate our resources, what special events to produce and participate in, who our speakers will be, and much more. It's a great way to share your enthusiasm for our Society and to help determine what we do throughout the year.

One of the open slots we most need to fill is that of Treasurer (see above). In addition to members who serve three-year terms and who have special responsibilities (see column at left), we also have up to three "at large" board members who serve for one year. The main obligation of these at-large members is to attend the board meetings. If you'd like to take a more active role in the SDHS, please call Susi by August 10 at (760) 295-7089 and let's talk. 🌿

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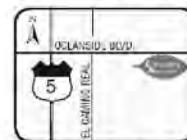
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 Friday-Saturday.....7:30am-6:00pm
 Sunday.....9:00am-5:00pm

To Learn More...

GUERRILLA GARDENING AND MORE

By Ava Torre-Bueno

This month I'm giving you a list of web sites I think you'll find interesting, some of which are from the edge between gardening and environmental revolution.

You've seen this before – give your garden back to nature (and still have a lovely space for yourself) by gardening for wildlife at:
<http://www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife/>

Here are the folks who started the movement to encourage the Obamas to put in an organic kitchen garden replacing some of the Whitehouse lawn. It worked! There is now a large organic garden that can meet the needs of the First Family as well as special functions, AND there will be extra for a local food bank:

<http://www.kitchengardeners.org/>

The revolutionary idea that underused land should be made beautiful or useful even if you don't own it is highlighted at this site:
<http://www.guerrillagardening.org/>

We know about our carbon footprint and how important it is to use less gas, but an even more destructive greenhouse gas is methane, which comes from the rotting of plant material. Composting not only gives you a lovely soil amendment, it keeps all your food scraps from becoming destructive methane! So here are two useful sites to get you started with worm composting and Bokashi composting:

<http://www.homecompostingmadeeasy.com/wormcomposting.html>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bokashi_composting

And to just have a little daily dose of random garden news, you can go to:

<http://www.dirtdujour.com/>

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

The Late Show Gardens, September 18-20



Head north in September to see a very exciting new garden show in Sonoma! The intimate layout of this garden show will allow visitors to personally experience a different approach to the crucial issues of water conservation and climate change while celebrating beautiful design. Through gardens and lectures, visitors will learn about the large palette of plants from many Mediterranean type climates around the world that can be utilized using the winter rains. Attendees will leave with a better understanding of

how creative and interesting garden design can be both socially responsible and personally rewarding. Visit www.thelateshowgardens.org for details. Affordable tickets from \$10–\$20; see web site for discounts; children under 6 free. The show is being held at Cornerstone Sonoma, 23570 Highway 121, Sonoma, CA 95476. 🌿

From The Board

By Susi Torre-Bueno

HONORING STEVE BRIGHAM

If you've been reading the newsletter recently you know that on August 10 we're honoring one of our founders, Steve Brigham, at a very special event at Quail Botanical Gardens. Steve has strong ties to Quail, as does the SDHS, which was founded there in 1994. We hope to see many of you at this event, which will recognize Steve's many achievements in horticulture. Steve has made hundreds of friends and colleagues in San Diego (and elsewhere), and his decades here were marked with great plant introductions and the tremendous gift he has for communicating his enthusiasm for and love of plants of all kinds. His lectures were always well-attended, his remarks at our monthly Plant Forum were much appreciated, and his nursery, Buena Creek Gardens, was a place where you knew you would always find like-minded plant aficionados. See page 3 for details about our event honoring Steve.

MARKETING THE SDHS

Here's a perfect opportunity to really flex your imagination muscle and put your creative energy to good use. We're especially interested in finding an enthusiastic and energetic member with experience and/or interest in marketing, to lead our marketing efforts. This will be a tremendously fun and creative experience! Have you got some inspired ideas about how we can market our tree book outside San Diego County? Perhaps you know of ways to promote the SDHS to the public, or how to increase attendance at events? Call Susi at (760) 295-7089 and let us know what you'd like to do.

THERE'S MORE ON-LINE



Sally Sandler and Rachel Cobb have done an amazing job of completely upgrading our website, and we hope you'll check it out very soon. See page 15 for details about getting your newsletter on-line! When you see the MORE ON-LINE symbol at the start of an article it means we've added additional information on our website – more images, references, plant lists, etc. Check the website frequently for Plant Superstars and other exclusively on-line features you'll appreciate.

SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

The good folks listed on as Sponsor Members on page 9 make it possible for the SDHS to do more than we could with regular membership dues alone. Their significant financial support means that we can stretch our budget further. Please let them know you appreciate their contributions by mentioning it when you do business with them. Links to all sponsors are on our website, www.SanDiegoHorticulturalSociety.org. 🌿



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Successful Drought Tolerant Gardening

Edited by Cindy Sparks

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

More on-line
@
SDHortSoc.org

Choosing And Using Native Plants In Your Garden

By Sue Marchetti, California Native Plant Society and Master Gardener

Mary Jane Olenksi



Front yard landscape of California natives.

so all the plants can be seen. Layer by using shorter plants in the front.

As we learned last month, a native habitat will also draw more beneficial insects. Along with more birds and butterflies, you'll see fewer pests while increasing visual interest.

It's wise to do some research first. Some natives are picky about soil, drainage and sun. Choose plants that match your area:

Water rationing is now a reality and homeowners must think of ways to modify thirsty gardens and lawns. If you are among these forward-thinking folks, consider California natives as a great way to reduce water use.

Native plants have many positive aspects. The California Native Plant Society, www.cnps.org, says natives provide a sense of place, are beautiful; and reflect the natural splendor for which California is famous. Native gardens save water, lower maintenance, don't require pesticides and fertilizers, and increase your garden enjoyment by welcoming wildlife.

To consider how you might change your garden to reflect this bounty, first think water zones. If you would like to retain favorite but thirsty plants, group them together. Then group other low-water-use plants in the other areas. Plan your irrigation system around these zones. Natives and Mediterranean drought-tolerant plants like micro sprinkler irrigation to simulate rainfall until they are established. Water deeply at first so the roots will go deep.

Consider converting the lawn to a meadow, using flowering plants, grasses or other plants that can take some foot traffic. Many low-growing plants can replace lawn. Some favorites are *Calylophus hartwegii*, yarrow, *Carex pansa*, *Baccharis* 'Pigeon Point', and some of the low-growing *Arctostaphylos* and *Ceanothus*.

You might create drought-tolerant plant islands with meandering paths among them. Choose plants of varying heights, or use mounds

coastal, foothills or inland valleys. Most natives have specific water needs. Plants that tolerate no water in the summer (once established) should be separated from those that accept some summer water. Match the plant to the site, rather than trying to modify the site to suit the plant. Planting in fall or winter takes advantage of the soil's deep moisture, and plants will get off to a better start and require much less initial watering. Mulching can be helpful, but some natives don't want added humus, so homework here is essential.

It's not necessary to be a "purist." Even when planning a habitat garden, mixing native and non-native drought-tolerant plants will give you a larger palette from which to choose, but please avoid invasives. Check out the California Invasive Plant Council, www.cal-ipc.org, for a look at some bad plant citizens.

To see and evaluate native plants, add Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden in Claremont, California, to our list of good examples. More nurseries are selling native plants now, so ask at your local nursery too.

We live in one of the botanically richest, most diverse counties in the country. The time is right to for us all to reduce water use. There is no better way than utilizing the gorgeous plants native to San Diego.

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

Plants That Produce

ROOTING HARDWOOD CUTTINGS

By Richard Frost

As I began to write this column, several of you called me with inquiries about the Pomegranates listed in last month's column†. A few of them are available now at San Diego area independent nurseries, and many more will likely be available next year. As an alternative: if you happen to know someone with a variety you really like the taste of, then you can make clones of it by rooting hardwood cuttings.

Before getting into procedural details, I'd like to remind you that cuttings may be rooted from several – but not all – varieties of plants. For example: pomegranates, peaches, roses, figs and papayas are easy to root. As a counterexample: persimmons will rarely, if ever, propagate by rooted cutting. For more details see *Plant Propagation*, edited by Alan Toogood, published by the American Horticultural Society.

The optimum time to select cuttings from a plant is in the late winter or early spring when the nodes on hardened stems from last-year's growth are swelling. The worst time is in the fall when some plants are cycling down into dormancy. For most plants, any time in between these two periods also works fine. Use clean tools and containers to avoid introducing unwanted disease.

Select straight "hardened off" stems 16 to 20 inches long and 1/4 to 3/8 inches thick at the base (point of cutting off plant). Don't select a branch with fruit on it unless you are really desperate. Cut the base straight across, and cut the growth tip off at a 45-degree angle. Remove any flowers and fruit. If there are leaves, remove all leaves 3/4 of the length from the base and cleanly clip off side branches (until you are an expert). Cut all remaining leaves in half width-wise, so the half with the leaf tip is removed.

To plant your cutting, choose a soil medium that provides aeration. Straight ground coir (coconut fiber) is excellent, but so is rock wool, or just a peat-based potting mix that contains perlite. Put the soil medium into a pot that is 8 inches high, filling it completely. Then wet it thoroughly and let it drain. Press the soil down moderately. You probably now have a pot of damp soil that is about 1-inch below the lip – as desired. Now, take a chop stick or screw driver (etc.) and make a hole in the pot for the cutting, no deeper than 1.5 inches from the bottom.

It is advisable to use a rooting gel, liquid, or powder, or a 50/50 mix of water and seaweed extract (contains gibberellic acid). Dip your cutting in the rooting solution almost up to the point of the soil line and place it in the hole. Then press the soil in the pot gently to close the gap around the stem.

Place the pot(s) in about 30% to 40% shade continuously during daylight hours. The soil temperature should be between 70° (F) and 85°, and the air temperature between 60° and 80°. The soil cannot dry out or be soggy. The stems often begin sending out new growth before any significant roots have developed, so be patient! Give them at least 6-8 weeks before checking the holes in the bottom of the pot for roots.

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

Pampas Grass Be Gone!

By Sandy Shapiro

Pampas Grass plumes can be gorgeous when in full bloom. When my wife and I moved to Encinitas from New England, we were delighted to see two large clumps in full glory just ten feet from our front door. It was not long before our next door neighbor explained that those majestic plumes were a hazard to the community. The following weekend we took some photos for our scrapbook and then removed the two clumps. What was that all about?

A native of the Andes, Pampas Grass (*Cortaderia selloana*) is planted by some for its large showy plumes. However, those plumes contain million of seeds that are spread by the wind. It is an aggressive colonizer that competes with and displaces native vegetation. It cannot be used by native birds and desirable mammals. Older clumps, which can harbor rats and snakes and are a fire hazard, typically do not produce the beautiful plumes for which they were originally planted.

In Encinitas, Pampas Grass can be found in all parts of the city. Often there is a continuous sequence of clumps strung along a roadway or hillside. Since Encinitas is located between two lagoon conservation areas, San Elijo and Bataquitos, there is a continuous battle to remove Pampas Grass and other invasive plants from the reserves. The state and county have spent millions of dollars in this effort. However, as long as Pampas Grass is present over such a wide area, the problem of spreading will continue.

A group of concerned volunteers in Encinitas have instituted **Project RIP** (Remove Invasive Pampas Grass) as an educational outreach program. The objective is to encourage homeowners to remove any Pampas Grass on their property. In each of the five communities of Encinitas a small area of mature Pampas Grass was chosen for demonstration, with the cooperation of the property owner. The process was videotaped and a DVD will be produced.

If the clumps are still small, pulling or digging them out is best, especially if the soil is moist. Wear gloves as the leaf blades are abrasive! Most clumps, however, will be full size and the following is recommended:

1. Carefully cut off seed heads and bag them, securely sealed, for disposal as trash.
2. Apply glyphosate (e.g., Roundup) herbicide spray to the foliage; 5% concentration recommended.
3. After foliage has died, (several weeks required, depending on temperature), remove it.

Glyphosate, marketed as Roundup and other brand names, is taken up by the foliage and transferred to the plant roots. It is safe for humans and pets, and breaks down quickly soon after application.

In Encinitas the volunteers have declared Pampas Grass Public Enemy #1. I suspect that many communities in San Diego might feel the same. To learn more about invasive plants visit the California Invasive Plant Council website at cal-ipc.org. ☘



Forest Starr & Kim Starr

2009 Horticulturist of The Year: 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!

This article is the third in a series that Steve has written for us about his life as a plantsman. We hope you can join us as we honor Steve at a very special event at Quail Botanical Gardens on Monday, August 10th – details are on page 3.

A Brief History of Me (Part Two)

By Steve Brigham

Quail Botanical Gardens

The fall of 1980 was a wonderful time in my life. At 26 years old, I was probably just a little too full of myself as I came blazing into Encinitas in a 24-foot U-Haul truck that was full of rare trees and shrubs from my backyard nursery in Santa Cruz. After a long wait, and thanks to some very generous help from QBG Horticulturist Gil Voss and his wife Alison, I had finally secured a San Diego County Parks and Recreation Gardener position at what was then known as Quail Botanic Gardens (we put the “-al” into the name my first month there). Over the next two years, with the help of the Quail Gardens Foundation, we would make some very big steps in modernizing the botanical structure and function of the Gardens, as well as greatly expanding its plant collections, plant sales, and educational programs.

Quail Gardens was then and always has been a complete joy to work with, since so many different kinds of plants grow well there, all in remarkably close proximity. With its enviable site overlooking the Pacific Ocean, it is both unique and exceptional among all of the many botanical gardens I have ever seen. Another, even more compelling aspect of Quail was its tradition as a true “community garden,” with many volunteers working together to develop it in lieu of paid staff. These people quickly became not only my friends, but also my family – and I too volunteered many hours each week after my 40 paid hours were done. In the two years that I worked at Quail, we all got at least five years’ work

done, by anybody’s standards.

Specialty Nurseries

Sad to say, by 1982, San Diego County Parks had severe budgetary challenges, and rightfully had to channel most of its funding into the big recreational parks that produced the most revenue for the Parks Department. In a re-organization, I ended up on the short end of things – but I did hope that as the Quail Gardens Foundation got more prosperous, it could someday take over the Gardens completely and that I would be there to help (eleven years later, it did and I was). All I wanted to do was to continue to grow and introduce new plants, and so I continued my career in the rare-plant nursery business.

My first stop was Kartuz Greenhouses, a small but important mail-order nursery in Vista. Mail-order was a brand new world for me, and a most exciting one, since I now had the opportunity to see the rare subtropical plants that I grew distributed all across the USA and beyond. In doing so, I was able to maintain my connections with many botanical gardens and plant collectors worldwide, further adding to my credentials as a rare plant grower. This work continued at Stallings Nursery in Encinitas, which specialized in unusual landscape plants but also allowed me to establish a mail-order program.

Daylilies?

In late 1987, I accepted an offer from Bob Brooks (former Treasurer of the Quail Gardens Foundation) to manage his Cordon Bleu Farms in San Marcos, where

he grew hundreds of the newest varieties of daylilies and iris for mail-order shipment. When word got out to all my plant-collector friends that I was doing this, they all thought that I had lost my mind. Why would I give up rare plants for daylilies?! Well, I’ll be the first to admit that I’ve made some pretty risky moves in my life, and this one was no different. As always, this time I had some important reasons.

Actually, I had no intentions of giving up my rare-plant career. But at 33, there was still something I’d always wanted to do that I hadn’t done yet, and that was to have my *own* rare-plant nursery and garden. With absolutely no savings to work with, I needed to be creative. And despite its many challenges, Cordon Bleu to me was worth the risk.

Bob’s 4-acre property in San Marcos reminded me of a very early version of Quail Gardens – it had the potential to be a “mini Quail.” As long as I kept his fields and grounds maintained and fulfilled my shipping duties, Bob agreed that I could spend my extra time building a nursery and display garden, and so Buena Creek Gardens was born. Because of limited time and money, initial progress was slow. But our plant collection began to grow, with the addition of many new and uncommon perennials, drought-tolerant plants (including California natives), and subtropicals.

Volunteer Opportunities

If there was ever a “golden era” of San

Continued on page 13

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:

We welcome GreenTree and Reegan Ray as our newest Sponsors (see page 18).

Rick & Rosi Crouch	Mitchel Olson
Falling Waters Landscape	Pat Peterson
Jef Hearne	Carol & Edward Sahagian
Deward Houck	Patricia Slaney
Carson Lowe	Stanton Iris Gardens
MiraCosta College Horticulture Dept.	Susan Swift
Susan & Frank Oddo	Nancy & Dan Townley
	Norma Yuskos

NEW ADVERTISERS:

MiraCosta College (INSERT)

GreenTree, PAGE 18

Reegan Ray, PAGE 18

Southwestern College (INSERT)

HORT BUCKS ARE GREAT!

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

Kimberly Alexander (1)	Susan Morse (1)
Connie Beck (1)	Al & Dora Myrick (1)
Cecily Bird (1)	Jan Neill (1)
Linda Bresler (1)	Jackie Ravel (1)
Karylee Feldman (1)	Cindy Sparks (1)
Lori Johansen (1)	Marcia Van Loy (1)
Kathy LaFleur (1)	Darlene Villanueva (1)
Cathy McCaw (1)	

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

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Debra Lee Baldwin	Bill Nelson* (2007)
Steve Brigham* (2009)	Tina & Andy Rathbone
Wayne Carlson	Peggy Ruzich
Laurie Connable	Susi & Jose Torre-Bueno
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Edgar Engert* (2000)	Lucy Warren
Jim Farley	Evelyn Weidner* (2001)
Sue & Charles Fouquette	Pat Welsh* (2003)
Penelope Hlavac	Betty Wheeler

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

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

What's Up at Quail Botanical Gardens?

A MAN NAMED PEARL

By Diana Goforth

Pearl Fryar, the star of the movie *A Man Named Pearl*, is coming to Quail Botanical Gardens. On Sunday, August 23, Pearl will be an honored guest at "Garden Expressions," a new event featuring selected regional artists who will be in the Garden from 11 am to 6 pm creating and selling their art. Pearl will give a talk, do a demo, and be there during the entire day. His inspiring documentary will be shown all throughout the day. (Please see ad on back cover. For a review of *A Man Named Pearl* see SDHS March 2009 issue, available on the SDHS website.)

Pearl is an old friend of Pat Hammer's, Director of Operations at QBG. She discovered Pearl in 1989 while on vacation with her family. Their last stop, or so she thought, was in Atlanta to visit an old friend, horticulturist Tom Woodham, who worked for *Veranda* magazine (he still does, as senior editor). Knowing Pat's interest in topiary – she had just completed a definitive book, *The New Topiary*, for Longwood Gardens – Tom told her she must visit the garden of Pearl Fryar in Bishopville, South Carolina. Although tired of traveling and anxious to get home, Pat and her family took a detour to see Pearl's garden, more to please an old friend than anything else.

Unassuming at first – a little country road, modern ranch-style bungalows on one-acre lots, green grass, one or two trees, she wondered, "What am I going to find here?" Most renowned topiary gardens were on 300 acre estates in places like England. She pulled up in front of his house. Next to his lot was a vacant lot with the words "Love" and "Peace" carved out of green bushes. Then she noticed a fantastic row of evergreen plants cut into extraordinary, whimsical shapes unlike any she had ever seen. And the plants used were not the traditional topiary plants but rather pine trees, blue spruce, etc. This was unbelievable. Intrigued, she got out of the car and rang the doorbell.

Pearl's wife, Metra, answered the door – for those of you who have seen the documentary, you know that she is a warm,

Continued on page 17

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Book Review

THE BEAUTY OF PLANTS ON PAPER

How to Draw Plants: The techniques of botanical illustration

by Keith West

and

The Art of Botanical Drawing: An Introductory Guide

by Agathe Ravet-Haevermans

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh



I'm not an artist. I stand in awe of those who are. And although I don't really intend to start drawing plants (but who knows!), I found both these books interesting and worth reading. The books are essentially "how to" manuals. The older, by West, was first published in 1983 and has been through eight printings, a testament to its popularity. The other, by Ravet-Haevermans, was first published in 2007.

West, in his introduction, sums up for the artist the satisfaction of plants. He writes, "I feel confident that most, if not all, botanical artists would join me in saying that all plants can be brought to yield artistic and intellectual pleasure – some in great bounty, others sparingly. I have not yet found a plant that completely lacked rewards for the searching mind and eye." Isn't that exactly why we garden?

Of the two, West is more formal in tone, but not to the point of being difficult to read. His book is in 12 chapters including ones on the history of drawing plants, drawing in pencil and ink, scraper (or scratch) board, water-color and gouache, and acrylics. He even has a short chapter on photography. Although cameras have changed in the last 26 years, the concerns with photographing plants have not, so even that chapter is useful. His book is 152 pages and includes 132 illustrations (10 in color), a glossary, a bibliography, and an index.

Ravet-Haevermans's book (95 pages) is more like a friend answering the question, "How do you do that?" It's conversational in tone. She tells you why she thinks drawing plants correctly is important and how she does it. It has five major sections: materials, learning to draw, anatomy of a plant, different media, and enhancement. The book includes 150 delightful and informative illustrations, most by her and most in color. It also has a glossary and bibliography including sections on botany, history, drawing, and "Just to look at." I was so charmed by that last section that I forgave her for not having an index.

One caveat, some parts of the book are set in a typeface that approximates handwriting. It looks great, but it really makes you appreciate Times New Roman and the other type faces that are so easy to read. I was surprised at the similarities between the two books. West is a New Zealander; Ravet-Haevermans is French, but they clearly have a shared language in art. I'd have a difficult time choosing if I were only allowed one as they compliment each other so well.

The Art of Botanical Drawing (ISBN 978-0-88192-990-4) and *How to Draw Plants* (ISBN 0-88192-350-8) are both paperback and available at Timber Press (800-827-5622) or your local bookstore for \$19.95. ☘

Community Outreach

SUMMER, KIDS, AND...GARDENING??

By Linda Johnson

YES!! Summer in San Diego County provides numerous ways to introduce your kids to the world of gardening. Whether for fun, education, skills building, contributing to the community, or other reasons, kids can participate in a wide variety of activities related to horticulture. Here is a sampling:



Kids at Sunshine Care

Sunshine Care's Intergenerational Garden Club:

Sunshine Care Homes, a unique, 28-acre "green" assisted living community (complete with organic fields, composting stations, and working greenhouse) offers an intergenerational

community project. Seniors and children garden side-by-side, with grandmas and grandpas working closely with their garden buddies ranging from babies to age ten. Learning the whole process of gardening—seed planting, watering, transplanting, growing, maintenance, harvesting, washing and tasting the fruits of their labor are all a part of the fun. In addition to treasured memories for children and seniors, the Garden Club produces fruits, vegetables and herbs for Sunshine Care's resident menu. Meetings: Monthly on the 1st and 3rd Thursday. Contact: Lisa Lipsey at (760) 822-3764 or lisa@sunshinecare.com or visit www.sunshinecare.com.

Children's Garden Art Safari Camp at Quail Botanical Gardens:

For ages 6 – 9, Quail is offering Abrakadoodle Art Camps, where kids spend the morning outside to experience the beauty of the gardens and connect with nature through art! Kids create paintings, drawing, sculptures and lots of other multi-media artwork inspired by daily safaris throughout the gardens. Monday through Thursday, 9.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. Camp weeks: August 3 – 6, or August 10 – 13. For registration, member discounts, or more information, call (760) 731-0555 or visit Abrakadoodle's website, www.abrakadoodle.com/ca07.html.

Mission Trails Regional Park Nature Walks:

Explore and learn about the wonders of nature and the people who once lived on this land. The Visitor and Interpretive Center and Museum offer kids of all ages the opportunity to learn about the history, geology, plants, animals and ecology of the park. Join a park Trail Guide on a guided nature walk to three trails including: a small oak woodland with majestic coast live oaks and rare Engelmann oaks; coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and riparian woodland habitats; a Native Plant Garden; and archaeological sites where Kumeyaay Indians ground acorns on the rocks for food. Walks are free and open to the public. For schedules, visit www.mtrp.org.

Continued from page 20

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The Real Dirt On...

GEORGE ENGELMANN

By Joan Herskowitz



George Engelmann (1809-1884) was a German-American botanist who was instrumental in describing the flora of the west of North America, which was then poorly known. He was not only a plant collector of some importance, but also organized major collecting expeditions in the West, and passed plant specimens on to eastern scholars such as Asa Gray at Harvard. Engelmann later helped set up the renowned Missouri Botanical Garden.

He was born in Frankfurt, Germany, the son of a schoolmaster and oldest of thirteen children. He studied medicine at German universities and obtained his M.D. in 1831. The following year he was induced to come to the U.S. and stayed in Illinois. His uncle, Frederick Theodor, had been a pioneer in Illinois and was one of the early viticulturists. During this period he spent time on botanical studies and travels, and after a couple of years he decided to settle down in St. Louis, Missouri where he became a prominent physician. However, Engelmann found time to conduct studies of cacti, dodder, pines, rushes, sporges, oaks and conifers, and other plant groups, and contributed numerous botanical papers to professional journals.

Engelmann played a role in rescuing the French wine industry, when, in the 1870's, French vineyards were attacked by the insect *Phylloxera vastatrix*. Growers observed that certain imported American vines resisted this pest, and the French government sent a scientist to St. Louis to consult with the state entomologist and Engelmann, who had studied American grapes. Engelmann verified the resistance to *Phylloxera* of certain American species. He recommended *Vitis riparia*, a wild vine of the Mississippi Valley, that did not cross-pollinate with less resistant species, the cause of previous grafting failures. He subsequently arranged to have millions of shoots and seeds collected and sent to France, where the species was successfully grown.

A founder and longtime president of the St. Louis Academy of Sciences, Engelmann was also one of the founders of the National Academy of Science. He encouraged the St. Louis businessman Henry Shaw to develop his gardens to be of scientific as well as public use. "Shaw's Gardens" became the Missouri Botanical Garden, and Engelmann traveled to Europe to purchase books and herbaria for the new garden. His large plant collections, library, notes, and drawings are still housed there, and the Missouri Botanical Garden has become well-known for its botanical research, horticultural displays and educational programs.

Engelmann died in 1884 and is commemorated in the names of several plants, including the rare Engelmann Oak (*Quercus engelmannii*) that is a native of San Diego County, found in open woodlands away from the coast. Another fine tree, the Engelmann Spruce (*Picea engelmannii*), is native to mountains of the west.

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

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Steve Brigham Continued from page 8

Diego Horticulture, the 1990's were it – and it all had to do with volunteers. By 1990, the Quail Botanical Gardens Foundation had asked me back, this time as a Board member, and soon we were on a roll. Here I was, back with my family, with a new generation of players (some of whom I had taught 10 years before in their first year as volunteers at the Gardens). The San Diego horticultural community was finally maturing, and as more talented friends hopped on board, we knew we were ready for big things. Why not finally take “the big step” and assume control of Quail as a non-profit institution? And further, why not finally create a San Diego Horticultural Society, like many of us had talked about for years? As they say in Australia, “done and done,” and we “did and did” it in 1993 and 1994.

None of this would have happened if it weren't for the serendipity of so many talented volunteers serving at just the right time, each performing their own vital functions (since space is quite limited in this essay, I must regretfully refrain from mentioning all the wonderful people involved by name – you'll just have to wait until I write a book someday). The big challenge was not just to get the “new” Quail Botanical Gardens and the completely new San Diego Horticultural Society up and running, but to do it in a way that would keep these organizations prospering long into the future – and they have. Ours was and is to this day an “army of friends” too big and too dedicated to be denied, as may it be forever more!

Buena Creek Gardens

Amidst all this wonderful activity, I had one more project up my sleeve back at Buena Creek Gardens, which by then had gotten rather well known as a source of unusual plant material. Bob Brooks was set to retire at 65, and in January of 1996, he sold Cordon Bleu Farms, Buena Creek Gardens, and his 4-acre property to me (since I still didn't have any money, he generously agreed to finance the deal himself). Now, at 41 years of age, I had finally achieved my dream of owning my own rare plant nursery, and it was one of the most rewarding and also riskiest things I ever did. At that time, the nursery was still dominated by the daylilies, which took up most of my time but also paid most of the bills. Determined to get a quick start, however, I took out some loans and hired a staff in order to develop the “new” nursery and gardens as quickly as possible. Buoyed by helpful publicity, a rising economy, and lots of hard work, we achieved quick initial success and kept it going as fast and as far as the daylily mail-order business could afford. But in a few years, when those initial loans came due, a crisis point was reached. Because of economic realities, would the nursery whose promise was “to boldly grow what no one has grown before” simply cease to exist?

I first met my wife, Donna, in 1999, just as I was re-examining my life and business path. Donna is in reality an angel that was sent to help me in my worst time of need. I had always wanted most to have a “mom and pop” small business, pleasantly manageable without lots of employees – but I'd never had a “mom” to do it with. Now I did, and Donna was no stranger to hard work. If we knew we couldn't make much money selling plants, why not just do what we really wanted? And so we began a new chapter of Buena Creek Gardens, where Donna and I gradually phased out the daylilies, and with the help of our new friend Jacob focused ourselves on the nursery and gardens.

Continued on page 14

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Steve Brigham Continued from page 13

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The first several years of the 21st century were a period of the greatest garden and nursery developments ever at Buena Creek Gardens, since once the daylilies were minimized, I was finally able to return to my life-long twin loves of plant propagation and garden building. With Donna's vision, our nursery areas were transformed into works of art, and in 2005, we completed a deservedly famous 1-acre Bird and Butterfly Garden, which showcased so many of our finest plants and which we further expanded over the next two years. By 2007, I had finally achieved much of what I had envisioned for Buena Creek Gardens 20 years earlier. By then, however, we had an even newer project – and that was to escape our formerly rural North County area, which had become way too urbanized and overcrowded for our sanity to continue. In May of 2008, we sold Buena Creek Gardens to our friends Steve and Shari Matteson, who today continue to run BCG in fine fashion.

Lessons Learned

So there you have it – a brief account of some of the thrills, chills, and spills of the first 20,000 days of my life. I now return to my present view in June 2009, past my computer screen, looking out at the Washington garden that Donna and I have created and its surrounding forest – as we contemplate a new chapter in our lives with our impending move (this time reluctantly, and economically driven) to the Mendocino Coast of northern California.

In my life, I have learned that knowledge exists to be shared, and that often the greatest formats for sharing that knowledge are organizations that require our cooperation – and patience. Some folks might be surprised to know (but others surely won't) that since childhood I have never changed – I have always been the same shy, quiet person who just likes to stay at home, play in my garden, and read books. Plants are easy for me (since I basically am one), but helping to create and support lasting organizations that will serve my fellow gardeners has always required major effort on my part. Because I don't really like to socialize much, it sometimes seems amazing to me that I ever got involved in community projects and serving others (although I'm sure the Jesuits had something to do with the fact that I did).

There is no denying that we all live in a big world these days, and if we take the time to look, we realize that there are always big things to be done. No one can do big things alone. In horticulture, as with any other aspect of our lives, the big things that we choose to do we must do together with others. It takes not just a village, but an army – an army of friends – because we must be disciplined enough as a unit to “get the job done.” Of my career accomplishments, I am by far most proud to have been a small part of some wonderful armies of friends – who together got the job done by creating and supporting great horticultural organizations which will long outlive the “prime time” that we individually could give them.

If there is any award to be given, it should go to *all* of us in those horticultural armies of friends, and to each of us – because each of us, no matter how much or little we contribute, is essential to the whole. The point is that you *did* contribute. In my life, I have found that working successfully with others gives me a wonderful feeling inside. And when we all truly work together, as *Star Trek's* Mr. Spock might say, “*All honors must go to the many, and not to the few, or the one.*” ☘

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- 3) Go down to "Newsletters Online."
- 4) Enter this month's password, which was e-mailed to you in late July. The password is case sensitive, so type it exactly as it appeared in the e-mail. If you didn't get the e-mail it means we don't have your current e-mail address. To get the password send an e-mail to info@sdhortsoc.org and type "PASSWORD NEEDED" in the subject line.
- 5) Locate the most recent issue, "hot off the press."

Members who have requested a digital version of the monthly newsletter can download the issue, or just enjoy it on-line. Each month we'll e-mail all members the password – the on-line version will be ready to read days before the printed version reaches your mail box. Also in this location you'll find back copies of your favorite issues and articles, so check it out today! In keeping with our mission, we believe that this quick and easy access to valuable information about horticulture in San Diego will help promote your enjoyment and knowledge on a regular and immediate basis.

If you like getting the newsletter on-line and would prefer to do that instead of getting a printed copy, please send Susi Torre-Bueno an e-mail at info@SDHortSoc.org and say "On-line only!" This will help reduce our printing and postage costs, allowing us to use that money for other member benefits.

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:

We've heard that worm castings are good in the garden for a number of things - what changes have you observed when you use worm castings? (Thanks to Marci Shirley for suggesting this topic.)

Walter Andersen says, "We have been selling Worm Gold [at Walter Andersen Nursery] for many, many years now. After about two years of selling this product, George Hahn (owner of Worm Gold) came to the store and asked me how I keep the whitefly off of my plants. I told him the biggest problem was Hibiscus and Plumeria. I said, 'I just hose them off with a strong stream of water.' Then he said, 'If you put Worm Gold under the plants you won't have any whitefly.' Of course I think he is saying this to sell more Worm Gold, it seemed kind of strange that this could work. I pretty much just said, 'OK.' George came in again about a few months later, and said, 'How are your plants and the whitefly?' I said, 'They are still there.' He replied, 'So you haven't used Worm Gold?' I said, 'No.' He heads out to the front to find a cart, then puts two 20-quart bags on the cart and says, 'I'm going to put these by your car, be sure to scatter it under the plants when you get home. I also am going to

Continued on page 16

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Sharing Secrets Continued from page 15

give you a credit for these bags, because I know you don't believe me.' Well, I took them home and scattered a half bag under my Hibiscus and the rest under the Plumeria, still not believing this can do much as far as insects go. Pretty soon I noticed, no more white fly! I have been doing this once or twice a year since then. I also had a Tangerine tree with many whitefly; now I use a whole bag under this tree at least once a year and no whitefly. I'm a believer now. Worm castings have a small amount of organic plant food and are also supposed to be a good conditioner for the soil, but my biggest benefit I think, is no more whitefly. I have found if I use Worm Gold worm castings under susceptible plants, the whitefly is no longer a problem. I have been doing this for over six years now, and my Plumeria, Hibiscus and Citrus no longer have this troublesome pest. Sure beats hosing them off and spraying all of the time. You need to put it on kind of thick, perhaps a 1/2" layer under the plants for best results."

Louise Anderson finds castings effective, "I've seen that worm castings get rid of white fly and prevent it, too. It's also a great fertilizer."

Vivian Blackstone likes them, too: "I find them a wonder accessory to any healthy garden. First, if you have a diseased tree, you make a worm tea and spray it on the trunk and leaves. Second, when you are replanting a flower, fruit or seedling you mix some of that worm tea onto the plant. It's quite potent, so diluting is the best method of use for worm castings. A large amount of research has been done at the University of Portland, OR."

Ellen Goble tells us, "My roses are in pots so I have added about a cup of castings in the potting mixture (which is now several years old) then I add about 1/2 inch layer on top of the mulch (which I replace each year after the first fertilizing). I add a little over the summer as needed. I have no more white flies on my roses"

Will Johnson says worm castings mean, "healthier plants, fewer pests."

Sherry Park says, "I really should use the worm castings more. The only time I've used them was as a 1" thick mulch around my Blue Dawn morning glory and a Rose of Sharon in order to get rid of the whiteflies that were so prevalent at that time. It certainly did the job pronto and they've never come back."

Marci Shirley wrote: "I remember my first garden club meeting- I called home very excited saying, 'You will never guess what I won, a pound of worm castings.' You would have thought I had actually won a pound of gold. It may as well be gold because worm castings are priceless for me. Not only do I mix them with my dirt, I also make castings tea and water my plants with it."

Cindy Sparks uses worm castings as part of a larger scheme: "It's hard to tell what worm castings have done, because I started using them at the same time I started other organic behavior in the garden. So I can't attribute the good results exclusively to worm castings. I have noticed a lot fewer grasshoppers, which used to chew both roses and citrus rather badly. I understand the worm castings are somehow bad for exoskeletons. I have lots of lady bugs, both adult and their juvenile form. I also widened the list of plants I wash periodically with New Dawn dishwashing solution. After seeing the Science Fair exhibit where the young man found New Dawn solution (simulating grey water from the sink) worked better than water in controlled experiments, I have been less hesitant to use it. I do rinse after washing. The worm castings just fit well into the overall care plan."

Cathy Tylka is a fan: "I just love to add this to anything I am transplanting, it just works. The plant must like the effects it provides, because they live and thrive. I am planning on putting some near the roots of my rose bushes, since I heard from a friend that the roses like it too, even if already planted. I just purchased some from Exotica Nursery on Vista Way. I think 25 pounds was about \$25. I feel that's a bargain. My garden would be doing better if I got out to help it more often. I can't blame it on lack of rain, more like lack of gardener."

Tynan Wyatt says, "When using worm castings I've had germination of all my seed types (vegetable, fruit tree, and arid plants except cactus, which I haven't tried with worm castings only yet) equal to or better than I've gotten with Miracle Grow potting mix, which previously gave me the best results compared to other potting soils or regular soil. Damping off also hasn't once been a problem since I've used worm castings. So I can't say castings are better performance than the most expensive potting soil on the market, but I can say that it's free, organic, and easier on the environment than buying manufactured and shipped potting soil. The only downside is generating enough of it to pot up all my plants while I'm living in my apartment and only have enough space for a tiny worm bin."

The question for next month is:

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

Send your e-mail reply by August 5 to info@sdhortsoc.org.

A Man Named Pearl Continued from page 9

loving person. She graciously invited Pat to see Pearl's garden, take her time, Pearl would be home at 2 pm for lunch and she could meet him then. It was only 10 am so Pat was pretty sure she would not be able to meet Pearl. Well, five hours later and after buying out all the film from surrounding communities, Pat was completely enthralled with his garden and had taken several rolls of pictures. Each piece was more fascinating than the last. When Pearl got home she was more than happy to hear the details of how he created these amazing sculptures and he was so excited to share. It is incredible to her that he had never read a book about topiary – in fact, he didn't even know the term – and, yet, he was a master. He had his own names for shapes: spirals were either right twists or left twists, depending on the direction of the cutting. And he doesn't start out with choice plants – he has a friend who gives him the city's sick or damaged plants that are going to the dumpster and Pearl makes them thrive. He is an accomplished horticulturist as well as an artist.

Using tools that would make OSHA cringe – and old ladder and chain saw – he converts the ordinary into extraordinary. He works 12 hour shifts as a mechanic and still finds time to create his magical topiaries, usually from 8 pm – 2 am using flood lights. And his wife is so supportive of him. "Whatever makes him happy is fine with me."

You, too, can meet Pearl Fryar on August 23 at Quail Botanical Gardens. He is an amazing man who has become an internationally acclaimed artist because of his passion for plants. For more information about Garden Expressions and Pearl's visit go to www.qbgardens.org or call (760) 436-3036 x204. 🌿

THANKS FAIR VOLUNTEERS

Last month we thanked many of the volunteers and donors who made our San Diego County Fair display garden such a success. Sergio Regalado, of Plant Play Nursery in Carlsbad, used water-thrifty plants in a charming, exciting and educational design. We were very proud to win San Diego County Water Authority WaterSmart Landscape Award – the first time this \$1500 award has been given. Bravo, Sergio!

We are very appreciative of the time spent answering questions about our display (and on gardening in general) by our wonderful Horticulturists of the Day, who were organized by Pat Hammer. The list below includes the volunteers from SDHS as well as those from Quail Botanical Gardens, who also helped at our display garden, which was next door to theirs. Additional volunteers were provided by the San Diego County Water Authority. Thanks to you all!

Kimberly Alexander, June Anderson, Terry Armstrong, Nancy Bellomo, Joyce & Michael Buckner, Bette Childs, Roberta & David Dotson, Mary Drolle, Paula Eoff, Barb Farley, Connie Forest, Cielo Foth, Mary Friestedt, Irina Gronborg, Karen Hancock, Carolina Harris, Robin Hermann, Fran & Bob Hinostro, Alison Howard, John Jones, Peter Jones, Sharon Lee, Shelley Lisker, Lan Lynn, Margaret Matlack, Mary Abra Menkoff, Charlotte Minter, Bonnie Monfort, Kelly Mooney, Susan Morse, Al & Dora Myrick, Mo Price, Mary Rausch, Dale Rekus, Tom Rhodes, Sharon Clay Rose, Steve Rose, Gina Rubin, Sandy Shapiro, Pat Slator, Allys Smith, Cindy Sparks, Kitty Sparrow, Linda Stewart, Mayo Stiegler, Joie Tanner, Susi Torre-Bueno, Mary T. Valardi, Stephanie Williams, Kay Worley, George Yackey and Sara Yano. 🌿

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July Plant Forum

By Joyce & Michael Buckner and Susi Torre-Bueno



For more descriptions of some of the plants listed below, visit the Plant Gallery page at our website, www.SanDiegoHorticulturalSociety.org.

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.

Poliomintha maderensis MEXICAN OREGANO (Lamiaceae) Mexico


One of several different plants with the common name of Mexican Oregano, *Poliomintha maderensis* was recommended by our July, 2009 speaker, Mary Irish, as an excellent small evergreen perennial (some sources list it as a shrub) for water-thrifty gardens. The small dark green leaves smell like oregano, and the 1" long tubular lavender flowers appear from spring through fall. From a 4" plant planted in September, 2008, the specimen shown grew to be about 2' tall by 3' wide in only 10 months. Ultimately, this plant should reach about 3' tall and wide. Tolerant of temperatures as low as 0° F, this plant prefers more water during the summer months, although it is still very un-thirsty. Grow it in full sun to light shade. It seems to be pest-free, and even the rabbits have ignored the specimen shown. The stems are brittle and it is suggested that this plant be placed away from the edge of walkways so as to be out of harms reach. (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 7/09) – S.T-B.

Sansevieria pinguicula WALKING SANSEVIERIA (Dracaenaceae) Kenya

Offsets on above ground branches; plantlets put out stilt-like, skinny leg roots, hence the name 'Walking'. Native to the arid, sandy open plains of Coast Province, Kenya. Thick agave-like leaves are extremely dense and rigid with a dark matte green, slightly rough surface. Sharply pointed – a fierce, lethal point. I have shown this plant several times. Each showing has ended or begun with blood – my blood! Points are so thin, stiff and sharp that often a puncture occurs unnoticed until the blood starts flowing. (Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 7/09) – J&M. B.

Sansevieria suffruticosa SILVER SPIRES (Dracaenaceae) Kenya
Endemic to the more mountainous regions of central Kenya; species found growing on the edges of thickets and along sandy cliffs. Long, slender tubular leaves to about two feet grow in a spiraling geometrically stacked formation. Sharply pointed leaf tip is dark green with transverse bands of silver & pale green patterns. A handsome plant that will easily spread to a width and height of four feet or more. Thrives as an indoor container plant with minimal maintenance (watering) and strong filtered light. Offsets are known to travel on above ground branches, taking up residence in neighboring pots and gardens without hesitation. A tall flower stalk appears about once a year on mature plants, usually late summer. Small, creamy white, densely clustered flowers bloom up the stalk over a three to six week period. Flower scent, which is generally quite pleasant, can sometimes peak, permeating a cloying level of all-too-sweet perfume that is especially strong at dusk. (Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 7/09) J&M. B.

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July Plant Forum

Thanks to everyone who participated in the July plant forum, especially to Michael Buckner, our excellent Plant Forum Host (and bringer of some terrific plants!). 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 June newsletter was *Pachypodium yummytummyum* FEAST ROOT.

Achillea millefolium 'Royal Tapestry' (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 7/09)

Agapanthus 'Elaine' PURPLE LILY-OF-THE-NILE
(Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 7/09)

3 *Agapanthus* 'Storm Cloud' (probably) PURPLE LILY-OF-THE-NILE
(Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 7/09)

Agave filifera (monstrose form) THREAD LEAF AGAVE (The Plant Man, Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 7/09)

Agavex leopoldii (*Syn.* *Agave filifera* × *A. filifera* ssp. *schidigera*) (The Plant Man, Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 7/09) – Note on name of this plant (thanks to Joyce Buckner): *Agave leopoldii* is actually an older name (Berger 1915). Modern DNA studies later revealed it to be a hybrid of *A. filifera* × *A. filifera* ssp. *schidigera*. The preferred name, among nurserymen and gardeners alike, remains *Agave leopoldii*, with good reason, I might add! Per current sources: *The Illustrated Handbook of Succulent Plants ~ Monocotyledons* [Editor: Urs Eggi; c. 2001; Springer/Switzerland], and the International Organization for Succulent Plant Study (IOS), ***Agave* × *leopoldii*** is the valid recognized name for this garden hybrid.

Agave victoriae-reginae forma *ornatum superba* QUEEN VICTORIA AGAVE (Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 7/09)

3 *Asclepias physocarpa* FAMILY JEWELS, SWAN PLANT, GOOSE PLANT (?), 7/09)

3 *Cestrum aurantiacum* 'Bartley Schwartz' ORANGE CESTRUM
(Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 7/09)

3 *Dicliptera suberecta* KING'S CROWN, URUGUAYAN FIRECRACKER PLANT, HUMMINGBIRD PLANT
(Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 7/09)

3 *Dicliptera unerecta* KING'S FROWN (Plant Nut, San Diego, 7/09)

Echeveria agavoides 'Ebony'
(Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 7/09)

Echeveria 'Pulv-oliver' RED ECHEVERIA, PLUSH PLANT
(Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 7/09)

3 *Gardenia thunbergia* (Tom Piergrossi, Vista, 7/09)

3 *Operculicarya decaryi* (bonsai form)
(Phil Tackill, Solana Beach, 7/09)

Origanum 'Bristol Cross' ORNAMENTAL OREGANO
(Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 7/09)

Paphiopedilum Angel Hair SLIPPER ORCHID
(Charley & Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 7/09)

Paphiopedilum Houghtoniae 'Janet' HCC/AOS SLIPPER ORCHID
(Charley & Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 7/09)

Phragmipedium caudatum SLIPPER ORCHID
(Charley & Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 7/09)

Rossioglossum williamsianum WILLIAM'S ROSSIOGLOSSUM
(Jim Wright, San Diego, 7/09)

Russelia equisetiformis 'Flamingo Park' CORAL FOUNTAIN, FIRECRACKER PLANT (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 7/09)

Continued on page 21

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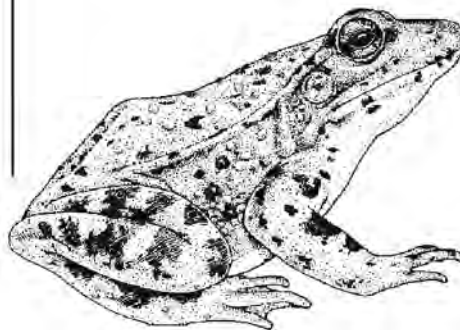
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College Scholarship Winners

Each year we award \$1000 college scholarships to students majoring in ornamental horticulture at our three local two-year colleges. These folks represent the future of horticulture, and we're pleased to be able to help fund their crucial education. Al Myrick has been our College Scholarship Coordinator for a number of years, and we thank him for his dedication and efficiency. The colleges each select the students whom they feel would most benefit from this financial award.

For 2009 the scholarship for MiraCosta College was awarded to Robert Boehm. The winner from Southwestern College was Krista Peace, and the winner from Cuyamaca College was Lynn Priddy. We hope they'll attend many of our meetings and wish them great success with their careers in horticulture! 🌿

Community Outreach Continued from page 10

Children & Nature Network:

The vision and mission of the Children & Nature Network is to give all children in every community a wide range of opportunities to experience nature directly, reconnecting them with nature's joys and lessons, its profound physical and mental bounty. For more information, visit www.childrenandnature.org.

Other Resources:

National Gardening Association for Kids, www.kidsgardening.org

California Native Plant Society-Volunteering,
www.cnpsd.org/VolunteersWanted0506.pdf

Gardening Education, www.botanyforkids.com. 🌿

July Meeting Report

There is no one in our Society who can claim to be unaware of the importance of reducing their water usage – the media is full of the need to cut back, especially since gardening accounts for a significant amount of water consumption in private homes. Our vivacious July speaker, Mary Irish, had a message that was both on-target and beautifully presented, which is what you'd expect of someone who has penned seven books about water-thrifty plants!

Noting that it is, "important that San Diego recognizes you live in a very arid area," Mary added that, "you will get a great deal of joy from these arid-adapted plants." She was so correct, as we enjoyed nearly 100 handsome images (taken by her talented husband and co-author, Gary Irish) of plants to use in our gardens and enjoy for their beauty as we appreciate their practicality. Many of the plants are native to the deserts of Mexico and the American Southwest, although some come from further locales with similar climates.

The first few images illustrated eight attributes of arid-adapted plants. Yellow-flowered *Encelia farinosa* has gray leaves, which Mary pointed out are actually green leaves covered with millions of grey hairs that, "act as little umbrellas to hold off heat." *Calliandra californica*, which has red powder-puff type flowers, has "finely split leaves to reduce surface evaporation." *Ferocactus glaucescens* is one of those plants which, "just got rid of their leaves," and replaced them with spines. *Forqueria splendens* (the scarlet-flowered Ocotillo) is a species which is drought-deciduous or seasonally-deciduous. Other adaptations include plants (like winter-blooming South African bulbs) which are summer dormant, green-barked trees with very few leaves where photosynthesis occurs in the bark, succulent plants that store water in leaves and/or root structures, and plants with shallow and fibrous roots that easily adapt to drink up even small amounts of water from short summer monsoons. All in all, a very crafty group of mechanisms to help pull through those long periods of drought.

After this, we saw dozens more plants, all of which would grow in some part of San Diego county. If you're familiar with the Hong Kong Orchid Tree, how about trying its very water-thrifty white-flowered

cousin, Mexican Orchid Tree (*Bauhinia divaricata*)? This is Mary's favorite small tree, growing about 10-12' tall with white blooms (fading to pink) from April to October. Want to attract birds to your garden? Plant *Condalia globosa*, a large (to 20'), evergreen, drought-tolerant thorny shrub with fruit that birds adore, or try Wolfberry (*Lycium* spp.) because hummers love both the flowers and fruit.

Some of the plants we saw will probably be a challenge to find – but worth the effort, says Mary, because they're so wonderfully scented. *Vallesia lacinata* is an uncommon evergreen Baja shrub to 10' tall with white, gardenia-scented flowers. All the *Leucophyllum* species of mid-size evergreen shrubs are worth growing, with flowers in shades of blue or violet; *L. pruinatum* has especially fragrant blue flowers. *Penstemon palmeri* grows to 7' tall and has fragrant pink-violet flowers. The most fun might be *Berlandiera lyrata* which Mary assures us, "smells like a Hershey bar."

There are lots *Salvias* which are garden eye candy, some wonderful fall-flowering plants, and plenty of plants that flower in the shade, for those of us fortunate enough to have some shade. Best of all, most of the plants we saw respond well to tough love – minimal pruning, minimal watering, and minimal fuss.

Thanks, Mary, for showcasing such a wealth of plants that we in San Diego probably haven't considered growing before. I expect many of us will be calling local nurseries and adding some of these stalwart goodies during our Fall planting season.

For more information about water-thrifty plants, and to get the complete list of plants from Mary Irish's talk (annotated by Susi Torre-Bueno), visit the Water Conservation page at our website, www.SanDiegoHorticulturalSociety.org.



July Plant Forum Continued from page 19

Russelia 'Peter's Komet' CORAL FOUNTAIN, FIRECRACKER PLANT (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 7/09)

Sansevieria patens (Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 7/09)

Sansevieria pingicula (Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 7/09)

Sansevieria patens (Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 7/09)

Sansevieria suffruticosa SILVER SPIRES

(Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 7/09)

Stachys coccinea 'Hidalgo' (syn. *Stachys albotomentosa*)

HIDALGO BETONY (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 7/09)

HOW TO READ THE PLANT FORUM ENTRIES

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

[1] Latin name (*Pastryrus dulcis*); **bold** names indicate plants with full descriptions.

[2] Cultivar ['Cheerio']

[3] Common Name [DONUT PLANT]

[4] Family [Pastryaceae]

[5] Distribution [7-Eleven to Vons]

[6] Description, comments, cultural directions [This fast-growing...]

[7] Name and city of member, date plant displayed [Betty Crocker, San Diego, 5/96]

[8] Initials of person who wrote description [K.M.]

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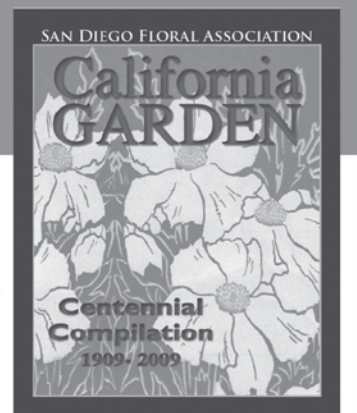
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Garden Expressions

Featuring Selected Regional Artists

Sunday, August 23
11 AM – 6 PM



Pearl Fryar, the star of "A Man Named Pearl," is coming to Quail Botanical Gardens. During Garden Expressions, an annual event featuring the area's finest artists, Pearl Fryar of international acclaim will be turning ordinary plants into fanciful creations.

The Gardens will be buzzing with artists of all kinds - sculptors, painters, potters, fiber artists, gourd designers, and more - a rare opportunity to buy from the best. There will also be pockets of music and fine food.



Children's art activities will be offered for a small fee. Presented by the California Center for the Arts, Escondido with Quail Botanical Gardens.

Cost: Included in the price of admission

230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas CA
www.qbgardens.org



Train for a career in horticulture at MiraCosta College!

At MiraCosta, you can earn an associate degree or a certificate in a variety of programs including agri-business management, arboriculture, floriculture, irrigation technology, landscape architecture, landscape management, nursery production, wine technology and more. Some certificates take as little as two semesters to complete!

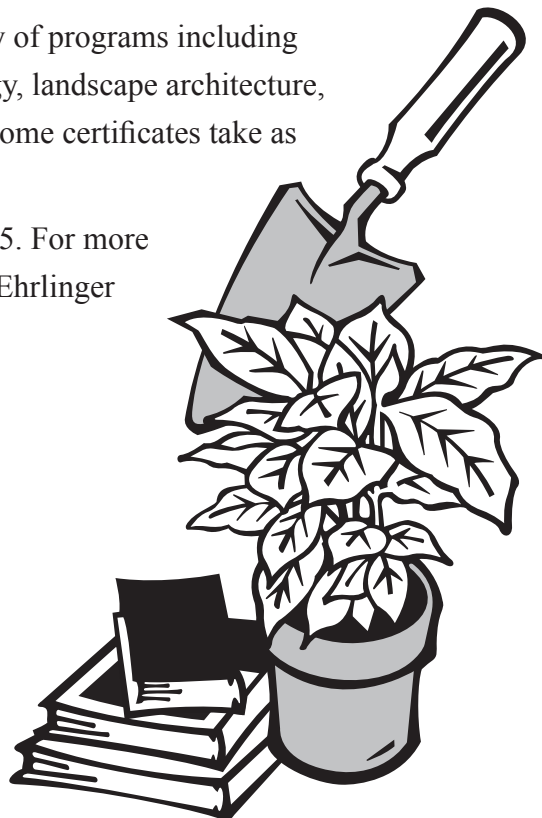
To receive a fall course schedule with complete details call (760) 795-6615. For more information about MiraCosta College's Horticulture Program, call Claire Ehrlinger at (760) 795-6704.

Classes at MiraCosta start August 24

Community colleges are still California's best buy in higher education. Enroll now!

See back for courses offered this fall.

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www.miracosta.edu



MiraCosta College Oceanside Campus
1 Barnard Drive
Oceanside, CA 92056

MiraCosta College San Elijo Campus
3333 Manchester Avenue
Cardiff, CA 92007

MiraCosta College Horticulture Department Open House!

Wednesday, August 19, 5–7 p.m.

MiraCosta College Horticulture Building, Room 7051
1 Barnard Drive, Oceanside, CA
Parking available in lot 7A and 3E, no permit required.

Join us for our Open House and find out how our program can get your life moving in a new direction. Come meet our professors; tour our facility; and learn about career, internship and scholarship opportunities. Everyone is welcome, including prospective and current students!

For more information contact Meghan Blair,
(760) 757-2121 ext. 6533 or mblair@miracosta.edu

www.miracosta.edu/hort

MIRACOSTA COLLEGE CREDIT COURSES • FALL 2009

Class #	Days	Time	Instructor	Units	Room #
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HORT 111 Introduction to Agri-Business Management*

Covers management practices relating to the California plant industry. Retail and wholesale nurseries, landscape contracting, landscape management, floral and allied horticultural businesses are discussed. CSU

OCEANSIDE					
2637	M	7:00pm-9:45pm	FAIRLEIGH M	3.0	OC7051

HORT 115 Soil Science*

Problem solving techniques that apply to Southern California soils are emphasized, including fertility, salinity, pH, calcium, and specific toxicities. CSU;UC

OCEANSIDE					
2638	M	5:00pm-6:45pm	FAIRLEIGH M	3.0	OC7051
	&S	12:00pm-2:45pm			OC7003

HORT 116 Plant Science*

Emphasis on plant taxonomy and nomenclature, structure and morphology, control of plant growth, and plant-soil-climate relationships. CSU;UC

OCEANSIDE					
2640	MW	12:30pm-3:15pm	KINNON C	4.0	OC7003
2642	TTH	12:30pm-3:15pm	MESSINA J	4.0	OC7003
2644	MW	5:00pm-7:45pm	BENDER G	4.0	OC7003

HORT 117 Plant Identification*

Covers identification, growth habits, culture, and ornamental use of plants used in Southern California landscapes. Botanical and common names, plant family relationships, and environmental adaptations will be emphasized. Required field labs may be on or off campus. CSU;UC

OCEANSIDE/SAN ELIJO					
2646	TH	7:00pm-9:45pm	EHLINGER C	3.0	OC7051
	&S	8:00am-12:20pm			SAN406
+4 hours 20 mins every other Saturday from 8am-12:20pm beginning 9/5.					

HORT 118 Arboriculture*†

This course covers the care and management of ornamental trees including fertilization, irrigation, integrated pest management, pruning techniques, safety equipment and practices, climbing, repairs, bracing, cabling, and tree removal.

OCEANSIDE					
+2658	M	6:00pm-8:45pm	HOLCOMB S	3.0	OC7053
	&S	8:00am-11:45am			OC7053
+3 hours 45 mins every other Saturday from 8am-11:45am beginning 8/29.					

HORT 126 Landscape Irrigation*

Covers site analysis, design, engineering, installation, and maintenance of landscape sprinkler and drip systems. CSU

OCEANSIDE					
2648	W	5:00pm-9:45pm	EHLINGER C	3.0	OC7051

HORT 127 Landscape Design*

Principles of design for residential projects. Students will prepare a site analysis, plot plan, presentation drawings, and budget for a typical residential site. CSU

OCEANSIDE					
2665	TH	12:30pm-5:15pm	FAIRLEIGH M	3.0	OC7051

HORT 128 Landscape Construction*

Covers architectural building components including benches, planters, walks, patio decks, fences, retaining walls, and enrichment features. CSU

OCEANSIDE					
2656	TH	5:00pm-6:45pm	CONGER D	3.0	OC7053
	&S	8:00am-1:45pm			OC7001
+6 hours every other Saturday from 8am-1:45pm beginning 8/29.					

Class #	Days	Time	Instructor	Units	Room #
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HORT 143 Wines of the World

(Material Fee: \$85.00) Introduction to the world's wine-producing regions, including history, viticultural practice, and wine-making styles. Lab fee for wine tasting required. Must be 21 years of age to enroll. CSU

SAN ELIJO					
2861	W	6:30pm-9:15pm	COLANGELO D	3.0	OC7053

HORT 144 Nursery Management and Production*

Includes cutting/seed propagation methods and systems, soils, water, pest management, fertilization, pruning and staking, and production management. Field trips to local nurseries. CSU

OCEANSIDE					
2661	TH	6:00pm-7:45pm	KINNON C	3.0	OC7003
	&S	8:00am-10:45am			OC7003

HORT 145 Introduction to Enology

(Material Fee: \$85.00) Students will be presented with an overview of the history and development of winemaking, detailing the grape varieties produced in the major wine-producing regions. Students must be 21 years old to enroll. CSU;UC

OCEANSIDE					
+2655	F	6:30pm-9:15pm	COLANGELO D	3.0	OC7053

HORT 148 Introduction to Wine Production

This course will provide beginning winemakers with basic "how to" instructions and also provide advanced technical training on aspects of winemaking.

LATE-START/OCEANSIDE					
2654	T	6:30pm-9:15pm	HART J	1.5	OC7053
(09/14-11/03)					

HORT 171 Floral Design I

(Materials Fee: \$200.00) Theory, techniques, and skills practiced in the floral design industry. Instruction in basic design principles, cut flower preparation and care, merchandising and packaging. CSU

OCEANSIDE					
2650	W	5:30pm-9:15pm	PATTERSON DE	2.0	OC7001

HORT 173 Wedding Design

(Materials Fee: \$240.00) Traditional and contemporary styles of wedding bouquets, corsages, and boutonniere construction. ADVISORY: HORT 171.

OCEANSIDE					
2652	TH	5:30pm-9:15pm	PATTERSON DE	2.0	OC7001

HORT 230 Landscape Architecture

The advanced study and implementation of landscape design. Techniques for organizing and creating varied elements in the shaping of a landscape project dealing with diverse aspects of design. CSU
PREREQUISITE: HORT 127.

OCEANSIDE					
2663	T	5:00pm-9:45pm	FAIRLEIGH M	3.0	OC7051

HORT 299 Coop Work Exp — Occupational

For students whose work is related to their declared major.
COREQUISITES: Students must be employed in a position directly related to their declared major and must complete 75 hours of paid work or 60 hours of non-paid work per unit of credit.

Note: All students are required to participate in an orientation session online or in the Career Center, Building 3700, by the drop/add deadline or they will be dropped from the class. This class offers variable units with multiple start dates and may be added after the drop/add period. See the ad on page 74 for course requirements. For more information call (760) 795-6772 or visit www.miracosta.edu/careers .					
2970	TBA		DAVIS D	4.0	TBA
2971	TBA		DAVIS D	3.0	TBA
2972	TBA		DAVIS D	2.0	TBA

*These courses have been approved by the California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers (CANGC) for CCN Pro Continuing Education Units (CEUs). Students completing the class will receive one CEU per lecture unit. †Eligible for International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) continuing education hours.

Landscape Construction

Concrete and Masonry Skills
Fence, Deck, and Lumber Skills
Sprinkler Installation
LNT 125, 126, 127



What better way to spend your Saturdays than learning the proper methods of installing patios, sidewalks, pavers, fences, decks, overheads, benches, and sprinkler systems. A one hour lecture each week is followed by 6 hours of hands-on training in these important landscape construction skills.

Saturdays, 8:00 am–4:00 pm
Concrete and Masonry Skills 8/22–9/26/09
Fence, Deck, and Lumber Skills 10/3–10/31/09

Plant and Horticultural Science

LNT 100 50



This is the perfect class to experience hands-on learning of gardening techniques. Topics such as soils, planting, pruning, fertilizers, vegetable gardening and more will really help you get that “green thumb”. Plus, you get both in-class instruction and outdoor hands-on training.

Wednesday Lectures 5:30–9:20 pm
Alternate Saturday Labs 8:00 am –1:50 pm
Late Start Class begins September 9th



Landscape and Nursery Technology

Fall 2009 Classes

Enroll Now!

Classes begin Monday, August 17th.

Many classes can be taken tuition-free through the ROP program or you may pay college tuition and earn college credit!

Simply visit the college website at www.swccd.edu and start the easy registration process.

Or, call us at 619-421-6700 ext 5371 to talk with a Landscape and Nursery Technology instructor.



Plant Identification - Trees or Shrubs

LNT 102, 103, 104, 106, 107, 108

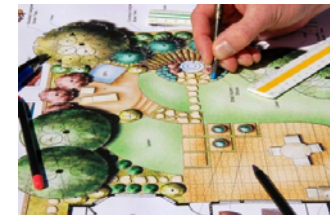


Proper plant identification and usage is essential to both the beauty and functionality of any well designed landscape. Learn the names of over 100 trees or shrubs commonly grown in the San Diego area by taking these convenient 6 week courses.

Tuesday and Thursdays 4:30–6:00 pm
Deciduous Trees or Flowering Shrubs 8/18–9/24/09
Conifers & Palms or Foliage Shrubs 1 9/29–11/5/09
Broadleaf Trees or Foliage Shrubs 2 11/10–12/17/09

Landscape Design 2

LNT 122 60



Proper landscape design is critical to the ultimate success of any landscape. Learn advanced design principles to make your designs a real showplace! Local landscape architect Susan Weichert will provide you with all you need to produce professional designs.

(Note: Landscape Design 1 is a prerequisite for this course or you must prove previous design experience)

Tuesdays and Thursdays
6:00 – 10:00 pm

Sprinkler System Repair

LNT 91, 92, 93



Take these 3 six week course to improve your skills in the proper maintenance and repair of sprinklers, pipes, backflow devices, valves, wiring, and controllers. Each class offers hands-on experience in diagnosing and repairing faulty irrigation systems.

Tuesdays 4:00–8:30 pm

Sprinklers, Pipes, and Backflows 8/18/09–9/22/09

Valves and Wiring 9/29/09–11/3/09

Sprinkler Design

LNT 128 60



Proper sprinkler design is critical to the ultimate success of any landscaped area. And, with water shortages becoming the norm, it becomes even more important. Learn proper hydraulics, sprinkler spacing, valve sectioning, and the design methods need to produce professional irrigation plans.

Wednesdays 5:00–10:00 pm

Plant Identification for Floral Design

LNT 118 01



Designed to provide the student with knowledge of the trees, shrubs, annuals, and perennials, suitable for floral design. Includes appropriate scientific names, seasonal availability, care, and lasting ability.

Mondays 3:30–6:00 pm

Class begins August 17th

8 week class

Introduction to Computer-Aided Landscape Design

LA 200 60



The art of landscape design is now complemented with the speed of computer-aided programs such as AutoCAD. Learn all the skills needed in the proper use of AutoCAD software to speed up and improve your landscape designs!

Mondays 5:00–9:50 pm

Class begins August 17th.

Floral Design 1

LNT 138 60



Proper Floral Design requires numerous skills including flower selection, design theory, knowledge of floral life and foliage materials, and much more. This hands-on course will have you creating beautiful arrangements in just a few weeks and you can take home your creations for just the cost of the materials!

Mondays 5:30 pm – 10:30 pm

Class begins August 17th

Portfolios, Presentations, and Consultations for Floral Design

LNT 95 01



Learning proper floral design is a great skill but it is not enough. You also need the ability to sell yourself, your floral skills, and the ability to present yourself in a professional manner. Learn how to sell floral designs for weddings and large events.

Register now online at www.swccd.edu — Classes begin Monday, August 17th!

What's Happening? for August 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 August garden tips and update.

We'll focus this month on drought tolerant plants – here's just a few of what's available at the nursery now

- *Acacia linifolia* 'Flax Leafed Wattle' is native to the Blue Mountains area of New South Wales. Pale cream flowers. Hardy to +20° F and grows 6-10'.
- *Manihot esculenta* (Tapioca, Cassava) - A unusual looking upright perennial woody shrub with tuberous roots that gets 8 to 12 feet tall here in California. It has attractive palmately compound dark green leaves. Pale green to yellow-brown non-showy flowers in summer are followed by green round seed pods. Makes a lovely unusual light shade patio tree.
- Red Hot Chili Poker (*Chamaecereus sylvestri* hybrid). Clumps of cactus 'fingers' gets to 18" across with brilliant orange/red flowers nearly year round.
- *Pereskia grandiflora violacea* 'Royal Queen' – glossy leaves and near year round clusters of orchid like waxy purple flowers. Gets 3 – 4 feet tall and wide.
- *Calandrinia grandiflora* 'Rock Purslane'. A native of Chile, flowers can get to 3 feet tall on 1 foot high grey leaf clumps.
- *Dendromecon harfordii* (Island Bush Poppy) - A wonderful native evergreen shrub with grey/green oval leaves. An abundance of yellow flowers cover the plant from spring to summer. Will get to about 5 to 6 feet tall and wide.
- *Agave attenuata* 'Raea's Gold' (Golden Fox Tail Agave) - A beautiful new Agave that has broad soft butter-yellow leaves when grown in full coastal sun. Slow growing, it will form a clump to 3 to 4 feet. Plant in full coastal sun to light shade - the brighter light brings out the best color.
- *Aloe striata* 'Ghost Aloe'. Triangular purple/grey leaves form ghostly colored rosettes 1 foot across and 8 inches tall. The frosty light colored leaves pick up an interesting amethyst tint when dry, or during cool winter temperatures. Brilliant orange flowers. Very salt tolerant at ocean-side locations.
- *Crassula* 'Blue Bird' - This succulent shrub grows to 2-3 feet tall with bluish-gray elongated and twisted leaves. Good succulent bonsai with compact heads of glossy whitish star flowers.
- *Trichobivia* 'Trumpet Flower Cactus' - A cross that combines huge flowers with brilliant colors - the normally night-blooming *Trichocereus* now becomes a day-bloomer, and the thick, cylindrical stems display perhaps some of the largest and most beautiful flowers of the entire cactus family in colors from carmines, reds, salmon, and pure yellows to mammoth whites.
- Agave 'Comelius' (Quasimoto Agave) - This small Agave forms a very attractive rosette to about 18 inches tall. The short strongly variegated yellow and green leaves have undulating margins.

The Water Conservation Garden (contact info on other side)

Aug. 2, 1:30pm, Ask the Horticulturist Tour: Enjoy an informative walk through the Garden with David Yetz, a professional horticulture staff member. Bring your questions!. Free. Meet at the garden's main entrance.

Aug. 5, 6 - 8pm, Location Quail Botanical Gardens, Aug. 8, 9 - 11am, Location WCG, H2O 911: Join Vickie Driver for an introduction to dealing with the water-shortage. Two registrations for the price of one (same household only). Both Locations \$20/members, \$30/Non-members.

Aug. 15, 9 - 11am, Tune-Up your Irrigation and Dive into Drip: Kathleen Eagle will discuss tuning up your existing irrigation system while teaching you the basics of drip irrigation. Two registrations for the price of one (same household only). \$20/Members; \$30/Non-members.

Aug. 16, 9:30 - 10:30am, Special Access Tour: For individuals who may have difficulty navigating the terrain. Tour is on a comfortable shuttle. Free -- limited to 4 - 5 people.

Aug. 22, 9am - noon, Rainwater Collection for the Homeowner: Bill Toone shares options for rainwater harvesting. \$15/Members; \$25/Non-members.

Aug. 27, 6 - 9am, Aug. 29, 1 - 4 pm, A New California Garden: Linda Whitney shares the process of creating her award winning water smart landscape from the ground up. Two registrations for the price of one (same household only). \$20/Members; \$30/Non-members.

Aug. 29, 9am - noon, Toss the turf, Less Grass, less Water, More Fun: Vickie Driver will give a short course in turf removal. Two registrations for the price of one (same household only). \$20/Members; \$30/Non-members.

Quail Botanical Gardens (contact info on other side)

Thursday Night is Family Night: Aug. 13, 5:30 - 7:30pm, The Gomango Trio. Aug. 20, 6 - 7pm, Hullabaloo, San Diego's award-winning kid-folk duo. Aug. 27, 5:30 - 7:30pm, Peter Sprague is joined by the ultra creative jazz vocals of Leonard Patton and bassist Gunnar Biggs. Free with admission to the Gardens.

Aug. 1, 1:30 - 4pm, Build a Sustainable Grow Box Using Hydroponic Wick Method: Learn the principles of applying hydroponics as a sustainable agriculture and landscape method. \$70/Members; \$90/Non-members.

Aug. 5, 11am, Docent Training Classes: Six-class series to train volunteers interested in becoming docents.

Aug. 16, 2 - 4pm, Palm Springs-Style Gardening: Maureen Gilmer shows how desert gardening may be designed to enhance the appeal of many diverse architectural styles. Free with admission to the Gardens.

Aug. 23, 11am - 6pm, Garden Expressions: Featuring Pearl Fryar and Selected Regional Artists. You will see Pearl Fryar in action as he shapes a plant or two, which will be auctioned off to a lucky winner. Free with Gardens admission

Aug. 29, 9am - noon, Stunning Plant Combinations: Wendy Proud will broaden your palette of California Friendly plants by showing you some new and exciting examples from Rogers Gardens. \$25/Members; \$30/Non-members.

Aug. 29, 9:30am - noon, Volunteer Orientation: Please come for volunteer opportunities and a short tour of the Gardens.

Aug. 1 & Aug. 22, 9 - 11am, California Coastal Rose Society: Meet at Magee Park Rose Garden for dead-heading, maintenance or impromptu lectures on rose care. Corner of Beech Ave. and Garfield St. in Carlsbad. www.californiacoastalrose.com.

Aug. 1, Walter Andersen Nursery: 9:00am Xeriscape – Efficient Water Use Gardens. (San Diego, 3642 Enterprise Street, (619) 224-8271); 9:30am, **Staghorn Ferns: Remounting & Care.** (Poway, 12755 Danielson Court, (858) 513-4900). www.walterandersen.com.

Aug. 1 and Aug. 8, 10am, Grangetto's Fruit Tree Pruning Seminar and BBQ: Richard Wright will teach you how to prune your fruit trees so that they will produce an abundance of fruit each year. Free. Aug. at 1105 W. Mission Ave., Escondido. Aug. 8 at 189 Rancho Santa Fe Road, Encinitas. (760) 745-4671 or www.grangettos.com.

Aug. 4, 6:30pm, San Diego County Orchid Society: 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 free -- everyone welcome. www.sdorchids.com.

Aug. 5, 12, 19 & 26, 10:15am and 10:45am, San Juan Capistrano Garden Tours: Half hour tours are included in the price of admission. 26801 Ortega Hwy. San Juan Capistrano. (949) 234-1306 or www.missionsjc.com.

Aug. 5, 7:30pm, San Diego Epiphyllum Society: Program TBA. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.epiphyllum.com.

Aug. 8, 9am - 1pm, Vineyard Design, Installation & Management: Pete Anderson will be discussing grape varieties, planting, installing the trellis and maintenance. Free. Grangetto's, 1105 W. Mission Ave., Escondido. Limited seating – to register contact Jennifer Phelan at (760) 745-4371 or www.grangettos.com.

Aug. 8, Walter Andersen Nursery: 9:00am, Soil Amendments. (San Diego, see Aug. 1) 9:30 am, Herbs. (Poway, see Aug. 1). www.walterandersen.com.

Aug. 8, 10am, San Diego Bromeliad Society: Cindy Brenner on Bromeliads of Southeast Brazil. Free; visitors welcome. Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html.

Aug. 8, 11am, Palomar Orchid Society Annual Auction: 11am begins the preview, while the auction begins at noon. Carlsbad Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad. (760) 726-7763 or www.palomarorchid.org

Aug. 8, 1- 4pm, San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society: Program TBA. Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.sdcss.com.

Aug. 9, 9am, San Diego Bonsai Club: Speaker: Jim Barrett. Open to visitors. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com.

Aug 9, 1pm, Southern California Plumeria Society: Presenter Richard Eggenberger will discuss Plumerias in he Matrimandir Gardens." Everyone welcome! Free. There will be a raffle and sales table. War Memorial Building, 3325 Zoo Drive, Balboa Park. (619) 461-5942 or www.socalplumeriasociety.com.

August 10, details on page 3 Special Member-Only Event

Aug. 11, 7pm, San Diego Geranium Society: Program TBA – programs focus on growing, propagating and care of geraniums and pelargoniums. Plant raffle and refreshments at every meeting. Everyone is welcome. Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. (619) 447-8243 or www.sdgeranium.org.

Aug. 12, 9:30am, Bonita Valley Garden Club: Program TBA. Everyone is welcome. Free. Bonita Public Library, 16048 Caminito Aire Puro, San Diego. (858) 451-6764.

Aug. 13, 7:30pm, Southern California Horticultural Society: Dr. Jerrold Turney will present "Citrus Diseases in California: Past, Present and Future. Free/Members, \$5/Non-members. Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles. (818) 567-1496 or www.socalhort.org

Aug. 15, Walter Andersen Nursery: 9:00am, Indoor Plants. (San Diego; see Aug. 1) 9:30am, Xeriscape & California Friendly Plants. (Poway; see Aug. 1). www.walterandersen.com.

Aug. 15, 10am, American Bamboo Society: This month's meeting will be at the Mildred Mathias Botanic Garden on the southeast corner of University of California, Los Angeles. www.abssocal.org.

Aug. 15, 10am – 5pm, Aug. 16, 10am – 4pm, San Diego Fern Society Show and Sale: Free admission, hundreds of ferns at bargain prices. Room 101 and patio, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.sdfem.com.

Aug. 15, 1:30 – 2:30pm, Agri Service, Inc. Community Gardening Series: Free monthly classes with Master Gardeners Diane Hollister and Pete Ash. In August they will discuss "Compost . . . good for your garden, good for the earth." El Corazon Compost Facility, 3210 Oceanside Blvd. Reserve space: (800) 262-4167 ext. 4.

Aug. 18, 10am, Rancho San Diego Garden Club: Program TBA. 1077 Vista Madera, El Cajon. (619) 749-4059.

Aug. 20, 7:30pm, San Diego Fern Society: This is an opportunity for people to study ferns together and encourage the joy and use of ferns in gardens, patios and homes. Guests are welcome. Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.sdfem.com.

Aug. 21, 10am – 2pm, San Diego Zoo: Orchid Odyssey; Stroll through the greenhouse, packed from floor to ceiling with exotic orchids from around the world. A botanical bus tour will leave from the bus unloading area at 2pm and is free with admission to park. 2920 Zoo Drive in Balboa Park. www.sandiegozoo.org

Aug. 22, Walter Andersen Nursery: 9:00am, Gardenias, (San Diego; see Aug. 1) 9:30am, Plumeria. (Poway; see Aug. 1) www.walterandersen.com.

Aug. 25, 6:30pm, Bonita Organic Garden Club: Program TBA. Bonita Library, Community Room, 4375 Bonita Road, Bonita. (619) 479-9838.

Aug. 25, 7:30pm, San Diego County Dahlia Society: Program TBA. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. (858) 672-2593.

Aug. 26, 6pm, Mission Hills Garden Club: Connie Beck, Xeriscape Landscape Designer, will discuss water wise landscaping for small yards. Open to the public; guests \$10 members free. United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw St., San Diego. (619) 923-3624 or www.missionhillsgardenclub.org.

Aug. 26, 7pm, California Rare Fruit Growers, San Diego Chapter: Program TBA. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.crfgsandiego.org.

Aug. 27, 9:30am, Carlsbad African Violet Society: Program TBA. Public welcome. Vista Library, 700 Eucalyptus Ave., Vista. (760) 295-0484.

Aug. 27, 9:30am, Crown Garden Club: Program TBA. Winn Room, Coronado Library, Coronado. www.crowngardenclub.org

Aug. 29, Walter Andersen Nursery: 9:00am, Bonsai – Think Small, (San Diego; see Aug. 1) 9:30am, Dried Flowers for all Seasons. (Poway; see Aug. 1) www.walterandersen.com.

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

Canyonier 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. KP0P 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.

Some August thoughts for your gardens:

--Watering and pest control are some of the main tasks this month. Remember the basics: Water in the early morning. Water the soil not the leaves. Water deeply and occasionally rather than shallow and often.

--Soak containers well. If you can't keep up or they're wilting anyway move them to a shadier spot.

--If a perennial is sickly or looking otherwise awful cut it back to just a few inches. It will come back this year or next spring with healthier growth.

Things to do:

-- Mid August is time to dig up your bearded iris and let them rest on top of the ground for 2 weeks, then replant. This forces them into dormancy.

-- If you're looking for Sweet Peas blooming for the holidays, plant seeds now.

--A thick layer of organic mulch (about two inches) should be maintained on top of the soil just about year-round to cool the root zone, reduce irrigation needs, improve soil quality and reduce weeds.

--This is still a good month to plant or transplant palms and cycads but keep them well watered to help them get established.

--Although your roses may still be blooming, the heat of this and next month will take a toll on roses - especially in sun exposed gardens. A moderate summer pruning will help revive your roses and will encourage a big fall bloom. Be sure to fertilize after pruning.

--Remember, cool-season lawns (fescue/Marathon, ryegrass, blue grass) should be mowed about 1/2" higher in warm months than in cool months. Continue feeding warm-season lawns into the fall months.

--Fuchsias should still be blooming although a bit less than a couple of months ago. Keep fertilizing regularly with a balanced fertilizer or one slightly higher in phosphorus to promote more flowering. Proper watering is key at this time of the year especially those in hanging baskets. Water early in the morning or in the evening and check soil moisture every day.

--Fruit Trees - Monitor soil moisture and irrigate as needed. Flooding the soil beneath these trees or using a drip system are excellent methods. Avoid the use of sprinklers and do not regularly wet the trunk - this can cause certain diseases.

--Be very cautious irrigating most of our native plants during the summer. Most are adapted to a winter wet - summer dry moisture cycle.

--Prune summer flowering shrubs as the flowers fade.

--Continue spraying for tomato hornworms with products containing Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*), a biological control that will not harm beneficial insects.

--Petunias should be cut back this month. The hot weather tends to make the plants leggy. Prune the plants to about 5" above ground level.