

Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

January 2008, Number 160

Garden Party

SEE INSERT
AND PAGE 5

SPRING HOME/GARDEN SHOW
PAGE 5

HONORING CHUCK ADES
PAGE 6

WINTER AND SUMMER PRUNING
PAGE 7

PHILADELPHIA GARDEN TOUR
PAGE 8

FREE GARDEN TOUR & PLANT SALE
PAGE 11

On the Cover: Chelsea Flower Show



SAN DIEGO
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

DECEMBER MEETING PHOTOS



Arrangements by René van Rems

Photos: Cheryl Leedom



In This Issue...

- 4 Important Member Information
- 5 To Learn More...
- 5 23rd Annual Spring/Home/Garden Show
- 5 From The Board
- 6 SDHS Horticulturist of the Year for 2008
- 7 Plants That Produce
- 7 Garden Gourmet
- 8 Ethylene and the Flavor of Tomatoes
- 9 Welcome New Members!
- 9 What's Up At Quail Botanical Gardens?
- 10 Book Review
- 10 Community Outreach
- 11 "Green" is Red Hot!
- 12 The Real Dirt On...
- 13 Free Coffee Chaff
- 14 Sharing Secrets
- 16 Plants from Plant Nerd Night
- 21 Meeting Report
- 22 Classified Ads

INSERT

Calendar/Resources Ongoing Events

Cover Image: This silver award-winning garden from the 2007 Chelsea Flower Show is the garden makers exhibit (sponsored by Conchango). Called The Suber Garden, it highlights mediterranean-climate plants, including grasses, thymes and drought-tolerant plantings, which surround a Cork Oak. For more about this garden visit www.rhs.org.uk/chelsea/2007/exhibitors/chicgardens/gardenmakers.asp. Photography by Steven Morris (www.stevenmorris.com). The cork wall art and cork bowl (possibly the largest in world at 26" high) were made for the show by Daniel Michalik (www.danielmichalik.com). We thank garden makers (www.garden-makers.co.uk/) for allowing us to use this image of their beautiful garden.

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. Admission is free and all are welcome. We encourage you to join the organization to 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 – 8:00 Announcements, speaker, drawing for three plants
8:00 – 8:15 Break for vendor sales, opportunity drawing ticket sales, lending library
8:15 – 9:00 Plant forum and opportunity drawing. Vendor sales continue to 9:15.
9:00 – 9:15 Final 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—\$25, two years—\$45, five years—\$100; Family/one year—\$30, two years—\$55, five years—\$120; Group or Business/one year—\$30; Students/\$16 (w/proof of enrollment); Contributing/\$75 or more; Life/\$600. For membership questions contact membership@sdhortsoc.org or Sheldon Lisker at (951) 244-3502.

FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS IN 2008

- February 11** Karen Bussolini, Designing with Elegant Silvers
- February 16** "GREEN" is Red Hot! – re-scheduled garden tour (see page 11)
- February 28** Preview Garden Party (see insert and page 5)
- March 10** Marcia Donohue, Planting Sculpture, Sculpting Plants
- April 14** Duane Johnson, Low Cost Biodiesel Fuel and Other Plant-Derived Wonders
- May 12** SPECIAL EVENING – Ken Druse, author of *Making More Plants*
- June 2-8** Philadelphia Garden Tour (see page 8 for details)

NO JUNE MEETING

- July 14** TBA
- August 11** Pat Welsh, Growing and Harvesting Winter Crops
- September 8** Renee Shepherd, Renee's Garden Seeds
- October 13** Bob Dimattia, Bamboo
- November 10** TBA
- December 8** TBA

www.sdhortsoc.org

Website sponsored by ALL.EA Web Design & Horticultural Photography, www.allea.com

Next Meeting: January 14, 2008, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

Topic: Nan Sterman, Lessons from Chelsea: International Ideas for Sustainable Gardens

Admission and parking are both free and all are welcome.
Meeting Place: Del Mar Fairgrounds, Surfside Race Place, Del Mar
Info: (760) 295-7089

Start 2008 off right with member **Nan Sterman's** talk about the Chelsea gardens that embody principles of sustainability. Nan will discuss ways to adapt these elements for San Diego gardens. Sometimes, you need to travel half way around the world to solve the problems in your own backyard. Such was the case at the Chelsea Flower Show, "the world's largest flower show," in Chelsea, England. For the May 2007 event international designers created beautiful innovative gardens addressing many of the problems we face here: limited water supplies, ongoing drought, invasive plants, global warming and the desire for home-grown tastes. She will also sell and sign her new book, *California Gardener's Guide: Volume II*.

Nan Sterman is a nationally recognized author, speaker and host of KPBS-TV's A Growing Passion. She has been gardening in Encinitas for 21 years, where she implemented practices that were much later to become popular as "urban garden sustainability." Careful plant selection, water zoning, design for utility and maintainability, along with smart watering, all play a role.

To learn more see page 5. 🌿



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

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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@sdhsoc.org.

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

Sponsorship Info: Susi Torre-Bueno (above).

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BECOME A SPONSOR!

Do you own a garden-related business?

SDHS sponsorships have high recognition and valuable benefits, including a link to your website, discounts on memberships for your employees, and free admission to SDHS events. This is a wonderful way to show your support for the SDHS. Sponsors help pay for our free meetings, annual college scholarships, and other important programs. Sponsorships start at just \$100/year; contact info@sdhsoc.org or (760) 295-7089.

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

ANOTHER MEMBER DISCOUNT!

Save money when you shop at Daniel's Specialty Nursery - see ad on page 18.

See page 22 for a list of all the places members can save money when they shop!

GET CREATIVE WITH US!

The SDHS needs an enthusiastic and energetic volunteer to lead our marketing efforts and this will be a tremendously fun and creative experience for the right person. How about you? Have you got some inspired ideas about how we can market our tree book outside San Diego County? Perhaps you can think of resourceful ways to promote our organization and increase attendance at our events? We know we've got an exciting organization, and we need you to help us spread the word about all that we do. Here's the perfect opportunity to really flex your imagination muscle and put your energy to good use for the betterment of the SDHS. Please call Susi at (760) 295-7089 and let's talk!

HANDSOME NEW NAMETAGS

Is your SDHS nametag out of date – or have you recently joined and in need of a nametag?

Sturdy magnet-back nametags with our NEW logo are available now for only \$8.50; call Diana Goforth to order yours: (760) 753-1545. You can pay for these with your \$5 value Hort Bucks (see page 9).



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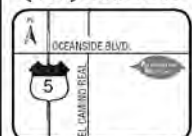
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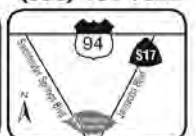


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FALL/WINTER HOURS
 Monday-Saturday.. 7:30am-4:30pm
 Sunday.....9:00am-4:30pm

To Learn More...

CHELSEA AND OTHER FLOWER SHOWS

By Ava Torre-Bueno

Here is the official web site of the Chelsea Flower Show with ticket purchase information: rhs.org.uk/whatson/events/chelsea2008.htm

You can look into last years Chelsea show on a BBC site with video of several gardens and plans for several other gardens:

www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/flower_shows/chelsea_2007

The Chelsea Flower Show was originally called the Royal Horticultural Society's Great Spring Show, first held in 1862, at the RHS garden in Kensington. For more on its history go to: www.rhs.org.uk/chelsea/history.asp

While you're in London for the Chelsea Flower Show, look around for guerrilla gardens!: www.guerrillagardening.org

Or, if you can't get to England, go to San Francisco in March:

www.gardenshow.com/sf/index/index.asp

Or just stay home and go local on February 29th, March 1st and 2nd at the San Diego Spring Home/Garden Show:

www.springhomegardenshow.com/Pages/AllAboutGardens.html

Member **Ava Torre-Bueno** is a psychotherapist in private practice, and has successfully practiced worm composting for a number of years. ♪

SAVE THE DATES

23rd Annual Spring/Home/Garden Show

FEBRUARY 29, MARCH 1 & 2

By Lucy Warren

Plan on becoming involved in the Spring Home/Garden Show, a San Diego Horticultural Society event which furthers our mission to share gardening information with the whole San Diego gardening community. For just a few hours of your time, you get to share your enthusiasm for plants with the gardening community as a whole, and you support the organization which works so hard to bring great speakers and information to you, as a member. Plus, you get to work with other plant enthusiasts, too!

This year's event will feature 21 brand-new Garden Masters creative gardens, filling the entire Bing Crosby Hall at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. These gardens are always exciting and full of great ideas.

In light of the tremendous forces of nature which have affected our county this year, the on-going free gardening seminars will focus on the elements. "Air, Water, Earth and Fire" affect our gardens in so many ways. Come and learn about planting for fire safety, sustainable landscaping that minimizes water use while looking good year round, overlooked plants from the Southwest and Mexico which can enhance your garden.

We encourage everyone involved in other plant groups to get those groups involved, as well.



From 2007 Show -
Garden Master Shellene Mueller

Continued on page 19

From The Board

By Susi Torre-Bueno

TWO EXCITING SPECIAL EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

On February 16 we'll have a FREE garden tour of water-thrifty gardens, plus a plant sale! This tour was originally scheduled for November 3rd, but was cancelled due to the wildfires. See three handsome and innovative gardens, hear talks from experts at each location, and shop for great plants.

On February 28, our annual Preview Garden Party is the kickoff event for the Spring Home/Garden Show. Get ready for a fabulous evening, with some exciting NEW features. This is the perfect time to have yummy hors d'oeuvres and fruits dipped in a scrumptious **Chocolate Fountain** while strolling around the beautiful setting and enjoying live music and visiting with your friends. You'll have an exclusive crowd-free opportunity to study the extraordinary gardens created by the Garden Masters. This evening is also your exclusive chance to talk to the talented people who created the gardens and share their vision. We'll have a short program honoring our 2008 Horticulturist of the Year, **Chuck Ades** (see page 6), and to present the Garden Master awards.

Tickets must be purchased in advance and are only \$35 for members. Buy your tickets TODAY using the form inserted in this newsletter or on our website: www.SDHortSoc.org.

MORE WILDFIRE LOSSES

Our hearts go out to Shirley Heller, who lost her home, and to Judi and Jim Brady who are closing their Rusty Acres Herb Farm due to the effects of the fall wildfires.

NEW NEWSLETTER LOOK

Since February, 2003 the cover of the newsletter has featured an image by Don Walker from our beautiful book, *Ornamental Trees for Mediterranean Climates*, along with the tree description by author Steve Brigham. After five years it's time for a new look: the cover will now feature an image relating to that month's speaker. We've also simplified the format and made other changes so the newsletter is easier on the eyes. Let me know how we're doing and if you'd like to see any other changes: send an e-mail to newsletter@sdhortsoc.org. ♪

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SDHS Horticulturist of the Year for 2008: Chuck Ades

A highlight of our Preview Garden Party, the kick-off event for the Spring Home/Garden Show, is the presentation of the Horticulturist of the Year Award for Excellence in Horticulture. For 2008 we are proud to honor passionate horticulturist **Chuck Ades**, co-founder of Ades & Gish Nurseries. We asked Chuck to share some of his background with us, and he graciously has written the following brief autobiography. We're pleased to honor him as our thirteenth Horticulturist of the Year, and we hope you'll join us on February 28 when we present this award at the Preview Garden Party. Details on this fun event are on the enclosed flyer and on page 5. **Congratulations, Chuck!**

Chuck's story begins...

Chuck Ades got his first experience with plants when he was about 6 years old. A person asked him if he knew that if he broke off a geranium branch and stuck it in the ground that it would grow. He was living in Covina, California at the time. The person dug up a little plot of ground to prepare for Chuck's first adventure into growing plants. Chuck then broke off several stems from a geranium plant that was growing in the yard and unceremoniously stuck them into the freshly turned earth. However, like most 6 year old, he promptly forgot about it. A few months later, the person asked him if he had looked at the geraniums. He excitedly ran to the area and was amazed that they had not only rooted but were now twice as big as when he planted them. Little did he know that act would determine what he would be doing not only as an avocation but also had determined his lifetime vocation. During the course of growing up he was always planting vegetables and flowers, no matter how short a time they were going to live there. One time their house burned down so they temporarily moved into a new motel which had had no landscaping done. He immediately began planting things about the motel.

At one time his family lived in Ashland Oregon in a home near the mountains with streams, a forest, and many wild flowers. That was when he developed an appreciation of wild flowers, an interest that remains with him today. Whenever the family was driving in a forested or country road he would make his parents stop the car so that he could see the flowers up close. Chuck was able to take this interest to the extreme a few years ago. He and wife Joan spent two weeks in South Africa with a noted South African botanist. They were able to see many plants in their natural habitat that we commonly grow in our gardens or in pots here. They saw pelargoniums and oleander growing in the mountains and mesembryanthemums, gazania and African daisies in the desert. They saw areas with so many Lithops growing on the ground that one couldn't walk without stepping on them.

Chuck always assumed he would go to college, even though his parents weren't able to supply the finances. Fortunately, he was able to put himself through college by working



Chuck with his wife, Joan

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Continued on page 13

Plants That Produce

WINTER AND SUMMER PRUNING

By Richard Frost

The best advice I ever received about pruning was the very first: "Here, read this pamphlet and then come to our summer pruning class." The pamphlet is *How To Prune Fruit Trees* by R. Sanford Martin. You'll usually find it for sale at local nurseries for a lower price than online. It is simple and easy to read. When coupled with the ideas of summer pruning, you'll be a fruit pruning expert in no time.

Let's start with the simplest – white and brown figs such as Janice-Kadota, Panachee, Turkey (not Black or Mission). They bear the best fruit on current year wood. In January, cut the entire tree back to about a foot above the crotch so that 3 or 4 forks remain. One to three dozen flexible whips will then grow skyward in the spring, each one bearing loads of fruit in the summer or fall.

With the exception of citrus, most new fruit trees for home gardens (including bare root) should be immediately topped off at 32" – some experts recommend even shorter. This will force side branches to grow out during the spring. Keep only those between 16" and 32" up the main stalk. You will be selecting three or four of these branches for further growth next year. They should have an upright growth habit and be about 6" apart vertically. Also, when you look straight down from the top, they should be almost equiangular. A year from now, you will keep these and remove the others. That following summer, you will prune them so that from the trunk each one forks twice at approximately 8" intervals. If the tree fruits during this training period, you should remove all (but maybe a few) fruits. Each fruit equals about enough energy to grow one 4' branch. You can also retrain old trees this way (with a chainsaw!).

Summer pruning is all about taking responsibility for the size of the tree. In my yard, that means giving most trees a crew-cut at the 8' level. In your yard, it might be less. Why grow fruit that only the birds or a ladder can reach? More information about summer pruning can be found under backyard orchard culture at www.davewilson.com.

The general rule for citrus is not to train them by pruning. However, citrus do sprout lanky, spiny, flowerless suckers from just about anywhere on the plant. These need to be removed at the source. If you want your tree to grow to true size, also remove all fruit that forms in the first three years in at least the mid- and top-portion of the plant. Finally, citrus trees planted in the ground need skirting: prune any drooping branches so that there is a 12" to 18" clearance from the ground to prevent pests and mold from coming up the tree. If you top your citrus tree to control the height, be sure to cover the spot with 50% shade cloth until new leaves sprout to protect the inner bark from sunburn.

For grapes and espaliers, look up "Grape" and "Pruning" in the *Sunset Western Garden Book*, 7th edition or later. It contains great advice and easy-to-follow drawings. Heed the caution that normal harvests of grapes come after the third year in the ground. It's worth the wait!

SDHS Member **Richard Frost** is also member of the California Rare Fruit Growers. For more information, see www.frostconcepts.com/horticulture/.

Garden Gourmet

NOT YOUR GRANDMA'S FRUIT SALAD

By Alice Lowe



Not that there's anything wrong with the fruit salad of childhood – canned fruit cocktail, sliced bananas & oranges, mixed with kool-whip, or some such concoction – but fresh fruit is being used more creatively in salads and side dishes these days.

The Farmers Markets and our CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) boxes have long left behind the glorious fruits of summer. Of course, you can find them at the supermarket – grown in Chile or Argentina, harvested green and refrigerated so that they will survive shipment across time and distance, sprayed with heaven-knows-what to ripen them and restore their intended color (forget about taste) – but why would you want to? You may as well use the canned fruit cocktail.

Now we have juicy Navel oranges, those fabulous Satsuma tangerines, grapefruit, ever-bearing strawberries, and many varieties of apples and pears. And salad greens galore, maybe in your own garden. You don't need a recipe – consider your menu, browse the shelves and stalls, and let your culinary creativity take over!

A favorite lunch spot of mine has two salads that I alternate between – one is spinach with goat cheese, dried cranberries, and candied pecans; the other is mixed greens with sliced pears, gorgonzola, and spiced walnuts. It's a sure success – combine your choice of greens, fruit, cheese and nuts or seeds; serve tossed or artfully composed, with a light dressing of fruity olive oil, vinegar or citrus juice, and herbs. You can also add a meat accent – smoked salmon or trout, leftover chicken or turkey, prosciutto, bacon or salami bits. I love arugula with oranges and/or tangerines, scamorza (smoked mozzarella) or other smoked cheese, small pieces of dried apricots, and sunflower seeds. The smoky cheese, nutty greens and juicy fruits with a little added chew and crunch make a lively dance of taste and texture.

Over the holidays I wanted to take a light side dish to a potluck that I knew would be dominated by heavy entrees and fat desserts. Without a trip to the store, I was able to put together a tart and refreshing salad that consisted of: grapefruit, oranges and tangerines, apples and celery, dried cranberries and slivered almonds. I dressed it with fresh and dried mint leaves and a splash of pomegranate vinegar. It was the perfect complement to lasagna, squash gratin, curried coconut rice and a number of other fabulous dishes.

Winter months can be a challenge, even in our prolific produce paradise, when you want to do interesting and new things with fresh and seasonal produce. If you have a favorite recipe using cool-weather crops that you'd like to share, please send it to me at alicolowe88@yahoo.com.

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

Ethylene and the Flavor of Tomatoes

By Carl Price and Ellen Reardon

As home gardeners are quick to tell you, tomatoes allowed to ripen on the vine taste infinitely better than those available in stores. The reasons are well known: in their efforts to develop fruits that can survive shipping and storage, commercial breeders selected varieties in which the ripening process is delayed. An unintended consequence, however, is the greatly reduced accumulation of those plant volatiles that are so important to the taste and flavor of the tomato.

In the last few years there has been significant progress in understanding the interactions of certain hormones and the production of plant volatiles with the resulting prospect of designing commercial tomatoes that will be much closer to those grown in our back gardens.

As has been known for a long time, the hormone ethylene plays a central role in the ripening of climacteric fruits, which include tomato, apple, and banana. A very simple molecule, composed of just two carbons and four hydrogens, ethylene turns on the production of lycopene, the red pigment of tomatoes; the enzyme polygalacturonase, which converts the hard flesh of the unripe tomato to the juicy fruit that we love; and two volatiles that are primarily responsible for their flavor, cis-3-hexenal and β -ionone.

So why are commercial varieties of tomato so poor in the production of these volatiles? It turns out that there are two genes that encode a transcription factor essential for the production of ethylene, but the commercial varieties have a mutation in one of the two genes. The consequence is that the amount of ethylene produced is never more than half of that produced in "normal" tomatoes.

A key element in the action of ethylene is a protein receptor. When ethylene binds to this receptor, it turns on a cascade of reactions that are then responsible for the complex processes of ripening. Discovery of the ethylene receptor led to the discovery of substances that will attach to the receptor and compete with ethylene. The most promising inhibitor is 1-MCP (1-methylcyclopropene), which has now been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency as a tool for delaying ripening in a variety of fruits, including apple, kiwi, avocado, persimmon, and papaya.

Another response of fruit tissues to ethylene is the production of more ethylene! It is also a gas, and it is common knowledge that a ripe banana placed in a bag with unripe bananas will cause the unripe bananas to ripen, a kind of hormonal chain reaction.

For many years unripe bananas have been shipped in containers containing substances that will absorb ethylene, keeping the fruit from ripening. Upon reaching their destination, the fruit is exposed to ethylene, and the ripening process is begun.

FUTURE POSSIBILITIES

Once the genes responsible for ethylene production or the synthesis of other factors in the ripening process are identified, it is fairly straightforward to use the techniques of genetic engineering to modify or replace them. The American public, however, has become apprehensive about foods produced by these techniques. An alternative approach is to use the analytical techniques of molecular biology to screen for desirable genes in varieties produced by conventional methods.

We may someday be able to buy fruits from the store that taste as good as those from our backyard gardens.

Members **Ellen Reardon** and **Carl Price** are retired from Rutgers University, where they conducted research on the molecular biology of plastids and served as editors of journals in their field. 🌿

Join SDHS for an Exciting Garden Tour Philadelphia's Extraordinary Gardens June 2-8

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**To learn more please contact
Cheryl Hedgpeth, Sterling Tours**

✉ sterling1@cox.net or
☎ (619) 299-3010



Chanticleer...a pleasure garden



We now have over 1200 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 and below. A warm hello to the following folks who have joined recently:

- Jane Morton
- Carolyn Nguyen
- Mickey Santana
- Susan Stokes
- Nissho of California

NEW ADVERTISERS:
Garden Tour, PAGE 20
Southwestern College
(BACK COVER)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Contact LizYoungflesh at (858) 449-5342 or gardenglories@hotmail.com. We need talented people in many areas, so put **your** skills to good use on fun projects!

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 2007:

Cindy Allen (2)	Joann Dossett (2)	Carol Ann Lewin (2)	Mike Rasmussen (1)
Barbara Anderson (1)	Clair Ehrlinger (2)	Corrine Lines (1)	Dale Rekus (1)
June Anderson (1)	Anne Forseth-Smith (1)	Alice Lowe (1)	Terri Schmidt (3)
Gladys Baird (1)	Sue Fouquette (1)	Sharon May (1)	Susi Torre-Bueno (1)
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See Page 22 for Details

What's Up at Quail Botanical Gardens?

SOUTH AMERICAN GARDEN

By Jeremy Spath

Southern California is a blessed land for gardeners. It provides an environment that allows a wide range of plants from around the world to flourish. With our increasingly rare rainstorms that cause many of us to wonder if regular rain will ever be the norm again, come the frightening reality of massive wildfires that have been the scourge of the county this fall.

South America is a botanically diverse continent that offers a wealth of ideas for Southern California gardens in these trying times. At Quail Botanical Gardens, our South American Garden has been going through a much needed makeover. Taking into account our current state of affairs of low water usage and wildfires, many of the plants chosen for this area not only fit into this new paradigm, they also provide exquisite beauty in the landscape.

South America has abundant and diverse palm species, many from dry areas that allow them to thrive here: the ornamental *Syagrus* species (e.g. Queen Palm), the imposing *Jubaea chilensis* (Chilean Wine Palm), and the tropical appearing *Parajubaea torralyi* var. *microcarpa*. The latter is an increasingly available palm that somewhat resembles a coconut palm and once established can survive on our ambient rainfall.

Many succulents also fit the bill of fire safety and low water usage. For example, the beautiful flowering *Calliandra grandiflora* and the attractive foliage of *Graptopetalums* add year 'round beauty to a garden. Cactus such as the flowering leafy *Pereskias* or the striking blue colors of the *Pilosocereus* genus are real eye catchers in our new garden. *Furcraeas* (Agave family) are effective focal points in the landscape and are virtually indestructible in terms of drought resistance or burnability. Colorful bromeliads, both terrestrial *Dyckias* and epiphytic *Tillandsias*, can add finishing touches on or around a boulder, a found log, or a tree branch. *Cassia*, *Ceiba*, or *Jatropha integerrima* (Spicy *Jatropha*) are beautiful drought tolerant trees. Spicy *Jatropha*, a dwarf of 8-10', is an excellent choice for smaller landscapes due to the signature striking red blooms of the *Jatropha* genus, and is in bloom most of the year. To tie it all together, South American grasses, boulders, and dry stream beds can make a beautiful low maintenance garden that offers a lower water bill, can defend your home from wildfires, and provides year 'round garden beauty. 🌿

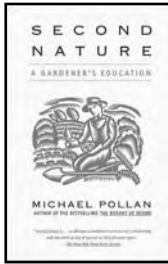
Book Review

SECOND NATURE: A GARDENER'S EDUCATION

By Michael Pollan

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh

If the name Michael Pollan seems familiar to you, it's because I've reviewed two other books by him in this column: *The Botany of Desire* (Sept.'06) and *The Omnivore's Dilemma* (Dec.'06).



Second Nature, his first book, was originally published in 1991 and reissued in 2003. On the jacket blurb, one reviewer compares Pollan favorably to Mark Twain. The blurb also reports that this book was selected "by The American Horticultural Society as one of the seventy-five greatest books ever written about gardening." I can understand its inclusion on this list. This is a very interesting book that leads the

reader to think about gardening in ways he or she probably has not done before.

Pollan gives us memories of his grandfather, stories of his first gardening efforts, his war with the groundhog, and many other interesting anecdotes. Interwoven through this personal and entertaining history is a meditation on man's place in nature.

This book exists in a middle ground between scholarly and popular writing. It can get a little dense at times. Don't let that discourage you if you don't enjoy that kind of thing. Just at the point where you think you ought to be taking notes for the test, he steers back to stories that are charming, fascinating, and enlightening.

Pollan is writing about an old question: Are humans part of nature or does human culture separate us from nature? He would say emphatically that we're not separate.

He describes a dichotomy between those who want to "conquer nature" and those who want to "wall off nature" so humans can't damage it. He suggests a third position: gardening. He thinks a garden is as natural as a beaver dam, and his definition of a garden is inclusive. On one hand, it's what he cultivates in his own back yard. On the other, it can be all of nature.

Pollan's a good writer. He tells small stories – for example, the saga of the decades-long battle between his father and his maternal grandfather over the right way to tend a garden – and you come to feel that you know both of them. He's had his own battles in the garden with weeds, groundhogs, insects and his problems with over- and undercultivation – and we can relate to all of them.

Each chapter works as a stand-alone essay. In turn, the chapters are organized into an introductory section and four sections labeled Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. You can dip into this book any time you have a few minutes, and it's not really necessary to read the chapters in order if you don't want to.

Second Nature (Grove Press; ISBN-13: 978-0802140111) is available in paperback (258 pages) for \$14 at your local bookstore. My only complaint: It would have been greatly improved by an index – but you know I always think that. Buy this book. You'll read it more than once, and you'll be glad you did. ☘

Community Outreach

BATTLE OF THE BLOOM..... "THE IRON CHEF OF FLORAL DESIGN"

Some of Southern California's foremost floral designers and several local celebrities will appear ready for battle at the San Diego Floral Association's 100th anniversary celebration on January 13 at 3:00 p.m. at the San Diego Museum of Art in Balboa Park. Organized by professional floral designer David Root, the Battle of the Bloom will be a series of diverse and creative floral design competitions. (This event was rescheduled due to the October fire storm – see description in your September newsletter or at www.sdflo.org.) Tickets (\$50/ preferred forward seating, and \$35/general admission rear seating) are available at the San Diego Floral office in Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 105, Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.–3 p.m.; Mission Hills Nursery; and Walter Andersen Nursery. Further info: (619) 232-5762.

PENNIES FOR PINES

The Pennies for Pines Program is a California Garden Clubs Conservation Project started in 1941 to restore forests devastated by wildfires, disease and insect infestation. Because of the recent wildfires, the clubs of the Palomar District of The California Garden Clubs in San Diego County and Temecula are actively soliciting donations to replace the trees lost in the recent wildfires in the Cleveland National Forest. One plantation, consisting of approximately 350 trees, costs \$68.00. If you're looking for a unique gift for a friend, particularly if they're an outdoor person or a conservationist, why not consider a tax deductible plantation of trees? Make your check payable to Cleveland National Forest. Include the recipient's name and address and a certificate acknowledging your gift will be sent to them. Please mail your check to: Jerry Thirloway, Palomar District Director, 1105 Santa Madera Ct., Solana Beach, CA 92075.



WHAT GROWS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

Calflora is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing information about California plant biodiversity for use in Education, Research and Conservation. They recently announced a new feature: **What Grows Here?** The goal of What Grows Here? is to make it as easy and intuitive to find a list of plants that grow in an area. You just enter your town, zip code or other information, and bingo! A wealth of information is at your fingertips.

You get a handy map of the area and can zoom in and out, switch from feature to feature (for example, from watersheds to zip codes), drag the map's center star to move the map, hover your mouse over a region on the map to view its name in a tool-tip, and so on. Then when you've got "here" in the map, click the "Find Plants" button at the lower left of the map to view an illustrated table of the plants Calflora's data contributors have records for, for the area shown on the map. Your editor has tried it out and found it fun and useful. I selected the "quad" that contains my home city (Vista) and instantly a list of 27 plants popped up, including descriptions, color photos, and links to information sources. Further, 22 of the listings are native to this area, so I know what plants to add to my new native garden! Several are native Brodiaea bulb species, and one is a pretty violet and white flowered Lotus.

Try it for yourself at www.calflora.org/wgh.html. ☘



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SOCIETY

"GREEN" is Red Hot! Free Garden Tour and Plant Sale Saturday, February 16, 9:00am to 3:00pm

Sponsored by the San Diego Horticultural Society

FREE self-guided tour of 3 unique locations in Kearny Mesa. For homeowners and professionals, this educational tour of two low water use demonstration gardens and a "green roof" will be eye-opening! **Start your tour at any site.** The three sites are within 2-3 miles of each other. Repeating lectures at each site will be held at 9:00am, 11:00am and 1:00pm, and last about 1 hour.

Plant Vendors: San Diego Epiphyllum Society, The Herb Club, Southern California Plumeria Society, Blossom Valley Protea, Garden Glories Nursery, Flower Girls, and Rainbow Succulents

Please join us and bring your friends!

◆ MAINTAINING A NEW DROUGHT TOLERANT LANDSCAPE:

Pamela Homfelt will demystify the often misunderstood techniques for keeping your new drought tolerant landscape investment healthy and prepared for longevity. *****Experts and educational material available here.**

LOCATION: ③ on map, 4677 OVERLAND AVENUE, SAN DIEGO, 92123

◆ GREEN ROOFS: GROWING IN POPULARITY:

Jim Mumford, CLP, planted San Diego, California's first commercial "extensive" green roof atop his own business, Good Earth Plant Company, in March 2007. The 1,700-square foot demonstration garden is a mixture of natives, sedums and other drought-tolerant plants adapting to 4" of growing medium. See how it was put together, what's working and what's not, plus see a separate modular system and a "green wall." *****A PLANT RESCUE SALE will be held here with homeless interior plants for almost pennies! Many varieties & sizes, needing a little TLC.**

LOCATION: ① on map, 7922 ARMOUR STREET, SAN DIEGO, 92111

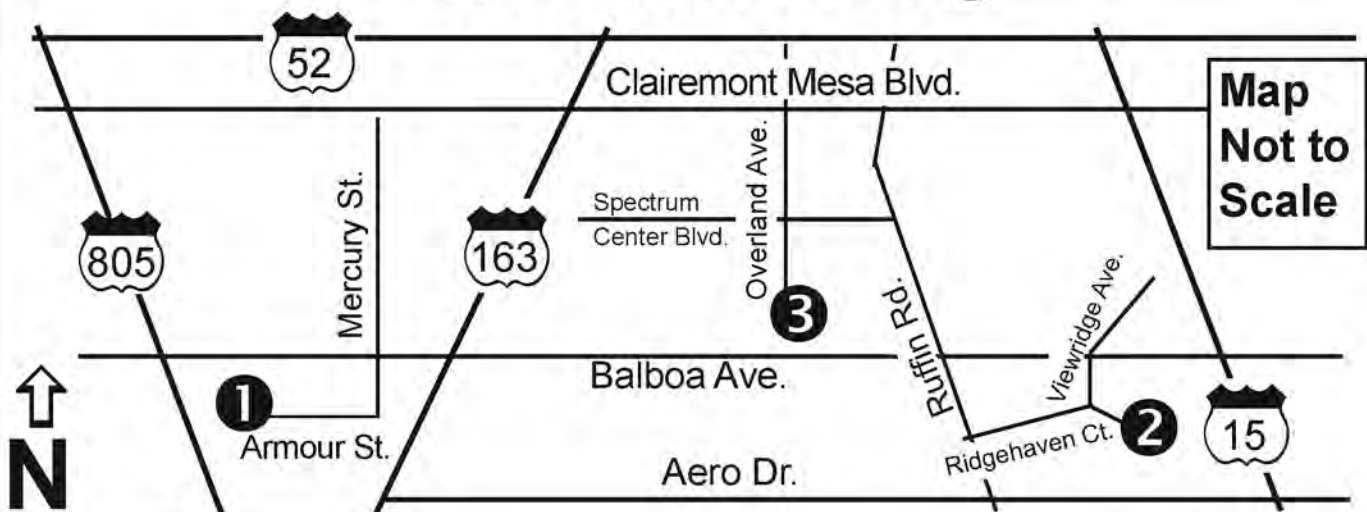
◆ RIGHT PLANT IN THE RIGHT PLACE:

With great foresight The City of San Diego Environmental Services created a low water use demonstration garden eight years ago. Landscape designer Nancy Knight leads this tour, focusing on 150 species of mature low water use perennials, succulents, natives and trees and their requirements.

LOCATION: ② on map, 9601 RIDGEHAVEN COURT, SAN DIEGO, 92123

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The Real Dirt On...

JOSEPH GOTTLIEB KOELREUTER

By Christy Powell



Many of us remember studying about Gregor Mendel in grade school: the Austrian monk who discovered the basic rules of genetic inheritance with his study of garden peas. One hundred years before Mendel (1760 – 1766), a German botanist, Joseph Gottlieb Koelreuter, systematically crossed plants and studied the characteristics of their offspring. The plants Koelreuter studied included *Nicotiana*, *Dianthus*, *Hibiscus*, *Mirabilis*, *Datura*, *Aquilegia*, and *Cucurbita*. He was particularly interested in the role the pollen played in determining the characteristics of the offspring.

He noticed that the hybrid offspring closely resembled both the pollen parent and the parent on which the seed was borne. Before his research, not much was known about the role the pollen from the male part of the flower played in the resulting offspring. Koelreuter gave new light to the sexuality of plants and proved that plant sexes did exist. His interests also lead him to the discovery of the function of nectar and the role of insects and wind in flower pollination. In addition, he observed that hybrid plants often exceed their parents in vigor of growth. Although he is not very well known and never made it to grade school textbooks, the golden rain tree genus (*Koelreuteria*) was named in his honor.

Joseph Gottlieb Koelreuter was born on April 27, 1733 to a pharmacist in Sulz, Germany. He attended the Latin school there, during which he studied plants, animals, and insects. Koelreuter went on to study medicine at the University of Tübingen in the city of Tübingen, Baden-Württemberg, Germany. One of his mentors was Johann Georg Gmelin, who later recommended Koelreuter to teach at the Russian Imperial Academy of Sciences. While teaching at the Academy in Petersburg, he researched fish, birds, insects, and corals. In 1760, he turned his attention to plants and began crossing his first two plant species.

In 1761, Koelreuter returned to Germany and visited with botanists Johann Gottlieb Gleditsch and Christian Gottlieb Ludwig, who were also working on hybridization. That same year, he published an account of his pioneering studies of tobacco plant hybrids. In 1764 he became professor of natural history and director of the botanical gardens at Karlsruhe in southwest Germany. He continued his experimentation with the hybridization of plants and studied their fertilization and development. Throughout his research, Koelreuter carried out more than 500 different hybridization tests with 138 species, and studied the shape, size and color of pollen grains from more than 1000 species. Furthermore, he developed techniques for hand pollination so that experimental uncertainties often caused by self-pollination could be avoided. He painstakingly removed the anthers, hand pollinated the plants, and covered the flowers to prevent contamination by unwanted pollen grains.

Joseph Gottlieb Koelreuter was one of the fathers of flower biology and a great naturalist of his time. We can thank Koelreuter along with Rudolph Jacob Camerarius and Christian Konrad Sprengel for their unearthing of most of the basic facts about flowering plants.

Member **Christy Powell** is a Plant Propagator at the San Diego Zoo and an Adjunct Instructor of Annual and Perennial Plant Identification at Cuyamaca College. ☘

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Free Coffee Chaff

Are you looking for something to add to your compost pile or use as a lightweight mulch? Cafe Moto is a coffee roasting company in San Diego and they're trying to reduce the amount of waste they send to the landfill. During the roasting process, coffee beans shed a very light, papery skin (called "chaff"), and the company currently doesn't have a use for this. Along with used coffee grounds, the chaff can be used as fertilizer, mulch or just composted. They have about 1 or 2 large burlap sacks (weighing about 20-50 pounds) full of this chaff every week, so if you want to contact them they're happy to give it away for free, and can help load it into your vehicle. They also have some burlap sacks (about 2' by 3') to give away if you need them for anything.



Please contact Nick Jones at Cafe Moto, 2619 National Avenue, San Diego, (619) 239-6686. Their website is www.cafemoto.com.

Chuck Ades Continued from page 6

at home during the summer and at college on the weekends. He majored in Floriculture (commercial growing of plants and cut flowers) and chose Oregon State College (now Oregon State University) because it offered the best floriculture program in the country at the time. He recently attended his 50th college graduation. However the fraternity he lived in and his major no longer exist at OSU.

He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army at graduation, and served two years in the Army. Upon release from the Army he began to pursue his profession. His first job was with a cut flower shipper in Oakland, Ca. He stayed there only a short time. He then went to work for Rod McLellan Company (Acres of Orchids) in South San Francisco. That was when he had his first experience with exchange students (working apprentices) from other countries. The company had long had a tradition of placing exchange students. At that time in his life, all of his close friends

Continued on page 15



Begonia 'Fragrant Beauty'

Photo: Rachel Cobb

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SHARING SECRETS

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

The question for this month was: *What soil amendments have worked best for you and why?*

Judy Bradley shares her secret: "I am addicted to worm compost for my organic vegetable garden raised boxes and potted citrus trees. Each fall and spring I make a trip out to Dan Kuhn's Vermipro worm farm in Lakeside and fill up as many garbage cans as I can fit in the back of my car. I dig a little compost into the existing soil as well use it to top dress the new seedlings. It really seems to help retain moisture, and over time has created a wonderful, loamy soil that produces crop after crop of prolific and healthy vegetables and fruits. I've also learned the value of keeping a thick mulch over all of the other planted areas in my yard, for both moisture retention and improving the structure of my sandstone soil. I use a lot of shredded redwood bark because it lasts so long, stays put on a slope, and retains its rich color fairly well over time. I've also spread yards and yards of Forest Mulch from Agri Service."

Bobbi Hirschhoff says, "With 2 acres of raw clay the best amendment that has worked for me is the screened orchard mulch from Corazon [now operated by Agri Service, Inc. – see ad page 18]. It kept down the weeds and broke down to enrich the soil. The regular mulch was free but you could get 'stuff' in it. The screened was \$2 per cubic yard. You can pick some up at their plant in Oceanside or have up to 40 yards delivered for a charge. The other amendment, not so much for soil but bunny prevention, was blood meal around the perimeter of my vegetable garden. The bunnies thought something had died and stayed away."

Cheryl Leedom e-mailed this reply, "If I were to pick one soil amendment that my garden couldn't live without it would be worm castings. This stuff is magic! I use it for new plantings, mixing it in the hole before placing the plant. It gives it a good head start and provides nutrients at a slow and even rate to help get the roots established. I also use it as a top dressing throughout the year. It's the only thing that really seems to work to control those pesky white flies on my hibiscus. I'm never without a bag of Worm Gold Plus!"

Jackie McGee tells us, "I don't use a lot of amendments but my favorite is Cocoa Shell Mulch. I like it because it looks good when it is applied and snails don't like to cross over it."

Al & Dora Jean Myrick also like mulch: "We add almost nothing but composted mulch (harvested from our own foliage and donated in truckloads free, from a local arborist) from active and passive compost piles. It's cheap, keeps soil moisture in, and adds a bit of natural fertilizer. Because we almost never export trash any of our cut foliage (except diseased items such as rose prunings with rust), virtually everything is recycled and little is ever lost."

Susi Torre-Bueno also loves compost: "I had tremendous success adding compost to the very dense clay soil in my Encinitas garden."

I purchased truckloads of it from Agri Service and would use it both as a soil amendment for virtually every plant I put in the ground and also as a mulch. In addition, I practice "lasagna composting," where I simply let all my plant cuttings fall to the ground so they can compost in place. Once or twice a year I put a layer of purchased compost or mulch over the "lasagna" to tidy the garden up and further enrich the soil. Any plant cuttings that were too large to compost in place I composted in a big pile which gradually broke down into useable compost. All the vegetable scraps and peels from the kitchen were composted, too. Periodically I took the finished compost and used it in the garden, including with it some of the many worms that moved into the compost pile. Over the course of 7 years our soil became much easier to work and full of lively worms. Since I virtually never use chemical fertilizers the compost was the only plant food needed. I've started several compost piles at my new garden in Vista, and am also doing "lasagna compost" here.

Liz Youngflesh says, "I have fast draining clay soil in my garden/nursery. When I moved to Vista there was nothing growing on my 1.25 acre plot. The area that became the Garden Glories Nursery had a horse living on it, which undoubtedly enriched the area that became my demo garden. Before planting the gardens I imported good topsoil, planted a variety of perennials & trees, then mulched with 'forest fines' mulch from Agri Service. When planting, I use a granulated 14-14-14/plus added micro nutrients slow release fertilizer formula that Bill Teague told me about. This gives plants a good start & boost. I haven't fertilized since – I just maintain a good mulch covering & I have a lush & colorful garden all year!"

The question for next month is:

How do you keep cats and dogs out of your garden?

Thanks to So. Cal Hort. for this question.

Please e-mail by January 8 to info@sdhortsoc.org. ☞

Chuck Ades Continued from page 13

were exchange students or foreign emigrants. He would go to the local German club and sing German songs and eat their food. Another time he would go to the Scandinavian Club and learn about their traditions and foods. At various times he shared his apartment with Germans, Poles, and a descendant of the family from England that collected the first orchids from the wild to be grown in cultivation.

Chuck recently got e-mail from the Polish student that is now a professor at the University of Warsaw. They hadn't had any contact for over 45 years – he had seen the Ades & Gish nursery name on the Internet. One German student stayed here in the USA for 2-1/2 years. He and Chuck became almost like brothers. He later visited Chuck and his family in Encinitas. Chuck and Joan later were able to visit him and his family in Germany. Although he died a couple of years ago, his son still keeps contact with Chuck by way of the Internet and has visited Chuck and Joan at their home in Encinitas.

Chuck's story continues next month... ☞

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**San Diego
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Plants From Plant Nerd Night

By Susi Torre-Bueno

We usually have a Plant Forum at each meeting, where members bring in plants and one of our horticulturists talks about them. For the November meeting, which was our Plant Nerd Night, we skipped the Plant Forum and concentrated on great plants from our five special presenters. Descriptions of some of these plants are below (others were described in the December newsletter); some of them are not yet available for sale to the public. Our next regular Plant Forum will be at the January, 2008 meeting, so please bring something from your garden to show off.

***Agave montana* 'Baccarat'** (Agavaceae)

Horticultural Hybrid

This slow-growing hybrid was a selection from Yucca Do Nursery in Texas, and has blue-green leaves in a solitary rosette to about 3-5' tall and 4-6' wide; it forms few pups. The website for San Marcos Growers notes: "This plant has leaves have long dark terminal spines and wide spaced large teeth along the leaf margins that imprints a beautiful saw-tooth pattern on the flat surfaces of the next emerging leaf. Plant in full sun to light shade. Little irrigation required. Hardy to zero degrees F. *Agave montana* was previously lumped into the *Agave macroculmis* complex with *Agave gentryi* but both now have been recognized as separate and more distantly related species with the name *Agave macroculmis* now considered only as a synonym for *Agave atrovirens*." (Matthew Roberts, San Marcos Growers, Santa Barbara, 11/07) – S.T-B.

***Agave parryi* 'Cream Spike'** (Agavaceae)

Horticultural Hybrid

The plant displayed is a very dwarf selection that grows only 4" tall by 10" wide, and also produces many pups. The blue-green leaves are set off by creamy white borders. Black spines along the leaf margins and at the tips contrast nicely with the leaves. Makes an excellent container specimen plant, and is hardy to about 15°F. Grow in full sun to light shade in well-drained soil; needs little water. (Matthew Roberts, San Marcos Growers, Santa Barbara, 11/07) – S.T-B.

***Euphorbia* 'Diamond Frost'** (Euphorbiaceae)

Horticultural Hybrid

A popular and very easy plant introduced by EuroAmerican, *Euphorbia* 'Diamond Frost' has masses of airy white flowers and is very versatile in the garden. Considered an annual except in zones 10 and 11, it should be a perennial in much of San Diego County, and can be drought-tolerant once established. Some sites say it will grow up to 18" tall, but at least one gardener in Riverside claims a plant grew to 4' wide and 3' tall in just six months. Site this plant carefully and handle it with gloves, as some people have an allergic reaction to the milky sap. (Nicole Jackson, EuroAmerican, Bonsall, 11/07) – S.T-B.

***Neoregelia* 'Medusa'** (Bromeliaceae) Horticultural Hybrid

This handsome bromeliad has no spines. Using tissue culture techniques, about 75,000 plants are produced each year! (Jeffrey Kent, Kent's Bromeliads Nursery, Vista, 11/07) – S.T-B.

Plants From Plant Nerd Night

Neoregelia 'Raphael' (Bromeliaceae) Horticultural Hybrid
A patent for this stunning bromeliad was issued in 1998 to hybridizer Chester Skotak, Jr. in Costa Rica. The seed parent was an unnamed plant of *Neoregelia caroliniae lineata* × *Neoregelia concentrica*; the pollen parent was *Neoregelia caroliniae* 'Perfecta'. The variegated leaves are a shiny purple with light yellow margin. When the plant is in bloom (and for months before and after blooms appear) the center of the leafy rosette is a dark red purple – and the blooms can last for 8-10 weeks. The flowers are violet-blue with a white base. You'll have plenty of this plant to share, as it produces many offsets. (Jeffrey Kent, Kent's Bromeliads Nursery, Vista, 11/07) – S.T.B.

Oxalis 'Charmed Wine' (Oxalidaceae)
Horticultural Hybrid

Some of the easiest to grow bulbs for Southern California come from South Africa, and *Oxalis* is one of them. The plant displayed has very dark wine colored foliage and pale pink flowers. Commercial production is by tissue culture. It's a heavy bloomer, and does best with some shade. (Nicole Jackson, EuroAmerican, Bonsall, 11/07) – S.T.B.

Petunia 'Supertunia Vista Bubblegum' (Solanaceae)
Horticultural Hybrid

A new, vigorous plant introduced in 2006 by EuroAmerican, *Petunia* 'Supertunia Vista Bubblegum' was bred in Japan to bloom longer than standard petunias and is also self-cleaning, so no dead-heading is needed. This low-maintenance plant also takes the heat, so should do well in inland parts of the county. It will grow up to 2' tall, and the presenter recommended using it for a low bring pink-flowered hedge. (Nicole Jackson, EuroAmerican, Bonsall, 11/07) – S.T.B.

Portea sp. 'Nova' (Bromeliaceae) Horticultural Hybrid
The plant displayed is a new, unnamed species from Brazil. Hummingbirds love the blooms, which can last for five months. Like other plants in the Bromeliad family, this one thrives on neglect; Jeffrey Kent waters his every two weeks from June to October, not at all in November to May (if rainfall is sufficient). (Jeffrey Kent, Kent's Bromeliads Nursery, Vista, 11/07) – S.T.B.

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

Agave attenuata 'Kara's Stripes'
(Matthew Roberts, San Marcos Growers, Santa Barbara, 11/07)

Agave 'Blue Glow'
(Matthew Roberts, San Marcos Growers, Santa Barbara, 11/07)

Agave 'Cornelius'
(Matthew Roberts, San Marcos Growers, Santa Barbara, 11/07)

Agave 'Joe Hoak'
(Matthew Roberts, San Marcos Growers, Santa Barbara, 11/07)

Agave gentryi 'Jaws'
(Matthew Roberts, San Marcos Growers, Santa Barbara, 11/07)

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Plants From Plant Nerd Night

Agave 'Mr. Ripple' (Matthew Roberts, San Marcos Growers, Santa Barbara, 11/07)

Agave potatorum 'Kichiokan Marginata' (Matthew Roberts, San Marcos Growers, Santa Barbara, 11/07)

Agave 'Sharkskin' (Matthew Roberts, San Marcos Growers, Santa Barbara, 11/07)

Agave victoriae-reginae 'Golden Princess' (Matthew Roberts, San Marcos Growers, Santa Barbara, 11/07)

Aloe 'Pink Ridge' (Nicole Jackson, EuroAmerican, Bonsall, 11/07)

Aloe 'Silver Ridge' (Nicole Jackson, EuroAmerican, Bonsall, 11/07)

Arctotis 'Pink Sugar' (Nicole Jackson, EuroAmerican, Bonsall, 11/07)

Calibrachoa 'Superbells Yellow Chiffon' (Nicole Jackson, EuroAmerican, Bonsall, 11/07)

Cuphea 'Totally Tempted' (Nicole Jackson, EuroAmerican, Bonsall, 11/07)

Echeveria nodulosa (Nicole Jackson, EuroAmerican, Bonsall, 11/07)

Euphorbia 'Helena's Blush' (Nicole Jackson, EuroAmerican, Bonsall, 11/07)

Nemesia 'Opal Innocence' (Nicole Jackson, EuroAmerican, Bonsall, 11/07)

Nemesia 'Sunsatia Mango' (Nicole Jackson, EuroAmerican, Bonsall, 11/07)

Nemesia 'Sunsatia Pear' (Nicole Jackson, EuroAmerican, Bonsall, 11/07)

Nemesia 'Sunsatia Raspberry' (Nicole Jackson, EuroAmerican, Bonsall, 11/07)

Neoregelia 'Devroe' (Jeffrey Kent, Kent's Bromeliads Nursery, Vista, 11/07)

Neoregelia 'Douger' (Jeffrey Kent, Kent's Bromeliads Nursery, Vista, 11/07)

Neoregelia 'Lila' (Jeffrey Kent, Kent's Bromeliads Nursery, Vista, 11/07)

Neoregelia 'Orange Crush' (Jeffrey Kent, Kent's Bromeliads Nursery, Vista, 11/07)

Neoregelia 'Tangerine' (Jeffrey Kent, Kent's Bromeliads Nursery, Vista, 11/07)

Pericallis 'Senetti Blue' (Nicole Jackson, EuroAmerican, Bonsall, 11/07)

Petunia 'Supertunia Vista Bubblegum' (Nicole Jackson, EuroAmerican, Bonsall, 11/07)

Plants From Plant Nerd Night

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How to read the entries above.

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

- ① Latin name [*Pastryus dulcis*]; bold names indicate plants with full descriptions.
- ② Cultivar ['Cheerio']
- ③ Common Name [DONUT PLANT]
- ④ Family [Pastryaceae]
- ⑤ Distribution [7-Eleven to Vons]
- ⑥ Description, comments, cultural directions [This fast-growing...]
- ⑦ Name & 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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Spring/Home/Garden Show Continued from page 5

This is a community effort to share information and knowledge, and many plant societies have used the Spring Home/Garden Show to sell plants and enhance their treasures. Participation for non-profit groups is free.



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The San Diego Horticultural Society honors its Horticulturist of the Year, Chuck Ades, at a special preview party on Thursday, February 28 at 7:00 pm. (See page 6 and insert.)

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December Meeting Report

It has been a long-standing tradition that our December meeting is a light-hearted one, complete with a wealth of cookies brought in by members. This year our speaker was long-time SDHS member **René van Rems**, an internationally famous ambassador of the floral industry and a heck of a humorous fellow. He kept up a delightful stream of jokes, comments and floral arranging insights while he deftly put together half a dozen stunning arrangements. Best of all, his designs incorporated local plants in important ways, including some California natives, and he encouraged us to use floral materials from our own gardens.

One of the insights René shared with us is that, "anything you have growing outside you can enjoy inside. In Europe they bring what is outdoors to the indoors." When doing arrangements, "it's about looking at the material at hand," he said, as he put stems of *Cedar deodara* into one arrangement. Many of the materials he used had come from his own garden, or from friends and neighbors. As a special treat he made a huge wreath from branches of the rare Torrey Pine, which he had pruned at Quail Botanical Gardens with permission of Executive Director Julian Duval. At the end of the presentation, Julian auctioned off the wreath.

Among the uncommon materials René used were California oak trimmings from his front garden – he recommends this particular plant because it doesn't wilt easily. One topiary arrangement featured the bright brick-red berries of cotoneaster. Another included locally-grown proteas. Since San Diego County is home to many protea growers, René thinks that this plant is almost like a native.

One very large sculptural arrangement (pictured on page 2, middle photo on left side of the page) was made using palm sheaths in horizontal layers separated by floral foam (and held in place with cement and sturdy screws). To this base, René added banksias pods, leucadendron seed cones, and other locally-gathered plants. He reminded us that you can "spray dead plants with gold paint for the holidays," so even material which is dead can be festive.

As he worked, René mentioned that he wasn't into using a lot of ribbon in arrangements, and that, "one thing you learn about floral design is when to quit." He gave us this useful tip: "hairspray or Endust gets rid of dust" on floral materials. The style of arrangements he was doing is called "vegetative" in Europe, where you group everything in a natural way, like it grows in the ground. He also told us that when he selects plants for his own garden he thinks in terms of what he can use for cuttings.

Thanks, René, for ending our year with such an exceptionally charming and fun presentation! And thanks to all the members who brought in cookies to share. After the presentation we held our usual Opportunity Drawing for the 15 arrangements René had made (or brought with him), and raised close to \$1000 for future SDHS events and programs. 🌿

Join the SDHS as we visit exceptional public and private gardens in Philadelphia from June 2 – 8, 2008. See information on page 8, and contact Cheryl Hedgpeth at Sterling Tours, (619) 299-3010 if you have questions or want to sign up for the tour.



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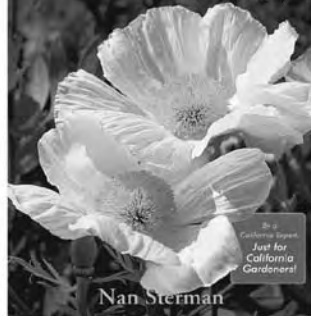
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Photos: Cheryl Leedom

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LNT 100 Plant and Horticultural Science	4 units	Sinclair	Thursdays and Alternate Saturdays Thursday Lecture, 6:15 - 9:05 pm Saturday Lab, 8:00 am - 1:50 pm
LNT 106-108* Plant Identification: Shrubs	1 unit ea.		Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:30 - 6:00 pm
LNT 106 Flowering Shrubs (1/15 - 2/21)		Sinclair	
LNT 107 Foliage Shrubs I (2/26 - 4/10)		Sinclair	
LNT 108 Foliage Shrubs II (4/15 - 5/22)		Homyak	
LNT 110-112* Plant Identification: Herbaceous	1 unit ea.		Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:30 - 6:05 pm
LNT 110 Annuals & Perennials 1 (1/15 - 2/21)		Sinclair	
LNT 111 Annuals & Perennials 2 (2/26 - 4/10)		Sinclair	
LNT 112 Vines & Ground Covers (4/15 - 5/22)		Homyak	
LNT 128* Sprinkler Design	3 units	Homyak	Wednesdays, 5:00 - 9:50 pm
LNT 132* Turf Management	3 units	Homyak	Tuesdays and Alternate Saturdays Tuesday Lecture, 6:15 - 8:15 pm Saturday Lab, 8:00 am - 1:50 pm
LNT 138* Floral Design I	2 units	Sinclair	Tuesdays, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
LNT 140* Floral Design II	2 units	Sinclair	Wednesdays, 6:00 - 10:00 pm
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