

# Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

September 2013, Number 228

## *Right Plant for the Right Place*

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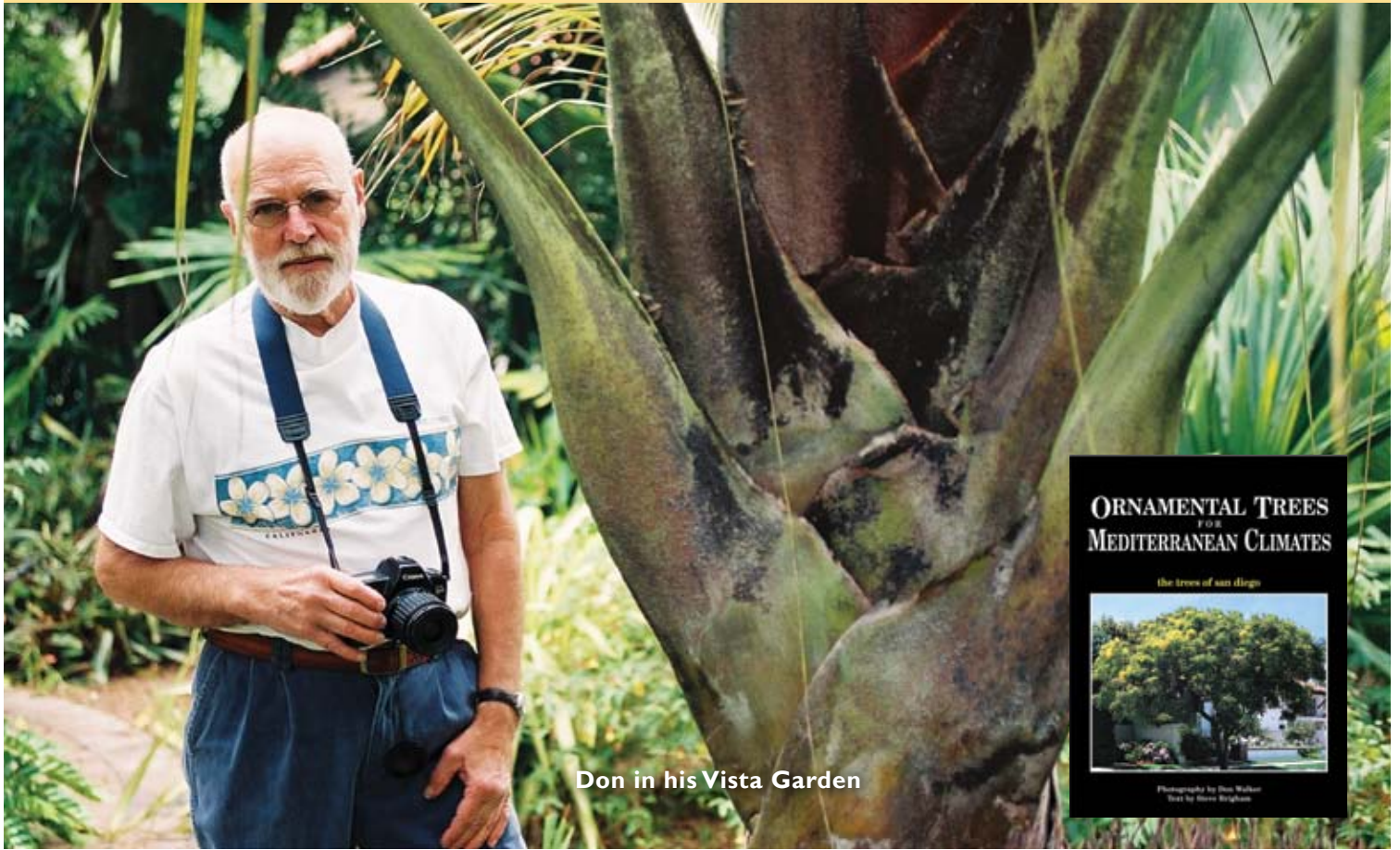
**REMEMBERING DON WALKER**

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On the Cover: Invasive French broom

# Remembering Founder Don Walker – See page 10

Photo: Rachel Cobb



Don in his Vista Garden

## ORNAMENTAL TREES FOR MEDITERRANEAN CLIMATES

the trees of san diego



Photographs by Don Walker  
Text by Steve Brigham

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# CALLING ALL MEMBERS!

ARE YOU A  
**SDHS SPONSOR,  
BUSINESS OWNER  
OR A VENDOR?**

## BE A PART OF

*The San Diego*

Horticultural Society's

# HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE

NOVEMBER 11, 5:30-9 PM

SURFSIDE RACE PLACE, DEL MAR FAIRGROUNDS

SIGN UP TODAY  
at [sdhort.org](http://sdhort.org)

Tap into our community of horticultural enthusiasts at SDHS's exciting new Holiday Marketplace.

For **NO OR LOW COST**, exhibit or sell your products or services during this special event at the height of fall planting and start of the holiday shopping season.

## Marketplace Highlights

**SURE TO BRING IN CROWDS**

- Educational opportunities – mini-demos and plant forums
- Author's Corner where local authors will sell and sign books
- Consultations with local design pros
- Free giveaways
- Open to SDHS members and the general public

## EVENT DETAILS

- SDHS Sponsors and Business Members - **FREE** table provided to distribute info about your company and display and sell wares and services
- Non-Profit Organizations (Botanic gardens, garden clubs and plant societies) – **FREE** table provided to share information about your group and sell memberships, products or plants.
- Members - Tables are \$10 each.  
Non-Member Businesses and Vendors - Tables are \$25 each
- All participants are encouraged to **OFFER A GIVEAWAY** – coupon for discount, plant cutting, seed packet, guest pass, etc – something shoppers can take with them.

Note: Exhibitors are responsible for collecting sales tax. Plant vendors must also hold a current and valid License to Sell Nursery Stock issued by the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

## WHY SHOULD I SIGN UP?

- **FREE** TO SDHS SPONSORS, BUSINESS MEMBERS AND NON-PROFITS
- JUMP START HOLIDAY SALES
- INTRODUCE YOUR BUSINESS, WARES AND SERVICES TO SAN DIEGO'S LARGEST HORTICULTURAL GROUP
- REACH GARDENERS DURING THE FALL PLANTING SEASON
- BUILD MEMBERSHIP IN YOUR CLUB OR NON-PROFIT

QUESTIONS:   
[INFO@SDHORT.ORG](mailto:INFO@SDHORT.ORG)

# A Benefit for San Diego Horticultural Society Members!



The San Diego Horticultural Society and Pacific Horticulture Society are pleased to offer you an exciting benefit.

*Pacific Horticulture* is published by the non-profit Pacific Horticulture Society. As a Pacific Horticulture Society affiliate, San Diego Horticultural Society members are entitled to a discounted rate of \$24/year. (The regular membership rate is \$28/year.) Your membership includes a one-year subscription to the magazine; advance notice and discounts for our popular educational programs, tours, and special events; and an informative monthly electronic newsletter.

*Pacific Horticulture* magazine recently underwent a dramatic transformation. If you are not a current subscriber, it definitely deserves a look. Published quarterly (January, April, July, and October), *Pacific Horticulture* offers an in-depth look at West Coast gardens, plants, and examines where matters of horticulture intersect with real life, design, and the environment.

The magazine and accompanying website ([www.pacifichorticulture.org](http://www.pacifichorticulture.org)) feature up-to-date information about major gardening events, classes, and resources from Vancouver, BC to San Diego. In addition, the new website is now home to seven years of archived articles providing a valuable and trusted resource for west coast gardeners and those that look to our region for horticultural inspiration.

To sign up online go to this link: [www.pacifichorticulture.org/join](http://www.pacifichorticulture.org/join)  
For your special rate enter this discount code: SDHS2013

This rate is available to San Diego Horticultural Society members only and is non-transferable.



Please start my membership in the Pacific Horticulture Society, including a one-year subscription to *Pacific Horticulture* magazine.

**Membership rate for San Diego Horticultural Society Members**  
**\$24.00**

Check enclosed or  
 Credit Card  Visa  MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ My Initials

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Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail to: Pacific Horticulture PO Box 680 Berkeley, CA 94701

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Sponsors Night & Holiday Bazaar  
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## SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Details on membership are on page 20 and at [www.sdhort.org](http://www.sdhort.org)  
For questions contact [membership@sdhort.org](mailto:membership@sdhort.org) or Jim Bishop at (619) 296-9215.

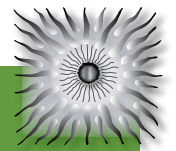
### MEETING SCHEDULE

5:00 – 6:00 Meeting room setup  
6:00 – 6:45 Vendor sales, lending library, plant display  
6:45 – 8:30 Announcements, door prizes, silent auction, speaker

### MEETINGS & EVENTS

(**FW** = Free Workshops; Register at [www.sdhort.org](http://www.sdhort.org))

- September 7** Home Composting & Vermiculture (**FW**)
- September 13-15** Fall Home/Garden Show (see page 2)
- September 21** Featured Garden, Point Loma
- September 28** Garden Tools (**FW**)
- October 5** Volunteer Appreciation Party – invitations to be sent via email
- October 14** Panel of Experts on Contemporary Trends in Landscape Design
- November 11** Sponsors Night & Holiday Bazaar
- December 9** Amy Stewart on The Drunken Botanist



SAN DIEGO  
HORTICULTURAL  
SOCIETY



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

**COVER IMAGE:** This hillside is covered with invasive French broom (*Genista monspessulana*). Learn more at the September meeting.

## Next Meeting: SEPTEMBER 9, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

### Topic: GREG RICHARDSON ON “RIGHT PLANT FOR THE RIGHT PLACE - INVASIVE PLANTS AND HORTICULTURE IN CALIFORNIA”

**Meeting is open and everyone is welcome. Admission: Members/free, Non-Members/\$15. Parking is free.**  
**Meeting Place: Del Mar Fairgrounds, Surfside Race Place, Del Mar; Info: (619) 296-9215**

We welcome Greg Richardson, Project Manager for the PlantRight program at the California-focused nonprofit, Sustainable Conservation ([www.suscon.org](http://www.suscon.org)). Greg has been collaborating with environmental groups, botanical gardens, scientists, and government agencies on the issue of the impact of invasive plants on the environment.

Invasive plants impact Californians in various ways, ranging from degrading our natural environment (soils, waterways, biodiversity) to being a large financial burden to property owners and taxpayers. Rarely do horticulturalists or home gardeners intentionally choose to proliferate the spread of invasive plants, yet many of these plants continue to be grown, distributed, sold and planted in gardens and landscapes.

This talk will highlight why this issue is worth knowing about, why these plants are still being used, and how this is being addressed. Solutions will be presented, primarily through the lens of the collaborative, science-based and voluntary PlantRight program. Greg's presentation will cover some of the most common horticultural invasive plants in the trade, noninvasive alternatives to consider using in their place, and opportunities to get involved.

Prior to joining Sustainable Conservation, Greg worked in various environmental fields ranging from green building to journalism and corporate social responsibility. His academic background includes Bachelor of Science degrees in economics and environmental studies from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

To learn more, visit [www.suscon.org](http://www.suscon.org) and see page 3. 🌿



# SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Established September 1994

## BOARD MEMBERS

**Patty Berg** – Volunteer Coordinator

**Jeff Biletnikoff** – Meeting Room Coordinator

**Jim Bishop** – President, Membership Chair

**B.J. Boland** – Corresponding Secretary

**Mark Collins** – Finance/Budget Committee

**Bryan Diaz** – Member at Large

**Julian Duval** – San Diego Botanic Garden  
Representative

**Mary James** – Program Committee Chair

**Cheryl Leedom** – Member at Large

**Dannie McLaughlin** – Tour Coordinator

**Susan Oddo** – Publicity Coordinator

**Susanna Pagan** – Member at Large

**Sam Seat** – Treasurer

**Susi Torre-Bueno** – Newsletter Editor,  
Past President

**Don Walker** – Past President

**Lucy Warren** – Secretary

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

**Editor/Advertising:** Susi Torre-Bueno;

(760) 295-2173; newsletter@sdhort.org

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

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### ☛New Email? New Street Address?

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

## BECOME A SPONSOR!

### Do you own a garden-related business?

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

## 2014 SPRING GARDEN TOUR: GARDENS ARE MEANT TO BE SHARED...

By Dannie McLaughlin

Remember how much you enjoyed the garden tours you've been on? How fascinating it was to see the ways other people used perennials and pathways, succulents and stones, color and texture and art in their gardens? Now you have the chance to show off YOUR garden – and let your hard work and creativity really shine. And for a very good cause, too! Sharing your garden with others is part of the great tradition of nurturing and caring that gardeners have in common. Just as you've enjoyed other people's gardens, so will they delight in yours!

The Spring Garden Tour is our biggest fundraiser of the year and proceeds go towards funding college scholarships for local horticulture students, as well as for our programs that promote the enjoyment and knowledge of horticulture in the San Diego area. Your beautiful garden can help us reach our goals by being an inspiring part of this Tour. Best of all, our volunteers will take care of all the mundane things on tour day, freeing you to do the fun part – talking to visitors about your garden.

Please contact tour coordinator Dannie McLaughlin at dr.dannie@roadrunner.com. Let her explain how easy it is to share your garden with others, and how we'll make tour day a joyful and rewarding experience for you. ☘

## IMPORTANT MEMBER INFORMATION

### Last Call for Fall Home/Garden Show Info Table

The Fall Home/Garden Show at the Del Mar Fairgrounds is on Sept 13, 14, and 15. There are just a few time slots available for volunteers to staff our information table. The shifts are only four hours, and you'll have free admission to see all the great vendors, displays and speakers before or after your shift. Parking will be reimbursed, too. This is part of our outreach to the community and a chance to show and tell San Diegans about all the great benefits of being a SDHS member. You need not be a horticulture expert, but you do need to be outgoing. You'll find folks at the Show are easy to engage. To volunteer, contact Patty Berg at PattyJBerg@gmail.com or 760-815-0625.

### September Board Opening: Garden Tour Assistant

Do you like gardens and have good organizational skills? We are looking for someone to work with existing Garden Tour Chair, Dannie McLaughlin, to help organize the 2014 Spring Garden Tour. You would work with Dannie in 2014 and become the Garden Tour Chair in 2015. Some of the tasks are: identify the tour area; schedule the tour date; find and review tour gardens; and work with homeowners, sponsor(s), and vendors. You would work with and supervise other volunteers that staff the gardens, create publicity materials, and sell tickets. Requires familiarity with email. Contact Jim Bishop at president@sdhort.org.

### September Board Opening: Membership Chairperson

Are you an outgoing "people person"? Our membership chair is a job you'd enjoy! You'll recruit new members, interact with current members, set membership policies (with board review), and answer questions regarding membership renewals. Best of all: the majority of the routine membership tasks are done by our bookkeeper and automated on our website. Requires familiarity with email and computer editing skills. Contact Jim Bishop: president@sdhort.org.

### Plant Experts at Monthly Meeting

We are looking for members who are plant experts to answer questions at the Plant Display table at our meetings. We don't expect you to know everything about every plant – maybe you know a lot about roses, or sell perennials, or perhaps you can share your knowledge of low-water plants with other members? To volunteer please contact Susanna Pagan at 858-342-8667 or susannapagan@gmail.com.

### COORDINATE FREE WORKSHOPS

Our free monthly workshops have been a big hit, and we're looking for a member to take over as head of the 6-person committee that organizes them. As coordinator, you'll work with the committee members to schedule workshops and enter the details into our website, etc. This should only take a few hours a month. To discuss the details of this fun task please contact Susi Torre-Bueno at (760) 295-2173. ☘



## TO LEARN MORE...

### Eat the Invasives!

By Ava Torre-Bueno

Invasive plants (and invasive species of all kinds) are a growing problem in our interconnected and heating world: [www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0024733](http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0024733)

One increasingly popular way to keep invasive plants in check is to eat them! Here are several links to articles about the culinary qualities of invasive species:

- <http://eattheinvaders.org>
- [www.mnn.com/food/healthy-eating/stories/5-invasive-plants-you-can-eat](http://www.mnn.com/food/healthy-eating/stories/5-invasive-plants-you-can-eat)
- <http://invasivore.org>
- <http://the3foragers.blogspot.com/2013/04/eating-invasive-species.html>

And here's an article with recipes (not just plants though—be forewarned):

<http://archive.audubonmagazine.org/features0410/gourmet.html>

Our bovine friends can also help keep invasives down by eating them:

<http://tinyurl.com/sept-cattle>

So can goats: [www.eco-goats.com/why-goats.shtml](http://www.eco-goats.com/why-goats.shtml)

Finally, here is THE classic book about foraging and eating in the wild (not just invasives):

[www.amazon.com/Stalking-Wild-Asparagus-Euell-Gibbons/dp/0911469036](http://www.amazon.com/Stalking-Wild-Asparagus-Euell-Gibbons/dp/0911469036)

Have a yummy end-of-summer!

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



## 2013 FALL HOME/GARDEN SHOW... NOW'S THE TIME FOR FALL GARDENING!

**Members of San Diego Horticultural Society can get Free VIP tickets by visiting [www.fallhomegardenshow.com/SDHS](http://www.fallhomegardenshow.com/SDHS).**

It's that time of year again when those of us blessed enough to live in San Diego are still excited about gardening – while the rest of the country is getting ready to close up shop. The Fall Home/Garden Show at the Del Mar Fairgrounds celebrates our local gardening community this year on September 13, 14, and 15. This is your perfect opportunity to select plants for our most important planting season from local growers. The show's

*Continued on page 4*



## FROM THE BOARD

By Jim Bishop

This is our 19<sup>th</sup> year! See page 7 for a summary of all the activities of the past year.

Fall is just around the corner and it is time to start thinking about planting. To help get the season started, the Fall Home/Garden Show at the Del Mar Fairgrounds is Sept. 13, 14 and 15. A portion of plant sales at the show are donated to SDHS – what a great way to update your garden and support SDHS, too! You can also contribute by volunteering to help staff our table at the show and get FREE entrance and parking. Volunteer online at [www.sdhort.org](http://www.sdhort.org).

On October 5, we'll be hosting our Volunteer Appreciation Party held at Susan and Frank Oddo's garden in Elfin Forest. Their garden is a wonderfully artistic horticultural retreat that everyone loves visiting. Invitations will be emailed to members who volunteered in the past year. This replaces the October Featured Garden and is just for volunteers. If you'd like to attend, but haven't volunteered in the past year, see page 2 for current volunteer opportunities.

### Changes on the Board

Each September, the SDHS board holds elections for new board members, but before introducing the newcomers, let's first all give a big round of applause to our outgoing board members for their contributions.

Lucy Warren has been SDHS secretary since 1996. Yes, you read that right: 1996! She has faithfully and reliably taken minutes for board meetings for 17 years. Lucy continues to be very busy in the local horticultural community. Earlier this year she published a book (co-authored with SDHS member Greg Rubin) on landscaping with native California plants. She is the assistant coordinator of the Flower and Garden Show at the San Diego County Fair, supports the Spring Home/Garden Show, and is head of the Horticulture Committee for Friends of Balboa Park for the 2015 centennial celebration. Thank you Lucy for 17 years of service!



Susan Oddo has been Public Relations Coordinator since 2010, and has helped take our press releases and online communications to the next level with the latest technology. She helped get the word out to San Diego about all of our wonderful programs. Susan and her husband, Frank, have hosted many events for us in their wonderful Elfin Forest Garden, including this year's Volunteer Appreciation Party.

Mark Collins, owner of Evergreen Nursery, has served as our professional nurseryman on the board. Evergreen has been a strong supporter of SDHS, hosting workshops and loaning us plants for our exhibit at the fair, and has been our highest level sponsor for many years.

Bryan Diaz, Cheryl Leedom and Susanna Pagan each completed one year at-large terms as board members, but remain actively involved in SDHS. Bryan continues to be our greeter at monthly meetings, follows up with members who haven't renewed their memberships, and helps with the Home/Garden Shows and other events. Cheryl authors the monthly press releases for our meetings. Susanna Pagan, besides having a very busy garden design business, will remain on the board as Public Relations Coordinator.

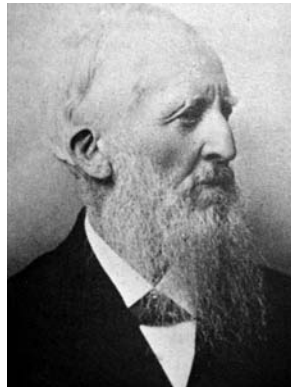
Non-board members who are also moving on are Al Myrick and Bill Nugent. For the last 11 years Al has been our Science Fair Liaison and also the College Scholarship Coordinator. These two programs are very important parts of our outreach to encourage young people to pursue careers in horticulture. Bill has co-chaired the program committee with Mary James, and helped bring us many of our excellent speakers. Bill remains active in Master Gardeners, and we hope he will occasionally do one of his wonderful speaker introductions at our monthly meeting.



## THE REAL DIRT ON...

### John Medley Wood

By Linda Bresler



John Medley Wood (1827-1915) is known as the "Father of Natal Botany." He was born in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire in England, the oldest of five children. His mother died when he was seven, and his father remarried a much younger woman who eventually bore ten additional children. Wood left school at the age of 17 for a career at sea. His father and the rest of the family emigrated to the Natal region of South Africa. Wood followed them there in 1852.

Wood married the younger sister of his step-mother, and bought land north of Durban, where he began farming and experimented with new crop plants. He established the suitability of Uba sugar cane for conditions in the Natal region.

He also began collecting ferns, mosses, and fungi as well as flowering plants. Wood began corresponding with mycologist (fungi) specialists at Kew Arboretum in London, and in Budapest, Hungary. A local fern expert, Rev. John Buchanan, who had published a list of Natal ferns in 1875, assisted Wood with ferns. By 1877, Wood had published his own work, *A Popular Description of the Natal Ferns: designed for the use of Amateurs*, which was followed in 1879 by *The Classification of Ferns*.

In 1882, as a result of his growing interest in botany, he accepted the post of Curator of the Botanic Garden in Durban. Wood received support from Kew Gardens and obtained an assistant, James Wylie from Kew. By 1885 the gardens were considered, "one of the most attractive and successful botanic gardens in the British Empire."

Wood was hampered in his work by limited funds and little professional assistance. He brought his wife along on collecting expeditions, which often lasted 4-6 weeks. They were accompanied by a large party of helpers, trundling slowly through the veld with oxen pulling wagons.

Among Wood's later published works were his 1888 *An Analytical Key to the Natural Orders*, and *Preliminary Catalogue of Indigenous Plants*, published in 1894. His most important work was *Natal Plants*, published between 1898 and 1912. This was a major illustrated work in six volumes. He was working on a seventh volume when he died in 1915. There are a number of plants that bear Wood's name. *Encephalartos woodii* (Wood's Cycad) is an especially rare one; the photo above accompanied an article about "The Loneliest Plant in the World": <http://tinyurl.com/septdirt>. *Senecio medleywoodii*, a rare succulent species, is likewise named after him. He is also commemorated in the genus *Woodia* (Asclepiadaceae, now part of Apocynaceae), and *Woodiella*, (a genus of fungus), as well as the specific epithets of about sixty species.

Member Linda Bresler is a certified landscape designer living in Poway. She specializes in drought-tolerant, low maintenance designs that provide four-season beauty. She's been co-writing this column since 2007, and this is her last regular contribution. Thanks, Linda! 🌿

## ■ Fall Show Continued from page 3

Garden Marketplace includes vendors selling hundreds of varieties of plants from local growers.

Once again, the San Diego Horticultural Society plays an important role in the show, with examples on display of some of the many plants that thrive in our wonderful climate. This is a great time for our volunteers to "meet and greet" plant enthusiasts from all over the county – and plumb the depths of other enthusiasts' horticultural knowledge.

Garden lectures include:

- Steve Jacobs, Nature Designs owner, CLCA: **"What Every Homeowner Needs to Know Before Hiring a Licensed Landscape Professional"**
- Brijette Romstedt and Carrie Driskill of San Diego Seed Company: **"Cool Season Extravaganza, a basic overview of all things related to a successful cool season vegetable garden"**
- Ryan Prange, Falling Waters Landscape, APLD, CLCA: **"Designing the Modern Garden"**
- Jeff Moore, Solana Succulents, a long-time succulent nursery owner; winner of Home/Garden Show and Del Mar Fair awards: **A slide show highlighting succulents in the landscape, and landscaping with succulents, using some basic principles to create a nice xeriscape yard.**

Throughout the day, everyone can bring their questions to the Master Gardeners. It's also a great confab of other gardening groups you may want to join.

The show runs Friday, Sept. 13, 11am-6pm; Saturday, Sept. 14, 10am-6pm; and Sunday, Sept. 15, 10am-5pm. Admission: adults/\$8, SDHS members FREE (see above), children under 12 are free. Seniors: only \$1 on Friday. After 3 pm daily, all tickets are \$6. Discount tickets on the website (see below) are \$6.

For more information and updates on show features, visit: [www.Fallhomegardenshow.com](http://www.Fallhomegardenshow.com) or the Facebook page: San Diego Home/Garden Shows. 🌿

## IS YOUR NAME HERE?

Please pick up your name badge at the next meeting you attend.

Eric Anderson	Angelina Guinn	Jerry Markle
Diane Bailey	Jon Guinn	Chip Milligan
John Beaudry	Lillian Gutierrez	Mimi Mortensen
Cecilia Baetge-Jolly	Julie Hardie	Sharon Muczynski
Gladys Baird	Mike Hardie	Marvin Murphy
Chris Brawner	Julie Hasl	Patricia Neal
Forrest Breese	Jon Hatch	Susanna Pagan
Anne Caprioglio	Ann Hoepfner	Sue Pellerito
Constanze	Faith Hoiberg	Tom Sadler
Christopher	Barbara Huntington	Elizabeth Segil
Susan Clark	Donna Johnston-	Patty Sliney
Jenise Deeter	Taylor	Gail Stockton
Lori Dekker	Elizabeth Jones	Laura Tezer
Don Doerfler	Tami Joplin	Lois Vertullo
Yvonne Doerfler	Britta Kuhlow	Penelope West
Shawn Ellison	Laura Lefebvre	John Wiedenhoff
Linda Fiske	Patricia Leon	Jayna Wittevrongel
Jennifer Garson	Libby Levine	
Margaret Grasela	Betsy Markle	





# TREES, PLEASE

## Tree Management 101

By Tim Clancy

This article describes methods used in managing large tree populations like those found in Home Owner's Associations, cities, and educational institutions, among others. When I hear the phrase "Urban Forestry" I



Tim Clancy

This street is headed for an urban clear cut.

think not about tree pruning or disease control. I prefer to think of those and other tree care related activities as "Urban Arboriculture." Urban forestry to me involves the analysis of data and then developing a plan that best utilizes the available resources (money) to maintain a healthy and safe tree population. Large tree populations can be properly managed, provided a solid management plan is in place.

The aforementioned data comes by way of a tree inventory, which is performed by individuals trained in tree identification and analysis. Inventories include the species, height, canopy spread, a condition rating, and other information relative to hardscape damage and clearance conflicts. Once this data is collected and input into a database, the analysis can begin. Two of the most important aspects of tree populations are species diversity and age diversity. Species diversity is an important strategy in maintaining a tree population over an extended period of time.

The reason species diversity is important can be seen in infestations over the last 15 or so years of eucalyptus trees by various determined pests. One only needs to look around the county to see many Eucalypts in distress. I drive through Rancho Santa Fe frequently, and have watched the tree population decline over the last 10 to 15 years. As the trees decline and die there are big gaps in the tree canopy due to an over-representation of a single species in the overall tree population. My preferred maximum for one species is 10% of the total population. If we use the 10% rule, then at any given time if there is a catastrophic insect or disease epidemic that targets *one* species then, in theory, only 10% of the population would be affected, with the remaining 90% providing the desired tree cover. This gives the tree manager time to modify the plan and recover the population.

Age diversity is important because it strives to maintain an evenly aged stand so future generations have the opportunity to enjoy trees of all sizes and ages. A good example of an age diversity dilemma is seen on Route 101 in Leucadia (Encinitas). Somewhere around the turn of the last century, Eucalyptus was planted along Route 101. These trees grew, and provided a beautiful canopy over Route 101 for many years. The trees are now declining, much to the chagrin of many residents who protest their removal, often citing the loss of canopy as central to their complaints.

What is happening is a mini clear-cut. All the trees have reached the end of their useful service life and need to be removed for safety reasons. If consideration had previously been given to an appropriate age diverse population, instead of 70% of the population being removed, perhaps we would be removing 2%, leaving a much more aesthetically pleasing result.

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Member Tim Clancy is an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist #WE-0806A. Tim welcomes comments and questions and can be reached at [treemanagers@gmail.com](mailto:treemanagers@gmail.com).



## SAN DIEGO CANYONLANDS

By Nick Cantelmi,  
Sustainable Stewardship Intern, SDCL

San Diego Canyonlands (SDCL) is a non-profit organization that works to promote, protect and restore the natural habitats in San Diego County canyons and creeks by fostering education and ongoing community involvement in stewardship and advocacy. SDCL has developed over forty Friends Groups throughout San Diego County comprised of students, interns, businesses and local families in order to steward the neighborhood canyons. SDCL also influences policies towards the protection of the canyons. Due to SDCL initiatives, in December 2012, the City Council dedicated 6,500 acres of City-owned canyons and open space, an area six times the size of Balboa Park.

There are over 150 canyons throughout urban San Diego that provide a wide range of benefits to life around the city. For example, the canyons harbor incredible biodiversity and "green infrastructure" that provides valuable ecosystem services, such as filtering air and urban runoff and mitigating the urban heat island effect to cool our city. The canyons also provide an escape to nature from an otherwise completely paved and urbanized environment.

However, the canyons have suffered a substantial amount of neglect and degradation over the decades. In order to ensure success, SDCL developed a committee of urban design visionaries and professional landscape architects, and established the Canyon Enhancement Planning (CEP) program. CEP steps include organizing Friends groups, mapping existing conditions of the canyons, holding community stakeholder planning workshops, and creating Canyon Enhancement Action Plans. Then, SDCL seeks the necessary permits and funding to execute the plans. CEP is facilitating a systems approach for implementing a regional vision that weaves our natural open spaces within the fabric of the urban environment, creating visual and physical canyon access, restoration, preservation, environment-based education and ecologically sensitive recreation.



Canyonlands has enrolled San Diego State University geography students and interns to support the GIS mapping of the canyons and implement the CEP process. SDSU interns also help build canyon Friends groups by creating outreach campaigns, hosting guided tours, and facilitating organizational meetings for the new groups. This provides hands-on experience for local students and serves to shape their career paths.

A recent program that SDCL calls the Canyons Connection Campaign (CCC) provides trail maps and wildlife guides to residents,

Continued on page 16

## GOING WILD WITH NATIVES

### Native Plant Activist Is a Local Hero

By Susan Krzywicki

Exciting news: Arne Johanson is one of three finalists for the Cox Conserves Heroes award! He's already a winner: the top three finalists all receive donations to the charity of their choice. The award recognizes community volunteers. Because he is a hard-working, knowledgeable and careful steward of our future, the San Diego chapter of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) nominated Arne (pictured here) as their hero. Arne is a force to be reckoned with in removing invasive annual weeds from parklands and open spaces. The contest ended August 16; check here for the final results: [www.coxconservesheroes.com/san-diego.aspx](http://www.coxconservesheroes.com/san-diego.aspx).

Greg Rubin writes about Arne as follows: "Arne Johanson is one of my conservation heroes. For years he has been doing incredibly important work with very little fanfare. Arne is so modest, in fact, that few know of the significant contributions he is making to the health of our local ecology... While so much emphasis (and money) is thrown at replanting, Arne realized that the eradication of weeds is essential to the success of any ecological restoration project. In fact, he came to the conclusion that if the sites are maintained weed-free, the ecology will often start to recover on its own. Arne has applied this successful and cost effective approach to many acres of habitat, preventing their conversion to weedy, fire-prone 'cow pasture' and ensuring ecological viability for many years to come. A number of his sites are now park-like in their beauty and diversity, harkening back to



a time when our ecology was so clean that Indians could comfortably walk barefoot for hundreds of miles. His tireless efforts to re-establish our sense of regional identity and his contributions to our quality of life are deserving of recognition."

Arne reflected, "With very little money we are bringing back all kinds of wildlife." It's not just wildlife that is coming to the watershed, though. "Now the areas have become places where the kids just show up. I have a ball watching them be Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer and exploring away!"

Through his work, over 2,000 acres are being restored to support wildlife and create recreational opportunities for the community, including these (and several more):

- Artesian Creek, 500 acres – Entire area is now mostly native coastal sage and native riparian vegetation. Wildlife is abundant.
- Blue Sky Reserve, 790 acres – Native vegetation has filled in throughout the reserve.
- Lusardi Creek – Controlling vast amounts of artichoke, creating opportunity to partner with developer on combined effort.

And, while you contemplate the return of cooler weather, stop by the California Native Plant Sale on October 12th in the Balboa Park Casa Del Prado courtyard. Get there early for the best selection – plants often sell out. Proceeds go to fund the CNPS chapter's great conservation, education and gardening mission here in San Diego County. CNPS members may start shopping at 10 AM; sale is open to the public from 11 AM to 3 PM. Info: [www.cnpssd.org](http://www.cnpssd.org).

This is the first column by member Susan Krzywicki, who will alternate with Pat Pawlowski. Susan replaces Greg Rubin, who has authored many of these interesting articles since 2011. We thank Greg for his thoughtful contributions. Susan Krzywicki is a California native plant landscape designer. She chairs the California Native Plant Society San Diego Chapter Gardening Committee, sits on the chapter board, and is chair of the local Surfrider Foundation Ocean Friendly Gardens Committee. ♪



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### The Quintessential Volunteer

By Patty Berg,  
Volunteer Coordinator

It's hard to imagine where SDHS would be today if Lucy Warren had continued in her chosen field of marketing research. With a Masters from the University of Arizona, she was deep into a profession that seems far removed from the world she inhabits today. Now a prolific and respected garden writer, Lucy carved a new career from the very soil beneath her feet by immersing herself in the world of horticulture. And SDHS has been one of the many beneficiaries of that passion for the past seventeen years.

As Jim Bishop's column points out this month, Lucy has recently retired from her Board position as secretary. In the course of those many years, it would be impossible to calculate the hours and energy she dedicated to helping a fledgling organization find its place in the world of horticulture in Southern California. That we are now close to 1300 strong is itself a tribute to Lucy and a handful of other dedicated early members.

A list of Lucy's associations and involvement with gardening-

related groups might take most of this page, so we'll mention just a few: San Diego Floral Association (for which she edited *California Garden* magazine), Pacific Horticulture Society (board member), UCCE Master Gardeners, the Paul Ecke Jr. Flower & Garden Show at the San Diego County Fair, and several organizations that focus on Balboa Park and its horticultural legacy. She is also a Life Member of SDHS.

She pursued all of this while writing a regular column for the *San Diego Union-Tribune* and having many articles published in professional journals. Makes you wonder when she has had time to garden! Not to worry: her North Park home is a living testimony to the wonders of California native plants. Not surprising since the new book she co-authored with Greg Rubin explores precisely that topic. And, yes, we got a great preview at our April meeting!

Lucy's early memories of gardening were as a little girl in Virginia, where her mother's peonies were extravagantly beautiful because Lucy had learned how to disbud them. Moving to Southern California presented a whole new universe of plant life that she studied voraciously through the Master Gardeners and Master Composters, and by getting to know the local experts, such as Pat Welsh and Vince Lazaneo.

How fortunate for us that she had the courage to follow her passion for her second career and the generosity of spirit to share it with us. From everyone at SDHS, thank you! ♪



## HAPPY 19TH BIRTHDAY TO US!

By Jim Bishop

A very heartfelt *thank you* to the passionate founders who created our Society in 1994: Don & Dorothy Walker, Steve Brigham, Diana Goforth, Laurie Bussis, Bill & Linda Teague, Adele Snyder and Kathy Musial. Their vision set us on the path to having a friendly group that enjoys sharing horticultural information and the joy of gardening.

I'm sad to say that Don Walker recently passed away (see page 10). Besides being one of the founders of the San Diego Horticultural Society, Don was our first president, our 2005 honoree as Horticulturist of the Year, and the indefatigable photographer for our book *Ornamental Trees for Mediterranean Climates*. A memorial service for Don, to be held in the Walled Garden at the San Diego Botanic Garden, is scheduled for 11 AM on Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. You can read about Don's life in horticulture in the article he authored for the newsletter in 2005 at [www.sdhort.org/Hort-of-the-Year](http://www.sdhort.org/Hort-of-the-Year).

Our members range from beginning gardeners to skilled professionals – what they have in common is a passion for plants. In the past 19 years, we have grown to over 1300 members, making us one of the largest and most active garden groups in the United States. We also thank our sponsors (see page 11) for the financial support that enables us to accomplish as much as we do.

We can use *your* help, too. See page 2 for volunteer opportunities – it's a great way to use your talents and meet like-minded folks. I know firsthand that you get so much more out of a group if you are actively involved. Over 200 members volunteered this year for events like the Spring and Fall Home/Garden Shows, our garden tour, the San Diego County Fair, Featured Gardens, Free Workshops and many other activities. We wouldn't be able to accomplish so much without the dedication of our board members (names on page 2). They act behind the scenes to keep things running smoothly.

### What have we done this year?

Last fall, the Society website received a new look and an events-oriented makeover that included new online membership management, event scheduling, payment and email systems. All of these were consolidated into one system, which helped automate many time consuming tasks.

Our extremely popular Featured Gardens included nurseries and private gardens all over the county, plus a Pomegranate & Persimmon picking in Pauma Valley – thanks to all our gracious hosts. In March, tour chair Dannie McLaughlin topped our attendance record set the previous year with a wonderful tour of Poway gardens. Al Myrick led the judging for our awards at the Regional Science Fair, and also coordinated our three \$1000 college scholarships. In February, 54 members visited the gardens at the Huntington. We began offering free workshops and will have completed 20 workshops by the end of the year. Our award-winning display garden at the San Diego County Fair, designed by Marty Schmidt, won nine awards, including the competition to build the entrance garden. Also in June, Brad Monroe, creator of the Ornamental Horticulture program at Cuyamaca College, was honored as Horticulturist of the Year at our meeting held outdoors at the San Diego County Fair Flower & Garden Show stage.

**Our monthly meetings** remain the heart of what we do and we are appreciative of our exceptional vendors and everyone who contributes. Program co-chairs Mary James and Bill Nugent did an outstanding job of recruiting exciting speakers covering a wide range of topics from Mediterranean plants, the trees of California, edible front yards, slow flowers, exotic bulbs, an update on the rose industry, tilandsias, native plants, the nursery business, succulents, and drip irrigation.

**Our newsletter continues to be a major member benefit**, and we encourage members to read it online. Currently, over half our members read the newsletter exclusively online. I want to thank this year's regular contributors: Patty Berg, Scott Borden, Linda Bresler, Tim Clancy, Joan Herskowitz, Neal King, Caroline McCullagh, Pat Pawlowski, Robin Rivet, Greg Rubin, Trudy Thompson, Ava Torre-Bueno, and Susi Torre-Bueno. In addition, over a dozen members help with processing the newsletters that go in the mail – hats off to all of them. Also, many members contributed to the Sharing Secrets column. Thanks to Rachel Cobb, our graphics editor, for always making the newsletter look so good.

### So... what's in store for the coming year?

October 5 is our annual Volunteer Appreciation Party in the garden of Frank and Susan Oddo, where we honor all of the volunteers that make everything we do possible. We'll continue our popular monthly Featured Garden events, more free workshops, and our local Spring Garden Tour. We'll visit the Gardens of the Wine Country in May. And, of course, we'll continue to present some of the best horticulture speakers in San Diego.

How much we can accomplish really depends on you, so please volunteer now, get involved, and make friends with some truly dedicated gardeners. 🌿

Announcing the 2013 San Diego

## Native Gardening Symposium

Saturday September 28, 8 AM to 2:30 PM  
 Girl Scout Balboa Campus  
 1231 Upas Street, Balboa Park  
 \$35 per person, and children under 12 admitted free.

Learn to garden with native plants, even if you  
 are new to natives!



Exclusive access to five tracks of  
 information, education and hands-on  
 gardening.



Register at [LearnNativeGardening.org](http://LearnNativeGardening.org)

In partnership: California Native Plant Society, Friends of  
 Balboa Park, Garden Native.



## GARDENS OF THE YEAR 2014 CONTEST IT'S TIME TO TAKE PHOTOS!

Is your garden in fabulous bloom this month? Your chances to win San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles' Gardens of the Year contest improve dramatically when the photos submitted with your entry capture your garden at its best. Several past winners have been on the SDHS annual garden tour. The 2013 winning garden of Dannie and Craig McLaughlin, will be open to members for a featured garden visit very soon!

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/magcontest> for information and entry forms for your chance to win! ☞



## WATER-WISE IN BALBOA PARK

The Friends of Balboa Park published *A Roadmap to Water-wise Parkland in Balboa Park: Optimizing Water Use by 2020 – A Call to Action* (<http://tinyurl.com/balpark>) in May, 2012, and the response has been overwhelmingly positive. Everyone understands the concept of working together to make our Park's water use more sustainable so it can be enjoyed by generations to come. The fact that some of these projects are already generating tangible results and making a difference is exciting!

As you may know, the U.S. is suffering its worst drought in 50 years, and water has never been more precious. Balboa Park faces significant resource constraints. As a living system, its parkland depends on water, and we live in a desert. How can we preserve and enhance our crown jewel for our children and their descendants?

### Goals of Friends of Balboa Park's Program for a Water-wise Parkland

1. Optimize water use in the parkland by 2020. "Parkland" means the space outside the buildings/physical infrastructure.
2. Contribute significantly toward making Balboa Park an internationally recognized best practice in water use.
3. Make Balboa Park an internationally recognized best practice in use of the collaborative Community of Practice model to achieve these goals.
4. Establish and operate the Friends of Balboa Park Center for H2O Experience to support the three goals above through eco-tourism and eco-education for visitors, students, and staff.

In order to achieve these goals, the park must be "smartscaped." This requires applying state-of-the-art knowledge and technology through field research and evaluation (Living Laboratory). It includes changes to more water-wise horticulture, to efficient irrigation, and use of non-potable water obtained within the park.

### Phase I accomplishments include:

**Smart irrigation:** A smart irrigation control system was installed that includes a weather station placed in Balboa Park. The central computer system adjusts irrigation rates based on real time data received by

## BECOME A MASTER GARDENER

By Lisa Marun,  
San Diego Master Gardeners



We're getting ready to grow a new crop of our prized San Diego Master Gardeners! On September 12 we will be holding an Open House at 10AM in Balboa Park for those interested in learning more about horticulture and in giving their time to educate the public. We encourage all those interested in learning more about what being a Master Gardener entails to come to the meeting, where attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and to speak with current Master Gardeners about their experience.

Please see our website for more information and application form: [www.mastergardenersd.org/2014class](http://www.mastergardenersd.org/2014class). ☞



Smart irrigation in Balboa Park

the weather station. There are 60 controllers in the park and each has 24 to 48 watering zones. Staff are now equipped with hand-held devices for local control. We've achieved large savings in labor hours, reduced water usage, reduced damage to plants and soil, and expanded hours of park use for the public.

**Water mapping:** City staff now have accurate interactive maps of water mains, valves and backflows in the Central Mesa which

display data about water infrastructure. The staff can quickly access information about mains and valves, including a feature to identify the best location to repair a leak. Also, a new tool was provided, based on Google Earth, which allows staff to access these maps on any PC, laptop, tablet, or smartphone. Plans to map mains, valves, irrigation and flora for additional Park areas are being developed.

**Australian Garden improvements:** Drought-tolerant Australian trees and shrubs were planted, reducing the need for water. Next, a drip irrigation system is planned.

**Bird Park Smartscaping:** In part of the landscape, water-hungry non-native plants have been replaced with a native plant that is also edible by native birds. Traditional irrigation is being replaced by MP Rotators (rotating nozzles) that reduce water use.

**Park Boulevard center median improvements:** Irrigation on these grass medians caused wasted potable water run-off into the storm drains and uneven coverage. By replacing it with MP Rotators, run-off into the storm drains has been stopped, less water is being used, and coverage is more even. Gains were documented through a before-after water audit.

Won't you join us? It's never been a more exciting time to share your passion, skills and valuable time. Please e-mail [info@friendsofbalboapark.org](mailto:info@friendsofbalboapark.org). You can learn more by visiting [www.friendsofbalboapark.org](http://www.friendsofbalboapark.org). ☞



## MY LIFE WITH PLANTS

By Jim Bishop

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

### The Herbaceous Border

This month we'll take a brief detour away from my life chronology told through plants.

In July I was fortunate to join twenty-three horticultural-minded individuals on the Pacific Horticulture Society tour, "Gardens & Castles of Scotland." All of the gardens were outstanding, and we were very near the peak summer bloom. Scotland had a very wet and cold spring until mid-May, and has since been abnormally warm and dry, bringing everything into bloom at once. Several gardens were very old (or even ancient compared to the U.S.) and wonderfully designed, now part of and maintained by the National Trust of Scotland. However, it was the private gardens that really showed the attention to detail and gardening that only a garden owner can provide. Of these, the House of Pitmuies garden on the east side of Scotland stood out.

The garden was built around a 1730s white plastered house with a typical Scottish slate roof. Recently, after a lifetime of maintaining the garden, Marguerite Ogilvie has turned over maintenance of the garden (after a ten year training period) to her daughter-in-law. The estate garden has numerous features: a stream, a very large formal kailyard (an ornamental kitchen garden), a gothic chapel styled old wash-house, a medieval fort styled turreted dovecot, a glass conservatory, a small pond, a loch (Scottish for a lake), a ha-ha (a steep drop off to keep sheep out of the garden, giving the impression of an endless lawn), a conservatory (where we were served tea), a huge flower garden, and spacious lawns. You know, the common backyard features we all live with every day (ha ha!). However, the best part was the herbaceous border; a feature of most estate gardens in the U.K.

The English and Scottish have developed it into a high art form. An herbaceous border consists of a walkway or lawn with wide plantings of annuals, perennials, bulbs, and shrubs on either side. It is often contained within tall walls and/or hedges to create a warmer microclimate and protect it from the wind. Often, a nearby house, castle or mountain



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helps complete the view. Marguerite's consisted of four long planting beds. The middle two beds had a narrow grass walkway with a larger open area in the middle centered on a pedestaled sundial. These were separated on either side by a wider lawn area and then two more beds. One of the outer beds backed up to a 14' tall hedge, and the other a traditional Scottish limestone wall. Behind the garden was the three storey white house with Victorian conservatory and, on the day we visited, puffy clouds were set against the blue Scottish sky.

On first inspection, borders look very simple with taller plants in back and shorter in front arranged with layers of colorful flowers. In reality, they take years of planning and experimentation and each shows the unique tastes and talents of the designer and gardener. By playing with sun and shadow, flower and leaf color, mass plantings, specimen plants, repetition, height and texture combinations, the gardener creates drama and different moods. In this case, one area was backed by electric 8' tall delphiniums that had been grown from seed of the originals planted in the garden some 75 years ago. These were fronted by white roses and backed by a burgundy-colored copper beech trees sheered into an informal hedge. Other areas highlighted old roses, lilies, or other specimen plants. The garden changes throughout the day as the shadows cast by nearby trees and buildings, as well as the plants, move across the garden.

My favorite part was the center of the border. The gardener had chosen layer upon layer of mostly small flowered and small-leaved plants in various pastel colors. Plants were allowed to grow into each other and spill out onto the grass pathway. In the middle of the path sat the sundial. The overall affect was one of lush fuzziness that engulfs you in a world of color as you pass through. It was all pretty amazing and even more so considering that all of this was created from long

Continued on page 12



## REMEMBERING DON WALKER

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of our founder, Don Walker, in Arizona on July 20th. Don and his wife, Dorothy, were two of our founders in 1994. In a few years, through lots of hard work and a very friendly and sharing attitude, they grew the organization to hundreds of members and set a high standard for our meetings, speakers and events. Don was the photographer for our book, *Ornamental Trees for Mediterranean Gardens: The Trees of San Diego*. He was a generous friend to many, a welcoming presence, and a fine gardener, and he will be greatly missed. Our hearts go out to Dorothy and the family.

**There will be a memorial service to honor Don Walker at I AM on Saturday, September 14 at the Walled Garden of the San Diego Botanic Garden.**

If you didn't have the opportunity to know Don Walker, you can read about him in the article he authored in our newsletter in 2005, the year he was our Horticulturist of the Year honoree ([www.sdhort.org/Hort-of-the-Year](http://www.sdhort.org/Hort-of-the-Year)). Some of our members have shared these memories of Don.

**Pat Welsh:** I always thought of Don as being a quiet, modest and somewhat shy man. He might not have been this way with those who knew him better, but this was the Don Walker I knew. His unassuming nature made his gift to me, and to all of us, all the more dramatic. As the Founder of the San Diego Horticultural Society, Don's legacy is a vibrant organization that seems destined to continue inspiring and informing plant lovers, gardeners and professionals long after his lifetime. I will always be grateful to him for this.

**Steve Brigham:** Don and I, of course, worked together for many years on many important projects, and there are so many stories to be told. But I always think back to that September 1994 evening at (then) Quail Botanical Gardens. Our first-ever San Diego Horticultural Society meeting! Would anybody show up? Ninety people did! We were amazed... and the rest is history! I've always said that Don Walker will be best remembered as a great horticulturist and gardener who also had this great talent (much to his eternal surprise) of bringing other gardeners together. He will always be my hero.

**Bobbi Hirschhoff:** Don was always helpful with information and sharing. I will always think of him when I see my Spanish moss throughout my garden.

**Bruce Hubbard:** I remember, it must have been in the late 1990's or early 2000's, when Don and Steve were working on the tree book, I somehow got volunteered to help with the images. On numerous occasions, Don would come over to my house from Vista, with hundreds of pictures of trees, hundreds of them... all on color TRANSPARANCIES! My job was to scan them and to digitize them, a very slow process in those days. The result was that Don and I would sit for hours and hours. After exhausting the topic of trees, and then of plants in general, we would talk about more personal things, our families, our worries, and our hopes. We got to know each other fairly well. RIP Don, I miss you.



Don Walker at SDBG

**Julian Duval:** Don played a very important role for the San Diego Botanic Garden, particularly during its very challenging transition to becoming self-supporting. He was a Quail Botanical Garden Foundation board member for a number of years, and had the task of being one of the more important interviewees when I was brought in seeking employment as Executive Director. Don was also a very hands-on volunteer gardener for the Garden. His special area was the rain forest section, where he put in hard work every Thursday. I think he would be proud of how that area has progressed in being what I know he had hoped it could become. Don wore many hats on behalf of the Garden, and he also was the principle person for several years for the ever-popular Fall Plant Sale. Don was foremost a plantsman, and when he realized I had a personal greenhouse collection of plants I was moving to California, and that we shared similar tastes in plants, he was quick to give me things from his collection. Those plants, many of which I received from him 18 years ago, are now wonderful living memories of a person that played an important role in the success the Garden now enjoys, but also someone who was very helpful in my personal adjustment as a Southern California gardener.

**Lucy Warren:** One of my favorite stories about Don was when Felder Rushing came to speak and he conspired with Dorothy to sneak pink flamingos into Don's garden unbeknownst to him. To Don pink flamingos were the epitome of gauche, but he got a big kick out of the prank.

**Leslie Duval:** Don and I were Co-Chairs of Quail Botanical Gardens' Fall Plant Sale for several years. I remember how happy and full of joy Don was when sharing his knowledge and "talking plants" with people.

**Sue Fouquette:** We thought a lot of Don and of Dorothy. I was lucky enough to be asked to help proofread his and Steve Brigham's 2003 book, *Ornamental Trees of San Diego*. Charley and I always think of Don when we look at the Haemanthus we got from his garden.

**Susi Torre-Bueno:** I saw a notice about the first meeting of the SDHS in a newspaper (or somewhere), and drove up to Encinitas from where I was living near SDSU. It seemed to take forever to get there, but it was so exciting to be at the meeting and see how enthusiastic everyone was. I didn't know any of the Latin names, and while I thought that the nomenclature was over my head, I very much wanted to be part of this friendly group. Little did I guess that in 2 years I'd be a board member and the newsletter editor! I remember

*Continued on page 17*

San Diego Horticultural Society

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We encourage our 1300+ members to be active participants and share in the fun; to volunteer see page 2. **A warm hello to these new members:**

**Welcome to our newest sponsor:**

**San Diego Hydroponics & Organics (www.sdhidroponics.com)**

Gwenn Adams	Deborah Gruen	Leslie Nelson	Bethel & Tim Williams
Susan Arneson	Sandra Hinesly	Kenneth Patterson Sr.	Rosalie Wisniew
Curtis Austell	Heather Holland & Jon Dunchack	Mary Salvato	
Lisa & Steve Brown	Ellie Knight	Robin Shifflet	
Mary & James Collard	Lisa Newberg & Bill Kohler	Cynthia Stojeba	
Gail D'Cruz	Martha Morache	Kate Thielicke	
Paula Eoff		Peggy Thomas	
Manzar Evangelatos		Bill Tweet	

## HORT BUCKS ARE GREAT!

Kudos to these members whose friends joined in 2013; they earned Hort Bucks worth \$5 towards name badges, garden tours, dues and more! To get your Hort Bucks ask your friends to give your name when they join.

Alta Vista Gardens (Ed) (1)	Heather Hazen (1)	Sally Sandler (1)
Debra Lee Baldwin (1)	Su Kraus (1)	San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles (1)
Jim Bishop (3)	Claudia Kuepper (1)	Sue Ann Scheck (2)
Barbara Bolton (2)	Vince Lazaneo (1)	Robin Shifflet (1)
Linda Bresler (1)	Jen Jen Lin (1)	Sue & Dick Streeper (1)
Susan Currie (1)	Don Lowe (1)	Julia Swanson (1)
Ann Dahnke (1)	Mike Masterson (1)	Susi Torre-Bueno (1)
Gigi Dearnas-LoPATriello (1)	Toni Munsel (1)	Marcia Van Loy (1)
Bryan Diaz (1)	Lisa Newberg (1)	Pat Venolia (1)
Dave Ericson (1)	Tandy Pfost (1)	Lucy Warren (1)
Terry Fox (1)	Point Loma Garden Club (1)	Anne-Marie Weller (1)
Carla Gilbert (1)	Mo Price (1)	Nancy Woodard (2)
Irina Gronborg (1)	Virginia Ruehl (1)	

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The San Diego Botanic Garden is offering a colorful variety of events fall.

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Jeffrey Bale

April in Santa Barbara: explore the many different styles and types of gardens possible in a climate perched between the mild central coast and the sunny southland, from the use of California native plants at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden to the exotic splendors of Lotusland, plus exclusive visits to luxurious private gardens.

SDHS is an affiliate member of the Pacific Horticulture Society, producers of the highly regarded *Pacific Horticulture* magazine. Tours are operated by San Diego-based Sterling Tours, a SDHS sponsor. More info at [www.sterlingtoursltd.com](http://www.sterlingtoursltd.com).

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■ **My Life with Plants** Continued from page 9

rectangular beds more typical of a vegetable garden. I made several passes in different directions so as not to miss anything.

After touring the gardens, we had hot tea and homemade cakes served on china in the drawing room, and a short talk by the current matron of the house and garden. Since several hours had passed, I did another quick pass through the garden to see how the shadows had changed before reluctantly boarding the bus. You can view photos of the garden at [http://www.gardenvisit.com/garden/house\\_of\\_pitmuies\\_garden](http://www.gardenvisit.com/garden/house_of_pitmuies_garden) or my photos on facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10201645983541836.1073741864.1546511028&type=1&l=0c9113270d>.

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

**YOUR MONTHLY MEMBER E-MAIL**

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- Link to the newest digital newsletter on our website
- Invitation to Featured Garden and other events
- Details about the talk at the next meeting





## SHARING SECRETS

This column is written by you, our members! Each month we'll ask a question, and print your responses the following month. You can find copies of previous Sharing Secrets on our website at <https://sdhort.wildapricot.org/SharingSecrets?eid=1093874>.

**NEW ONLINE:** You can now continue the discussion by adding new replies to Sharing Secrets topics online. Here's your chance to comment on how the plants you mentioned two years ago are doing today, or to suggest another way to do something in the garden.

### The question for September was:

What has been the biggest surprise in your garden this year?

**Bruce Hubbard's** surprise was reptiles: I have had an outbreak of California Tree Frogs. They are everywhere. I have to look constantly to avoid stepping on them. These are the first ones that I have seen since the fires of 2007, after which they virtually disappeared. I imagine that this is the sign of a healthy garden that is pesticide free. Another surprise was the sighting of two Western Blind Snakes; they live underground, surface at night, eat ants, and can burrow down over sixty feet. They are harmless and can easily be mistaken for earthworms.

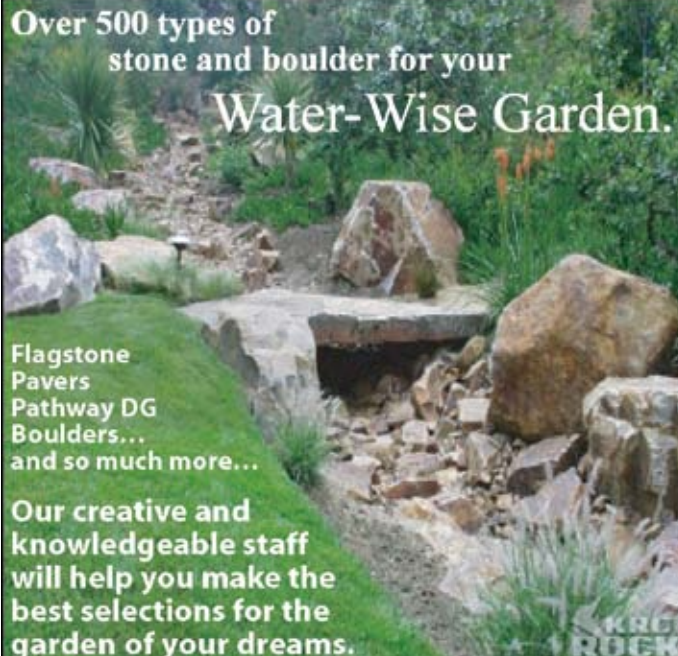
**Linda Estrin** had an edible surprise: The biggest surprise in my garden this summer was the abundance of grapes on the vines that I did not have the courage to prune after searching on Youtube for lessons. So I just let them go and do what they did – grow huge – and they have given me so many grapes! (The original scions were gotten at the rare fruit society. I had no idea how to grow them. I stuck them in a large pot & left them. I thought they were dead but did not get around to removing them. Seemed like a year later they had leaves. Two years later I put them in the ground. This year I have a huge harvest to share. Truly amazing to me, who did not know what I was doing.) The second surprise that pleased me was/is the blooming of beautiful huge flowers (8" x 10") inches on my dragon fruit vine. One of the flowers seemed to have the female and male parts separated and side by side. Is that normal? Third surprise: Last year I put some straw bales a neighbor salvaged and brought over for me in a square and filled the middle with cardboard, newspaper, leaves, things to compost and layered it up with some compost on top of that. This year I planted squash and I am enjoying that. Squash is easy to grow you say; well, the gophers did not bother it in the straw bale garden on top of bricks.

**Tandy Pfof's** surprise has thorns: My "thornless" blackberries (at least I thought they were thornless when they were planted) naturalized into thorny ones and took over. They are huge and really good, but they are choking out the other berries I have. Now I have the prickly job of pulling them out... but lots of blackberry crisp in the freezer.

**Cynthia Stojeba** had a volunteer plant: My biggest surprise this year is a very prolific volunteer jalapeno pepper plant, which is growing in the same container as my blueberry bush.

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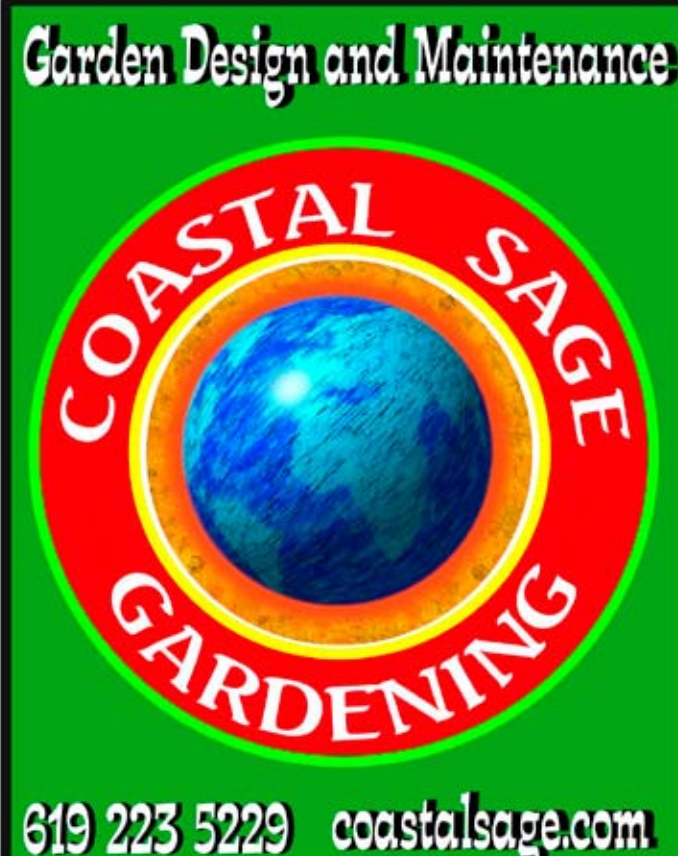
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**Al Myrick** did great with cuttings: This year, all (ALL!) of my plumeria cuttings lived and many are already blooming. And so did most of my cycad pups, and so did most of my calandrinia pieces.

**Gayle Olson** foiled the rabbits this year by: growing tomatoes after three years of being ticked off at the rabbits and not growing them.

**Jeannine Romero's** biggest surprise: is that I am addicted to succulents now! I became addicted since I attended Debra Lee Baldwin's talk at SDHS and read her book!

**Marilyn Wilson** loves a low-water plant: I started a new garden in the Fall of 2011, and each plant got its own drip water. (Trees and shrubs got more than one, but that's another story.) Plants I brought from my old garden included three *Ruellia brittoniana* (Mexican petunia); this plant is a widespread invasive in Florida. Ground squirrels got two of them. The third flourished and blooms almost constantly (and provided just one offset for me to pot up for a friend). My surprise THIS YEAR was when I discovered we never gave it any drip water – all this time it survived quite nicely with only rainwater! Who knew?

**Carol Donald** has great tomatoes: This year's tomato crop of Celebrity and Ace tomatoes yielded hundreds of mega-size fruit and still going strong. One tomato weighed 13.8 ounces. After last year's crop of about 35 tomatoes on 5 plants, this has been an overwhelming surprise.

**Deanna McHose** has excellent results from worm tea: A big and wonderful surprise came from using "worm tea" on all of the flowers, vegetables, fruit trees, cacti, and plants in general. All of the plants reacted by becoming so much healthier. Even the hibiscus bushes got nutty and produced huge vibrant blossoms, which we haven't seen in the past. The cause and effect was amazing. I highly recommend it to all gardeners. We get our worm tea from the San Diego Hydroponics store in San Marcos on Twin Oaks Valley Road.

**Judi Miller** has happy vines: My three mandevilla plants (all in pots) have been blooming incredibly. They are all 3 or 4 years old and never did much, but this year they are amazing. I've done nothing new in the way of caring for them.

**Cheryl Hedgpeth Nichols** had a fascinating comment: The biggest surprise is what one will do for love! Since our small beach house doesn't have room for my new husband's treasures, we are building a man-cave on top the garage. This entails digging up some valuable old tropical plants surrounding the garage. The city codes demand we add two unwanted feet to the sides of the garage and side by side parking for two cars right in the middle of a patio.

**Doris Payne-Camp** had a lovely surprise: We knew that our Baja community was experiencing a water outage due to the political wrangling of two water companies that allegedly are supposed to be providing our water supply. When I returned after a month's absence that included some of the summer's hottest days, almost all of it without water in that community, I expected to find most of the garden and pots to be fried. The surprise was that the rose garden was more beautiful than it has been in recent years and the petunias were spilling over their pots. Everything else was done, although some has since recovered.

**Sue Lasbury** enjoyed good growth: The biggest surprise I had this year is just how fast my garden has grown in the past several months. We installed the garden just over two years ago. At first things seemed to be moving along quite slowly. It's a beautiful native/drought tolerant garden designed by Chris Drayer. We water very little and only once the rainy season ends. Most plants have gotten so large. Makes me think I should water even less than I do.

**Heather Hazen** had a flowery surprise: I love Moonflowers, and over the years have had trouble germinating the seeds. This summer, using Happy Frog Potting Soil, I have had every seed germinate. I have a flower ready to open and can't wait to go out in the evening and enjoy the scent.

**Tony Foster** had an aquatic success: The water hyacinth in my pond usually die each winter. They didn't this year, and have been blooming like crazy!

**Cathy McCaw** got free plants: I love this question, because I never know what is going to spring up from my compost, since it usually doesn't get hot enough to kill the seeds. A month ago I harvested 7 early pumpkins and 55 beautiful decorative gourds. Now I'm just waiting for Fall!

**Linda Jones** had animal surprises: Blue birds nesting in my garden, and seeing two monarch butterfly chrysalises hanging on my window ledge above the milkweed plants.

**Nancy Kohrs** has critter issues: The biggest surprise has been the increase in gopher activity in my backyard, even though we have been consistent about shoring up the main holes with sand and paving over much of our backyard. We have tried everything. We live in Sorrento Valley surrounded by the Penasquitos Preserve. I understand that olive oil is a good deterrent, too. Is this true? Our next move is to take out the existing grass (with gopher mounds) replace it with a layer of sand, ten inches deep, and then galvanized chicken wire, then add sod. We even have a barn owl box in our back yard (with babies) to cut down on the gopher activities, yet they still persist. We have changed most of our front yard into xeriscape, with succulents and rock because of rabbits. They are now in our neighbors' yards.

**Ron Hurov** is getting ready for Halloween: Pumpkins have been the most pleasant surprise in my vegetable garden this year. I planted six 3-year old seeds in late May and I now have 30' vines all over my back yard with ten large, 20-pound pumpkins. Maybe SDHS should consider a pumpkin growing contest each year. Also, my fourteen newly planted gasoline trees (*Pittosporum resiniferum*) are doing quite well. In November 2012, my son Andrew organized the removal of my no-water jungle. We hauled away two 20' containers of debris. Nature, of course, abhors a bare space, and in no time a new jungle started emerging, with weeds, tomatoes, passion fruit, palms, feverfew, daisies, and other unidentified plants, some of which came from seeds long dormant or brought in by wind or birds.

**Sandra Knowles** also succeeded with tomatoes: Loads of tomatoes are our greatest treasure this year, and a nice crop of peaches and apples on our 3-year old trees. Last year the tomatoes were a disappointment, but not this one. Bill (my hubby) dug in lots of compost from AgriService into a 4-foot square raised bed, and put in a package from Costco (one Early Girl and one heirloom (the basil

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didn't live). Then, with water only once a week, the tomatoes did us proud... we've been dining on them for four weeks. Yum.

**Mary Poteet** was surprised by: how well the purple scaevola in my window boxes are doing – from a small plant to 2' wide by 4' long very quickly.

**Cassidy Rowland** had a fine grafted tomato: This year we tried a green zebra heirloom tomato grafted onto root stock – all I can say is WOW! Very vigorous and prolific with happily delicious tomatoes that are yummy both freshly sliced into a salad or preserved – green zebra jam anyone?

**Stevie Hall** has insect woes: The garden is full of whitefly – first time ever.

**Ann Hoepfner** got a free plant: I thought it was a volunteer butternut squash, but it was a Jamaican pumpkin.

**Barbara Clark** said: My biggest pleasant surprise this summer has been how cool the weather has been. My saddest surprise is that I can't grow roses in containers.

**Cindy Sparks** had one winning tomato: My biggest surprise was the only tomato I planted. Living in the fog belt, I don't do many 'maters because I tend to get a puny yield. This time I chose a virgin piece of veg garden, laid in bunny manure 6 months ago, covered with mulch and let it cook. In April I got one heirloom tomato at the local garden club sale. It was a Russian, supposedly with high yield even at the coast. I almost had to jump back when the thing got started. The beast is about 10' wide and 4' tall, and I have been giving tomatoes away (that is a first). Makes me wish I had put a full stucco wire cage around it, but I never dreamed it would do so well. Was it the virgin land? The bunny manure? The heirloom variety? Probably all contributed, but it will be remembered as my best tomato ever. It's name: Azoychka I. Big, beefy, almost seedless, yellow with good tomato flavor.

**The question for October is:**

What are your two favorite gardening books, and why?

Send your reply by September 5 to newsletter@sdhort.org.

■ **CANYONLANDS** Continued from page 5

inviting them to visit and explore the unique diversity in their neighborhood canyons. The CCC has generated dozens of new volunteers for the canyon Friends groups. The SDSU community organizing interns are helping with distribution of the CCC package and bolstering their enrollment of volunteers for the canyons.

On September 21, in partnership with I Love A Clean San Diego, SDCL will be hosting an event at Ruffin Canyon in Serra Mesa for Coastal Cleanup Day. The Friends of Ruffin Canyon and community volunteers will be focusing on the removal of invasive, non-native vegetation such as ice plant, Brazilian pepper, and *Arundo donax* (Giant Cane). They will also educate volunteers on native species, such as the beautiful California Encilia, Blue-eyed-grass, and Purple Nightshade. This event will provide people of all ages with the proper education and practical application of stewardship for the canyon environment. Anyone is welcome to join!

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■ **Don Walker** Continued from page 10

sitting at Don and Dorothy's kitchen table and collating and folding the newsletter each month, with Don using a ruler to make sure the folds were very neat and tight. He cared so passionately, in his very quiet and self-effacing way, about the success of the organization and about making everyone feel welcome. He'd be proud to see how well we've accomplished those goals. Over the years I got many fine plants from Don, but I'll always remember the one he *didn't* want to give me. He had a low-growing ground cover on a slope in his garden, and when I asked for a piece he told me that it was great at first, but that in a year or two, when I saw how much it could run in the garden, I'd be mad at him for giving it to me. I swore that wouldn't happen, so when the inevitable came true I never faulted him – but it did take about 4 years for me to finally get rid of all of it.



**Rachel Cobb:** Don was more than generous sharing his knowledge and love of plants with me. Being from the east coast, Don's garden was one of the first private gardens that I visited. I was in love with all the amazing plants and combinations he had winding through his extensive garden. His garden showed how much he loved plants and he inspired me. Thanks Don.

**Mary McBride:** I am lucky enough to have years of wonderful memories of Don and Dorothy. The first being it was always Don & Dorothy; they were a marvelous partnership. Don Walker was one of the kindest people I have ever known. I was lucky enough to be a neighbor as well. When we moved in Don gave me a beautiful plumeria; it is now an 8' tree. It has given me years of pleasure, and always makes me think of him. I don't think I ever saw him refuse to help, no matter how busy he was, and usually it meant doing the thankless work no one else wanted. I am a better person for having known him. Much as I hated to see them move to Arizona, I know that the years he had living close to his children and grandchildren were precious to him. He was a good man. If all of us lived up to Don and Dorothy, the world would be a much better place. I will miss his presence in this world, but I know he lives on through all of us he touched and my plumeria tree. I would be happy to offer a cutting to those who would like to have one in Don's memory.

**Kathy Musial:** I joined the Southern California Horticultural Society (then Institute) in July 1982, about the same time I started working at the Huntington Botanical Gardens. Don Walker was president at the time, and was so friendly and welcoming, and a long friendship began. When Don retired and moved to San Diego, he missed the SCHS and lamented the absence of a similar group in San Diego, and often floated the idea of starting a group. At his instigation, several of us fellow plant enthusiasts got together and brainstormed how we could get a horticulture society going in San Diego. Thus, the SDHS was born at the dining room table of Bill and Linda Teague, modeled after the SCHS. I was sad when Don and Dorothy moved away to Arizona and always missed them. Don was a genuinely wonderful person and will be greatly missed.

Continued on page 19

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## AUGUST 2013 PLANT DISPLAY

By Susi Torre-Bueno

### What is the Plant Display?

Each month members bring in plants, cuttings or flowers and put them in blue bottles on our display tables. What a great way to see what plants grow well in our area. EVERYONE is invited to participate. All plants are welcome. Write descriptions similar to those below, and put them with your plant(s).

**Join the fun and bring something to the next meeting.** We thank those people who brought in plants to show to other members.

### *Leucaena esculenta* **GUAJE** (Fabaceae) Mexico

This attractive deciduous (sometimes evergreen) tree from Southern Mexico grows to about 30-45' tall, forming an open rounded crown. In older trees the lower branches don't begin until about 15' above ground level. It is a legume, and the nutritious seeds, which contain protein, are eaten in Oaxaca and other parts of Mexico. They are an ingredient of some mole recipes and other traditional dishes. The creamy white flower heads are small balls about 1" in diameter, and are comprised of about 150-170 tiny flowers. The seed pods, which appear in clusters, each have 15 – 30 seeds somewhat smaller than a sunflower seed, and at up to 10" long and 1" wide are surprisingly large for such small flowers. When the pods turn brown the seeds are edible (they will be an orange/brown color), although some sources note the seeds can

be eaten when still green. In local markets in San Diego, pods can sell for around \$1 for a bunch of 10 or more pods. The ferny mimosa-type leaves have 30-40 pairs of pinnae. One source notes that the seeds, "are eaten raw with guacamole, sometimes cooked and made into a sauce. They can also be made into fritters. The ground seeds are used to impart a slightly garlicky flavor to a mole called guaxmole (huaxmole). The dried seeds may be toasted and salted and eaten as a snack referred to as 'cacalas.' Purchase whole long pods fresh or dried at Mexican specialty markets." The specimen displayed showed up in a pot in the owner's garden, probably planted by birds. She was told that in this area the tree is planted by homeowners as a source for the seed pods. (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 8/13) – S.T-B.

### *Hibiscus acetosella* 'Mahogany Splendor' **CRANBERRY HIBISCUS** (Malvaceae) Natural Hybrid, Tropical East Africa

This short-lived perennial (many treat it as an annual) with gorgeous burgundy foliage produces red flowers in fall on a shrubby plant to about 5' tall and wide. The flowers remain open for just a few hours and last only one day, although the plant will be in bloom for about a month. It is related to *Hibiscus sabdariffa*, whose flower calyces are used to make Red Zinger iced tea and, in Mexico, the popular Jamaica beverage. Cranberry Hibiscus has slightly sour or tart young leaves that are eaten raw or cooked in salads and stir-fries in South America. Care should be taken, however, and the leaves should be eaten in small quantities only, as they are acidic and mucilaginous. The flowers are used to make sugared iced drinks. It is said to be easy to propagate from cuttings, which root in water, as well as from seeds. The striking foliage makes it a fine plant for a colorful note in the garden, and it needs only moderate water. (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 8/13) – S.T-B.

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

What's that in front of the plant name? Plants marked **3** are fully described in the *Plant Forum Compilation*. See [www.SDHort.org](http://www.SDHort.org) for details on how to order this valuable reference tool.

Can you spot the phony plant this month? The phony plant in the August newsletter was *Origanum* 'Double Cross' **DOUBLE CROSS OREGANO**.

*Amaryllis* 'Fred Meyer Hybrids' (dark pink form)  
(Art Henning, Carlsbad, 8/13)

3 *Begonia pearcei* (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 8/13)

3 *Gardenia thunbergia* **WHITE GARDENIA TREE**  
(Susan Morse, Vista, 8/13)

*Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* 'High Voltage' (Susan Morse, Vista, 8/13)

*Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* 'Silver Moments' (Susan Morse, Vista, 8/13)

*Hymenocallis* sp. **SPIDER LILY** (Art Henning, Carlsbad, 8/13)

*Kalanchoe carnea* 'Modoc' (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 8/13)

3 *Mandevilla laxa* **CHILEAN JASMINE** Art Henning, Carlsbad, 8/13)  
*Pantratum maritimum* **SEA DAFFODIL, SEA LILY**  
(Art Henning, Carlsbad, 8/13)

*Plumbago auriculata* 'Monott' **ROYAL CAPE™ PLUMBAGO**  
(Pat Pawlowski, El Cajon, 8/13)

3 *Sempervivum arachnoideum* **COBWEB HOUSELEEK**  
(Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 8/13)

3 *Spathodea campanulata*, syn. *S. nilotica* **AFRICAN TULIP TREE**  
(Art Henning, Carlsbad, 8/13)

3 *Thunbergia grandiflora* **BLUE SKYFLOWER, BENGAL CLOCK VINE**  
(Art Henning, Carlsbad, 8/13)

3 *Thunbergia grandizebra* **STRIPED SKYFLOWER, BENGAL TIGER VINE** (Plant Lover, Carlsbad, 8/13)

3 *Tibouchina grandifolia* **LARGE-LEAVED PRINCESS FLOWER**  
(Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 7/13) ✂

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## AUGUST MEETING REPORT

By Susi Torre-Bueno

There is a new kind of drip irrigation available to gardeners, and August speaker Nan Sterman wants to insure that her enthusiasm for it is shared with our members. Nan is familiar to many from her interesting program on KPBS, called *A Growing Passion*. She's a garden writer and also a garden designer, and the front garden of her home in Encinitas was on our spring garden tour a few years ago.

It should come as no surprise that water is a precious commodity here, but did you know that 80% of our water is imported? Also, a shocking 20% of electricity generated in California is used for purifying and moving this water from the Colorado River and parts of Northern California. Finally, about 2/3 of our water goes to keep our gardens hydrated. That's a huge expense and questionable use of a valuable resource, so if we can reduce that we'll all benefit in several important ways.

One way to save water in the landscape is to replace overhead spray irrigation, which Nan says is "only 50% efficient" (due to runoff and overspray onto sidewalks, etc.) with drip irrigation. Properly used, drip emitters can deliver water directly to the plants that need them in the quantity they require. Many members are familiar with various kinds of drip irrigation, including soaker hoses and drip systems with emitters of several types. What Nan was promoting is a kind of drip that was originally developed in Israel for commercial vegetable growing.

Commonly known as low flow in-line drip irrigation, the kinds of systems Nan spoke about eliminate microsprayers found in earlier drip systems and have less parts overall and are more efficient than older drip technologies. Basically, there is a polyethylene tube that has built-in pressure compensating emitters behind holes that are a set distance apart (12", 24", etc.). Because the emitters are inside the tube, they are not in direct contact with the soil and are protected from clogging, etc.

This product (Netafim is one major supplier) has 1-gallon/hour emitters, which is a much slower rate than spray emitters. They are about 80% efficient. Because the drip is installed at the soil level, there is no spray to moisten a house or fence, eliminating the risk of water damage (from your irrigation) to vertical porous surfaces. The brown polyethylene lines are laid out about 12" apart (for most common garden applications), and mulch is put over them to hold in the water and improve the appearance of the garden. Nan notes that this kind of irrigation is especially good for smaller and irregular spaces. The length of time the system runs determines the quantity of water used.

To be successful, you should "hydrozone" your plants so that those with similar water needs are grouped together. The ideal is to put your plants in first and then place the tubing, but for many applications you'll put in the tubing before the plants are installed. For existing landscapes you can also just snake the tubing through the plants.

You'll need a filter with valves to keep particulates out of the water, and a pressure reducer to lower the water pressure. The tubes are laid out in a closed loop, and landscape staples are used to hold the tubing down. A line flushing valve is also required, as you will need to flush out the system once or twice a year and clean the valves and filters.

This kind of drip is not entirely problem free, of course. Rodents and pets can cause problems by digging up or biting the tubing, and gophers can chew through it. The material cost is higher than for spray

emitters, but there can be a saving on labor costs (assuming you hire an installer). Filters are required to keep out solids from the water from clogging the emitters. You also can't see the system when it is working, like you can with conventional watering methods, so a problem may take longer to detect. Finally, because the emitters are targeted for each plant, if one fails the plant may be very quickly stressed since the surrounding soil is dryer than with spray watering.

Thanks, Nan, for a thoughtful presentation about this newer technology. Members can borrow the video of Nan's talk at the video loan table at our meetings. 🌿

### ■ Don Walker Continued from page 17

**Bill Nugent:** Shortly after my wife Tamma and I joined the 'Hort' in 1997, we attended a monthly meeting and were treated to a WONDERFUL talk on the flora of the big Island of Hawaii by Don Walker, then President of the San Diego Horticultural Society. Several years later when we had become better acquainted with Don and his wife Dorothy, we learned that Don had pulled together his Hawaii presentation at the last minute as the scheduled speaker canceled out just as Don and Dorothy were leaving for the meeting! When asked if he had any hard feelings about the speaker who stood him up, Don smiled and said, "Things like this sometimes happen... just hope I didn't bore the audience with too many botanical names in my talk." Don's remark sums up his persona quite nicely: compassionate, knowledgeable and unflappable.

**Susan Morse:** During my first year as a member in 2002, I recall Don giving a talk and mentioning that his Traveler's Palm (*Ravenala madagascariensis*) had died for reasons that he could not explain. I felt vindicated knowing that if this well experienced, knowledgeable and humble plantsman could have the same problem I did, that I might not have a black thumb. I love being reminded of Don when I see Hort Bucks, the Don and Dorothy topiary figures (at the San Diego Botanic Garden), and pass by their old home and garden in Vista. 🌿

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**Green Thumb Nursery** (see inside front cover)



Barbara Raub

### Our July Garden Hosts:

Special thanks to the July Featured Garden hosts, Ed Miller and Mike Morehead, for sharing their wonderful house and garden with us, and for their gracious hospitality and refreshments. Thanks also to Randy Laurie, who maintains the garden and for helping schedule the event. Member Frank Mitzel designed this very special garden, and he was on hand to answer questions.

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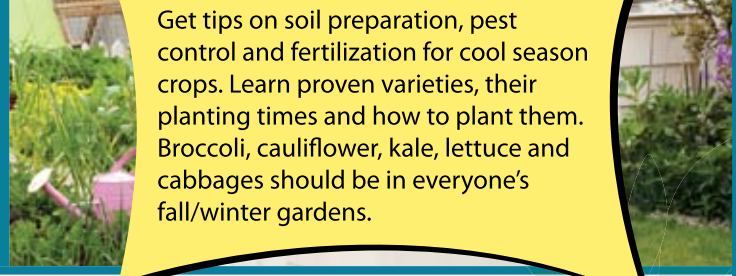
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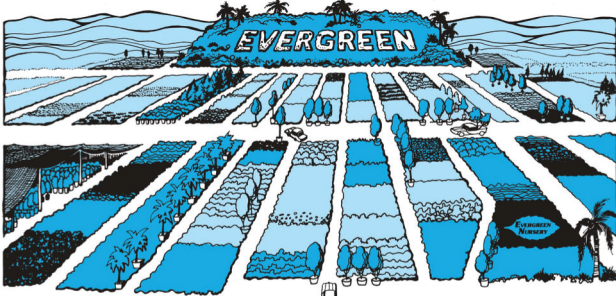
## What's Happening? for SEPTEMBER 2013

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

Send calendar listings by the 10th of the month before the event to Neal King at [calendar@sdHORTSoc.org](mailto:calendar@sdHORTSoc.org).

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## Events at Public Gardens

❖ **Alta Vista Gardens** contact info on other side  
See [www.avgardens.org](http://www.avgardens.org) for events & classes.

❖ **San Diego Botanic Garden** contact info on other side  
**Sept. 7, 5-9pm, Gala in the Garden:** Food & Drinks, Floral Design, Silent  
Auction, Live Music. \$200/person.

**Sept. 21, 9:30am-3:30pm, Schoolyard Habitat Workshops:** learn  
how to use your schoolyard as an outdoor classroom! FREE. Register online at:  
[Schoolyardhabitatworkshop.eventbrite.com](http://Schoolyardhabitatworkshop.eventbrite.com) questions contact Judie Lincer at  
[judielincer@sdchildrenandnature.org](mailto:judielincer@sdchildrenandnature.org).

**Sept. 24, 9am-2pm, Succulent Wreath Class:** Take home a beautiful  
succulent wreath that you make yourself. Members \$60, non-members \$72.

### ❖ The Water Conservation Garden

contact info on other side

**Sept. 9, 10am-noon, Hillside Gardening:** Tricks of making the most of  
planting on a slope. Members free, non-members \$10.

**Sept. 14, 10am-noon, Firescaping With Native Plants:** How to make  
your landscape more fire-resistant using native plants and proper technique.  
Members free, non-members \$10.

## Events Hosted by SDHS Sponsors:

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### ❖ Barrels & Branches Classes & Workshops

**Sept. 15, 10am-noon, Hypertufa Class:** How to craft lightweight, composite  
concrete planters. Participants will take home their hypertufa containers. \$48.

**Sept. 21, 10am-noon, Succulent Centerpiece Class:** Learn the basics for  
succulent centerpiece making. Construct a 10" diameter centerpiece. Pruners are  
suggested and will be available for purchase. \$45.

Info: [events.barrelsandbranches@gmail.com](mailto:events.barrelsandbranches@gmail.com) or (760) 753-2852. See ad on page 15.

### ❖ Cedros Gardens, Saturday and Sunday FREE classes.

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

### ❖ City Farmers Nursery FREE Class

**Sept. 22, 1pm, Raising Chickens:** Bring a spare chair and sit a spell while  
we talk about how to raise happy, healthy chickens and ducks. We'll cover coops,  
feed, lifespan, eggs, and the basics of how to legally raise these animals in an urban  
setting. See [www.cityfarmersnursery.com](http://www.cityfarmersnursery.com) or call (619) 284-6358.

### ❖ Evergreen Nursery FREE Seminar Each Month

See column at left for details.

### ❖ Grangetto's FREE Workshops - register in September

Info & registration: [www.grangettosgardenclub.com/workshops](http://www.grangettosgardenclub.com/workshops)

### ❖ Sunshine Care FREE Workshop

**Sept. 21, 10:30am, Good organic products for your soil.**  
Sunshine Care - ad on page 14. Info: (858) 752-8197 or [www.sunshinecare.com](http://www.sunshinecare.com).

### ❖ Walter Andersen Nursery FREE Saturday Classes

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

	<b>Point Loma, 9am</b>	<b>Poway, 9:30am</b>
Sept. 7	Savory Fall Herbs	Bedding Color
Sept. 14	Soil Prep for Fall Planting	What seeds for what birds?
Sept. 21	Fall Bulbs	Fall Vegetables
Sept. 28	Veggies for Fall & Winter	Fall Bulbs

### ❖ Weidners' Gardens classes & workshops

See website upcoming events: [www.weidners.com](http://www.weidners.com).

### Next SDHS Meeting

**Sept. 9 - Greg Richardson on**

**Right plant for the  
right place**

See page 1 for details

**More garden-related events  
on other side.**

## Other Garden-Related Events:

**Check with hosts to confirm dates & details**

◆ **August 31 (noon-4pm), Sept. 1 (10am-4pm), Plumeria Show & Sale:** Hawaiian dance and music entertainment both days. Casa Del Prado, room 101, Balboa Park. See [www.plumeriafestival.com](http://www.plumeriafestival.com).

◆ **Solana Center FREE Composting Workshops:**

**Sept. 7,** 10am-12pm, 4S Ranch Community Garden, 17117 4S Ranch Parkway, San Diego.

**Sept. 17,** 6-8pm, REI Store, 5556 Copley Dr., San Diego.

**Sept. 21,** 10am-12pm, Sunshine Gardens Garden Center, 155 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas.

See [www.solanacenter.org](http://www.solanacenter.org) to register.

◆ **Sept. 6, noon, Vista Garden Club:** "Tropical Look-Alikes, Lush Yet Water-Wise." Gloria McClellan Senior Center, 1400 Vale Terrace Drive Vista. Info: [www.vistagardenclub.org](http://www.vistagardenclub.org).

◆ **Sept. 6, 1pm, Carlsbad Garden Club:** Rare & unusual plants. Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad. Info: [www.carlsbadgardenclub.com](http://www.carlsbadgardenclub.com).

◆ **Sept. 7, 10am- 3pm, Sustain La Mesa Environmental Festival:** Tips for the Garden and more. Harry Griffin Park, 9550 Mildred St., La Mesa. Info: [www.cityoflamesa.com/index.aspx?NID=833](http://www.cityoflamesa.com/index.aspx?NID=833).

◆ **Sept. 8 (10am-5pm) & 15 (10am-4pm), Iris Society Rhizome Sale:** Balboa Park, Casa del Prado. Info: [www.sandiegoirissociety.org](http://www.sandiegoirissociety.org).

◆ **Sept. 8, 1:30pm, American Begonia Society:** Mike Kartuz's pictures of begonias, etc. encountered in his travels. Olivenhain Meeting Hall, 423 Rancho Santa Fe Road, Encinitas. Info: (760) 815-7914.

◆ **Sept. 10, 10:30am, African Violet Society:** Repotting into larger container. Vista Public Library, 700 Eucalyptus Ave., Vista. Info: (760) 433-4641.

◆ **Sept. 11, 10am, Poway Valley Garden Club:** How flowers got their names. Templars Hall in Old Poway Park, 14134 Midland Road. Info: [www.powayvalleygardenclub.org](http://www.powayvalleygardenclub.org) or (760) 743-9500.

◆ **Sept. 11, noon, Ramona Garden Club:** Learn about organic gardening, permaculture, and water conservation. 524 Main St., Ramona. Info: (760) 787-0087 or [www.RamonaGardenClub.com](http://www.RamonaGardenClub.com).

◆ **Sept. 12, 9:30am, Flower Arranging:** For beginning flower arrangers, offered by San Diego Floral Assoc. \$5. Info: [www.sdfloal.org/classes.htm](http://www.sdfloal.org/classes.htm).

◆ **Sept. 12, 10am, Point Loma Garden Club:** Point Loma Lighthouse and its historic gardens. 2818 Avenida de Portugal. Info: [www.plgc.org](http://www.plgc.org).

◆ **Sept. 12, Sept. 12, 10am-noon, Master Gardener's Open House:** Learn more about becoming a Master Gardener. War Memorial Building Auditorium in Balboa Park, 2115 Park Boulevard. Info & registration: [www.mastergardenerssandiego.org](http://www.mastergardenerssandiego.org) or (858) 822-6910 (between 9am-3pm).

◆ **Sept. 13 (11am-6pm), 14 (10am-6pm), & 15 (10am-5pm), Fall Home Garden Show:** Hundreds of exhibits. See page 3 to get in **FREE**; [www.fallhomegardenshow.com](http://www.fallhomegardenshow.com).

◆ **Sept. 19, 1-3:30pm, Bernardo Gardeners Club:** Penny Pines Reforestation Program. 16955 Bernardo Oaks Dr. Non-members \$5. Info: [www.bernardogardeners.org](http://www.bernardogardeners.org).

◆ **Sept. 21, 9:30am, Creating a Succulent Oasis at Sherman Library & Gardens:** Learn how the garden was created, how it has developed, and its ongoing maintenance. Includes a morning talk, followed by a guided garden tour, and a box lunch. \$35 for Sherman Library & Gardens and PHS members, \$40 general admission. 2647 East Pacific Coast Hwy Corona Del Mar. For info or to register see [www.pacifichorticulture.org](http://www.pacifichorticulture.org).

◆ **Sept. 21 10-11am, Preserve Calavera:** FREE Mini tour of Buena Vista Creek Ecological Reserve. Meet at the Marron Adobe at the west end of Haymar off of College Blvd. in Carlsbad. Info: [www.preservecalavera.org](http://www.preservecalavera.org) or (760) 724-3887.

◆ **Sept. 26, 6:30-8:30pm, Del Mar Rose Society:** Huntington Library's newly renovated Rose Garden. 1700 Coast Blvd., Del Mar. Info: [www.delmarrosesociety.org](http://www.delmarrosesociety.org).

◆ **Sept. 28, 8am-2:30pm, Native Gardening Symposium:** Five tracks of information, education and hands-on gardening. San Diego Girl Scout Balboa Campus, 1231 Upas St. \$35. Info: [www.learnnativegardening.org](http://www.learnnativegardening.org), [gardening@cnpssd.org](mailto:gardening@cnpssd.org), or (619) 318-4590.

◆ **Sept. 28 (noon-4pm), 29 (10am-4pm) Bonsai Club Fall Show:** Balboa Park, Casa del Prado. Info: [www.sdbgf.org](http://www.sdbgf.org).

◆ **Sept. 28-29, Becoming Public: Design, History, Plants, & Preservation in East Bay Gardens:** Lectures & tours at the 18th Annual Conference of the California Garden and Landscape History Society. Pleasanton, California. Info: [www.cglhs.org/php/Conferences.php](http://www.cglhs.org/php/Conferences.php).

◆ **October 19, 9am-3pm, Live Long and Landscape Seminar:** Ideal fruits and veggies to grow in California, & the best benefit from a garden workout. LA County Arboretum & Botanic Garden, Arcadia. By Sept. 1, \$75, after Sept. 1, \$90. Info: [www.gardenconservancy.org](http://www.gardenconservancy.org).

**Do you belong to a garden club or organization whose events aren't listed above? For a FREE listing (as space permits) send details by the 10th of the month before the event to Neal King, Calendar Editor, at [calendar@sdhort.org](mailto:calendar@sdhort.org).**

## San Diego County Farmers Markets

[www.sdfarmbureau.org/BuyLocal/Farmers-Markets.php](http://www.sdfarmbureau.org/BuyLocal/Farmers-Markets.php)

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

## Resources & Ongoing Events

**ALTA VISTA BOTANIC GARDENS:** Open Monday-Friday 7:00-5:00 ; 10:00-5:00 on weekends. Fee: members/free; non-members/\$2. 1270 Vale Terrace Drive, Vista. Info: [www.avgardens.org](http://www.avgardens.org) or (760) 945-3954.

**SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN** (formerly QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS): Open daily 9-5 (closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day); 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas. Fee: \$12/adults, \$8/seniors, \$6/kids; parking \$2. Free to members and on the first Tuesday of every month. (760) 436-3036; [www.SDBGarden.org](http://www.SDBGarden.org).

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

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

**MASTER GARDENER HOTLINE:** Gardening questions answered by trained volunteers Mon.-Fri., 9-3, (858) 822-6910, [www.mastergardenerssandiego.org](http://www.mastergardenerssandiego.org).

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

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

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

### BALBOA PARK:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Garden TV and Radio Shows:

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

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