

Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

July 2008, Number 166

Changing Attitudes

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SAN DIEGO
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

On the Cover: Chanticleer: a pleasure garden

IMAGES FROM THE 2008 SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR

Photo by Amelia Lima



Photo by Amelia Lima



Photo by Katie Peisek



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Cover Image: Chanticleer's dramatic horticultural displays are visual feasts especially in late summer. This self-proclaimed "pleasure garden" holds many surprises and delights for both casual and seasoned gardeners. From the cover of *A Guide to the Great Gardens of the Philadelphia Region* by Adam Levine (Temple University Press, 2007). Photograph by Rob Cardillo. [This exceptional book was reviewed in the July 2007 newsletter.]

The San Diego Horticultural Society

MEETINGS

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

MEETING SCHEDULE

5:00 – 6:00 Meeting room setup
6:00 – 6:45 Vendor sales, opportunity drawing ticket sales, lending library
6:45 – 8:00 Announcements, speaker, drawing for three plants
8:00 – 8:15 Break for vendor sales, opportunity drawing ticket sales, lending library
8:15 – 9:00 Plant forum and opportunity drawing. Vendor sales continue to 9:15.
9:00 – 9:15 Final vendor sales, lending library

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS IN 2008

- August 11** Pat Welsh, The Secret Life of Cool-Season Crops (members free, non-members \$5)
- September 8** Renee Shepherd, What's New and Unique From Seed (members free, non-members \$5)
- October 13** Bob Dimattia, Bamboo, the Earth and Us (members free, non-members \$5)
- November 10** Koby Hall, Garden Treasures of the Pacific Northwest (members free, non-members \$5)
- December 8** Pete Anderson & other experts, Backyard Vineyards in San Diego County (members free, non-members \$5)

www.sdhortsoc.org

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

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

Topic: ROBERT HERALD ON "PHILADELPHIA GARDENS: GREAT AND SMALL, QUIANT AND QUEER"

Meeting is open and everyone is welcome. Admission: Members/free, Non-Members/\$5. Parking is free.
Meeting Place: Del Mar Fairgrounds, Surfside Race Place, Del Mar; Info: (760) 295-7089



Horticulturist Robert Herald will present fabulous images of Philadelphia's best public and private gardens. Herald is one of the tour guides for the trip the SDHS made in June to visit these gardens, and his talk will be based on those gardens. These gardens are both stunning and historically important, and you can see them all in one evening. Longwood Gardens' 1,050 acres include world-famous conservatories, while Chanticleer is a unique and quirky garden. Winterthur and Mt. Cuba Center boast native plant gardens, and Bartram's Garden is a pastoral 18th century homestead. The Morris Arboretum has thousands of rare and lovely woody plants. The Barnes Foundation is home to one of the world's largest collections of Impressionist, Post-Impressionist and early Modern paintings, as well as important examples of African sculpture. We'll also see Hedgeleigh Spring and Frog Hollow, two private garden jewels.

Robert Herald divides his time as Plant Recorder for Chanticleer in Wayne, Pennsylvania, and Tyler Arboretum in Media, Pennsylvania. Previously, Robert worked at Longwood Gardens where he was Curatorial Assistant for 10 years and Head Gardener of the Hillside Garden for 7 years. He lives and gardens in Swarthmore, PA with his partner, Jim. ☞

The Mission of the San Diego Horticultural Society

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

ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER 1994

SDHS BOARD MEMBERS

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Susi Torre-Bueno – President, Newsletter Editor
Don Walker (ex officio)
Lucy Warren – Secretary, Liaison to H&G Shows

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

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

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

Sponsorship Info: Susi Torre-Bueno (above).

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Do you own a garden-related business?

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

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

We thank them for their extra support!

Important Member Information

LOOKING FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

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

We're especially interested in finding someone with experience and/or interest in marketing. In addition to members who serve three-year terms and who have special responsibilities (see column to left), we also have up to three "at large" board members who serve for one year. The main obligation of these at-large members is to attend the board meetings. If you'd like to take a more active role in the SDHS, please call Susi by August 1 at (760) 295-7089 and let's talk over the details!

LISE RASMUSSEN-WRIGHT

It is with great sadness that we announce the death in May of long-time member Lise Rasmussen-Wright. With her husband, Jim, Lise was for many years a frequent attendee, although she was too ill with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia to come to many meetings these last few years. You may have seen Lise's fabulously decorated concrete bench on a tour of their wonderful palm garden in Clairemont. Lise and Jim won our creative nametag contest some years back when they came adorned with giant plant labels jutting out of the backs of their shirts and above their heads. Lise was originally a landscape designer, but in recent years turned to jewelry design as a way to use her creative talents, selling the jewelry to benefit various cancer groups. We'll sorely miss her ready smile and always positive attitude, and our hearts go out to Jim and his family. Donations in her memory may be made out to: Dr. Januario Castro, research in memory of Lise Rasmussen-Wright, and mailed to: Dr. Januario Castro, MD UCSD Cancer Center 9500 Gilman Drive La Jolla, CA 92037



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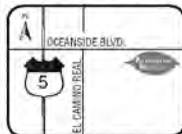
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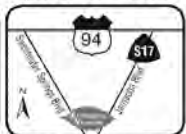


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 Sunday.....9:00am-5:00pm

To Learn More...

PHILADELPHIA GARDENS

By Ava Torre-Bueno

Looking at these websites of the Philadelphia garden tour made me wish I had gone on this SDHS sponsored trip! Each of these gardens is different and wonderful.

World famous Longwood Gardens boasts 1,050 acres with 20 indoor and 20 outdoor gardens.

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

Chanticleer is a 35 acre unique and quirky horticultural display garden.

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

Winterthur's 1,000-acre country estate encompasses rolling hills, streams, meadows, and forests.

http://www.winterthur.org/about/garden_estate.asp

Mt. Cuba Center is a 650-acre non-profit horticultural institution with spectacular woodland wildflower gardens.

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

Meadowbrook Farms offers outstanding flowering baskets, trees and shrubs, and one-of-a-kind specimen plants.

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

Bartram's Garden is America's oldest living botanical garden, a pastoral 18th century homestead famed for its wildflower meadow, majestic trees, river trail, wetland, stone house and farm buildings.

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

The Morris Arboretum has thousands of rare and lovely woody plants, set in a romantic, 92-acre, Victorian landscape garden of winding paths and streams.

<http://www.business-services.upenn.edu/arboretum/>

Located in a twelve-acre arboretum, the Barnes Foundation is home to one of the world's largest collections of Impressionist, Post-Impressionist and early Modern paintings, as well as important examples of African sculpture.

http://www.barnesfoundation.org/ed_a_garden.html

Member Ava Torre-Bueno is a psychotherapist in private practice and is 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 <http://www.sandiegofriendscenter.org/volunteers.htm> and contact Ava at gardeners4peace@hotmail.com.

THANKS FAIR VOLUNTEERS and DONORS

Putting on a display garden at the San Diego County Fair is a major commitment and enormous task, and we want to thank everyone involved. First and foremost is board member and garden design wizard Bill Teague. As he has since we first exhibited at the fair, Bill spent countless hours working his magic to produce an exciting and educational garden. The theme of our garden was "Surfing with Succulents." Bill's award-winning garden highlighted water-efficient plants. A list of the plants he selected is on page 10.

Continued on page 6

From The Board

By Susi Torre-Bueno

HONORING OUR VOLUNTEERS

George Yackey is organizing our fifth annual Volunteer Appreciation Party, to be held soon. If you volunteered since last July you should receive an invitation – if you don't get one by July 15, please contact me ASAP at info@sdhortsoc.org. This fun afternoon is the SDHS's way of recognizing your efforts on behalf of our Society. The party includes a lunch and wonderful door prizes donated by local nurseries and other businesses. Stroll through a lovely plant lover's paradise, spend some time with your SDHS friends, and make new friends.

If you haven't taken your turn volunteering yet, I hope you'll be a volunteer for future activities and events. Spending a few hours now and again is a perfect way to share your time and talents.

CHANGING ATTITUDES

In May I attended a thoughtful day of talks and garden tours organized by the Mediterranean Garden Society. Held in Santa Monica, it showed various ways of creating sustainable gardens. The beautiful gardens we saw utilized far less resources than neighboring gardens, and were also less work and more interesting. The presentations were by G3 Los Angeles; learn more at www.g3la.com.

We received a booklet from the Santa Monica Environmental Programs Division, and I learned that, "most gardens are watered with more than 5 times the amount needed for healthy plants." Yikes! Also, "most commonly used mowers emit 11 times the air pollution of a new car for each hour of operation."

"Sustainable" is a word we'll be hearing a lot more of, and in this context it means gardening in harmony with nature. This includes using plants adapted to your climate (both native and non-native), utilizing natural resources (such as available rainfall), and reducing your dependence on imported water, chemical fertilizers, etc. Many of us already garden this way, but we could do more to educate and share this attitude with others.

You can help your neighbors and friends to change their attitudes about what makes a beautiful garden. Invite people to see your garden and you'll soon have them thinking differently. Instead of a water-guzzling, labor-intensive "perfect" lawn they'll come to appreciate a garden where low-growing native grasses and other ground covers replace fussy turf, and where drought-tolerant South African bulbs and California natives provide nearly effortless color. Show off your succulents and water-thrifty shrubs, and go out of your way to set an example that makes a difference for the better! ☺



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Fair Thanks Continued from page 5

A number of others made important contributions of time and materials to our display, and we thank them for all their help. The garden featured large, handsome rocks (generously supplied by KRC Rock and thoughtfully placed by Barto Bartolacci) which beautifully set off the plants. Tamma & Bill Nugent helped set the garden up and also prepared a fantastic notebook with photos and descriptions for each of the plants in the display. In addition, they prepared the list of the plants in our garden. Susan Rojas did the beautiful map of our garden which we used on our sign. Additional help with installation and other things was generously provided by Diana Burch, Tina Ellis, Mary Friestedt and Sally Sandler.

Many thanks to these fine supporters, who supplied gorgeous plants and other important items: Agri Service Inc., Proven Winners, Shirley Heller, Quail Botanical Gardens, and Garden Glories Nursery.

Before the Fair opened we judged the entries for our own SDHS awards – read all about that on page 18. For the first day of the Fair we provided knowledgeable members to lead tours of people who attended the early morning Breakfast at the Fair. Thanks to Cindy Benoit, Irina Gronborg, Jason Kubrock, Susan Morse, Mo Price, Susi Torre-Bueno, Cathy Tylka, and Lucy Warren for guiding the tours this year.

In addition to all these folks, we are very appreciative of the time spent answering questions during the Fair by our wonderful Horticulturists of the Day, who were organized by Pat Hammer. They provided information on the plants in our display, other gardens at the Fair, general garden questions, and much more. Thanks to these outgoing and knowledgeable members who did such a fine job representing the SDHS:

Jackie Behrhorst	Carol Ann Lewin	Mo Price
Judy Bradley	Amelia Lima	Margee Rader
Joyce Buckner	Sheldon Lisker	Dale Rekus
Michael Buckner	Paul Maschka	Marci Shirley
Mary Friedstedt	Charlotte Minter	Cindy Sparks
Pat Hammer	Susan Morse	Bill Teague
Shirley Heller	Al Myrick	Susi Torre Bueno
John Jones	Dora Myrick	Cathy Tylka
Sharon Lee	UnaMarie Pierce	Michelle Ventura

Finally, we'd like to thank the volunteers for the Quail Botanical Gardens display garden, located right next door to ours. Many of these folks are also SDHS members, and I'm sure they answered plenty of questions about our garden as well as Quail's:

Helen Boyle	Steve Rose
Sharon Clayton	Mary Rousch
Karen Handcock	Kitty Sparrows
Robin Hermann	Frances Spath
Fran Hinostro	Anne Spindel
Alison E. Howard	Mayo Stiegler
Peter Jones	Linda Stewart
Margaret Matlack	Stephanie Williams
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Plants That Produce

IS THERE A GUAVA IN YOUR FUTURE?

By Richard Frost

This month we explore fruiting plants named Guava. Unlike the Sapotename fruits discussed last month, nearly all the guava-named fruits are members of the Myrtle (Myrtaceae) family. They are also all native to the Americas and most are hardy right here in San Diego.

The Tropical Guava (*Psidium guajava*) grows as a vigorous shrub or a small tree with many root suckers. It is deciduous in our mild winters but perishes below 25°F. The fruit is at least 2" in diameter and has either a round or elongated pear shape. The flesh of the fruit smells a bit like tamarind, and if you don't like the idea of a drop of steak sauce on a pear then you might not like the taste of this fruit. It is delicious eaten out of hand or sliced onto salads with diced walnuts. The cultivars 'Tropic Pink' and 'Tropic White' are available in nurseries from spring through summer. Both are excellent quality fruits. The cultivar 'Beaumont' is



grown commercially in Mexico and available here locally, but ranks lower in taste tests.

The Cattleya Guava (*Psidium cattleianum*) was not a food source for natives of the Americas, but when imported to India and Malaysia became a staple for making sweet and sour sauces, chutneys, and preserves. It has a seedy fruit about 1" in diameter with a sour taste. The Cattleya Guava is sold in nurseries as 'Strawberry Guava', 'Lemon Guava', 'Cherry Guava', etc. Product tags from the wholesaler La Verne and others misclassify the plant as *P. guajava*.

The Pineapple Guava (*Acca sellowiana*, syn. *Feijoa sellowiana*) is a beautiful landscape plant with edible flowers (pictured here) and fruit. It is hardy to 5°F. The leaves are grey-green on top and silver underneath. It puts on a showy display of red and white flowers in the spring followed by 3" fruits that resemble kiwis. Many cultivars of this plant need a pollinator to develop a crop. The well-known variety 'Coolidge' fills this role well and also produces good quality fruit. 'Nazemetz' was bred in San Diego and is considered the best tasting cultivar. The varieties 'Lickvers Pride' and 'Moore' are also excellent choices.

The Chilean Guava (*Ugni molinae*) is also a beautiful landscape plant. The red fruits are round, 1" in size, ornamental in appearance, and a tropical treat. The leaves are oblong, pointed, and forest green in color. It is hardy to about 15°F and reportedly pest-free in the western U.S.

There are also many minor guava-named plants worth mentioning. The Red Guava is a rare *Eugenia* (*E. nutans*) from Argentina with a strong but excellent taste. The entire genus *Myrciaria* has the common name "Guavaberry" and includes the Jaboticaba (*M. jaboticaba*). In the genus *Psidium*, all of the 36 recognized species have "guava" as part of their common name, such as *P. guineense*, the Brazilian Guava. The Sperry Guava (*Eugenia corozalensis*) is native to the U.S. and sold as a perennial ornamental shrub. And finally, the name Yerba Guava is applied to three different species in the Rubiaceae family (*Coccocypselum herbaceum*, *Geophila repens*, and *Peperomia cogniauxii*) that are grown as ornamental shrubs in the Caribbean.

SDHS member Richard Frost is also member of the California Rare Fruit Growers. For more information, see www.frostconcepts.com/horticulture. The image of *Acca sellowiana* is from our book, *Ornamental Trees for Mediterranean Climates: The Trees of San Diego*, and was photographed by Don Walker. 🌿

Garden Gourmet

PASTA SALADS FOR SUMMER SUPPERS

By Alice Lowe

Summer cooking can be a joy, with most fresh vegetables at their peak. But it can be a challenge when it's too hot, or you lack the time or energy for serious cooking. That's when you may want to have fun with pasta salads as a main dish or as a side with something from the grill.

You don't need exacting recipes – your choices are limited only by your own tastes and what you have available. An easy guide is to combine items from a variety of categories: protein (meat, etc.), vegetables, savory or sweet add-ins and toppers, and your dressing of choice. You may want to build your dish around grilled chicken breasts, fresh shrimp, a can of tuna or beans, or a package of tofu. Your veggies can be a catch-all of everything you can get your hands on or a selective few. It gets more interesting when you add complementary accents of cheeses, nuts and seeds, olives, capers, and/or bits of dried fruit. Your dressing can be whatever you like – a vinaigrette, creamy ranch, blue cheese or maybe a special sauce. Keep in mind that the shape and size of various pastas do make a difference in the texture, balance and appearance of your dish. As examples, I've put together a few theme dishes.

Let's start with Mexican. I might use shells or rotini, with chunks of chicken, tomatoes, onions and peppers, cilantro, and pepper jack cheese. A wonderful dressing is to mix chunky salsa with olive oil and balsamic vinegar; top with crumbled tortilla or corn chips.

Greek is my main standby. I like a chunky pasta, like macaroni or ziti, to which I add tomatoes, cucumber, artichoke hearts, garbanzo beans, lots of parsley, feta or goat cheese, green and black Greek olives. My dressing is a garlicky citrus Dijon vinaigrette, and I top it with toasted pine nuts or pistachios and anchovies (optional, of course).

An Italian pasta salad is like an antipasto tossed with noodles. Start with spaghetti or linguine; add Italian meats, fresh and sundried tomatoes, arugula, sliced carrots and zucchini, provolone and mozzarella cheese, croutons, Italian or Caesar dressing.

Japanese: Soba noodles or vermicelli work great, with chopped cucumber and carrot, green onions, radishes and/or radish sprouts, shrimp, crab or sashimi-grade raw fish, and a dressing made with peanut and sesame oil, rice vinegar, ginger, soy or ponzu sauce, and a dash of siracha if you like it hot; sprinkle sesame seeds and dried seaweed over the top.

I'm just getting warmed up here, but I've run out of space. You get the picture, right? Just use your noodle!

Member Alice Lowe's last meal would, without a doubt, include tomatoes and cheese. And garlic. 🌿

Nepenthes: Common Ways to Grow an Uncommon Plant

By Mitch Wallace



Carnivorous plants inspire a sense of awe, but often accompanying that awe is the slightest bit of intimidation. Most people are under the assumption that carnivorous plants are difficult to grow, and while some particular varieties do require specific and regimented conditions, a good number of them can be grown like no-hassle houseplants.

Tropical pitcher plants (*Nepenthes*) are some of the most rewarding carnivorous plants to grow, and also some of the easiest to maintain. They can occasionally be obtained from hardware stores and garden centers, and there are also a great deal of online vendors that supply them. *Nepenthes x ventrata* (pictured here courtesy of San Diego Carnivores website, <http://www.freewebs.com/sancarn/nxventrata.htm>) is perhaps the hardiest tropical pitcher plant you can buy, and it's likely that you'll end up with this common hybrid if you buy your plant from a local store. *Nepenthes sanguinea* is also an excellent starter plant, and while I've managed to snag a few of these locally, an online vendor might be your best bet if you're interested in this species. Both of these varieties are relatively cheap, hovering in the \$5-10 range for a young specimen.

A relatively small number of carnivorous plants require constant high humidity to survive, and the good news is that this doesn't apply to most common *Nepenthes*, which are very adaptable to the typical home environment. For this very reason, you should remove any kind of plastic cup that may be covering your plant when you purchase it. *Nepenthes* can be grown in a south, east, or west-facing window. North-facing windows are typically out of the question, since *Nepenthes* require at least an hour or two of direct sunlight each day to grow well. It is also possible to grow them under artificial lighting, although it's not the most cost-effective method.

Try to use distilled, rain, or reverse osmosis water on your plant. I buy cheap jugs at the grocery store, but if you don't have access to mineral-free water, then it should be noted that *Nepenthes* are the most tolerant of hard water among all the carnivorous plants. However, it would be wise to flush your plant's pot with clean water every month or so if you plan on using tap water on a regular basis. Never allow your plant to sit in water! All excess water should be allowed to drain away, keeping the media moist but not sopping wet, since these plants are quite susceptible to root rot if they become water logged for long periods of time. Should there be a need to repot a *Nepenthes*, a good media to use is a 50/50 mix of long-fibered sphagnum and perlite. This allows for good drainage and adequate air circulation.

If these simple conditions are met, then your *Nepenthes* will reward you with a dazzling display of leaves and pitchers. Typically, *Nepenthes* will catch their own food, but dropping an insect or two into one of

Molecular Biology in the Garden: Part II

By Carl Price and Ellen Reardon

We noted in Part I of this topic that the plant sciences—whether it was anatomy, development, ecology, or taxonomy—had their origins in purely descriptive accounts. Genetics and biochemistry provided some deductive perspectives, but there were limited instances where these approaches could be integrated with the traditional views of the plant world.

Molecular biology opened the door to a holistic view of plants. The door is only ajar, but we are beginning to see how an understanding of all aspects of plant structure and function can be seen as a whole. Even more mind boggling, we can now imagine how plants in the garden or in the field might be re-designed to achieve desirable properties.

Future transformations

Twenty years from now, molecular biology will have given us much wider control over the color, size, and fragrance of flowers and fruits. For example, conventional plant breeding increased the size of tomatoes more than ten fold from the half-inch of native tomatoes to that of some commercial varieties today. But conventional breeding results in random mixtures of parental characters, most of which are hidden and some of which may be undesirable. With more specific knowledge of the role of each gene in the development of the fruit, the formation of pigments, flavors, and fragrances, we should be able to design tomatoes with the exact size, texture, and taste of our choice.

Similarly, we should be able to adjust the vitamin and mineral contents of the fruits to promote the health of the consumer.

Another radical possibility in the future is to control the time and stage of flowering. This could include modifying a plant's biological clock so that it blooms in the spring, the summer, or the fall. A more radical transformation would be to control the number of years required for a plant to reach adulthood. The eastern black walnut, *Juglans nigra*, does not begin to bear until it is about 10 years old. Suppose we convert it to an annual crop that you can grow in your vegetable garden?

Taxonomy—the ordering of plants into families, genera, and species—is particularly vulnerable to change. Consider that plants are now classified primarily on the Linnean system of comparing flower parts. The change is likely to come from the increasing ease of sequencing the entire genomes of organisms, whether they be bacteria, plants, or people. Provided with these total DNA sequences, it will be relatively straightforward to compare similarities and identify the natural groupings.

One example of this challenge to traditional taxonomy arises from the similarity of tomato and potato genomes, which has led a number of plant scientists to change the name of tomato from *Lycopersicon esculentum* to *Solanum lycopersicum*.

We all just might have to go back to school and retake botany 101.

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

Continued on page 22



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

- Susan Call
- Sara Grise
- Susan Harrison
- John Herr
- Debra Inman

NEW ADVERTISERS:
Garden Property for Sale,
PAGE 16

HORT BUCKS ARE GREAT!

Kudos to the members below who brought in new members and therefore received Hort Bucks worth \$5 towards raffle tickets, name-tags, *Plant Forum* CDs or dues. To get **your** Hort Bucks just ask your friends to give your name when they join. The number after the person's name indicates how many members they recruited in 2008:

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Lorraine Bolton (1) | Bobbi Hirschhoff (1) | Samantha Owen (1) |
| Linda Bressler (1) | Miriam Kirk (2) | Nan Serman (1) |
| Helen Dizio (1) | Kathy La Fluer (2) | Donna Sullivan (1) |
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- Doris Engberg
- Ken & Jean Nikodym
- Philip Tacktil & Janet Wanerka
- René van Rems
- Village Garden Club of La Jolla

What's Up at Quail Botanical Gardens?

CREATING A ZEN GARDEN FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The new class at Quail Botanical Gardens, "Creating a Zen Garden for Southern California," is a wonderful opportunity to learn how to design a garden that is drought-tolerant and will help one relax, meditate, and commune with one's inner self. The simplicity and flow of the design aspects and how they relate to one another are all important fundamentals to creating a Zen Garden.

Taught by long time experts in the field, Phil Tacktil and Van Moch Nguyen, the class will offer instruction in the theory and practice as it relates to our environment. We will discuss and practice designing with rocks, various plant material, and other items that help one's mind go through the various stages of the garden design while preparing one for entry into the Zen area. The goal is to develop an understanding of how to utilize materials such as bamboo, pine, maple, grasses, stone or block for borders, deer chasers, water basins, fencing, and screens as they relate.

Students will have an opportunity to help create a miniature replica, as well as visit existing Zen or Zen-like gardens in our area. This course will be both hands-on and a visual experience.

The Zen Garden is an environmentally friendly one. Our Zen Garden approach will be adaptable for small areas here in Southern California and, by necessity, have each stage of the garden with small spacing accomplished through careful planning for the ultimate effect of a peaceful and meditative area.

Come join Phil and Van Moch, have fun and relax. ☯

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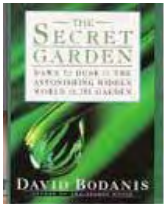
DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS!
See Page 22 for Details

Book Review

THE SECRET GARDEN: DAWN TO DUSK IN THE ASTONISHING HIDDEN WORLD OF THE GARDEN

By David Bodanis

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh



I've known for a long time about the idea that prey and predator coevolve in both the plant and the animal worlds. I've had a general idea of the mechanisms in play when this happens, but I've never read anything that spells it out in such detail and in such an interesting way as *The Secret Garden*. This highly readable

book is a must for anyone interested in these ideas. This story is fascinating and exciting to read.

You may be familiar with one of Bodanis's other books written in a similar style, *The Secret House: The Extraordinary Science of an Ordinary Day*. He has also written on electricity, the theory of relativity, and the history of the enlightenment, among other things.

This book is built around the experiences of a husband and wife dealing with plants that droop, pests that chomp, and the various other challenges of a day in the garden. This clueless couple has good intentions, but we all know where those go. They dig, spray, cultivate, and water, seemingly always one step behind what the plants and their predators are doing. Sometimes their efforts are useless, and sometimes they're detrimental to the plants because they interfere with the defenses the plant has developed to deal with the problem, be it aphids, competition for space to grow, or drought. Sometimes these two gardeners can be just a little too cute, but Bodanis has put all the sections relating to them in *Italics*, so they're easy to skip if you just want to read the science parts.

You know I'm a sucker for garden photos. This book includes 48 fascinating color photos of the huge—a close up of an ant's face—to the tiny—an ATP molecule (it carries energy in cells). I especially loved the photo of the braula, a tiny creature that lives on a bee's back. The photos don't always illustrate the text directly, but they're so interesting, who's complaining?

Published in 1992, this hardbound book is 187 pages long. Price will vary depending on where you buy it. I know I've been reviewing a lot of older books recently, but it's so easy to get them on the Internet or at a used book store, and so many of them are so good.

On a different topic, Gary Paul Nabhan has had two new books released recently. He edited the first one: *Renewing America's Food Traditions: Saving and Savoring the Continents Most Endangered Foods* and wrote the second: *Arab/American: Landscape, Culture and Cuisine in Two Great Deserts*. I reviewed his book *Coming Home to Eat* in 2002 and have read several of his other books. The first book above in particular may be of interest to gardeners because it discusses endangered food plants in the U.S. He's an excellent writer. Check these out. 🌱

Plants in Our Display Garden at the 2008 San Diego County Fair

<i>Cordylina</i> × 'Jurred'	FESTIVAL GRASS
<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> 'Drake'	CHINESE ELM
<i>Nandina domestica</i>	HEAVENLY BAMBOO
<i>Aeonium urbicum</i>	SAUCER PLANT
<i>Maireana sedifolia</i>	PEARL BUSH
<i>Anigozanthos</i> 'Red Cross'	KANGAROO PAW
<i>Verbena bonariensis</i>	TALL VERBENA
<i>Dudleya attenuata</i>	TAPERTIP LIVE-FOREVER
<i>Centaurea gymnocarpa</i>	VELVET CENTAUREA
<i>Agave villmoriniana</i>	OCTOPUS AGAVE
<i>Cotyledon orbiculata</i> var.	
<i>oblonga</i> 'Flavida'	GREY STICKS
<i>Pelargonium reniforme</i>	AFRICAN GERANIUM
<i>Echeveria cante</i>	
<i>Kalanchoe beharensis</i>	NAPOLEON'S HAT
<i>Crassula arborescens</i>	SILVER DOLLAR
<i>Echeveria</i> 'Afterglow'	AFTERGLOW ECHEVERIA
<i>Othonna capensis</i>	AFRICAN ICE PLANT, LITTLE PICKLES
<i>Kalanchoe</i> 'Madagascar'	MADAGASCAR KALANCHOE
<i>Agapanthus</i> 'Peter Pan'	DWARF BLUE LILY OF THE NILE
<i>Euphorbia characias</i> 'Shorty'	SHORTY EUPHORBIA
<i>Cordylina banksii</i> 'Electric Pink'	FOREST CABBAGE TREE
<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	CHASTE TREE
<i>Salvia canariensis</i>	CANARY ISLAND SAGE
<i>Lampranthus blandus</i>	PINK VYGIE
<i>Swainsona galegifolia</i>	WHITE PEA SHRUB
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> 'Eva'	BLACK LACE ELDERBERRY
<i>Cotinus coggygria</i> 'Royal Purple'	ROYAL PURPLE SMOKE TREE
<i>Aloe capitata</i> hybrid	
<i>Aeonium</i> 'Cyclops'	GIANT PURPLE AEONIUM
<i>Alstroemeria</i> 'Casa Blanca'	WHITE PERUVIAN LILY
<i>Calandrinia spectabilis</i>	CHILEAN ROCK PURSLANE
<i>Aeonium</i> 'Kiwi'	KIWI AEONIUM
<i>Chamelaucium</i> 'My Sweet Sixteen'	BICOLORED WAXFLOWER
<i>Euphorbia characias</i> 'Glacier Blue'	GLACIER BLUE EUPHORBIA
<i>Salvia</i> 'Mystic Spires'	DWARF INDIGO SAGE
<i>Aloe divaricata</i> hybrid	
<i>Verbena bonariensis</i> 'Little One'	LITTLE ONE UPRIGHT VERBENA
<i>Crassula argentea</i> 'Ruffles'	RUFFLES JADE PLANT
<i>Pandorea jasminoides</i>	
'Southern Bell'	SOUTHERN BELL BOWER VINE
<i>Calocephalus brownii</i>	CUSHION BUSH
<i>Euphorbia</i> 'Efanthia'	EFANTHIA SPURGE
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	
'Forest Pansy'	FOREST PANSY REDBUD
<i>Graptopveria</i> 'Fred Ives'	FRED IVES GRAPTOVERIA

Continued on page 20

Consider Conifers

By Wanda Mallen

Aside from the ubiquitous Canary Island, black, Aleppo and Torrey pines, and perhaps an Italian cypress, conifers are sadly underutilized in San Diego. I began my addiction to conifers several years ago upon visiting Walter Andersen Nursery in Poway. There they had a wonderful garden railway setup and a selection of dwarf conifers for sale to use in landscaping along the tracks. These cute little gems completely captured my heart and so it began. There was information included about the American Conifer Society, which I promptly joined. I remain the sole Southern California member, but being different is not a bad thing. However, there is a reason for this, which I found out as I embarked on growing these little beauties.

I had a large portion of my property available and I brought in yards and yards of soil and tons of rocks to create raised beds. I then



began to plant anything and everything, and as we all know that is a great way to lose lots of plants, but also to learn what will and won't grow here. The limitations in our climate have to do mainly with our hot dry summers. This is something spruces, firs and many of the dwarf *Chamaecyparis* do not tolerate well. I have been able to overcome some of this challenge by planting in moist shade, but this is a scarce

commodity in my garden.

However, there are many conifers that do quite well here, despite our climate, as they are in general quite adaptable and easy to grow plants. Among the best are the Arizona cypress, all the deodars (of which there are many cool hybrids of all shapes and sizes), *Araucarias*, *Podocarpus*, *Thujas* (arborvitae), yews and junipers. The bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and dawn redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) are wonderful, but far too large for the average yard.

Now, five years or so later, I have practically a forest of conifers of all shapes and sizes. There are yellow, blue and even variegated selections, as well as every shade of green. In spring the new growth is bright and beautiful.

If you are thinking, "That's great, but I have a condo or a very small yard," there are miniature conifers, which grow less than one inch per year and get six to ten inches tall in ten years. Other dwarf varieties grow one to six inches per year to a height of five to ten feet in ten years. The small varieties take quite well to pot culture and look smashing in a trough. The giants, of course, we are all familiar with.

In general, these are easy care plants, requiring no fertilizer or pruning and low water use once established. If you want to learn more, I recommend *Gardening with Conifers* by Adrian Bloom. It is a gorgeous book with pictures of conifers along with companion plants of many different types. Any garden can accommodate some of these plants and the contrast they can provide to, say, a perennial border is breathtaking.

So invite some of these little gems into your garden – you'll be glad you did!

Member Wanda Mallen and her husband, Gary, garden on two acres in Fallbrook. They frequently open their eclectic garden to tours. ☺

Community Outreach

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Every year the San Diego Horticultural Society is proud to give \$1000 college scholarships to students majoring in ornamental horticulture at three local colleges. We do this to support our community and to help insure that future horticultural professionals are able to attend good schools to learn their business. Member Al Myrick does a great job of coordinating these efforts, and we thank him for all his work. The scholarship winners this year are Debra Inman (Southwestern College), John Herr (Cuyamaca College), and Sara Grise (MiraCosta College). The award includes a 1-year membership in SDHS, and I hope they'll be able to take advantage of our meetings and the other benefits of membership. You can meet these students at our July 14 meeting. We wish them great success in their studies and subsequent careers.



HOW TO GROW HEALTHY, TASTY TOMATOES!

Attend a Healthy Garden/Healthy Home FREE Community IPM Workshop on Saturday, July 26, from 10:00 - 11:30 am. The workshop will be held at Southwestern College, Building #750, Lecture Hall #751, 900 Otay Lakes Road, Chula Vista. Parking is **FREE**; park in Lot J or O. Topics include: growth requirements for tomato plants, best practices for growing healthy tomatoes, strategies for prevention of common pests and diseases of tomatoes, and managing common pests and diseases. There will be a FREE GIFT for the first 50 attendees.

For additional information visit <http://cesandiego.ucdavis.edu> or contact UCCE San Diego County Farm and Home Advisors Office, (858) 694-2184. Please call if you have special needs or require special assistance.

Future workshops in this series:

Learn How to Successfully Manage Backyard Citrus Pests!,
August 23, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm,
Encinitas Library

Control Ants the Healthy Way!,
October 11, 10:00 – 11:30 AM,
Lakeside Community Center

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The Real Dirt On...

ALICE EASTWOOD

By Christy Powell

Alice Eastwood was a Canadian American botanist who served over fifty years as the Curator and Head of the Department of Botany at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. She was born on January 19, 1859 in Toronto, Ontario. At the age of 14, her family moved to Denver, Colorado. After graduating high school, Eastwood taught at her alma mater for ten years.

During this time, Eastwood taught herself botany using *Gray's Manual* and *Coulter's Manual of Rocky Mountain Botany* as guides. She took a vacation to southern California in 1890 and studied the plants of the region. She was drawn back to California the next year where she worked for several months as an assistant in the herbarium at the California Academy of Sciences. In 1892, Eastwood was hired as joint Curator with Katherine Brandegee. Two years later Brandegee retired and Eastwood was advanced to Curator and Head of the Department of Botany.

Eastwood went on a number of collecting expeditions in California and other states, including Alaska, Arizona, Utah, Colorado, and Idaho. In California she collected specimens in the Big Sur region, Sierra Nevada, and the coastal ranges south of San Francisco Bay. In 1906, thousands of her herbarium specimens were lost in the San Francisco earthquake and fire. However, she was able to rescue 1500 specimens from the burning building.

Unlike other curators at the time, Eastwood separated the type specimens from the rest of the collection. The type specimens are those herbarium specimens a botanist would designate as the one he or she used to name a new species. This method allowed her to save the most valuable specimens in the short amount of time after the earthquake. Following the earthquake and while the new Academy was being rebuilt, Eastwood spent time studying herbaria in the United States and Europe. Six years later, she returned to her position and began rebuilding the collection. By the time she retired in 1949, at the age of ninety, the herbarium numbered more than 340,000 specimens and the library contained several thousand botanical works.

There are several California plant species named in honor of Alice Eastwood. Among them are the following: *Salix eastwoodiae*, *Erigeron aliciae*, *Boletus eastwoodiae* (later renamed *Boletus pulcherrimus* due to a misidentification of type material, but still bears the common name of Alice Eastwood's bolete) and *Fritillaria eastwoodiae*. Eastwood also had two genera named after her; the monotypic plant genus *Eastwoodia* which contains the single species *Eastwoodia elegans*, and the genus *Aliciella*, perennial herbs in the *Polemoniaceae*, closely related to the genus *Gilia*. In addition to the plant species bearing her name, Eastwood identified and named 125 new species of California plants.

Throughout her lifetime, she published more than 300 scientific papers, articles, and books. After her retirement, at the age of 91, the esteemed botanist was elected president of the 7th International Botanical Congress, held in Sweden. She led the Congress proudly from a study chair used by the father of Taxonomy, Carl Linnaeus. Eastwood died in San Francisco on October 30, 1953. She is remembered as a renowned botanist of the remote Western United States and for her work at the Academy, including her heroic efforts in saving the Academy's most valuable herbarium specimens in the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire.

Member Christy Powell is a Plant Propagator at the San Diego Zoo and proud mom of a new baby boy. 🌱

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Worth A Visit

If your plans this summer call for travel outside California, here are three gardens you might want to visit. Be sure to check their websites before making plans, as days and hours open are subject to change.



MEXICO – The 20-acre Puerto Vallarta Botanical Garden (<http://vallartabotanicalgardensac.org>), just 12 miles south of Puerto Vallarta, is a new facility with ambitious plans. The San Diego County Orchid Society Conservation Committee

has awarded them \$2500 for the establishment of a Propagation and Reintroduction Program for Threatened Orchids of the Southern Pacific Slope of Mexico. They have 3,000 different species of plants in a unique tropical dry forest ecosystem at 1,300 feet above sea level. Their website notes that they have, "Palm Gardens, Rose Garden, Tree Fern Grotto, Orchid House, Jungle Trails, Tropical Bird Watching, Agave Gardens, displays of Mexican Wildflowers and the Carnivorous Plant Collection."



CANADA – In Vancouver, BC, the VanDusen Botanical Garden (<http://vancouver.ca/Parks/parks/vandusen/website>) is a real treasure, with plants you can't see at our latitudes (like the famous Himalayan blue poppy) and a fun maze of

3,000 cedar trees. Located on the 55-acre site of a former golf course, you could happily spend hours exploring all the garden and then enjoy a lunch in the excellent on-site restaurant. This summer you can also enjoy jazz and opera, plus a rose show! This garden was one of the highlights of the SDHS garden tour to Vancouver in 2003.



HAWAII – While there are many excellent botanic gardens scattered all over Hawaii, the one your editor especially recommends on Oahu is the Lyon Arboretum (www.hawaii.edu/lyonarboretum), which includes almost 200 acres on

the east side of Oahu. Their website states, "The Lyon Arboretum and Botanical Garden is the only University botanical garden located in a tropical rainforest in the United States. It is also the only easily accessible tropical rainforest on the island of O'ahu." ☞

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SHARING SECRETS

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

The question for LAST month was: Who got you started in gardening, and how old were you? We had so many replies that we're putting more of them in here.

Becky Dembitsky once vacuumed her lawn: "I believe my desire to garden came about from my years of appreciating other's gardens, while moving from house to house (at least 18 of them by age 17). My father was in the Army and my first memories were planting all our melon and fruit seeds in my grandmother's flower garden in Pennsylvania, (to our amazement, some came up), then gathering wild berries and pulling up fantastic carrots in Newfoundland at age 6. Our many homes required little more than mowing grass and raking leaves until at age 13, we arrived in France. We had a formal garden overlooking the Seine River and a huge vegetable garden that, to my father's dismay, had been a tennis court. Even there, we had a gardener, so I was again an observer to the mystery of gardening. The first real gardener to nurture and inspire me was Alice Menard of Lakeside. I began taking classes from her in the late 70's and with great zeal began transforming my postage stamp garden on a canyon near Balboa Park. I hauled chicken manure from Lakeside for a vegetable garden, built a retaining brick wall for my flower border, planted a rose garden (she always planted 2 in one hole), and planted a grass lawn under an ancient oleander tree. I then went to Mission Hills Nursery to fertilize my gorgeous lawn. When I went back for a second bag, they told me I had overdone it and no doubt would burn my new grass. I returned home, pulled out my Hoover Vacuum cleaner and to my neighbor's amazement saved my grass. (but finished off the vacuum cleaner). I have a fabulous epiphyllum of Alice's that hangs outside my kitchen, it is a constant reminder of her great talent for gardening and spreading the love of gardening to all those who were lucky enough to have known her. It is in full bloom this morning."

Ken Krieger got started on a farm: "My paternal grandmother had a farm in mid-state Michigan that I visited frequently and over the summer when I was five and six years old. They gave me the run of the farm and they spoiled me a lot. At that age we of course only remember glimpses of what happened, but I remember collecting eggs, digging potatoes and picking strawberries – one for me and one for the bucket. My grandmother had me plant my own garden, and then a short time later the watermelons were ready to pick – yup, they tricked a five year old! My aunt has always said she knew I'd love plants because instead of crushing a flower, I'd carefully pick it and then smell it, even at a very young age. I remember riding on a thrasher one day watching the wheat being 'pick' and when I returned to the farm my grandmother was livid because earlier that day a worker was killed falling off the same thrasher!! Those memories are still very vivid, almost 50 years later!"

Susan Morse got the idea at a wedding: "I was three years old, when my grandmother used some of her garden flowers to create my flower girl headpiece when I was in the neighbors' wedding party. The positive attention I received at that event was an imprint

to my memory that flowers bring oohs and ahhs. Sitting on my grandmother's lap on a sunny day in her patio garden, she would tell me names of the flowers. I was charmed by the bright colors and delicate odors. I few years later, I would start my first garden project while working on a Girl Scout badge."

Victoria Schaffer started at age four: "My mother got me started in gardening in El Salvador. In one of my childhood recollections I was a four-year old, balancing a pail of water on my head, as I had watched some neighborhood women do, to take it from our kitchen to Mom's garden. The plants were mostly on their own during the dry summers. With continuing urbanization, burning of fields to plant crops, shortening rainy seasons, and damming of rivers for hydroelectric projects, water was increasingly scarce and each neighborhood got three hours a day of running water. Mom favored succulents and cacti, which the lizards also seemed to like. Also, no matter what the plants' names, Mom also had a very practical classification: plants were either *agradecidas* ("grateful") or *desagradecidas* ("ungrateful"). The grateful ones responded quickly to your care and thrived on very low water. The ungrateful ones required too much care and water. The beauty of that system was that it removed some of the responsibility (and the guilt) from you and placed it on the plant. As I see it now, my Mom's classification places succulents, most California natives, and Mediterranean plants in the grateful group. I find it handy for guilt-free and water-wise gardening in San Diego. I was reminded of it at one of our recent meetings, when, as we were admiring a vendor's plants, a fellow SDHS member commented that she loved succulents because, "they meet you half way and don't leave all the work to you."

Cindy Sparks began with her Mom: "My mother started this mania, teaching me simple planting activities and telling me the Latin names of each of the plants. I guess it stuck, because I still can repeat them, with her variants of pronunciation. She in turn had learned from her grandfather, who would talk about each plant with its Latin name as my mother toddled behind him. How old were we? Hard to tell. I recall we put in a swimming pool and changed out the landscape when I was about 11, and I used to garden in some of that space before it became a swimming pool. My mother said she was quite small. 'Start 'em young,' clearly. Both of my husbands have been bored silly with gardening, so I am fortunate to be able to express myself horticulturally without having to compromise with the garden dreams of another."

The question for this month was: Considering that the *Eugenia* psyllid is not entirely under control, is there a screening shrub/tree that you use for tall, very narrow areas, to take over the role that *Eugenia* played so well in the past? (Thanks to Dawn Standke for suggesting this question.)

Walter Andersen says, "It is a difficult problem. These may be good substitutes: *Prunus caroliniana* is a little slower and not quite as dense. *Dodonaea viscosa* 'Purpurea' makes a fairly good screen; usually not as dense as *Eugenia*. *Bambusa multiplex* cultivars might work, too. 'Alphonse Karr' (about 8' tall) is very pretty with its colored canes of yellow, green and hints of pink. Leaf litter might be a problem, as might some insect pests. *Ligustrum texanum* is a little slower than *Eugenia*, but the foliage is glossy and thick; does not grow as tall. *Podocarpus gracilior* can be trained into a tall thin hedge

Continued on page 16

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with time; space 8' to 10' apart. *Syzygium paniculatum* 'MontereyBay' from Monrovia Growers is not psyllid proof but less prone to getting it. I would use the Bayer Systemic to help control the pests."

Shirley Cirello is a landscape designer and says, "The tree I have often used in my designs for screening, is *Pinus canariensis* (Canary Island Pine). It can grow to 60' tall; I like the structure, and the smell. It is somewhat messy with pine needles but so is the Eucalyptus (I mow the needles and use them for mulch around some of my plants). Another tree/shrub I use is *Pittosporum tenuifolium* (from New Zealand), and also *P. 'Silver Sheen'* and *P. 'Marjorie Channon'*, depending on what you are looking for:"

Tim Clancy has another suggestion: "*Meleauca nesophila*. It's easy to control with proper pruning and if timed right you can also get a great flower show."

Susan Foerster wrote, "Italian Cypress! We have a screen of these marvelous trees that we use to give us privacy. They grow rather quickly, are drought tolerant, and also serve as nesting quarters for many birds."

Richard Frost tells us, "When customers ask about a screening plant at the nursery, I always suggest Purple Hopseed (*Dodonaea viscosa* 'Purpurea'). It is a hardy plant in our environment with branch growth from bottom to top and year-round interest. Most customers end up choosing something else with greener foliage, but I think it is a beautiful plant worthy of more attention."

Irina Gronborg got a great plant for free: "A Cape honeysuckle, which I don't remember planting or watering, and with no attention from us other than pruning, has squeezed between two fences and grown almost as tall as the house. It is dense with constantly renewing emerald green leaves and intensely orange flowers, and is so highly attractive to various flocks of birds it actually rustles, chirps, and warbles."

Steve Jacobs of Nature Designs says, "I use *Pittosporum tenuifolium* 'Silver Sheen'. It is fast growing, beautiful, and is great for narrow areas that need screening."

Will Johnson (of SECO Landscapes) sent a detailed reply: "Many on this list of "Eugenia alternatives" are naturally zaftig (Yiddish for well-endowed), others are supermodel skinny. Some grow between houses in part sun; some are bulletproof and others a royal pita (pain in the...). It's a partial list with a range of looks and environmental needs and includes some good California natives, too. Personally, I prefer to plant screen plants/trees that require little/no shearing, as opposed to a formal hedge requiring regular vertical "mowing" (this list includes both). I left bamboos off the list, in favor of others with more extensive bamboo knowledge. Note: If you must have Eugenia, there's hope... keeping psyllids at bay doesn't require organophosphates (or other heavy-duty ORTHO chemicals). Hedges we've maintained look great when sheared monthly, starting with new Spring growth (March/April) and (this is critical) let the clippings lay underneath as a mulch. This allows tiny predators to develop and take over/control the psyllids. By summer, new growth comes out undamaged and continues thru winter. Though expensive, I've treated Eugenia psyllid with Bayer Tree and Shrub as a poured on/systemic soil drench. It won't hurt beneficial

wasps (unlike spraying which may temporarily control the psyllids, but wipes out the beneficial wasps).

Arbutus unedo 'Compacta'
Buxus sempervirens 'Green Tower'
Buxus sempervirens 'Graham Blandy'
Ceanothus sp.
Heteromeles arbutifolia
Ilex crenata 'Sky Pencil'
Ilex vomitoria 'Will Fleming'
Laurus nobilis
Ligustrum japonicum 'Texanum'
Photinia fraserii
Pittosporum tenuifolium 'Silver Sheen' (too wide for narrow spots)
Pittosporum tenuifolium 'Oliver Twist'
Podocarpus gracilior
Podocarpus henkelii
Prunus caroliniana (common)
Prunus caroliniana 'Bright n Tight'
Pyracantha coccinea (needs espalier training)
Rhamnus californica
Rhus laurina (aka *Malosma laurina*)
Thuja occidentalis 'Rushmore'
Trachelospermum jasminoides (needs espalier training)
Viburnum tinus 'Spring Bouquet'

Terri Maguire likes three plants: "I like *Juniperus* 'Sky Rocket' or 'Blue Point' for full sun and *Cupressus* for part sun. *Trachelospermum* on a stake or trellised works well, too."

Wanda Mallen suggests, "*Thuja* 'Green Giant'. It grows about 6' wide and very tall, but can be trimmed as a hedge. Fast-growing and disease resistant. I've seen it available at Walter Andersen Nursery in Point Loma or you can get it online."

Wade Roberts (Director of the Sherman Library & Gardens in Corona del Mar) says, "*Podocarpus gracilior* makes a great screen but needs pruning and shearing about twice a year to keep it under control."

Gerald D. Steward tells us, "I have over 100' of *Eugenia* hedge nearly 40' tall. It almost died before the natural predator was introduced thanks to efforts by Disneyland (they use lots of it for their living sculptures), and the San Diego Zoo. During that time I thought and thought. I was nearly ready to interplant with *Podocarpus macrophylla* 'Maki' when the wasp releases reached Vista and the foliage quit dropping quickly. I learned of 'Maki' from plant ID courses at Cal Poly. In about 1970 I planted a couple at my parents' home, which they still live in. While the plain species is more vigorous and care-intensive, 'Maki' has proven to be very controlled in growth so infrequent pruning is all it takes to keep it in form. They have been maintained at 8' to 10', are still solidly-foliaged, and have had no pest problems in nearly 40 years. While it is not a columnar plant, its growth rate makes it a low-maintenance choice for a hedge. It also survived on almost no irrigation in the late 80s/early 90s when the California Delta communities were put on severe water restriction (as my Mom would say, so people in Southern California could water their gutters...). For years the only water the yard got was limited to gray water from the washing machine."

Continued on page 20

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SDHS Fair Awards

The display gardens at the Paul Ecke Jr. Flower & Garden Show at the San Diego County Fair are an annual inspiration to thousands of gardeners, and we hope you visited them and saw something to try at *your* garden. We salute the many hard-working designers for bringing their horticultural expertise and enthusiasm to the Fair. Each year we give Excellence in Horticulture awards for the best Fair display gardens. The SDHS judges this year were **Cindy Benoit, Sue Fouquette, Amelia Lima, Sheldon Lisker, and Susi Torre-Bueno**. They had a difficult choice, with many worthy gardens to select from. Congratulations to the winners, each of whom will receive a handsome engraved plaque, a \$100 check, and a one-year membership in the SDHS.

The **Don & Dorothy Walker Award for Most Outstanding Exhibit** (with a prize of \$500) and also the award for **Nomenclature Accuracy** both went to the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society. Their beautiful display not only had perfect nomenclature (and great signage), but also an exciting design and great use of water-thrifty plants.

Our award for **Creative Use of Unusual Plant Material** goes to the garden of Quail Botanical Gardens and the San Diego County Water Authority. Katie Pelisek designed an outstanding and very original succulent spiral garden which featured a wealth of uncommonly seen and very garden-worthy plants. The **Best Youth Garden** award for student entries went to the Valley Center High



Photo by Amelia Lima

MiraCosta College Dept. of Horticulture



Photo by Amelia Lima

Valley Center High School Future Farmers of America



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Bonita Organic Garden Club



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Solana Succulents

Continued on page 20



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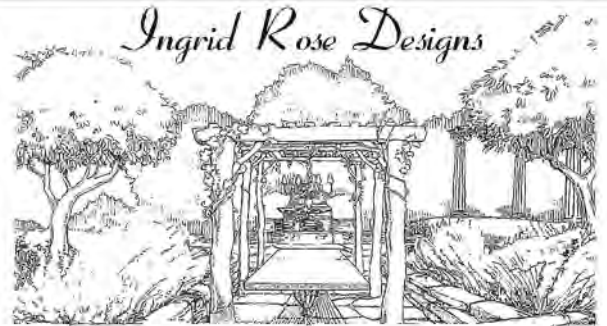
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Fair Plants Continued from page 10

- Alternanthera* 'Purple Threadleaf' PURPLE THREADLEAF ALTERNANTHERA
- Aeonium* 'Sunburst' SUNBURST AEONIUM
- Argyranthemum frutescens* 'Molimba Mini White' DWARF MARGUERITE DAISY
- Aeonium arboreum* 'Zwartkop' .. LARGE PURPLE AEONIUM
- Echeveria* 'Topsy Turvy' TOPSY TURVY ECHEVERIA
- Didelta carnosa* 'Dawn'
- Pachyveria clavata*
- Pachyveria* hybrid
- Dendromecon harfordii* ISLAND BUSH POPPY
- Sedum* 'Vera Jameson' SHOWY STONECROP
- Echeveria subrigida*
- Beaucarnea recurvata* PONY TAIL PALM 🌿

Sharing Secrets Continued from page 17

Cathy Tylka used a rose: "In other homes I have used the banksia rose bush. This just needs trimming to keep it so it will fit the area you desire covered or shielded, and it is so hardy. I also have used *Ficus elastica* (rubber tree). You can use bamboo; I've kept it potted as I wanted some control."

The question for next month is:

Please share your tips for building a simple, short flight of stairs in the garden.

Please send your e-mail reply by July 10 to info@sdhortsoc.org. 🌿

Fair Awards Continued from page 18

School Future Farmers of America, who also won the same award in 2007. For **Best Expression of Garden Education** the award went to a charming and thoughtful garden of edibles beautifully designed by MiraCosta College Department of Horticulture.

We were also asked to judge **Evergreen Nursery's Green Leaf Award** for "Best use of plants in a garden setting." Their award is a perpetual trophy and \$1500. Their criteria were: emphasis more on the garden rather than hardscape, locally grown (and available) plants, correct placement in the garden (sun/shade, height, water requirements), and correct plant names. Two gardens tied for this prestigious award: Solana Succulents and the Bonita Organic Garden Club. 🌿

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Is Milkweed Sap a Problem?

Minna Riber took issue with a statement in the article on *Medicinal Plants* in the April newsletter. She wrote in part: "In the past I have very much enjoyed [the articles of Ellen Reardon & Carl Price]; however, I strongly disagree with: '... Butterfly gardeners are aware that milkweed, *Asclepias* spp., brings droves of the winged darlings to their yards but may not know that the milky sap helps to heal sores and removes corns and warts. ...' It may remove corns and warts, but a good rule of thumb is to avoid any plant with white sap, as it is usually caustic. ..."

Ellen's reply: "I went online to check out milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*), and every site emphasized its healing properties, including the fact that it was named after *Asclepius*, the Greek god of healing. A particularly helpful document can be downloaded from the USDA: plants.usda.gov/plantguide/doc/cs_assp.doc. It starts with a warning (in red ink!): "Milkweed may be toxic when taken internally, without sufficient preparation," but it then goes on to identify the many instances where ancient peoples have used milkweed for fiber, food, and medicine. There are very few references to toxicity, and when noted, they relate to specific varieties. One should be prudent in dealing with milkweed, but I think Minna overstates the hazards in saying that "any plant with white sap... is usually caustic." ☞

SDHS 2008 Budget

Income

Membership Income	27,000
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Garden Tours Income	2,000
Grants & Awards	1,000
Opportunity Drawing	1,500
Sales	12,000
Annual Speaker Income	5,000
Vendor Sales Commissions	2,000
Total Income	70,500


Expense

Amazon.com, Book Sales	500
San Diego Fair Exhibit	2,500
Library Expense	300
Newsletter Expense	40,000
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Meeting Expense	8,000
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Total Expense	92,660
Net Ordinary Income	-22,160
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Nepenthes Continued from page 8

the pitchers every month will only encourage rapid growth. Ah, one of the undeniable perks of growing an insectivorous plant!

Author Mitch Wallace recently moved to San Diego from Alta Loma, California. Mitch has been growing carnivorous plants for over 15 years. He lives in Mission Valley with his girlfriend, their cat Kimba, and a patio full of tropical pitcher plants. He writes, "I'd love for people to get in contact with me about carnivorous plants at mitchrwallace@gmail.com." Mitch is currently looking for work in the horticulture industry, so please contact him if you know of any openings.✂

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Hello to all and welcome to our July garden tips and update.

What's New:

Lavatera thuringiaca 'Baby Bamsley'. Tree Mallow – a fast grower to 5ft, although it's an innocent 2ft tall chap at the moment. Blooms all summer, takes heat and cold and little to regular watering.

Achillea millefolium – Tutti Frutti series. A first-year flowering Yarrow, the Tutti Frutti series has a long bloom time and robust disease-resistant foliage. Produces abundant large, colorful corymbs on sturdy, compact stems. This series is considered self-reliant and maintenance free. Achillea grows best under full sun and in locations with infertile, well-drained soils. 'Apricot Delight' and 'Wonderful Wampee' (pink) reach 22 inches tall and spread to 22 inches at maturity. 'Strawberry Seduction' (red) and 'Pink Grapefruit' reach 29 inches in height and 28 inches in width. They naturally bloom for an extended period (June to August), and the bloom time can be extended if the plants are dead-headed.

Agastache (in the Mint family with a pleasant scent) – intriguing names like 'Summer Breeze' (Tangerine/orange flowers), 'Red Fortune' (rich pink flower), 'Tutti Frutti' (dark lavender flower), 'Apricot Sprite' (pale orange/peach flower). Sometimes called hummingbird mints because their long-tubed flowers are full of nectar. Will attract pollinators: bees, butterflies and hummingbirds.

Nepeta x faassenii 'Six Hills Giant' Catmint. Soft sprays of violet-blue flowers spring thru summer. Large mound of airy flower sprays above mounds of loose grey-green foliage. Large, vigorous grower-almost a shrub- to contrast with hot colors. Most Catmints thrive in well-drained soil of low to average fertility. Little water once established. Deer and rabbit proof. Excellent companion plant with pest-inhibiting qualities.

Some other plants...

Jacaranda mimosifolia – we have some lovely specimens. A sub-tropical tree native to South America that has been widely planted elsewhere because of its beautiful and long-lasting blue flowers. It is also known as the Black Poui, or as the fern tree.

Many water plants, lots of Lettuce and Hyacinths for floating and plenty of pretty flowering plants – colorful Cannas, Hardy and Tropical Lilies, Water Chestnut, Clover and much more.

New in our Ca Natives section is the *Fremontodendron* 'San Gabriel'. This *Fremontodendron* quickly grows 15 to 20 feet tall and wide. Large maple-like leaves are accented by abun-

The Water Conservation Garden (contact info on other side)

July 8 & 9, 6:30 – 8:30pm, Bye Bye Grass Part 1 & 2 (at Quail Botanical Garden): Nan Sterman teaches on the 8th how to exterminate your lawn for good, and on the 9th will offer creative ideas for beautiful, low-water plantings. Free. Brought to QBC by the Water Conservation Garden. Register with Water Conservation Garden: info@thegarden.org or (619) 660-0614 x10

July 12, 10am – noon, Xeriscape: Beautiful Landscape on a Low-Water Budget: Connie Beck takes the mystery out of Xeriscape, and shows why Xeriscape is not "Zeroscape"! Class offered in partnership with Cuyamaca Collage. \$30. Info and registration: (619) 660-4350 or www.cuyamaca.edu/preview.

July 19, 10am – noon, Cooking with Native Plants: Lisa Chaddock shows you where to gather native plants growing wild in San Diego and how to use them in food. Fee includes a locator map for finding native edibles growing in San Diego. \$10/members. \$15/non-members.

July 23, 6:30 – 8:30pm, Bye Bye Grass! Part 1: Same program as July 8. Free, location: Water Conservation Garden.

July 26, 10am – noon, Firescaping with Native Plants: Yvette Anderson guides you through the essentials of fire-wise landscaping using native plants, including plant identification and selection, proper placement and grouping and native plant care. \$10/Members; \$15/non-members.

July 30, 6:30 – 8:30pm, Bye Bye Grass! Part 2: See July 9th. Location Water Conservation Garden.

July 1, 7:30pm, San Diego County Orchid Society: Novice classes 6:30pm, Room 104, general meeting begins at 7, Room 101. Free, everyone is welcome. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.sdorchids.com.

July 2, 7pm, Palomar Orchid Society: Program TBA. There will be a member orchid "Show and Tell", Plant Table orchid raffle and refreshments. Carlsbad Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St. Carlsbad. palomarsorchid.org

July 2, 7pm, The San Diego Herb Club: Program TBA. Guests are welcome. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park.

July 5, Walter Andersen Nursery Classes: 9:00am, Summer Lawn Care. (San Diego: 3642 Enterprise St., (619) 224-8271); 9:30am, BBQ Class with Marcelino Arroyo (Poway, 12755 Danielson Ct., (858) 513-4900). www.walterandersen.com.

Quail Botanical Gardens – see insert for other events (contact info on other side)

July 5, 1 – 4pm, Hemerocallis Show and Sale: Members for the Southwest Hemerocallis Society showcase their best daylilies. Activities include a plant sale and tours of the daylilies at QBG. Free with admission to the Gardens.

July 8 & 9, Bye Bye Grass! See Water Conservation Garden (above).

July 10, 17 and 24, 7 – 9pm, July 26, 9am – noon, Creating a Zen Garden for Southern California: Learn the art of creating a Zen Garden suitable for So. California from two well-known experts Phil Tackill and Van Moch Nguyen. \$80/members; \$100/non-members. Advanced registration required.

July 19, 9 – 10:30am, Undersea Garden: Create your own undersea garden with guidance from Jeff Moore, owner of Solana Succulents. All materials provided; \$70/members; \$80/non-members. Advanced registration required.

July 6, 9 – 11am, Native Plant Nature Walk: Meet the Tecolote Canyon Nature Center and learn about the plants of this urban nature preserve. Hosted the first Sunday of every month by California Native Plant Society, San Diego chapter. 5180 Tecolote Road, San Diego. (858) 581-9944. www.cnpssd.org

July 8, 7pm, San Diego Geranium Society: Program TBA. Plant cuttings are usually available, bring a friend, bring a plant for the raffle and enjoy! Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.sdgeranium.org

July 9, 7:30pm, San Diego Epiphyllum Society: Program TBA. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.epiphyllum.com.

July 10, 7:30pm, Southern California Horticultural Society: Stephen Ingram, author of *Cacti, Agaves and Yuccas of California and Nevada*. Free. Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Dr., Los Angeles. (818) 567-1496 or www.socalhort.org.

July 12, Walter Andersen Nursery: 9:00am, Staghorn Fern Dividing & Remounting. (San Diego see July 5); 9:30 am, Container gardening (Poway see July 5).

July 12, 9 - 10:30am, California Coastal Rose Society Gloves On Learning: Demos about what is happening in the garden now. Magee Garden at corner of Beech Ave. & Garfield St., Carlsbad. (760) 804-0875 or www.californiacoastalrose.com.

July 12, 10am, San Diego Bromeliad Society: Program TBA. Visitors welcome – free. Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html.

July 12, 10am – 2pm, Tomato Tasting and Sizzlin' Summer Salsa Contest: Bring your best tomatoes and salsa for judging. Free. Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton. (714) 278-3407 or fullertonarboretum.org.

July 12, 1pm, San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society: Terry Parr, Columnar Cactus; succulent of the month: Don Hunt; more Euphorbias. The program will be Stuart Riley speaking on Nurseries, Shows and more – from across the Atlantic. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.sdcss.com.

July 13, 1pm, Southern California Plumeria Society: Presentation TBA. Everyone welcome. Raffle & surprise table. War Memorial Building, Balboa Park. www.socalplumeriasociety.com.

July 13, 1:30pm, Mable Corwin Branch of the American Begonia Society: Michael Ludwig will present "All About Begonias". Encinitas Community Center, Room 120, 1140 Oakcrest Park Drive, Encinitas. (760) 230-1073 or nandmkeith@att.net.

July 14, 6:00pm, details on page 3
Philadelphia Gardens:
Great and Small, Quaint and Queer

July 15, 7:00pm, California Native Plant Society – San Diego Chapter: Carl Bell will present Invasive Plant Studies. This week is Invasive Weed Awareness Week and Carl will present the latest research on the biology and ecology of pest species. Free and open to the public. Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.cnpssd.org.

July 17, 7:30pm, San Diego Fern Society: Program TBA. Guests welcome. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.sdfem.com.

July 19, Walter Andersen Nursery: 9:00am, Plumeria Care, (San Diego; see July 5) 9:30am, Summer Rose Care, (Poway; see July 5).

July 19, 8am – 6pm, Broadway Heights Community Multigenerational Block Party Celebration: Master gardeners will be on hand to provide information on plant as well as provide horticulture and pest control advice. Pilot Way, San Diego 92114. For more information www.mastergardenerssandiego.org.

July 23, 6pm, California Rare Fruit Growers San Diego Chapter: Monitoring your Rare Fruit Trees – Watering, Fertilizer, Soil Conditioning, Soil Ph. Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.crfgsandiego.org.

July 23, 6pm, Mission Hills Garden Club: Fausto Palafox on Gardens in Good Taste; edibles in the landscape – some new choices. United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw Street. \$10/guests. missionhillsgardenclub.org.

July 25, 10am – 4pm, July 26 & 27, noon – 4pm, Summer Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale: Hundreds of cactus and succulent plants available for sale. Admission free. Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton. (714) 278-3407 or fullertonarboretum.org.

July 26, Walter Andersen Nursery: 9:00am, Summer Rose Care, (San Diego; see July 5); 9:30am, Shade Trees, (Poway; see July 5).

July 26, 10 -11:30am, Healthy Garden/Healthy Home Community IPM Workshop: Details on page 11. Tomato Pests & Disease is the topic and you will learn how to grow healthy tasty tomatoes. Free Admission and Parking for workshop – park in Lot J or O. Free gift for first 50 attendees. Southwestern College Building #750, Lecture Hall #751, 900 Otay Lakes Road, Chula Vista.

July 26, 11:30am – 5pm, July 27, 19am – 4:30pm, San Diego Orchid Society Summer Show: Open to the public. Plant registration is Friday 6/25, 6 – 8pm and on Saturday 6/27, at 8 – 10am, Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.sdorchids.com.

July 27, 1:30pm, Colorful Foliage for your Low-Water Garden: Talk by Susi Torre-Bueno. Leaves come in shades of silver, crimson, gold, black, pink, bronze, magenta and chartreuse. Learn why and how to use colorful foliage to enhance your garden. This fast-paced talk covers all types of plants, with an emphasis on low-water plants for our Mediterranean climate. A variety of plants will be displayed and discussed as Susi creates several table-top gardens while you watch! Vista Library, 700 Eucalyptus Ave., Vista. Info: (760) 643-5130.

Garden Tours

July 12, noon – 4pm, San Diego Rose Society Garden Tours: No monthly meeting, this year's tour will feature 4 homes in Tierrasanta, all within one block of each other. 10934 Montego Dr., 10642 Gabacho Dr., 5540 La Cuenta Dr and 10662 Gabacho Dr.

July 19, 10am – noon, Garden Tour at Barona Resort & Casino: Sponsored by San Diego Garden Club. Tour will include the Chekwaa Gardens of the newest David Austin roses, Culinary Herb Gardens, Koi Water Gardens and the water conservation grey water reclamation system. Tour will end with a complimentary Lunch Buffet. Members Free, Guest are \$20. Reservations are required; contact secretary@sandiegogardenclub.org or (619) 269-6184.

Resources & Ongoing Events

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BALBOA PARK:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Garden TV and Radio Shows

Anderson's La Costa Nursery Radio Show: Saturdays 8:00 – 9:00 am on KCEO Radio AM 1000. Timely garden tips, caller questions, guests.

Garden Compass Radio Show. Sat. and Sun., 8-9am. KPOP 1360, hosts Bruce and Sharon Asakawa, John Bagnasco. Call-in questions: (619) 570-1360 or (800) 660-4769.

Down To Earth with Host Tom Piergrossi. Award-winning TV show on local gardening, daily at 12:30pm and 7:30pm. CTN (County Television Network, www.ctn.org); Cox -north ch 19, Cox -south ch 24; Adelphia ch 66; Time Warner ch 22. Tapes avail. from SDHS library.

dant cupped yellow flowers in spring, a stunning display especially when combined with a deep blue Ceanothus. Give plants little summer water, and provide good drainage. They will take clay soil on a slope. Completely drought resistant. Avoid planting in an area where the foliage will be brushed against - both leaves and capsules are covered with fine hairs that irritate the skin if touched.

If you like Boston Ferns you'll love 'Tiger' ferns. Their incredible beauty comes from the variegation that resembles a tiger's stripes. Each frond will be a different color and offer a different pattern of variegation. The colors will vary from dark green to lime green and golden yellow.

Some July thoughts for your gardens:

Hydrangeas: After hydrangea flowers have faded dead-head blooms and feed with Dr. Earth Azalea and Camellia food. New wood will spring from these to bloom next year. On young plants don't cut back any green stems that haven't bloomed yet as these will also bloom again. To maintain blue tint use Aluminum Sulfate (Hydrangea Blue) with each feeding.

Tuberous Begonias: If you planted these in the spring they should be in full bloom now. These are heavy feeders so feed regularly with a balanced fertilizer.

New Guinea Impatiens: Need more light than other impatiens and plenty of water. Keep from wilting in hot weather by over watering into a saucer under the plants.

Annuals: You can still plant annuals thru July. Good choices are vinca, marigolds, zinnias and celosias. Keep newly planted annuals well watered until they are thoroughly rooted and keep deadheading to keep them blooming.

Avocados: Still a good month for planting avocados. Being sub-tropical plants, avocados prefer to be planted during the long warm part of the year.

California Native Plants: Be very cautious irrigating most of our native plants during the summer. Most of these are adapted to a winter wet/summer dry moisture cycle. Too frequent irrigations now (especially in soils with clay content) will certainly cause problems.

Citrus: Citrus should have healthy green leaves now. If chlorosis is noticed apply an iron-zinc-manganese supplement. Apply your last feeding of the year.

Fuchsias: Your plants should still be blooming well. Keep fertilizing regularly with a balanced fertilizer or one slightly higher in phosphorus to promote blooms. Proper watering becomes critical at this time of the year especially for those plants in hanging baskets. Groundcovers: Warm season groundcovers are growing and blooming. Keep them irrigated.

Lawns: Remember, cool-season lawns (fescue Marathon, ryegrass, bluegrass) should be mowed about half an inch higher in the warm months than in the cool months.

Roses: Some roses, particularly old-garden roses (heirloom roses) only bloom on "old wood". They produce flowers on the branches that were left in place from the previous summer. These need an annual pruning following their big spring bloom. Keep deadheading roses as they fade.

Soil Care: A garden begins with the soil. A thick layer of organic mulch should be maintained on top of the soil year-round. Mulch applied now will cool the root systems, reduce irrigations as much as half this summer, reduce weed growth, and improve both soil life and soil quality.

Summer Concert Series

at Quail Botanical Gardens



Theatre-style seating on the Lawn Garden is the perfect place to listen to the sweet sounds of jazz on a warm Southern California evening.

Each concert features an optional catered gourmet dinner served in the intimate Walled Garden at 5 PM.

The show begins at 5:45 PM.

Gilbert Castellanos

Sunday, July 20: Rob Mullins Trio

Grammy nominee Rob Mullins has international acclaim as an American pianist and composer. Three of his CDs went Billboard Top Ten. His current and 17th CD, "Storyteller," breaks new ground combining new genres with his early sounds to take piano music to a new level.



Photo: Courtesy of Rob Mullins

Rob Mullins

Sunday, August 3: Gilbert Castellanos Latin Jazz Quintet featuring Irving Flores

Gilbert Castellanos is a major force on the San Diego jazz scene and one of the leading trumpeters in the Southern California area. Downbeat Magazine recently voted him one of the top trumpet players in the country and one of the top 25 jazz artists to watch.

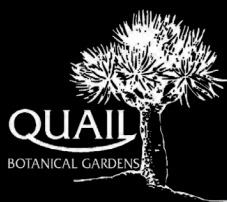
Sunday, August 17: Raggle Taggle

This band has a jazz and Celtic sound that is truly unique. From Pirate music to French Gypsy Swing to Latin Jazz, and Nuevo-Flamenco to Celtic-Irish—there's a little something for everyone when you come to see a Raggle Taggle show. This concert will feature some amazing Irish dancers, too.



Photo: Courtesy of Raggle Taggle

Raggle Taggle



To buy tickets, call 760/ 436-3036 x206.

Cost per concert with dinner, 5 PM: Members \$40, non-members \$45
(Please make your reservations by 1 pm Wednesday before the concert.)

Cost per concert only, 5:45 PM: Members \$20, non-members \$22