

Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

August 2010, Number 191

The Asakawas' Backyard

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**SAN DIEGO
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY**

On the Cover: *Calandrinia spectabilis*



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COVER IMAGE: *Calandrinia spectabilis*, commonly known as Rock Purslane, bears gorgeous magenta flowers on tall, wiry, 18 to 24 inch stems rising from a rosette of grey-green, succulent foliage. Although the flowers are short-lived (about 24 hours), there are several buds on each stem that open up one at a time, for a long bloom period. Plant en masse in front of borders, as focal points in a rock garden, or containers. Once established, the beautiful *Calandrinia* is water thrifty. Photo by Sharon Asakawa.

The San Diego Horticultural Society

MEETINGS

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

MEETING SCHEDULE

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

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS IN 2010

September 10-12 Fall Home/Garden Show

September 13 Margaret Fillius on *Naturally in San Diego: Native Plants of Torrey Pines State Reserve*

October 11 Wendy Proud on *Desert Plants for San Diego*

www.SanDiegoHorticulturalSociety.org

Next Meeting: August 9, 2010, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

Topic: SHARON & BRUCE ASAKAWA on “In the Asakawa’s Backyard: Their Favorite Flowers, Trees and Edibles”

Meeting is open and everyone is welcome. Admission: Members/free, Non-Members/\$10. Parking is free.
Meeting Place: Del Mar Fairgrounds, Surfside Race Place, Del Mar; Info: (760) 295-7089

Authors and TV and radio personalities Bruce and Sharon Asakawa are our 2010 Horticulturists of the Year (see page 6). This horticultural couple are the first co-honorees, which seems fitting, since they're a perfect team. At our August meeting we will be privileged to recognize them for their significant contributions to horticulture in this region. We'll also hear about favorite plants in their own garden! After over 20 years at their current home, they have a garden that is still “a work in progress,” based on practical as well as whimsical considerations, personal tastes and inspirations from their travels around the world. Ranging from the rare and unusual to the more commonly available ornamentals and edibles, most of their favorites are ideal for California gardens. Find out about these favorite plants from these very popular speakers.

Bruce Asakawa has been in the nursery business since 1950 when his parents started Presidio Garden Center, one of the premier retail nurseries on the West Coast. He received a degree in landscape architecture from Cal Poly, Pomona and developed and taught ornamental horticulture classes for the UCSD Extension Program in addition to being a landscape architect specializing in sustainable, residential and commercial landscape design. He was also instrumental in helping to establish the California Association of Nurserymen's Certified Nurserymen's program. He was appointed by Governor Pete Wilson to California's Urban Forest Advisory Council and is a certified arborist. From 1977-1990, Bruce and Sharon owned Bonita Garden Center. During the early nineties Bruce became the host of West Coast Garden Line, the precursor to the *Garden Compass* radio show and has been with Garden Compass since its inception.

Sharon graduated from San Diego State University with a double degree in American Foreign Policy and Political Science. After marrying Bruce, she began working at Presidio Nursery in 1963, eventually managing both florist departments at Presidio and Bonita Garden Centers. She appeared with Bruce on Over the Hedge's TV program and became co-host on the Garden Compass radio program in 2000. Sharon was the editor of *Garden Compass Magazine* and *Garden Compass Planting Guide*. Bruce and Sharon's first book, *Bruce and Sharon Asakawa's California Gardener's Guide*, is now in its 7th printing. With their son, Eric Asakawa, they wrote *California Gardening Rhythms*. Their fifth book, *California Gardener's Resource*, was published this year.

In 2009 Sharon and John Bagnasco began a nationally syndicated gardening show, *GardenLife*, on Sunday mornings from 8-10 on AM 1000 and streaming live on lifestyletalkradio.com. Sharon, Bruce and John also launched the GardenLife.com website for the latest on all things gardening.

Learn more at www.GardenLife.com and on page 5. ☘



The Mission of the San Diego Horticultural Society

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

ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER 1994

SDHS BOARD MEMBERS

- Jim Bishop** – Member at Large
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Let's Talk Plants!, the newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society, is published the first Monday of every month.

Editor/Advertising: Susi Torre-Bueno; (760) 295-7089; newsletter@sdhortsoc.org

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

Sponsorship Info: Susan Morse, sponsor@sdhortsoc.org

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BECOME A SPONSOR!

Do you own a garden-related business?

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

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

We thank them for their extra support!

Important Member Information

THREE Most Urgent Needs:

Please call Susi Torre-Bueno ASAP at (760) 295-7089 and let's talk!

1- AUDIO/VIDEO OPERATOR

We need a volunteer 90 MINUTES A MONTH to run the projector at meetings, act as backup for the volunteer who videotapes our speakers, and check the microphone setup. You needn't attend every meeting.

2- PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR

Spend about TWO or THREE HOURS PER MONTH working with other volunteers to get the word out about our events.

3- EVENTS & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Share your passion for plants! We are seeking a committee chair and also volunteers to help plan and participate in exciting events. Help us promote horticulture and the society at the San Diego County Fair, Spring Home/Garden Show, and elsewhere. There are rewarding opportunities for gardeners of all skills and interest levels.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Express your outgoing nature, or overcome your shyness, by meeting new people in a very friendly setting! Volunteer about ONE to THREE HOURS A MONTH as a greeter at meetings, visit nurseries and provide membership brochures for their customers, or help with community outreach programs. Please contact Susan Morse at (760) 599-0550.

TOUR COMMITTEE

Would you enjoy previewing gardens for tours? Do you have ideas for one day or weekend excursions? Would you like to participate in selecting cities for our longer tours? Do you have designer skills to help us with announcements, posters or maps? If so, the Tour Committee is for you. Please contact Ida Rigby at califsalvia@gmail.com or 858-748-9189.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The Program Committee is looking for members to help with a variety of interesting activities involved in recruiting and organizing our monthly speakers. The committee meets approximately three times a year. Please contact Judy Bradley at (619) 792-6715.

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

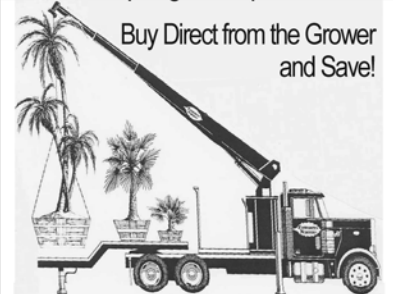
Outgoing and love to meet new folks? How about helping for an hour once a month with the meeting room check-in? Help also needed with the annual Volunteer Appreciation Party and other activities. Please contact Paula Verstraete at pverstraete@cp-sandiego.com. 🌿

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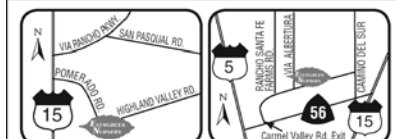
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 Monday-Thursday..7:30am-5:00pm
 Friday-Saturday.....7:30am-6:00pm
 Sunday.....9:00am-5:00pm

To Learn More...

CALIFORNIA GARDENING RHYTHMS

By Ava Torre-Bueno

Bruce and Sharon Asakawa, this month's speakers, have some great looking books about gardening here in California.

Their most recent book is *California Gardener's Resource: All You Need to Know to Plan, Plant, & Maintain a California Garden*

<http://www.gardenbookstore.net/gardening-books/472/Green-Gardeners-Guide/9781591864622>

Their previous book, *California Gardening Rhythms*, is now out of print but available from Amazon for very little; I just put it on my wish-list:

<http://www.amazon.com/California-Gardening-Rhythms-Bruce-Asakawa/dp/1591860849>

The concept of gardening in rhythm with nature makes so much sense it seems weird to even be thinking about it. But we have gotten so out of touch with natural rhythms that we need to re-learn things our hunter-gatherer and early farmer ancestors knew from watching the world around them (instead of TV and FaceBook).

For example, we have something so valuable to offer our compost bins, but we're too civilized to even think to add it!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rbHCqFIXLYk&feature=related>

Just slowing down in the garden can bring us both pleasure and new information. Felder Rushing, who has been a guest speaker in the past, suggests how:

<http://www.felderrushing.net/SlowGardeningTips.htm>

And slowing down our eating can remind us of the rhythms of seasonal foods in our area. Here are local organizations that encourage eating in rhythm with nature:

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

<http://www.ediblecommunities.com/sandiego/>

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

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

2010 Annual SDHS College Scholarships: Our Work Continues

By Al Myrick

For many years we have awarded \$1000 scholarships and 1-year SDHS memberships to students majoring in ornamental horticulture and related fields at our three local two-year colleges. These folks represent the future of horticulture and we take pride in continuing to help fund their core education, especially in light of their greater need for outside assistance in these difficult times.

The Fred B. Meyer Memorial Scholarship is awarded at MiraCosta College; the award given to the Cuyamaca College student is called The Don and Dorothy Walker Scholarship; and that for Southwestern College is the SDHS Scholarship. Each of the three colleges select an outstanding student whom they feel would most benefit from this financial award.

This year, the scholarship for MiraCosta College was awarded to Kimberly Alexander, who is in the Landscape Architecture Program. She grew up in a family, including her grandmother, which inspired her deeply to love and appreciate all types of flora. With the help from our award, she intends ultimately to, "become an ecologically minded, landscape designer... creating sustainable gardens in low-income urban settings as well as landscapes that encourage wildlife refuge."

The winner from Southwestern College was Fernando Bedolla. Fernando is in his fourth semester, and is working towards an Associate in Science degree

Continued on page 16

From The Board

By Susi Torre-Bueno

WHAT SHOULD WE CANCEL?

Have YOU volunteered in the past six months? If you read this newsletter, attend meetings, or go on our garden tours, it is ALL thanks to volunteers... and we need volunteers now more than ever.

Frankly, I am discouraged to see so few of our members actively participating to make our events and activities possible, because it means that our volunteers (including me!) have to work longer hours, and that's just not fair.

Your responses to the volunteer needs on page 4 have been disappointingly few, and we may need to decide what activities to eliminate. As an all-volunteer organization we can't continue to provide all the member benefits you enjoy without enough help. If you reap the rewards then you need to step up and do your share: we have opportunities for every level of skill, time and interest.

If you haven't volunteered in the past six months, please take a minute to look at page 4 and then contact us to say what you can do to help keep SDHS the vibrant organization it has been for 16 years. Not all needs are listed, so phone me at (760) 295-7089 and let's talk about what you'd like to do.

SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS, ADVERTISERS AND DONORS

The good folks listed as Sponsor Members on page 9 make it possible for the SDHS to do more than we could with regular dues alone. Their extra financial assistance helps stretch our budget. Let them know you appreciate their contributions by mentioning it when you do business with them. Links to all sponsors are at www.SanDiegoHorticulturalSociety.org.

All our advertisers are members, and many of them offer discounts, too! When you call or visit please tell them where you saw their ad: it will encourage them to continue the ad, and the ads help pay our printing costs. Also, tell your friends about these businesses they will want to patronize.

On page 17 we list the generous donors for our Volunteer Appreciation Party. Please thank them for their support when you patronize these fine businesses, too!

HORTICULTURISTS OF THE YEAR

In January we announced that our 2010 Horticulturist of the Year honor goes to **Bruce and Sharon Asakawa**, our first co-honorees, for their significant contributions to local horticulture. They are accomplished radio hosts, speakers and authors, and have shared their gardening expertise for decades. The award will be presented at our August 9 meeting; please come to share the fun. We'll have refreshments to make the evening even more special, and it is also our 16th birthday. Read more about the Asakawas on pages 3 and 6. Congratulations, Bruce and Sharon! ☘

The Real Dirt On...

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

By Joan Herskowitz



George Washington Carver (1864-1943) was a celebrated botanist, agricultural chemist, educator, and inventor. He devoted himself to research projects that improved southern agriculture, which at that time was dependent on a monoculture of cotton. The cotton crop was severely damaged by the boll weevil in the early 1900's, and was also responsible for nutrient depletion of southern soils. Carver promoted alternative crops,

particularly peanuts, soybeans, and sweet potatoes, to provide food and a livelihood for poor farmers and to replenish the soil. He developed a series of marketable products from these crops to increase their value as food and other products.

Carver was born in 1864 in Diamond Grove, Missouri to parents who were slaves, around the time slavery was abolished in Missouri. When George became an orphan, he was left in the custody of his former slave owner, Moses Carver, who encouraged him to attend the Lincoln School for African-American children nine miles from his home. As there was no high school for these children in the area, Carver relocated to Kansas to attend high school. Upon graduation, for a period of five years he homesteaded a 17-acre land claim in Kansas.

In 1888, to further his education, he moved to Iowa and enrolled in Simpson College to study art and piano. His art teacher recognized his talent for painting flowers and plants, and convinced him to transfer to Iowa State Agricultural College to study botany. He subsequently attended the state college and, after graduation, stayed on to obtain a master's degree in plant pathology and mycology. In 1896, Carver was invited to head the Agriculture Department at the Tuskegee Institute (later Tuskegee University) by its founder, Booker T. Washington.

Carver remained at Tuskegee for 47 years, teaching former slaves farming techniques for sustainable agriculture and self-sufficiency. He wrote practical bulletins on farm practices and designed a mobile school and laboratory that brought agricultural extension education directly to farmers. He developed a crop rotation method that alternated nitrate-producing legumes such as peanuts and peas with cotton. While many of the peanuts were used to feed livestock, large surpluses developed. This led Carver to set up a laboratory at the University where he developed 325 different uses for peanuts, from cooking oil to printers ink, including cosmetics, dyes, paints, milk, cheese, soap, and plastics.

He was an inveterate inventor and went on to research the manufacture of synthetic marbles from wood shavings, rope from cornstalk fibers, and veneers from the palmetto root. George Washington Carver was a pioneer in his field, but also through the fame of his achievements and talents, he overcame the stereotype of that time that black people were intellectually inferior. Carver received many honors, and, upon his death in 1943 at the age of 79, he left his life savings to the George Washington Carver Foundation to continue his work in agricultural research.

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

The Accomplished Asakawas

By Susan Morse

In the January, July and now the August 2010 issues of *Let's Talk Plants*, Susi Torre-Bueno has written about many of the things that Bruce and Sharon Asakawa have accomplished over years, as related to horticulture. What I want to shine a light on are the personal ways in which the Asakawas have touched many of our lives and have added a compass to navigate around in our gardens.

For years, many loyal radio listeners have become Asakawa "groupies," following them around the county, state – some have even traveled abroad with them. We have been introduced and exposed to plants that have not yet been seen by the public. We had some behind the scenes tours that were not even open to the public, such as the Jackson and Perkins Research Center in Somis, CA. We learned to pronounce and understand the benefits of words like mycorrhiza fungi, indole-3-butyric acid, and delaminine. We'd flock to garden centers, garden conferences, social club meetings and sign up for private dinners to be in the presence of the Asakawas, as it was not only educational but FUN!

Listening to Bruce and Sharon is like walking through a Zen garden. The listener is lulled by the beauty and warmth of nature while being calmed and stimulated at the same time. On bus trips to various distant locations, we not only had nutritious snacks, but garden-oriented films on DVD from the British TV series *Rosemary and Thyme*, about two horticulturalists who went around England solving murders.

In their publications, *Garden Compass* and now *GardenLife*, Bruce and Sharon have shared photos from their garden not only of visual beauty but also a peek into the working part of the garden that produces food for their table. Sharon frequently shares how to make a variety of delicious things from her personal recipe box. She has recently included a recipe she learned from her beloved Grandma Tokita. Sharon credits Grandma Tokita for stimulating her interest in bringing many things from the garden to the dinner table. At our August 9 meeting, when we honor Bruce and Sharon as the Horticulturists of the Year, Sharon will share some of the photographs from their garden. I can't wait!

The Asakawas have been providing a compass to help us navigate in our gardens, sharing some tools of their success, and helping us create our own individual garden signature of essence. Speaking of success, in a recent *GardenLife* electronic newsletter, Sharon shared a photo from their garden where she is standing next to a Costata Romanesco squash. She is dwarfed by the leaves that are three feet across. The array of garden grown vegetables on the same page makes me want to jump right into the picture and dig in.

In the July newsletter I had highly recommended signing up for the weekly e-mail from *GardenLife*. It comes to your Inbox every Friday. To subscribe to the *GardenLife* newsletter, go to www.gardenlife.com. On the top of the page, to the far right, click on the area that says, "SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER." *GardenLife* does NOT sell e-mail addresses.

I hope to see you on August 9 when we honor the Asakawas for their lifetime endeavor to bring horticulture to our lives.

Susan Morse is a board member of SDHS and our Membership Co-Chair. Her garden in Vista includes a tall cactus sporting over a dozen pairs of sunglasses, a fish pond, and an eclectic mix of sub-tropical and drought-tolerant plants. ✂

Plants that Produce

SOILS FOR POTS AND RAISED BEDS

By Richard Frost

Plants feed primarily on minerals and expect minerals and rocks in the soil. Compost has a very low percentage of minerals by weight or volume. Further, most of the plants we grow in our gardens do not naturally occur in media of pure compost, so filling a raised bed with only compost is not an ideal way to garden. Here is the basic soil mix I recommend for container gardening and raised beds:

Quantity	Substance
2 parts	Fine-grained Composted Greens
2 parts	Sphagnum Peat Moss
1 part	Horticultural Sand
1 part	Perlite #3
½ part	Worm Castings

A few exceptions: for succulents and plants from sandy soils use 2 parts horticultural sand and only 1 part peat moss. If you are making soil for rooting cuttings, then eliminate the worm castings and use equal parts of the others. For long-term plantings (such as perennials or boxed trees), substitute Coir for the peat moss and substitute 3/16" to 1/4" Scoria or Rock Pumice (not lightweight pumice) for Perlite. These materials are much more resilient over the long-term.

If you want to make this mix on your own, then below are some more details about the ingredients and where to obtain them in the San Diego area. Agri-Service Inc. (El Corazon Compost Facility) in Oceanside (see ad on page 16) is gearing up to manufacture it in bulk for yours truly, so check with them for availability later this year.

Fine-grained Composted Greens: Compost from greens provides textures that are beneficial to plant roots and a home for many organisms that are symbiotic with plants. The best composted greens I've ever encountered are from the El Corazon Greenery Facility in Oceanside. It is fine-grained, well composted, and OMRI-certified. It is free to Oceanside city residents and only a \$1 per trash barrel to everyone else.

Sphagnum Peat Moss: This peat moss comes from Canada and has none of the environmental issues associated with mosses harvested elsewhere. It is acidic in a way that is good for most plants, and has water retention properties to complement the other ingredients of the soil. You can obtain it inexpensively in compressed 3.8 cu. ft. bags from Crop Production Services in San Marcos.

Coir: Coir is compressed coconut fiber. Structurally it lasts much longer than peat and is a good choice for long-term plantings. It is also pH neutral, so check the soil pH after transplanting and feeding to see if an adjustment is needed.

Horticultural Sand: Horticultural sand consists of the "fines" that pass through all the screens in the process of crushing granite gravels, including the final 3/16th inch slits. It contains pieces that are from about 1/8th inch in diameter all the way down to rock dust. Here in San Diego County it is available from AI-Soils.

Perlite #3: Perlite is made from a mineral sand by heating it into foam. It provides both porosity and moisture retention in the form of humid air pockets. The largest size (#3) is appropriate for containers and raised beds for vegetables, herbs, and annuals in general. The least expensive source in the nation is right here in Escondido: Aztec Perlite Company.

Worm Castings: More accurately called worm poop – but a less agreeable name for some. It contains a plethora of beneficial organisms including worm eggs and mycorrhizae. The highest quality worm castings in San Diego County are available from Julie Harski (julieharski@aol.com) at local farmers' markets.

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

Trees, Please

TREES MAKE CENTS

By Robin Rivet

Summertime; and the livin' is easy...or maybe not. Are you concerned the value of your home has plummeted? Maybe the entire neighborhood is losing value. Isn't there ANYTHING you can do? I just might have a solution.

It's Sunday morning and grabbing some coffee, I frantically head out in the direction of a noisy buzz saw. Weekends I try to take walks, but wish the cause were not urgent. As I approach an unknown neighbor, I quickly size up the situation. Indeed, the friendly fellow explains that his mature Deodar Cedar just has to go. "Go, why," I ask? Typical for these conversations, I hear the usual mantra. "It's been buckling the driveway," he says quite self-assuredly. I ask if his truck parked in the driveway has had a tune-up lately, or if he changes the oil. Quizzically, he answers, "Yes," and I can tell he is wondering why that is relevant, or frankly any of my business. "When you purchased that vehicle," I continued, "you assumed the responsibility to fuel and tune it up, even though its' overall value goes down every day, right? When you purchase a tree, why give it less respect?"

A tree is an inexpensive investment, whose value significantly appreciates over time. In fact, I casually mention that his tree is likely worth considerably more than his truck, and is in fact, irreplaceable. I suggest that without that large front yard tree, his house could lose up to 15% of its market value immediately. Unlike a car, whose value plummets upon exiting a showroom; in time, a tree's value eventually soars. Meanwhile, the cost to repair a driveway, perhaps once every decade, is small compared to the loss of a mature tree. I make my point and head up the street. The chain saw noise ceases, and I pray yet another victim of benevolent but misguided economics prevails. The reasoning is simple. You can only buy small-sized trees in containers. Healthy, larger trees cannot be purchased for any price, and generally the rarer an item, the steeper the appraisal.

Now back to my original premise. Suppose you have a bare lot or deformed trees: a topped Eucalyptus, (gasp!) maybe a Mulberry repeatedly headed back, or just a volunteer Brazilian Pepper clump. In most cases, damaged trees lack value. However, in a short time span, you can turn this around. First, extract any troublemakers. Tree

Continued on page 16



Gardening Under Mediterranean Skies VIII: Style & Whimsy in the Sustainable Garden

September 23 - 26, 2010, Pasadena, California

Co-sponsored by L. A. County Arboretum & Botanic Garden, APLD Greater L A District, Mediterranean Garden Society

**Half Sold Out
Register ASAP**

Complete details & brochure: www.PacificHorticulture.org/education-events

The *Style & Whimsy in the Sustainable Garden* symposium will be held in the fascinating Pasadena area on September 23 - 26, 2010. There is always room for fun and charm and joy in the garden, and this symposium will be focused on the lighthearted side of gardening in harmony with our climate. We'd love you to join us for one, two or all three days of lectures and bus tours. A fourth day with optional workshops and garden tours will give you a running start.

Nine engaging speakers will show you how to increase the fun and style in your garden. Bus tours to nine exceptional private gardens will demonstrate how personal and artistic a garden can be without necessarily breaking the bank and while following sustainable garden practices. Yes – it can be done, and we'll show you how!

Thursday, Sept. 23 - Optional Events

- ♦ Two day-long bus tours:

Architecture & Gardens tour includes the Gamble House, 4 private homes and gardens.

Native Gardens & Art tour goes to the Sam & Alfreda Maloof Foundation for Arts & Crafts, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, 3 private gardens with California native plants.

- ♦ **FREE** tour of Arlington Garden in Pasadena.
- ♦ Three workshops (Hypertufa Container Making, Nitty-Gritty of Sustainable Garden Design, Advanced Broken Concrete Techniques).
- ♦ **FREE** Roundtable Panel Discussion on *The Science Behind a Sustainable Plant Palette*.

Friday, Sept. 24 - Speakers

- ♦ Debra Prinzing on *Renew, Refresh, Repurpose: High Concept Design Meets Sustainability*
- ♦ Keeyla Meadows on *Sustaining Spirit with Color and Whimsy*
- ♦ Patrick Anderson on *Succulent Gardens: Plants as Art and Architecture*

Saturday, Sept. 25 - Speakers

- ♦ Steve Brigham on *Sustainable Wildlife Gardening: Attracting Birds & Butterflies to Your Garden & Keeping Them There*
- ♦ Anthony Exter on *The Modern Garden: Urban Stress Relief and Emotional Sustainability*
- ♦ Jeffrey Bale on *Beautiful Stonework for a Sustainable Garden*



Sunday, Sept. 26 - Speakers

- ♦ Steve Gerischer on *Losing the Lawn*
- ♦ Richie Steffen on *Inspiration in a Responsible Garden*
- ♦ Marcia Donohue and Brandon Tyson on *Dreamscaping*

The Gardens (3 on tour each afternoon)

☼ One artists' garden, the centerfold story in the April 2010 issue of *Pacific Horticulture*, features an extensive native plant palette, plus art evoking agriculture and urban development, edible & ornamental plants, & sustainable elements including rainwater harvesting. [Saturday & Sunday]

☼ A city garden whose stylish front garden of colorful succulents in mass plantings makes the most of a sloping yard, with a back garden that is home to more succulents and low-water plants, shaded sitting areas, a small veggie garden and outdoor pizza oven! [Friday & Saturday]

☼ A secluded garden by award-winning garden designer Mayita Dinos has a grotto, whimsical sculptures, raised beds of succulents, and a striking water feature. Many materials were repurposed and recycled. [Friday & Saturday]

☼ Native and water-thrifty grasses are the striking feature of a "dog friendly" hilltop garden designed by John Greenlee, with modern art complimented by thoughtful plant choices and walls of broken concrete. [Friday & Sunday]

☼ Shown on the cover of the September 2009 *Garden Design* magazine (and winner of their Green Award), a garden by landscape architect Anthony Exter sets off its mid-century modern home with stylish plantings in what was formerly wasted space. [Friday & Saturday]

☼ Art in a succulent front garden by landscape designer Steve Gerischer includes a horse and cacti sculptures, plus an intriguing standing rock water feature. The back garden features an 8-foot tall blue angel. [Friday & Sunday]

☼ High water bills prompted the owner of this exceptional garden to replace a lawn with a water-thrifty landscape of decomposed granite paths around voluptuously curving beds of low-water perennials and shrubs. [Friday & Sunday]

☼ Two passionate artists created an amphitheater on a steep lot, with grass-covered broken concrete terraces, many recycled materials, a vast array of succulents and low-water plants, and lots of garden art. [Saturday & Sunday]

☼ Designed by Christopher Mercier and Ania Lejman, the homeowners love the very low-maintenance and casual charm of their garden, which features island beds of natives, shaded sitting areas, great privacy, a subtle water feature, kitchen garden, and an outdoor shower. [Saturday & Sunday]

SYMPOSIUM FEES:

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Discounts available for students and people under 35

**For details & registration send e-mail to:
symposium@PacificHorticulture.org
or call
Susi Torre-Bueno at (760) 295-2173**

Welcome New Members!

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

Janet Ahrens	Cheryl Lindberg
Sondra Boddy	Kathryn Lively & John Amsterdam
Ellen Brown	
Barry Campbell	Jeanne Meadow
Lesley Carlson	Cat & Day Melvin
Steve Deal	Eva Raines
Gail Evra	Anne Saxe
Expert Aquaponics	Barbara Seymour
Craig Green & Betty Ristau	Arleen Simbro
Gary Hansen	Joe Smith
Jerome Hymes	Colleen Stein
Kathleene Jablonski	Lorrie Webb
Joan Jacobs	Ann-Marie Weller
Julia Kinney	Patricia White
Jerrie Larsen	Carrie Ziemak

NEW ADVERTISERS:

Expert Aquaponics (PAGE 17)

G3, the Green Gardens Group (PAGE 21)

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 2010:

Kimberly Alexander (1)	Cheryl Hedgpeth (1)	Bill Nugent (1)
Ken Blackford (1)	Lorie Johansen (1)	Susan Oddo (1)
Debbie Boston (1)	Tami Joplin (1)	Diane Scharar (2)
Pat Crowl (1)	Patti Keyes (3)	Jan Spooner (1)
Linda Fiske (1)	Susan Marchetti (1)	Susi Torre-Bueno (2)
Connie Forest (2)	Susan Morse (1)	Cathy Tylka (1)

Discounts For Members

Pick up a Grangetto's Preferred Customer Savings Card at any Grangetto's location (see ad page 23). Get a 15% discount at Briggs Tree Co. & Wholesale Nursery in Vista (tell them to look up the "San Diego Hort Society Member" account).

Show your membership card and take 10% off any non-sale item at **Mission Hills Nursery** and **Moose Creek Nursery**.

Take 10% off membership fees at **San Diego Botanic Garden** (formerly **Quail Botanical Gardens**).

SEE THESE ADS FOR MORE DISCOUNTS:

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	Pat Welsh
	Westward Expos

LIFE MEMBERS

*Horticulturist of the Year

Chuck Ades* (2008)	Penelope Hlavac
Walter Andersen* (2002)	Debbie & Richard Johnson
Norm Applebaum & Barbara Roper	Lois Kline
Bruce & Sharon Asakawa* (2010)	Vince Lazaneo* (2004)
Gladys T. Baird	Jane Minshall* (2006)
Debra Lee Baldwin	Bill Nelson* (2007)
Steve Brigham* (2009)	Tina & Andy Rathbone
Wayne Carlson	Peggy Ruzich
Laurie Connable	Susi & Jose Torre-Bueno
Julian & Leslie Duval	Don Walker* (2005) & Dorothy Walker
Edgar Engert* (2000)	Lucy Warren
Jim Farley	Evelyn Weidner* (2001)
Sue & Charles Fouquette	Pat Welsh* (2003)
	Betty Wheeler

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

Alta Vista Gardens
Philip Tackill & Janet Wanerka
René van Rems
Village Garden Club of La Jolla

What's Up at San Diego Botanic Garden?

GARDEN EXPRESSIONS AT THE SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN

Plastic flamingos aside, a creatively placed object d'art can really make a garden shine. Showcasing art and gardens, Garden Expressions is an event featuring select regional artists demonstrating their skills and selling their artwork amidst plants, music, and delicious food. Held on August 21 and 22, it also marks the official opening of Sculpture in the Garden, an annual art exhibition at the San Diego Botanic Garden.

To help us celebrate this magical time, we have invited Tom Woodham, senior editor of Veranda magazine. Tom will entertain us both days at 1 pm. On Saturday, he will address "Decorative Elements in the Garden," an entertaining and informative look at objects in garden settings with emphasis on how and where, and speculation as to why, they are placed. Images of good examples will be dissected for quality of materials, appropriateness, and adherence to the principles of good design. How one tends and populates one's garden reflects how one tends and populates one's mind. On Sunday, he will present "Entertaining—Veranda Style," a lively, informative look at entertaining, featuring resplendent table settings from the pages of Veranda magazine and tips, historical and hysterical, for successful, non-stressful, sensational soirees.

Tom is world renown in garden design. His own garden at Faircottage-on-the-Hill, his Atlanta home, was on the cover of Veranda magazine and in the book Gardens of Georgia. He has appeared on television and entertains and informs audiences across the US and Canada in a diversity of venues, from museums and design centers, to antiques shows and symposia. He has been a principal designer and lecturer for "Bouquets to Art" at the Palace of Fine Arts Museum in San Francisco.

Some of the artists who will be participating include Helen Shafer Garcia, Rick Hartner, Cathy Carey, Bobbi Hirschhoff, Rodney McCoubrey, Tom Biggart, Toni Williams, Marna Schindler, and more. To see a complete list with descriptions and links to the artists' websites, please visit www.SDBGarden.org/expressions.htm. ☺

Garden Expressions
August 21 and 22, 9 am – 5 pm
Event is free with admission to the Garden.

San Diego Botanic Garden
230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024
www.SDBGarden.org

New E-Mail? New Street Address?

Please send all changes (so you will continue to receive the newsletter and important notices) to membership@sdhortsoc.org or SDHS, Attn: Membership, PO Box 231869, Encinitas, CA 92023-1869.

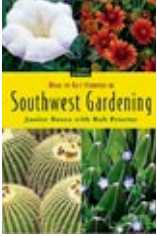
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Book Review

HOW TO GET STARTED IN SOUTHWEST GARDENING

By Janice Busco with Rob Proctor

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh



"Mom, my tomato plant's dying!"

My daughter's plaintive statement echoed in my mind as my hand hovered over *How to Get Started in Southwest Gardening*. It was on the remainder table at Borders right next to the 2000 edition of the *Sunset Western Garden Book*. I bought both.

It wasn't until I read the back cover later that I saw the words, "Arizona, Southern Utah, Nevada, New Mexico, Southwestern Colorado." The authors don't seem to think California is in the southwest. Ah, well, I thought, maybe there's something of value in here. And was there ever.

This is the best book I've ever seen for an adult beginning gardener. The first 75 pages are by Rob Proctor. The blurb lists him as the former Director of Horticulture and Artistic Director for the Denver Botanic Gardens. He honed his writing skills on 13 previously published books. His style is straightforward, easy to read, and easy to understand. He won my enthusiastic approval with statements like, "Whoever said that a weed is just a flower growing in the wrong spot must have been on heavy medication or never ran into the likes of bindweed, kudzu, bittersweet, thistle, and various ivies," and, "Many gardeners expand their options by clever gardening known as 'zone denial.'"

In his 75 pages, he covers just about every aspect of gardening in short, focused paragraphs that acquaint the reader with all the jargon and concepts that more experienced gardeners throw around to impress the less experienced. He encourages his readers to dig in and get going. And he tells us to be prepared to make mistakes. He admits that even with all his experience, he still kills plants, but he also reminds us of why we garden and of the joy we experience from it.

The second half of the book is written by Janice Busco. Busco lists herself as an environmental horticulturist. I'm not quite sure what that is, but she knows her onions, and her kniphofias and her aquilegias, as well as a lot of other plants. This section seems more sedate than the first half. It's as informative, but not as much fun. Still, it's useful for a beginning gardener.

How to Get Started in Southwest Gardening (ISBN 1-591861-60-8) is paperback and includes good color photos with garden ideas, a list of resources, and an index. It also includes a 70-page listing of recommended plants, including photos, similar to what you would find in the *Sunset* book, but with one really good addition. Each plant has a list of companion plants that will compliment it, something useful for all gardeners, not just beginners. Although some of these plants won't grow in San Diego, most will and are available locally. For those that won't grow here, you may want to practice a little "zone denial" when you see the photos.

The book lists at \$19.99, but I paid \$3.99. They may still have it at Borders. You can call your local store or check their web site. If you don't find it there, there's always the web. This book is worth looking for. 🌱

Community Outreach

By Linda Johnson

PET-FRIENDLY GARDENING

Are you a gardener AND a pet-lover? If yes, there are numerous resources available to learn how to enhance your garden for the mutual enjoyment of pets and humans. It is easy to combine the love of gardening with the love of pets, and to also create a fun and harmonious environment for both. See below for tips and events for you and your pets to enjoy together!

Pet-Friendly Plants

Prior to adding any plants to your garden or home, do some research and learn which plants may be toxic or pose other dangers to your pets. For example, azaleas can cause stomach and abdominal pain in pets; water hemlock can cause convulsions, seizures and even death; and wild mushrooms can produce fatal toxins. Plants with prickles, spines and thorns present unnecessary backyard dangers as well. Create safe, inviting play places with non-toxic, colorful plants instead! Visit www.aspc.org/pet-care for more information.

Pet Safety in the Garden

Watering: Make sure you keep potted plants out of your pet's reach, and avoid using chemicals or pesticides in your water. If your pets drink from the flowerpot/saucer, they may end up in the vet's office – or even worse!

Fencing: Ensure your dog or cat is safe in your yard by having a fence, which can keep them from exposure to neighbors' yards and possibly chemicals, pesticides and toxic plants.

Pathways: Dogs need exercise; paths give them designated spaces as well as a venue to perform their perceived job: to patrol your property and keep out intruders. Provide a few feet along fences for a perimeter path to satisfy both needs. If your dogs have already created their own paths through the garden, turn their well-worn routes into proper pathways.

Room for play: Grassy space is essential for pet play. Provide a swath of grass and they'll be less likely to run laps through your vegetable garden.

Shade and shelter: Dogs enjoy basking in the sun...so give them a deck or a patch of lawn for sunbathing. Be sure to also provide them with cooling retreats so they don't get overheated. They'll enjoy arbors, pergolas, and other shade structures along with their owners.

Pet waste: Lawns and flowerbeds do not need to be the areas where pets relieve themselves. Set aside a corner of your yard as a toilet area; train your pet to eliminate there and nowhere else. (Consult a dog-training manual for instructions). Cover the designated area with materials such as flagstone, pea gravel, bricks, or cedar chips, all of which are easy to clean and maintain.

Pesticides, fertilizers and other toxins: Tightly seal containers, and store out of your pet's reach. Carefully follow instructions on the product's label. And be mindful of other not-so-obvious pet toxins (citronella candles, bug baits, flea products, pool and pond treatments, rodent traps, etc.).

Pet-Friendly Events

Cuyamaca College's Water Conservation Garden is open late every Wednesday until 7 pm and offers a new program: **Dog Days of Summer!** For this special program, the Garden loosens its "no dogs" policy and invites visitors and their leashed canine friends to stroll the Garden on summer evenings; admission is free! Visit www.thegarden.org.

The San Diego Humane Society offers classes on **"Planting with Your Pooch"**. Contact (619) 243-3424 or visit www.sdhumane.org. 🌱

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**JULY PLANT FORUM PHOTOS
BY JANINE FREE**



Crassula perforata



Echeveria pulvinata



Tillandsia albertiana



Tillandsia straminea

**MAY 23 COFFEE IN THE GARDEN,
DON AND JEANETTE YECKEL,
LA JOLLA**



Above: Bunnies in Yeckel garden
Right: Don Yeckel in his garden
Photos: Linda Freithaler



Front of Yeckel garden Photo: Linda Freithaler



Tiny village in Yeckel garden
Photo: Linda Freithaler



Oriental area of Yeckel garden
Photo: Linda Freithaler

**JUNE 19 COFFEE
IN THE GARDEN,
CAROL COSTARAKIS
AND ROLF HAAS,
UNIVERSITY CITY**



Backyard fish pond
Photo: Carol Costarakis



Colorful foliage at Carol's garden
Photo: Susan Morse



Whimsical succulent container
Photo: Susan Morse



Glass mosaic table made by Carol Costarakis
Photo: Susan Morse

**JUNE 27 VOLUNTEER
APPRECIATION PARTY,
SUSAN AND FRANK ODDO,
ELFIN FOREST**



Succulents with happy frog
Photo: Pat Huff



Succulent water garden
Photo: Barbara Raub



Some of our happy volunteers
Photo: Mark Garron

**JULY 3 COFFEE
IN THE GARDEN,
MARCIA VAN LOY,
CLAIREMONT**



Marcia's steep terraced slope
Inset: Hostess Marcia Van Loy
Photos: Pat Crowl



Looking down the waterfall to Marcia's
koi pond below
Photo: Barbara Raub



Birdhouses made by Marcia
Photo: Linda Freithaler

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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 August was: What do you do to prevent soil from coming out the bottom (or top) of your pots? (Thanks to Merrilee "Annie" Morgan for this question idea.)

David Bittar uses, "Lots of pot shards and stones."

Linda Bresler does, "several things to prevent soil from coming out of the bottom of my pots. Usually, I put a 1-2 inch layer of small stones in the bottom of my pots for drainage. I try to put the largest of the stones over the hole so any smaller stones don't fall out. Sometimes, I put a coffee filter over the hole first. If I have any small pieces of mesh wire, I sometimes use that at the bottom of the pot. I always put my layer of stones over either the coffee filter or mesh wire. Generally, not much soil falls out of the pot after all this is done."

Pat Campbell uses screening, "I prevent soil from coming out of the bottom of my pots with a small piece of screening, which I have saved after rescreening old screen doors, cut a little bigger than hole in the pot or a little smaller than the bottom of the pot, depending on the kind of holes in the pot (sides or bottom, single or multiple). That also helps keep out ants and keep roots in to some extent. (I hope no one tells me this is a bad practice!)"

Pam Ciborowski uses a coconut by-product: "For the last three years, I've had the best luck using cut pieces of coconut fiber - usually a generous piece at least 2 to 3 times the size of each drainage hole. I have purchased the large replacement liners & they are really reasonable, as well as easy to cut. So far, all of my containers seem to drain well and I don't lose soil."

David Clarke also screens his pots: "I place some screen door screen on the bottom of the pot then layer on small stones that I have collected from the garden to facilitate drainage (and keep the screen material in place). Soil goes on top. It has functioned well for several years in some pots. This has worked for succulents too."

Cheryl Coates wrote, "I put a coffee filter in the bottom of pots to prevent soil from draining out so badly. I suppose you could put one on top of the soil too, and cover it with sphagnum moss or pebbles."

Jim Duggan said, "With my bulbs, which require a very sandy mix, I place small stones over the drainage holes. The water still gets out fine."

Bea Ericksen also likes a screen: "I put screen at the bottom of my pots to keep the soil from seeping out when I water. Also, I water gently with the hose to keep the soil from splashing out at the top."

Linda Espino wrote: "I cut up screen for the bottom of the pots. I used to use broken pieces of clay pots but was told that it is not advisable anymore. Is this true? If so, why not?" [Editor's note: As far as I know, broken pot shards are fine, but if anyone knows otherwise please let me know!]

Lynn Ford likes bark and moss: "I either put a small handful of bark chips in the bottom of the pot first, or a thin layer of moss, and then put the dirt in on top. Either seems to work and I usually use the bark because the moss retains the moisture more, but sometimes the plants want that - so it depends. But it does keep the dirt in the pot."

Stevie Hall uses peanuts: "I put saved packing peanuts into a Von's-type bag or smaller and lay that at the bottom of the pot. I use plastic just because that is what I generally have on hand; I poke some holes in it, too, so it can't seal the opening. I think it would work fine w/ the paper bag, maybe even better because over time the bag would break down."

Felipe Hernandez, Jr. like pebbles: "For bottom holes I have found gravel to be good not only in preventing soil from coming out of the bottom but also when it comes time to pull out an established tree from pot it is easier to do. For the top I use a mulch or beach pebbles."

Cheryl Leedom said, "After trying everything over the years from pottery shards, stones, screen pieces, etc. I finally learned a great tip from Jeff Moore at Solana Succulents. Jeff taught a wonderful class at SD Botanic Garden on creating an undersea dish garden with succulents. His tip was to use self-adhesive fiberglass mesh drywall joint tape, available from Home Depot. The tape is 2" wide and comes on a convenient 150' roll and only costs a few dollars for a lifetime supply! You just snip off a piece and stick it over the hole. The tacky adhesive backing keeps it in place while filling the pot with potting soil. The mesh tape is bright yellow, so the roll is easy to find in the garden, which is particularly helpful if you're like me and set things down where they don't belong, then forget where you put it! Thanks, Jeff, for the great tip! (And I LOVE my undersea garden too!)"

Wanda Mallen uses screening, too: "Gary has cut up a bunch of different size pieces of window screening that I use to cover the holes in pots. For top dressing, I use different kinds of rocks for succulents and bark for tropicals. This is more for decoration and moisture retention than to keep the soil from coming out."

Jackie McGee uses a coffee filter, "When I am planting in a pot I always use a coffee filter in the bottom. Soil doesn't fall out and it allows for good drainage."

Janet Milliken has a simple approach: "just put in a rock or two or three and make sure the drainage of water isn't blocked.. unimaginative, but it works for me."

Merrilee "Annie" Morgan also uses Cheryl's drywall tape, and she adds, "I like [this method] better than a rock or piece of broken terra cotta pottery since I know it actually fits over the holes and it lets the water out but not the soil. For a 3/4" hole I cut two strips about 2-3" long and put the first one down pressing so it will stick, and then press in the second one crosswise. Of course it works better on a clean dry pot. The tape is sold at Lowes, Home Depot, etc. in either white or yellow for less than \$5. I always buy yellow so I can find it easier in my gardening drawer; it should not be kept out where it will get moist. I learned this trick from Jeff Moore at Solana Succulents many years ago and have used it since for tiny to large pots."

Ruth Ann Parker is another screen fan: "I save old window screens and remove the screening. Then I cut a circle the size of the pot's bottom with a few added inches to the circumference and tuck it into the pot. Place a small amount of soil first so the edges remain upright against the sides of the pot. Good drainage and very little soil spills out. If screens are hard to find, Costco or Lowe's carries fiberglass screening material in rolls."

Minna Riber uses panty hose: "Depends on what is going into the pots and where they are to be located. African Violets get old panty hose where some plants get broken crockery or even broken plastic from old plastic pots. Notice it is all recycled material. I recycle Styrofoam cups and pot on seedlings in them before putting them into the ground or potting them on."

Continued on page 16

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Secrets Continued from page 15

Sharon Swildens likes special fabric: "I cut out a circle of landscaping fabric (the kind that lets water drain out) and place it over the hole before I add the soil."

Susi Torre-Bueno is another coffee filter fan: "One coffee filter can be cut into smaller pieces, each of which should be at least 2-3 times the size of the hole it is covering."

Marilyn Wilson wrote, "When the handyman finished covering the garage air vent with quarter-inch metal mesh to keep the fire insurance people happy, I cut the leftover stuff into small pieces for pot bottoms. It works well and lasts FOREVER."

The question for next month is:

What has been your biggest surprise in your garden this year? Send your reply by August 5 to info@sdhsoc.org.

SDHS College Scholarships Continued from page 5

with a major in Landscape Architecture. He chose his major as early as 12 when he began helping his family in their gardening services. He plans later to obtain an advanced degree at Cal Poly Pomona. His dream is to own a landscape architecture firm with which to help solve some of our environmental problems by an emphasis on Green Design.

Our awardee from Cuyamaca College was Toni Ontiveros, a Nursery Technology, Landscape Design and Biology Major. She has a deep love of nature and concern for the environment. Her zest for horticultural knowledge doesn't end with a well-earned degree at Cuyamaca; she hopes to continue at SDSU to study for a Biology degree in plant sciences.

All three of our scholarship winners have accepted our invitation to attend the August 9th monthly meeting to be recognized. We hope that a large audience will be on hand to congratulate them.

Trees Continued from page 7

removals can run \$1,000 or more, so plan wisely this time. Then proceed to your local nursery and buy a few decent specimens. Just for kicks, get three trees. One should mature to be as large as possible for the space. If desirable, also consider a fruiting tree. Altogether this might set you back \$200, since I recommend buying 15 gallon-size max! An average size residence in San Diego can usually accommodate 3-5 trees. Now fix that driveway. Repair costs vary from \$200 - \$3,000. Finally, plant your new trees properly and wait a few years.

One well-placed tree in fifteen years could add 15% or about \$57,000 to a typical home value in our region. In fifty years, an enormous tree might be truly heritage quality and priceless. What an investment!

Remember: "The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago. The second best time is now."

For more tree benefit information:

<http://www.arborday.org/trees/benefits.cfm>

http://www.treesaregood.org/treecare/tree_values.aspx

<http://www.treebenefits.com/calculator/index.cfm>

Member Robin Rivet is an ISA Certified Arborist, serves on the Environmental/Sustainability Commission for the City of La Mesa, San Diego Regional Urban Forestry Council, CA Rare Fruit Growers, and UCCE Master Gardeners. She welcomes public inquiries. Next month: "How to select a tree."

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Thanks Volunteers and Donors!

We have many members to thank for their much-appreciated help over the last three months. We couldn't do all this without your support! Photos of the first four events are on pages 12 and 13. In the July newsletter we thanked the designers and supporters for our display garden at the San Diego County Fair.

The June Volunteer Appreciation Party was beautifully organized by Paula Verstraete at the home of Susan and Frank Oddo. Other volunteers included Bette Childs, Mark Garron, Ed Keyes, Hilda & Neal King, CarolAnn Lewin, Susan Morse, Jane Morton, Evey Torre-Bueno, Melissa & Chris Worton, and Jim Wright. The generous donors for this event included: Agri Service, Bette Childs, Crowne Plaza San Diego, Evergreen Nursery, Sue Fouquette, Grangetto's Farm & Garden Supply, Green Thumb Nursery, Bobbi Hirschkoff, Kellogg Garden Products, Mary's Goodsnails, Mo Price, San Diego Botanic Garden, Sunshine Gardens, Walter Andersen Nursery and Cathy Tylka.

The May Coffee-in-the-Garden at Don & Jeanette Yeckel's garden included these volunteers: Nikki Alexander, Eva Heuser, Pat Huff, Ida Rigby, and Evey Torre-Bueno. The volunteers for our June Coffee at Carol Costarakis' and Rolf Haas's garden included Evey Torre-Bueno and Paula Verstraete. At the July Coffee at Marcia Van Loy's garden the other volunteers were Cathy Keller, Evey Torre-Bueno, and Lucy Warren.

A great many people volunteered as Horticulturists of the Day and/or helped with setup or takedown at our display garden at the Fair: Mary Abramenkoff, Kimberly Alexandra, Deb Batey, Ann and Bill Beckett, Nancy Bellomo, Patty Berg, Ellen Bevier, Karen Cassimatis, Bette Childs, Sarah Clayton, Pat Crowl, Carolyn Fossett, Mary Friestedt,

Continued on page 18

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Thanks Continued from page 17



Young fair visitor dancing with our scarecrow.

Photo: Marilyn Guidroz

Mark Garron, Marilyn Guidroz, Robin Hermann, Alison Howard, Margaret & Peter Jones, Marie Keeler, Neal & Hilda King, Nancy Knight, Linda Lawley, CarolAnn Lewin, Sheldon Lisker, Roy Martins, Paula McDonald, Walt Meier, Charlotte Minter, Melissa Mora, Susan Morse, Al & Dora Myrick, Marilyn Nelson, Don Nelson, Deborah Nicklesen, Aleksandra Owczarek, Katie Pelisek, Mo Price, Barb Raub, Dale Rekus, Steve & Sharon Rose, Mary Roush, Gina Rubin, Sue Ann & Bill Scheck, Linda Shaw, Cindy Sparks, Kitty Sparrow, Anne Spindel, Susan Starr, Linda Stewart, Mayo Stiegler, Susi Torre-Bueno, Cathy Tylka, Vonnier Varner, Kay Worley, and Stephen Zolezzi. 🌿

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The first part of the workshop begins on August 24, from 6-9 pm at the Encinitas Community Center. For more info, and to sign up, please visit www.ofg-sandiego.blogspot.com. ☞

Phil Tackill Honored

Bonsai expert and longtime SDHS member Phil Tackill has been honored by having his Forest Planting bonsai added as part of the permanent North American Collection of the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum in Washington, D.C. His piece is displayed prominently along with Bonsai greats Princess Chichibu, Harry Hirao and Vaughn Banting. It is a great honor for him and it places San Diego on the Bonsai Map. The bonsai has been in training since 1956, and is a *Picea abies* 'Nidiformis' (Bird's Nest Spruce). ☞

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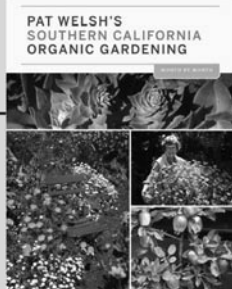
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July Plant Forum

By Susi Torre-Bueno

What is the Plant Forum?

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

Tillandsia albertiana (Bromeliaceae) Argentina
While many Tillandsias are epiphytes, clinging to tree branches for support, this species is a saxicole, or rock-hugger, and was named for Argentine botanist Alberto Castellanos. The bright red flowers are rarely found in this genus, and that, in addition to its limited natural range, makes this diminutive plant (mature specimens are about three inches tall and wide) even more special. For more information visit www.rainforestflora.com/species/albertiana.htm. (Jim Wright, San Diego, 7/10) – S.T-B.

Tillandsia straminea (Bromeliaceae) Peru, Ecuador
Although most Tillandsias are fragrance-free, the violet-tipped creamy-yellow to white flowers of this genus are sweetly scented and appear over many weeks. *Bromeliaceae*, a publication of the Bromeliad Society of Queensland, notes that the scent attracts butterflies, which are pollinators for this species. A number of sources state that this is a variable species that can grow as large as two feet tall and wide (or even larger). This nearly rootless plant gets most of its moisture from fog. (Jim Wright, San Diego, 7/10) – S.T-B.

Thanks to Sue, Louise and Jim for bringing in plants. There will NOT be a Plant Forum in August. We hope many more people will bring in plants in September. In addition to the plants described above, those below were also displayed.

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

Can you spot the phony plant this month? The phony plant in the May newsletter was *Lathyrus odoratus* 'Stripper', DISROBE SWEET PEA.

Crassula perforata STRING OF BUTTONS, PROPELLER PLANT, SCARLET PAINTBRUSH (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 7/10)

Echeveria pulvinata PLUSH PLANT, CHENILLE PLANT (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 7/10)

3 *Hoya carnauba* CAR WAX FLOWER (Plant Lover, El Cajon, 7/10)

3 *Hoya carnosa* WAX FLOWER (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 7/10)

Hydrangea cv. (Louise Anderson, San Marcos, 7/10)

HOW TO READ THE PLANT FORUM ENTRIES

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

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

[2] Cultivar ['Cheerio']

[3] Common Name [DONUT PLANT]

[4] Family [Pastryaceae]

[5] Distribution [7-Eleven to Vons]

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

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

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

San Diego Horticultural Society

July Meeting Report

Exactly three years ago award-winning garden photojournalist Debra Lee Baldwin, a SDHS Life Member, spoke to us about her book *Designing with Succulents*. That book has been among the top 20 best-selling garden books on Amazon.com since its release; it is now in its fourth printing and is even available in French. Debra's newest book, *Succulent Container Gardens*, is likely to be an even bigger sensation. Not only is it beautiful and exceedingly useful, it acknowledges the fact that in most of the country outside of Southern California, succulents need to be grown in pots so they can be brought indoors in the winter. As Debra said, "San Diego is the epicenter of succulents," and we're fortunate to be able to grow ours in the ground.

Most succulents hail from dry climates, and, "as a rule of thumb, the fatter and fleshier the succulent the less water it needs." To look their best, however, these plants do, "appreciate the extra water of home gardens," as long as the drainage is good so their roots don't rot. Debra thinks that the intrinsic toughness of succulents makes them, "the closest thing to plastic in the plant kingdom." Their water-storing foliage has a practical side: at the Rancho Santa Fe garden on the cover of her first book succulents planted around the home had saved the house from the 2007 wildfires!

Debra noted that, "the most important design element is repetition. Plants themselves can embody beautiful repetitions," and she showed many beautiful examples of this. To illustrate her thesis that, "the second most important design element is contrast," we saw numerous examples, including succulents whose, "red edges make the green leaves POP."

"When selecting containers," she said, "start with whatever in your house is non-negotiable. For example, repeat the blue trim of your house with a blue glazed pot. In a perfect world you would

accessorize with related pots, but just don't have plastic pots." She also recommended, "trying out plants in different pots in the nursery," before purchasing their containers.

Her third principle of good design is, "sophisticated whimsy," and added that, "repetition taken to an extreme equals whimsy." We saw many examples of this idea, where the plant was perfectly matched to its pot for maximum impact – and to elicit a grin from the viewer.


One final design element: top dressing your containers with a layer of pebbles or something else to cover the bare soil. "Top dressing is your secret weapon when doing a container garden; it gives a polished look," Debra told us, and her book has many beautiful examples of this.

Debra thinks that, "a love of flowers is hard-wired into us," and asked, "How cool is it that so many succulents are rosette shaped – like flowers that never fade – plus they also bloom? The latest thing is a vase of succulents or using them in a bridal bouquet," or elsewhere as flowers. (Your editor's daughter-in-law used succulents for boutonnieres at her wedding.)

Thanks, Debra, for showing us how to make beautiful container gardens with our succulents, which we too often take for granted. We're honored to count you among our members.

The SDHS website has Debra's handouts on *Do's and Don'ts of Succulent Garden Design* and a *Basic Plant Palette*. Go to our Water Conservation page and click on Plant Lists for Water Conservation until you see the section from our July 12, 2010 meeting. 🌿

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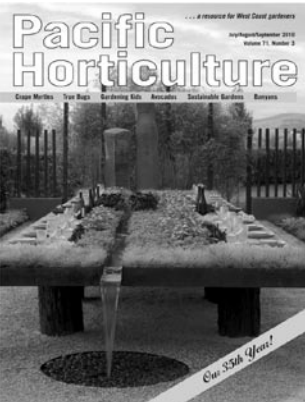
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Plant Materials: Trees & Shrubs	Schultz	W 4:00 – 6:50 pm
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To receive a fall course schedule with complete details and enrollment information, call (760) 795-6615. For more information about MiraCosta College's Horticulture Program, call Claire Ehrlinger at (760) 795-6704.

Classes at MiraCosta start August 23

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

See back for courses offered this fall.

Horticulture Department Fall Orientation

Wednesday, August 18, 5–7 p.m.

MiraCosta College Horticulture Building, Room 7001
1 Barnard Drive, Oceanside, CA
Parking available in lots 7A and 3E, no permit required.

Join us for our Fall Orientation and find out how our program can get your life moving in a new direction. Come meet our professors; tour our facility; and learn about career, internship and scholarship opportunities.

Everyone is welcome, including prospective and current students!

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

www.miracosta.edu/hort

MiraCosta College Credit Courses • Fall 2010

Class #	Days	Time	Instructor	Units	Room #	Class #	Days	Time	Instructor	Units	Room #	
HORT 110 Basic Horticulture Covers seed production, propagation of plants from seeds and cuttings, potting and planting media, bedding plants, greenhouses, and aspects of vegetable crop production. Meets at off-campus farm location in Valley Center. CSU												
ARCHI'S ACRES						Room #						
3030	M	10:00am-2:45pm	FAIRLEIGH M	3.0	TBD							
HORT 115 Soil Science Problem solving techniques that apply to Southern California soils are emphasized, including fertility, salinity, pH, calcium, and specific toxicities. CSU; UC												
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS						Room #						
2043	TH	5:00pm-9:45pm	FAIRLEIGH M	3.0	OC7003							
HORT 116 Plant Science This course covers the basic principles of plant science pertaining to food and ornamental plants and addresses plant taxonomy and nomenclature. Students are required to attend field labs and field trips. CSU; UC												
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS						Room #						
2045	MW	12:30pm-3:15pm	KINNON C	4.0	OC7003							
2047	TTH	12:30pm-3:15pm	MESSINA J	4.0	OC7003							
2049	MW	5:00pm-7:45pm	BENDER G	4.0	OC7003							
HORT 117 Plant Identification: Trees, Shrubs, and Vines This course covers the identification, growth habits, culture, and ornamental use of plants found in Southern California landscapes. It emphasizes botanical and common names, plant family relationships, and environmental adaptations. Students are required to attend field trips both on and off campus. CSU; UC												
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS/SAN ELIJO CAMPUS IN CARDIFF						Room #						
2051	TH	6:00pm-8:45pm	EHRLINGER C	3.0	OC7051							
		8:00am-12:30pm			SAN406							
		+4 hours 30 mins every other Saturday from 8am-12:30pm beginning 9/4.										
HORT 118 Arboriculture* This course covers the care and management of ornamental trees including fertilization, irrigation, integrated pest management, pruning techniques, safety equipment and practices, climbing, repairs, bracing, cabling, and tree removal.												
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS						Room #						
+2063	M	6:00pm-8:45pm	HOLCOMB S	3.0	OC7053							
		8:00am-11:55am			OC7053							
		+3 hours 55 mins every other Saturday from 8am-11:55am beginning 8/28.										
HORT 126 Landscape Irrigation Covers site analysis, design, engineering, installation, and maintenance of landscape sprinkler and drip systems. CSU												
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS						Room #						
2053	W	5:00pm-9:45pm	EHRLINGER C	3.0	OC7051							
HORT 127 Landscape Design Principles of design for residential projects. Students will prepare a site analysis, plot plan, presentation drawings, and budget for a typical residential site. CSU												
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS						Room #						
2069	W	10:30am-12:30pm	FAIRLEIGH M	3.0	OC7051							
	&W	12:30pm-3:15pm			OC7051							
HORT 128 Landscape Construction Covers architectural building components including benches, planters, walks, patio decks, fences, retaining walls, and enrichment features. CSU												
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS						Room #						
2061	TH	5:00pm-6:45pm	CONGER D	3.0	OC7053							
	&S	8:00am-1:45pm			OC7001							
		+6 hours every other Saturday from 8am-1:45pm beginning 8/28.										
HORT 144 Nursery Management and Production Includes cutting/seed propagation methods and systems, soils, water, pest management, fertilization, pruning and staking, and production management. Field trips to local nurseries. CSU												
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS						Room #						
2065	T	6:00pm-7:45pm	KINNON C	3.0	OC7003							
	&S	8:00am-10:45am			OC7003							
HORT 145 Introduction to Enology (Material Fee: \$85.00) Students will be presented with an overview of the history and development of winemaking, detailing the grape varieties produced in the major wine-producing regions. Students must be 21 years old to enroll. CSU; UC												
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS						Room #						
+2060	F	6:30pm-9:15pm	COLANGELO D	3.0	OC7053							
HORT 147 Wines of California (Material Fee: \$85.00) This course is designed for students to increase their knowledge of the technical, historical, social, and marketing aspects of wines and winemaking. Students must be 21 years old to enroll and pay a lab fee.												
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS						Room #						
3032	W	6:30pm-9:15pm	COLANGELO D	3.0	OC7053							
HORT 148 Introduction to Wine Production This course will provide beginning winemakers with basic "how to" instructions and also provide advanced technical training on aspects of winemaking.												
LATE-START/OCEANSIDE						Room #						
2059	T	6:30pm-9:15pm	STAFF	1.5	OC7053							
		THIS IS A LATE-START CLASS, (09/14-11/02)										
HORT 171 Floral Design I (Materials Fee: \$200.00) Theory, techniques, and skills practiced in the floral design industry. Instruction in basic design principles, cut flower preparation and care, merchandising and packaging. CSU												
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS						Room #						
2055	W	5:30pm-9:15pm	PATTERSON DE	2.0	OC7001							
HORT 173 Wedding Design (Materials Fee: \$240.00) Traditional and contemporary styles of wedding bouquets, corsages, and boutonniere construction. ADVISORY: HORT 171.												
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS						Room #						
2057	TH	5:30pm-9:15pm	PATTERSON DE	2.0	OC7001							
HORT 230 Landscape Architecture The advanced study and implementation of landscape design. Techniques for organizing and creating varied elements in the shaping of a landscape project dealing with diverse aspects of design. CSU PREREQUISITE: HORT 127.												
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS						Room #						
2067	T	5:00pm-9:45pm	FAIRLEIGH M	3.0	OC7051							
HORT 299P(3.0) Coop Work Exp—Occupational For students whose work is related to their declared major. CSU COREQUISITES: Students must be employed in a position directly related to their declared major and must complete 75 hours of paid work or 60 hours of non-paid work per unit of credit. NOTE: To receive instructor consent and permission number, students must submit employer contact information. Go to www.miracosta.edu/dataform or the Career Center in Building 3700, Oceanside campus, to complete the form. Questions? Call (760) 795-6772.												
2073	ARR		STAFF	3.0								
		THIS IS A LATE-START CLASS, (09/07-12/17).										

*Eligible for International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) continuing education hours.

What's Happening? for August 2010

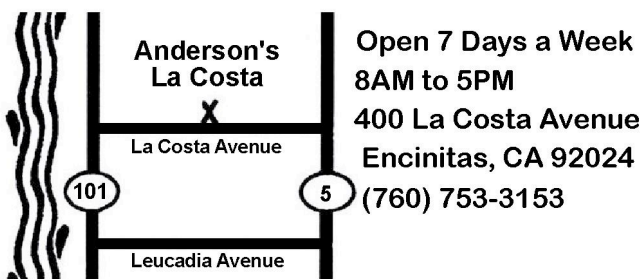
The SDHS is happy to publicize items of horticultural interest. See other side for resources & ongoing events.
Send calendar listings by the 10th of the month before the event to calendar@sdhortsoc.org.

▼ SDHS Sponsor

Anderson's La Costa Nursery & Garden Design Center

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Hello to all and welcome to our August 2009 garden tips and update:

Here's a selection of what's in the store right now -

For the sun...

❖ *Tradescantia* 'Pink Chablis'. 'Spiderwort' forms a mound of grassy-looking leaves with a long display of interesting pink triangular flowers - bright-pink blooms with delicate white edges and a central tuft of magenta stamens. Plants should be trimmed back hard when blooming ends, to rejuvenate the foliage and encourage repeat bloom in late summer. Happiest in a sunny, moist site. Flowers are attractive to butterflies.

❖ *Plumerias* - from small (6" pot) to large (7 gallon pot) - and all points in between, all in bloom.

❖ *Grevillea* 'Long John' - An upright rounded shrub to 8-10 feet tall by 5-8 feet wide with thin, long, somewhat soft, needle-like leaves. Large, dark rose-pink and orange flower clusters form on the ends of branches. Hardy to the mid 20° F. This is a beautiful large shrub. Drought tolerant

❖ *Jatropha integerrima* (Peregrina) - This dense rounded evergreen shrub grows from 3 to 10 feet tall and to almost tree-like proportions with age in frost free climates. The leaves, green and velvety on upper surface and flecked with purple below. Deep red flowers with yellow stamens bloom on branched clusters in the summer. It performs best in full sun in frost free locations, but will grow in light shade and go semi deciduous in colder locations.

❖ *Adenanthos sericeus* (Coastal Woolybush) - This fine textured upright shrub or small tree is from the southern coast of Western Australia, where it grows within splashing distance to the ocean. In cultivation it grows to 6-10 feet tall with wispy stems that are covered with soft gray needle like foliage that is very soft to touch. The small red flowers appear at the base of the leaves off and on throughout the year. It grows best in full sun along the coast and partial shade in warmer locations with little to moderate water once established in a well draining soil. An excellent choice for a coastal planting as it both salt and wind tolerant though not tolerant of heavy clay or wet soils. Cold hardy to about 20-25° F.

Continued on other side

The Water Conservation Garden (see other side for address)

August 1, 1:30-2:30pm Ask The Horticulturist Tour: Enjoy an informative walk through the Garden, Free

August 4, 6-7pm, Family Tour: Tour of the Water Conservation Garden followed by a drought tolerant planting project that you take home. Free. Please register online or by calling 619-660-0614 x10.

Saturdays, 10-11am, Garden Tour: Docent led tour of the Water Conservation Garden. Meet at the main gate at the Garden entrance. No reservations required.

San Diego Botanic Garden (see other side for address)

Aug. 28, 10am-noon, Composting Workshop: Learn how to compost your food scraps and yard trimmings. Free. To register call (760) 436-7986 or see www.solanacenter.org.

Aug. 28, 10am-1pm, Make Your Own Succulent Container Garden: Design your own unique succulent garden. Cost: Members \$55, non-members \$65. Pre-registration required by August 25. See www.sdbgarden.org/classes.htm.

Walter Andersen Nursery FREE Saturday Classes:

9:00am Point Loma Nursery:

Aug. 7, Soil Amendments
Aug. 14, Indoor Plants
Aug. 21, Gardenias
Aug. 28, Bonsai

9:30am Poway Nursery:

Aug. 7, Water Conservation Through Sprinkler Efficiency
Aug. 14, Termites & Other Wood-Destroying Organisms
Aug. 21, Irrigation for Edibles
Aug. 28, California Friendly Color

Details at www.walterandersen.com; addresses in ad on page 17

Evergreen Nursery Seminars (see page 4)

13650 Carmel Valley Road, San Diego/Carmel Valley
3231 Oceanside Blvd, Oceanside
12460 Highland Valley Rd, Escondido

August 7, 10AM, The Edible Garden: Learn to create, choose and maintain your own "Edible Garden". Find out about some common landscape plants that are edible and what varieties of vegetables, fruits, and herbs grow in our area. FREE; refreshments provided.

Details at evergreennursery.com/seminar-schedule-2010

Cedros Gardens Saturday 10am classes:

Details at www.cedrosgardens.com; address in ad on page 19.

August 7, noon, Orchid Auction: Palomar Orchid Society, Carlsbad Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad. www.palomarorchid.org.

August 8, 10:30am, San Diego Bonsai Club: Discussion by Jim Grimel. Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com.

August 8, 1-3pm, Southern California Plumeria Society: Plumeria care and related products. War Memorial Building, 3325 Zoo Drive. For info call (619)461-5942 or see www.socalplumeriasociety.com

**August 9, 6:00pm
In the Asakawas' Backyard**
Join us as we honor
Bruce & Sharon Asakawa
Horticulturists of the Year!
See pages 3, 5 and 6

August 10-14, Sustainable Landscape Professional Intensive and Certification: Learn water budgeting, storm water pollution prevention, urban watershed restoration, native habitat creation, and residential stewardship. Location: Rancho Bernardo Inn. Cost: \$1375 incl. meals, reception, training.

SEE AD ON PAGE 21.

Details: www.GreenGardensGroup.com.

August 14, 3-7pm, San Diego Rose Society Garden Tour: Sonja & Gary Bulman residence: over 250 roses. 969 West Fifth Avenue, Escondido. Dona & Bob Martin residence: about 120 roses in the ground and another 100+ in pots, plus about 30 clematis. 2609 Canyon Crest Drive, Escondido. Marianne Putnam residence: Over 400 roses and dozens of arbors, pillars and other structures. 750 Chaparral Lane Escondido. For info see sdrosesociety.org/sdrs_calendar.htm#aug.

August 14, 4:30pm, South Bay Botanic Garden Walk: Plants of the Mediterranean and recipes. Main entrance gate near the 1800 building, Southwestern College, 900 Otay Lakes Rd., Chula Vista. Parking is free in Lot E. Fee \$1. See southbaybotanicgarden.org or call (619) 421-6700.

August 14-15, 9am-5pm, Orange County Cactus and Succulent Society 25th Annual Intercity Show & Sale: L.A. County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. See occss.org

August 24, 6-9pm, Ocean Friendly Gardens Workshop: Details on page 18. Encinitas Community Center. Info at www.ofg-sandiego.blogspot.com.

August 28, 4:30pm, South Bay Botanic Garden Walk: Citrus and fruit trees. Main entrance gate near the 1800 building, Southwestern College, 900 Otay Lakes Rd., Chula Vista. Parking is free in Lot E. Fee \$1. See southbaybotanicgarden.org or call (619) 421-6700.

Resources & Ongoing Events

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.

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

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/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

GardenLife Radio Show (national). Saturday from 8-9am and Sunday from 8-10am. KCEO 1000AM radio, hosts Bruce and Sharon Asakawa, John Bagnasco. Call-in questions: 866-606-TALK. If your local station does not carry GardenLife, hear it streaming live on lifestyletalkradio.com. GardenLife shows are also archived at lifestyletalkradio.com

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

We're a little twixt and 'tween seasons for bedding annuals, the cool season ones like Pansies aren't too far off, and it's getting late for Petunias, so we've gone heavy on the bedding perennials. Some beautiful samples from local growers:

- ❖ Coreopsis – lots of shades 1 gallon size
- ❖ Celosia – deep reds and fuchsia colors in 6" pots
- ❖ Frothy white ethereal *Euphorbia* 'Diamond Frost'
- ❖ Beautiful Ivy Geraniums
- ❖ *Lantana* 'Desert Sunset' – striking yellow and reds
- ❖ Vinca – In 6 packs – they love the heat
- ❖ Lisianthus – tall and gorgeous in lavender, pink and purple
- ❖ Mandevilla – tough and beautiful – in 4" pots.

Some August thoughts for your gardens:

- ❖ Watering and pest control are some of the main tasks this month. Remember the basics: Water in the early morning. Water the soil not the leaves. Water deeply and occasionally rather than shallow and often.
- ❖ Soak containers well. If you can't keep up or they're wilting anyway move them to a shadier spot.
- ❖ If a perennial is sickly or looking otherwise awful cut it back to just a few inches. It will come back this year or next spring with healthier growth.

Things to do:

- ❖ Mid August is time to dig up your bearded iris and let them rest on top of the ground for 2 weeks, then replant. This forces them into dormancy.
- ❖ If you're looking for Sweet Peas blooming for the holidays, plant seeds now.
- ❖ A thick layer of organic mulch (about two inches) should be maintained on top of the soil just about year-round to cool the root zone, reduce irrigation needs, improve soil quality and reduce weeds.
- ❖ This is still a good month to plant or transplant palms and cycads but keep them well watered to help them get established.
- ❖ Although your roses may still be blooming, the heat of this and next month will take a toll on roses - especially in sun exposed gardens. A moderate summer pruning will help revive your roses and will encourage a big fall bloom. Be sure to fertilize after pruning.
- ❖ Remember, cool-season lawns (fescue/Marathon, ryegrass, bluegrass) should be mowed about a half an inch higher in the warm months than in the cool months. Continue feeding warm-season lawns into the fall months.
- ❖ Fuchsias should still be blooming although a bit less than a couple of months ago. Keep fertilizing regularly with a balanced fertilizer or one slightly higher in phosphorus to promote more flowering. Proper watering is key at this time of the year especially those in hanging baskets. Water early in the morning or in the evening and check soil moisture every day.
- ❖ Fruit Trees - Monitor soil moisture and irrigate as needed. Flooding the soil beneath these trees or using a drip system are excellent methods. Avoid the use of sprinklers and do not regularly wet the trunk – this can cause certain diseases.
- ❖ Be very cautious irrigating most of our native plants during the summer. Most of these are adapted to a winter wet - summer dry moisture cycle.
- ❖ Prune summer flowering shrubs as the flowers fade.
- ❖ Continue spraying for tomato hornworms with products containing Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*), a biological control that will not harm beneficial insects.
- ❖ Petunias should be cut back this month. The hot weather tends to make the plants leggy. Prune the plants to about 5 inches above ground level.

**Join us on August 9 as we honor
radio hosts & local experts
Bruce & Sharon Asakawa
Horticulturists of the Year
See pages 3, 5 and 6**