

Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

February 2010, Number 185

Meadows by Design

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**SAN DIEGO
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY**

On the Cover: An American meadow

ASIAN ARTS IN THE GARDEN



Photos: Karen Morikawa

February 27 . 9 am – 5 pm AND February 28 . 9 am – 4 pm

San Diego Botanic Garden will be celebrating the art of Asian horticulture with outstanding displays, lectures, and demonstrations.

Ikebana floral arrangements created by members of the La Jolla Chapter of the Ohara School of Ikebana led by Sensi Yaeko Ohta on display in the Ecke Building.

Bonsai Show in the Walled Garden featuring styles of bonsai from Japan, China, Vietnam, and the West. Displays by members of Bonsai and Beyond of Tray Landscape, Saikei, Kusamono, Penjing, Hon Non Bo, Suiseki, and Scholar Rocks.

Saturday, 11:30 am: Soryo Ayako Stott performs a tea ceremony.

Sunday, 2 pm: The Shokenji Taiko, a Japanese style drumming group from the Vista Buddhist Temple, performs.

For details of lectures and demonstrations please check the website at www.SDBGarden.org.

Admission: \$4 - \$12. Free for members.



230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas CA 92024

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COVER IMAGE: The beautiful meadow on the cover is just one of the many images you'll see at our February meeting (see meeting notice below).

The San Diego Horticultural Society

MEETINGS

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

MEETING SCHEDULE

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

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS IN 2009

- March 5-7** Spring Home/Garden Show (see page 5)
- March 8** Pat Welsh on *Growing Summer Vegetables the Organic Way: How to Plant, Feed, Water, Harvest, and Control Pests and Diseases Without Synthetic Fertilizers or Poisonous Sprays*
- March 13** SDHS GARDEN TOUR (see page 8)
- April 12** Joe Walker on *Australian Perennials: Water-Wise Beauties for Landscape and Cut Arrangements*
- May 10** A Special Evening with Brad Lancaster on *Water Harvesting: Turning Drains into Sponges and Water Scarcity into Water Abundance*
- June 11 to July 5** Visit our Display Garden at the San Diego County Fair
- July 6-11** SDHS Garden Tour to Portland (see page 6)
- July 12** Debra Lee Baldwin on *Succulent Container Gardening*

www.SanDiegoHorticulturalSociety.org

Next Meeting: February 8, 2010, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

Topic: JOHN GREENLEE ON “MEADOWS BY DESIGN: A REVOLUTION IN SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES”

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

Well-respected grass expert John Greelee, author of *The American Meadow Garden*, will explore new developments in meadow making and discuss why and how turf lawns can be converted into natural lawns. Learn how to put nature's great ideas to use in their own gardens. We can no longer afford to design purely decorative landscapes; all of our gardens need to participate in the true greening of our country. Grasses and constructed-meadows play a huge role in this new direction of American horticulture. Some are calling it the meadow revolution. Come find out what it's all about. Copies of Greenlee's books will be available for sale, and the presentation will be followed by an opportunity drawing featuring very special plants.

Known as the “Grassman,” Greenlee is an internationally known horticulturist and landscape designer specializing in the cultivation and study of grasses and grass-like plants. He founded Greenlee Nursery in Pomona, California in 1985; it is the oldest and largest specialty ornamental grass nursery on the West Coast. His bestselling book, *The Encyclopedia of Ornamental Grasses* (Rodale, 1992), is considered by many to be an indispensable reference. An expert in grass ecology and champion of sustainable design, Greenlee has made meadows throughout the U.S. and worldwide, from the Getty Museum and the Norton Simon Museum in Los Angeles, the San Diego Zoo and Wild Animal Park, and the savannas at Walt Disney's Animal Kingdom in Florida, to private residences in Morocco and Saudi Arabia. He lectures throughout the US and Canada on the use of natural lawns, native grasses and meadow restoration. A passionate advocate of ecologically sound gardens and lawns, Greenlee has appeared on HGTV's “Way to Grow,” PBS' “The New Garden,” and been featured in the *New Yorker* magazine. His movement to reinvent America's turf-lawn culture has grabbed headlines in major media sources such as *The New York Times*, *Martha Stewart Living*, *Architectural Digest*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *Garden Design*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and *Sunset*. Greenlee received his BS in Ornamental Horticulture from Cal-Poly Pomona.

To learn more, visit www.greenleenuresery.com and see page 5. ☘



The Mission of the San Diego Horticultural Society

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

ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER 1994

SDHS BOARD MEMBERS

- Jim Bishop** – Member at Large
- Judy Bradley** – First Vice President, Co-Chair-Program Committee
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- Julian Duval** – San Diego Botanic Garden representative
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- Paula Verstraete** – Volunteer Coordinator
- Don Walker** – Past President
- 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; (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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

1: Spring Home/Garden Show

An article about the Spring Home/Garden Show, being held on March 5-7 at the Del Mar Fairgrounds, appears on page 5. You can be part of this exciting event by volunteering – all volunteers will get their parking fees reimbursed and get FREE entry into the show! We're planning some exciting new things at our booth; there will be a number of different ways you can help. If you can volunteer for a few hours please contact Volunteer Coordinator Paula Verstraete at volunteer@sdhortsoc.org.

2. SDHS Garden Tour

Our Spring Garden Tour of North County gardens will be on Saturday, March 13. We'll need volunteers in each exceptional garden to take tickets, show people where to park, etc. To volunteer please contact Volunteer Coordinator Paula Verstraete at volunteer@sdhortsoc.org.

3: Membership Committee

Express your outgoing nature, or overcome your shyness by meeting new people in a very friendly setting! The membership committee welcomes more members to increase our hospitality toward new members and in attracting new members. Be a greeter at meetings, visit nurseries and provide membership brochures for their customers, or help with community outreach programs. Contact Susan Morse, (760) 599-0550.



Saturday, March 27

The Master Gardener Seminar is a highlight of the gardening year in San Diego, an outstanding opportunity to gain in-depth garden knowledge from local experts, buy great plants and gardening books, and to meet hundreds of dedicated gardeners. Select from 27 classes, including

- Backyard Orchard Culture
- Best Bulbs for Southern California
- Water-Wise Herbs
- Captivating Foliage Plants for Low-Water Gardens
- How to Improve Soil Health
- Landscaping with Native Plants and lots more!

Visit the Master Gardener website to learn more: www.MasterGardenersSanDiego.org

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Fall/Winter HOURS
Monday-Saturday...7:30am-4:30pm
Sunday.....9:00am-4:30pm

To Learn More...

MEADOWS ARE IN - LAWNS ARE OUT!

By Ava Torre-Bueno

You may have noticed a theme of late about how we garden here in Southern California. We can't ignore anymore that we live in the desert. We get half the annual rainfall of Tucson, Arizona!

So as you plan to pull out that water-hogging lawn, go to an article about this month's speaker, John Greenlee: <http://www.gardendesign.com/article/Magazine/Greenlee-Nurseries---Master-of-Ornamental-Grasses>

Then there's an article from the California Native Plant Society about a lovely natural meadow near Big Bear Lake:

<http://www.cnps.org/cnps/nativeplants/gallery/dittmer/index.php>

As you think about the meadow you want to create, check out your local native plant society at: <http://www.cnpssd.org/>

Go no further than our Horticultural Society's web site for ideas about making your former lawn a more drought tolerant place:

<http://www.sdhortsoc.org/water.htm>

Here's an article I may have run previously about turning lawn into meadow: <http://bammorgan.blogspot.com/2007/09/my-california-meadow-almost-like-turf.html>

Lawns belong in England - we get native meadows and succulent gardens – embrace the inevitable!

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>. ☞

Gardens, Plants, Fun! Spring Home/Garden Show

By Lucy Warren

If you love plants, great garden design, and a chance to learn more about gardening, don't miss the Spring Home/Garden Show on Friday, March 5 to Sunday, March 7 at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. As an SDHS member, you get the best discount for admission – see ad in the March newsletter for details.

San Diego Horticultural Society members have a vested interest in the Spring Home/Garden Show because we've made it ours. It is one of our biggest shows for public outreach to share our love of plants. Those who help at the show get free admission and SDHS will reimburse your parking – see page 4.

Twenty dramatically-lit display gardens will be designed and created specifically for this show in the Bing Crosby Building. With an emphasis on water-smart gardens, Garden Masters put their best efforts into creative new ideas for wonderful gardens for the San Diego climate. See the creativity and style of top designers and horticulturists, all in one place. We have expanded our judging panel this year and the competition is sure to be stiff.

Our seminar series is always informative and packed full of ideas. This year there will be two 2-hour intensive seminars each day focusing on How To Save Water and Still Have A Beautiful Landscape, and they are free for the price of admission. (Now, let's see, if you are a volunteer, that means completely free!) Come by our SDHS booth for quick tips and demonstrations throughout each day.

You'll see interesting and unusual plants that will tempt your wallet. Top growers and specialty nurseries are all located together, so you can find just the right plants without all the driving. Talk to these people; they have the expertise to share with you about how to make their plants thrive in your garden.

Many of our members especially love to help out at the Spring Home/Garden Show because they get to meet and interact with other society members. What could be more fun than sharing good times with people with similar interests? Come. Enjoy. The 2009 Spring Home/Garden Show. ☞

From The Board

By Susi Torre-Bueno

GARDEN VOYEURS

Let's be honest – we all crave a peek over fences to see what *other* people are growing, and we long to gaze at strangers' gardens... and why not? Seeing how others garden is a great source of inspiration, insight, and renewed enthusiasm; that's why garden tours are enormously popular.

This year SDHS is thrilled to be offering two very different garden tours, so you can look to your hearts content with the amiable permission of some very generous fellow plant lovers. Bring your cameras and notebooks, plus your quest for motivation and revelation. And don't forget your sun block!

First up is a North County tour; our last local tour like this was in 2004, and it is wonderful to offer one again. We've set the date for Saturday, March 13; details are on page 8. The plants in these gardens will grow great in most of San Diego County, and you'll explore inspiring gardens bursting with exciting ideas you can implement in *your* garden.

In July we're exploring deliciously exuberant gardens in and near Portland, Oregon (see page 6). We can't promise you that all the plants you'll see on this tour will grow here – many won't – but we can confidently assure you that you'll have a fabulous time visiting awesome gardens. These Northwestern gardeners are an inspirational lot – creating memorable gardens in an area with a climate far less benign than we enjoy in San Diego.

YOU KNOW YOU WANT TO

Did you ever wonder about people who seem to get a little more out of life? Who make a difference and whom others admire and respect? Wouldn't you like more of those warm, fuzzy feelings in your life? We all would.

Here's an easy way to get there – volunteer more! Volunteering brings tremendous satisfaction, and allows you to make a difference in the world by supporting what is valuable to you. Plus, being a volunteer allows you to spend more time with like-minded individuals doing something you enjoy for a group you feel is valuable.

We have short-term needs (sign up for one 4-hour shift at the Spring Home/Garden Show) as well as longer-term tasks (join the Membership Committee for a variety of on-going activities), so you can pick the perfect opportunity for your schedule.

Our most pressing volunteer requests are listed on page 4. To find out about other needs contact Volunteer Coordinator Paula Verstraete at volunteer@sdhortsoc.org, or any of the board members on page 4. Or call me at (760) 295-7089 and let's talk! ☞

SDHS & Sterling Tours Present

PORTLAND'S EXTRAORDINARY GARDENS, JULY 6 - 11



San Diego Horticultural Society members and friends are invited to join us on a fabulous garden tour to Portland, Oregon, July 6 – 11, 2010. We'll visit 11 private gardens featuring the creative use of plant materials and garden art. Public gardens include the Classical Chinese Garden and the Japanese Garden. We will also visit two specialty nurseries. Mike Darcy, Portland garden radio show host, will escort the tour.

Tuesday, July 6

Travel independently to Portland; check into the Inn at Northrup Station for five nights. The all-suite hotel, located on the streetcar stop, is surrounded by restaurants & boutiques. 6:00 PM wine and cheese reception at the hotel.

Wednesday, July 7

We will be greeted by the curator of the Portland Japanese Garden, Sadafumi Uchiyama, and enjoy entrance to the gardens before they open to the public. This is considered the finest Japanese garden in the U.S., and we'll have a private, guided tour with the curator and head gardener. • Next we visit Lucy Hardiman, one of Portland's best-known designers. • After this we tour Nancy Goldman's Nancyland, where plants and art mingle. The front garden includes two unique pebble mosaics by Jeffrey Bale. The garden has been seen in numerous publications and on Canadian TV's *Weird Homes*. • Our day ends with the fabulous garden of Jeffrey Bale, featured in many books and magazines. Jeff was originally trained as a landscape architect, and his fabulous pebble and stone mosaics grace some of the most fascinating gardens you are likely to see.

Thursday, July 8

We start at garden designer Susan La Tourette's garden, featured in *Sunset* magazine in June 2009. • Next, our escort, Mike Darcy, will give us a personal tour of his garden, where he tries out new plants and pushes the zone. • After lunch we will enjoy a visit to Bob and Mignon Ervin's urban farm on a hillside overlooking Lake Oswego and Mount Hood. Their sustainable garden is dedicated to organic food production, with ducks, chickens, honeybees, and a family vineyard. • Next we will tour Susan Bates' garden, formerly belonging to Lord and Lady McDonald. • Later we visit the English-style Elk Rock Garden of the Bishop's Close, designed by Olmstead and Son (who also designed Central Park in New York City).

Friday, July 9

We first visit Tom Vetter, known as "Portland's Picasso of Plant Combinations," whose garden is beautifully planted to shine in every season. • We continue to designer Bee Smith's very large and personal garden. Bee has wonderful stories to share about all of the great aspects of her garden that shows her love of rust and the color blue. • Next we visit Luscher Farm, which houses a Clematis display garden surrounding a century-old farmhouse. • Our day concludes at Terra Nova Nursery, owned by cutting edge plant genius Dan Heims, who is responsible for the huge popularity of the many new *Heuchera* varieties. The nursery is where they do their breeding and tissue culture. There are no plants for sale here.

Saturday, July 10

We start with visits to two small private gardens. One, belonging to Fe Neely, will amuse us with a "blast of color" from brilliant annuals, perennials and roses. • Our next visit is to Carolyn Gunther's woodland garden with log gazebo, perennials, rock garden, evergreens, waterfall and pond, all conceived as a natural coast range landscape by a gardener who does all her own work. • Our last stop is to the beautiful display gardens Jat oy Creek Nursery. Plant collections include clematis, hydrangeas, penstemon, and hosta, with many choice plants for sale. • Tonight we will enjoy a very special farewell dinner in the garden at Meriwether's Restaurant, which was featured on a television show directed by Mike Snyder, one of our hosts.

Sunday, July 11

Today features a private docent-led tour of Lan Su Chinese Garden, an authentically built cultural heritage garden and living museum of Chinese trees and flora. Within this scholar's garden serpentine mosaic pathways lead to harmonious landscapes of plants, water, stones, pavilions, and poetry. The collection includes hundreds of native Chinese plant species and forms.

After our visit we will proceed to the airport.

Tour Land Cost per guest:
Based on 35-42 guests: \$918;
Single supplement: \$398

Costs Include:

- 5 nights accommodations, all suite rooms with kitchen or wet bar
- All hotel taxes and service charges
- 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 1 special dinner
- Deluxe private coaches
- Escorted by radio garden guru Mike Darcy, and Cheryl Hedgpeth
- All sightseeing and entrances as per the itinerary
- Gifts to the private garden owners
- Portfolio of documents
- Donation of \$100 to San Diego Horticultural Society

Costs do not include:

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Prices quoted are based on a minimum number of guests. In the event of lower numbers, Sterling Tours reserves the right to adjust rates accordingly.

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Plants That Produce

GOPHER MADNESS

By Richard Frost

While some of us are free to laugh at Bill Murray's antics in the movie *Caddy Shack*, there are gardeners for whom gophers and related species are a living nightmare. There are three time-tested approaches to these critters that work: (1) destroy all of these critters on your property in a manner that does not harm people and other living things, (2) give your plants in the ground robust protection, or (3) put everything in 3-foot high pots, sealing the drainage holes with hardware cloth. Anything else (e.g., vibrators) will only work in very limited situations and are sold to people who want to put out little or no effort towards the problem.

Method #1 involves the least labor and is the most effective. For this you will need: (a) long-handled pointed shovel – maybe two or three for you and your neighbors; (b) a package of small landscape flags sold with irrigation supplies; (c) some 3" to 4" diameter rocks; (d) a long-handled teaspoon which some of us call an "iced tea spoon;" and (e) gopher bait, such as the strychnine-laced Milo grain manufactured by Wilco. Don't worry about the bait: if the gopher eats it they will die underground within inches of it, and if applied responsibly whether they eat it or not the strychnine will breakdown in a period of months and pose no risk to anyone after a year's time.

Here is the procedure for #1: Find fresh mounds (or holes, in the case of voles). Push the shovel down into the mound or next to the hole all the way. Pull the shovel to the side so that at least one tunnel is exposed. Do not touch the bait with your hands or anything you have been handling – gophers do not like your scent. Use a clean long-handled teaspoon to insert a small amount (e.g.,

¼ teaspoon) far into the open tunnel without disturbing the tunnel. Place a rock over the exposed hole so that no dirt will fall into the tunnel and cover the bait. Now bury the rock and place a landscape flag into the ground above the rock. Repeat this procedure each time a new mound (or vole hole) appears on the property. There will be a dramatic drop off in the number of new holes and after a several months few or none will appear. Remove the landscape flags after a long lapse in activity.

For Method #2 let's use the example of a fruit tree in the ground, but you can easily adapt to other situations. Basically, you are going to create a continuous web of fencing both above and below ground that the gophers will not pass over or through. Dig a planting hole for the tree the size of a tree planter: 3' x 3' x 3' or larger, with a flat bottom. For a 3-foot cubed hole, take two 12-foot long strips of 48-inch high chicken wire (½ inch mesh) and lay them down cross-ways one at a time over the hole. When placing a strip, press it down into the hole so that it overlaps the sides by about 6 inches and extends out either end about 1-1/2 feet. When both strips are in place, fill the hole with planting mix and then straighten the 1-1/2-foot "tabs" vertically with metal fence posts or rebar so that there is a 1-1/2 high fence around the planter. If you also have squirrels, then I recommend additional chicken wire extending from the perimeter fence over to the tree trunk.

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

Brugmansia Poisoning, Beware!

By Walt Meier

While I was cutting back my *Brugmansia* (Angel's Trumpet) I found a seed pod that was ripe. It fell into my hand and some of the juice spilled on my hand. I showed the pod to Jasanna (my wife) and wiped the juice off after taking the pod apart to look at the seeds.

About 10 minutes later while I was working in the garden, a strange feeling came over me and the daylight became so bright I squinted. When I looked at my hand, it was focused but all subjects in a distance were blurred. For about ten minutes I continued to work and my malady didn't go away. I went into the house and told Jasanna of my problem.

She looked at my eyes and said, "Your eyes are totally dilated." When I looked into the mirror, I was scared. I thought it could have been something I ingested, but I had not eaten anything out of the ordinary. I said, "Let's go to the internet and see what I have."

We discovered that I was on a drug. We continued and found out that it was the *Brugmansia* seed pod juice that passed through my skin. I said, "Thank God we have the internet." We found someone else who was near my age with thin skin that had the same reaction. He went to the emergency room. The effects wore off after about 6 hours.

From now on, I will use gloves when cutting that bush. 🌿



THE SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

An Encinitas Garden Tour

Saturday, March 13, 9:00AM to 4:00PM



Join us for a tour of four very special and diverse gardens in

the Encinitas neighborhoods of Olivenhain and Leucadia. Visit some of the most original gardens around! The tour will be held rain or shine. Local nurseries and businesses will be offering special discounts to attendees – details will be on your tour map.

One gardening couple describes their garden designed by Scott Spencer as one that, “brings privacy and enjoyment to its owners and many visitors. The plant-filled beds repeat a circular theme and are lushly planted with a wide variety of shrubs, trees, perennials, and bulbs from all over the world. There is always something flowering, and the huge variety of foliage, with its many textures and seasonal colors, are a wonderful feature.”

Another gardener describes her 2-acre project as a 10-year odyssey, beginning with planting the traditional family apricot tree, fruit orchard, vegetable and rose gardens. The front yard xeriscape features succulents, palo verde trees, and Mexican blue palms. Around and behind the home the landscape turns tropical with water fountains, bamboo, and ferns. Garden art (by the

homeowner) is everywhere, and there is a flower-covered lath house, fish pond, and aviary amid the many pathways to explore.

From the simplistic beauty of the rugged Mediterranean streetscape to the sizzle of the tropical copper leaf, *Acalypha* ‘Inferno’, the third garden offers something for everyone’s plant palette and collection of garden ideas. Beyond the pergola, outside fireplace, fountains, waterfall, and well-sculpted garden room areas, the garden has an array of unusual plant material and a collection of beautifully laced out mature tree and shrub specimens. Since June 2003 garden designer Ruth E. Wolfe has worked to edit and refurbish the garden with “off the beaten track” specimens that are well-suited to a water wise garden.

The fourth garden features a stunning streetside planting of mixed Mediterranean-climate specimens providing a riot of texture and color from foliage and flowers. The half-acre garden is low impact in terms of resource use and incorporates recycled materials, low water plants, compost, vermicompost, and more. This eclectic paradise includes different planting zones: Mediterranean, subtropical, vegetable garden, etc.

Reserve your space now – space is limited!
Deadline for mailing reservations is March 1

Reserve online at www.sdhortsoc.org/orders or mail your check ASAP
Tickets: \$15/members, \$20/non-members

~~~~~  
Day of tour tickets may be purchased for \$23 at  
Grangetto’s, 189 S. Rancho Santa Fe Road, Encinitas, CA 92024, (760) 944-5777  
Thanks to Grangetto’s for giving “preferred card” privileges and a discount card to all participants!

QUESTIONS? Contact Ida Rigby at [califsage@gmail.com](mailto:califsage@gmail.com) or (858) 748-9189



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please reserve the following** (Your cancelled check is your receipt.)

**Member Tickets @ \$15 \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Member Tickets @ \$20 \_\_\_\_\_**

**TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Payment by check payable to SDHS**

**To receive a map and driving directions mail a stamped, self-addressed envelope with this form and your check.**

PLEASE PRINT MEMBER NAMES:

PLEASE PRINT NON-MEMBER NAMES:

Or, register on-line at [www.sdhortsoc.org/orders](http://www.sdhortsoc.org/orders)

➔➔ No tickets will be mailed - your name(s) will be on a list at each garden.

**Mail by March 1 to: Ida Rigby, 14031 Saddlewood Drive, Poway, CA 92064**



## 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:

|                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Victoria Austin-Smith | Valerie Grimm        |
| Patricia Berg         | Keith & Laurie Huber |
| Bonnie Bruce          | David MacMartin      |
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## What's Up at San Diego Botanic Garden?

By Diana Goforth

In November 2009, I was fortunate to attend a meeting in South Africa organized by the Botanical Gardens Conservation International. It was their 7th International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens, and as the Education and Events Coordinator for San Diego Botanic Garden I was sent to represent the Garden.

Much emphasis was made on the need to use our resources wisely so they can be available to future generations. One of the best examples on how to do this was a workshop on "Permaculture, Biodiversity, and Human Wellbeing," given by folks from the Durban Botanic Garden and Cornell University. I saw a permaculture garden in action, and participated in creating a "lasagna bed."

Upon my return to San Diego I discovered that we have a permaculture expert in the area and I am delighted to report that she is going to be teaching a class at the San Diego Botanic Garden in February.

Julia Dashe is the Farm Manager and Educator at San Diego City College's Seeds at City Urban Farm. She has a Certificate in Ecological Horticulture from The Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems at UC Santa Cruz and a Certificate in Permaculture Design from Occidental Arts and Ecology Center. In her words, "permaculture is a sustainable design system based on ecological principles and promotes mutually beneficial relationships. Rooted in ethics, the concepts and themes in permaculture help us rediscover how to be a positive contribution to the earth, ourselves and humanity."

In her four-day-course you will learn the basic principles and applications of permaculture through lectures, discussions and hands-on activities in the garden. You will learn about home-scale permaculture gardening, attracting beneficial insects, water catchment systems, polycultures, planting guilds, food forests, and more.

I hope you will join us for this upcoming class. Here are the details:

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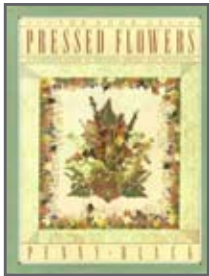
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## Book Review

### **THE BOOK OF PRESSED FLOWERS: A COMPLETE GUIDE TO PRESSING, DRYING AND ARRANGING**

By Penny Black

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh



For some reason, although I've never been interested in any other crafts, I've always wanted to quilt. Several years ago I took a class, and it turned out to be as much fun as I thought it would be. Since that time, I've become aware of other crafts. I've written five previous reviews on books about garden crafts: drawing and painting, making leaf prints, and making stacked stone

statues. Pressing flowers looks like another endeavor that would be a whole lot of fun.

If you want to try it, I don't think you could find a better book to guide you than *The Book of Ppressed Flowers* by Penny Black. It's out of print, but available at reasonable prices on the Internet. (It was originally published at \$19.95. For some reason, it's now sold on the Internet anywhere from one cent to twenty-five dollars. No, I don't understand the system either.)

I think the reason I find this book so appealing is that many of the collages Black has made with her pressed flowers look much like quilts to me, both traditional quilts and art quilts.

Black lives or lived in England where she learned to garden at an early age. She started making and selling flower sachets and then widened her ambitions. She ultimately published a series of five books: this one in 1988, *The Book of Potpourri* in 1989, *The Scented House* in 1991, *Passion for Flowers* in 1992, and *The Book of Cards and Collages* in 1993. After that she evidently moved on to other projects.

I pressed flowers when I was a child. We used to flatten them between sections of newspaper and weigh them down with the dictionary, the biggest, heaviest book we had. But that was only one flower at a time, and I don't remember that we ever did anything with them. Black takes us the next step and shows us some of the possibilities. She doesn't limit us to flowers. We can also use leaves, ferns, seaweed, mosses, lichens, fungi, seed heads, bark, and even fruits and vegetables. The possibilities are limited only by our imaginations.

She leads us through the techniques, gives us a quick sketch of the artistic decisions we will have to make regarding color, texture, and composition, and provides us with examples of what we can create. As a bonus she gives us short paragraphs on making potpourri, dying fabric with plant dyes, and renovating picture frames for all those collages you're going to make.

The book has one or more photographs, by Geoff Dann, on almost every page. They're so colorful and interesting, I'd recommend this book to you on that basis alone. *The Book of Ppressed Flowers* is hardbound, 120 pages long, and includes a useful index. 🌿

## Community Outreach

By Linda Johnson

### **BIRDS AND THE BEES.... AND OTHER IMPORTANT GARDEN VISITORS**

#### **Attracting Wildlife to the Garden**

Songbirds, hummingbirds, butterflies, bees, toads, lizards, and other creatures will seek your garden if you provide shelter, water, food and avoid using pesticides. Native plants are best, since they're familiar to local wildlife and are adapted to our climate. By providing a safe haven for all sorts of creatures, a more natural garden will result, vs. an overly tidy garden. Also, the National Wildlife Federation will certify your garden as a Backyard Wildlife Habitat if criteria are met in these key areas: food, water, shelter, sustainable gardening practices/organic methods. For more information and instructions on how to obtain backyard certification, visit [www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org).

#### **Enjoying Birds in the Garden**

The Audubon Society, committed to fostering the protection of birds and other wildlife through education and study, also advocates for a cleaner, healthier environment. Resources include:

- How to Create a Wildlife Friendly Garden: a workshop that shows how to use native plants, save water and provide a natural habitat for wildlife.

- Bird Festival: The San Diego Bird Festival will be held on March 4 – 7, 2010. The keynote speaker will be Bill Thompson, editor of Bird Watcher's Digest.

For schedules and information about resources, visit [www.sandiegoaudubon.org](http://www.sandiegoaudubon.org).

#### **Bees are Beautiful**

But honeybees are in danger, as their numbers have declined by nearly 50% in the last 50 years. While bee mites and diseases are partly to blame, the full reasons for the decline are still largely a mystery. However, home gardeners can do plenty by planting gardens to support honeybees, and to attract native bees, which fruit farmers are coming to rely on as honeybees continue to decline, and by using organic gardening techniques, vs. pesticides (which also kill beneficial insects). Bee-friendly gardens include a wide variety of flowers, with wide borders and beds that bloom during the spring, summer, and early autumn. For a list of bee-friendly plants visit <http://nature.berkeley.edu/urbanbeegardens/index.html>.

#### **The Importance of Butterfly Gardens**

Butterflies are not only beautiful, but are also very beneficial in the pollination of flowers. The seeds and fruits from their pollinations will create food for other wildlife as well. By creating a butterfly garden, we can give back to nature by providing a place where butterflies can live, reproduce, pollinate and bring more beauty to the garden. Learn about plants that attract butterflies at: [http://www.chirp.org/educational\\_programs.html#botanical\\_magnet\\_plant\\_list](http://www.chirp.org/educational_programs.html#botanical_magnet_plant_list).

#### **CHIRP (Center to Help Instill Respect & Preservation for Garden Wildlife)**

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Continued on page 13

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## The Real Dirt On...

### CHRISTOPHER LLOYD

By Joan Herskowitz



Christopher Hamilton Lloyd (1921-2006) was a British garden writer and passionate gardener whose influential books on gardening, in addition to regular newspaper and magazine columns, inspired generations of gardeners. His writings included a string of best selling garden classics noted for their innovative gardening ideas, love of color, his witty and entertaining writing style, and his strong opinions. He inherited a classic English garden at the Great Dixter estate to which he devoted his entire life, and he was able through his writings to transmit

to gardeners his passion and unorthodox design ideas.

Christopher Lloyd was the son of the architect Nathaniel Lloyd, who in 1910 bought the 15<sup>th</sup> century house at Great Dixter, near Northiam in East Sussex. His father collaborated with the architect Edwin Lutyens to adapt the manor house for his family and to design Dixter's five-acre traditional English garden.

After discharge from the army in WWII, Christopher Lloyd was drawn to gardening and studied horticulture at Wye College in Kent. After graduation, he stayed on as an assistant lecturer, until in 1954 he returned to Great Dixter full-time. He made major changes to the gardens and established a plant nursery that still thrives. He began contributing to gardening journals in 1952 and in 1957 produced his first book, *The Mixed Border*, which advocated placing shrubs, perennials, biennials, annuals and bulbs in the same border rather than segregating them as was the practice at the time. That book was followed in 1970 by the best known of his books, *The Well-Tempered Garden*.

When his mother died in 1972, being unmarried, Lloyd had sole occupation of the house. However, he cultivated a large circle of friends and he opened the house and garden to visitors. Although he inherited a traditional garden, he never felt bound by it, and was always coming up with ideas that startled the horticultural establishment. He reacted against the fashion of flowers in pastel shades interspersed with patches of white flowers, and was in favor of using bright, bold colors, sometimes described as firework displays. He didn't like garden sculpture because he felt it detracted attention from the plantings. In 1993, he announced to his readers that he was digging up the Lutyens-designed rose garden and would replace it with lush subtropical exotics. He was assisted in this project and others by a partnership with Fergus Garrett, a former student at Wye, whom he appointed as head gardener.

Lloyd described this new garden in the 2007 book, *Exotic Planting for Adventurous Gardeners*, his last and most adventurous work, which was almost complete before his death in 2006, and was ultimately completed by his gardening friends. The garden contains bold foliage of palms combined with cut-leaved sumac, New Zealand flax, cannas, dahlias, verbena, and climbers that provide a dazzling array of colors and forms. Also described in the book is the succulent garden Lloyd planted on the Lutyens-designed circular grass steps leading up to the house. As most of these plants can't withstand the cold English winter, many were grown in greenhouses and planted out each year only after the last frost, quite a labor intensive task. I hardly recommend this book, and another, *The Cottage Garden*, by Lloyd and Richard Bird, as they are full

Continued on page 13

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## Good Trees to Plant Near Water Features

By Pat Welsh

Trees close to water features, such as swimming pools, need to be clean, non-drippy plants with leaves that hang on for a long time. Often such trees have large leaves, but not always. For example, a row of Italian cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens* 'Stricta') can provide a handsome privacy screen for a swimming pool if they're planted on the north side of the pool so they don't shade it. I've also seen a double row of Italian cypress flanking a small flagstone patio to the north of a formal oblong swimming pool. The result was an elegant atmosphere, reminiscent of Italy.

Trees near swimming pools also need to be capable of withstanding reflected heat and if near paths they should not bear spines. Among top choices are Queensland umbrella tree (*Shefflera actinophylla*), valuable for its large tropical-looking foliage atop leaning trunks and strikingly attractive and long-lasting flower stalks. When a leaf from this tree falls into a swimming pool it's easy to fish it out. (Some scheffleras growing in protected spots will eventually sprout a few thin spines from their bark, but these spines are usually sparse and fairly high up on the trunk, thus pose no particular danger to people. Hummingbirds like to make their nests in these trees and will sit on the spines.)

India hawthorne tree (*Raphiolepis indica* 'Majestic Beauty'), which is one of our best and cleanest small patio trees, should be pruned once a year after bloom into an umbrella shape. (All

Continued on page 14

**Community Outreach** Continued from page 10

programs and gardens. Educating and assisting residents in how to make their gardens more winged-wildlife friendly are primary goals of CHIRP, based in Alpine. Grants, donations, programs and fundraisers provide proceeds benefiting habitat education programs. Projects include the Annual Sage & Songbirds Festival and Garden Tour; CHIRP Garden Club, and educational programs. Visit: [www.chirp.org](http://www.chirp.org).

### Become a San Diego Habitat Steward

Habitat Stewards are a community-based volunteer program that helps with the creation and restoration of wildlife habitat. Stewards work with community members to create Backyard/Schoolyard Wildlife Habitats; speak with clubs/groups about the importance of wildlife habitat; write articles; and promote the program at special events. Visit: [www.sandiegohabitatstewards.org](http://www.sandiegohabitatstewards.org) or email [SDStewards@yahoo.com](mailto:SDStewards@yahoo.com) to learn more. ☘

**Real Dirt** Continued from page 12

of design ideas and are enjoyable reading. Lloyd wrote a total of 20 books during his career. [In May, 1998, Lloyd was the speaker at the SDHS first annual Special Evening; his topic was Bold and Brilliant Gardening.]

Great Dexter house and garden is owned and operated by a charitable trust and is open to the public. The photo of Christopher Lloyd is printed here by permission of the Great Dexter Charitable Trust ([www.greatdexter.co.uk](http://www.greatdexter.co.uk)).

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. ☘

## Visit Fabulous Gardens in Portland with SDHS - see page 6.



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## Good Trees Continued from page 13

too many of our lovely pink raphiolepis are incorrectly pruned in fall and winter, so we are then deprived of the glorious bloom that we should be enjoying in spring. If you want to see some mature, properly maintained India hawthorne trees, go to the Lumber Yard shopping mall on the Coast Highway, Old 101 in Encinitas in spring. These trees bloom beautifully every spring because whoever cares for them is educated in their proper care and prunes after bloom, never before.)

Several palm trees are good near swimming pools, but many are armed and need to be set back where folks won't accidentally encounter their savage spines. Probably best among these choices is the Mediterranean fan palm (*Chamaerops humilis*), an elegant clumping palm, prized for its clean, compact, and handsome structure. Slow growth is another plus. Unless getting a lot of water and fertilizer it may take 40 years for this tree to reach 20 feet in height. Fronds hang on indefinitely and must be cut off eventually to expose the multiple trunks.

Other good choices include New Zealand cabbage tree (*Cordyline australis*), a clean, handsome, and tough plant that's a staple of old patios in southern Spain. But for a really exciting shape combined with a clean plant, nothing can beat a full-grown dragon tree (*Dracaena draco*). It looks stunning near a swimming pool, especially if seen against a white wall and tile roof, or nestled among boulders with a foil of softer-foliaged succulents such as *Agave attenuata* along with various aloes, echeverias, and crassulas.

A Life Member of the SDHS and our 2003 Horticulturist of the Year, garden author and lecturer Pat Welsh will be our March speaker. Her newest book is *Pat Welsh's Southern California Organic Gardening: Month-By-Month*. Find out more about Pat at [www.PatWelsh.com](http://www.PatWelsh.com).



## You Want Good Pool Trees?

By Robin Rivet

As an arborist, I am always getting asked for a tree that isn't "messy," doesn't have "bad" roots, and definitely no pollen for allergies. People want fragrance and pretty flowers, but no dropping fruit; and certainly no fallen leaves all over the place. Eventually, after hearing all the conditions, I usually respond that I have just the tree, although they'll have to go to Michael's craft store to get it: it is made of silk.

Indeed, all trees have some debris, although ironically much of it is beneficial. Leaves nourish and feed the soil, flowers attract needed pollinators, and the resulting fruit is food for a myriad of insects, birds, rodents and, hopefully, humans. More habitat is always needed in our cities. All types of trees are good somewhere.

Around a pool in San Diego, I would probably plant a citrus. They have shiny evergreen leaves, bountiful and colorful fruit, and the flower fragrance is legendary. Their leaves don't drop much, and the fruit and leaves are attractive even in winter, when deciduous trees are usually barren. Additionally, with various rootstocks people can choose dwarf, semi-dwarf, or standard size trees, but they need to be aware of these differences. (Unfortunately, many nurseries don't inform of these distinctions properly.)

Another choice might be an Avocado, as they have very shallow roots and are highly unlikely to disturb pool plumbing. And what wonderful fruit! I'll bet most folks don't know avocados are actually considered berries? Plus, they are also broadleaf evergreens, and their leaves are large and easily picked up when periodically dropped through-out the year. I know I wouldn't care if an avocado fruit happened to drop into my pool. (What pool?)

Of course, the easily confused Southern Magnolia might be equally appreciated. Similar broad leaves, large fragrant flowers, but mine attracts Western Bluebirds...

Finally, I would consider a tropical nut tree. What about a hybrid Macadamia? This tree that has incomparable food value and the hybrids have leaves without the spines of the species. However, if you do get the spiny ones, they are more frost tolerant and resemble holly leaves. As a result, these can be used for Christmas decorations. In either case, they enjoy our Mediterranean climate and are fairly pest free. The nuts are delicious, and the water used to keep them happy will more than pay for itself with the harvested fruit.

Do you see a common thread here? I am an advocate for sustainable home agriculture, and what better use of our minimal water resources, than to plant broadleaf evergreen trees that give back healthy food for our tables.

Swim in your pool and eat from your trees; be healthy in two ways! Mangos anyone?

Member Robin Rivet is a UCCE Master Gardener and Certified Arborist with the International Society of Arboriculture. She was the past Program Manager for the Cool Communities Shade Tree Program and currently serves on the Environmental/Sustainability Commission for the City of La Mesa and the San Diego Regional Urban Forestry Council. As a landscape designer and horticultural consultant, Robin promotes lower water use strategies, creation of backyard wildlife habitat gardens and specializes in teaching residents how to properly nurture and prune their own fruit trees. With thoughtful tree selection, increased use of native species and integrated home based agriculture, she believes urban gardens can become more sustainable. ☺

## 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 February was:

Can you recommend some good trees to use around swimming pools and other water features and tell us why you like them? [Thanks to Christiane Holmquist for suggesting this question.]

**Walter Andersen** said, "For sure most palm trees that will grow in full sun. I would be careful in the selection, like something that will not get too large too fast. Do not use Mexican Fan Palm, probably not Queen Palms either. I think my choice would be Kentia Palms planted as a clump. *Chamerops humilis* is also very nice. To get the effect I think you would need to start with larger specimens. Giant Bird of Paradise is not usually considered a tree, but they are larger than most plants; also, they give a tropical setting, similar to palms. Trees with foliage are always more of a challenge. *Magnolia* 'Little Gem' or 'St. Mary's' are both dwarf types. Larger foliage and bloom petals makes clean up a little easier. *Schefflera*, more specifically *Tupidanthus pueckleri* (the name was changed recently) should also make a nice planting near a pool. This also has larger than average foliage and the blooms should not be much of a problem. For a less permanent planting maybe the Giant Banana 'Ensete', it comes in green or burgundy, fast growing for a quick effect. Keep in mind they will die in a few years when they bloom, but this could be very nice, especially planted with maybe the slower growing palms. By the time the 'Ensete' starts to fail (5 or 6 years) the other palms should be larger, and nicer for the area."

**Vivian Blackstone** had trees near her koi pond: "I'd recommend palm trees or low growing fir trees. You don't want a tree whose leaves will all drop at a certain time of year."

Continued on page 16

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Secrets Continued from page 15

**Linda Bresler** told us, "I would recommend the Yew Pine (*Afrocarpus gracilior* or *Podocarpus gracilior*). According to *Sunset Western Garden Book*, this tree is one of the cleanest, most pest-free trees for our region. Also, its leaves have a soft, graceful texture, and the tree has a lovely rounded shape and provides nice shade. I know that many people like palm trees, but I have seen how the roots of a Queen Palm (*Syagrus romanzoffianum*) can lift up the concrete around a pool area."

**Steve Brigham** wrote, "Well, conventional wisdom says to avoid trees that drop large quantities of small leaves and/or flowers, seeds, and seed pods, all of which can clog pool filters. So large-leaved evergreen trees would seem to be the choice - but these can be troublesome as well, since some drop leaves almost daily throughout the year. Palms, bananas, and tree ferns look good and work well around pools and ponds, as do scheffleras and many other big-leaved 'tropicals,' since any leaf drop is easily controlled. But lots of other trees are also fine, if you're willing to do just a little bit of occasional leaf clean-up. Talk to folks who live with pools and ponds and trees, and you'll often get an earful of useful information on the subject!"

**Heather Callaghan** replied, "I like using cordylines. They suggest palms without the maintenance. They have great structure and when well laced are very architectural. And, they come from New Zealand (like me)! Their flowers are a bonus."

**Jo Casterline** mentioned the wind: "Do not plant trees on the east side of the pool. The only time we get leaves in the pool is during a Santa Ana. We have several trees on the west side and they do not drop leaves in the pool. We did not consider this when we built the pool- just lucky I guess."

**Chris Drayer** had an especially interesting choice: "I have used various varieties of *Brugmansia*, especially 'Charles Grimaldi', near water features. While they do drop a lot of blossoms and leaves, this debris is large and heavy and tends to drop straight down. As long as the branches are not directly over the water there isn't much litter. The payoff is a plant with spectacular waves of fragrant flowers for much of the year, right in the focal point of the garden, which also benefits from the extra moisture around a pond. I also like the Pindo Palm (*Butia capitata*) for its blue green color, which looks very good next to swimming pools, and handsome arching leaves. Obviously, it is also completely litter free."

**Pamela Homfelt** wrote, "The solution is *not* to plant trees around a swimming pool. If shade is needed purchase one of the many large shade umbrellas or tents that add a resort like feeling to any pool. That being said, non-flowering trees with large leaves and deep root systems are best around a pool. *Ficus lyrata* (Fiddle leaf fig) is a good example, although it does have seeds that drop. *Schefflera pueckleri* (formerly *Tupidanthus*) is also another good choice for a large specimen around the pool. *Strelitzia nicolai*, Giant Bird of Paradise is an almost perfect choice as it drops no litter; unfortunately it does not provide shade if that is the requirement. For a more low water use garden, groupings of Mediterranean palms with large heads would be a good design choice, although the seed clusters will be a bother once a year. Consider *Butia capitata*, *Phoenix canariensis* and *P. dactylifera* or *P. reclinata*. Triangle Palms and *Brahea edulis* and *B. armata*, although slow growers, will eventually give height and some shade around without too much bother. Many species of yucca are also gorgeous and will add height around a swimming pool."



**Scott Jones** sent this list: "*Aloe barberae*, *Yucca elephantipes*, Giant Bird of Paradise, *Ficus lyrata*, Loquat, Palms (Kentia, King, Bismarckia, etc.), *Michelia*, *Schefflera*."

**Bill Knowles** replied, "I love the Tabebuia. It is a clean tree, though deciduous. It seems to drop its leaves and blossoms rapidly, allowing quick cleanup. Though if planted a bit away from the pool's edge, may need no cleanup. If you can find the dwarf variety it only gets 15 feet tall and never seems to shed leaves in a coastal garden. Graceful shape needs little pruning."

**Al Myrick** had these suggestions: "Some good ones (because they don't shed much more than shade and take almost no care and are beautiful) are 1. fish-tail palms, 2. Norfolk Island pines, 3. naked coral trees, and 4. *Ceanothus*. This last one is a native of course and can go up to 15 feet. As far as I know none have any major pests, yet. But they ALL shed something, sometimes."

**Frank & Susan Oddo** had some good ideas: "We landscaped around a pool (16' by 16') and also around our koi pond. In both cases we selected *Archontophoenix alexandrae* (king palms) to fit into our height and width limitations, plus a variety of readily-available smaller palms in the surround to provide lushness and privacy. The smaller varieties will take years to grow to any size, which is what we want. In both cases we chose not to use taller varieties such as *Syagrus romanzoffiana* (queen palm) because these water features are close to the house and we are in Elfin Forest, which has had its share of wildfires. Flying embers could be caught in the taller palm fronds more easily. Although all fronds are kept trimmed, if they were to burn they would drop live embers onto the surrounding area like little firebombs. There are so many beautiful palms to choose from, with so many heights, shapes and colors to complement your landscape, that each setting can have its own unique palm collection.

We also built a hundred-foot creek running through a succulent garden, all of which replaced a thirsty lawn two years ago. The 30-year-old fruitless mulberry trees at the back of the garden on the fence line provide a rich green backdrop to the colorful succulents, but are a nuisance in fall when they lose their leaves. Before we turn on the creek all leaves have to be fished out of the upper waterfalls. We have a good filtration system, but a sudden influx of large mulberry leaves would quickly overwhelm it. The two southern Magnolias that were centered in the former lawn were, at first left in place, but their constant drop of canoe-sized leaves and chunky seed pods soon necessitated relocation. In their places we planted two *Bracychiton rupestris* (Queensland bottle trees). These are already developing the enchanting characteristic bottle shape, but a word of caution is in order: their helicopter blade-like leaf clusters drop twice a year and, due to their aerodynamic properties, fly quite far; not acceptable if too close to a water feature. Happily, ours are far enough from the creek not to pose a problem and measuring the expanding trunk diameters has become a new favorite pastime."

**Una Marie Pierce** warned against these two: "Not, not, not *Melaleuca* or *Liquidamber!*"

**Jackie Seidman** said, "I can tell you what tree NOT to plant near a swimming pool: Carrotwood (*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*). They flower in winter, from January to March. Clusters of small, greenish-white flowers are very pretty and attract bees, but drop regularly and abundantly. The brightly colored fruit is a yellow, three-lobed capsule which, when ripe (swimming time) splits open to expose three shiny black seeds encased in red or orange fleshy tissue. This is when the real problems start. When they dry up and fall off the tree the capsule is very hard with almost a barb at the top. When you

Continued on page 18

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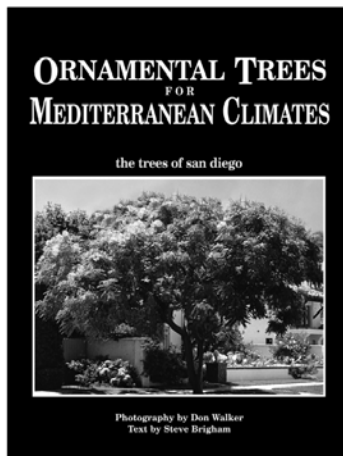
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## Secrets Continued from page 17

step on them, they can and will puncture your foot. Another issue is that the seeds are very viable and if they fall into another garden bed, they will most likely sprout and you have to continually pull little Carrotwood seedlings out of your beds. Nuff said!"

**Ron Stevens** related this advice: "I have never had a swimming pool, so I can't speak from any personal experience, but I have a friend in Mount Helix who just remodeled an old house and had a pool built. The professional landscaper he hired planted *Acacia stenophylla* around the pool. Its lacy, open habit and minimum amount of leaf litter make it a good candidate for that purpose. As I look around my own Escondido garden and ask myself the question, 'Would any of these trees work in a pool-side planting?,' the answer is 'very few.' There is one, however, that I think would work beautifully: the Giant Thevetia (*Thevetia thevetioides*). It has beautiful dark-green foliage, an open habit, creates very little mess, and will not outgrow an around-the-pool environment. On top of that, it produces large clusters of striking sulfur-yellow flowers that bloom throughout the year (mine are still blooming as I write this on January the 2nd)."

**Sharon Swidens** replied: "I like high plants around my pool as I have neighbors above me and want to screen my pool. Therefore, I use blue chip junipers in a curve around my pool - the first ones I planted said they would only grow 5-6 feet tall and the second batch said 5-8 feet tall but they are all over 8 feet tall and seem to be still growing. I like them because they do not shed leaves, seem to require little water and stay green all year long. They keep a pyramidal shape and generally I just let them grow. I have smaller plants in front of them - two rows of medium and then smaller plants - none that lose their leaves. The first row has yellow leaves, the second row is mini agapanthus. I do not get any leaves in my pool. If I want flowers during the summer I put them in pots around the pool; I usually use geraniums and sometimes roses. I'm also trying some variegated succulents."

**Cathy Tylka** mentioned both good and bad choices, "I have had several trees around a swimming pool and some to avoid are Mesquite and Palo Verde. These are messy and you have to skim the pool at least every other day to keep flowers, seeds, pods, and leaves out. I had good luck with orange trees and palms. Something else that works well is espaliers, and bougainvillea is one of the easiest to care for with once a year pruning and very little watering. These choices may be too plain for some, but worked well for me when I had a pool."

**Katrin Utt** replied, "If I had a pool I would create a Hawaiian feel by adding some beautiful palm trees."

**Liz Woodward** told us, "Plantings around pools should not create a lot of litter, especially during the summer months. One of my favorite pool side trees is the Michelia (either *M. champaca* or *M. doltsopa*). This tree is semi-deciduous in winter, but the leaves are large and easy to clean up and it redeems itself with lush new growth and the intoxicating scent of blooms in spring. The Scheffleras are well behaved around pools and give that tropical feel without a lot of water. For tall shrubs or screening, *Pittosporum tenuifolium* or *Pittosporum crassifolium* are great performers that require minimal water once established."

### The question for next month is:

What do you do when a plant that is thriving still isn't pleasing you for some reason, and why?

Send your e-mail reply by February 5 to [info@sdhortsoc.org](mailto:info@sdhortsoc.org). ☞

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# Would You Like Your Garden On A Tour?

By Ida Rigby

Would you like to share your garden on SDHS garden tours – or can you recommend gardens we'd all enjoy seeing? Whether your garden is a hidden gem, personal oasis or well known, let me hear from you. Our SDHS tour committee would love to preview your garden. Just send me an e-mail at [califsage@gmail.com](mailto:califsage@gmail.com) with a description of your garden, your vision for it, special features, your gardening philosophy, whatever makes your garden (or a garden you recommend) unique and interesting to you. Photos would be welcome. If you do not do e-mail, then give me a call at (858) 748-9189. ☺

## January 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. Any questions, call Susi at (760) 295-7089.

### **Salvia iodantha** MEXICAN FUCHSIA SAGE (Lamiaceae) Mexico

This shrubby salvia, which is native to mountains in central Mexico at altitudes up to 10,000 feet, can grow from 6 to 10 feet tall and up to 6 feet wide, with soft green leaves held close to the stems. The tubular flowers, which are attractive to hummingbirds, appear in clusters from fall through spring. It can get leggy, so cut back after blooming to keep it more compact. Betsy Clebsch, in her excellent reference book, *The New Book of Salvias*, notes that, "The cyclamen-purple flowers have a velvety appearance due to the man small hairs that closely cover them. As the flowers are less than 1 in[ch]... long, it is their quantity that makes the colorful, 6 in[ch]... long inflorescence so showy." Grows best in full sun with moderate to low water. (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 1/10) — S.T-B

Thanks to everyone who participated in last month's plant forum, especially to Michael Buckner, our excellent Plant Forum Host, and to orchid expert Charley Fouquette.

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

Can you spot the phony plant this month? The phony plant in the December newsletter was *Cantua* 'Short Shorts' SACRED-FLOWER-OF-THE-SKINNY.

3 *Aeonium arboreum* 'Zwartkop' (crest form)  
(Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 1/10)

*Aloinopsis rubralineata* (Peter Walkowiak, Poway, 1/10)

*Bulbophyllum* hybrid STINKY HYBRID  
(Charley & Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 1/10)

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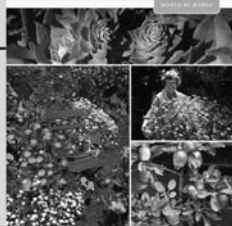
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*Bulbophyllum* species (Charley & Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 1/10)

*Cheiridopsis purpurea* (Linda Espino, San Diego, 1/10)

*Clerodendrum thomsoniae* BLEEDING HEARTVINE  
(Susan Morse, Vista, 1/10)

*Echium candicans* (dwarf form – possibly *E. handiense*)  
PRIDE OF MADIERA (Sheila Busch, Escondido, 1/10)

*Encyclia prismatocarpum* (Charley & Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 1/10)

3 *Euphorbia milii* (crest form)  
(Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 1/10)

*Euphorbia triucalli* 'Sticks on Fire' (?), 1/10)

*Hylocereus undatus* DRAGON FRUIT, NIGHT-BLOOMING CEREUS  
(Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 1/10)

*Ledebouria ovata* (western form)  
(Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 1/10)

3 *Ludisia discolor*, syn. *Haemaria discolor* var. *dawsoniana*  
JEWEL ORCHID (Cathy Tylka, Escondido, 1/10)

*Mammillaria ritteriana* (Peter Walkowiak, Poway, 1/10)

*Mammillaria spinosissima* (Peter Walkowiak, Poway, 1/10)

3 *Montanoa leucantha* DAISY TREE (Susan Morse, Vista, 1/10)

3 *Montanoa liftuppa* UPSYDAISY TREE  
(Great Gardener, Vista, 1/10)

*Paphiopedilum leeanum* SLIPPER ORCHID  
(Charley & Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 1/10)

*Stenocactus crispatus* (Peter Walkowiak, Poway, 1/10)

*Whiteheadia bifolia* (Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 1/10)

3 *Zamia furfuracea* CARDBOARD PALM  
(Michael & Joyce Buckner, National City, 1/10)

An assortment of Aloe blossoms (*A. arborescens*, *A. ciliaris*, etc.) was  
displayed by Michael & Joyce Buckner.

**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.]

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(see page 9).



# January Meeting Report

Let's face it – some dangerous things have a dark attraction, and Amy Stewart is plugged into the perverse allure of wicked plants, which is both the title of her newest best-selling book and was the topic of her outstanding talk. As she says, "There are some very diabolical plants right in our midst," and she regaled us with stories of some of the worst. [But don't take plant toxins lightly: see page 7 for an article about a case of *Brugmansia* poisoning which recently afflicted one of our members.] If you weren't able to attend her talk I hope you read her book, *Wicked Plants, The Weed That Killed Lincoln's Mother and Other Botanical Atrocities*; a book review is in the January newsletter.

Amy's first few photos were of castor bean, the source of ricin, one of the deadliest poisons known to man, seen growing in a lushly planted median strip in downtown Chicago. A nearby public library was attractively decorated with handsome outdoor window boxes filled with flowering daturas, another plant whose ingestion could have lethal consequence. As Amy noted, "People in general assume if it's a plant it's good, forgetting that plants produce cyanide and other poisons."

In England there are several public gardens where dangerous plants abound. One of the strangest is in Northumberland, where a very gothic-looking garden of poison plants includes some especially nasty species including hemlock (whose poison felled Socrates) and marijuana growing inside cages. In London, the 400 year old Chelsea Physic Garden includes many lethal plants.

We heard about some of the fascinating research going on in Utah at the USDA Poisonous Plant Research Center. For example, *Nicotiana glauca* (a common weed here) has been found to cause cleft palates in goats if this tobacco relative is eaten over a period of just a few hours during gestation. This has led to research into helping people with cleft palates, and new surgical techniques have been implemented with excellent results.

The "weed that killed Lincoln's mother," referred to in the title of Amy's book, is white snakeroot, and we learned that it wasn't until the early 1900s that this plant was finally widely recognized to be the cause of deadly "milk sickness." As Amy said, "A lot of these plants had a powerful role in history," and one can't help wondering what would have happened if Mrs. Lincoln hadn't died when her son Abe was only nine years old.

We heard stories about how lethal plants were used for "ordeal poisonings," a kind of trial in which the accused must ingest a known poison. If the person doesn't die they are presumed innocent. Some plant poisons afflict pets – sago palms are very toxic to dogs, for example, and lilies are very harmful to cats.

Not all plant tragedies result from eating plant parts. Sometimes the danger comes from handling a plant. Poison ivy is one of the best known examples of a plant with toxic sap, and many people have adverse reactions to euphorbia sap as well. Australia is home to a tree with stinging hairs that inflict extreme pain that can last for a year; some people have committed suicide or died from the intensity of the pain. Less deadly, but still problematic, are plant pollens – including olive tree pollen – which cause seasonal allergies. The widespread municipal practice of planting only male trees in cities (so as to avoid the messy fruit drop from female trees) has exacerbated this problem, as male trees produce the pollen.

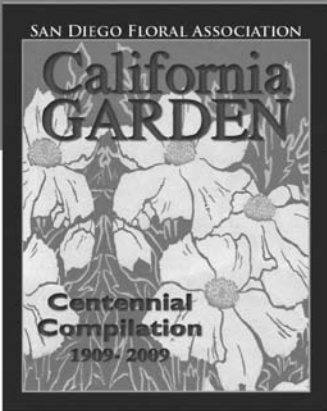
Are some experts correct when they propose that ergot, a fungus that afflicts rye, played a role in the Salem witch trials? Could it really be that the disease pellagra, a niacin deficiency caused by eating a diet of only corn, was the root of the vampire myth? We may never know for sure, but Amy's intriguing lecture, and her absorbing book, provide tantalizing glimpses into these tragedies.

Towards the end of the evening Amy shared some images of her own poison garden. Plants are labeled with tombstone-shaped signs noting the problems they create, such as kidney failure, lung cancer, or chemical warfare. A number of macabre touches, including faux skeletons, make hers a uniquely dark garden – be careful not to taste a single leaf!

Thanks, Amy, for showing us another side of horticulture, and for reminding us to wear gloves and not to sample unknown fruits when hiking in the woods. Thanks, too, Walter Andersen Nursery for donating an excellent selection of beautiful but wicked plants for our Opportunity Drawing. 🌿

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The Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society is a non-profit organization created to stimulate interest in the diversity of the world's succulent plants. The Society brings together people (and plants) with a common interest, for the purpose of educating the public, and themselves, about the beauty and uniqueness of these exotic plants and encouraging the proper methods of collection and maintenance. If you would like to receive the Club newsletter as a PDF file, please contact Eleanore Hewitt at [elhewitt@ucsd.edu](mailto:elhewitt@ucsd.edu) for complimentary issues.

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# Winter Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale

Presented by:

*The San Diego Cactus And  
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## February 13, 2010

**At The Casa Del Prado,  
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**For additional information visit: [www.sdcss.net](http://www.sdcss.net)**



# QUOTE

"If we do not change our direction, we are likely to end up where we are headed." - Chinese Proverb

## SUSTAINABLE URBAN LANDSCAPE CONFERENCE

Two days, One Theme - Growing Greener in San Diego  
Thursday and Friday, March 11 & 12  
The Performing Arts Theater at Cuyamaca College  
900 Rancho San Diego Pkwy, El Cajon, CA 92019

The Cuyamaca College Horticulture Program in conjunction with the University of California Cooperative Extension Service and the Cuyamaca College Botanical Society is proud to present the Second Annual Sustainable Urban Landscape Seminar. This event will build on the very successful inaugural conference last March in presenting dynamic speakers and timely topics on sustainable urban landscape concepts and practices. March 11 will feature a full day of seminars with bus tours to sustainable landscapes scheduled for March 12.

We are inviting vendors and organizations that are interested in reaching the audience of landscape professionals with a message about their products or services. There are a limited number of sponsorships available on a first come basis. Sponsors will receive acknowledgement at the events both days. Seating is limited, for more information or to register please visit:

[www.cuyamaca.edu](http://www.cuyamaca.edu).



### Sponsorship Opportunities are Available

You can participate as a sponsor or display vendor or both by completing the registration form and returning it by February 12, 2010. For more information about Sponsorship levels, visit the web site or contact Don via phone or email.

For questions, please contact Don Schultz at 619-660-4023 or via email at: [Donald.schultz@gcccd.edu](mailto:Donald.schultz@gcccd.edu)



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# SUSTAINABLE URBAN LANDSCAPE CONFERENCE

Please join us, your support is vital to maintaining an informed Green Industry

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**900 Rancho San Diego Parkway**  
**El Cajon, CA 92019 - 4304**

The Conference is presented by the Cuyamaca College Botanical Society  
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## Our Venue

*The beautiful Performing Arts Theatre on the Cuyamaca College campus offers the perfect conference setting. With state-of-the-art acoustics and a wide range of presentation options, every member of the audience is assured a premier experience.*

## CONFERENCE AGENDA DAY ONE

| MORNING TOPICS                       | TIME     | PRESENTER    | AFTERNOON TOPICS                    | TIME     | PRESENTER        |
|--------------------------------------|----------|--------------|-------------------------------------|----------|------------------|
| Registration & Continental Breakfast | 7:00 AM  |              | Lunch                               | 12:00 PM |                  |
| Introduction to the Conference       | 8:00 AM  | Don Shultz   | Trees in a Sustainable Landscape    | 1:45 PM  | Mark Wisniewski  |
| Future of Sustainable Landscapes     | 8:00 AM  | Glen Schmidt | 2010 Landscape Ordinance            | 2:30 PM  | Dave Kahler      |
| Landscape Conversions                | 9:30 AM  | Marion Marum | Gray Water Recycling                | 3:00 PM  | Panel Discussion |
| Break                                | 10:00 AM |              | Panelist                            |          | George Mercer    |
| Green Roofs                          | 10:30 AM | Jim Mumford  | Panelist                            |          | Stan Keniston    |
| Environmentally Friendly Pesticides  | 11:30 AM | Pam Marrone  | Reception Refreshments in the Lobby | 4:00 PM  |                  |

## What's Happening? for February 2010

The SDHS is happy to publicize items of horticultural interest. See other side for resources & ongoing events.  
Send calendar listings by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month before the event to [calendar@sdhortsoc.org](mailto:calendar@sdhortsoc.org).

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### February, 2010 – Welcome to (almost) Spring:

The nursery is getting really stocked up – we see spring just on our radar. Check out our website [www.andersonslacostanursery.com](http://www.andersonslacostanursery.com) for current specials, too.

Here's a few great plant ideas that are terrific to plant now as a superb addition to your garden:

**Aloes in bud and bloom...here's just a few:**

❖ *Aloe salm-dyckiana* - A large aloe to 8-9 feet tall with dark gray-green leaves and 2-3 foot tall upright branching inflorescence with dark red flowers.

❖ *Aloe 'Blue Elf'* - A tight clumping aloe that grows to 18 inches tall by 2 feet wide with narrow upright gray-blue leaves that contrast well with spikes of orange flowers that appear from early winter to early spring and attract hummingbirds.

❖ *Aloe 'Yellow Torch'* (Yellow Torch Aloe) - A shrubby succulent with upright gray-green leaves and torch like clusters of yellow flowers in late fall through late winter. Full sun along the coast to light shade inland. Grows to about 6' x 8'.

**In the Secret Garden, we had a major restock of plants:**

❖ *Roldana petasitis* (Velvet Groundsel) - The Velvet Groundsel is a large sprawling evergreen shrub that can grow to 8 to 10 feet tall and wide, with roundish, velvety bright green leaves. In winter to early spring bright yellow daisy flowers appear. This plant is better treated as a large shrubby perennial, and looks much better if it is cut back hard after flowering. This plant tolerates a wide range of soils and irrigation practices, and although drought resistant, plants look best with occasional irrigation. It prefers to be planted in full sun in wind-sheltered coastal gardens as leaves are torn by wind and can droop in high temperatures. Hardy to the mid 20's F. but can freeze to the ground and resprout after even colder temperatures. With its bold large foliage it lends a tropical look in the garden without the accompanying high water requirements.

❖ *Cassia artemesioides* 'Feathery Cassia'. Evergreen, upright, rounded, feathery shrub. Profuse yellow flowering bloomer December thru May. Delicately-textured branches, silver when young maturing to gray. An Australian native, low water, long bloomer. Gets 4 to 6 feet tall and wide.

❖ A nice selection of Salvias, including:

- Guatamala Sage (*Salvia urica*)
- *Salvia karwinskii*, rosy red flowers

(continued on other side)

**The Water Conservation Garden**, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, (619) 660-0614 or [www.thegarden.org](http://www.thegarden.org)

**Feb. 6 10am-12pm, The Protea Species:** Exotic Options for Drought Tolerant Gardens by Walter Parkola Member Price:\$20 Non-Member Price:\$30 \*

**Feb. 7 1:30- 2:30pm, Ask the Horticulturist Tour:** Enjoy an informative walk through the Garden with David Yetz, professional horticulturist. Free

**Feb. 13 10:00am-noon, Proper Pruning Practices:** the do's and don'ts of pruning. Member Price:\$20 Non-Member Price:\$30 \*

**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. Free

\*Stimulus pricing - Get two registrations for the price of one (same household only, please).

Open 9-4 daily, free. Docent-led tours every Saturday at 10:30am & Sunday at 1:30pm.

**San Diego Botanic Garden** (formerly Quail Botanical Gardens):

230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas, (760) 436-3036

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

**Feb. 11, 18 and 25, 7-9PM and Feb. 20, 9AM to noon:**

**Introduction to Permaculture:** A system based on ecological principles that promotes mutually beneficial relationships. Pre-registration required. Members/\$80, non-members/\$100.

**Feb. 13 9AM-1PM: Build a Sustainable Kitchen Garden:** Using the hydroponic wick method. Members/\$70, non-members/\$90, Pre-registration required.

### Walter Andersen Nursery Saturday Classes:

**9:00am Point Loma Nursery classes:**

- Feb. 6 Spring Bulbs
- Feb. 13 Winter & Spring Color
- Feb. 20 Interior Plants: Selection & Care
- Feb. 27 Citrus & Avocado: Varieties & Their Care

**9:30am Poway Nursery classes:**

- Feb. 6 Container Gardening
- Feb. 13 California Friendly Color
- Feb. 20 Moss Baskets
- Feb. 27 Staghorn Ferns, Remounting, & Care

**ALL CLASSES ARE FREE**

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

### Cedros Gardens Saturday 10am classes:

- Feb. 6 Drought-Tolerant Gardening
  - Feb. 13 Vegetable Gardening
  - Feb. 20 Citrus
  - Feb. 27 Drought-Tolerant Gardening
- Details at [www.cedrosgardens.com](http://www.cedrosgardens.com); address in ad on page 19.

**Feb. 5, 1pm, Carlsbad Garden Club:** Kent Homer, of C & H Gardens Artistic Landscape, will discuss innovations in landscape design. Free. Dove Library, 1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad. For more info contact [carlsbadgardenclub@hotmail.com](mailto:carlsbadgardenclub@hotmail.com) or 760-845-6339.

**Feb. 5, 1:30pm, Vista Garden Club:** What's at Canterbury Gardens? Gloria McClellan Senior Center, 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista. [www.vistagardenclub.org](http://www.vistagardenclub.org)

**Feb. 6, 11am, San Diego County Cymbidium Society Annual Orchid Auction:** Auction at noon. Free. Woman's Club of Carlsbad, 3320 Monroe Street, Carlsbad. Info: [orchldy2@mac.com](mailto:orchldy2@mac.com) or 760-732-0055.

**Feb. 6, 1pm-4pm, Feb. 7, 9am-4pm San Diego Camellia Society's 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Camellia Show:** To enter blooms, arrive at 8am. on Saturday. Show will open to public at 1pm on Saturday or after judging concludes. Free. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. For more info see <http://67.199.66.216/images/Kristina/TempPDF/feb6-7sandiego.pdf> or <http://socialcamellias.org/gpage1.html>.

**Feb 10 10am Point Loma Garden Club:** "Thrifty Gardening," with an emphasis on herbs and vegetables. Free. Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego. See [www.plgc.org](http://www.plgc.org).

## February 8 SDHS Meeting Details on page 3

## Meadows by Design

**Feb. 9, 7pm. San Diego Geranium Society:** Program TBA. Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. (619) 447-8243 or [www.sdgeranium.org](http://www.sdgeranium.org)

**Feb. 10, 9am. Poway Valley Garden Club:** Program TBA. See [www.powayvalleygardenclub.org](http://www.powayvalleygardenclub.org) for more info.

**Feb. 10, 10am. Point Loma Garden Club:** Aenne Carver, Garden Columnist and Master Gardener, will inspire us with her fast moving talk on "Thrifty Gardening," with an emphasis on herbs and vegetables. Free, Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego. See [www.plgc.org](http://www.plgc.org).

**Feb. 10, 10am. Ramona Garden Club:** Shared Meeting with Poway Valley Garden Club, Michael Buckner owner of The Plant Man in Old Town Cactus & Succulents. Free. 14134 Midland Road Poway. Call (760)787-0087 or visit [www.RamonaGardenClub.com](http://www.RamonaGardenClub.com) for additional info.

**Feb. 13, 10am-4pm. San Diego Cactus And Succulent Society Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale:** Members only shopping from 9 to 10. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. See insert and [www.sdcss.net](http://www.sdcss.net).

**Feb. 14 1:30pm. Mabel Corwin Branch American Begonia Society:** Begonia culture and related issues. Attendees are asked to bring begonias to show. Olivenhain Meeting Hall, 423 Rancho Santa Fe Road, Encinitas. Call Marla Keith at 760-753-3977 for more info.

**Feb. 16, 7:00pm. California Native Plant Society:** Program TBA. Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. [www.cnpssd.org](http://www.cnpssd.org)

**Feb. 17, 7-9pm. San Diego Camellia Society:** Tom Nuccio, of Nuccio's Nurseries in Altadena, renowned Camellia grower and hybridizer. Free. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101.

**Feb. 22, 7:30pm. San Diego Rose Society:** A panel of experts will review spring rose pruning and care. Visitors always welcome. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. [www.sdrosesociety.org](http://www.sdrosesociety.org)

**Feb. 24, 6pm. Mission Hills Garden Club:** Program TBA. United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw St., San Diego. (619) 93-3624 or [www.missionhillsgardenclub.org](http://www.missionhillsgardenclub.org)

**Feb. 24, 7pm. California Rare Fruit Growers, San Diego Chapter:** Deciduous grafting and propagation by cuttings. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. [www.crfgsandiego.org](http://www.crfgsandiego.org)

**Feb. 25, 6:30-8:30pm. Del Mar Rose Society:** San Diego rosarians Dick and Sue Streeper. Powerhouse Community Center, 1700 Coast Blvd., Del Mar.

## 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](http://www.SDBGarden.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](http://www.thegarden.org)

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

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

**SAN ELIJO LAGOON CONSERVANCY:** Free 90-minute public nature walk 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday; \$5/family; \$2/adult, \$1/seniors/students; (619) 232-2721, [www.niwa.org](http://www.niwa.org)

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

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

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

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

## Garden TV and Radio Shows

**NEW SHOW: Gary Walker's GreenTree World Radio Show,** Saturdays, noon at KCEO AM 1000. Live call-in line: (800) 292-5236. *Gardening, trees and a whole lot more!*

**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](http://www.ctn.org)). Tapes avail. from SDHS library.

**Garden Compass Radio Show.** Saturday and Sunday, 8-10am. XEPE 1700AM radio, hosts Bruce and Sharon Asakawa, John Bagnasco. Call-in questions: (619) 570-1360 or (800) 660-4769.

- *Salvia blepharophylla* (Eye Lash Sage)
- *Salvia mellifera* 'Terra Seca' (Prostrate Trailing Honey Sage) - This sage is in the Black Sage family. This variety is a CA native, gets 1.5ft tall and 4 to 6ft wide. Blooms white and produces good nectar for honey.
- *Salvia elegans* (Pineapple Sage) – Hummingbirds absolutely love this plant !!

❖We have a wide selection of 4" Sedums, a great drought tolerant ground cover.

- *Album* 'Coral Carpet' – 3" to 5" tall by 12" to 18" wide. White flower in summer
- *Furfuraceum* – pinky/white flower
- *Acre aureum* (Gold Moss Sedum). 2 to 5" tall and 12 to 18" wide. Yellow flowers in summer
- *Angelina* (of course)
- *Spathulifolium purpureum*. 3 to 5" tall and 12 to 18" wide, yellow flowers in summer
- *Album nigra*. 2 to 5" tall and 8 to 12" wide, whiter flowers in summer

Well, that's just a small selection, here's some tips....

February in the San Diego area usually brings us exceptional gardening weather. Between rains there are plenty of clear, mild days that we can enjoy in the garden. There is a huge selection of plants that may be planted this month. If you haven't completed dormant pruning and spraying of deciduous fruit trees do it right away before they leaf out.

**Azaleas & Camellias:** Camellias and azaleas are best planted while in bloom, not only because you can see what colors you are adding to your garden, but also because you can take advantage of the post-bloom growth spurt.

**California Native Plants:** This is your last good month for planting most of these and still having success. California native plants like to be planted in the cool fall and winter months.

**Spring Annuals:** Fill in bare spots by planting spring annuals such as snapdragons, calendulas, primroses, pansies, and stock.

**Avocado:** If you live near the coast (or any frost-free area), start fertilizing your avocados this month. If you live inland, wait until March (to avoid frost damage).

**Citrus Trees:** Now is a good time to clean up your citrus and take steps to prevent citrus pests. Start by pruning any branches that touch the ground to help close off access to ants. Clean the tree with a spray of soapy water made with insecticidal soap (according to package instructions).

**Deciduous Trees:** If rains are light be sure to water deciduous trees, as this is the time that they put out new leaves and blossoms.

**Roses:** Apply your first feeding to roses when the new growth is about four to six inches long. Granular, well-balanced, organic fertilizers work especially well for roses and most of these will encourage beneficial soil life. Watch for the earliest signs of diseases like powdery mildew or rust.

**Cannas:** Cut all stalks that have bloomed down to the ground now to encourage new stalks to grow and make plants look as good as new.

**Wisterias:** Big fat flower buds should be developing now, and with close observation can be distinguished from the smaller more slender leaf buds - no pruning now or you may interfere with the blooms.