

Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

November 2010, Number 194

Improving Your Soil

SEE PAGES 3 AND 5

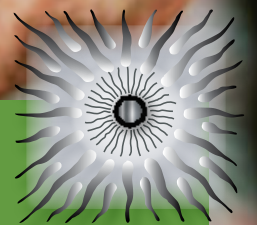
REMEMBERING BILL TEAGUE
PAGES 5 & 10

BARE ROOTS BEAR FRUITS
PAGE 7

GREEN INHERITANCE
PAGE 8

NEW PLANT PEST
PAGE 12

FAVORITE LOW-WATER PLANTS
PAGE 13



SAN DIEGO
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

On the Cover: Improving your soil

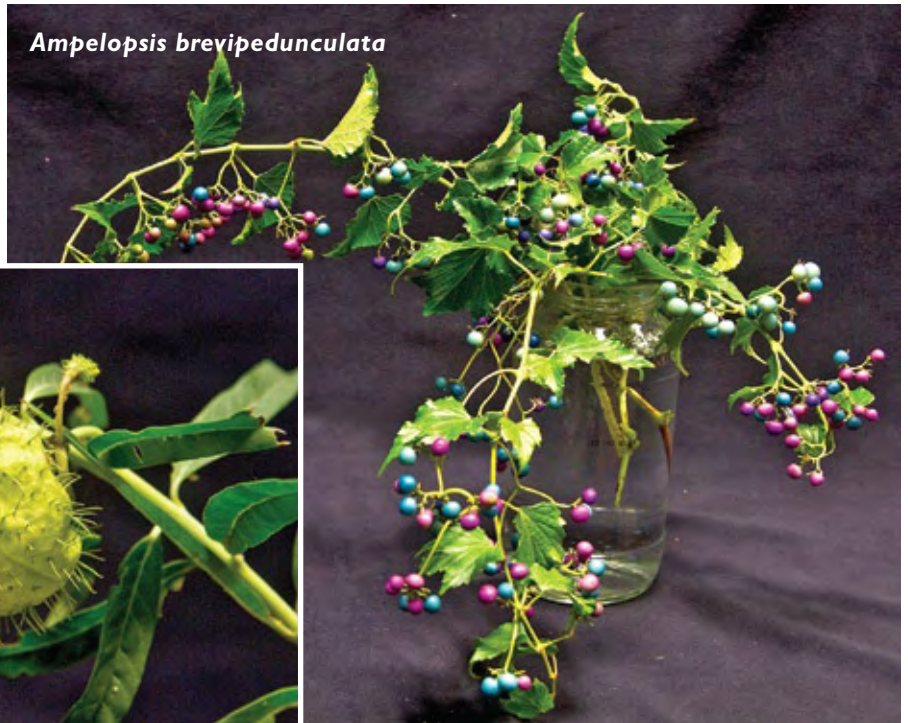
OCTOBER MEETING PHOTOS BY JANINE FREE



Zamioculcas zamiifolia
(variegated form)



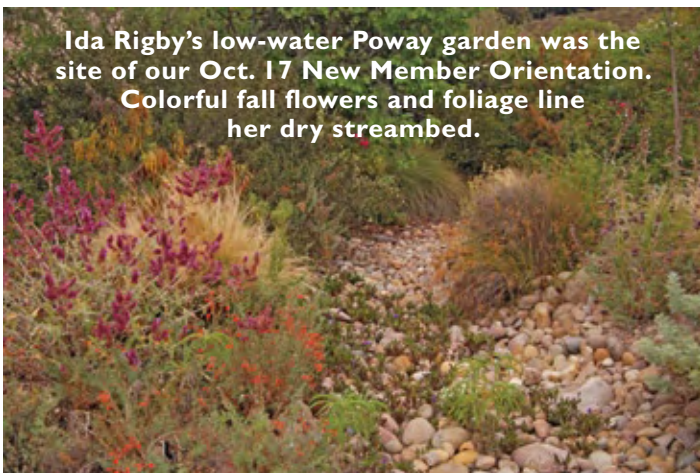
xAmarygia parkeri



Ampelopsis brevipedunculata



Asclepias physocarpa



Ida Rigby's low-water Poway garden was the site of our Oct. 17 New Member Orientation. Colorful fall flowers and foliage line her dry streambed.



Mascagnia macroptera
seed pods – new pods are pale green, dried pods are papery tan.

Details on page 21.



In This Issue...

- 4 Important Member Information
- 5 To Learn More...
- 5 Book Review
- 5 From the Board
- 6 The Real Dirt On...Ganna Walska
- 6 San Diego County Fair Flower & Garden Show Job Opening
- 7 Plants That Produce
- 7 Trees, Please
- 8 Book Review
- 8 Community Outreach
- 9 Welcome New Members!
- 9 Discounts for Members
- 9 What's Up At San Diego Botanic Garden?
- 10 Remembering Bill Teague
- 12 No California Dream: All the Leaves are Brown, and Oaks are Dying
- 13 Sharing Secrets
- 19 October Plant Forum
- 21 October Meeting Report

INSERT: The Water Conservation Garden Calendar/Resources/Ongoing Events

COVER IMAGE: Good soil means healthier plants! Learn different ways to improve your soil at our November meeting. [Thanks to Agri Service for providing the cover image.]

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 or Jim Bishop at (619) 293-0166.

FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS IN 2010

- November 20** Coffee in the Garden, Encinitas (watch for an e-mail invitation)
- December 12** Coffee in the Garden, The Water Conservation Garden, Escondido (watch for an e-mail invitation)
- December 13** The Dangers of Being a Honey Bee: Predators, Pesticides, and Colony Collapse

www.SanDiegoHorticulturalSociety.org

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

Topic: “FROM THE GROUND UP: IMPROVING YOUR SOIL”

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

We welcome a panel of local experts who will share the most up-to-date information and techniques for improving your soil. This presentation will be followed by an opportunity drawing featuring very special items donated by the speakers. To allow sufficient time for all speakers we will not have a Plant Forum at this meeting.

Building Healthy Soils – A step-by-step approach to identifying the nutritional status of your soil and amending it for optimal plant growth. Mary Matava, agronomist and agricultural research specialist, founded Agri Service, Inc. in 1994. Agri Service is a green waste compost facility that recycles more than 100,000 tons of green waste annually at facilities in North San Diego County and the Coachella Valley.

Worms Eat My Trash – The benefits of vermiculture, including secrets of the industry that make it easy and fun. Tiger Palafox grew up in his family's Mission Hills Nursery, where he is now the nursery's Manager and Marketing Director. He writes the nursery's blog and also dispenses regular garden advice on San Diego's local TV Channel 6. Tiger is the U.S. distributor of the Tumbleweed company's Worm Cafe, a portable indoor/outdoor worm farm that turns organic waste into rich worm castings.

Mushroom Compost – Horse manure, chicken manure, steer manure...just a pile of manure unless microbial and fungal activity make those nutrients “available” to plants. Mushroom compost is one of nature's keys that can open the door to garden success. Mark Collins, longtime member of the San Diego Horticultural Society Board, has owned local Evergreen Nursery for 36 years. Over the years Mark has grown the business from his original three acres in Carmel Valley to a large enterprise that now encompasses 400 acres with three stores and two growing grounds.

Fertilizers – Improving plant health and soils with the proper use of fertilizers. Irv McDaniel has been with Kellogg Garden Products for over 30 years and currently serves as the company's Territory Manager for San Diego. Kellogg celebrates its 85th anniversary this year as a family business spanning three generations. The company has always taken an environmentally friendly approach to its manufacturing processes, products, and consumer education.

Mycorrhiza – A natural partner for gardening, landscaping, and crop production. John Keeler of The Keeler Group operates California Mycorrhiza, a family-owned business based in Vista. John's company is the agent for Symbiom, a Czech producer of strains of mycorrhizae, beneficial soil fungi formulations that improve plant nutrition and growth in home gardens, landscaping, and commercial agriculture.

To learn more visit 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** – Membership Chair, Tour Committee
- Judy Bradley** – First Vice President, Co-Chair-Program Committee
- Mark Collins** – Finance/Budget Committee
- Carol Costarakis** – Member at Large
- Julian Duval** – San Diego Botanic Garden representative
- Susan Oddo** - Publicity Coordinator
- Ida Rigby** – Tour Coordinator
- Susi Torre-Bueno** – President, Newsletter Editor
- Cathy Tylka** – Treasurer, Chair-Budget & Finance Committee
- 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.

Copyright ©2010 San Diego Horticultural Society, Encinitas, CA. All rights reserved. Not to be reproduced by any means for any purpose without prior written permission. ISSN: 1544-7472

BECOME A SPONSOR!

Do you own a garden-related business?

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

VOLUNTEER NEEDS:

1. EVENTS & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Share your passion for plants! We are seeking a committee chair and also volunteers to help plan and participate in exciting events. Help us promote horticulture and the society at the San Diego County Fair, Spring Home/Garden Show, and elsewhere. There are rewarding opportunities for gardeners of all skills and interest levels. Please call Susi Torre-Bueno ASAP at (760) 295-7089 and let's talk!

2. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Express your outgoing nature, or overcome your shyness, by meeting new people in a very friendly setting! Volunteer about ONE to THREE HOURS A MONTH as a greeter at meetings, visit nurseries and provide membership brochures for their customers, or help with community outreach programs. Please contact Jim Bishop at jimbishopsd@gmail.com or (619) 293-0166.

3. PROGRAM COMMITTEE

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

THANKS SO MUCH!

OOPS! Last month we should have thanked Pat Crowl for her photo of the Coffee-in-the-Garden at Helen DiZio's home.

Thanks to Ida Rigby for hosting our October 17 New Member Orientation gathering at her lovely Poway garden.

See page 13 to order your SDHS nametag

SDHS SPONSOR ↓



SAN DIEGO'S LARGEST WHOLESALE NURSERY OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Over 500 Acres of Plants & Landscaping Materials from Saplings to Specimens

Buy Direct from the Grower and Save!



Best Quality Soils
Bagged for convenience or in bulk for pick up; delivery available

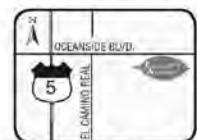
- ♦ Amended Top Soil
- ♦ Planter Mix
- ♦ Sand
- ♦ 3/4" Gravel
- ♦ Fill Dirt
- ♦ Medium Fir Bark
- ♦ Fine & Coarse Ground Cover Mulch
- ♦ Decomposed Granite

See our web site
www.evergreennursery.com



RANCHO BERNARDO
12460 Highland Valley Rd.
(858) 485-7867

CARMEL VALLEY
13650 Carmel Valley Rd.
(858) 481-0622



OCEANSIDE
3231 Oceanside Blvd.
(760) 754-0340

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

To Learn More...

IMPROVING YOUR SOIL

By Ava Torre-Bueno

Let's just start by acknowledging that most of us have nothing but clay to work with and a pathetically thin layer of top-soil left by the contractor who built our homes.

Here's an article from Fine Gardening about improving your clay into useable soil: www.finegardening.com/how-to/articles/improving-clay-soils.aspx

One way to improve soil is to never leave it naked. If you won't be gardening an area for another year or two, plant a cover crop to add nitrogen, organic matter, and to prevent erosion. It will help create good soil while you're busy doing other things: www.gardening.cornell.edu/factsheets/ecogardening/impsoilcov.html

For those of you who prefer video: How to Improve Soil Fertility Naturally and Organically Without Chemicals
http://il.youtube.com/watch?v=6-Mx585F_cY

This article is all about how to invite worms into your garden to do the tilling for you. It's not about vermicomposting, but about attracting big, beautiful night-crawlers into your garden to do their magic underground:
www.motherearthnews.com/Organic-Gardening/2008-06-01/Soil-Building-Worms.aspx

Here's an interactive web-site designed for kids that takes you on a journey underground to see all the life-forms that make up the soil and add to its health:
school.discoveryeducation.com/schooladventures/soil

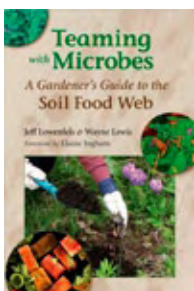
Continued on page 18

Book Review

TEAMING WITH MICROBES: A GARDENER'S GUIDE TO THE SOIL FOOD WEB

By Jeff Lowenfels and Wayne Lewis

Review by Sharon May



Despite the tender love we give our plants, sometimes it goes unrequited. Hard experience inevitably leads gardeners to one conclusion: Gardening succeeds from the ground up. Why a plant thrives in one garden but fails miserably in another can depend on soil. *Teaming with Microbes* will jump start *your* understanding and unveil the mysteries!

The first section, "The Basic Science," provides an excellent background for understanding soil. It includes classic information on soil's physical and chemical properties and then overlays the biology to explain "living soil." Clearly written and delightful to read, it illuminates the interactions of the microorganisms that create the "Soil Food Web." Painting a full picture of how soil impacts plants, this section underscores the complexity and fragility of the interactions.

"How the Soil Food Web Applies to Gardening" is the second section. Each chapter adds information and practical advice for a gardener to work *with* the soil. Details cover soil restoration and maintenance, compost, mulch, teas, maintaining fungal dominated plants (trees, shrubs and perennials), growing bacterial dominated plants (annuals and vegetables), and fertilizing approaches. This is further simplified in "Soil Food Web Gardening Rules" that could be posted on any garden shed as a reminder to work with nature instead of against it.

Teaming with Microbes can change "dull as dirt" to "sensational as SOIL!" It is full of interesting soil information, making it easy to learn to garden from the ground up! 🌱

From The Board

By Susi Torre-Bueno

IN FOND MEMORY OF BILL TEAGUE

It is with sadness that we announce that our very dear friend Bill Teague passed away on September 29th from complications of ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). Bill, shown here at the 2005 San Diego County Fair, had served on our board longer than anyone else, providing thoughtful advice and excellent leadership since September 1995. He helped with the publication of our book, *Ornamental Trees for Mediterranean Climates*, was a valued member of our Finance Committee, and for many years he designed the layout for the outdoor plant vendors at the Spring and Fall Home/Garden Shows.



The beautiful and environmentally-friendly display gardens he created and installed for many years at the San Diego County Fair won numerous awards and featured a huge variety of water-thrifty plants. He also arranged for plants for our monthly Opportunity Drawing and got knowledgeable people to be the Plant Forum hosts.

Bill epitomized the best qualities of a volunteer (and a friend): generous with his time, providing thoughtful advice when asked, modest about his efforts, cheerful and upbeat even when times were stressful, and always willing to pitch in and help. His sweet disposition and winning smile could beguile anyone.

He had a positive attitude toward life, and always saw the good in people and the possibilities and opportunities in every situation. Great numbers of gardeners have plants they got from Bill – just his way of sharing something he knew would delight. The care and thought he put into every garden he designed, always with the homeowner or garden users in mind, ensured that each would be special in the hearts of those he planned it for, created just for them.

Bill would have wanted us to celebrate his life rather than grieve at his passing, and so we shall whenever we visit San Diego Botanic Garden and see the many places his artistic hand made more beautiful. On his last day Bill insisted on visiting SDBG one more time, seeing some of his dear friends in this garden that was so very special to him. He died peacefully at home, surrounded by family, less than two hours later.

Friends of Bill's have spoken of his grace and nurturing spirit, his gentle demeanor and his humble genius. He was all that and more: a devoted husband for nearly 50 years to Linda, a loving dad, and a happy grandfather. Our hearts go out to his family enduring this great loss. 🌱

The Real Dirt On...

GANNA WALSKA

By Linda Bresler



One of the most enchanting gardens on the West Coast was created by a mediocre Polish opera singer of the early 20th century. Its beauty and unconventionality (for the times) is more of an enduring legacy of her life than any memories of her performances.

Ganna Walska, née Hanna Puarcz, was born in 1887 in Poland. Her mother died when she was just nine and she was sent to live with her uncle in St. Petersburg. She grew up to become a beautiful

young woman. When she was nineteen, she eloped with a Russian count. Shortly after the marriage, Ganna was forced to accompany him to a sanatorium in Switzerland where he continually caroused in a local tavern. She left him and returned to St. Petersburg where she changed her name to Ganna, which is Russian for Hanna, and Walska, which means waltz. Ganna became an opera singer to attract a wealthy man who was involved with the Imperial Opera House, although she never married him.

Ganna's beauty attracted many men. Over the next quarter century, she married five more times. Her husbands included a famous endocrinologist, a multimillionaire sportsman and carpet tycoon, a wealthy industrialist, the English inventor of the "death ray," and a yoga scholar. Harold McCormick, the industrialist, loved Ganna very much, and bought her an opera house in Paris. After almost ten years of unsuccessfully pleading with her to move to the United States, he finally divorced her.

Ganna's sixth husband, Theos Bernard, was a student of Yoga and Tibetan Buddhism and much younger than she was. In 1941, he convinced Ganna to buy a 37-acre estate in Montecito, CA (near Santa Barbara), as a retreat for Tibetan monks. Unfortunately, due to restrictions on wartime visas, the monks were unable to come to the United States. After putting Bernard through four years of graduate school in New York and supporting him and his father, Bernard unexpectedly divorced her. Fortuitously, Ganna had a pre-nuptial agreement, and retained the estate, which she renamed "Lotusland" after the lotus flowers which flourished on the property.

Ganna had no formal training in horticulture, but she had a lot of enthusiasm and a love of gardening. Initially, she sought the help of Lockwood de Forest, Santa Barbara's best-known landscape architect, and a local stonemason, Ozwald da Ros.

Ganna wanted plants that looked good all of the time. She was more interested in combining plants with bold forms and unusual color combinations than in whether or not they bloomed. She also developed the technique of mass plantings that is now often used in landscape designs. At Lotusland, Ganna created a series of unusual gardens that included a Japanese garden, a blue garden with blue leafed plants, a succulent and cacti garden, a horticultural clock, a hanging Epiphyllum garden, and a topiary garden.

Ganna loved exotic plants. She created a wonderful garden of cycads and gymnosperm collected from all parts of the world before it was forbidden to import them into the country. In fact, Ganna sold a million dollars of jewelry to buy the cycads, which date back to prehistoric eras.

As willing as she was to spend money on plants, she also showed a thrifty side. For the pond that was installed in the Cycad Garden, she

bought koi fish with which to stock it, but was surprised to learn how expensive the fish were. After two weeks of unsuccessful bargaining, she returned the fish. However, the koi laid eggs in the interval before they were returned, and Ganna got her koi after all.

Ganna did not have to import all of her unusual specimens from the four corners of the earth. She created her Dragon Tree forest by driving around the neighborhood. When she found a good specimen, she sent her chauffeur to offer the owner money for the plant. If the owner refused, she then sent him a case of champagne. She eventually got the trees that she wanted.

Lotusland sets an important example as a sustainable ornamental garden. It no longer relies on chemical fertilizers or herbicides. The soil is improved by utilizing compost and mulch derived from green waste. Beneficial insects are raised on the property and released to devour harmful insects. Weeds are removed through old-fashioned manual techniques. The water needed to irrigate the property is obtained from a well.

Ganna created a foundation for Lotusland in 1958. She died in 1984, leaving her garden and her fortune to the Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation. The garden opened to the public in 1993. Ganna has created an outstanding national botanical treasure with Lotusland's exotic plants and its distinctive gardens of exceptional creativity.

[Thanks to Ganna Walska Lotusland for supplying the photo. Lotusland is open from mid-February to mid-November for tours on Wednesday through Saturday. Please call the reservation office to schedule your tour, (805) 969-9990. NOTE: there is a 20% reduction in price for Wednesday through Friday tours until closing on November 10, 2010. Visit www.lotusland.org for exciting information on an exclusive sculpture installation: ANTS INVADE LOTUSLAND.]

Member Linda Bresler is a certified landscape designer living in Poway. She specializes in drought-tolerant, low maintenance designs that provide four-season beauty. ☞

San Diego County Fair Flower & Garden Show Job Opening

Position Title: Flower and Garden Show Assistant Coordinator

Job Description: Seasonal part time position assisting Flower and Garden Show Coordinator with all activities required for the San Diego County Fair Flower and Garden Show. Specific emphasis will be on coordinating the landscapes and garden displays with a preference for multi-year availability.

Pay Rate: Salaried Position, \$10,000

Qualifications:

Schedule Requirements: 1 Day per week in January, 2 days per weeks in Feb., 3 days per week in March and April, 3-4 days per week in May and June until Fair opening, 6-7 days per week during Fair and available for Fair wrap up duties until July 17.

Skill Requirements: Background and/or education in Horticulture. Experience exhibiting large landscape and garden displays. Ability to speak and present to small groups. Able to solicit display participation from Landscape and Garden companies. Ability to direct labor crews in display preparation, setup and teardown, and removal. Bilingual (English and Spanish) a plus. Basic computer skills, Word and Excel, drafting letters and maintaining contact lists.

Call Jayna Wittevrongel at 760-809-6327 or e-mail your resume to jwittevrongel@sdfair.com. ☞

Plants that Produce

TO GINSENG OR NOTO-GINSENG, THAT IS THE QUESTION

By Richard Frost

Panax quinquefolius



Some advertisers in the U.S. would have us believe that Ginseng comes from one plant species. Whoa! This idea would not go over well in the Far East where there are three major categories of the herb. In fact, there are native forms of Ginseng

from both the eastern and western hemispheres that live right here in San Diego – so you can have your Ginseng and grow it too.

Ginsengs fall into the genus *Panax* in the Linnaean taxonomic system. There are about a dozen unique species ranging from cold-hardy herbaceous groundcovers to tall virulent weeds¹. They are all perennial members of the Aralia family. All true Ginsengs contain varying amounts of pharmaceutically active saponins, so if you have a medical condition you should consult your doctor before ingesting them².

In ancient Chinese herbal medicine, the assumed properties of an herb are based on the native climate of the species in relation to the climate of Chang'an (present day Xi'an) in the Han Dynasty. For example, the Chinese-Korean Ginseng (*Panax ginseng*, Ren Seng) is native to a relatively colder region and thus is construed to have warming properties. The reasoning here is that for a plant to survive in a colder place it must internally have energetic properties. Well, I'm not so sure this is the case, but I think it tastes great in chicken soup. This plant can be cultivated here in a tub like you would potatoes – but it takes a lot of patience and supplements for root and stem development.

So let's move on to *Panax notoginseng*, aka San Qi or Sanchi. This plant was thought to be native to Chang'an, but had actually been imported there centuries earlier from Yunnan in the south. Since it was deemed to be from the same climate, it was construed to

have neutralizing properties; e.g., as a homeostatic. San Qi grows well along our coast provided it has a source of water. It's a great alternative to ginger in just about any recipe.

Now we fast-forward to the colonization of the Americas and the discovery (by the Chinese) of *Panax quinquefolius*; aka Huaqishen, Xi Yang Shen, or simply American Ginseng. Upon import to China it became the most widely cultivated and popular form of Ginseng in Asia. Because the 17th-century Chinese believed that North America was a hot climate, the American Ginseng was construed to have a cooling or calming effect on the body; e.g., the treatment of fever. Ironically, American Ginseng is native to colder portions of the eastern U.S. and grows most abundantly in Wisconsin. It can grow well here in acidic soil with afternoon shade, but does not tolerate hot, dry inland winds.

The other Ginseng of the western hemisphere is *Panax trifolium*, aka Dwarf Ginseng or Ground Nut. The latter common name is apparently in reference to the roots, which have a pungent but sweet, nut-like taste. This is a forest herb and should also be cultivated in acidic soil with afternoon shade. It is a good candidate for a patio or balcony plant in a 14" pot: thin the roots a few times a year for cooking.

Another interesting Ginseng from the culinary perspective is *Panax zingiberensis*, or Ginger Ginseng. As the name suggests it is a ginseng with a ginger-like flavor. Among other things, I recommend it as a spice in holiday cookies. You can occasionally find it and other uncommon ginseng roots at your local Lucky Seafood markets.

¹ www.ars-grin.gov/cgi-bin/npgs/html/splist.pl?8785

² *Herbs Demystified*, Holly Phaneuf. Marlow & Company, 2005.

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

Trees, Please

BARE ROOTS BEAR FRUITS

By Robin Rivet

I confess, when bare root catalogs begin to arrive in fall, I salivate over the fruit descriptions. For example, a peach called 'Frost'... "Delicious yellow freestone with melting flesh and tangy peach flavor; yellow skin has slight red blush. Heavy bearing; excellent for canning and eating fresh!" Melting flesh? How could anyone resist that description? Of course, it is imperative to read between the lines, since this peach will not set fruit in most of San Diego, due to its advised 700 chill hours.

Accordingly, what exactly is a "chill hour"²? Frankly, there is nothing EXACT about chill hours, but the general idea is to accumulate enough hours over the course of fall and winter when the temperature cumulatively drops below 45°F. This induces winter dormant plants to perk back up when spring arrives. Microclimates can matter significantly, as a low spot in your yard may have considerably more "chill" than the summit of an adjacent slope on the same property. What if you live near the coast, and seldom ever get below 45 degrees? Buyers beware. Fortunately, some hybrid

"low chill" varieties exist, even for very mild San Diego locations that receive as little as 100 chill hours.

If you are still reading, and you have never purchased trees "bare root," you should consider them. Usually shipped directly to your home Jan-March, mail order plants have exposed but dormant roots covered only by dampened wood shavings, and they are anxious for transplanting. Several virtues to buying bare root include low price, the widest selection of climate appropriate cultivars and rootstocks, as well as little chance of getting root-bound specimens. Although many local nurseries carry quite a few cultivars, they sell out quickly if an item is new or is highly sought after, and rootstock choice is minimal.

If you do purchase a bare root tree locally, check for chill hours and look for a caliper just above the bud union of between $\frac{3}{8}$ " and $\frac{5}{8}$ ". Plant it with the graft facing away from prevailing wind, and coat the trunk with a "whitewash" of 50% latex paint and water to reduce

Continued on page 18

Book Review

GREEN INHERITANCE: SAVING THE PLANTS OF THE WORLD

By Anthony Huxley

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh



I was in a crabby mood when I picked up this book and the first chapter didn't do much to cheer me up. Huxley wrote about the web of life and the nature of plant diversity and distribution, things I've read about in many other books. I'd have put the book down if the illustrations hadn't been knockouts. So I kept reading...

Anthony Huxley, a British author with more than thirty books to his name, originally wrote this in 1984 in cooperation with the World Wildlife Fund (then called the World Wide Fund for Nature) and IUCN, the World Conservation Union (then called Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources). The book was republished in 1993, shortly after Huxley's death. This new "completely revised and expanded edition" was published in 2005.

The message may not be fresh, but it's even more important now than it was in 1984. Huxley shows us that we are rapidly destroying the basis of life on earth as we clear-cut the rain forests. Yes, you've heard it before, but this book is still worth your time and your money, because Huxley's graceful prose is clear and interesting.

His unsurprising first chapter leads to chapters on how forests help regulate the natural balance of our world, how various plants were carried from their original homes all around the world, and how humans use plants as food, clothing, shelter, fuel, art, and drugs – medical and "recreational." He also gives interesting summaries of the history of farming and gardening. It's filled with information that was new to me and fascinating.

For example, did you know that trees with buttress roots may have only slender feeding roots 50 to 100 cm. long, and that's it—which means that they're really just sort of balancing there? In addition, some trees in rain forests stay upright by leaning on neighbor trees. If one tree is cut, several others – like a series of dominos – will go down, too. And that's just a taste of the fascinating facts included.

Almost every page has one or more illustrations, including drawings, photographs, maps, and charts. If I have one complaint about this book, it is that the typeface used in the extensive captions is more difficult to read than that in the text.

I recommend this book to you and suggest that since there aren't many shopping days left until Christmas, you might consider it as a gift for any gardener. It would also be a good introductory book for an older teenager interested in nature or plants.

Green Inheritance (ISBN 0-520-24359-5) is published by University of California Press. It's paperbound and 192 pages, with an index, a list of books for further reading, and a list of the web sites of useful organizations. You can order it for \$29.95 at www.ucpress.edu or at your local bookstore. ☘

Community Outreach

FOOD...THE HIGHLIGHT OF NOVEMBER HOW TO ENJOY AND SHARE THE BOUNTY

By Linda Johnson

As Thanksgiving approaches, food takes on an even bigger importance this month. We are fortunate in San Diego County to have access to a wonderful bounty of locally grown fresh foods to enjoy, while supporting local farmers. And, there are also many opportunities to share with others, and extend the bounty to those less fortunate.

Visit Farmers' Markets: Each week, hundreds of thousands of people visit farmers' markets across America to enjoy fresh, organic, locally grown produce and other products. The best organic food is what's grown closest to you! As more people recognize the link between food, diet and overall health, there is a growing interest in being aware of the sources of our food. Farmers' markets provide a great way to get closer to the source, by buying directly from the farmer. And, in addition to benefitting from the nutritional advantages of eating fresher, tastier, pesticide-free foods, San Diegans can also support the local farm economy. To find local farmers' markets, family farms, and other sources of sustainably grown food, visit localharvest.org.

Pick Your Own Crops: Another way to support local farmers is to visit a pick your own farm (also called U-pick or PYO) farms. The website includes crop calendars for each local area to tell you what is available to pick throughout the year, and directions to show you how to make jam, jelly, salsa, pickles, spaghetti sauce, applesauce, apple butter and 150 other recipes with step-by step directions to can, freeze, dry or preserve the harvest that you have picked. For a great way to add some local flavor to your Thanksgiving table, visit pickyourown.org.



Donate Home-Grown Fruit and Produce: Do you have excess fruit and produce that could be donated to needy organizations in San Diego? There are several charitable organizations that you can assist, including:

- **Harvestcrops.org:** Residential fruit that might go abandoned, unpicked, and wasted, can instead be picked by volunteers and then delivered to organizations serving low-income families and seniors within the county of San Diego. To donate, call or e-mail to make an appointment for your crops to be picked contact (619) 461-2681 or harvestcrops@cox.net.

- **Backyard Produce Project:** Sponsored by Palomar Pomerado Health's Community Action Council of Poway/Rancho Bernardo/Rancho Penasquitos, this helps provide food to needy families in northern San Diego. Fresh produce from backyard citrus trees and gardens is donated at multiple sites, or can be picked by volunteers and then distributed to local charities. There is also a garden where volunteers can help grow produce that is donated to the community. For drop-off locations and volunteer opportunities, visit backyard-produce-project.wikispaces.com.

- **Special Delivery:** Donations to Special Delivery have helped support efforts to feed those living with critical illnesses in San Diego for over 18 years. Volunteers cook up over 300 nutritionally-balanced, fresh and home-made meals each day. Special Delivery accepts donations of non-perishable food and fresh produce (please consider bringing your garden extras!). Donations accepted any time during the work week at 4021 Goldfinch St., San Diego, CA 92104. Call (619) 297-7373 or visit specialdeliversandiego.com. ☘

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:

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Randy & Harmony Carrera | Tammy Schwab |
| Carol Carrillo | Ann Sergott |
| Karen Costante | Marcy Shugert |
| Jeffery Fancy | Carmen Simpson |
| Susan Hirsch | Lynda Trunzo |
| Felise Levine | Rodolfo Ugelstad |
| Joan Oliver | |

NEW ADVERTISERS:

THE WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN (INSERT)

HORT BUCKS ARE GREAT!

Kudos to the members below who brought in new members and therefore received Hort Bucks worth \$5 towards raffle tickets, name-tags, *Plant Forum* CDs or dues. To get **your** Hort Bucks just ask your friends to give your name when they join. The number after the person's name indicates how many members they recruited in 2010:

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Kimberly Alexander (1) | Lorie Johansen (2) | Susan Oddo (1) |
| Ken Blackford (1) | Tami Joplin (1) | Barbara Raub (1) |
| Debbie Boston (1) | John Keeler (3) | Gayle Sallee (1) |
| Pat Crowl (1) | Patti Keyes (3) | Diane Scharar (2) |
| Linda Fiske (1) | Simone Mager (2) | Jan Spooner (1) |
| Connie Forest (2) | Susan Marchetti (1) | Susi Torre-Bueno (2) |
| Cheryl Hedgpeth (1) | Susan Morse (1) | Cathy Tylka (1) |
| Gabriel Ivany (1) | Bill Nugent (1) | |

Discounts For Members

Get a 15% discount at Briggs Tree Co. (see page 11; tell them to look up the "San Diego Hort Society Member" account).

For the Grangetto's Preferred Program discounts go to www.Grangettos.com.

Take 10% off membership fees at San Diego Botanic Garden.

SEE THESE ADS FOR MORE DISCOUNTS: Aristocrat Landscape, Barrels & Branches, Botanical Partners, Buena Creek Gardens, Cedros Gardens, Courtyard Pottery, IGS, Pacific Horticulture, and Solana Succulents.

New E-Mail? New Street Address?

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

We NEVER share your e-mail or address with anyone!

SPONSOR MEMBERS

(names in bold have ads)

- Agri Service, Inc.**
- Anderson's La Costa Nursery**
- Aristocrat Landscape, Installation & Maintenance**
- ArtPlantae**
- Barrels & Branches**
- Botanical Partners**
- Briggs Tree Company**
- Buena Creek Gardens**
California Mycorrhiza
- Cedros Gardens**
- Coastal Sage Gardening**
Columbine Landscape
- Courtyard Pottery**
- Cuyamaca College**
www.EasyToGrowBulbs.com
- EuroAmerican Propagators**
- Evergreen Nursery**
- Forget-Me-Not Landscape Design**
- Glorious Gardens Landscape**
- Grangetto's Farm & Garden Supply**
Green Thumb Nursery
- Healing Time Books**
- Innovative Growing Solutions**
- Kellogg Garden Products**
- KRC Rock**
Legoland California
- Mariposa Landscape and Tree Service**
- Mary's Good Snails**
- Multiflora Enterprises**
Nature Designs
Landscape
- Pardee Tree Nursery**
Plantopia, Inc.
ProFlowers
- Red Worm Fertilizing Products**
Renee's Garden
- Solana Succulents**
Southwest Boulder & Stone
- St. Madeleine Sophie's Center**
Sterling Tours
- Sunshine Gardens**
www.TheMulch.com
- The Yard Fairy**
Tree of Life Nursery
- Walter Andersen Nursery**
- Weidners' Gardens**
- Pat Welsh**
Westward Expos

LIFE MEMBERS

*Horticulturist of the Year

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

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

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

What's Up at San Diego Botanic Garden?

YELLOW ROADS: IN SEARCH OF HECHTIA ARGENTEA

Sunday, November 21,
10 am – 12 noon

Enjoy being a plant explorer with Robert Kopfstein and Andy Siekkinen as they share details of an amazing, and sometimes harrowing, 4000-mile adventure through 13 states in the Republic of Mexico in search of *Hechtia argentea*. This rare terrestrial bromeliad was discovered in 1860 in a canyon north of Mexico City. The plant ended up in the Kew Gardens collection, winning Best in Show in Brussels at the Plant Exposition in 1864. The same plant is still there in fine form, in the Princess of Wales Conservatory at Kew Gardens.

The purpose of the trip, taken in March 2010, was to study genetic diversity within a species (*argentea*). There is much variation in this species, causing a lot of confusion among collectors (some even discarded the plant thinking it was another species). They plan to go on another trip before they report their findings to the World Bromeliad Conference in 2012 in Florida. By the way, yellow roads are secondary (rough) roads on maps of Mexico. Once they had to drive in a river for 1.5 miles!

One of their most exciting discoveries is that there are many more species of *Hechtia* than once thought. In fact, there are now researchers in Mexico delving into this little-studied genus of bromeliads.

Another observation made is that one species can have a lot of variation. Typically, a plant that comes into the nursery trade is propagated asexually, by cuttings or tissue culture, to replicate a particular variation. This does not show the range of variability within a species. Many times, Robert and Andy saw the same species growing side-by-side, under the same conditions, looking extremely different from each other. Reproduction in the wild is by seed, which does not yield a clone like you get in asexual propagation.

Yellow Roads: In Search of *Hechtia Argentea*

Sunday, November 21,
10 am – 12 noon

Cost: Members \$10, non-members \$12.
Pre-registration required by November 17.
www.SDBGarden.org or
760/ 436-3036 x206 ☎

Remembering Bill Teague

By Pat Welsh

I have known Bill and Linda Teague for twenty-five or thirty years. I loved them instantly for their extraordinary marriage and their mutual love of plants and gardens. Their love story touched my heart. Through the years we've been close friends drawn together by a mutual interest in plants, gardens, and art as well as our views on life.

Bill Teague was an extraordinary plantsman, garden designer, and garden creator. He was an inspiring human being from whom one could learn much about plants and about what is important in life. He was also an angel in our community and in the lives of many of his friends. He once told me he was "on a spiritual path," but one could guess that from everything he did. Before Bill became ill, he would arise before dawn and while most folks were still asleep, he was driving here and there putting excellent, well-chosen plants in public landscapes and medians throughout Del Mar. Bill did all this without charge or fan fare. Few people knew about him. Many people who saw Bill unloading plants from his gray van and sticking them in the ground didn't have the vaguest idea who he was. At the post office garden, members of the Del Mar Garden Club would weed out a patch of earth on a Tuesday morning and by Wednesday morning, as if by magic, it would be filled again with an excellent choice of new plants—all freely chosen, donated, and planted by Bill.

As our water restrictions mounted, Bill's plant palette gradually changed from tropical to drought-resistant but equally artistic and colorful. Often he would discover new and outstanding plants that few people knew about. He would plant and promote them so eventually they became widely used. One example is the spectacular flowering succulent called rock purslane (*Calandrinia grandiflora*), which bears fuchsia-colored flowers on long stems for much of the year. One moment it was little known and then one saw it everywhere, since Bill was planting it. Another is the plant called "little pickles" (*Othonna capensis*). It's a succulent plant with yellow flowers much of the year. It now covers the ground in front of our public library in Del Mar as well as the Del Mar Post Office garden and many private gardens.

Bill Teague had an extraordinary talent for translating the artistry of Japan into the language of the California garden. Since childhood a lover of plants, he grew up in an agricultural family

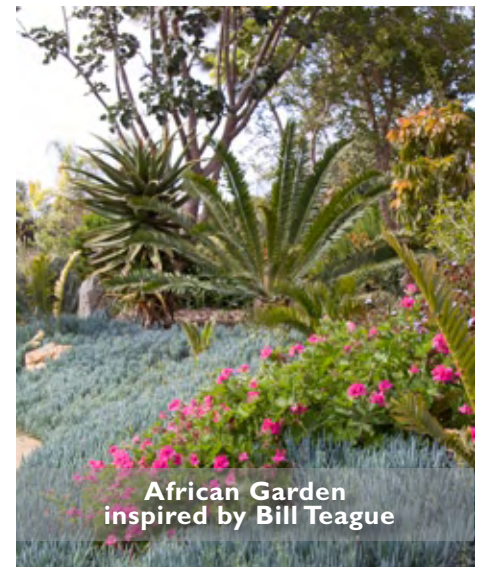
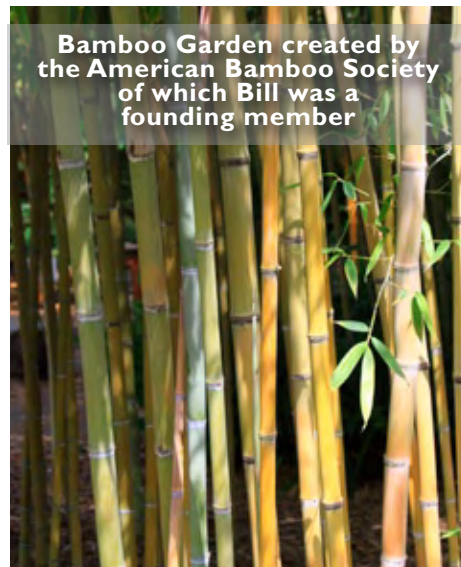
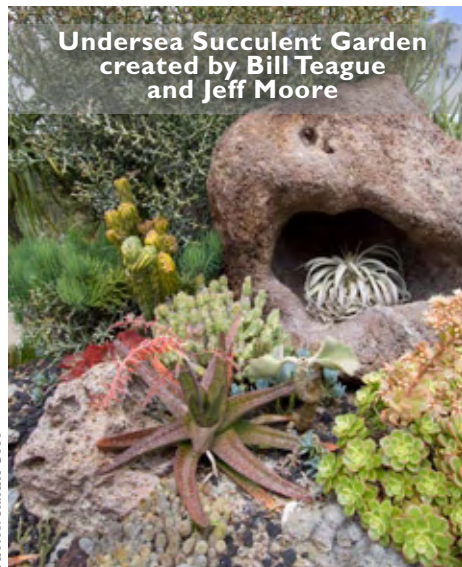


in Corona, California, where he worked in his family's extensive orange groves as a kid and graduated from Cal Poly Pomona with a degree in Horticulture and Agriculture. Later, as a professional flower grower, Bill had a firm grasp of the factual aspects of horticulture and agriculture, but his understanding of plant life and his eye for natural beauty went way beyond the technical aspects of gardening. He loved combining huge boulders with plants and nestling the boulders into the ground so they looked as if they'd always been there.

After Bill retired from flower growing he became a landscape designer and landscape creator. Many local gardens, including my own, benefitted from his extraordinary talent for creating a marriage of plants and design so that the effect seemed effortless and the landscape long lasting. Bill was one of the most active and supportive members of the San Diego Horticultural Society. The gardens he designed for the San Diego County Fair are legendary. His excellent plant choice and use of mirrors to fool the eye and enlarge small space were a lasting influence on all who saw them. Quail Gardens, now known as San Diego Botanic Garden became his special love, where he labored daily to create inspired plantings (see photos below). Even after his health was weakened he kept on going there to plan, plant, and teach others about the plants he loved, even up to and including the day very day he died.

Bill's main desire was to help people and beautify our environment. On one occasion he said to me, "Pat, making a garden is like baking a cake. First you gather all the ingredients and then you put them together." Another time he said, "When you make a dry stream bed you need three sizes of rocks. Always place a large boulder at every bend so you know the water turned when it hit that rock. Then your streambed will look natural and not artificial."

Bill liked doing his good deeds secretly and then driving away unseen like the good angel he was. He did not care for any kind of thanks or publicity. I can imagine that now he will be one of Heaven's best new angels since he already was well-practiced at doing good deeds in secret ways so no one could guess who did them. Being one of Bill's friends and learning from him has been one of the great experiences of my lifetime. 🌿



Photos: Rachel Cobb

QUALITY never *grew* so good!

Briggs Tree Company, Inc.:

- Unusual plant varieties and new introductions
- Commitment to quality and service
- In-house purchasing agent
- Full-scale ornamental nursery - flats to 4" color, shrubs, vines and trees
- Over 200 acres in production
- Delivery anywhere in the continental US



San Diego
760.727.2727

briggstree.com
view our Virtual Tour

SDHS SPONSOR ↓

10% DISCOUNT FOR SDHS MEMBERS



Courtyard Pottery

Pottery, Fountains & Garden Gifts
Design Services & Delivery Available

*All pieces are hand selected
for quality, design and color!*

Tues-Sun 10am-5pm Closed Mondays

new location!

142 S. Cedros Ave
(across from the Belly Up)
Solana Beach, CA 92075
ph **858.481.POTS (7687)**

www.courtyardpottery.com
courtyardpottery@att.net



SDHS SPONSOR ↓

INDOOR GARDEN SUPPLY

ORGANICS
HYDROPONICS **New Location!**

"Help us Grow and we'll help You Grow!"



Innovative Growing Solutions

"Your Success is Our Success"

858.578.4477
www.IGShydro.com
5060 Santa Fe Street #D
San Diego, CA 92109

10% discount for SDHS members

No California Dream: All the Leaves are Brown, and Oaks are Dying

By Tara Piraneo and Tom Scott

It's fall in San Diego County, and leaves are changing color. But don't be fooled: The brown colored leaves and thinning tree canopies here are not just a sign of approaching winter; they're also an indication of a new pest threatening oaks. The Goldspotted oak borer beetle has killed or irreparably damaged over 95% of oaks in several woodlands in less than 10 years. Brown, dead landscapes have become all too familiar in the rural communities of Alpine, Descanso, Campo, Crest, Cuyamaca, Guatay, Jamul, Julian, Laguna, Lake Henshaw, Pine Valley, Santa Ysabel, and Ramona since 2002.



The culprit of oak decline and mortality is an exotic beetle, the Goldspotted oak borer (GSOB; *Agrilus coxalis*), first found in 2004, and later linked to oak damage in 2008. To date, it is responsible for over tens of thousands of oak mortalities in San Diego County. GSOB is native to Arizona, Mexico, and Guatemala, and was most likely brought here in the mid 1990's in firewood. The adult beetle is about ½ inch long, with gold spots on its dark green iridescent back. It is known to attack mature coast live oak, canyon live oak, and California black oak. During late summer, beetle larvae emerge from eggs laid in bark crevices and begin boring into the wood. Larvae feed between the sapwood and phloem under the bark, essentially starving the tree of nutrients and killing it within 1-3 years. Evidence of GSOB injury includes D-shaped exit holes, twig die-back, crown thinning, and staining and oozing on the bark surface.

Goldspotted oak borer is easily transported long distances. Oak firewood brought from infested areas has a high probability of containing GSOB, and could devastate oaks around any location where the firewood is stored. Currently, there are no known treatments to eradicate GSOB once it becomes established, and a GSOB outbreak is likely to kill many of the coast live oak and black oaks in an area. This could cost a community millions of dollars in removal and restoration costs. To stop this insect from spreading to other parts in southern California, purchase firewood locally and don't move firewood.

This effort alone is not enough. With over one million of acres of oaks in southern California, it is nearly impossible for agencies to monitor all woodlands for signs of infestations. So, we are asking you to help us create an early warning system by keeping an eye out for GSOB damage. At a minimum we are hoping that you will log on to our website, www.gsob.org, to learn more about the outbreak and keeping oak trees healthy. If you'd like to speak to someone personally please contact Tara Piraneo or Tom Scott at (951) 313-4193. ☞

SDHS Nametags

Sturdy magnet-back nametags are just \$8.50

Call Diana Goforth to order yours: (760) 753-1545. You can pay for these with your \$5 value Hort Bucks (see page 9).

SAN DIEGO
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY



Your Name Here

SHARING SECRETS

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

Three mysteries solved: Last month members sent in photos and descriptions of their unknown plants. Thanks to Karen Gottlund for solving the mystery of Jolanta Lewak's plant: it is *Costus barbatus*. Karen Cassimatis solved her own mystery: immature butternut squash. Susi Torre-Bueno says that Katrin Utt's plant is one from Mexico that she also loves: *Tradescantia sillamontana* (White Velvet Plant).

The question for November was: What low-water or drought-tolerant plant are you growing now that you think should be more widely grown by other gardeners? (Thanks to Penny Hlavac for suggesting this.)

Walter Andersen had several suggestions: "Since I moved almost a year ago, my new front yard will start from scratch. I took out everything in the front, not one thing was left. I had some large older uncommon Cycads in 20 gallon containers, those will pretty much be the focal point. I'm adding: 3 or 4 *Leptospermum* 'Dark Shadows', *Lomandra longifolium* 'Breeze' (for kind of a meadow effect), *Carex flacca* (Blue Sedge; for a meadow effect in a different area), *Agave geminiflora*, *Chondropetalum tectorum* 'El Campo', and *Acacia cognata* 'Cousin Itt' (which is supposed to be a low spreader)."

Louise Anderson had a groundcover in mind: "I really like *Dymondia margaretae* and if I ever have to replace a driveway that's what I would use. I'm thinking about using it as a path across what's left of my front lawn. Once established it appears to be bulletproof."

Jim Bishop told us he likes grevilleas: "There is a grevillea for every garden. They are in the Protea family, but seem to be much easier to grow compared to many other members of the family. They come in everything from a giant tree (*G. robusta*) to cute groundcovers (*G. lanigera* 'Coastal Gem'). Most need full sun to part shade, good drainage, only light pruning and little if any fertilizer. They are low water plants that can be mixed with succulents, but also work well in cottage gardens. Many have flowers that remind me of colorful plastic hairbrushes. Some have fine evergreen-like foliage, other have deeply cut hand-like lacy leaves. All seem to draw hummingbirds. My favorites are 'Firesprite', 'Robin Goodwin', and 'Superb'. I'm trying 'Long John' (I've seen some beauties in other people's gardens.), *G. filoba* (with soft green foliage), 'Fanfare' (a groundcover that says it can grow to 15 feet wide), 'Peaches and Cream' (a show-stopper with yellow and peach flowers), and one whose name I lost that has lime green foliage, reddish flowers and does well in shade. Grevilleas can take heavy pruning, but I think they look best when given enough room and only a light trim for shaping. You can use the trimmings for cut flowers or background foliage in arrangements. There seem to be new hybrids introduced every year, so I'll be looking for more places to plant them."

Vivian Blackstone found these to be low-water: "Butcher's Broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*) and Sea Onion (*Bowiea volubilis*)"

Linda Bresler nominated a long-blooming shrub: "One of my favorites is *Grevillea* 'Robyn Gordon'. It not only likes full sun, bad soil, no fertilizer, and is drought-tolerant, it blooms 365 days a year! Now, that's my kind of plant!"

Continued on page 14

Save time, select trees with confidence!

Buy the book that garden magazines are crazy about!

"... a must-have ...for gardeners and landscape professionals." (*Sunset*)

"... a must-have for coastal and inland gardeners" (*California Garden*)

"...a valuable resource for ... gardeners" (*Pacific Horticulture*)

The perfect gift for anyone in Southern California!

Published by the San Diego Horticultural Society and photographed entirely in San Diego, this completely updated edition has details on 260 trees, over 500 color photos, and a handy color chart showing when the trees are in bloom and how large they get.

Only \$20 for SDHS Members
(pick one up at a meeting)

We can mail a copy for only \$5 - order now!

Send \$25 to:

San Diego Hort. Society
Attn: Book Order
P. O. Box 231869
Encinitas, CA 92023-1869

ORNAMENTAL TREES FOR MEDITERRANEAN CLIMATES

the trees of san diego



Photography by Don Walker
Text by Steve Brigham

SDHS SPONSOR ↓

Steve & Shari Matteson's

BUENA CREEK GARDENS

Not Just a Plant Nursery. A Botanical Destination!
Come stroll our 4-Acre Display Gardens. Have a Picnic,
Read a Book Amongst the Redwoods or Giant Bamboo...

Visit our website
www.BuenaCreekGardens.com
for details about
special activities this month

FALL & WINTER HOURS: Wed - Sat 9am to 4pm; Sun 10am to 4pm
Closed Mon & Tues



418 Buena Creek Road
San Marcos, 92069
(760) 744-2810

www.BuenaCreekGardens.com

10% discount for SDHS members

SDHS SPONSOR ↓



PROFESSIONAL

quality for professional results since 1925



800.697.3683 • www.KelloggGarden.com

Secrets Continued from page 13

Ellen Brown Merewether recommended "Matillija Poppies!!!!!! They are fabulous. I finally started seeing them for sale at the nursery and planted them in our canyon in La Jolla. They thrive on neglect."

Joyce Buckner chose "*Beaucarnea recurvata*! So often *Beaucarneas* are only grown in containers, but here in Southern California they also make a fabulous landscape plant/tree. Easily reaching diameters of five - six feet, *Beaucarneas* present a bold sculptural statement of texture and movement. Plant them in a sunny spot using a well-draining soil mix."

Sophia Charnov chose a native sage cultivar: "I'm a new member and new to California. My husband and I are from Long Island, New York. We are blessed to be living in Tierrasanta and near open spaces. During our walks, I noticed a beautiful sage. It is grayish blue and flowers so far from Spring to sporadic flowering even now (October). If you rub against it or the wind moves its branches, a lovely scent comes forth. I subsequently found it at Evergreen Nursery and found its name. It is *Salvia* 'Poza Blue', a hybrid of *Salvia clevelandii* and *S. leucophylla*. I put two in my garden. In four months it has grown in size and there now are some lovely light purple flowers."

Linda Chisari recommended an Australian native plant: "I love *Sollya heterophylla* (Australian Bluebells) for its absolutely clear blue flowers all summer long. It does extremely well under *Eucalyptus* varieties and, at least on the coast, needs very little water. It seeds readily, although not prolifically, around my garden."

Leslie Crawford said: "I get endless compliments on my Lion's Tail (*Leonotis menthifolia*) planted in my front yard. It is a stunning plant and I only water it about once every three weeks. Easy to grow and a real show stopper!"

Monika Crotta picked a euphorbia: "I really like *Euphorbia tirucalli* 'Sticks on Fire' a lot because they thrive on neglect, are very colorful, and easy to propagate."

Nani Donnell liked a South African shrub: "Without a doubt my pick is *Athanasia acerosa* (Coulter Bush, also sold as *Phymaspermum acerosum*). It makes no demands other than giving it some room to grow and a haircut after it holds its gorgeous gold to rust blooms for months! The San Diego Botanical Garden nursery is a good source for this understated winner. I have mine growing understory to a burgundy smoke tree and it's a real showstopper. Enjoy!"

Sheila Dowe picked a stunning succulent: "I love *Calandrinia spectabilis* with its nodding stems of hot pink flowers. A friend gave me a plant several years ago and I now have it in so many places. It even covers a hillside where my ivy succumbed to the heat. *Calandrinia* requires almost no water. In fact, on the hillside, it only gets rainfall. Like many succulents, you just break off a piece and put it in the soil. I know spring is here when these greyish rosettes send out really long stems with many buds. They start blooming and really don't stop for months - I even have a few flowers now in October. Truly my pick for the best drought tolerant plant that deserves more attention."

Marilyn Guidroz recommend a heat-loving shrub: "When the temperatures soared to over 100 degrees my *Leucophyllum langmaniae* 'Rio Bravo'™ (Texas Ranger) burst into bloom and was covered with the most stunning purplish-pink flowers! It really brightened up the end of summer. It will bloom periodically throughout the Summer and Fall so is always a treat when you least expect it. It never looks stressed even though I rarely water it. It is used to the desert summer monsoons so it loved the recent storm we had!"

Steve Harbour picked a long-blooming perennial that birds also love: "For years, I have grown Indian Blanket (*Gaillardia pulchella*), combined with ornamental grasses and sages, in a meadow garden near the street. This short-lived perennial begins to bloom in spring and is still going strong in October. The big and bright daisy-like flowers provide lots of festive summer color. I leave the seed cones on, guaranteeing a flock of finches will greet me whenever I walk into the area. This *Gaillardia* reseeds to reproduce new plants each year; if they pop up too profusely or in areas I don't want them, they can be easily thinned and removed. The flower colors vary somewhat from plant to plant, in tones of orange with tips of yellow. Because of the hot flower color, blue and purple blooming sages go well with it, as well as flowering plants with yellow blooms. There are quite a few hybridized varieties out now, but I have found the old standard species native to the central United States prairies performs the best year after year. I would only have to water Indian Blanket once every two weeks during the hottest periods of summer to keep it in prime condition, but some of the neighboring plants need weekly irrigation so it gets more. It will survive months without water, although it will look stressed. *Gaillardias* are a wonderful addition to drought tolerant gardens for their long-lasting bloom cycle and natural supply of bird food."

Penny Hlavac told us, "For many years I have grown a very tough drought tolerant (no water once established!) groundcover called *Rhagodia spinescens*, which I got from the Fullerton Arboretum. I recently acquired Vol. 8 of the *Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants Suitable for Cultivation* (Elliot and Jones), which contains the following passage: 'The foliage of *Rhagodia* plants has a high degree of fire retardance and plants are excellent for slowing down the progress of bushfires when used as barrier plantings.' Although it does not have showy flowers I think the tiny grey foliage is very pretty. Googling it brings you to the San Marcos Growers website (www.smgrowers.com), which has a good picture. It gets about 2-3 feet high and smothers weeds as it goes along. (If it encounters something like a fence, it starts growing up.) For a long time I wondered why it has the species name 'spinescens' when mine is not spiny at all. The book clears this up: 'A number of selections have been introduced into cultivation...including one which is low and wide-spreading with soft foliage.'"

Pam Jara had two suggestions: "I am having great success with Texas Ranger shrubs (*Leucophyllum frutescens*) which were recommended to me by Walter Andersons nursery. They have a beautiful lavender bloom on a grey blue plant. I also love a pelargonium that has fuchsia-colored blooms all year with almost a ground cover spread. We have many different *Coprosma* in our yard as well. They have beautiful colorful foliage, need minimal pruning and don't seem to require much water."

Marla Keith had a surprising choice: "Begonias are a plant group that has a low water requirement. In fact, overwatering often can bring disease and plant destruction, especially in the winter when begonias are dormant. They are not really advertised as low water plants but instructions always say to water carefully and not overwater. It has been my experience that when outdoor temps are high they need more water but ordinarily need water only one or two times per week and sometimes only once every two weeks once established as mature plants. One must monitor the plan, however, to determine when. Easy to grow, low water, and fantastic foliage: a great plant choice."

Candace Kohl told us, "I am putting in more Australian natives and Protea family plants. Also more succulents. There are lots of fascinating new plants on the market, but I find that the growth habits on the labels are often not what I experience. Another thing I am doing is consolidating my higher water plants in one area and putting low water stuff in the rest of the garden. I have a cottage garden with

Continued on page 16

SDHS SPONSOR ↓

Over 500 types of
stone and boulder for your
Water-Wise Garden.

Flagstone
Pavers
Pathway DG
Boulders...
and so much more...

Our creative and
knowledgeable staff
will help you make the
best selections for the
garden of your dreams.



Natural Stone & Boulder Supply

San Marcos (760) 744-1036
Poway (858) 748-3953
Lakeside (619) 443-8153

1 800 KRC ROCK (1 800 572-7625) www.KCRCRock.com

SDHS SPONSOR ↓

**Coastal Sage
Gardening**

**Garden Design
and Landscaping**

Rose & Fruit Tree Care

Wildflower Seeding

Calif. Native Plants

call for a free consultation

619 223 5229

coastalsage.com

SDHS SPONSOR ↓

**agri
service
inc**

building healthy soils



**compost
mulch
soil**

recycled from local greens

800 262 4167

**El Corazon
Compost Facility**

3210 Oceanside Blvd.
Oceanside, CA 92056
760 439 9920
www.agriserviceinc.com



Secrets Continued from page 15

Brugmansias (water and fertilizer hogs) and I am not willing to give it up yet."

Carol McCollum had a lot of ideas: "NO thirsty grass in my yard!! Favorite un-thirsty plants that are happy in my yard: *Centaurea gymnocarpa*, *Dodonaea viscosa* 'Purpurea' (Purple-leafed Hop-bush), rosemary, flax, *Pittosporum tenuifolium* 'Silver Sheen', gazanias, *Aloe striata*, *Kalanchoe beharensis*, *Hesperaloe parviflora*, *Portulacaria afra*, *Tecomaria capensis* (both the darker orange and the lighter tangerine color), *Leonotis leonuris*, and *Grewia cafra*. There are so many beautiful un-thirsty plants... why waste our water on grass!!!!?"

Steve Mediano had two words of advice: "Echium wildpretii."

Anne Murphy singled out one sage: "*Salvia chamaedryoides*, germander sage. This salvia has narrow, downy sage-green leaves and with sky-blue blossoms from summer to fall. It is 12 inches tall by 18 inches wide. Once established it need absolutely no care. Hummingbirds love it. If it gets extra water, it will create extra plants by seeds and underground stems. This should work in any garden unless it gets continuously get over-watered."

Ida Rigby likes, "*Salvia dolomitica* (South African, mountains). Lovely, brilliant aqua/gray leaves that stand out in the garden. Grows undaunted by summer in Poway; subtly beautiful (Sunset calls them "unassuming") pinkish, creamy white flowers with little slightly maroon stripes. Just glows, nice for year-long foliage accent."

Phil Sauer picked an Acacia: "I am a big fan of *Acacia cultiformis*, the knife blade wattle. There are some real nice old specimens in Rancho Santa Fe, where I first saw this interesting plant. The first and second year bark is a bright yellow, which contrasts with the gray foliage. It is a fast growing plant and is perfect for hillsides and slopes that are difficult to establish. These plants are drought tolerant and work well in bad soils (heavy clay or dg); they also can be used in mass or as a specimen. One-gallon plants are harder to establish than 5-gallon plants because rabbits and deer will slow or destroy such young plants. If you mix *Euphorbia tirucalli* 'Sticks on Fire' and aeoniums with *Acacia cultiformis* in a succulent garden it sort of looks like a coral undersea garden."

Anne Saxe chose succulents: "...many types of succulents. They are very forgiving... in fact, many protest vigorously when you water TOO much with an un-attached, blackened soggy dead section! Many euphorbias, aloes, echeverias, and gasterias not only welcome dried-out soil but are subtly spectacular as well! They work in the ground as well as in a variety of containers, in full sun or even in shade for a good part of the day."

Sue Ann Scheck wrote, "Bill and I just bought the beautiful *Aloe ciliaris*! Perfect for slopes. It has lovely green leaves and a marvelous red flower! This aloe multiplies SIDEWAYS. Really cool!"

Nathan Smith liked euphorbias: "Lately I've really been appreciating all the small leafy Euphorbias. *Euphorbia characias* with gray green leaves and chartreuse flowers looks great year round. *Euphorbia x martinii* 'Blackbird' has purple/black foliage which contrasts nicely with other plants in the garden as well as with its own yellow-green flowers. Grows less than 2' high so there's room for one in every garden. Like so many drought tolerant plants, I see folks killing them by watering too frequently. *Euphorbia myrsinites* is a great one to use as a groundcover. Be mindful of the milky sap which can be irritating."

SDHS SPONSOR ↓

**A New On-line Gardening
Community Just For You!**

www.theMulch.com is
Southern California's newest
and most innovative on-line
gardening community.

theMulch

Plant. Grow. Share.

- Connect with other gardeners who have similar interests.
- Access the most complete Gardening event calendar in Southern California.
- Get practical recommendations from local garden experts.
- Ask members and experts questions and get useful answers.

Visit theMulch.com today & join, it's free, easy & it's all about having fun!

Cindy Sparks said, "I recommend silver-leaved *Dichondra* 'Silver Falls'. I first saw it used as the 'water' in a very large map-of-the-world display at a UC demonstration garden inland from Ventura. I visited there on an exceedingly hot day, about 107 degrees. The dichondra looked very good; it even made a believable ocean. I asked a docent how they managed to pull that off in such heat, and anyway how often do they water? She said they water once a week, although sometimes if they are about to have a big school group, they will lightly sprinkle the dichondra to make it sparkle in the sun when the kids arrive. I didn't quite believe that, but I planted it myself. I have several 'pond' areas in my front yard and I put in 3 Silver Falls starts from 4" pots. They very rapidly covered the area, which gets full sun at the beach, or more properly a combo of sun and fog. I also put some in my urban canyon which gets a maximum of 20 minutes of direct sun per day. After establishment, I water the front once every 14 days even in the summer, and the canyon is watered by drip once a week. The canyon plantings grew lush and thick, and I have to sort of head them back once a year. The front yard 'ponds' have never been cut back, although I do tear out the tendrils which wander into other plantings or where I don't want them. (Also, I have to weed out the oxalis in the spring.) It has not been a seedy pest like its cousin the green dichondra. I am convinced this cultivar would perform in many conditions, from my seaside fog to the inland heat of Santa Paula, but I'd like some other folks to try it."

Ron Stevens had three suggestions: "*Calliandra californica* (Baja Fairy Duster) is one of my favorites. In my Escondido garden, it provides red-orange flowers all summer long that the bees and hummingbirds can't resist. *Grevillia* 'Ruby Clusters' is also special. It blooms early and often and is covered with small red flowers that hummingbirds go gaga over. This is probably the most hummingbird-friendly plant I've ever grown. Perhaps my very favorite is a *Tecoma stans* cross that was labeled 'Golden Jubilee' when I bought it in Peoria, Arizona about four Padre spring-trainings ago. It has beautiful, large, orange-yellow flowers that bloom from early spring to late fall. I've never grown a plant this floriferous before, and it is literally covered with flowers all spring, summer, and fall. It doesn't set much seed and the bees and hummingbirds don't visit it very much. Only one species of black, shiny bumblebee seems to really find it attractive. Since it doesn't set much seed, it doesn't develop the unsightly bean pods that sometimes cover *Tecoma stans* for long periods of time after the blooming season. I have never seen this cultivar offered in any San Diego nursery and I really wish I could find another plant without having to propagate my own. If someone could point me to one, I would appreciate it. When I went back to Peoria last year, the nursery where I bought it had gone out of business. I have seen a cultivar labeled *Tecoma* 'Golden Jubilee' in a few San Diego nurseries, but it was not the variety I have; it looked more like the variety usually labeled *Tecoma* x *smithii* which has an oranger more tubular flower and a more open and sparse appearance. There are so many outstanding drought tolerant plants to choose from. These are three of my personal favorites."

Pat Welsh chose a few special perennials: "Among the best and newest, least-known and seldom grown, drought-resistant plants is *Dianella caerulea* 'Cassa Blue' (cultivar DBBO3; San Marcos Growers has it). This trouble-free, attractive Australian plant makes a tuft of long-lasting, gray-green, strap-like leaves and is non-creeping and non-invasive, and ornamented in spring with a brief show of blue flowers on thin stems followed by large lilac-blue fruits. I've got three tufts of it, each planted next to a rock, and they've given me pleasure for two or three years in my dry, well-drained, sandy soil. In bright light, part shade it continues to look good with infrequent irrigation – a squirt once a week is what it gets. I grow this on a flat terrace where I've been having fun experimenting with drought-resistant ground covers that work as lawn substitutes. (I'm trying to find something

Continued on page 18

SDHS SPONSOR ↓

12755 Danielson Court
Poway, CA 92064
(858) 513-4900
FAX (858) 513-4790
Open 9-5, 7 days a week



3642 Enterprise Street
San Diego, CA 92110
(619) 224-8271
FAX (619) 224-9067
Open 8-5, 7 days a week

Free Garden Classes at both locations on Saturday mornings
www.walterandersen.com

SDHS SPONSOR ↓

MARIPOSA LANDSCAPE & TREE SERVICE INC

- WaterWise Landscape Renovations
- Expert Tree Pruning & Removals
- Irrigation System Retrofits & Repairs

(858) 756 2769

Serving North County Coastal Area Since 1977
Owner Supervised Bilingual Crews
C-27 Lic #658986

SDHS SPONSOR ↓



Aristocrat Landscape

Water-Wise Landscapes

- Spring cleanup
- Organic maintenance
- Xeriscape installation
- Synthetic turf

(800) 329-9887

www.AristocratLandscape.com

Lic# 633203

**10% discount
for SDHS
members**

SDHS SPONSOR ↓



Use decollate snails as a biological method for control of brown garden snails.

Mary's GoodSnails™

"GoodSnails to Eat the Bad Snails!"

Mary Chidester Borevitz
(760) 744-9233

Order online: www.goodsnails.com
Email: maryl@goodsnails.com

912 Cassou Road, San Marcos, CA 92069 (mail only)

that can take regular foot traffic.) So far, the best drought-resistant lawn substitute I've found is *Achillea millefolium californica*, mixed with some *Achillea tomentosa* here and there. Using *Achillea millefolium* as a lawn is nothing new. It's been used as a lawn substitute for at least 50 years that I know of. *Achillea millefolium californica* is a California native many people consider weedy and invasive, but for me it's not. Plant it from seeds in fall and be patient. It takes a while to get going. (Seeds are available from native plant nurseries and Peaceful Valley Farm Supply and are often included in wildflower mixes.) I combine this in my garden with rocks, South African bulbs, and tufts of drought-resistant plants such as *Carex pansa* and the *Dianella caerulea* 'Cassa Blue', mentioned above, and *Aristea ecklonii*, which is another thing that is drought-resistant and little known and has lovely blooms to boot. *Aristea* is very good too."

Stephen Zolezzi offered FREE plants of, "Agave – chiefly Octopus Agave. Why? Mine have after 10 years started to bloom – sending 14-foot stalks up with literally thousands of plants budding off, who are all looking for a home. This is a majestic 3 by 3 foot dark green, contorted octopus tentacle leaved beauty that needs very little water but appreciates being watered so long as the soil is quick draining. Gardeners don't like to throw away plants – therein lies my problem. From the last batch I gave about 500 buds to the children's octopus garden; also have potted up about 150 one gallons and now have two new stalks ready to harvest. Anyone want plants? Call me at (619) 228-2291."

The question for next month is:

What do you plan to do differently in your garden in 2011, and why? Send your reply by November 5 to info@sdhortsoc.org. 🌿

For any and all garden questions you can go crowd-sourcing at: forums.gardenweb.com/forums

And finally, Loren Nancarrow did a piece on San Diego soil some time back:

www.10news.com/weather/1207741/detail.html

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>. 🌿

Trees Continued from page 7

sunburn injury.

Commonly absent in basic gardening knowledge is the importance and variability of rootstocks³. Not only are there types which may limit or radically alter overall size, but others have resistance to crown gall, nematodes, oak root fungus, fireblight or other diseases, if these items plague your region. Some rootstocks may tolerate wet, dry, or alkaline conditions better, while most combine a few of these traits, but almost all are uniquely adapted to either stone or pome fruits. Educate yourself, and understand the word "dwarf" can mean anything from 4' to 20' at maturity.

Finally, bare root trees are typically "be-headed." Their first year they will lion tail, and this means you will need to prune them each and every year⁴ to maximize fruit production. Although the intensity may diminish over time, proper training the first three years is essential. The good news is that bare root trees are vigorous. Forget the notion that it takes decades to grow a full size tree. Grafted trees mature quickly, and our Spice Zee Nectaplum™ produced masses of "meltingly" flavorful fruit on a vigorous ten-foot tree within three years.

Select for ⁵harvest times, and have fruit all season.

¹ www.baylaurelnursery.com/order/clicksite.cgi?cart_id=&xm=on&ftr=Peaches&p=Peaches

² www.davewilson.com/homegrown/gardencompass/gcl4_jan_07.html

³ www.baylaurelnursery.com/catalog/rootstockDescriptions.html

⁴ www.davewilson.com/homegrown/BOC_explained.html

⁵ www.davewilson.com/homegrown/promotion/chart.html

www.onegreenworld.com//index.php

www.lecooke.com/cms/home.html

www.treesofantiquity.com/index.php?main_page=index

www.durionnursery.biz

homeorchard.ucdavis.edu

www.sandybarnursery.com/choosing-fruit-trees.htm#number%20of%20trees

Member Robin Rivet is an ISA Certified Arborist, California Rare Fruit Grower, UCCE Master Gardener. She serves on the San Diego Community Forest Advisory Board, La Mesa Environmental/Sustainability Commission, and the San Diego Regional Urban Forests Council. She welcomes public inquiries or rebuttals. 🌿

THANK YOU to Mountain States Wholesale Nursery

**for donating the
Opportunity Drawing
Plants at the
October meeting.**

**Please visit their website for lots
of info on water-thrifty plants:
www.mswnc.com/index2.htm**

You can purchase the plants locally at:

Cedros Gardens, Solana Beach 858-792-8640

Kniffing's Discount Nursery, El Cajon 619-561-0611

Green Thumb San Marcos, San Marcos 760-744-3822

October Plant Forum

By Michael Buckner and Susi Torre-Bueno

NOTE: We will NOT have a Plant Forum in November. Please bring plants to the December meeting Plant Forum.

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.

Leonotis leonurus* var. *albiflora WHITE LION'S EAR, WHITE LION'S TAIL (Labiatae) South Africa

The commoner orange-flowered Lion's Tail is an excellent drought-tolerant evergreen shrub. This white-flowered form fall-blooming is just as handsome and has the added benefit of self-seeding to a lesser degree. It grows from about 4-8' tall, and sends up tall spires with dense whorls of creamy white tubular flowers. Looks best if the spent flowers are removed, as they turn brown on the plant. Prefers full sun and well-drained soil. Prune to ground level after blooming to keep it dense; it is fast growing and will attain a good size quickly. Will last for several days in floral arrangements and dried stems can be spray-painted gold. (Sheila Busch, Escondido, 10/10) – S.T-B.

***Zamioculcas zamiifolia* (variegated form)** (Araceae) East Africa (Kenya south to northeast South Africa)

Popularly known as the ZZ plant, this plant is often thought to be a cycad but surprisingly it is a philodendron relative. Its spadix, or bloom, comes up from the soil and has a foghorn shape. Noted for its ability to take deep shade, it makes a remarkable interior plant. Cold tender, so don't grow outside in cold areas. Exceptional potted or specimen plant; one can raise up the potato-like tubers to make a bonsai type specimen. If it is grown in very bright light the leaflets are smaller. The plant displayed was selected from the first batch of variegated specimens; not yet known if it will retain this variegation permanently. [Learn more at <http://davesgarden.com/guides/pf/go/2142/>] (Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 10/10) – M. B.

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

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

Can you spot the phony plant this month? The phony plant in the October newsletter was *Cardiospermum wolfii* I'LL-HUFF-AND-I'LL-PUFF.

Aerangis luteo-alba (Jim Wright, San Diego, 10/10)

3 *Amarygia parkeri* (*Amaryllis belladonna* × *Brunsvigia josephinae*) HYBRID NAKED LADY (Ken Blackford, San Diego, 10/10)

Continued on page 20

SDHS SPONSOR ↓



Solana Succulents
• Rare & Exotics • Container Gardens

Jeff Moore

355 N. Highway 101
Solana Beach, CA 92075
(858) 259-4568
www.solanasucculents.com

10% Discount for SDHS Members with this ad

SDHS SPONSOR ↓



ArtPlantae®

Botany and Botanical Art Education

www.ArtPlantae.com
www.ArtPlantaeBooks.com
www.ArtPlantaeToday.com

Books about botany & botanical illustration
A blog for botanical illustrators

SDHS SPONSOR ↓



Sunshine Gardens

It's time to plant ... Come on Down!
We have just about everything the gardener in you is looking for:

- Bedding Plants → Shrubs
- Citrus → Houseplants
- Vegetables → Fertilizers
- Soils → Seed
- Trees → Pottery

When you're here also visit
Elizabethan Desserts & Twigs by Tari

SUNSHINE GARDENS ENCINITAS
155 Quail Gardens Drive
Encinitas
(760) 436-3244

www.sunshinegardensinc.com
Open 7 Days Monday-Saturday 7:00-5:00, Sunday 9:00-4:00

SDHS SPONSOR ↓



cedros gardens
SOLANA BEACH

- ❖ Edibles ❖ Succulents
- ❖ Fruit Trees
- ❖ Drought Tolerant Plants

330 South Cedros Avenue
Solana Beach, CA 92075
(858) 792-8640

Pesticide-free since 1993

10% discount for SDHS members www.CedrosGardens.com

SDHS SPONSOR ↓

"It's the bible of local gardening."

Pat Welsh's
**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
ORGANIC GARDENING:
Month-By-Month**

COMPLETELY REVISED AND UPDATED

Available at select nurseries
and bookstores everywhere

Published by Chronicle Books

www.PatWelsh.com

PAT WELSH'S
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
ORGANIC GARDENING



SDHS SPONSOR ↓

Barrels & Branches
Nursery, Maintenance
& Design
Unusual plants, pottery and gifts
10% discount for SDHS members



Open daily 8am to 5pm
1452 Santa Fe Drive, Encinitas
(760) 753-2852
www.barrelsandbranches.com



SDHS SPONSOR ↓

You're Invited:
For the Best in Bamboo, Palms, Cycads & now
featuring Aloe, Agave, and other succulents.

Visit our 4 Acre Display Garden and see the newest and
most unusual flora from around the world, including
our special Australian, New Zealand and South African
collections.

10% discount for SDHS members

2498 Majella Rd, Vista
760-758-6181
www.BotanicalPartners.com




Home of
**Bamboo
Headquarters**

SDHS SPONSOR ↓

The Beauty of Irises
BY KATHARINA NOTARIANNI

A visual delight, this book features over 100 full color photos of
beautiful irises to inspire you. Includes
growing advice.



This book makes a wonderful gift. Easy
ordering through our online store:

Healing Time Books
WWW.HEALINGTIMEBOOKS.COM

October Plant Forum

3 *Ampelopsis brevipedunculata* BLUEBERRY CLIMBER, PORCELAIN BERRY, PORCELAIN VINE (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 10/10)

3 *Asclepias physocarpa* SWAN PLANT, GOOSE PLANT (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 10/10)

Aster novi-belgii MICHAELMAS DAISY (? , 10/10)

3 *Gardenia thunbergia* (Sharon Lee, Solana Beach, 10/10)

Morus sp. (bonsai form, in training 15 years) MULBERRY (Phil Tackill Solana Beach, 10/10)

3 *Tibouchina miniflora* LITTLE PRINCESS FLOWER (? , 10/10)

3 *Tibouchina multiflora* PRINCESS FLOWER (? , 10/10)

Tillandsia crocata (Jim Wright, San Diego, 10/10)

Tillandsia jalisco-monticola (Jim Wright, San Diego, 10/10)

HOW TO READ THE PLANT FORUM ENTRIES

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

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

[2] Cultivar ['Cheerio']

[3] Common Name [DONUT PLANT]

[4] Family [Pastryaceae]

[5] Distribution [7-Eleven to Vons]

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

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

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

**NOW
Available!**



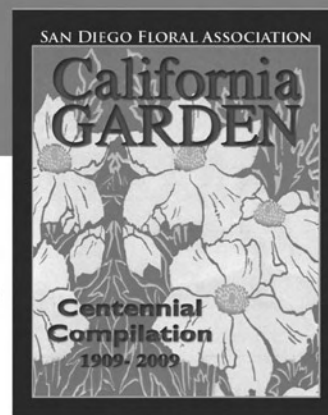
Learn the San Diego
Floral Association
history by reading
articles written by

the founding members and authors who
came after them. **256 pages.** See pictures
of members, flower shows, early magazine
covers and other activities.

Enjoy the long history of our magazine.
Available at SDEFA office.

\$30. including tax

GREAT GIFT IDEA!



1650 El Prado #105,
San Diego, CA
92101-1684

October Meeting Report

While San Diego isn't a desert, it is among the lowest-rainfall areas with a Mediterranean climate. This means that while our generally very mild temperatures allow us to grow just about anything, we would do well to look towards desert-adapted plants to provide year-round color and interest in our gardens with a minimum of water and maintenance. Wendy Proud, our knowledgeable and enthusiastic October speaker, talked about several dozen exceptional plants that fit this California-friendly garden profile.

As she was quick to point out, desert-adapted plants don't need high heat all the time and many of them (from all over the world) will thrive in our climate. Wendy's talk began with stunning images of exceptional gardens designed by landscape architects Steve Martino and Christy TenEyck, and it was very helpful to see the plants used in these inspiring settings.

Wendy showed us several trees that will grow really well here. *Acacia willardiana* hails from the Sonoran Desert in Mexico; this graceful evergreen tree has wispy foliage and striking white bark. What makes it really special is that it does well on rocky slopes without much soil, and looks great in groves. Because it is so open and airy, just about anything will thrive underneath its canopy, which should get to about 20' tall. *Parkinsonia* 'Desert Museum' is known as the Thornless Palo Verde, and this tree sports a green bark and bright yellow flowers. *Caesalpinia* 'Sierra Sun' needs no pruning and gets about 12' tall, with orange-spotted yellow blooms from fall through spring.

One evergreen Australian shrub, *Eremophila hygrophana* 'Blue Bells', has lovely silver-hued felty foliage and grows to about 3' tall and wide. Best of all, it blooms all year long with charming blue-violet flowers. *Leucophyllum langmaniae* 'Lynn's Legacy' is a violet-flowered beauty covered with blooms from summer to fall. For a 2' mound of bright yellow flowers in spring and fall, and aromatic foliage, select *Chrysactinia mexicana*. For best results cut back after the first blooming period to ensure a second round of flowers. You can see several excellent specimens of *Cordia boissieri* at San Diego Botanic Garden along the west parking area near the Ecke Building, put there several years ago by Bill Teague. This slow-growing evergreen shrub from Texas and Mexico has 2" wide bright white flowers and can eventually reach up to 20' tall. A low-water beauty, it has leathery foliage and edible fruit. One especially fast-growing shrub is *Tecoma stans* 'Gold Star', which has large clusters of big yellow flowers from spring to fall. It is hardy to 20° F, and if damaged by frost will come back from the roots. A tropical-looking plant, it grows to about 6-8' tall and will attract hummingbirds to your garden.

Another yellow-flowered plant is the groundcover *Dalea capitata* 'Sierra Gold'. This cultivar, which is hardy to 0° F, does better away from the coast, and has bright green foliage and little flowers from spring to fall. It grows only 8-12" tall, but can spread 3-4' wide, and is an excellent choice for hot areas. For a much wider-spreading, but taller, groundcover, Wendy recommended another Australian: *Acacia redolens* 'Desert Carpet'. This very drought-tolerant evergreen beauty gets to 2' tall and can grow to 15' wide, which is great if you have a large area to cover. It's a good choice for slopes and has olive-green leaves and small yellow flowers in the spring. Best grown in full sun, it is hardy to at least 15° F.

A fourth category of plants is what Wendy designated as "accents:" plants that make a bold statement in the garden. *Asclepias subulata*, for example, is an almost leafless perennial with gray-green stems that attracts butterflies with creamy yellow flowers from spring to fall. It grows to an impressive 4' tall and equally wide on very little water and zero maintenance. *Yucca pallida* is a low-growing (to 2' tall and wide) trunkless yucca with soft blue foliage and up to 25 stalks of creamy white flowers each year. *Opuntia* 'Santa-Rita Tubac' has spiny pads of blue-green to purple and yellow flowers. *Manfreda*

'Silver Leopard', which boasts brown-spotted leaves, is another unusual standout. *Hesperaloe parviflora* 'Yellow' is a long-blooming dark yellow-flowered form of a Mexican species most commonly seen with red flowers; it has blue-green foliage. The almost grassy *Nolina microcarpa* is a fun accent plant because of the curly ends on its narrow leaves.

Grasses add both movement and a vertical accent, and two that stand out are related. *Muhlenbergia emersleyi* 'El Toro' has rosy-pink flowers in fall on a clumping plant to 2-3' tall and wide. Its taller cousin, *Muhlenbergia lindheimeri* 'Autumn Glow', grows up to 5' tall and wide.

Your editor has successfully grown the Mexican vine that Wendy showed, *Callaeum macropterum* (syn. *Mascagnia macroptera*), also known as Butterfly Vine. It does well in sun or shade and has lovely yellow flowers in the spring that become large green butterfly-shaped seedpods by fall. This evergreen vine will grow 15-20' and is hardy to about 25° F.

Thanks, Wendy, for introducing these very garden-friendly plants to us. In addition, we thank the generous folks at Mountain States Wholesale Nursery, who donated fifty 1-gallon and 5-gallon plants for our Opportunity Drawing, including almost every plant Wendy described in detail. Their excellent website (www.mswvn.com) has great information on all the plants above and hundreds more.

A full list of the plants in Wendy's talk is on our website; go to www.sdhortsoc.org/water_3.htm.



Photo: Pam Penick

Flowers on *Mascagnia macroptera*. Photo by Pam Penick was taken from her fascinating blog, called Digging, which features exceptional photos of her Austin, Texas garden (and elsewhere), where she grows many of the same plants we do. Visit www.penick.net/digging.

Classified Ads

FREE TO MEMBERS; call Susi at (760) 295-7089 for details.

BOOK SEARCH: I am looking for copies of The Encyclopedia of Australian Plants, all volumes EXCEPT #'s 1 & 2. IF you know of anyone with ones for sale, I would love to buy them. Contact Bruce Hubbard at BHubbardMD@aol.com.

FREE PLANTS: Have two 7' tall pencil trees (Euphorbia tirucalli) in Ocean Beach. You dig and remove. Call Ruth Sewell at (619) 222-3121 or Rodd at (619) 223-1297.

SDHS members save **36%** on subscriptions to *Pacific Horticulture*

Only \$18/year brings you a beautiful full-color magazine all about West Coast gardening!

Each fascinating issue has articles on places to visit, unique gardens, plant info, and lots more.

To subscribe to this exceptional publication send \$18 with your dues



SDHS SPONSOR ↓



MULTIFLORA ENTERPRISES

Rare & Unusual Palms, Fruits and Flowering Shrubs & Trees

Horticultural Consultation, William Skimina
760.723.8886 ❖ bitaski@aol.com

Online Catalog: MultifloraPlants.com

Specializing in Protea and other plants native to Australia and South Africa.

"The largest Protea Nursery in the United States."

Blossom Valley Protea

Walter & Margot Parkola

Nursery hours by appointment

online at: www.blossomvalleyprotea.com

Mail:
P.O. Box 21094
El Cajon, Ca. 92021

Phone: 619-561-8287
Cell: 619-322-5627
E-mail: walterparkola@bvprotea.com

PLANTS COMPREHENSIVE *

HORTICULTURE & LANDSCAPE

www.plantscomprehensive.com

Consulting, design, installation, irrigation, pruning/lacing/shaping/grooming, grafting, problem and situational diagnosis and resolution

619.223.5054 Certified Arborist C27 893456 619.302.1550

SoCal Nativescapes



Pearson's Gardens

SAN DIEGO'S TRADITIONAL HERB FARM



Cultivating Herbs, Gourmet Vegetables, Scented Geraniums, Sages, Lavenders for Your Gardens

(760) 726-0717

1150 Beverly Dr., Vista, CA PearsonsGardens.com

25 Years Experience in So. California



Daniel F. E. Cannou

Consulting Horticulturist

Sunset Horticultural Services

(760) 726-4411

Professional solutions to problems with plants, soil and irrigation

Award-winning garden designs
water-wise • low maintenance

SDHS SPONSOR ↓



Weidners
The Garden Show Place

GARDEN COLOR!
 Open March 1st through Labor Day
 Six days a week - Closed Tuesdays
 Open 9:00 - 5:00

Flowering Plants ~ Succulents
 Perennials ~ Bedding Plants

East of I-5 between
 Leucadia & La Costa exits

(760) 436-2194
 www.weidners.com

Now on Facebook!

SDHS SPONSOR ↓



**Quality Products - Expert Advice
Friendly Service**

- Plant Food
- Amendments & Mulch
- Seed & Sod
- Veggie & Flower Packs(Seasonal)
- Garden Tools
- Irrigation Supplies
- Pest & Disease Control
- Rodent Control
- Bird Food & Feeders
- Frost Protection Products

◆ **Organic Products and Water Saving Devices!**

Helping Your Garden Grow

Since 1952
Farm & Garden Supply
Grangetto's

Escondido
1105 W. Mission Ave
760-745-4671
Fallbrook
530 E. Alvarado St.
760-728-6127

Valley Center
29219 Juba Road
760-749-1828
Encinitas
189 S. Rancho Santa Fe
760-944-5777



Let Us Help You Take Your Next Garden Project From Start to Finish!

Change Service Requested



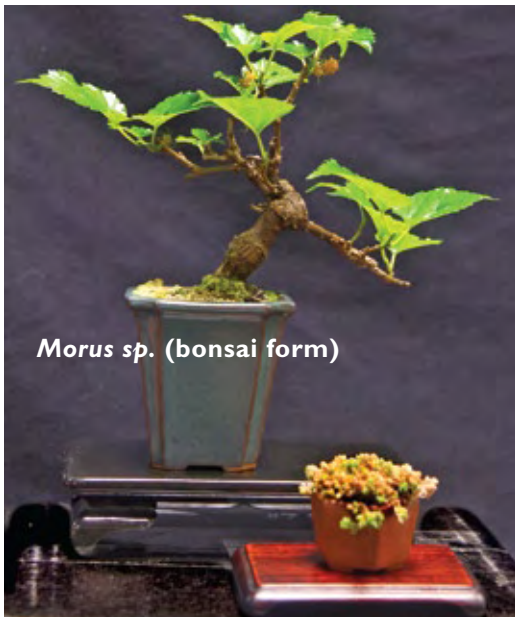
OCTOBER MEETING PHOTOS BY JANINE FREE



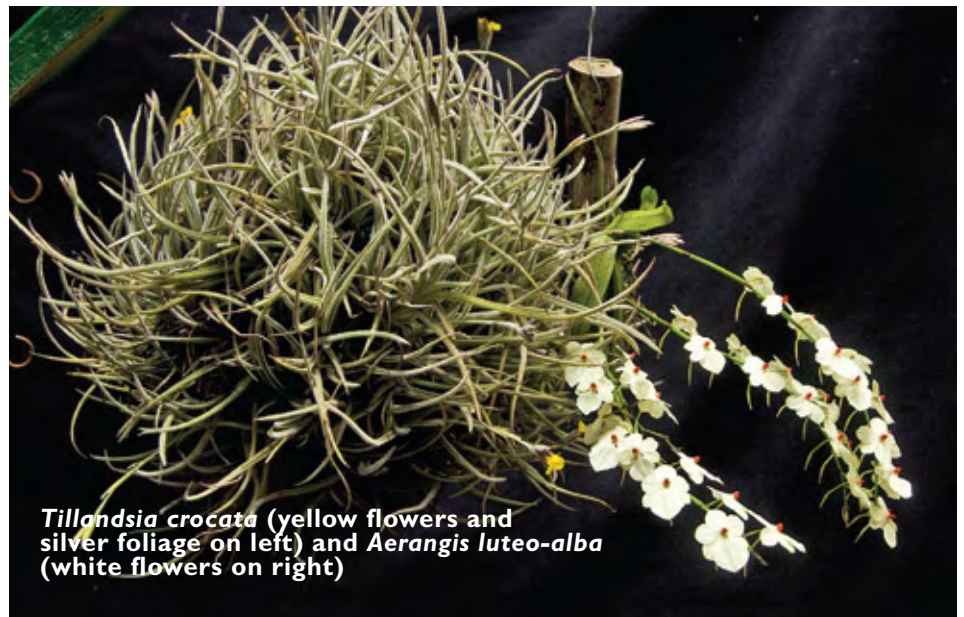
Gardenia thunbergia



Tillandsia jalisco-monticola



Morus sp. (bonsai form)



Tillandsia crocata (yellow flowers and silver foliage on left) and *Aereangis luteo-alba* (white flowers on right)

WATER SMART GARDENING FESTIVAL

More Beauty with Less Water

Saturday, November 13, 2010, 9am-3pm

Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College



Expert Guest Speaker:

Greg Rubin

*Fire, Chaparral, and Survival
in Southern California*

1:00 pm

Activities for Everyone!



Opportunity Drawing:

Home Landscape Re-Design

TGrill Barbeque



Major Sponsors:



Highlights

Plant Sale & Vendors

- Large selection of beautiful drought-tolerant plants, and gardening products.
- Rain Barrel Sale—\$66 each!

Ask the Experts

- Tree-care, green roofs, rain harvesting, veggie gardening, water-smart gardens
- Landscape design consultations—20 minutes for \$20. Call to pre-register.
- San Miguel Fire Department

Fun for Kids!

- Ms. Smarty-Plants' Dinosaur Show!
- Rad Hatter Activity Booth
- Face Painting

**\$3 General Admission; Members
and Kids 12 and Under FREE!**

Free Parking



619-660-0614 x 10
www.TheGarden.org

What's Happening? for November 2010

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

▼ SDHS Sponsor

Anderson's La Costa Nursery & Garden Design Center

- ♦ Full Service Nursery & Garden Design Center
- ♦ Over 200 Running Fountains
- ♦ Trees, Shrubs, Vines, Succulents
- ♦ Huge Greenhouse For Indoor Plants
- ♦ Large Selection of Pottery & Statuary
- ♦ Benches & Trellises
- ♦ Professionals to Answer Your Questions
- ♦ Exquisite New Gift Shop

.....Expect the Unusual



www.AndersonsLacostaNursery.com

Hello to all and welcome to our November 2010 garden tips and update:

November can bring us glorious weather for gardening in the San Diego area. Warm but mild days and cool nights are ideal growing conditions for cool-season plants. November is a particularly good time to add trees, shrubs and ground covers to your landscape. November can deliver some much-needed rain here – you may want to prune dense trees and make sure young trees are well-staked now before the winter arrives.

- ❖ Plenty of loose Paperwhite bulbs. Remember to plant Paperwhites every two weeks now for a long display in December.
- ❖ Azaleas are coming towards their bloom time and we have some very lush 5-gallon plants in bloom.
- ❖ The Cyclamen are very full now and 6" Mums for inside and out. Holiday Cactus are very full of buds, they are fabulous when in full bloom.
- ❖ Ceanothus is a great California native – one of the many varieties on hand is Ceanothus arboreus 'Cliff Schmidt', Feltleaf Ceanothus. Gets big...to 16 ft tall and 12 ft across. Blooms Spring and Fall...in bloom now. Gorgeous !!
- ❖ Restocked our Herbs & Veggies with: Plump Strawberry plants, Parsley, Valerian, lots of Lettuce(s), Winterbor and Redbor Kale, Spinach, Oregano (Greek, Hot & Spicy, Gold, Sweet Variegated), English Thyme, Lemon Thyme, many Basils, Cat Grass & Cat Thyme, Chives, Onions, Marjoram, Dill, Fennel, Italian Parsley.

The bedding annuals and perennials look enticing.

- ❖ Nemesia, Arctotus and Osteospermum, Bacopa – both Lilac & White, Sanvitalia tequila, Iceland Poppies, many Violas, Pansies, Snapdragons, Sweet Peas and much, much more.
- ❖ For shady areas The Cyclamen are in full bloom – all colors and sizes are on hand and Primroses and nice Begonias to brighten your mood and home.

For indoors:

- ❖ Big Ferns – lush, tropical and elegant. Maidenhairs in 4, 6 & 8", Boston's (6 & 10" – HUGE). Also Kimberly Queen, Bear Paw, Rabbit's Foot, Silver Dollar, Mother Fern and Autumn (just to rattle off a few).



We are now on Facebook. If you want to get even more timely nursery tidbits we'd love you to sign up!

Continued on other side

The Water Conservation Garden (see other side for address)

Nov. 6, 9:30-11:30am, Rainwater Collection for the Homeowner: See options for rainwater harvesting for homeowners. Member \$15, non-member \$25.

Nov. 13, 9am-3pm, Water Smart Gardening Festival: Vendors selling drought tolerant plants. "Ask the Experts" areas to get information from landscape designers, Master Composters, and other plant and gardening specialists. Special activities to celebrate the launch of the Garden's new logo. Free. (619) 660-4350 or www.cuyamaca.edu/preview

Nov. 7, 1:30-2:30pm Ask The Horticulturist Tour: Enjoy an informative walk through the Garden, Free

Nov. 20, 10am-1pm, Organic Soil Culture: Learn how to determine your soil type, how to amend and improve your soil, how to use mulch and compost. Member \$20, non-member \$30.

Nov. 20, 1:30-3:30pm, Native Plants for Borders and Containers: Learn how to plant incredible native container gardens with dramatic flair. Member \$15, non-member \$25.

Nov. 21, 9:30-10:30am, Special Access Tour: Special tour is offered monthly for individuals who may have difficulty navigating the terrain of the Garden. Explore the Garden from the comfort of a Shuttle Free; reservations required; call (619) 660-6841.

Saturdays, 10:30am, Garden Tour: Docent led tour of the Water Conservation Garden. Meet at the main gate at the Garden entrance. No reservations required.

San Diego Botanic Garden (see other side for address)

Nov. 4, 6-9pm, Butterfly Gardening: Member/\$25, non-member/\$30.

Nov. 6, 10am-noon, Free Composting Workshop: Learn how to compost your food scraps and yard trimmings. Meet at the Compost Demonstration Site by the Seeds of Wonder Children's Garden. To register contact Solana Center (760) 436-7986 or www.solanacenter.org.

Nov. 13, 10am-noon, Native Plants for your Garden: The art of growing native plants. Plant sale will follow. Member/\$10, non-member/\$12. Pre-registration required by Nov. 9.

Nov. 21, 10am-noon, Yellow Roads: in Search of Hechtia argentea: Join Robert Kopstein and Andy Siekkinen as they share details of their amazing, and sometimes harrowing, 4000-mile adventure. Member/\$10, non-member/\$12. Pre-registration required by Nov. 17.

Walter Andersen Nursery FREE Saturday Classes:

9:00am Point Loma Nursery; 9:30am Poway Nursery:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Nov. 6, Holiday Decorating | Holiday Color Bowls with Jen Merzgian |
| Nov. 13, Poinsettias | Bonsai for Beginners with Richard Wright |
| Nov. 20, Rose Pruning | Decorating for the Holidays with Jen Merzgian |
| Nov. 26, NO CLASSES | |

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

Evergreen Nursery Seminars (see page 4)

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

November 6, 10am, Holiday Color: Learn about the different flowering plants that are available during the Fall/Winter months.

Details at www.evergreennursery.com/seminar-schedule-2010

Cedros Gardens Saturday 10am classes:

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

Nov. 6, 8:45am-1:30pm, California Macadamia Society: In association with U.C. Cooperative Extension, the Gold Crown Macadamia Association. Learn about growing macadamia nuts in California. macadamias make excellent back yard trees, are beautiful as landscaping, and can be grown in tubs on your patio. 6686 Via de la Reina, Bonsall. \$20. Info: macnuts.org/fieldday.htm, (760) 728-8081 or russellfarms@Roadrunner.com.

Nov. 6, 9am-4pm, Lake Hodges Native Plant Club Annual Plant Sale: Rancho Bernardo Vons 11986 Bernardo Plaza Dr. See lhncp.org

Nov. 7, 2-4pm, East County Rose Society: Speaker: John Bagnasco. Free. Kniffing's Nursery, 14940 Oak Creek Road, El Cajon. See eastcountyrosesociety.com

November 8, 6:00pm

Improving Your Soil

See page 3

Nov. 9, 10am, Dos Valles Garden Club: Holiday Decorating with the Head Designer for Canterbury Gardens. Free. St. Stephen Catholic Church, 31020 Cole Grade Rd., Valley Center. Info: (760) 742-0290 or dosvallesgardenclub.org.

Nov. 10, 10am, Point Loma Garden Club: Holiday Decorating. Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego. Free; see www.plgc.org or contact Toni at tonimunsell@cox.net or (619) 223-2051.

Nov. 10, 10:30am, Poway Valley Garden Club: Templars Hall, Old Poway Park 14134 Midland Road, Poway, Info: powayvalleygardenclub.org

Nov. 13, 8am-1pm, Dos Valles Garden Club Plant Sale: Martin Gang Ranch, 28922 Cole Grade Road. Free; info: (760) 742-0290 or dosvallesgardenclub.org.

Nov. 13, 10:30am, Sunshine Gardens Talk: Succulents, Howard will share his knowledge of succulents and their use in your garden. Free. 662 Encinitas Blvd, Encinitas. See sunshinegardensinc.com

Nov. 13, 1-4pm, Cactus and Succulent Society: Cycads, Palms, Tillandsias, and Agaves of Panama. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. See sdcss.net.

Nov. 13, 10am, Bromeliad Society: Bromeliads of Puerto Rico. Free. Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado Botanical Library Room 104. See bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html

Nov. 14, 11am, California Coastal Rose Society: Rare and Unusual Rose Plant Auction. Free. Harding Center Auditorium, 3096 Harding St., Carlsbad. See ccrsauction.com.

Nov. 14, 1:30pm, American Begonia Society: Thelma O'Reilly, nationally known expert on begonias. Bring begonias and companion plants to show. Free. Olivenhain Meeting Hall, 423 Ranch Santa Fe Road, Encinitas. Info: (760) 815-7914.

Nov. 17, 2-5pm, Free Vineyard Design, Installation & Management Seminar: Discussion on grape varieties, planting the vines, installing the trellis and maintenance. Grangetto's, 530 E. Alvarado Street, Fallbrook. To register contact Jennifer Phelan at (760) 745-4671 ext 215 or e-mail events@grangettos.com. For more info see www.grangettos.com.

Nov. 18, 1pm, Bernardo Gardeners Club: Australian plants. RB Swim & Tennis Club, 16955 Bernardo Oaks Dr., Rancho Bernardo. Free. See bernardogardeners.org or call (858) 672.2454

Resources & Ongoing Events

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BALBOA PARK:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Garden TV and Radio Shows

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

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

❖Great Orchids & Cymbidiums

❖Great selection of Breynea, Kalanchoe, Bro-meliad, Anthurium, Persian Violet, African Violet, Crossandra, Azalea, Hibiscus – just a few of your choices.

And finally in the Gift Shop... Christmas is on the way. Patrick has started setting up the shop for the Holidays, and here's a taster of what we have:

❖Stunning hand blown mercury glass ornaments. Heirloom quality.

❖Cut glass starburst candle holders. These beauties really catch and refract the light.

❖Mercury glass Christmas trees, simply gorgeous.

November in the Garden:

Onion seed, garlic and strawberries all need to be planted in the first half of November so don't delay. Transplant strawberries now so they'll develop sturdy root systems over the winter, ready to burst into lush foliage and heavy fruit set in the spring. Dig in lots of organic material and compost first to feed roots over the winter and through the summer.

New Plantings:

Natives: November is an excellent time to plant California natives. There are many natives that are wonderful landscape plants including: California Lilac (Ceanothus), Toyon or California Holly (Heteromeles arbutifolia), Monkeyflower (Diplacus), California Tree Mallow (Lavatera assurgenteum), Coffeeberry (Rhamnus californica). Several low-growing varieties of Manzanita (Arctostaphylos) also make great native ground covers.

Garden Maintenance:

❖**Chrysanthemums:** After they finish flowering cut chrysanthemums back leaving 6-inch stems. They will begin to grow again next March. Old clumps can be lifted and divided - cut the roots apart and discard woody centers and then replant.

❖**Hydrangeas:** Do not prune hydrangeas this late in the year. Hydrangeas bloom on one-year-old stems (except for the 'Endless Summer'). Pruning now will eliminate most of next year's flowers. To try to get blue or lavender flowers on an otherwise pink plant start applying Aluminum Sulfate to the soil now. White flowered varieties will not change color and not all pinks will be effected the same.

❖**Tropicals & Subtropicals:** Many of these will still be blooming and looking good. It is not unusual for many of these to have a big fall flower burst now. Look for lots of color now on plumerias, hibiscus, bougainvillea and ginger. Let these heat-loving plants harden off a bit before the cool temperatures of late fall and winter. Reducing or eliminating nitrogen fertilizer and cutting back on watering will help the plants get ready for the cooler months ahead.

❖Plan your **dormant fruit tree spraying schedule** to coincide approximately with cool weather holidays (Thanksgiving, New Year's Day, and Valentine's Day). Specific cues are the fall of the last leaf (Thanksgiving), the height of dormancy (New Year's Day), and bud swell (Valentine's Day). Spraying at the precise period of bud swell is especially important--before the buds swell is too early and after the blossoms open is too late.

❖Plant colorful **ornamental cabbage and kale** for vibrantly rich reds, blues, and purples to accentuate other garden colors all winter long.

❖Plant **azaleas, camellias, forsythias, dogwoods, and oriental magnolias** so they'll settle in nicely. Renew acid mulches under azaleas, camellias, and rhododendrons. Water them well to make sure they don't dry out from winter sun and winds. Twist off small buds on camellias for fewer but larger blooms.

❖**Prune to shape evergreens** such as arborvitae, juniper, magnolia, pines, pittosporum, and spruce. This is a great way to get trimmings for holiday decorations while manicuring the plants. But don't let your zeal for snipping spread to pruning spring-blooming shrubs or you'll cut off the blooms (they form on new wood); instead, prune after blooming is done.