

# Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

September 2010, Number 192



## Native Plants of Torrey Pines

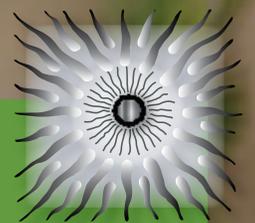
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**SAN DIEGO  
HORTICULTURAL  
SOCIETY**

On the Cover: Indian Paintbrush

# Begonia Show & Sale



The San Diego County branches of the American Begonia Society will hold a **Plant Show & Sale** on **Saturday & Sunday** **October 2 and 3** from **9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

The show will be in Room 101 of Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Spectacular foliage and blossoms of the Begonias will be on display. There will be many beautiful begonia plants for sale. Begonia experts will be available to answer questions.

**For more information call Marla Keith at (760) 753-3977 or e-mail [marla.keith@cox.net](mailto:marla.keith@cox.net)**

# SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY

## FALL SHOW & SALE



**September 18 & 19**  
**(Sat. & Sun.)**  
**10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.**

**Room 101, Casa del Prado**  
**Balboa Park**

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**INSERTS:** Green Scene (Southwestern College),  
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**COVER IMAGE:** The cover photo (by September speaker Margaret Fillius) is of *Castilleja affinis*, the coastal form of Indian Paintbrush. One interesting thing about this perennial plant is that the red parts are bracts rather than flowers - the flowers are the narrow yellow protrusions. The *Castilleja* genus is parasitic on plant roots.

## The San Diego Horticultural Society

### MEETINGS

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

### MEETING SCHEDULE

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

### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

### FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS IN 2010

- September 10-12** Fall Home/Garden Show (see page 13)
- October 11** Wendy Proud on *Desert Plants for San Diego*
- October 17** New Member Orientation, Poway (watch for an e-mail invitation)
- October 23** Pomegranate & Persimmon Picking, Valley Center  
(watch for an e-mail invitation)
- November 8** Improving Your Soil (panel of experts)
- December 13** James Nieh on *Communication Patterns of Bees*

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

**Next Meeting: September 13, 2010, 6:00 – 9:00 PM**

**Topic: : MARGARET FILLIUS on “Naturally in San Diego: Native Plants of Torrey Pines State Reserve”**

**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**



Noted local author Dr. Margaret Fillius will be speaking on native plants and their habitats at the Torrey Pines State Reserve. Margaret's book, *Native Plants – Torrey Pines State Reserve and Nearby San Diego County Locations*, provides a tremendous resource for all who share an interest in local native plants. The talk will be a photographic visit with a selection of annual and perennial native plants of San Diego County, some chosen for their visual appeal and others for their functionality in our gardens. Some plants also have a story – sad or happy – they can tell us. Although the majority live near the coast, some belong farther inland. The presentation will be followed by an opportunity drawing featuring very special plants, and the sale of Margaret's book.

*Native Plants Torrey Pines State Reserve and nearby San Diego County Locations* was first published in 2005. The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of this easy-to-use guide, which is popular with both novices and experienced botanists, came out in the spring of 2010. Copies will be available for sale at the meeting. Margaret, who was raised on the family farm in Aberdeen, Scotland, holds a Ph.D. in biochemistry but is a botanist at heart. She obtained her B.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in Biochemistry, came to the U.S. for further studies, and has remained here. In her retirement she enjoys increasing her knowledge of nature, especially plants. She is a docent at the Torrey Pines State Reserve and an active member in the San Diego chapter of the California Native Plant Society.

Learn more on page 5. ☞

## The Mission of the San Diego Horticultural Society

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

ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER 1994

### SDHS BOARD MEMBERS

- Jim Bishop** – Member at Large, Tour Committee  
**Judy Bradley** – First Vice President, Co-Chair-Program Committee  
**Mark Collins** – Finance/Budget Committee  
**Julian Duval** – San Diego Botanic Garden representative  
**Peter Jones** - Member at Large  
**Sheldon Lisker** – Co-Chair Membership Committee  
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**Lucy Warren** – Secretary, Liaison to H&G Shows

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

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

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

**Sponsorship Info:** Susan Morse, sponsor@sdhortsoc.org

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## BECOME A SPONSOR!

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

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

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

We thank them for their extra support!

## Important Member Information

### URGENT VOLUNTEER NEEDS:

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

### 1- FALL HOME/GARDEN SHOW

Help staff our information/membership table on Sept. 10-12 at the Fall Home/Garden Show at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. For details contact Paula Verstraete at pverstraete@cp-sandiego.com.

### 2- EVENTS & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

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

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

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

### TOUR COMMITTEE

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

### PROGRAM COMMITTEE

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

See page 13 to order your SDHS nametag

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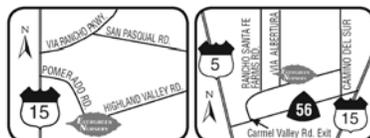
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### Spring/Summer HOURS

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

## To Learn More...

### CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS

By Ava Torre-Bueno

This month's speaker is local author Dr. Margaret Fillius, who will be speaking on native plants and their habitats at the Torrey Pines State Reserve.

You can start learning about Torrey Pines State Reserve by going to the website at: [www.torreypine.org](http://www.torreypine.org)  
Better still, just go to Torrey Pines and walk around or, for the best experience, get one of their well-trained docents to give you a tour.

Margaret's book is being sold at the September meeting. If you cannot attend, it is also available at the Torrey Pines Reserve Visitor Center's Museum Shop (858) 755-2063, or by e-mailing the author at [book@filliusinterests.com](mailto:book@filliusinterests.com).

Torreyana is the newsletter for Torrey Pines Reserve. This one from 2006 has a piece on page 7 called *What's Blooming and Where?*  
[www.torreypine.org/Torreyana/0605.pdf](http://www.torreypine.org/Torreyana/0605.pdf)

For more on all of San Diego's native plants, it's always a pleasure to surf the web site of the San Diego chapter of the California Native Plant Society at:  
[www.cnpssd.org](http://www.cnpssd.org)

Another great place to spend lots of time enjoying San Diego's native plants is Mission Trails Regional Park. Find them first on the web at:  
[www.mtrp.org](http://www.mtrp.org)

And it appears that planting with natives may protect your home in a wildfire:  
[www.calown.com/nativeEcology\\_fireSafety.html#CaseHistories](http://www.calown.com/nativeEcology_fireSafety.html#CaseHistories)

Finally, you can volunteer at the Natural History Museum as a Parobotanist to help them complete the San Diego County Plant Atlas: [www.sdnhm.org/plantatlas/index.html](http://www.sdnhm.org/plantatlas/index.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](mailto:gardeners4peace@hotmail.com) and visit <http://www.sandiegofriendscenter.org/volunteers.htm>. ☘

## Master Gardener Fall Seminar

By Mary James

What do a famous San Diego chef, an award-winning floral designer, and a best-selling garden book author have in common? All will be teaching at "The Informed Home Gardener" Fall Seminar on Oct. 2.

This day of classes and garden marketplace sponsored by the Master Gardener Association of San Diego County and UC Cooperative Extension will be held at Marina Village Conference Center, 1936 Quivera Way, San Diego.

Seminar goers can choose among 9 classes offered in three sessions beginning at 8:30 a.m. Cost of each class is \$15-\$20.

Plants, 2011 Master Gardener Calendar, handcrafted birdhouses, owl boxes and used garden items will be sold at the Marketplace open to seminar goers and the general public. Marketplace hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cash and checks accepted; no credit/debit cards.

The classes include "Growing Edible Fungi in the Garden" taught by mushroom grower Sam Andrasko; "Plant and Grow Bulbs the Easy Way" taught by best-selling Del Mar author Pat Welsh; "Success With Succulents" taught by "Grateful Shed" owners Don and Laura Starr; "From Garden to Table" taught by Marine Room Chef de Cuisine and author Ron Oliver; and



Continued on page 13

## From The Board

By Susi Torre-Bueno

### IT'S OUR BIRTHDAY!

Turn to page 18 to read about our 16<sup>th</sup> birthday and how much we've accomplished. Thanks to all the volunteers who made another great year possible!

### CHANGES ON THE BOARD

Our annual board elections will be held after this newsletter goes to press, so I'll announce new board members in October. We'd like to applaud three members who are leaving the board. Peter Jones was a 1-year Member at Large, and he also took on the task of getting plant donations for our monthly Opportunity Drawing. He excelled at both, and we'll miss him. Sheldon Lisker was our Membership Co-Chair for six years, and an excellent representative at many outreach events; we're delighted he'll remain on the membership committee. Susan Morse, the other Membership Co-Chair, joined the board in 2006 and was invaluable at organizing the New Member Orientations and also handling the computer needs of her committee. She was the friendly face of SDHS at lots of events, and will be sorely missed, but will remain involved on the program committee. Jim Bishop, another Member at Large, will remain on the board as our new Membership Chair, and will continue to serve on the tour committee. Thanks so much to all of you!

### ARE YOU MISSING OUT?

Since February we have held Coffee-in-the-Garden events so members could spend a casual morning meeting other members in a fascinating garden each month. The Coffee invitations are part of my monthly e-mail, which also contains a new password for the on-line newsletter, news of future meetings, etc. If you haven't been getting these invitations it means we lack your current e-mail address. We never share our e-mail list with anyone, so if you've been missing out on these marvelous Coffees because you don't want unwelcome e-mails, stop worrying and send your address and a short note to [info@sdHORTSoc.org](mailto:info@sdHORTSoc.org). The gardens usually have room for about 50-60 people, so reply quickly – most of the Coffees are filled within 48 hours.

### PLANTING SEASON STARTS SOON

In San Diego County most new plants get off to the best start when put into the ground during our rainy season in late fall and winter. NOW is a great time to stock up on specimens to plant once the rains begin! Buy your special beauties at the Sept. 10-12 Fall Home/Garden Show; members can get in for HALF PRICE (see page 13)! Volunteer for the Show and parking is FREE! See the calendar section for upcoming plant sales by garden societies, which offer great choices of often rare plants. Many of our advertisers have 10% discounts for member all year long, so check out their ads, too! ☘

# The Real Dirt On...

## JOHN AND SARA LEMMON

By Linda Bresler



*Tagetes lemmonii*

John Gill Lemmon (1832-1908) and Sara Plummer Lemmon (1836-1923) were 19<sup>th</sup> century self-taught botanists who contributed much to our knowledge of California plants. Over 150 species of plants were discovered by them, and each had a plant genus named after them: Lemmonia and Plummera (not to be confused with Plumeria). John and Sara Lemmon could be called the first forestry conservationists of California's forests, since they fought for the preservation of the state's forests as early

as 1882. In addition, Sara is responsible for having *Eschscholzia californica*, the California Poppy, named the state flower of California in 1903.

Early in John Lemmon's life he was a teacher and superintendent of county schools in Michigan. During the Civil War, he served in the 4<sup>th</sup> Michigan Calvary and spent time in the infamous Confederate Andersonville prison. After the war, in poor health due to his arduous prison stay, John moved to California. There he began a successful career in botany during which he discovered a great number of previously unknown plants.

Born in Maine, Sara Plummer taught art in New York before the Civil War. She served as a hospital nurse during the war, and moved to Santa Barbara in 1869. Sara started the first lending library in Santa Barbara. Her establishment, along with a stationery store that she also ran, became a cultural center for the town with its offerings of art exhibits, lectures, and readings. She met John Lemmon in 1876 when he gave a lecture there. They married in 1880 and spent their married life traveling around California and its adjoining states and territories, exploring and collecting new plant species. Their honeymoon was spent exploring Arizona. Mt. Lemmon in the Catalina Mountains near Tucson, Arizona is named after Sara, since she is believed to be the first woman to have climbed the mountain.

The Lemmons fearlessly traveled throughout the Indian territories in the early 1880's when the Apache Indians were fighting the white settlers. They had several close calls with the marauding Indians. On their travels, John would usually spend each day exploring and collecting new species while Sara would use watercolors to paint the new plants in their native habitats. They preserved the plants in a portable press and sent them to Harvard University for further examination. One of the plants that they discovered was a new species of *Tagetes* found near the Mexican border. Asa Gray, a botanist at Harvard University, named it *Tagetes lemmonii* (Copper Canyon Daisy) in their honor.

In 1887, John was appointed state botanist by the California Board of Forestry. Sara was appointed a botanic artist by the state. They held these jobs until 1891. In addition, Sara was the Chairman of the Forestry Committee of the California Federation of Women's Clubs for three years. John wrote several books about California flora: *Ferns of the Pacific*, *Handbook of West America*, *Conebearers*, and *Oaks of the Pacific Slope*. Sara wrote *Marine Algae of the West* and *Western Ferns*. Together, they wrote *Trees of West America*, which described and fully illustrated all of the native trees of California. In addition, both John and Sara published scientific papers on newly discovered California plants.

They also maintained an herbarium at their residence on Telegraph Street in Oakland, as well as a garden where they propagated *Tagetes Lemmonii*. The progeny of these plants were introduced to the nursery trade in southern California and in England by the early 1900's.

John passed away in 1908 just before completing *Trees of West America*. Sara completed the manuscript and made the necessary arrangements to publish it. After she died in 1923, the couple's large botanical collection was given to University of California, Berkeley.

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

# FREE Succulent Workshop

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**

Learn how to successfully propagate succulents and create a beautiful Living Wall! Our sponsor Southwest Boulder & Stone is pleased to host Marilyn Guidroz of Marilyn's Garden Design ([www.marilynsgarden.com](http://www.marilynsgarden.com)), who will demonstrate the necessary steps of succulent selection, propagation and how to maintain a "living green wall" with emphasis on good design and presentation. Marilyn was the lead designer for the SDHS display garden at the Fair this year.

This FREE 45 minute workshop is for everyone wanting learn more about this exciting new 'vertical' gardening style. You'll learn how to create interesting, creative color and texture for interior and/or exterior patio or garden walls.

Marilyn brings many years of experience designing landscapes in Tucson and Orange County and now brings her creativity and talent to the Inland Empire and San Diego County. She has always been fascinated with the process of creating living art; and her extensive knowledge of plant materials along with her artist's eye allow her to do just that. Marilyn's presentations are always informative and fun.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 18th, 10:00 – Noon. Meet Marilyn in the gardens at Southwest Boulder and Stone, 5002 2nd Street (at Old Hwy 395), Rainbow (Fallbrook). For Reservations for this FREE workshop call (760) 451-3333 ext 718 or register on line at [www.southwestboulder.com](http://www.southwestboulder.com). 🌿

## ATTENTION VISTA, BONSALL AND FALLBROOK GARDENERS

The Tour Committee is considering Vista, Bonsall, and Fallbrook for our spring 2011 tour of members' gardens and SDHS sponsor nurseries. Please e-mail Ida Rigby at [califsalvia@gmail.com](mailto:califsalvia@gmail.com) if you would like to have us preview your garden. We would love to visit you. If you have photos that would be great or just write a short description. Include your name(s), address, phone number and e-mail and Ida will be in touch.

# Plants that Produce

## GET READY FOR FALL PLANTING!

By Richard Frost

In a word, the weather this year in San Diego County has been "mild." If that trend continues, then the coming months should provide excellent weather for fall and winter garden crops. If you are thinking about what soil to use, then consider last months' column on "Soils." Feed your leafy veggies a liquid or water-soluble fertilizer with significant nitrogen for growth, potassium for structure, and make sure it is relatively low on phosphate (the middle number). Keep in mind that the most common cause of "bolting" in vegetables and herbs is the use of animal manures as a soil supplement.

Chard is a good choice for planting in September while it is still warm. Rainbow chard is very popular, but don't ignore the unique individual flavors of red or gold leaf. The traditional Italian Silver Rib is my personal favorite.

The leafy Brassicas grow well during mild fall weather and over-winter very well in the coastal areas. These include Kale, Mustard Greens (Rapeseed), Cabbages, Bok Choy, and Mizu-Na (Mizuna). A few Brassica herbs are also worth planting at this time, including perennial Arugula (aka Wild Arugula, *Sylvestra Arugula*), *Diplotaxis tenuifolia*.

Lettuces truly thrive on cool daytime weather with colder (50-degree) night time temperatures. They do well in modest size pots, troughs, and garden beds. In terms of taxonomy, there are over 50 unique species of lettuce in the genus *Lactuca*, and among them a few thousand hybrids. Don't be shy about leaving room for lettuce or trying a seemingly new variety.

Mâche is a broadleaf member of the Valerian family with a very mild taste. It is easy to grow in the fall and early spring. Mâche is popular in salads for children, but I also recommend it for sandwiches.

Parsley and other members of the Carrot family (*Apiaceae*) can do well in cool weather – especially the perennials such as Lovage.

Carrots themselves can be a fast crop if you choose the smaller varieties. I encourage to be daring and grow some *round* carrots this year!

Don't forget to plant peas late in the fall for a crop early next spring. I know all you ornamental gardeners enjoy the flowers of non-edible sweet peas – but this year try something different and plant one of the colorful edible varieties such as Painted Lady. I like to grow peas on my tomato lattices – that is, as the tomato plants are fading I plant the peas and get year-round use from the supports.

Asparagus is another great vegetable to plant if you haven't already. Keep in mind that it has invasive rhizomes much like Bermuda grass or bamboo. I grow it in pots for this reason and many people use a small dedicated raised bed. Cut it back early and often so that the rhizomes are constantly sending up new, larger shoots. Alternatively, let the shoots develop foliage vs. harvesting the new shoots.

Alas, there are many garden herbs such as oregano and thyme that are uncomfortable in cold weather. They are shallow rooted plants that over-extend themselves during the warmth of the summer and cannot cope during winter. Cut them back about two thirds, but make sure the plant still has a significant amount of leaves for photosynthesis. Take your cuttings indoors and dry them for flavor treats all winter long.



SDHS member Richard Frost is a certified edible gardening nut. For copies of past articles and more information, please see [www.PlantsThatProduce.com](http://www.PlantsThatProduce.com). [For seeds from Renee's Garden visit [www.reneesgarden.com](http://www.reneesgarden.com)].

## Trees, Please

### NEED BIG TREES FAST?

By Robin Rivet

Have you envied your neighbor as they re-landscaped their yard with the largest trees money could buy? All too often, the instant gratification perceived from planting large boxed trees misfires, and a leaner purse might do you a favor. There are many reasons for this. Nursery overcrowding, root girdling, depleted soils, transplant shock and poor pruning: all contribute to introducing young trees to a scary adolescence. Ironically, consider that a younger tree will quickly outpace the growth of their boxed brethren!

By necessity, container nursery trees are grown close together. Although there are exceptions, growers crowd their specimens for ease of watering and saving space. This often limits available sun, and leggy saplings reach vertically for sufficient light to photosynthesize. Meanwhile, spindly lower branches may be removed or damaged, and to stand up straight, nurseries generally throttle the leader with a tightly wound stake. This blocks light from reaching one side of the tree trunk, creating adverse phototropism<sup>2</sup>. Central stakes also act like a crutch, weakening the tree's natural ability to develop a strong taper that it would gain from blowing freely in the wind.

Tree roots rapidly outgrow the radius of their containers. Once a spreading root hits the wall of a pot, it begins to curve around. Only promptly transplanting a specimen into a larger pot can prevent these roots from slowly strangling themselves. Unfortunately, it is all too common for trees in large pots to have a sequence of coiled roots, each one mirroring the pot it had grown in before. Sparse foliage, poor branch structure and nutrient deficiencies are also common; in fact, restrained growth is a symptom of older container plants.

This is not totally a nursery's fault, since recommending the purchase of one, five, or fifteen gallon specimens may not exhaust supply. What do I expect nurseries to do, discard them? Donation might be appropriate, but that is another essay. At any rate, think about this... Generally, most transplanted saplings are "leftover" less desirable specimens. When a tree finds a path into a 24", 36", or (gasp!) a 48" or 60" box; typically it endured recurrent non-selection, and may suffer numerous ailments. Even if they avoid all these hazards, there is a worse and "naughty" indignity, frequently perpetrated on older saplings that few trees truly outgrow.

Continued on page 17



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

September 23 - 26, 2010, Pasadena, California

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

**Half Sold Out  
Register ASAP**

**Complete details & brochure: [www.PacificHorticulture.org/education-events](http://www.PacificHorticulture.org/education-events)**

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

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

## Thursday, Sept. 23 - Optional Events

- ♦ Two day-long bus tours:

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

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

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

## Friday, Sept. 24 - Speakers

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

## Saturday, Sept. 25 - Speakers

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



## Sunday, Sept. 26 - Speakers

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

## The Gardens (3 on tour each afternoon)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**Susi Torre-Bueno at (760) 295-2173**

## Welcome New Members!

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

### Welcome to our newest sponsor – Southwest Boulder & Stone.

Coburn Topiary  
Arlene Gottfried  
Melissa Mora  
Marilyn Nelson  
Aleksandra Owczarek  
Terry Seat  
Kim Walker  
Dorothy Yang

### NEW ADVERTISERS:

**SAN DIEGO BEGONIA SOCIETY, PAGE 2**

**SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY, PAGE 2**

### HORT BUCKS ARE GREAT!

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

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

### Discounts For Members

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](http://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](mailto:membership@sdhortsoc.org) or SDHS, Attn: Membership, PO Box 231869, Encinitas, CA 92023-1869.

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\*Horticulturist of the Year

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## 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?

### GALA GOES GREEN

One important role of the San Diego Botanic Garden is to educate about ecological sustainability. We do this most effectively by demonstrating sustainable practices. This year, we will further these efforts as our Gala will be going even greener than before. We have set a goal of making the Gala a zero-waste fundraiser!

The theme for our Gala in the Garden on September 11th is "celebrating environment and stewardship." Typically, such an event produces about five yards of landfill waste. To reduce the landfill waste to zero requires careful participation by all involved. Eating utensils will be compostable, going to the Greenery, part of the Miramar Landfill that composts materials into soil amendments. All served food waste will be composted on site; unserved food will be immediately taken to a social service agency that provides meals. In place of garbage cans, volunteers will staff eco-stations where utensils and leftovers will be sorted for recycling into soil amendments. Guests are being asked to carpool to the Gala. Everyone arriving in a car with three or more people will be eligible for a \$500 Barona package prize.

Our Sustainability Committee is lead by Bill Dean, who ran the recycling division for Mashburn in San Diego, and Sarah Rankin who has an MS in environmental science and was Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Chattanooga, TN. We know our green goal is possible as we follow the example of the Encinitas Rotary Wine Festival, also held in the Garden. For two years now, it has served food and beverages to 600 people producing just a five-gallon bucket of waste.

This year's honored guest is Dr. Jodie Holt, Professor of Plant Physiology and Chair of the Department of Botany and Plant Sciences at UC Riverside. Dr. Holt was also the botanical consultant for the blockbuster film *Avatar*, where she shaped Sigourney Weaver's character as a botanist and helped create and name plants for the film. If you have seen the film you know that it emphasizes how stewardship is important to protecting the environment.

### GALA IN THE GARDEN

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[www.sdbgarden.org/gala.htm](http://www.sdbgarden.org/gala.htm)

# Book Review

## **THE GARDEN OF INVENTION: LUTHER BURBANK AND THE BUSINESS OF BREEDING PLANTS**



By Jane S. Smith

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh

There's a rather prosaic photo on page 238 of this book that might be all I need to tell you about to convince you that it's worth reading. Three gray-haired men sit smiling on a set of concrete porch steps.

They're wearing polished dress shoes, dark suits, and ties, and they each hold a dress hat in one hand. They look relaxed, as though they are thoroughly enjoying themselves. The caption reads, "Thomas Edison, Luther Burbank, Henry Ford, Santa Rosa, 1915."

An important fact is implied by the caption. Edison and Ford, two of the most important men in America, traveled to Burbank—not he to them. They wanted to talk to him about the possibility of developing a domestic source of rubber for automobile tires as well as many other uses.

That's just one part of this fascinating and well-written book about Luther Burbank. Born and raised in Massachusetts, Burbank was a late-bloomer, in every sense of the word. He didn't really find his direction in life until one day when he saw a seed pod on a potato plant. Potatoes had been grown by cutting up and planting sections of potatoes for many generations. They rarely produced seed. Burbank planted the seeds and in time selected and developed the Burbank potato. He was on his way.

He started developing plants in earnest in 1875, at the age of 28, when he followed his brothers to California. Ultimately, he developed over 800 varieties of fruits, nuts, grains, flowers, and vegetables before his death in 1926.

Smith's book weaves Burbank's story with many threads, including the development of agriculture in California and the United States, the development of U.S. patent law, and the ferment of ideas brought into almost every aspect of life by Darwin's *The Origin of Species* and other books. Burbank's genius was probably his ability to spot promising plants for development, and his tenacity and patience in waiting to see the results of his experiments, no matter how many years they took.

We are the direct inheritors of the results of his genius. All of us probably have one or more plants in our gardens that he developed. We also benefit from the ideas about plant breeding he developed, the basis for much of the work done all over the world now.

Smith's combination of biography and history held my interest from the first page. She has the gift of making her subjects come alive for the reader. If you think history is dry and boring, read this and change your mind. Her writing is so good that I plan to look up her other three books listed. One of them, *Patenting the Sun: Polio and the Salk Vaccine*, may also be of particular interest to San Diego readers.

*The Garden of Invention* (ISBN 978-1-59420-209-4) is hardbound, 354 pages, and includes a selected bibliography. It was published for \$25.95 in 2009. Although I bought it from a remainder catalog (for considerably less) I'm sure you can find it at your neighborhood bookstore or library. It's well worth tracking down. ☘

# Community Outreach

## **HISTORIC GARDENS IN BALBOA PARK**

BY LINDA JOHNSON

San Diego is home to a wealth of beautiful, historic gardens. Not only can these gardens be enjoyed for their horticultural value, but they also offer a look into the past of San Diego. Balboa Park provides a wonderful variety of these historic gardens for all to enjoy. With lush landscaping throughout 1,200 acres, the Park has been ranked among the Best Parks in the World by the Project for Public Places. There are more than eight gardens in the Park to visit, and, you can even purchase a geranium with historic ties to San Diego! Highlights of just a few of the gardens:

**Marston House Garden:** A formal English Romantic-style garden with California influences, this garden represents a slice of San Diego history. On the grounds of the George White and Anna Gunn Marston House, the garden includes many trees that were first planted in 1906 under the direction of Kate O. Sessions, the horticultural consultant. Wander the grounds, formal gardens and canyon pathways in the shade of towering pine, eucalyptus and oak trees. From the Friends of the Marston House, two special geraniums from the Geranium Collection of Heritage Plants are available for purchase. Geranium George was introduced in 2005 for the 100th anniversary of the Marston House. The Kate Sessions Geranium was introduced in 2008 to honor San Diego's legendary horticulturist. Sales benefit the continued care and upkeep of this landmark house and garden, located at 3525 Seventh Ave., Balboa Park.

**1935 (Old) Cactus Garden:** Developed under the direction of Kate Sessions for the 1935 California Pacific International Exposition, it contains some of the largest cactus and succulent specimens in the Park and also includes exotic African and Australian Protea plants. West side of Balboa Park.

**Alcazar Garden:** Patterned after the gardens of Alcazar Castle in Seville, Spain, it is known for its ornate fountains, exquisite Moorish tiles and shady pergola. Reconstructed to replicate the original 1935 design, it features a formal garden bordered by boxwood hedges, planted with 7,000 annuals for a colorful display all year. Adjacent to the Art Institute and Mingei Museum.

[NOTE: See article on page 12 about the recent SunPatiens planting here.]

**Botanical Building:** With the Lily Pond in the foreground, the Botanical Building is one of the most photographed scenes in Balboa Park. Built for the 1915-16 Panama-California Exposition, this historic building is one of the largest lath structures in the world. With more than 2,100 permanent plants, featuring fascinating collections of cycads, ferns, orchids, and palms, the Botanical Building also showcases some of the Park's vibrant seasonal flower displays. (See photo)



**Palm Canyon:** A tropical oasis containing more than 450 palms (58 species) within two acres, the original group of Mexican fan palms dates to 1912. Follow the historic trail through lush canyons to the Old Cactus Garden, and over a picturesque wooden footbridge. Enter from the Alcazar Gardens parking lot, across from the Organ Pavilion.

**Japanese Friendship Garden:** A teahouse during the 1915-16 Panama-California Exposition, the garden includes two acres of winding paths, with a Zen garden for meditation, an exhibit house, koi pond, bonsai exhibit, ceremonial gate, and a Fujidana (wisteria arbor). Near the Spreckels Organ Pavilion.

Visit [www.balboapark.org/in-the-park/organizations](http://www.balboapark.org/in-the-park/organizations) for more information on these and other gardens. ☘

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## Revolutionary New Plant on View in Balboa Park Award-Winning Impatiens Loves Full Sun

A massive planting of colorful SunPatians, a new hybrid impatiens was planted July 22 in Balboa Park's Alcazar Garden. Friends of Balboa Park and Armstrong Garden Centers teamed up to donate over 700 SunPatians, bred by the Japanese plant breeding company Sakata. This exciting new large-flowered impatiens thrives in full sun during hot summer months, unlike the popular impatiens most homeowners know that only grow in shade. Bred from species that are more hardy and robust, SunPatians are vigorous and very easy-to-grow in the Full Sun but will thrive anywhere they're planted – even in the shade. Flowers are large—3 inches—and have rich green to bronze leaves. Plants form a mounding spectacle of color. Learn more at [www.SunPatians.com](http://www.SunPatians.com)

We thank Josh Schneider from Cultivaris North America (representing SunPatians), for donating 400 of these plants to SDHS. They were given out at our August 9 meeting. We'd love to hear feedback about how they did in your garden – send an e-mail to Susi Torre-Bueno at [storrebueno@cox.net](mailto:storrebueno@cox.net).



### About the Alcazar Garden

Alcazar Garden, named because its design is patterned after the gardens of Alcazar Castle in Seville, Spain, lies adjacent to the Art Institute and Mingei Museum. It is known for its ornate fountains, exquisite turquoise blue, yellow, and green Moorish tiles and shady pergola. This formal garden, bordered by boxwood hedges, is planted with 7,000 annuals for a vibrant display of color throughout the year. The garden has been reconstructed to replicate the 1935 design by San Diego architect Richard Requa. ☞



# Fall Home/Garden Show Container Inspiration

By Lucy Warren



The Fall Home/Garden Show is coming right up on September 10, 11 and 12.

This year the entry feature will be an enticing display of container gardens, demonstrating the ability to have a beautiful garden, no matter what the space constraints.

Each afternoon of the show award-winning landscape designer Shellene Mueller will be speaking on "Jewel Box Gardens."

The show will also include a "Garden Marketplace" with vendors selling hundreds of varieties of plants from local growers.

Of course, the San Diego Horticultural Society will have a booth and would love to have your help. To volunteer contact Paula Verstraete at [pverstraete@cp-sandiego.com](mailto:pverstraete@cp-sandiego.com). Bring your questions to the Master Gardeners and learn from the experts about other gardening groups you may want to join.

The show runs Friday, Sept. 10, 11am-6pm; Saturday, Sept. 11, 10am-6pm; and Sunday, Sept. 12, 10am-5pm. Admission: \$8.00; children under 12 are free. Seniors: only \$1 on Friday. After 3 pm daily, all tickets \$6.00. Discount tickets on the website are \$6.00; however, **members of San Diego Horticultural Society can buy tickets for only \$4 on the website by typing in the Code: SDHS.** For more information visit [www.sandiegohomegardenshow.com](http://www.sandiegohomegardenshow.com) or our Facebook page: San Diego Home/Garden Shows. 🌿

## FALL SEMINAR Continued from page 5

"Turning Garden 'Trash' into Holiday Floral Designs" taught by award-winning floral designer Carvill Veech.

Other class topics are healthy soils, integrated pest management for beginner vegetable gardeners, dog-friendly landscaping, and the legacy of Roberto Burle Marx, the father of modern garden design.

Visit [www.mastergardenerssandiego.org](http://www.mastergardenerssandiego.org) for a detailed class list and downloadable registration form. Classes tend to sell out so early registration is recommended. Registration closes on Sept. 22.

The fall issue of our e-newsletter will have complete plant sale information, as well as other helpful articles on plants, gardening and pest control. To sign up for the free newsletter and other Master Gardener email-alerts, visit the Master Gardener Web site (above) and click the "Go Green" button.

Updates will be posted on the MG facebook page.

Questions about the seminar, other Master Gardener events or home gardening are answered by Master Gardener volunteers Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on our Hortline, (858) 694-2860. 🌿

**BRING A PLANT  
TO THE PLANT FORUM  
AT THE  
SEPTEMBER MEETING**



Your editor truly loves **Dirt du jour**, a FREE daily email about gardening in Southern California. It's a fun way to start your day, with links to interesting garden products, newsmakers and events. I look forward to it and almost always find something worth reading about and following up on. And there's often an amusing tidbit you might otherwise miss, like the recent link to a BBC article reporting that, "German scientists are all abuzz about finding that honeybees are smarter in the morning."

This lively endeavor, by garden writer Cindy McNatt, is "an ezine, eletter and blog tailored to the gardener who wants the heads up about what is new, hip, up and coming, over, on sale and too expensive. Sometimes we offer gardening tips or plant profiles and sometimes we simply ramble on about roses."

Once you sign up, a helpful email on a wide range of topics comes each weekday. Their website features back issues, book reviews and more.

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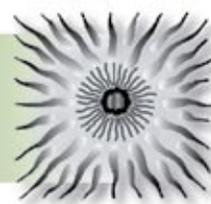


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# SHARING SECRETS

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

**The question for September was: What has been your biggest surprise in your garden this year?**

Tom Biggart wrote: "A couple of years ago I got two big loads of mulch (ground up trees) from my tree man. I put a bunch around in the garden that year and saved the rest for use the following year. I put a bunch of it around last summer and to my total surprise a veritable plethora of weeds popped up this past Spring. Go figure that out! My guess is that the mulch pile attracted every possible weed seed in the neighborhood! My lesson is to get the mulch and use it IMMEDIATELY! What a surprise and not a pleasant one!!"

Karen Cassimatis is, "new to San Diego this year, attempting to tame a hillside that was previously lemonade berry and grasses. My biggest surprise is the number of river rocks lying under the soil surface, (since we are at 400 ft elevation). As I swing my pick down to loosen the soil, clink! Another rock! For gardeners who have lived here awhile, I guess that's not a surprise."

Jo Casterline's biggest surprise isn't a plant: "The big rusty Borrego sheep sculpture that we found at the New Mexico Flea Market in June is affixed to our boulder as if leaping to the next boulder. What a show!"



Margaret Davis was surprised by: "Brussels Sprouts. I am harvesting from three large Brussels Sprout plants (a cabbage relative) in July! I think our mild winter and not too hot summer has added to a long season for this plant. My yield so far has been 50 to 75 sprouts per plant. They grow in a raised bed area in full sun."

Nancy Fain had two surprises: "My best and biggest surprise was a few wonderful people who want to help keep our Coronado Middle School planters in Coronado beautiful! They didn't think it was 'someone else's job.' They pitched in! My worst surprise was the 'walking sticks' insects. They pump out eggs without a mate, and are truly awful. **Does any one know what to do about them?** I guess they devastated areas in India, and came to our area via science high school experiments."

John Gilruth got flowers: "My biggest surprise in my garden this year was my 12-year old Madagascar Palm (*Pachypodium lamerei* or geayi - I am not sure which) finally bloomed. It is about 12 feet tall and had branched out with three stems - each with a bunch of very large white flowers that look much like large plumeria blooms - but keep your distance as the trunk is covered with very tough spines."

Ron Hurov was surprised by the results of "not watering. I still have a luxurious jungle of drought tolerant plants."

Gabrielle Ivany had a geranium surprise from: "the four lemon scented geraniums (I believe they are *Pelargonium crispum* 'French Lace') that I bought last year in 1-gallon containers and planted in alternating corners of my two square flower beds that have a tree rose in the middle. The other corners got another geranium with cute rose-colored flowers. All plants at the time of planting were

about the same size. Well, the lemon-scented ones did so well that they are now 4 ft across and about 20" high. I keep trimming them so they don't overwhelm the other plants, which have not grown much in size but still look nice. Maybe if I had done some research on them beforehand I would not have been that surprised."

Lori Kilmer had a giant surprise: "My biggest surprise was that Swiss chard could grow 6 feet tall and look like giant pieces of red licorice."

Nancy Knight's "biggest surprise this year was the bold return of plants that received a very serious haircut from me last season. Some of the plants that I pruned back to the soil level were Santa Barbara Daisy, Gaura, Verbena, Sedum, Calylophus and my potted Hydrangea. Once springtime arrives, I see little green sprouts popping out of the soil and I feel the need to check on them every morning to measure the growth. I get a kick watching the different stages of the small buds turning into flowers. I am still amazed at nature's wonders and how much pleasure I get out of my garden."

Tory Monigold wrote, "It's embarrassing, but to be honest, the biggest surprise in my own little garden this year was all the succulents that bloomed after months of neglect when we received the unexpected rain showers."

KaKatie Pelisek got a daisy surprise: "I brought home two white "Garden Hardy" Gerberas from the San Diego Botanic Garden Fair exhibit last year. As I was planting I noticed there were 3 in a pot, so I divided them up. They all survived (surprise!) and have bloomed non-stop all year - even under a massive old stone pine where they compete for water and sun. I love this surprising little daisy!"

Pat Peterson's "biggest surprise was a volunteer tomato that sprouted smack in the middle of my marigold bed (my only annual flower bed, by the way). I believe its origin was from my worm compost used to enrich the soil in the bed. I fully intended to transplant it, because I do not have the heart to toss a perfectly healthy plant. But, after we returned from a three-week trip, it was huge, lush and loaded with green fruit. Implement plan B: nurture, harvest and enjoy the serendipity of nature."

Diane Scharar's surprise: "How big the king snake that visits our garden has grown!"

Sue Ann Scheck's "biggest surprise was the exquisite blooms coming from my Echeverias! Purple, pink budlets on tall stalks absolutely striking in color! The other astounding piece was returning home after vacation and discovering my succulents thriving despite no care! Babies were born... new little darlings to add to our lifespace!"

Ron Steven's surprise: "The biggest surprise in my garden this year was a flower: a long awaited flower. On Thursday, July the 1st (one day before my grandson's first birthday) my *Eucalyptus rodantha* finally produced its first bloom. It took 5 years to happen. This small shrubby blue-white Eucalyptus species normally produces two-inch-wide red flowers with yellow tipped stamens at a young age, but I was beginning to wonder if mine was ever going to bloom. But this year was magical. It took off, doubled in size, and the buds that overwintered last year finally began to swell. Then on the 1st of July, the first bud-cap popped off the first flower and exposed a compressed clutch of deep red stamens that opened wide on day 2 to produce the classic dark-red, two-inch-round flower indicative of the species. It was worth the wait. Now, if my 13-year old *Brahea armata* would only bloom. I'm hoping it happens in my lifetime."

Continued on page 16

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**Secrets** Continued from page 15

Jackie Seidman had insect problems: "The biggest surprise in my garden this year is not a happy one. An infestation of fruit flies loved all the stone fruit and berries I grew. I lost almost everything. The biggest surprise was that in order to control them I need to remove ALL the fruit next year. Surprises come in many different packages. I guess I'll make a lot of lemonade in 2011."

Linda Shaw's surprise: "We have planted many calla lilies in the past, none of which have grown let alone flowered. So we took them out. This summer, after turning the bed over, up came a perfectly beautiful calla, flower and all. Moral: the less you try, the easier it is!"

Katrin Utt wrote, "The BIGGEST surprise has been my giant wild sunflowers. They self-seed every year but this year they are over 15 feet tall! The birds love them, too."



Marilyn Wilson got a flowery surprise: "In my courtyard, where there is insufficient sun, a *Campanula punctata* 'Cherry Bells' bloomed (on four stalks). It bloomed the first year I planted it, and then just sat there and spread around for several years, producing leaves only. Apparently it is invasive if you treat it well. Other than increased winter rain, I know of nothing that convinced this plant to flower this year."

Susi Torre-Bueno was "surprised that one of the plants in a mesclun mix (which went to seed – OOPS!) turned out to be chicory. I could tell by the sky blue flowers, which I hadn't seen since I found them as weeds when I was a kid in NYC."

Liz Youngflesh had a fruit surprise: "The bumper crop of apricots, peaches, plums and nectarines. I bought bare root trees from Walter Andersen Nursery 3 years ago. The first year I had a decent crop, the second better, and this year was incredible. I planted them down the center of the nursery to give me the benefit of shade canopy in summer and more sun in the winter when they go dormant. I don't know if I had such a stupendous crop because of the water run off from the nursery plants or my great Vista clay soil (nobody calls clay 'great,' but mine is fast draining and rich in nutrients), or just due to the maturing of the trees. I enjoyed sharing those healthy and luscious treats with friends and neighbors."

**The question for next month is:**  
**Can anyone ID this plant? Send us a high-resolution photo and a brief description of your unknown plant and we'll put it in the October newsletter for other members to identify.** (Thanks to Sue Fouquette for suggesting this.)

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# Earth-Friendly Gardens

NOW is the time to start planning for runoff from the rains we expect this winter. If you missed the dynamic presentation in May by Brad Lancaster, a specialist in capturing rainwater and in water re-use, you can get tons of info on his website: [www.harvestingrainwater.com](http://www.harvestingrainwater.com).

In the August newsletter we included information about a three-part, hands-on workshop by the Surfrider Foundation to find out how you can improve our water quality, save water, and save money all while creating a beautiful garden. The first part of the workshop was on August 24 at the Encinitas Community Center. For more info visit [www.ofg-sandiego.blogspot.com](http://www.ofg-sandiego.blogspot.com).

There is LOTS of helpful info on the Surfrider Foundation website about making your garden more in tune with our environment, including videos and DIY projects. Their Ocean Friendly Gardens Program shows many steps you can take at your homes to prevent pollution from water runoff (during the dry season as well as the rainy season) from reaching the ocean and nearby watersheds; this runoff is one of the largest sources of ocean pollution. To learn more how YOU can start improving your garden today, go to <http://oceanfriendlygardens.blogspot.com>

The California Sea Grant College Program of University of California San Diego has a section of their fascinating website devoted to home gardening issues. Go to [www-csgc.ucsd.edu/BOOKSTORE/greensheets.html](http://www-csgc.ucsd.edu/BOOKSTORE/greensheets.html) and you can download FREE info about building a rainwater garden, making swales to reduce runoff, and much more.

Additional information about rain gardens is at [www.msa.saccounty.net/sactostormwater/RFL/raingardens/raingardens.asp#started](http://www.msa.saccounty.net/sactostormwater/RFL/raingardens/raingardens.asp#started). ☞

## Trees Continued from page 7

They are beheaded, otherwise called "topping"<sup>3</sup>. How can this be? Most people yearn to purchase tall trees with ample green branching. To satisfy ignorant buyers, growers often snip off the top of their leggy saplings<sup>4</sup>, typically about eye height. Obliging, trees shoot out a flurry of green, but lion-tailed growth at the cut apical meristem. This may sound innocuous to many gardeners, but to an arborist, it is anathema. For the rest of this tree's life, it may need corrective leader pruning as it tries to compensate for this damage.

So... what can a wise gardener do? When buying a tree, look for trunk taper; return trees with girdled roots and avoid topped specimens. A good nursery tree should not look like a lollipop. Finally, remember tree roots need at least as much space underground as branches above; this is especially important when they are formatively growing, hence the caution about buying older trees. If you want a fast growing tree, purchase the smallest container recommended for that species.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.lvrj.com/living/54285952.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.scienceclarified.com/Oi-Ph/Phototropism.html>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.treesaregood.org/treecare/topping.aspx>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.puyallup.wsu.edu/~linda%20chalker-scott/horticultural%20myths\\_files/Myths/Tree%20topping%20redux.pdf](http://www.puyallup.wsu.edu/~linda%20chalker-scott/horticultural%20myths_files/Myths/Tree%20topping%20redux.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> **Coming next month: October is the best time to plant San Diego trees: Which trees are best purchased at what size and why.**

Member Robin Rivet is an ISA Certified Arborist, serves on the Environmental/Sustainability Commission for the City of La Mesa, San Diego Regional Urban Forestry Council, California Rare Fruit Growers, and UCCE Master Gardeners. She welcomes public inquiries and rebuttals. ☞

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# Happy 16th Birthday to Us!

By Susi Torre-Bueno

Our annual birthday report invariably starts off with a very appropriate and heartfelt *thank you* to the passionate founders who created our Society in 1994: Don & Dorothy Walker, Steve Brigham, Diana Goforth, Laurie Bussis, Linda Teague, Adele Snyder and Kathy Musial. Their vision set us on the path to having a friendly group that enjoys sharing information and the joy of gardening. Our members vary from beginners to skilled professionals – what they have in common is a passion for plants. In the past 16 years we have grown to include over 1300 members, making us one of the largest and most active garden groups in the United States. Our wide-ranging meetings attract a diverse audience, and our volunteers make possible a wide variety of other activities.

If you're one of the members who joined this year I hope you'll become an active participant (see page 4). We've also gained new sponsors, and we thank all our sponsors (see page 9) for the financial support that enables us to accomplish as much as we do. Some of the year's highlights are below. For the names of all the volunteers and more details, see previous newsletters.

**What have we done since last September?** In November I began sending a monthly e-mail to notify members about the password for the digital newsletter as well as about the next Coffee-in-the-Garden, upcoming meetings, volunteer needs, and special events. In February we initiated free Coffee-in-the-Garden gatherings, which have been a very popular way for members to meet each other and to spend a few hours in a different fascinating garden each month; thanks to everyone who hosted us in their gardens. In March Ida Rigby put together our first local garden tour in several years, with an outstanding turnout at four exceptional Encinitas gardens. Also in March, Jason Kubrock helped arrange a series of talks and workshops at the Spring Home/Garden Show and organized a great plant display for us. Al Myrick led the April judging for our awards for the San Diego Regional Science Fair, and also was the coordinator for our three \$1000 college scholarships.

We treated our volunteers to a fun party (planned by Paula Verstraete) in June at the outstanding garden of Susan and Frank Oddo. Our display garden at the June and July San Diego County Fair was a group effort for the first time, with a team of garden designers collaborating on an award-winning garden with tremendous popular appeal. Also in July we hosted a sold-out garden tour to Portland, Oregon where we enjoyed an excellent group of private and public gardens; thanks to Ida Rigby and Cheryl Hedgpeth for organizing this.

**Our monthly meetings** remain the heart of what we do (about 350 people attend) and we are grateful for help from great volunteers: Everett Mehner (video taping), Sandy Shapiro and Jason Kubrock (running the projector), librarians Bonnie McNamara and Tim Thornton, and Jeff Belitnikoff (setting up the meeting room). Three cheers to Janet Warneka & Phil Tackill for bringing the blue bottles for the Plant Forum, and Evey & Ava Torre-Bueno who sell Opportunity Drawing tickets. We appreciate Diana Goforth and Pat Venolia (membership table) and Peter Jones (Opportunity Drawing plant donations). We now have a PowerPoint slide show (thanks to Cheryl Leedom) to thank volunteers and sponsors. Thanks also to Susan Morse, Paula Verstrate, Lucy Warren, our check-in volunteers, vendors and everyone else who helps out.

Judy Bradley and the Program Committee do an exceptional job of recruiting exciting speakers. Topics this year ranged from *Wicked Plants—The Deliciously Dark Side of the Plant Kingdom* and *Growing Summer Vegetables the Organic Way to Succulent Container Gardens*. At



our Special Evening in May widely-recognized expert Brad Lancaster spoke about the crucial topic of *Water Harvesting: Turning Drains Into Sponges and Water Scarcity Into Water Abundance*.

**Our newsletter continues to be a major member benefit**, and about 1/3 of our members now read it on-line, helping reduce our carbon footprint. I greatly enjoy being the newsletter editor (this is my 14<sup>th</sup> year), and I want to thank this year's regular contributors: Linda Bresler, Stacey Dores, Janine Free, Richard Frost, Joan Herskowitz, Linda Johnson, Neal King, Cheryl Leedom, Caroline McCullagh, Robin Rivet, Cindy Sparks, Trudy Thompson, and Ava Torre-Bueno. This year we had additional articles and photos from Walter Andersen, Pat Crowl, Linda Fiske, Linda Freithaler, Mark Garron, Pamela Homfelt, Pat Huff, Mary Ann Keeler, Patti Keyes, Britta Kuhlow, Bonnie Manion, Walt Meier, Susan Morse, Al Myrick, Barbara Raub, Linda Shaw, Nick Stavros, Candace Vanderhoff, Lucy Warren and Pat Welsh. Also, many members contributed to the *Sharing Secrets* and *Plant Forum* columns.

Every month a great group of folks meets at my house and gets the newsletter ready to mail. I want to thank this cheerful crew: Louise Anderson, Joyce Berry, Pat Crowl, Liliane Dickinson, Doris Engberg, Linda Freithaler, Gail Greco, Marianne Light, Susan Morse, Mo Price, Barbara Raub, Diane Scharar, Catherine & John Swan, Evey Torre-Bueno, Cathy Tylka, Tomi Weddleton, and Sandy Wiksten. Of course, it would be impossible to do the newsletter without the creativity and patience of our graphic artist, Rachel Cobb. We're grateful to our advertisers who help pay the printing costs, and especially those who give discounts to our members.

**About 200 members volunteered this year!** We appreciate their efforts and list their names in the newsletter. They include volunteers for the Spring and Fall Home/Garden Shows, our garden tour, the San Diego County Fair, and other activities. Finally, our board members act behind the scenes to keep things running smoothly – their names are on page 4.

I know firsthand that you get so much more out of a group if you have an active involvement in it. If you haven't volunteered yet please do your bit and start now (see page 4). We have plenty of opportunities available for you to share your knowledge and enthusiasm working with some terrific people!

**So... what's in store for the coming year?** In October we'll have a Pomegranate & Persimmon Picking outing in Valley Center. We plan to have a spring garden tour in the Vista, Bonsall, and Fallbrook area (see page 6). Most of our wonderful 2011 speakers have been selected, and talks will include such topics as water conserving landscaping with edibles, California natives for the landscape, garden art, orchids, and compact fruit orchards. We'll continue to add valuable information to our website. If you haven't checked it out lately, please take a look; we have Sally Sandler to thank for continuously adding useful plant lists, etc.

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

# Horticulturists of the Year

This year we honor our 15<sup>th</sup> Horticulturists of the Year, Bruce and Sharon Asakawa (see page 21). Here are brief notes about our previous awardees, who were recognized for their lifetime of achievement and service in horticulture in Southern California.

1996: Starting in 1974, **Chuck Kline** created the beautiful gardens at SeaWorld from a daunting swamp of salt-drenched soil. He was a friend and mentor to many in the horticultural community, and many rare plants remain as his legacy at SeaWorld.

1997: **Charles Coburn** worked his way up from being a gardener at the Wild Animal Park to director of horticulture at the San Diego Zoo, and was deeply involved in creating many zoo exhibits such as the Tiger River rain forest and Gorilla Tropics.

1998: **Sinjen**, a legendary one-name garden designer, spent over 60 years creating extraordinary gardens in San Diego, some of which survive today. He was a mentor to many designers, teaching them his method of lacing trees to show off their structure.

1999: For over 50 years, from a shop at his seaside house in Carlsbad, **Charles Ledgerwood** sold seeds, weighing them out for each customer and freely sharing his invaluable advice on growing from seed.

2000: **Edgar Engert** worked for the Paul Ecke Poinsettia Ranch for 40 years, and continues to volunteer for many community organizations. He is well known for his 18 years of passionate effort as Coordinator of the Flower & Garden Show at the San Diego County Fair.

2001: The widely-traveled and enormously creative heart of Weidners' Gardens, **Evelyn Weidner** was born into the nursery business, and has been a tireless promoter of horticulture, introducing many new plants and helping to start the hugely successful EuroAmerican Propagators and Proven Winners.

2002: **Walter Andersen** grew up in his family's exceptional nursery, which opened in 1928. He has been a generous supporter of and participant in flower & garden shows and also countless community groups and events, and served on our board for 6 years.

2003: One of our favorite speakers, **Pat Welsh** one of our first members, and still very much a hands-on gardener, Pat has spent a lifetime sharing her love of plants and deep insights into their needs with the public through TV appearances, articles, five books, and lectures to hundreds of garden groups.

2004: Since 1977, through his work with the Univ. of California Cooperative Extension Program, **Vince Lazaneo** has been a dedicated horticultural educator, advisor and tremendously knowledgeable resource. The energetic founder and organizer of the Master Gardener program in San Diego (in 1983), he makes successful gardening an obtainable reality for thousands of local gardeners.

2005: With his wife, Dorothy, and a few like-minded folks (see page 18) **Don Walker** founded the SDHS in 1994 and drew upon decades of experience with leading other garden groups. A self-taught horticulturist, it was his idea for us to publish a book about trees that grow well here. Don worked for two years to take all the photos in our book, *Ornamental Trees for Mediterranean Climates*.

2006: **Jane Minshall** was the first female landscape architect to practice in San Diego, and in 1947 was hired to head a huge project landscaping the city's public schools, a job she excelled at for 30 years. She was among the first to use water-thrifty Australian and South African plants in public landscapes, and helped start the San Diego chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

2007: During more than two decades as a Chula Vista optometrist,

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Continued on page 20

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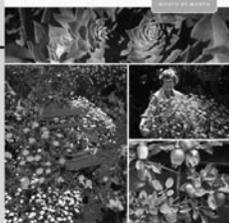
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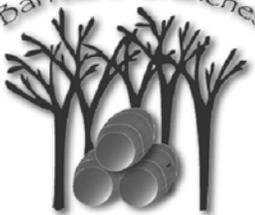
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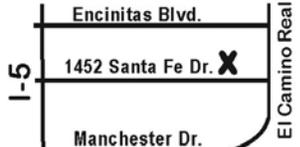
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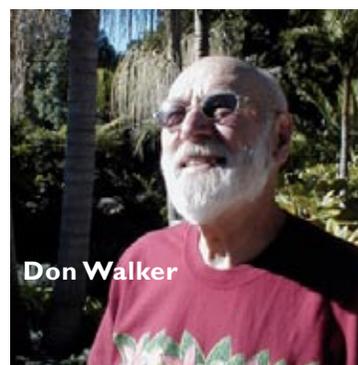
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**Horticulturists of the Year** Continued from page 19



**Vince Lazaneo**



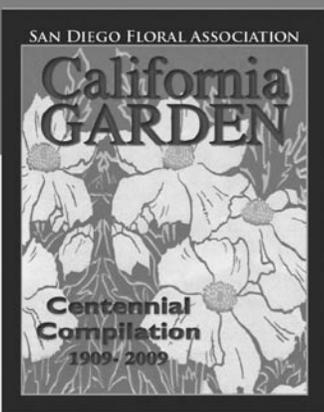
**Don Walker**

**Bill Nelson** started a project to give tree seedlings to 4<sup>th</sup> graders to enhance their appreciation for nature. This led to a 36-year career as a nurseryman and arborist, founding Pacific Tree Farms (a mecca for tree enthusiasts), donations of trees for many community projects, and helping with designing the world-class conifer collection at the Wild Animal Park.

2008: **Chuck Ades** had a lifetime career in horticulture, and co-founded Ades & Gish Nursery, which ships houseplants throughout the U.S. He helped dozens of exchange students from around the world to work as interns at San Diego nurseries, often hosting them in his home, and is an active member of local community groups and an avid square dancer. Chuck was also he first Horticulturist honored with a Gala at San Diego Botanic Gardens.

2009: **Steve Brigham** is one of our founders, and the founder of Buena Creek Gardens in San Marcos. He wrote the text for our tree book, and has lectured on garden-worthy trees and other topics. For many years he also wrote a favorite monthly column for our newsletter. 🌿

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# August Meeting Report

Our August meeting was an interesting change of pace: part lecture, part birthday party, part celebration of two lifetimes of horticultural inspiration, part plant giveaway! Attendees were greeted with a bright floral display of hundreds of SunPatiens as they approached the meeting place. These handsome and sun-loving 1-gallon plants were donated to us by Armstrong Garden Centers (courtesy of Josh Schneider from Cultivaris North America – see page 12 for more details). Next, Sharon Asakawa gave a lively talk about some of the favorite plants from the garden she and her husband, Bruce, have developed over the last 20 years. Their give and take in the garden is an outward manifestation of their different horticultural styles, honed over 47 years of marriage. When they met, Sharon fell for the way that Bruce talked about a *Schinus terebinthifolius* (Brazilian peppertree) they saw – she quipped that he was the first boy who spoke to her in Latin!

So... what do these two plant connoisseurs grow at home? Many of their favorites are plants with edible fruit. Gogiberry tolerates conditions from -15°F to over 100°F, making it a great choice for anywhere in San Diego County. The delicious berries are high in antioxidants, and the lavender flowers are another plus. Their Lychee tree came from an air-layered start that tree expert Bill Nelson (our 2007 Horticulturist of the Year) grew from a tree that Kate Sessions, the “Mother of Balboa Park,” had planted herself. Lychee fruits are produced in handsome clusters and have a fragrant, sweet, translucent flesh inside their beautiful tough red skin. The Asakawas have many other fruit trees, including two types of mulberry (one is a white Pakistan variety), donut peaches with very sweet white flesh, and low-chill Cherry ‘Minnie Royal’. Sharon suggested we plant this in the same hole as the ‘Royal Lee’ cherry, which helps it to produce more fruit.

They have two long raised beds for veggies, and one of Sharon's favorite herbs is Gotu Kola (*Centella asiatica*), a favorite food of elephants which is also very good in salads. She has liked a dark purple pole bean (it turns green when cooked), and exceedingly fast-growing Costata Romanesco summer squash, which she told us was much better tasting than regular zucchini. Her Big Zac tomatoes bear fruits that grow 3 to 5 pounds each, and she even grows the stevia herb, which is 30 times sweeter than sugar (a diabetic, she uses it to sweeten drinks). Sharon noted that her, “ultimate ulterior motive is to get the grandkids excited about gardening,” and they love picking their own food in her back yard.

Plenty of easy-care ornamentals also grace the Asakawa's garden. Blood lily (*Haemanthus* sp.) is another gift, this one from Bruce's mom, and she has both red- and white-flowered types growing in shady areas. Giant squill has “bulbs as big as your head,” and the 4-6 foot tall flower spikes last two weeks as a cut flower. The Giant Dutchman's Pipe vine (*Aristolochia gigantea*) was inspired by seeing one at San Diego Botanic Garden. Another intoxicatingly-scented vine is the Snail Vine (*Vigna caracalla*), with intricately-formed flowers resembling their namesake; the species Sharon grows is the same one that Thomas Jefferson grew at Monticello. John Bagnasco, the co-host on the Garden Life radio show, suggested she plant a Rangoon Creeper (*Quisqualis indica*) to hide the unattractive side a half-dead tree, and Sharon loves its fragrant flowers. John is also her “enabler” when it comes to roses, and she currently has 60 varieties, with “Yves Piaget” being one of her favorite due to its beautifully scented pink flowers and high petal count.

Quite a few of the plants we saw do well in partial shade, where

they thrive despite competition from tree roots. *Bletilla striata*, the hardy Chinese Ground Orchid, is one good example; its delicate blooms come in shades of pink and also white. Butcher's Broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*) looks like a fern with bright red berries; in bygone eras butchers did use the stiff branches to sweep up their shops. Clivia is often seen in gardens, but you can now purchase the sturdy South African water-thrifty perennial in a wide range of pale yellow to deep orange shades, and there is even a green-flowered form. We saw photos of many more plants, each with a short and interesting story to whet our appetites.

After the talk we heard some fascinating trivia from Bruce and then it was time for a very short and funny roast by John Bagnasco and Bryan Main, who for a long time have worked with Sharon & Bruce on their radio show. We were proud to honor Bruce and Sharon as our 15<sup>th</sup> Horticulturists of the Year, presenting them with a plaque and our traditional pair of Felco pruners, which we hope they'll make good use of for many years to come. Between them they have two lifetimes of expertise that they have enthusiastically shared with tens of thousands of gardeners through their books, radio show, and lectures.

Thanks, Sharon and Bruce, for a terrific presentation and for sharing your stories with us in such a personal way. We also thank Oasis Water Efficient Gardens ([www.oasis-plants.com](http://www.oasis-plants.com)) for donating the succulent plants that were a big hit at our Opportunity Drawing, along with a wonderful bamboo donated by Bob Dimattia. Six door prizes also made for happy smiles – a certificate from Grangetto's (see ad page 23) for a pair of pruners and five \$25 gift certificates from Barrels and Branches Nursery (see ad page 20), and we thank these fine sponsors for their support. ☞

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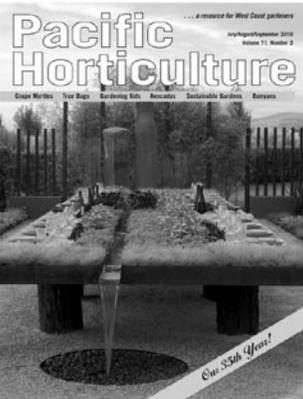
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**Our 2010 Horticulturists of the Year, photographed at the August meeting**



Bruce & Sharon Asakawa



John Bagnasco and  
Bryan Main



Scott Borden and Cheryl Hedgpeth telling us about the tour they are escorting to the Big Island of Hawaii in November.

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# What's Happening? for September 2010

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

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## Hello to all and welcome to our September 2010 garden tips and update:

### What's New:

- ❖ Fun ornamental Peppers in all of the colors (2", 4" & 6") – great for an early Fall touch.
- ❖ Cyclamen – first arrivals for the coming "cooler" season. We have them in 2", 4" & 6" in all colors.
- ❖ Also late summer means *Acalypha hispida* 'Chenille Plant' has arrived... Chenille plant is an upright shrub that can get 6-10 feet high with a spread of 3-5 feet. Potted plants are kept considerably smaller. The evergreen leaves are oval and pointed on the tips. Flowers are purple, bright red or crimson, and clustered in velvety catkins, 8-20 inches long and an inch in diameter. They are dense and fluffy, like a cat's tail, and they appear intermittently throughout the year.

Lots of flowering vines are available at this time of the year, my favorite is

- ❖ *Vigna caraccalla* 'Thomas Jefferson'. 'Snail Vine', 'Corkscrew Vine'. A fast growing perennial vine to 20 feet. Summer flowers are beautifully fragrant. Named from the variety grown by Thomas Jefferson at Monticello.

Cool season Tomatoes are in plentiful supply. Cool days and nights slow tomato plant growth. Fruit will not set or ripen if nights dip below 55 degrees. Cool-season tomatoes grow and produce fruit despite these conditions. Some good varieties are Legend, Taxi, Siberia and Glacier.

Late summer and fall favorites also arriving in the Greenhouse – check out the Crossandra - glossy green leaves and vibrant orange flower spikes. We should be able to see some early Cymbidiums this month too. Also big (4-5 ft. tall) Breynea 'Hawaiian Snowbush'. Super color for inside or out.

### A September thought for your gardens:

Unwritten rules of gardening ...

The best way to garden is to put on a wide brimmed straw hat and some old clothes. And with a hoe in one hand and a cold drink in the other, tell your husband where to dig.

### Garden Tips for September:

- ❖ September is our transition into Fall here in Southern California and the start of the best planting season of the year. Start cleaning out faded flowers and vegetables but leave the good ones in place to enjoy as long as they last.
- ❖ Remember - The basis for every good garden is the soil; if you take care of the soil you won't have to worry about the plants. Autumn is the time to plant the cool-season annuals, perennials and vegetables all of which will thrive in our lovely San Diego-area autumn weather.

### The Water Conservation Garden (see other side for address)

- Sept. 4, 10-11am, Garden Tour:** Docent led tour of the Water Conservation Garden. Meet at the main gate at the Garden entrance. No reservations required.
- Sept. 5, 1:30-2:30pm, Ask the Horticulturist Tour:** Enjoy an informative walk through the garden. FREE.
- Sept. 12, 9:00am-noon, The Protea Species, Exotic Options for Drought-Tolerant Gardens:** Cost: Members/\$20, non-members/\$25. Stimulus pricing applies – 2 registrations for the price of one, same household.
- Sept. 19, 9:30- 10:30am, Special Access Tour:** Special tour 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

### San Diego Botanic Garden (see other side for address)

- Sept. 4, 11am, Organic Cool Season Vegetables:** Tips and tricks to growing cool season vegetables from Pat Welsh. Cost: Members/\$10, non-members/\$12. Pre-registration required by Sept. 1.
- Sept. 11, Gala in the Garden:** San Diego Botanic Garden will be transformed into a wonderland of colors, lights and flora. 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. \$175. Info: [sdbgarden.org/gala.htm](http://sdbgarden.org/gala.htm) or (760) 436-3036x218
- Sept. 14, 9am-2pm, Succulent Wreath Class:** Take home a beautiful succulent wreath that you make yourself. Cost: Members/\$55, non-members/\$65. Pre-registration required by September 10.
- Sept. 18, 10am-noon, Ecovation: Plants for Southern California:** A new line of plants combines environmental ethics with water wise gardening. Cost: Members/\$10, non-members/\$12. Pre-registration required by Sept. 15.
- Sept. 18, 2-4pm, Face Lift for your Succulent Container:** Enjoy just the talk OR bring your planted container (no larger than 15") that needs refurbishing. Cost: Members/\$10, non-members/\$12. Pre-registration required by Sept. 15.
- Sept. 25, 1-4pm, Waterwise Gardening From the Ground Up:** Learn to create a waterwise garden from the ground up using an integrated approach. Cost: Members/\$70, non-members/\$90. Pre-registration required by Sept. 22.

### Walter Andersen Nursery FREE Saturday Classes:

- |                                   |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>9:00am Point Loma Nursery:</b> | <b>9:30am Poway Nursery:</b>      |
| Sept. 4, Annual Herb Care         | Composting, with Jen Merzigian    |
| Sept. 11, Pest Control            | Herbs, with Jen Merzigian         |
| Sept. 18, Fall Bulbs              | Fall Veggies, with Richard Wright |
| Sept. 25, General Orchid Care     | Xeriscaping, with Carol Fuller    |

Details at [www.walterandersen.com](http://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

- Sept. 4, 10AM, Kids and Pets in the Garden:** Bring your kids for our hands-on workshop. Learn about what plants are safe to eat and which ones are not. FREE; refreshments provided.

Details at [www.evergreennursery.com/seminar-schedule-2010](http://www.evergreennursery.com/seminar-schedule-2010)

### Cedros Gardens Saturday 10am classes:

Details at [www.cedrosgardens.com](http://www.cedrosgardens.com); address in ad on page 19.

- Sept. 3, 1:15pm, Carlsbad Garden Club:** Australian plants that look great in the garden year-round. Dove Library, 1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad. For info see [carlsbadgardenclub@hotmail.com](mailto:carlsbadgardenclub@hotmail.com) or (760) 271-6069.

- Sept. 4 & 5, 10am-4pm, Southern California Plumeria Society Festival:** Plumeria annual show and plant sale. Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park. Info (619) 461-5942 or [www.socialplumeriasociety.com](http://www.socialplumeriasociety.com)

- Sept. 4, 10am-noon, Grangetto's Summer Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop:** Free. 530 East Alvarado St., Fallbrook. Info [www.grangettos.com](http://www.grangettos.com), call Jennifer Phelan at 760-745-4671 ext 215 or e-mail [events@grangettos.com](mailto:events@grangettos.com).

- Sept. 8, 10am, Point Loma Garden Club:** The Art and Science of Bee Keeping. Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego. Free, [www.plgc.org](http://www.plgc.org), or [tonimunsell@cox.net](mailto:tonimunsell@cox.net) or call (619) 223-2051.

- Sept. 8, 10:30am, Poway Valley Garden Club:** Old Fashioned Favorites For A New Water-Wise Look. Drought tolerant yet lush flowers that will inspire gardeners wanting to save water. Templars Hall, Old Poway Park 14134 Midland Road, Poway, For info see [powayvalleygardenclub.org](http://powayvalleygardenclub.org)

- Sept. 10, 11. & 12, Fall Home/Garden Show:** See page 13. Del Mar Fairgrounds. [www.fallhomegardenshow.com](http://www.fallhomegardenshow.com). SDHS members can buy tickets for only \$4 on the website by using code SDHS.

- Sept. 11, 9am-3pm, South Bay Botanic Garden Green Scene:** SEE INSERT. 900 Otay Lakes Road, Chula Vista. Info [www.lntswc.com](http://www.lntswc.com) or Bill Homyak at (619) 421-6700 ext 5371, or Tom Del Hotal at (619) 454-2628.

- Sept. 11, 10am-noon, Grangetto's Winter Veggies Workshop:** Free. 189 S. Rancho Santa Fe Rd, Encinitas. For info see [grangettos.com](http://grangettos.com), call Jennifer Phelan at 760-745-4671 ext 215 or e-mail [events@grangettos.com](mailto:events@grangettos.com).

- Sept. 12 & 19, 10am-4pm, San Diego Iris Society Sale:** Come early for best selection of iris rhizomes. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado Courtyard. See [sandiegoirissociety.org](http://sandiegoirissociety.org).

- Sept. 12, 1:30pm, American Begonia Society:** Seeds and other propagation techniques. 423 Rancho Santa Fe Road, Encinitas. Free

**September 13, 6:00pm**  
**Native Plants of**  
**Torrey Pines State Reserve**  
**See page 3**

**Sept. 18, 10am to Noon, FREE Succulent Workshop: Details on page 6.**

**Sept. 18 & 19, 10am-4pm, San Diego Bromeliad Society Show & Sale:** Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. For info call (858) 453-6486 or see [www.bsi.org/webpages/san\\_diego.html](http://www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html).

**Sept. 18, 4pm, Alta Vista Gardens Wine Tasting Fundraiser:** Hosted conjunction with 4WinesPlusMore. 1270 Vale Terrace Dr., Vista. Members/\$10, non-members/\$15. (760) 945-3954 or [www.altavistagardens.org/html/wine\\_tasting.html](http://www.altavistagardens.org/html/wine_tasting.html)

**Sept. 20, 7:30pm, San Diego Rose Society Little Rose Show:** Al Heck will interview Walter Andersen. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. For info see [www.sdrosesociety.org/sdrs\\_calendar.htm#sep](http://www.sdrosesociety.org/sdrs_calendar.htm#sep)

**Sept. 21, 6:30-7:30pm California Native Plant Society:** Cedros and Guadalupe Islands, Islands with diverse and unique species and habitats. See [cnpsd.org](http://cnpsd.org).

**Sept. 22, 6pm, Mission Hills Garden Club:** Fall Pruning, proper guidelines for fall pruning to produce healthier and happier shrubs in the spring. Bring your shears and clippers as Ms. Sharpener is scheduled to make a return appearance. Guests \$10. 4070 Jackdaw St., San Diego. See [www.missionhillsgardenclub.org](http://www.missionhillsgardenclub.org).

**Sept. 23-26, Style & Whimsy in the Sustainable Garden: Fabulous symposium with lectures, bus tours, workshops, more! See page 8.**

**Sept. 24, 4:30pm, South Bay Botanic Garden Walk:** Fall Flowering Shrubs. Main entrance gate near the 1800 building, Southwestern College, 900 Otay Lakes Rd., Chula Vista. Parking is free in Lot E. Fee \$1. See [southbaybotanicgarden.org](http://southbaybotanicgarden.org) or call (619) 421-6700.

**Sept. 25-26, 10am-5pm, Fascination of Orchids International Show and Sale:** South Coast Plaza Village (Corner of Bear and Sunflower), Santa Ana. For info see [ocorchidshow.com](http://ocorchidshow.com) or call (949) 735-2930.

## Resources & Ongoing Events

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **BALBOA PARK:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Garden TV and Radio Shows

**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](http://lifestyletalkradio.com).** GardenLife shows are also archived at [lifestyletalkradio.com](http://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.

**Bring a plant for our Plant Forum table to the September 13 meeting And hear what our expert has to say about it!**

### **New Plantings**

❖**Sweet Peas.** For sweet peas by December plant seeds now. Look for varieties designated "early flowering." Spring or Summer-flowering types won't bloom

❖**Peas.** Choose a good variety. There are three basic type of peas: snow peas, snap peas and English peas. The first two have edible pods - English peas have to be shelled. Peas need a trellis for vines to climb.

❖**Cool-season Vegetables.** Plant cool-season vegetables such as broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, kale, kohlrabi, mustard, lettuce and other greens.

❖**Cool-season Flowers.** Plant cool-season flowers including calendula, cineraria, dianthus, delphiniums, Iceland poppies, nemesia, pansies, snapdragon, stock, wild flowers, violas and violets.

### **Garden Maintenance**

❖**Cut back flowered ornamental grasses** to 1.5" (that's not a typo - 1.5 INCHES) tall by November (or sooner).

❖**Hydrangeas** (macrophyllas) - cut back by end of this month and if you want to turn pink flowers to blue start with Hydrangea Blue regime.

❖**Camellias.** Keep camellias well watered this month. Letting them go dry will cause the buds to drop off depriving you of their beautiful blooms. Some varieties of camellias form a great many more buds than they can support and so will naturally drop buds. The naturally-dropped bud will be green whereas a water-stressed plant will drop brown buds

❖**Citrus.** Make sure citrus trees are adequately and evenly watered during this month. If the roots go dry the result can be split fruits.

❖**Cymbidiums.** Switch cymbidiums to a lower nitrogen, higher phosphorous & potassium fertilizer to encourage development of bloom spikes.

❖**Irises.** Clean up the iris beds now. Cut off damaged leaves, remove debris and mulch beds. Irises will not bloom if over-crowded and need to be divided about every three years. If your irises need dividing - do it now.

❖In California there are two major planting seasons--spring and fall. Spring gets plenty of attention but one of the best-kept secrets is the beauty of fall planting. Although trees and shrubs are not actively growing above the ground they are very busy sending out strong roots and getting themselves established for the spring.

❖**Roses** should be encouraged to continue blooming by making sure they get the supplemental food they need. Feeding them becomes the number one item if gardeners want to have cut roses in their home during October, November and maybe even December.

**Planting Tips For The Month:** If you're expecting guests for the winter holidays from the East Coast or Midwest and you want to impress them with your winter flower garden, start planting the winter annuals after the middle of this month. Pansies, stock, Iceland poppies, California poppies and calendulas should all be in glorious bloom in time if they are planted this month.

**Protect Against Wildfire:** September is the start of the Santa Ana wind season. If you live in an area that is prone to wildfires you should prune off dead tree limbs, clean your yard of brush and dead leaves and clean leaves from the roof and gutter.