

Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

July 2011, Number 202

Plant Tales of Early California

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MONKEYFLOWER
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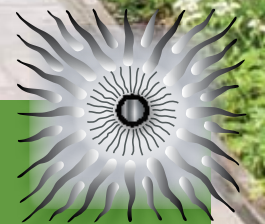
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On the Cover:
Courtyard of an early California home



SAN DIEGO
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

MAY COFFEE IN THE GARDEN



Photos: Barbara Raub

MAY 2011 Coffee
hostess
Jennifer Axelrod

SDHS GARDEN AT THE 2011 FAIR (SEE PAGES 1 AND 7)



Looking into the teardrop
trailer, with a pebble mosaic
entry path



Closeup of succulents
in the dry streambed

Both Photos: Jim Bishop

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COVER IMAGE: July speaker Maureen Gilmer, who took the cover photo, says, "The courtyards or 'huertas' of early California homes were inspired by the four-square Islamic garden, a legacy of Moorish occupation of Spain. Adobe homes featured a series of rooms linked by a veranda that could enclose up to three sides of these outdoor spaces where water was supplied to the household via the central fountain."

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 – 8:30 Announcements, Hot Hort Picks, speaker, opportunity drawing
8:30 – 9:00 Plant display; vendor sales, lending library

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

To join, send your check to: San Diego Horticultural Society, Attn: Membership, P.O. Box 231869, Encinitas, CA 92023-1869. Individual/one year—\$30, two years—\$50, five years—\$120; Family/one year—\$35, two years—\$60, five years—\$140; Group or Business/one year—\$50; Students/\$16 (w/proof of enrollment); Contributing/\$90 or more; Life/\$700. For membership questions contact membership@sdhortsoc.org or or Jim Bishop at (619) 293-0166.

FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS 2011

- June 10 to July 4** San Diego County Fair – Visit the SDHS display garden
- July 23** Coffee in the Garden, Encinitas
- August 8** Lynlee Austell-Slayter on Creating and Keeping a Sustainable Landscape
- September 12** Tom Spellman on Backyard Orchards
- September 16-18** Fall Home/Garden Show, Del Mar Fairgrounds
- October 10** Amy Stewart on The Louse that Conquered Napoleon's Army and Other Insect Monstrosities

www.SanDiegoHorticulturalSociety.org

Next Meeting: July 11, 2011, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

Topic: MAUREEN GILMER ON "PLANT TALES OF EARLY CALIFORNIA"

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



We are excited to welcome landscape designer, author, television host, and photographer Maureen Gilmer, one of the leading horticultural communicators in America. Maureen will present a lively historic look back at the plants that defined San Diego and the people who brought them here. As Maureen will demonstrate, California's cultural heritage can be taught through its plants: not the natives, but the species carried to our shores by the Spanish and those who followed. Each plant is accompanied by a little known tale that makes it more than just a genus and species. These are the tales of ethno-botany, the relationship of human beings to their plants and how they carried them here from Tierra Del Fuego, the Philippines, and Australia. With landscaping returning to conditions of Kate Sessions' time, Maureen will show us that Sessions' choices were indeed correct, by combing the world for the best in drought resistance that would come to define our contemporary sustainable gardens.

Maureen Gilmer specializes in replacement planting plans for lawns and other thirsty landscaping in the Coachella Valley, California, part of the northern Sonoran Desert. Her work features drought resistant plants and desert natives used to create new compositions for year around residents, seasonal country club homes and condominium complexes. Over the past thirty-three years Gilmer has worked in all phases of horticulture from laborer to landscape architect. Her work has dominated garden book publishing, she is a contributor to such magazines as *Better Homes & Gardens*, *Fine Gardening*, and *Country Living*, and she was a gardening television host on the DIY Network for four seasons. She is now an established syndicated columnist, online social networker and authority on money-saving green living. She is author of eighteen books including *The Small Budget Gardener*, *The Complete Guide to Southern California Gardening*, and *The Wildfire Survival Guide*. Some of her books will be available for sale. To learn more visit www.moplants.com and see page 3.

The Mission of the San Diego Horticultural Society

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

ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER 1994

SDHS BOARD MEMBERS

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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.

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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 Jim Bishop at sponsor@sdhortsoc.org. Sponsors are listed on page 8; those with ads in the newsletter have the words SDHS Sponsor above their ads. We thank them for their extra support!

Important Member Information

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

1 - Membership Committee

Express your outgoing nature, or overcome your shyness, by meeting new people in a very friendly setting! Volunteer as a greeter at meetings, visit nurseries and provide membership brochures for their customers, or help with coffee in the garden events. Jim Bishop at jimbishopsd@gmail.com or (619) 293-0166.

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. This committee organizes and installs our info table for the Spring and Fall Home/Garden Shows. They also help with our display for the San Diego County Fair, workshops and special events. For more info and to volunteer please contact Susi Torre-Bueno at (760) 295-7089.

3 - VIDEO LOAN TABLE AT OUR MEETINGS

We now have a special table set up where people can borrow videos of past meetings. We need volunteers to staff that table from 6:00pm until 6:45pm (when the meeting starts) and for 15 minutes after the meeting. For more info and to volunteer please contact Susi Torre-Bueno at (760) 295-7089.

ON-LINE MEMBERSHIP & NAMETAGS

Thanks to some great work by our graphic artist Rachel Cobb, it's now easier than ever to renew your membership on-line. You can also order nametags and gift certificates! Go to www.sdhortsoc.org/ordernow.htm and see how simple it is.

THANKS SO MUCH!

Thanks to Jennifer Axelrod for hosting our May Coffee-in-the-Garden at her awe-inspiring Olivenhain garden (designed by member Scott Spencer). Photos of this garden are on the inside front cover. If you haven't attended one of our Coffee events yet, plan to go soon – they're lots of fun and a great way to meet up with other SDHS members in a relaxing garden. Registration info is included with your monthly member e-mail, which has details about upcoming meetings and other events. Some of the coffees are completely booked up in a few hours, so check the e-mail as soon as you can! ☺

See page 8 to order your SDHS nametag

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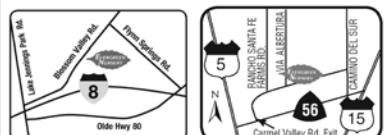


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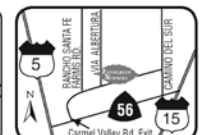
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Sunday.....9:00am-5:00pm

To Learn More...

ETHNOBOTANY

By Ava Torre-Bueno

This month's speaker, Maureen Gilmer, will present a lively historic look back at the plants that defined San Diego and the people who brought them here. The study of the nexus of plants and cultures is called ethnobotany, and Wikipedia defines it like this: "(Ethnobotany's) aim is to document, describe and explain complex relationships between cultures and (uses of) plants: focusing, primarily, on how plants are used, managed and perceived across human societies (e.g. as foods; as medicines; in divination; in cosmetics; in dyeing; as textiles; in construction; as tools; as currency; as clothing; in literature; in rituals; and in social life.)"

For more from Wikipedia, go to: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethnobotany

The University of Michigan has an amazing Native American ethnobotanical database:
<http://herb.umd.umich.edu>

There's not much on YouTube about Ethnobotany but you can watch this basic description:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=9UYI6kmS8fQ

And a much-admired book on the subject is *Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice*:
www.betterworldbooks.com/tales-of-a-shaman-s-apprentice-id-014012991X.aspx

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

Volunteer Coordinator Needed

Paula Verstraete has done an exceptional job as our Volunteer Coordinator, and we've always had plenty of cheerful and outgoing volunteers for all of our events. Paula's 3-year term as our Volunteer Coordinator is up in September, and we are seeking a replacement. She's put together an enthusiastic committee to help with the tasks needed, and she will be glad to help her replacement in any way to make this a smooth transition. Please contact Paula at pverstraete@cp-sandiego.com for more detailed information about what the coordinator's position entails...



Jim Bishop and Marilyn Guidroz,
who designed our Fair garden

Photo: Shelly Sult

From The Board

By Susi Torre-Bueno

WHAT IS THE PLANT DISPLAY?

Each month members bring in plants, cuttings or flowers and put them into blue glass bottles on our display tables. What a TERRIFIC way to see what plants grow well in our area! All plants are welcome – EVERYONE is invited to participate. **Join the fun and bring something from your garden for the July 11 meeting.** Phil Tackill and Janet Wanerka have been bringing the blue bottles for years, and we thank them for their ongoing enthusiasm. The list of plants displayed, and some descriptions, appears in each newsletter. For just \$14 you can buy our **Plant Forum Compilation** CD, which lists over 5,000 plants displayed from 1994 to 2003, including helpful descriptions for over 1,100 plants. The CD is FREE if you renew your membership for 5 years! Details are at sdshortsoc.org/garden_shop.htm#plant.

SDHS FAIR AWARDS

We're tremendously proud of our display garden at the County Fair Flower & Garden Show; read all about it on page 7. It was an honor to have the San Diego County Water Authority co-sponsor our garden, and they donated \$12,000 to the SDHS, which was a big help in allowing us to do more than our usual budget would have allowed. Many thanks to everyone who made this fabulous temporary landscape possible – their names are on page 8. Go to page 19 for details about the six gardens that we gave awards to.

Our garden won FOUR important awards, and it is very gratifying that the judges thought so highly of our design. We thank the award sponsors for their generosity. The awards are:

Award Of Merit from the San Diego County Fair: The garden was judged on the "quality of plant material, practicality of design, visual appeal of design, educational value (including labeling), and appropriateness of lighting." Our \$2000 award is based on the size of the garden, and at 1000 square feet ours is among the largest.

Cuyamaca College Botanical Society Award for the best presentation of the landscape display in the drawn landscape plan. "Design features such as ease of reference, accuracy of plant identification (botanical and common), layout, presence of design characteristics (directional arrow, Statement of Purpose) and color presentation" are some of the criteria. Judging for this \$100 award is by faculty members of Cuyamaca College Horticulture Department.

Evergreen Nursery Green Leaf Award is "presented for best use of plants in a home garden setting." Donated by Evergreen Nursery, it includes a perpetual trophy, plaque and \$1000.

Kellogg Garden Products "Grow Your Own" Award is presented to "the best garden/display that incorporates edible components." Our first place award has a cash value of \$350.

The Real Dirt On...

WILLIAM ROBINSON

By Linda Bresler



William Robinson (1838-1935) was an Irish-born gardener and horticultural writer whose ideas were instrumental in creating the English cottage garden movement. He helped influence garden design, moving away from formal bedding designs using greenhouse flowers in mass plantings toward a more naturalistic look using hardy native plants.

After working on large Irish estates as a youth, he found work at the age of 23 as the foreman for the herbaceous section of the Garden of the Royal Botanic Society in London. At the time, the Victorian style of gardening featured exotic, hothouse-grown plants planted *en masse* in large garden beds that needed to be replaced frequently.

In 1867 he traveled to France to learn about French gardens. He discovered that he thoroughly disliked the French style of garden design with its manicured look and imposition of geometry on nature. As a result of his travels, he wrote his first book, *Gleanings from French Gardens*, in which he criticized French gardening.

Robinson rejected the formal-looking plantings of the time. Instead, he advocated more of a natural look with hardy perennials, shrubs, and climbers. Among the modern gardening practices that he introduced were the use of alpine plants in rock gardens, dense plantings of perennials and groundcovers that exposed no bare soil, the use of hardy perennials and native plants, and the large plantings of perennials in natural-looking drifts. He pioneered the use of permanent bedding plants, and encouraged a natural layout of plants with respect to plant form, color, growing habits and foliage.

Robinson first introduced the idea of a naturalistic garden in his book *The Wild Garden*, published in 1870. In this book, Robinson's "wild garden" brought the untidy edges, including the meadow, water's edge, and woodland edges and openings – where the garden blended into the larger landscape – into the garden picture. However, the hardy plants that Robinson espoused were not all natives of his area. He liked plants from other temperate climate zones, which enabled him to create a naturalistic look. Also, Robinson's "wild" approach did not refer to allowing gardens to return completely to their natural state. Instead, he taught a specific gardening method and aesthetic that permitted the plants' habit of growth and their cultural preferences to develop under a subtle form of human intervention.

This idea was further developed in his later book, *The English Flower Garden*, published in 1883, and continually refined in later editions up to 1933. In it, he introduced the idea of large drifts of native hardy perennial plants into the meadow, woodland, and waterside. This was considered a revolutionary idea at the time. Robinson was inspired by the simple cottage garden. He rejected the artificial and formal look, including statuary, topiary, carpet bedding, and water features. He admired nature's diversity, and promoted creepers and ramblers, smaller plantings of roses, herbaceous plants and bulbs, woodland plants, and winter flowers. In *The English Flower Garden* he emphasized a gardening approach that was individual, not stereotypical: "the best kind of garden grows out of the situation, as the primrose grows out of a cool bank."

Continued on page 14

Going Wild With The Natives:

MONKEYFLOWER

By Pat Pawlowski

Nobody messes with King Kong (well, hardly anybody except those pesky biplanes and a few pushy movie people). Wouldn't you like to have a plant with the same sturdy characteristics as that supermonkey?

Happily, there is such a plant. It is a two- to three-foot high perennial, and it is called monkeyflower. If you want to get technical, the genus name is either *Diplacus* or *Mimulus*, depending on whom you talk to. You know how plant taxonomists are: just when you've finally learned the Latin name, they go and switch it to something else. For the purpose of this article, we'll talk about *Diplacus aurantiacus*, the bush monkeyflower (although like I said above, you might find it labeled as *Mimulus aurantiacus*). Anyway, they are leaving the *aurantiacus* part (the species name) alone.

Getting back to hanging tough, that's what bush monkeyflower does. It is drought tolerant, and resists pests such as rioting rabbits, dastardly deer and scurrilous squirrels. It can grow in poor soil, and you don't even have to fertilize it since it is native to our coastal sage scrub/ chaparral habitats. Bush monkeyflower comes in warm wonderful shades of yellow, orange, rust and even orange-red. My favorite is a yellow-apricot color, although I recently bought one with gorgeous blossoms of rusty-orange. Striking!

The little flower face is supposed to resemble a monkey's. I fail to see how. Perhaps if I had some banana schnapps or a banana split, I could see how. But right now I don't.

However, a bouquet of monkeyflowers would be lovely; give them some water to drink in a nice vase and they will last quite a while. The blooms lowest on the stem open first and then there is a gradual opening of the flowers as they climb upward on the stem.

Outside, monkeyflowers can be more fun than a barrel of monkeys. You can tickle them if you are in a jovial mood. In the center of the flower is a little thin stalk topped with what looks like little whitish lips. These lips are the two stigma lobes, which close together rapidly in a tiny grimace, in response to touch by a hummingbird pollinator or a tickling finger.

What else do you have to do, anyway?

Others who will be interested are butterflies such as the buckeye and the chalcidon checkerspot, who may utilize your monkeyflower as a host plant.

When plant shopping, remember that there are other species of monkeyflower with different cultural needs. For instance, *Mimulus guttatus*, seep monkeyflower, can be grown in semi-shade and likes a lot of moisture. Good if you live in a swamp. However, you probably want *Diplacus aurantiacus*, bush monkeyflower. Try Las Pilitas Nursery in Escondido (www.laspilitas.com) or SDHS sponsor Tree of Life Nursery in San Juan Capistrano (www.californianativeplants.com).

Continued on page 14



Trees, Please

DON'T PARK THERE!

By Tim Clancy

Where we live it's sometimes difficult to find a place to park. The next several hundred words are not going to make it any easier. As an arborist I love trees. As a layman I love trees. As an arborist I know that trees are not always the most well behaved plants. Trees shed parts and sometimes completely fall over. If you know what to look for you can save yourself a lot of trouble.

When deciding if you want that shaded parking spot, have a close look at the tree shading it. Does the tree look healthy? If it's in leaf, does there seem to be vigorous growth? If it's deciduous, do you see any "bleeding" on the trunk. Is it stressed and starting to decline?

Trees that lean are good to park away from, although sometimes they will be perfectly fine and not fall on anything. Leans happen in many ways. One is root failure: part of the root system has declined and can no longer hold the tree in place. Another cause of a lean is soil failure. This often happens when soil becomes saturated from rain and the soil is then unable to withstand the force on it and gives way. Much of the time a tree that leans will grow more roots and anchor itself firmly in place. Without a thorough examination it's hard to tell. So to be on the safe side I just find another parking spot.

If you park under a tree with long branches, look for cracks in those branches. Those cracks likely mean that there's trouble ahead. When is anybody's guess. Branches sometimes crack due to weight or to bad pruning. Old pruning cuts are a clue as well. For some reason, people like to strip out interior branches, leaving a tuft of foliage at the end. In the business we call this lion's tailing and actively discourage it. This type of pruning can lead to cracks we are unable to see because they are in the branch under the bark. There is an event called "Summer Limb Drop" during which, on completely calm days, tree branches suddenly fail. There is no real consensus as to the cause among arborists. An internet search will bring up good discussion on the subject.

Does the tree have anything (other than tree parts) growing on it? Of particular concern is the sulfur fungus (see photo – the fungus is growing in clumps on the bottom half of the trunk). This fungus attacks trees in such a way that the trees' vigor is not reduced in a noticeable manner for a very long time. Thus, you can step out of your car and look up into a perfectly healthy looking tree canopy that hasn't been over-pruned or have any other obvious signs of stress. To make matters worse, the fungus only grows in the mid-fall to early winter. After that it falls off or gets knocked off by someone having fun, so if it's summer time there is no way to tell if a tree has sulfur fungus. I have seen this fungus all over San Diego County on eucalyptus species, black acacias and carob trees. I avoid trees with sulfur fungus and so should you. Because of the way the fungus works on trees they are subject to "brittle fracture" at any time.

Check out www.flickr.com/treemanagers for some photographs of potentially dangerous trees.

Book recommendation: *Trees of the California Landscape*, by Charles Hatch. You can borrow a copy from the San Diego County public library or get one from the library at the Advice and Technical Assistance Center at the California Center for Sustainable Energy.

Member Tim Clancy is an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist (#WE-0806A). Tim welcomes comments and questions and can be reached at treemanagers@gmail.com ☞



Photo: Tim Clancy

Digital Newsletter For Free Printed Newsletter Surcharge

For 2011 we anticipate spending about \$33,000 in newsletter costs, about 45% of our total expenses. Even when offset by advertising income (about \$17,000) this represents about 52% of your dues – our single biggest expense by far. About 30% of our members currently get the newsletter on-line. We want to encourage many more members to help us reduce expenses by getting the newsletter on-line. The advantages to receiving the digital newsletter include: all color images, all live links, ability to enlarge it as much as you like for easy viewing, ability to print out the pages you want to keep, and reduced environmental impact. Back issues are available on our website, so you don't have to remember where you kept your printed copy.

Since January the Board has been discussing how to reduce this huge expense, and in May we voted to make the following change: **Starting with renewals in October 2011, members who choose to receive the printed newsletter will pay a surcharge of \$12 per year (in addition to their yearly dues) to help offset the printing and mailing expenses.**

This has been a difficult decision to make, and the board felt it was the only way to offer our members a top-notch newsletter without going into the red to do so. More and more non-profit organizations are moving to digital newsletters as computer technology and Internet access both continue to improve. We see this as the future of publishing for budget-conscious groups like ours and we hope you agree.

You can still get the printed newsletter for FREE... If you extend your membership for 5 years BEFORE October 1st we'll waive the annual surcharge until the next time you renew.

When you renew for 5 years you only pay for 4 years – the 5th year is FREE! Individual memberships are \$30/year or \$120/5 years; family memberships are \$35/year or \$140/5 years. To save money, you can pay using the \$5 value Hort Bucks you receive when you get a new member to join.

Here's some examples of how this will work:

- 1) You decide to get the digital newsletter only from now on – no surcharge is due when you renew your membership.
- 2) Your renewal date is sometime *after* October 1, 2011 and you want the printed newsletter option. When you renew your membership you'll pay a supplement of \$12 per year for the printed newsletter.
- 3) Your membership ends sometime after October 1, 2011 and you want to get the printed newsletter. If you extend your membership for 5 years *before* October 1st you'll pay NO FEE for the printed newsletter. Your 5-year renewal will save you \$30 in individual membership fees (\$35 on family membership) plus another \$60 in printed newsletter fees, for a saving of \$90 for an individual, or \$95 for a family membership.

We are confident that whichever newsletter option you prefer it will continue to be a major benefit of your membership, bringing you news about our activities and practical, reliable and appealing articles about gardening in San Diego. If you have any questions, please contact Susi Torre-Bueno at info@sdhortsoc.org or (760) 295-7089. ☞

Book Review

THE WISDOM OF THE RADISH AND OTHER LESSONS LEARNED ON A SMALL FARM

By Lynda Hopkins
Reviewed by **Caroline McCullagh**



Lynda Hopkins has written about her first three years as a small farmer. Her boyfriend, Emmett, is the son of grape growers near Healdsburg, California. Lynda is a city girl, San Diego to be exact, and what she knows about farming is as close to zero as it's possible to get and still be considered an educated person in America. She did, however, have several romantic notions to sustain her.

You can just hear the conversation. Emmett says, "Let's try farming." She rolls her eyes. He persists. She finally agrees that it might be fun. Ah, youth! The book opens with Emmett and Lynda arguing over whether the white things coming out of the potatoes are roots or stems. They're never quite sure, but they get the potatoes planted anyway.

That's the least of their troubles. But Lynda knows how to solve all problems. She's a child of the computer age and she knows how to Google. Laugh as you might, and I did all through this book, it works for her. And somehow, in spite of their initial lack of knowledge and a lot of bad luck, they survive and even thrive. No, I'm not giving away a secret. You know she wouldn't have written the book to tell us how they failed. And, anyway, it's the journey that counts, not the destination.

Emmett's parents have given them two acres in their vineyard. Lynda doesn't say so, but I'll bet her only experience with growing things was the pothos on the windowsill in her dorm room at college. She was definitely not prepared for cucumber beetles, foxes in the henhouse, recalcitrant rams, and some of the really strange people who shop at farmer's markets.

She writes about the contrast between what she learns on line and the reality of her experience. It ranges from joy at the harvesting of their first and subsequent crops to frustration and anger so strong that she throws her shoes at the field. Emmett has to rescue them.

I grew to really like Lynda except for one flaw in her writing. One of the things a writer should avoid is jerking readers out of the story, because they may not come back to it. Lynda swears like a sailor. I'm surprised her editor didn't talk her out of including profanity. Yes, I know all those words. I've even said one or two of them, but they weren't really necessary for the narrative. I set the book down at least twice, debating whether I wanted to finish it or recommend it to you. So fair warning. And I do recommend it to you.

The Wisdom of the Radish (ISBN-13: 978-1-57061-642-6) is 249 pages and hardbound. It's published by Sasquatch Books. You can buy it from them at www.sasquatchbooks.com or at your local bookstore for \$23.95.

[Editor's note: You might enjoy the author's website: wisdomoftheradish.com.]

Community Outreach

GARDENING'S REWARD: FOOD TO ENJOY

By Linda Johnson

San Diego County has a wide variety of organizations offering resources that assist home and community gardeners in growing food. Below are some examples.

SAN DIEGO FOOD NOT LAWS

This non-profit, grassroots group is focused on "cultivating an edible future" vs. water-hungry lawns, and develops strategies for preserving and creating more of our own healthy food in a sustainable fashion. San Diego Food Not Lawns (SDFNL) conducts workshops and conferences throughout the year to offer information, facilitate communication, and effect local change regarding a variety of food and land related issues. SDFNL works on issues including sustainable agriculture, GE (genetically engineered) and commercial food production, environmental and social justice, farm workers and border issues, water, reducing our ecological footprint, feeding the hungry, and creating local food systems. The group also sponsors Family Farm Days: visit www.sdfnotlawns.com for calendar and other info.

SAN DIEGO ROOTS SUSTAINABLE FOOD PROJECT

SD Roots is a network of citizens, farmers, chefs, gardeners, teachers, and students, all working to encourage the growth and consumption of regional food. From "farm to fork," SD Roots increases awareness and works toward a more ecologically sound, economically viable and socially just food system in San Diego. Benefits of eating locally include enjoying not only fresher, better-tasting food, but also supporting family farms and encouraging a vibrant local economy. SD Roots focuses on a number of areas: promoting small family farms and local food businesses, distributing information on farmers' markets, providing education and resources, strengthening the local food system, and protecting/preserving farmland in San Diego County. SD Roots, a nonprofit organization, also supports school gardens and entrepreneurial youth training projects related to sustainable agriculture and the culinary arts. Visit www.sandiegoroots.org for more information and/or to make a donation.

VICTORY GARDENS SAN DIEGO

Working with healthy food movement groups, Victory Gardens San Diego (VGSD) assists with the creation of home, school and community food gardens. A program of San Diego Roots Sustainable Food Project, VGSD encourages eating nutritious, locally grown organic food, while promoting empowerment, practical knowledge and self-sufficiency. Other goals include community skill sharing and information exchange; reconnecting people to food history and its traditions; growing food in innovative spaces; and encouraging a greater understanding of food systems and their connections to local and global sustainability issues. Committed to helping anyone seeking an active role in their own food production, VGSD has built numerous home gardens, provided assistance to many school and organizational gardens, and held various garden educational sessions. Volunteers are the key to the group's success. Visit www.victorygardenssandiego.com, and see how to join this movement and access some great resources.

Other resources:

www.localharvest.org to find farmer's markets, family farms, and other sources of sustainably grown food in your area.

www.sandiegoroots.org/farm for information on Wild Willow Farm & Education Center in the South Bay area.

SDHS 2011 SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR EXHIBIT

Let Your Water Budget Drive Your Plant Choices

The SDHS display garden in the Paul Ecke Jr. Flower and Garden Show at the San Diego County Fair has always been an award winner, and this year was no exception. Our beautiful landscape won four awards (see page 3), a tribute to the creative efforts of the designers and the hard work of many volunteers. The name of our garden, *Let Your Water Budget Drive Your Plant Choices*, tells you a lot about what we think is important in earth-friendly – and delightful – gardens. We partnered this year with the San Diego County Water Authority to educate the public on WaterSmart plants in a display featuring exciting design plus sustainable features for home landscapes.

Our colorful and sustainable garden showcases a variety of water-thrifty plants and garden features that allow the average homeowner on a modest budget to make the best use of rainfall and supplemental irrigation. This inviting and low-maintenance garden attracts beneficial insects and birds, provides a shady retreat and welcoming sitting areas, and has a whimsical charm in the small space typical of many urban homes. Here's the nitty-gritty on what we did – and why. For a list of the plants we used, turn to page 11.

A video of our garden and more info (including a link to the 93 plants we used) is available at sdcwa.org (under the Recent News heading click on Garden Exhibit at Fair Wins Three Awards).

Garden-Friendly Patio and Rocks:

Our 1000 square foot garden has 530 square feet of permeable hardscape, comprised of a patio of interlocking pavers set on sand, plus decomposed granite and rock. The patio is *permeable* because the pavers are set on sand (instead of in non-porous concrete), and therefore rainwater seeps directly into the soil through the sand instead of running off a solid concrete pad. The circular patio is sloped slightly towards an attractive seating/retaining wall with a low opening in it. Rainwater that isn't absorbed below the patio drains off through the opening into a handsome bioswale made of rocks of various sizes and planted with water-thrifty plants. The remaining water is retained in the soil below the bioswale, reducing the need for irrigating this area. Roots of nearby trees and shrubs grow beneath the bioswale area, allowing them to take advantage of the water and produce deep and vigorous root systems.

Mulch, Mulch, Mulch:

The other 470 square feet of the garden is well mulched using a combination of organic mulches, decomposed granite, gravel and rocks to prevent both excessive evaporation of water and heating of the soil. The organic mulch here is composed of wood chips, plant cuttings, and similar organic materials. As it breaks down it releases nutrients into the soil and increases the ability of the soil to absorb water. A 2" to 4" layer of mulch helps reduce your water bills while keeping weeds to a minimum (especially if you use a few sheets of newspaper or a layer of cardboard under the mulch).

Select Water-Thrifty Plants:

The planted area shown here has 30% of very low water use native plants and succulents, 64% of low water use trees and shrubs, and only 6% of high water plants (mostly in a small vegetable garden). Plants are grouped together by water needs to avoid excess watering.

All succulent plants are WaterSmart because they store water in their leaves, stems and/or roots. A huge variety of succulents are available, with foliage in every color of the rainbow from white to

coral, gold, lime green, teal blue, and near-black – and everything in between! Succulent leaves can be narrow or broad, flat or bumpy, fuzzy or shiny, and with scalloped or smooth edges. Grown mostly for their leaves, which are usually evergreen, many succulents also have beautiful flowers that can decorate the plant for several months. The succulents have been arranged to show off the different textures, colors, contrasts and repetition that can be created with these versatile plants. One of these succulents, *Dudleya pulverulenta*, is native to San Diego County.

California friendly plants – including California natives and plants from other Mediterranean-climate areas similar to ours – usually need little water to thrive because they're well adapted to dry summers. Some do well with watering only once or twice a month during the summer and not at all during our winter rainy season. For most, a once-weekly watering in summer is sufficient. Many also need little, if any, supplemental fertilizer and some do best with none at all. The Monkey Flower and California Goldenrod are native to San Diego County.

Artful Recycling:

The artwork in our garden is also environmentally thoughtful. Our roadster sculpture is made entirely from recycled parts. A specially designed birdhouse encourages local birds to visit the garden. Instead of a single-purpose garden shed, our teardrop trailer is light enough to be pulled by a Smart Car (the owner does) and doubles as a garden retreat, saving on construction materials. The shelf in back of the trailer is used as a potting shed and for backyard tailgate parties. The wooden columns have been salvaged from another garden project. Similarly styled vintage chairs can be found at thrift stores and garage sales; they can easily be repainted to match your décor.

Get Inspired!

Our regular meetings attract about 350 people each month because of talented and enthusiastic speakers who share their hard-won garden knowledge – and their thoughtful insights – with eager listeners who want to keep on learning about gardening. If you have missed some of our speakers you can borrow videos of many past meetings from the Video Loan table at meetings. The garden had features inspired by *all* of our speakers since January 2010:

- Beautiful but Wicked! plants (Amy Stewart, January 2010)
- Low-water grasses (John Greenlee, February 2010)
- A vegetable patch (Pat Welsh, March 2010)
- Australian plants (Joe Walker, April 2010)
- Rainwater harvesting (Brad Lancaster, May 2010)
- Colorful succulents (Debra Lee Baldwin, July 2010)
- Favorite plants (Bruce & Sharon Asakawa, August 2010)
- California native Plants (Margaret Fillius, September 2010)
- Desert plants (Wendy Proud, October 2010)
- Mulch around plants (Soil Experts, November 2010)
- Plants to attract bees (James Nieh, December 2010)
- Functional garden art (Greg Corman, January 2011)
- Old fashioned favorites (Aenne Carver, February 2011)
- A soil-free living wall (Jim Mumford, March 2011)
- Pebble mosaic (Jeffrey Bale, April 2011)
- Inspiration and alchemy (Bob Perry, May 2011)

Continued on page 8

Thank You to Our Fair Friends!!!

Three talented professional members generously donated a great deal of time and skill in making the garden possible: planning, designing, seeking out the best plants and materials, coordinating with suppliers, supervising volunteers, preparing artwork and specifications, and much more. Landscape designer and SDHS Vice President Jim Bishop will be our president starting in September (see www.bishopgardendesign.com). Landscape designer Marilyn Guidroz was also the supervisor for an enthusiastic group of students from MiraCosta College (see www.marilynsgarden.com). Landscape designer Vero Boyer, who also produced the signs and plant labels, is a licensed architect in Mexico (see www.ecodesignsd.com).

Steve Hubert, of the San Diego County Water Authority, helped with the installation of the garden and prepared the exceptionally attractive (and useful) handout we provided to Fair goers. SDCWA staff members also assisted with signage, free literature, and training our Horticulturists of the Day. Learn more at www.SDCWA.org.

Our garden featured a whimsical 50's Roadster built entirely of recycled material by artist Rick Hartner (www.SittingDuckStudio.com). This fabulous piece of garden art will be a highlight in the garden of Susan and Frank Oddo, who won it at our Silent Auction on June 13th.

Gary Vincent, whose Fallbrook garden (shared with his plant-loving wife, Wanda Mallen) was a highlight of our March garden tour, designed and made a stunning birdhouse for the garden. A very retro Teardrop Camper Trailer that doubled as a retreat was generously loaned to us by Little Guy Trailers (www.LittleGuyTrailers.net).

Eight students from the MiraCosta College Horticulture Department were a terrific asset in installing and maintaining the garden, and also helped with talking to people at the Fair about the garden. They were: Rachel Cox, Sophia Cwiklinski, Monica Ensign, Stephen Lague, Deborah Lockwood, Jake Minnick, Kati Moch, and Carmen Simpson. Other volunteers who helped before the Fair began include Carol Costarakis and Brian Taylor. Bill Nugent did a stellar job preparing a binder with a detailed information page and photo of every plant in the garden, which was very helpful in answering questions during the Fair.

Many thanks to these other supporters who generously assisted us with plants, materials, and furnishings:
AgriService, Inc. (www.AgriServiceInc.com)
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Proven Winners (www.ProvenWinners.com)
RCP Block & Brick (www.RCPBlock.com)
Southwest Boulder & Stone (www.SWBRock.com)
Susanna Pagan (www.SPGardens.com)

In the next newsletter we'll list the names of the Horticulturists of the Day, who talked to Fair attendees about our garden and the adjacent garden of the San Diego Botanic Garden. Their wholehearted participation helped us to fulfill our mission "to promote the enjoyment, art, knowledge and public awareness of horticulture in the San Diego area, while providing the opportunity for education and research." ☘

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MiraCosta students helping install the garden.

Photo: Marilyn Guidroz

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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:

Jeanne & David Akin	Roswitha Marohf
Kimberly & Nik Atzigen	Pat McDougal
Chris Brawner	Sandy & Peter Mossy
Sue Conroy	Pete & JoAnn Nieblas
Alfreda Cusack	Anita Noone
Rosette Garcia	Lynn Payette & Lawrence Branton
Adrienne Heinzelman	Marlene Prickett
Sheila Hughes	Christina Schiffman
Carole Kelsall & Bridgette Valdez	Jacque & Randy
Ardi Lynn Lane	Schwartz
Janet Mance & Richard Mason	Jackie Tipple Mara Woods

HORT BUCKS ARE GREAT!

Kudos to the members below who brought in new members in 2011 and as a result got 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 us your name when they join.

Ann Beckett (1)	Pat & Willey Humphrey (1)
Joyce Berry (1)	Barbara Komur (1)
Jim Bishop (1)	Amelia Lima (1)
Alyon Breathed (1)	Cathy McCaw (1)
California Mycorrhiza (2)	Susan & Frank Oddo (1)
Zephyr Carlyle (1)	Paige Perkins (2)
Sharon Corrigan (1)	Una Pierce (1)
Pat Crowl (1)	Barbara Raub (5)
Cuyamaca College (1)	Sue Ann Scheck (1)
Chris Drayer (1)	Pam Skirgaudas (1)
Kathy Esty (2)	Sue Toeniskoetter (1)
Margaret Grasela (3)	Susi Torre-Bueno (1)
Eva Heuser (1)	Pat White (1)

Discounts For Members

Get a 15% discount at Briggs Tree Co. (see page 9; tell them to look up the "San Diego Hort Society Member" account).

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

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

SEE THESE ADS FOR MORE DISCOUNTS: Barrels & Branches, Botanical Partners, Buena Creek Gardens, Cedros Gardens, Courtyard Pottery, IGS, Pacific Horticulture, Solana Succulents, Southwest Boulder & Stone and The Plant Man.

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LIFE MEMBERS

*Horticulturist of the Year

Chuck Ades* (2008)	Penelope Hlavac
Walter Andersen* (2002)	Debbie & Richard Johnson
Norm Applebaum & Barbara Roper	Lois Kline
Bruce & Sharon Asakawa* (2010)	Vince Lazzaneo* (2004)
Gladys T. Baird	Jane Minshall* (2006)
Debra Lee Baldwin	Bill Nelson* (2007)
Steve Brigham* (2009)	Tina & Andy Rathbone
Wayne Carlson	Jon Rebman* (2011)
Laurie Connable	Peggy Ruzich
Julian & Leslie Duval	Susi & Jose Torre-Bueno
Edgar Engert* (2000)	Don Walker* (2005) & Dorothy Walker
Jim Farley	Lucy Warren
Sue & Charles Fouquette	Evelyn Weidner* (2001)
	Pat Welsh* (2003)
	Betty Wheeler

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

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

What's Up at San Diego Botanic Garden?



Photo: Rachel Cobb

July is here and you know what that means... School's out for summer! Here at the Garden, we are sure to have the perfect activity to occupy even the wiggliest of worms. Speaking of BUGS! That's right, on July 9 and 10 from 10am- 4pm you can take part in this one-of-a-kind event featuring creepy-crawlies of all sorts including lizards, snakes and the ever so famous "Madagascar hissing cockroach."

Children will have the opportunity to practice proper bug collecting, take part in hands-on insect arts and crafts, and even taste cooked mealworm larva. Not to worry, the mealworm larva comes in various flavors including mesquite, teriyaki and barbeque for everyone's palate.

Entomologists, bug experts and more than twenty informational booths will be available for any question you or your children may have. Bring the kids for this hands-on event sponsored by the County of San Diego Department of Agriculture Weights and Measures, Lloyd Pest Control, and the San Diego Botanic Garden.

Cost of this event is free with paid admission or membership. FREE for all children ages 12 and under.

Looking for some weeknight fun? Every Thursday night this summer the Garden will be open until 8pm with activities or live entertainment for children. Entertainment includes, but is certainly not limited to, music from Clint Perry & The Boo Hoo Crew (debuting their new CD June 23rd), dancing around with world with Nikola Clay, singing with Wild Wes, and singing and dancing along with award-winning duo, Hullabaloo! Bring a blanket to sit on and pack dinner for this wonderful summer night tradition. For a complete listing visit SDBGarden.org.

For parents who have few extra hours in a day, the Seeds of Wonder garden is hosting several activities Tuesday-Friday each week. We are delighted to offer Toddler Tales and Tunes; Garden Arts and Crafts; and Trains, Paints and Plants, to name a few. These events are Free with paid admission or membership.



New E-Mail? New Street Address?
Please send all changes (so you will continue to receive the newsletter and important notices) to membership@sdhortsoc.org or **SDHS, Attn: Membership, PO Box 231869, Encinitas, CA 92023-1869.**
We NEVER share your e-mail or address with anyone!

Fair Awards Given by SDHS

The San Diego Horticultural Society is proud to have given six Excellence in Horticulture awards to display gardens at the Fair – photos of the gardens are on the back cover. These awards recognize the exceptional efforts of people who design and install the demonstration landscapes that are a highlight of the Fair. Each award includes a cash prize (\$100 for the first five, and \$500 for the Most Outstanding Exhibit) and a one-year membership in SDHS. Our very thoughtful judges this year were: Kristi Beach (AkanaDesign.com), who won our award for Nomenclature Accuracy in 2010 for her water-thrifty garden; Aenne Carver (TheThriftyGardener.com), who gave a fascinating talk at our February meeting about old-fashioned waterwise plants; landscape architect Chris Drayer (ChrisDrayer.com), who designed the xeriscape gardens at the Rancho La Puerta spa in Tecate, Mexico; Mary James, who is a San Diego garden writer whose work appears often in *San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles* and the *Union-Tribune* (and is the editor of *California Garden* magazine, published by San Diego Floral Association); Sergio Regalado (PlantPlay.com), who owns Plant Play nursery in Carlsbad and designed the award-winning SDHS Fair garden in 2009. We thank them for the hours they spent judging all the display gardens. Congratulations to these six winning gardens:

For the first time we have given the Nomenclature Accuracy award to a youth group garden, the only one at the Fair with 100% perfect nomenclature! Hats off to **Canyon Crest Academy**. Their charming garden had a selection of edibles, handmade toad houses, and much more.

The Bill Teague Memorial Award for Creative Use of Unusual Plant Material was given to **Solana Succulents**, who also won this award in 2010 (and several previous years as well). Designer Jeff Moore, a longtime SDHS member and sponsor (see page 17), created a lush low-water garden of succulent plants with fascinating foliage and form.

Our award for Best Youth Garden (\$100) went to **El Capitan FFA**, whose attractive and educational garden featured plants from different California climate zones.

Envision Landscape Studio won the award for Best Expression of Garden Education with their handsome display of water-thrifty plants and rainwater capture features. Especially eye-catching were the trees planted in gabions – metal cages filled with smooth rocks.

We introduced a new award this year for Best Planted Container. The winner was **Joseph A. Pagano**, who stole the judges' hearts with a charming garden chair featuring a pillow and bolster made of meticulously-planted succulents.

Our Don & Dorothy Walker Award for Most Outstanding Exhibit went to the **San Diego Botanic Garden** for their outstanding garden, an homage to the late Bill Teague. Designed by Peter and Margaret Jones, and installed with many SDBG volunteers, the garden features many of Bill's favorite plants, lots of his favorite color (violet), a garden railroad, frothy beach (Bill's other passion, besides plants, was surfing), an exceptional succulent selection, and many other elements that Bill used in his designs for SDBG over the years. Bravo!!! 🌿

Continued on page 12

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Fair Awards Continued from page 11



Barbara Rau

Solana Succulents showcased water-thrifty beauties

Envision Landscape Studio had trees planted in stone-filled gabions



Barbara Rau

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Continued on page 13

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Fair Awards Continued from page 12



Barbara Raub

San Diego Botanic Garden featured a planted woman

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Joseph Pagano's planted chair



Barbara Raub

Continued on page 14

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Dirt Continued from page 4

Robinson's gardening ideas helped spawn the English cottage garden movement, often said to be a partner of the popular Arts and Crafts movement of the late Victorian era. The underlying belief inherent in both of these movements was that simple was beautiful, and that nature provided the colors, patterns, and processes with which humans were to work.

Robinson's garden design principles were similar to those of Gertrude Jekyll. They maintained a close friendship and personal association for over fifty years. Jekyll contributed many articles to Robinson's successful gardening magazines, *The Garden*, and *Gardening Illustrated*. They also worked together in each other's gardens, and Jekyll contributed plants to his garden.

In his day, Robinson challenged many gardening traditions and introduced new ideas that have become commonplace today. He was a revolutionary designer who brought the wonderful chaos of nature to the garden.

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

Wild With Natives Continued from page 4

Finally, a last bit of advice: stop monkeying around with those delicate, time-consuming, thirsty exotics and start hanging around with a monkeyflower, the eighth wonder of the native plant world.

Member Pat Pawlowski is a writer/lecturer/garden consultant who likes to chase butterflies. 🌿

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Fair Awards Continued from page 13



Barbara Raub

**Canyon Crest
Academy's
veggie area**

**El Capitan
FFA's garden
with plants
from around
California**



Barbara Raub

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 this month was:

It's summertime, and the living is... HOT! What kind of shade structures do you have to provide cooling relief in your garden?



Gloria
Alexanderson's
octagon gazebo.

Gloria Alexanderson shared this image and story: "I had a raised 14' x 14' octagon brick and cement pad built in 1995. Since then I've been looking for a low maintenance 13'x13' octagon gazebo with a solid top. The only thing I have been able to find that would work was a 12'x12' square all metal gazebo at Costco. So at Christmas time, I wrote a request to Costco for them to bring it back this year, OR, better yet, for them to stock a 13'x13' octagon gazebo with a solid top this year. And when I went into Costco in January THERE IT WAS: a 13'x13' octagon gazebo with a solid top!!! They answered my request! So... if there is a particular item you might want, it does not hurt to put in a request to Costco!"

Louise Anderson has several shaded areas in her garden: "Beside two big trees, I have a retractable awning, umbrella, covered lounge and a swing under a canvas sail. I try to use them all frequently. The swing under the canvas sail is especially good for reading."

Carol Costarakis summed up her solution in two words: "Retractable awnings."

Marilyn Guidroz said, "The absolutely best shade structures are trees. Evergreen, semi-evergreen and deciduous trees not only provide wonderful shade but also cool the garden down in the summer. Dappled shade seems to be the best type of shade to grow other plants under a tree. Thinning and proper pruning of trees will keep the trees healthy, prevent breakage in high winds, and allow cooling breezes to reach the garden area better. If deciduous trees are located on the West and South sides of the house you can capture the maximum passive cooling effect in the summer as well as the passive heating effect in the winter. Good management practices include planting trees at a safe distance from the house and hardscape areas by knowing the eventual mature size of the selected trees."

Karen Hoffman told us: "I live in El Cajon and I came up with the most wonderful thing that I have been using for about 4 years. Umbrellas. I take off the handle and stick the sharp end into the dirt. I am able to grow basil and lettuce in August and shade those precious plants that can't quite take the summer sun. Pink umbrellas almost look like pretty pink flowers in the garden. Even when the fabric deteriorates, a few holes are o.k., and you can fold them and store easily for winter."

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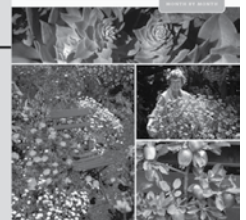
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Lorie Johansen wrote: "We love the sound of water as we sit under the pond pergola. In fact, this is the perfect time to clean out the pond filter; groom the plants, and get wet with the aromatic scent of eau de swamp!"

Lorie Johansen's shady patio.

Linda Johnson said: "I rely on a beautiful 50+ years old Chinaberry tree for some old-fashioned, natural shade. Provides lovely, graceful canopy, interesting berries that birds love, and fragrant flowers in spring. Can't beat it!"

Pat Kelly created portable shade: "I have found a good way to stay shaded while I am working in the garden. We have a half-acre flat lot that has a mostly southern exposure from 10am-4pm. I bought a sturdy garden wagon (probably at Costco) that I have outfitted with an umbrella stand and a beach umbrella. As I work around the garden, I move the wagon along to provide shade for myself while weeding, trimming and planting. I also use the wagon to move the big bags of mulch along with me, as well as my garden stool and a bucket for weeds, etc."



Pat Kelly sent this photo of the shade wagon she uses.

Anne Murphy loves: "trees, hedges, and fences. I have a section of my garden that is hedged on three sides and has a fence on the fourth. On the hot days of summer it is a cool place to sit. Lots of plants and trees make the entire garden cooler."

Diane Scharar replied: "We have the typical shade structure over our patio; posts holding an arrangement of slats. I weave inexpensive double knit fabric through the slats so there are three strips alternating the over and under weave. This gives a nice undulating effect that moves in the wind having a wave like effect. There are many ways to attach the fabric, but I will leave that puzzle for you to solve or you can send an email asking for input."

Stephanie Shigematsu wrote: "I have a south facing patio and wanted maximum shade coverage over my patio. First I tried shade cloth from a big box hardware store and doubled it, but the UV rays were still too strong in the summer months. I then had Moran Canvas custom make a canvas top fitted to my shade structure. It was expensive, but it has held up well and given me the shade I need. They also have great service. I picked a dark red color that is aesthetically pleasing, but I would select a cooler light natural tone next time around. I attached it to my open wood shade structure with thin wood batting and staples."

Gerald D. Stewart says the structures he builds to be cool on a hot day are decks in areas kissed by the breeze, with a tree or umbrella overhead. One thing didn't require building anything – a carefully-placed picnic table with umbrella at the south end of the property that catches the most reliable breeze. He has just planted a variegated wisteria to eventually replace the shade cloth on a pipe shade structure

Save time, select trees with confidence!
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the trees of san diego

Photography by Dan Walker
Text by Steve Brigham

in a breezy spot as well. All that will be needed are comfortable chairs and tall glasses of iced-tea once the wisteria and other plants – golden-leaf and variegated primrose jasmines and Moonlight false hydrangea vine – cover the structure.”

Sharon Swildens created her shade: “There is nothing like a tree for shade. However, my home has an overhang over the whole back of my home, which is a shady place to sit. I also have four umbrellas up around the pool that give some shade, depending on where the sun is at any given time. But the most shade comes from my over 30 trees, which keep me from realizing I actually live in an inland desert.”

Peter Tobias has old avocado trees: “My house occupies a lot in Encinitas that was an avocado orchard in the 1930’s and 1940’s. I still have two of those trees, now very large, that provide great summer shade. In the winter they lose most of their leaves to allow winter sun. And, sometimes, they even provide avocados!”

Cathy Tylka said, “I love my back porch. I had my husband design it so it would be the entire length of the house and start at a short corner near the the slider. It’s covered with lattice, so it gives filtered light. It’s ideal for having dinner outside all summer long, and even though I live on the cusp of the desert, I can still have some plants who desire filtered light hanging on the porch. So, it provides physical relief and a practical place for the plants to live. Also, it’s painted white to deflect the heat and is an eye-pleasing background. I have too much on it, as I also like to do my potting out there and have my spa there for my enjoyment. However, every once in a while I put everything in its place and it’s so welcoming. Now, to do something practical like this in a smaller version on my tiny front porch... to be continued.”

Katrin Utt told us, “Nothing provides better relief on a warm summer evening than relaxing under our patio umbrella with a glass of wine, enjoying our garden and listening to the birds sing.”

Jim Wright wrote that: “my entire backyard is a shaded area because of the total canopy of palms, etc.”

The question for next month is:

What is your favorite gardening blog or website? (Suggested by Sue Martin, whose own blog is ediblegardenspointloma.tumblr.com.) Send your reply by August 5 to info@sdHORTSoc.org.

FREE EVENTS

SUMMER FRUIT TREE PRUNING WORKSHOP

Join Grangetto’s Farm & Garden Supply and speaker Richard Wright for this engaging workshop “Summer Fruit Tree Pruning” designed to help you prune your fruit trees to maximize your production. This free workshop will be held on Saturday, July 9 at 1105 W. Mission Ave., Escondido, CA 92025. Richard has 30 years experience in the landscape industry. He specializes in edible landscapes and design. The seminar is FREE with no need to register. For questions, please contact Jennifer at 760-745-4671 or e-mail events@grangettos.com.

Continued on page 18

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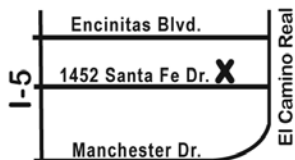
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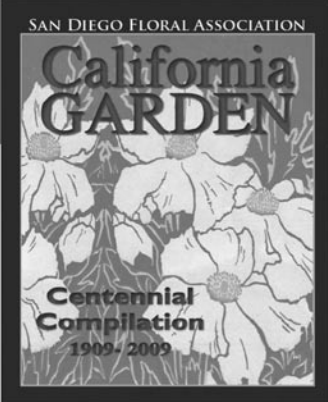


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Free Events Continued from page 17

ART IN BLOOM

Spanish Village Art Center in Balboa Park is hosting the first Art in Bloom event simultaneously with its Annual Open House on Saturday, July 23 from 10am to 7pm. This event, held in collaboration with San Diego Floral Association and San Diego Botanical Garden Foundation, celebrates San Diego's deep roots in horticulture and the creative process. Plein air artists throughout the Spanish Village courtyard will demonstrate their art using as subjects live floral arrangements provided by the Floral Guild. Demonstrations begin at 10am; People's Choice voting for favorite artwork/floral arrangement begins at 2pm. Garden groups will be on hand with representative plants and information. Spanish Village Art Center is located at 1770 Village Place in Balboa Park.

Tin Man's Heart will provide live entertainment. The famous Spanish Village Silent Auction features wonderful artwork donated by Spanish Village artists; three different auctions will end at 3:00pm, 4:30pm and 6:00pm. Collect art by your favorite Spanish Village artist and visit with them in the studios and on the patio.

Stroll through historic studios and enjoy a day of art and fun! Spanish Village Art Center is a community of over 250 local artists. Thirty-seven working studios enable visitors to meet the artists, see art being created, and enjoy the unique Spanish Village atmosphere. For details contact Susan Ludwig at (760) 436-0453 or susludwig@gmail.com.



SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE CONTRACTING & IRRIGATION WORKSHOP, JULY 7

CA Licensed Landscape Contractor and ISA Certified Arborist Steve Jacobs presents this workshop to help do-it-yourselfers and small businesses improve and update their irrigation and drainage skills for healthier, more sustainable landscapes. Topics will include information about sensors, timers, the latest low flow and drip systems, and tips for retrofitting or complete overhauls. He will also discuss when and how to hire a licensed landscape contractor, and what you need to know about regulations, liability and municipal ordinances. This FREE workshop is offered on July 7 from 5:30 - 7:30 pm in Kearny Mesa by the California Center for Sustainable Energy. Register ASAP at www.energycenter.org; for more info call (858) 244-1177 or events@energycenter.org. The California Center for Sustainable Energy is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the energy performance of homes, schools and businesses.



June Special Event

Several hundred SDHS members turned out on June 13th for SDHS Night at the Fair Gardens. It was a relaxing evening of strolling through the outdoor display gardens at the Fair without the crowds and a fine opportunity to have unhurried chats with friends. We also appreciated the free entry and free parking just outside the main entrance. Live music by the Palomar String Quartet was a delightful addition to this perfect evening for garden lovers.

Some of the designers of the various display gardens were on hand to talk about their Fair landscapes and answer questions. The gardens all looked great just four days after the start of the Fair. One fun highlight was the Silent Auction of the roadster made by artist Rick Hartner, who used entirely recycled materials to create this handsome piece of garden art. Turn to page 8 to find out who had the winning bid.

The evening was made possible by a terrific group of volunteers for organizing the event, staffing the check-in table, selling tree books, and helping in other ways. Thanks to Judy Bradley, Rosemary Hokanson, Susan Morse, Jane Morton, Susan Oddo, Jeannette Shields, Pat Venolia, Paula Verstraete, Nancy Woodard, and Joanzy Zeltinger. Thanks also go to Jayna Wittevrongel and the rest of the staff of the Flower & Garden Show. 🌿

To see **COLOR** photos of the SDHS garden and the gardens we awarded prizes to, visit our website.

More on-line
@ 
SDHortSoc.org



Marilyn Guidroz

Our enthusiastic Fair interns



Lorie Johansen



Roadster of recycled components has a rumble seat filled with plants

Closeup of Fair chairs behind the fire pit planter



Jim Bishop

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OUR AWARD-WINNING GARDEN AT THE FAIR (SEE PAGES 1, 7 & 19)



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What's Happening? for July 2011

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

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

Here's a little taster of what's new -

- ❖ Starting in the Secret Garden this morning - lots of **Tomatoes**, including some of the most oft requested Cherry Tomatoes:
- ❖ We have lots of **Basils** including African Blue Basil – a perennial Basil. African Blue can grow to 3ft x 3ft and have beautiful flowers that bees will love. You can harvest the dark purple and green leaves year round.
- ❖ Lots of **Dill and Fennel** – great in chicken or fish dishes – also Dill and Fennel will bring the big Swallowtail Butterflies to your garden.
- ❖ The **tomato hornworms** are getting pretty active now that our crops are getting ready to pluck so be sure you have plenty of "bT" (*Bacillus Thuriengensis*) on hand to do away with them. This product only attacks this specific pest and is a fully organic solution for the garden. Our Water Turtle loves to eat the hornworms...aah 'nature's way.'
- ❖ As well as lots of other scrummy tomatoes there's lots more tempting treats in the Secret Garden.
- ❖ **Asclepias curassavica**, milkweed, butterfly bush – back now from their winter cut back – butterflies love it and the Monarchs will lay their eggs on it.

The Shade color is amazing...

- ❖ **'Kong' Coleus** and the more 'sensible leaf' sized Coleus look fabulous.
- ❖ **Iresine** – also known as 'Bloodleaf' for the color of its leaves
- ❖ **Perilla Magilla** - If you like Coleus you will love Perilla. It has the same vibrant colors as its look-a-like but stronger stems, and it can be a perennial here in winter. Nice mounding growth habit, and large magenta, chartreuse, and green leaves.

Continued on other side



We're on Facebook! "Like" us for info and news as it happens. You'll find us under Andersons La Costa Nursery.

The Water Conservation Garden

Details & registration at (619) 660-0614 or www.thegarden.org

July 3, noon, Ask the Horticulturist Tour: FREE

July 17, 9:30am, FREE Special Access tour on a shuttle; reservations required call (619) 660-6841.

July 25-29, 9:00am-noon, Garden Discovery Day Camp: Garden arts & crafts, cooking, planting, cooperative games, more! Ages 7-11. Price per child: Members/\$65 Non-Members/\$80. Online pre-registration and payment is required.

San Diego Botanic Garden

See page 10 for more upcoming events

Details & registration at www.sdbgarden.org or (760) 436-3036

July 16, 9am-noon, Build Your Own Hydroponic Summer Garden: Guide to taking pups, cuttings, rejuvenating old plants and starting new ones. Members \$70, non-members \$90. Register by July 13.

July 21, 6-7:30pm, Low Water Use Plant Pairing: The art of low water use landscape design. Members \$25, non-members \$30. Register by July 19.

July 23, 10am-noon, Composting Workshop: To register call the Solana Center at (760) 436-7986 or see www.solanacenter.org

Alta Vista Gardens

See other side for contact info.

Details & registration at www.altavistagardens.org or (760) 945-3954

July 4, 6pm, 4th of July BBQ Dinner and Fireworks Celebration: See website for details for this fun annual event.

Walter Andersen Nursery FREE Saturday Classes:

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

Details at www.walterandersen.com; addresses in ad on page 15

Evergreen Nursery FREE Seminars

July 2, 10am – Your Kids & Pets in the Garden

Bring your kids with you for this hands-o workshop!

Carmel Valley and Oceanside Nurseries (see map on page 2)

Details at www.evergreennursery.com/seminar-schedule-2011

Cedros Gardens, Saturday 10am classes:

Details at www.cedrosgardens.com; address in ad on page 17.

Grangetto's Farm & Garden Supply FREE Workshop

July 9, 10-noon, Summer Fruit Tree Pruning, Escondido store
See page 17 for details

Details at www.grangettos.com; see ad on page 21.

July 1 (10:30-4:30pm) & 2-3, 10am-430pm, Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Show and Sale: Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. FREE. For info call (626) 405-2160 or 2277.

July 7, 5:30-7:30pm, Center for Sustainable Energy Workshop: Sustainable Landscape Contracting & Irrigation. SEE PAGE 18. FREE. 8690 Balboa Ave., Ste 100, San Diego. Register at www.energycenter.org/forestry. For info contact Robin at (858) 244-1177 or events@energycenter.org

July 9, 4:30pm, Southwestern College Walk featuring Rabbit & Deer Proof Plants: Learn which plants won't become the next meal for wildlife. Walks begin in Room 1802 of the Landscape & Nursery Technology Dept., Southwestern College, 900 Otay Lakes Rd., Chula Vista. Free parking in Lot E. Donation of \$3 is suggested. For info call (619) 421-6700, x5371.

July 10, 1pm, Southern California Plumeria Society: Mike Atkinson's bag rooting tutorial. FREE. Balboa Park War Memorial Building. See socalplumeriasociety.com.

July 10, 1:30pm, American Begonia Society: Melissa Worton's program on geraniums. Bring geraniums, begonias and companion plants to show Olivenhain Meeting Hall, 423 Rancho Santa Fe Road, Encinitas. For info call (760) 815-8914 or email marla.keith@cox.net.

July 11, 6:00pm
Plant Tales of Early California
See page 1

July 21, 7:30pm, San Diego Fern Society: Helpful hints for all potential exhibitors, and speakers talking about Maidenhair Ferns. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado Room 101. Info: sdrosesociety.org.

July 29 (noon-7pm), 30, 9am-5pm, Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale: 1000 S. State College Blvd., Anaheim. Info: (714) 267-4329 or (562) 587-3357.

July 24, 4:30pm, Southwestern College Walk featuring Citrus & Fruit trees. Reviews of citrus, stone fruits, banana and blueberries that perform well in San Diego County. Walks begin in Room 1802 of the Landscape & Nursery Technology Dept., Southwestern College, 900 Otay Lakes Rd., Chula Vista. Free parking in Lot E. Donation of \$3 is suggested. For info call (619) 421-6700, x5371.

Resources & Ongoing Events

ALTA VISTA BOTANIC GARDENS: Open Monday-Friday 7:00-5:00 ; 10:00- 5:00 on weekends. 1270 Vale Terrace Drive, Vista. For info see avgardens.org or call (760) 945-3954.

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

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

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

MASTER GARDENER HOTLINE:

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

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

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

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

BALBOA PARK:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Garden TV and Radio Shows

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

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

❖**Strobilanthes 'Persian Shield'** – one of my very favorite shade plants - a striking accent plant, displays lavender highlights on shimmering purple leaves. Ideal in mixed container, baskets, or in the landscape. Gets about 18" tall and 12" wide.

❖**Fuchsias** – 4", 6" and hanging baskets – plus a new hanging basket size – 6", very cute, perfect for a small hanging space.

❖**Brunfelsia** - A beautiful plant known as 'Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow,' because its showy flowers open purple, turn pale lavender the next day and finally white on the third day. All three colors are present, at the same time on the plant during the flowering season. It is an evergreen shrub with green, leathery leaves, and grows at a medium rate to a height of about 8'. It grows well in the ground or in a container, planted in rich, well -drained soil.

We received a lovely delivery of **Plumeria**. Remember to keep them on the dry side. We have them in quart, 1 gallon, 5 gallon and 15 gallon.

Pentas lanceolata - these will certainly attract hummingbirds and butterflies, in white, red and pink. Will bloom spring thru fall up to 2ft tall and wide.

Cuphea ignea 'Cigar Flower' 'Firecracker' plant. Hot bright color throughout the summer. One of the Top Ten hummingbird plants. Gets to 3ft tall and wide. Sun, regular water.

Tibouchina heteromalla. The Silver Leafed Princess Flower bush can grow to 6 feet tall and about 4 feet wide. The spectacular clusters of flowers at the tips of the branches during spring and summer are spectacular. The fuzzy leaves are interesting enough to keep the plant year round as a feature.

Heucheras are blooming now – Heuchera 'Mocha Mint' – silver laced foliage and showy coral colored flowers spring thru fall, attract hummingbirds, low maintenance (no deadheading needed).

We have lots of blooming **Salvias and Lavenders** – be sure to check out Salvia 'Wendys Wish'. A beautiful new salvia to 2ft tall. Large tubular flowers of a pretty beetroot color and these are held in pinkish-brown calyces which accentuate the blooms. The flowering stems are dark maroon, adding to the effect. It is long flowering from spring through to autumn.

Some July thoughts for your gardens:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Remember, all San Diego Hort Society members receive 10% discount on all purchases (except items already on sale). And we'd love to have you join us on our Facebook page for updates on interesting plants as they appear here at Anderson's La Costa Nursery.