

THE GARDEN SPRINKLER

Spring 2009

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION BY THE WATER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Water Smart Plant Fair and Spring Garden Festival-- Events that Empower and Inspire

By Elizabeth Ramos

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a statewide drought on June 4, 2008, citing two years of below-average rainfall, very low snowmelt runoff, and the largest court-ordered water transfer restrictions in state history. Dry conditions prevailed statewide in 2008. Storage in most key state reservoirs is significantly below average.

—Excerpt from San Diego County Water Authority website, sdcwa.org.

That is the bad news...and without significant rainfall or snowfall, it is likely to continue. But the Water Conservation Garden is a place where you, your friends, and your community can come to acquire the skills and information needed to maximize the water supplies we DO have. And there's no better time to do this than at one of the Garden's special events. We have two coming up this spring—the Water Smart Plant Fair and the Spring Garden Festival. Read on for more information. And remember, your water smart landscape practices can cut your landscape water use in half. So take charge, and keep saving. Your efforts are significant!



A matilija poppy

Our two spring events have a lot in common, but each has special features. At both events, you'll find plenty of water smart plants for sale, plus free admission and parking. At the **Water Smart Plant Fair on March 14**, the Garden and many vendors will sell a diverse selection of beautiful, drought tolerant species; at the **Spring Garden Festival on April 25**, the Cuyamaca

College Nursery will present its biggest plant sale of the year. At both events, water agencies will give updates on the water situation, and tell you of financial incentive programs to support your water smart lifestyle. And, you'll find delightful children's activities, with the Garden's own Ms. Smarty Plants to educate and entertain the young and the young at heart.

Visit the Plant Fair for information about entering the California Friendly Landscape Contest, and for informative talks including "How to Start a Water Saving Garden" with Landscape Designer Connie Beck (*cont. next column*)



Visitors enjoy the Spring Garden Festival

and "Plant Adaptations" with Landscape Designer and Instructor Jill Morganelli. Master Composters will answer your questions throughout the day, and for the first time at this event, you can sign up for a free, landscape design consultation at "Ask the Designers".

"Conservation in Bloom" is the theme again for this year's Spring Garden Festival. With our partners, Cuyamaca College and the Heritage of the Americas Museum, we'll feature a Conservation Courtyard with information on green living from experts across the County. Visit the Garden's Water Smart Plaza to view the latest in water smart gardening technology.

The Spring Garden Festival will feature our popular "Ask the Experts" areas with information on tree care, compost, veggie gardening, and landscape design. Reserve your personal landscape consultation at either the Plant Fair or Spring Garden Festival by calling 619-660-0614 x10 before each event, and bring a photo of your yard for feedback. The Spring Garden Festival will also include live music, delicious food, artisans, and the Splash Science Mobile Lab, plus fun activities for the Garden's 10th Anniversary. For details on the exciting program at the Heritage of the Americas Museum, including the contest rules for Artifacts Alive!, visit www.cuyamaca.edu/museum. Visit www.cuyamaca.edu/springfest to view the variety of activities offered by the college's Ornamental Horticulture program, and www.thegarden.org to view the Garden's program.

Join us for one or both of these exciting spring events that offer popular programs and interesting new activities to inspire your water smart lifestyle!



Executive Director's Report

by Marty Eberhardt

As we move into the new year, the Garden is increasing the variety of tools in its tool box for anyone wanting to learn a little more about

how to save water in the landscape. Once a month, visitors can come to our horticulturists with questions during "Ask the Horticulturist" tours. They can do the same during "Ask the Designer" appointments, which are scheduled on a monthly basis. "Toss the Turf" is now regularly scheduled as well for people interested in ditching their lawns. And to deal with the many questions from an anxious public as our water crisis escalates in tandem with the financial crisis, we are working on "H₂O 911", which will debut in a few months. Check the enclosed class schedule for information about all of our classes.

For eight hours a week, we'll also be offering the Water Smart Pipeline, a horticultural advice line with Nan Sterman. See the article at right for more details. Another new tool is in the form of an innovative display; for an alternative to turf, please visit our new meadow exhibit.

Times are tough. Water bills are getting higher and water is getting scarcer. Your money may be drying up as well. We have another tool for you at the Garden, which can't be underestimated. A quiet stroll through the peaceful beauty of our five-acre preserve may help you tackle whatever comes your way. We invite you to enjoy the respite the Garden can provide.



The Dorcas Utter Memorial Sensory Garden opened in 2007.

The Garden Sprinkler is a quarterly publication of The Joint Powers Authority (the City of San Diego, Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District, Helix Water District, Otay Water District, San Diego County Water Authority, Sweetwater Authority, and Conservation Champions) for **The Water Conservation Garden**, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, CA 92019 (619) 660-0614, www.thegarden.org



Landscape Advice is on the Way Through the Water Smart Pipeline

Thanks to the generosity of the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust, the Garden will be offering a hotline for Water Smart gardening advice from well-known horticulturist Nan Sterman. The Water Smart Pipeline will answer gardening questions and offer advice beginning March 1 and continuing through December 31, 2009.

Sterman has written for *Sunset Magazine*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and *The San Diego Union Tribune* among other publications. She is a regular contributor to National Public Radio's *These Days* gardening show, is the author of the very helpful *California Gardener's Guide Volume II*. She also created and currently teaches the Garden's Bye, Bye Grass class.

The Pipeline number will be 1-866-962-7021. Calls will be taken on Tuesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and on Fridays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. We look forward to talking to you and answering your Water Smart gardening questions!

It Never Rains in Southern California?

by Laurie Furry

The phone at the Water Conservation Garden began to ring after the first real rain of the season. How do I keep the water in my new rain barrel clean? How long can I store water in my rain barrel and how do I prevent algae from forming? Where can I get those mosquito-larvae-eating fish? Clearly, people have begun to revisit the time-honored tradition of collecting rainwater. My great grandmother, a San Diego resident, collected rainwater for washing her hair. The serious water shortage has people interested in collecting rain for more basic purposes like watering the landscape.

In response to the interest in rainwater collection, the Water Conservation Garden invites you to join Bill Toone, former Director of Applied Conservation at the San Diego Zoo and founder and Executive Director of the Ecolife Foundation, for a class called **Rainwater Collection for the Homeowner** on Saturday, February 7 from 1:00 to 3:00pm. This class will cover rainwater collection basics including commercial rain barrel options, tips for water storage and use, and how to install a rainwater collection system. The class will be \$15 for Garden members and \$25 for non-members.

Bill Toone's Ecolife foundation focuses on providing food, water, and shelter in parts of the world where humans coexist with endangered species. Bill will share stories of his exotic travels and discuss the implications of the worldwide water shortage. Learn how to be part of the solution to our local water shortage by adding a rain barrel to your conservation efforts.

Garden Staff

Marty Eberhardt, Executive Director
Paul Redeker, Horticulture Manager
Daniel Mayorga, Landscape Technician
David Yetz, Landscape Technician
Laurie Furry, Education Director
Elizabeth Ramos, Events Coordinator
Heather Carlton, Office Assistant
Pam Meisner, Programs Assistant
Kay McGrath, Bookkeeper

A New Meadow at the Garden

by Paul Redeker

When I say “meadow”, what image pops into your head? You probably see a grassy field, and perhaps some wildflowers, but would you ever consider putting one in your front yard? Maybe not, although perhaps we can change the way you see meadows in the future.

This spring the Garden is introducing a new meadow. This new exhibit includes eight different types of meadow grasses providing different colors, textures, and incorporating a mixture of flowering bulbs.

What is a meadow? According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, a meadow is land in or predominantly in grass. Other similar definitions focus on a field vegetated primarily by grass and other non-woody plants, often compared to a pasture or low-lying grassland. As I researched the idea of adding a meadow to the Garden, I found that there are not many examples to be found in the San Diego area. Nurseries carry a few plugs to accommodate small accent plantings, however, after speaking with several nurserymen, it seems the public has not yet created much of a demand for planting full meadows in the residential setting.

While planning, I sought help from several knowledgeable sources. We were privileged to have John Greenlee, a California meadow grass expert, visit the garden in October. He gave us planting advice and grass samples. “One of the challenges to adding a meadow,” John explained, “is to select grasses and flowers that will grow well together and create an attractive and well-balanced landscape without looking like someone needs to get in there and weed.” I also consulted Nan Sterman, author of the California Gardener’s Guide Volume II. Nan and I visited Easy to Grow Bulbs in Oceanside, where we received a generous donation of bulbs not only for the meadow exhibit, but for the Garden as well. Bulbs are often overlooked as a drought tolerant option when designing a landscape but can substantially add to the beauty of any garden. I then reviewed the overall design layout with docents Rosalie Dosik and Cynthia Harmer. We discussed using different colored grasses such as the bronze color of the *Carex comans* ‘Bronze’ and the silvery-blue blades of the Blue Oat Grass, *Helictotichon sempervirens*. Finally, I consulted with John Holt of Recon Natives Nursery to finalize our water-wise grass pallet and include *Carex pansa*, one of the meadow grasses that is a popular turf substitute.

This new meadow is just one example of what a meadow can be. We hope that visitors to the Garden will appreciate the place that meadow grasses can have in the water-wise landscape and be inspired to incorporate their favorite aspects of the meadow in their landscape designs.



Docents and volunteers plant the new meadow exhibit, which features a number of different meadow grasses

Docent Profile:

Cynthia Harmer

by Marty Eberhardt

The Garden is pleased to welcome the new Docent President, Cynthia Harmer. Cynthia joined the docent class in 2005, not long after she moved to San Diego. She has had a varied and distinguished artistic career in Arizona and New Mexico. In the 1980s, she worked in fiber and handmade paper, showing in galleries and juried exhibitions around the country. She won several awards during this time, and was an Artist-in-Residence for the State of Arizona.



Cynthia in the Garden

After moving to New Mexico, she started an art-to-wear company. She then became an award-winning graphic artist, working for some well-known clients like Smithsonian Magazine, The New Yorker, and Audubon. She started and ran her own company, Harmer Design.

The Garden has already been the lucky beneficiary of Cynthia’s artistic and organizational skills. She and Rosalie Dosik reworked the design of the container garden, and are now doing the same for the groundcover exhibit. They also designed an extraordinary sculpture for the container garden. Recently, Cynthia chaired the committee that put together the new docent handbook.

She is a little shocked that so few people realize the seriousness of our water situation--although she sees things changing. She believes that the docents have a really important role in helping San Diegans deal with the water situation, and she is honored to lead them.

Water Conservation Garden

Spring 2009 Calendar of Events

Pre-registration is required for all classes! **To enroll call 619-660-0614 x 10 or visit www.thegarden.org.**
Payment received before date of class guarantees your reservation. Refunds cannot be made within three days of the event unless we can fill your space or the Garden cancels the event. Thank you.

Ask the Horticulturist Tour

First Sunday of the month at 1:30 pm

February 1, March 1, April 5

Enjoy an informative walk through the Garden with one of our professional staff horticulturists. Bring your questions and prepare for an interesting tour from the perspective of someone who works in the Garden daily. FREE

Little Sprouts Play Group

First Monday of the month, 10:00-11:00am

February 2, March 2, April 6

Join our education department for a guided play experience designed for toddlers, and social networking for their caregivers. Each session includes an educational topic of interest for the adults, while the Little Sprouts enjoy each other's company in the outdoors. Meet at the main entrance to the Garden. Little Spouts will be canceled in the event of rain. FREE

Preschool Story Time

First Tuesday of the month, 11:30am-noon

February 3, March 3, April 7

Join our education staff for a fun, garden-themed story for preschoolers and their caretakers. Bring your sack lunch and enjoy the Children's Trail when story time is over! FREE

Hillside Gardening

Tuesday February 3, 2009, 6:30-8:30pm

Landscape Designer Connie Beck will show you how to make the most of gardening on a slope! Topics include erosion control, proper plant choices, terracing, and retaining walls. A colorful slideshow of several San Diego hillside gardens will reveal the creative possibilities unique to this style of gardening. \$25
This class is offered in partnership with Cuyamaca College's Community Learning Program. For information and to register, call 619-660-4350, or visit www.cuyamaca.edu/preview.

Proper Pruning Practices

Saturday, February 7, 10:00am-noon

Join Certified Arborist and Garden Docent Leah Rottke as she shows you the do's and don'ts of pruning. She will cover need-to-know basics for pruning both trees and shrubs, and use the Water Conservation Garden as a lab to analyze samples.

\$15 Members, \$25 Non-Members

Rainwater Collection for the Homeowner

Saturday, February 7, 1:00-3:00 pm

Every drop counts! While we receive little rainfall in Southern California, we can save what we do receive for irrigating our landscape. Bill Toone, Executive Director of Ecolife Foundation, will share options for rainwater harvesting for homeowners. Learn about our current and future water scarcity issues on local, national and global levels. See samples of rain barrels; both commercially available and homemade.

\$15 Members, \$25 Non-Members

FEBRUARY**Water Smart Landscape:****Beautiful Landscape on a Low-Water Budget**

Sunday, February 8, 1-4:00 pm

Landscape Designer Jan Tubiolo takes the mystery out of water smart landscaping. Learn seven principles of low water landscaping, and discuss plant selection and planting techniques. This workshop includes a classroom lecture and an interpretive tour of the Water Conservation Garden.

\$20 Members, \$30 Non-Members

Flavors of the Garden-Back by popular demand!

Saturday, February 14, two seatings, 11:30am and 12noon

The botanical world blooms with flavors that tantalize the palate. Join us for a unique Valentine's Day celebration as we tour the Garden, sampling sweet and savory delights inspired by nature's bounty. Herbs, vegetables, fruits and nectars form the foundation of these culinary treats. Please register for this special event by February 1. Age 12 and up only please.

\$20 Members, \$30 Non-Members

Ask the Designer

Tuesday, February 17, 5:30-8:30 pm

Professional Landscape Designer Connie Beck will give personalized 45 minute landscape design consultations. Bring a photo of the area, your project dimensions, and ideas you like from magazines. Connie will provide practical advice and suggestions for creating your uniquely beautiful, water smart landscape. Call 619-660-0614 x10 to reserve an appointment.

\$60 Members, \$75 Non-Members

Ask the Designer

Tuesday, February 24, 5:30-8:30 pm

See description for 2/17. With Jan Tubiolo. Call 619-660-0614 x10 to reserve an appointment. *\$60 Members, \$75 Non-Members*

Toss the Turf: Less Water, Less Grass, More Fun!

Saturday, February 28, 9:00-noon

Join Vickie Driver for a short course in turf removal. Get tips for evaluating soil, tuning up your irrigation system, and creative ideas for a beautiful, low-water-use landscape in lieu of lawn.

\$20 Members, \$30 Non-Members

Bye Bye Grass! Part 1

Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Dr., Encinitas, CA. 92024

Thursday, March 5, 6:30-8:30 pm

Tired of being a slave to your water-thirsty lawn? Join Nan Serman, gardening expert and host of the PBS show A Growing Passion, to learn how to exterminate your lawn for good. Nan will discuss extermination options, including the pros and cons of chemical and non-chemical methods, and ways to physically remove grass. Learn how to prepare the soil for a new garden, along with lots of creative ideas on what to replace it with in Bye Bye Grass Part 2 on Sunday, March 8, 2:00-4:00pm.

\$45 Members, \$50 Non-Members

MARCH

Bye Bye Grass! Part 2

Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Dr., Encinitas, CA. 92024

Sunday, March 8, 2:00-4:00 pm

Your lawn is gone! What to do next? Find out with Nan Sterman, gardening expert and author of California Gardener's Guide, Volume II. Nan will discuss evaluating your irrigation system, deciding the kind of spaces you need in your garden, and preparing the soil. She will offer creative ideas for beautiful, low water plantings, and guide you through living examples of water smart landscapes. Plus, you'll view interesting drought tolerant ground covers and a variety of hardscape options. *\$45 Members, \$50 Non-Members*

The Wednesday Evening Water Smart Series*

The following classes can be taken individually or as a pre-paid series of 3. Please pre-register: 10 student minimum per class.

Individual classes: \$15 Members, \$25 Non-Members; Series: \$30 Members, \$60 Non-Members

***Designing with Water Smart Plants**

Wednesday, March 4, 6:30-8:30 pm

Landscape Designer Jan Tubiolo shows you how to create a water smart landscape design from scratch. Topics include site analysis and measurement, plotting your design on paper, environmental factors, and water-efficient plant groupings.

***Mulch, Compost and Fertilizer**

Wednesday, March 11, 6:30-8:30 pm

Unsure about how to use mulch in the garden? Not sure when to fertilize or what compost is? Landscape Designer Jan Tubiolo will discuss in detail the benefits of these three garden essentials.

***Irrigation Design for Water Smart Gardens**

Wednesday March 18, 6:30-8:30 pm

Kathy Eagle, Director of Ornamental Horticulture at Barona Valley Ranch Resort and Casino, discusses the essential design principles for integrating overhead sprinklers and drip irrigation in to your garden. Topics include sprinkler selection and spacing, valve zoning, and water pressure.

Trees in the Water Conserving Landscape

Saturday, March 7, 10:00am-noon

Join local Certified Arborist Leah Rottke for a crash course on trees. Leah will guide you through the basics; tree selection, planting do's and don'ts, watering new trees, maintaining established trees, and tree species best adapted to our arid climate. Class includes a tour and lively discussion of trees at the Water Conservation Garden. *\$15 Members, \$25 Non-Members*

Ask the Designer

Tuesday, March 10, 5:30-8:30pm

See description for 2/17. With Connie Beck. Call 619-660-0614 x10 to reserve an appointment. *\$60 Members, \$75 Non-members*

Water Smart Plant Fair

Saturday, March 14, 9am-3pm

See Article, Page 1

NEW! A New California Garden

Saturday, March 21, 9:00am-noon

Not sure where to start? Landscape Designer Linda Whitney shares the process of creating her own award-winning water smart landscape from the ground up. Learn the steps from design and irrigation to plant selection and maintenance principles. Linda will share her experiences through a comprehensive slide show detailing the evolution of her garden. *\$20 Members, \$30 Non-Members*

Water Smart Landscape:**Beautiful Landscape on a Low Water Budget**

Tuesday, March 24, 6:30-8:30pm

See class description for 2/8. With Connie Beck.

\$25 This class is offered in partnership with Cuyamaca College's Community Learning Program. For information and to register, call 619-660-4350, or visit www.cuyamaca.edu/preview.

Toss the Turf: Less Water, Less Grass, More Fun!

Saturday, March 28, 9:00am-noon

Join Vickie Driver for a short course in turf removal. Get tips for evaluating soil, tuning up your irrigation system, and creative ideas for a beautiful, low-water-use landscape in lieu of lawn. *\$20 Members, \$30 Non-Members*

APRIL**Bye Bye Grass! Part 1**

Wednesday, April 1, 6:30-8:30 pm

See class description for 3/5. At the Water Conservation Garden. *\$45 Members, \$50 Non-Members*

Bye Bye Grass! Part 2

Saturday, April 4, 10:00am-noon

See class description for 3/8. At the Water Conservation Garden. *\$45 Members, \$50 Non-Members*

NEW! Explore a California-Friendly Garden with Connie Beck Friday, April 3, 2009

Tour 1: 9:00-10:00am, Tour 2: 10:30-11:30am

Tour Landscape Designer Connie Beck's beautiful home garden! Enjoy a private tour of Connie's garden at the peak of the season. Enjoy a garden-related snack while you stroll with Connie through her water smart landscape. Directions to Connie's home will be mailed to registered participants. Limited spaces available so book early! (15 people per tour for a total of 30) *\$25 Members, \$35 Non-Members*

NEW! A New California Garden

Saturday, April 11, 9:00am-noon

See class description for 3/21.

\$20 Members, \$30 Non-Members

Ask the Designer

Tuesday, April 14, 5:30-8:30pm

See description for 2/17. With Jan Tubiolo. Call 619-660-0614 x10 to reserve an appointment. *\$60 Members, \$75 Non-members*

Water Smart Landscape:**Beautiful Landscape on a Low-Water Budget**

Saturday, April 18, 9:00am-noon

See class description for 2/8.

\$20 Members, \$30 Non-Members

Ask the Designer

Wednesday, April 22, 5:30-8:30pm

See description for 2/17. With Jan Tubiolo. Call 619-660-0614 x10 to reserve an appointment. *\$60 Members, \$75 Non-members*

16th Annual Spring Garden Festival

Saturday, April 25, 9am-4pm

See Article, Page 1

The Nifty-50 Revisited

By Paul Redeker

We have just completed revising the Nifty-50 list, a plant reference brochure comprising 50 top Water Smart plants. This list is very useful for anyone looking for a subset of drought-tolerant plants gathered from the extensive number of plants available in California.

Is it possible to create a perfect list of 50 drought tolerant plants for southern California? Probably not, as the list would be different for every person.

There are so many variables, including personal taste, plant knowledge, and microclimates. Our solution was to bring together a group of individuals representing landscape designers, horticulturists, and nursery professionals. We asked them to consider the end-user, review the existing list, and replace questionable plants with better alternatives. Our group included Nan Sterman, author of California Gardener's Guide Volume II, Walter Andersen, owner of Walter Andersen Nurseries, Suzie Wiest, General Manager of Miramar Wholesale Nurseries, Dave Ehrlinger, Director of Horticulture at Quail Botanical Gardens, Marty Eberhardt, Executive Director of the Garden, and Paul Redeker, Horticulture and Facilities Manager of the Garden.

During the review process, we considered plants on a residential landscape scale that were attractive, available, non-invasive, and easy to maintain. We also considered long term performance, and of course drought tolerance.

I'm sure there will be a day when our list is revisited, a new group formed, and the discussion of the best fifty plants will continue. In the mean time, we hope our new Nifty-50 brochure will inspire both the plant enthusiast and the person just looking for a few reliable drought-tolerant plants.



Penstemon heterophyllus

Treat Your Valentine to Flavors of the Garden

By Elizabeth Ramos

Flavors of the Garden returns to tantalize taste buds on Saturday, February 14. There are two "seatings" for this event, 11:30am and 12pm, but wear your comfy shoes, because instead of sitting you'll be on a culinary journey around the Garden, sampling delicious treats made with gifts from the botanical world.

Citrus, herbs, pomegranate, and fig are some of the guests invited to your palate. Discover the fruits of the garden in different disguises, both sweet and savory. And then, of course, there is chocolate.

Sign up early for this popular program. Each participant receives a recipe booklet to recreate the experience at home. Ages 12 and up please. Members \$20; Non-Members \$30. Call 619-660-0614 x10 to register.

San Diego Home and Garden Show Preview to Benefit the Garden

Twice each year, the Water Conservation Garden's volunteers and docents share conservation information with the public at the Spring and Fall Home and Garden Shows in Del Mar. This year an exciting Garden Party, hosted by the Home and Garden Show, will kick off the spring show. This VIP preview event will be held on Thursday, February 26th, from 7:00-10:00pm at the Del Mar Fairground's Bing Crosby Hall. The event will showcase the Garden Masters, the designers of the gardens on display at the Home and Garden Show. A portion of the proceeds for this event will benefit the Water Conservation Garden. The event will include an opportunity to meet with the designers, view the displays and enjoy delicious light fare.

Tickets for the event will be \$40.00. To buy a ticket, go to <http://www.springhomegardenshow.com/Pages/ShowFeatures/PreviewGala.htm>. Tickets are only available on-line. For information, call 858-519-0855.

Nora Jaeschke

Wins Conservation Award

Friends of the WCG President, Nora Jaeschke, won the 2008 Llana Sherman Excellence Award from the California Urban Water Conservation Committee for her tireless work in support of water conservation. She was jointly nominated by the Garden, the City of San Diego Water Department, and the San Diego County Water Authority. The award is given to a community leader who shows creativity, perseverance, vision and integrity in the pursuit of water conservation. Those who know Nora know that she is more than deserving of this description in her work for the Garden, and with business and government leaders as Chair of the Water Authority's Conservation Action Committee.



Aloe arborescens

Photo by David Yetz

Are you ready?

by Nora Jaeschke

Everywhere we look, every time we pick up a paper, every time we turn on the TV or the radio, we hear the word conserve.

Last January the farmers in San Diego County had their water supply cut 30%. As a result of this cutback, trees are being stumped and fields left fallow. Many farmers are going out of business and looking for other ways to make a living. For years, we have heard that we needed to conserve, and time after time rain has come and we have been saved. I certainly hope that will be the case again, but unfortunately this time it looks like we will not be saved by rain.

As you know, we get our water from two sources, the Colorado River and the State Water Project. San Diego County imports about 85% of its water. The Colorado River has two major reservoirs, Lake Mead and Lake Powell. Both reservoirs are down 50% at this time. The State Water Project includes Lake Oroville and the San Luis Reservoir, and they are both at 1/3 capacity. The courts have just imposed another injunction on pumping water from the Delta. Water agencies expect to have their supply cut in the near future.

Are you ready? Some visitors to the Garden are ready. More efficient use of water in the landscape is “another way to beautiful.” Visit the Garden, take action, develop a plan, and make changes so that you will be ready to save both water and money.

The Garden appreciates its members and supporters. Please give where you can, as your dollars will be wisely spent to provide education and help in this important time.

Members

July-December 2008

Student

Cerra Agnieszka
Margaret Harder
Mason Innocentes
Karen Sherman

Basic

Lilia Barr
John Donald & Penelope Borax
Kathe Bridges
Jane Campbell
Joseph & Marsha Cook
Patti Dodgen
Mila Feinstein
Michael Ferguson
Judy Fink
Raymond Ford
Elaine Hall
Margaret & A.J. Hardy
Christina Jackson
Marie Kershaw

Basic, cont.

Mendy & Kenny McClure
Maryellen McGinley
Elizabeth Nagy
Tamra Price
Carolyn Schaffer
Sue Slaughter
Jan Stammen
Norene Sultana-McCall
Drury Thiercot
Thompson Family
Linda Truesdale
Dennis & JoAnn Turk
Serena Urban
Billie Wade

Supporting

Curtis Conklin
Marcine Grubbs
David Reed
Bonnie Stanley
Karen Sumeck

Partner

Vallecitos Water District



Bill Verbeck:

A Profile of Longtime Friend

By Marty Eberhardt

Bill Verbeck has once again made a very generous donation to the Garden's annual campaign. This is part of a long-term commitment and friendship with Bill and his wife, Norma, for which the Garden is immensely grateful. We thought we'd let you know a little about the man who has meant so much to this public garden.

Bill came to San Diego on vacation from Nebraska in 1954 and decided not to go back. He went into the printing business, and in 1957 he built the house in Spring Valley where he still lives. After ten years, he went into the electronics business, and eventually became his wife's business manager at Grossmont Escrow. Bill and Norma ran a successful business together for many decades.

In 1987, Bill became a Helix Water District Board member, serving until 1994. The early 1990s were the years of Garden planning, and Bill was deeply involved.

Bill has been active in the Kiwanis since 1962. He enjoys contributing to their projects, to the Home of Guiding Hands, and to the Garden. He has been an active contributor to our annual campaign, to the amphitheater fund, and he generously donated the “Verbeck Shuttle” for those who need a lift around our five-acre garden. Bill was also a founding member of the Friends of the Water Conservation Garden.

Bill has been committed to water conservation for a long time. He was one of those who had the foresight to commit to the Garden in its early days. He told me he hopes others will follow his example. We think it's a very inspiring example indeed.



Bill, center, with Nora Jaeschke, left, and Executive Director Marty Eberhardt, right



FRIENDS OF THE GARDEN

MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT

Please make checks payable to the Friends of the Water Conservation Garden and send your enrollment with payment to The Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, CA 92019. You can also join at www.thegarden.org. For more information, call 619-660-0614 x10.

I would like to register at the level indicated:

- Student \$20
- Basic \$40
- Supporting \$60
- Sustaining \$120
- Patron \$250
- Benefactor \$500
- Conservationist \$1000

I would like to support the Garden with an additional donation of \$_____.

I am interested in becoming a Docent or Volunteer

Name

Address

City/State/Zip Code

Telephone Number

Email Address

Benefits

Student
Free Newsletters
Free Garden Admission

Basic
Same as above, plus
Gift shop: 10% Discount
Classes/Events: Free or discounted admission

Supporting
Same as above, plus
Facility rentals: 10% Discount, up to \$25 annually

Sustaining
Same as above, plus
Facility rentals: 10% Discount, up to \$50 annually

Patron
Same as above, plus
Engraved brick paver in garden pathway
Facility rentals: 10% Discount, up to \$125 annually

Benefactor
Same as above, plus
Engraved brick paver in garden plaza
Facility rentals: 20% Discount, up to \$250 annually

Conservationist
Same as above, plus
Facility rentals: 30% Discount, up to \$500 annually
Posting on Garden Web Site
Individual Consultation with Director of Horticulture

Our Mission Statement:

“Promoting water conservation in the southern California landscape through excellent exhibits and programs that educate and inspire the public.”

Open 7 days a week from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Docent Tours; Sat. 10:30 am and Sun. 1:30pm.

Printed on recycled paper

Conservation Champions (Metropolitan Water District of Southern CA; Cox Conserves/We Stand 4; Saturn of San Diego)

Sweetwater Authority

San Diego County Water Authority

Otay Water District

Helix Water District

Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District

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