

THE GARDEN SPRINKLER

Spring / Summer 2009
Celebrating 10 years

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION BY THE WATER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Five Questions with Ken Weinberg

Director of Water Resources, San Diego County Water Authority

Q. First of all, can you give us a quick summary of where our water comes from?

A. More than 80% of our total supply comes from outside San Diego County. Last year about 54% came from the Colorado River, and about 28% came from the State Water Project in Northern California. About 18% of our water needs were met with local sources or offset by conservation.

Q. What is the Water Authority's perspective on the importance of water conservation in the landscape?

A. We see landscape water conservation as one of the biggest sources of both short-term and long-term water savings for the region. About 59% of all of water use in our region is residential. Of that residential use, more than half is used outdoors. If people irrigated their lawns or yards more efficiently, and fixed leaks and breaks promptly, these simple steps alone could immediately generate a significant amount of water savings. Commercial properties and HOAs can follow the same steps and make a big difference in their water use as well.

Long-term improved landscape efficiency and a shift toward more drought-tolerant plant choices in residential and commercial landscapes is a cornerstone of our strategy for reaching our conservation targets over the next decade and beyond.

Q. We hear that we are in a water crisis, but also that the snowpack in the Sierras is good. How serious is the situation?

A. It's easy to get confused by what seem like mixed messages, but the truth is we have a serious situation that makes water shortages a strong possibility this year. Our water supply reliability depends on a combination of rain and snowfall statewide, the amount of water we have squirreled away in storage, and our ability to convey water from Northern California to residents and businesses here. Despite some improvement from several winter storms, statewide conditions are still below average this year. And the two years prior to this year were extremely dry.



Garden tours start with an explanation of our water sources

We've used up much of our stored water coping with the last two dry years, so we don't have as much storage as we would like to. Finally, there are regulations that are severely restricting water deliveries from Northern California and the State Water Project. These will constrain supplies this year and in future years, no matter what the weather conditions are. Water agencies are evaluating all of these factors right now, and we should know if we'll have mandatory water cutbacks by the end of April.

Q. What would you tell our members and visitors to do this spring to save water as we prepare for the long, hot summer, with higher water rates and possible cutbacks?

A. First, they should check with their local water provider to see what watering restrictions or drought-related water rates could be put in place in their community if cutbacks occur. This will help them know what they need to do to minimize their risk of potential penalties or big spikes in their water bills.

The most significant single, simple action they can take is to minimize outdoor watering as much as possible. Landscapes do need more water as temperatures climb in spring and summer, but many people overcompensate and start to over irrigate.

A simple method to save water is to reduce the number of days the landscaped is watered. Consider adjusting irrigation clocks more often to account for increasing and, just as

(cont. on page 3)



Executive Director's Report

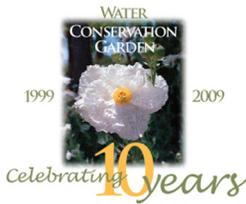
by Marty Eberhardt

The Garden opened in May of 1999.

What extraordinary foresight the founders had. During the drought of the late eighties and early nineties, board and staff members from Cuyamaca College and the Helix and

Otay Water Districts saw a need for public education about water conservation, and built a facility dedicated to just that. Like most new gardens, it needed some time to grow...see the before and after pictures at right. Ten years later, the Garden is a mature, vibrant botanical garden named one of ten "destination gardens" in the April issue of Sunset Magazine.

Ten years later, we have maintained Deneen Powell Atelier's original design while adding exciting new elements like a meadow exhibit, child-friendly signage, and a comprehensive irrigation exhibit. Ten years later, we offer six to ten classes a month designed to answer our visitors' questions, including "Bye Bye Grass", Toss the Turf", and "Ask the Designer. Ten years later, Ms. Smarty Plants inspires young conservers. And ten years later, thousands flock to our educational special events, full of how-to tips in a festival atmosphere.

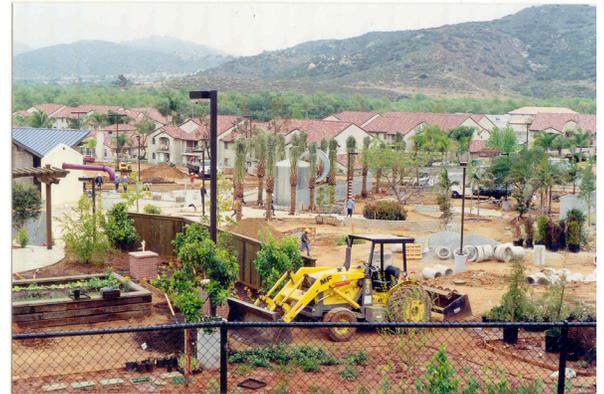


Many of the people involved with the Garden today were around in the early days. Some of us, like me, came later. Some new Joint Powers members came later, as well; the San Diego County Water Authority, the City of San Diego, and the Sweetwater Authority became members of our governing board. Eight staff members and seventy-five docents and volunteers consider this their community; they are devoted to helping people make the changes in their landscapes that will make a huge difference in this region. We expect to reach more than 50,000 people this year at the Garden alone, and thousands more through our outreach programs and our web site. And we expect those numbers to skyrocket as water rates rise and water restrictions kick in.

Now there is another drought, and this one's complexity could mean that cutting back on water use must be a way of life. Fortunately, due to the prescience of our founders, San Diego has a very useful toolkit for helping people move through this process. The Garden's exhibits, classes, events, tours, new "pipeline" hotline, brochures, and one-to-one contact are all in place. In this anniversary year, we thank the Helix and Otay Water Districts, who provided the initial funding and the work to get the garden started, and Cuyamaca College, which provided this valuable land and access to a learning community. Thank you and congratulations.

"Opening day was glorious...warm and sunny and everyone so excited about our unique project."

—Sherry Johnson, 10 Year Docent



The Garden under construction, 1999



The Garden, today

Children's Art in the Garden, May 4th - 8th

In celebration of Young Child and National Public Gardens Day, the Water Conservation Garden will host the traveling exhibition *Art of the Young Child*. These whimsical works created by the students of the Cuyamaca College Child Development Center will begin their travels on the college campus April 13, and will be on display at the Water Conservation Garden May 4 through May 8. The art pieces will be available for purchase at a silent auction from May 18 through May 22 at the Child Development Center. For more information call 619-660-6841.

"I have continued with the Garden because I believe in what it stands for."

—Sylvia McKenzie, 10 Year Docent

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



Garden Staff

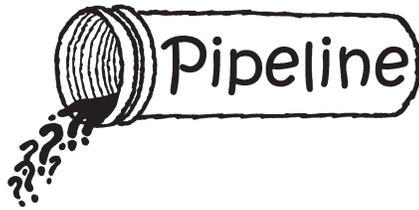
Marty Eberhardt, Executive Director
Paul Redeker, Horticulture Manager
Daniel Mayorga, Landscape Technician
David Yetz, Landscape Technician
Laurie Furry, Education Director
Elizabeth Ramos, Events & Marketing
Heather Carlton, Office Assistant
Pam Meisner, Programs Assistant
Kay McGrath, Bookkeeper

The Water Smart Pipeline

by Nan Sterman

Riiiiing!

“Water Smart Pipeline, this is Nan, may I help you?”



When I answer the phone, I wonder who the next caller might be, and what they will ask me. It could be a homeowner looking for suggestions on what to plant in place of their lawn. It could be someone from the landscape committee of a homeowner’s association who is updating an approved plant list and wants to get rid of thirsty plants. Or it might be the manager of a low-income apartment building who needs a no-cost plan to cut back on landscape watering.

It could be, and it has been, any of these people. Some callers are experienced gardeners, some have absolutely no experience, others are somewhere in-between. The range is huge and the questions diverse.

The most frequent question, however, is about low water plants. Low water plants are those that come from regions of the world where, like San Diego, there isn’t much rainfall. These plants evolve in a dry environment so they don’t need, and many cases don’t want, to grow in moist soil. Plant them and water them through the first year or two to get them established, then cut back to deep water once in a while.

There are several lists of plants to look at, but one of the easiest to use is the new 2009 Nifty 50 plant list developed by the Water Conservation Garden and the San Diego County Water Authority. This new list includes more low water flowering trees, shrubs, groundcovers, etc. You could create an entire garden simply using the plants on the list. Download the new Nifty 50 plant list and brochure at <http://thegarden.org/waterWise.html>.

You can reach the Water Smart Pipeline at (866) 962-7021 ext. 17. The Pipeline is open Tuesdays, 8:30am-12 noon, and Thursdays, 1:00-4:30pm.

The Pipeline is generously funded by The Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust.

Editor’s Note: As part of our emphasis on sustainability, this will be the last printed edition of *The Garden Sprinkler*. Upcoming editions will be posted on the Garden web site. If you would like a copy emailed to you, please send an email to heather@thegarden.org. You will continue to receive the class calendar in your mailbox. Thank you for your understanding!



Summer Adventures for Kids at the Garden

The smell of freshly harvested veggies simmering in the wok, a morning hike searching for lizards, the fun of combining beautifully-colored tiles to create your own mosaic masterpiece...Welcome to Garden Discovery Day Camp! These activities, cooperative games, creative crafts, and much more are all part of summer day camp at the Water Conservation Garden.

Garden Discovery Day Camp will be held Tuesday, July 14 through Friday, July 17, 9:00 am-noon. A special family fun night will be held for registered campers and their family members on Wednesday, July 15 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm.

Discovery Day Camp is designed for children ages 7 through 11. Day Camp has limited space available so call 619-660-0614 x10 soon for a reservation! *Garden Members \$80.00, Non-Members \$95.00.*

Five Questions *(continued from page 1)*

importantly, decreasing temperatures throughout the year. Consider adding a watering cycle and reduce the total time the water is on for all cycles. This allows the water to soak in between cycles and reduces runoff. Watering between dusk and dawn will maximize the amount of water plants receive because the water is not evaporating in the sun. Also, property owners should make sure their irrigation systems are working properly. Some of the steps include repairing any leaks or broken sprinkler heads, making sure sprinklers are adjusted and aimed correctly to water plants and not the sidewalk or driveway, and adjusting sprinklers so they don’t send clouds of mist into the air.

Long-term, they should consider switching all or part of their yard to more low-water-use plant choices. But we recommend they do that in the winter months, because even drought-tolerant landscapes need some water to get established. People should check with their local water agency first to see if there are any watering restrictions in place that would make establishing a new landscape difficult.

Q. What is the best way for people to keep informed about our water situation?

A. For regional water supply information, tips, water-saving resources, and to sign up for email newsletters and alerts, visit the Water Authority’s conservation website, <http://www.20gallonchallenge.com>. For specific conditions in your community, I recommend contacting your local water agency, visiting their website, or reading any material sent with your water bill.

Water Conservation Garden

Spring / Summer 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

May 3, June 7, July 5

Enjoy an informative walk through the Garden with David Yetz, professional horticulturist. Bring your questions and prepare for an interesting tour from the perspective of someone who works in the Garden daily. **FREE**

Special Access Tour

Third Sunday of the month, 9:30-10:30 am

May 17, June 21, July 19

This special tour is offered monthly for individuals who may have difficulty navigating the terrain of the Garden.

You'll explore the Garden from the comfort of the Verbeck Shuttle with David Yetz, Garden Horticulturist. This tour seats 4-5 people. **FREE**. Call 619-660-6841 x10. Advance reservations are required, no exceptions please.

Home Compost Workshop

Saturday, May 9, 10:00 am-noon

FREE home composting workshop taught by Certified Master Composters from the Solana Center for Environmental Innovation. Learn the basics of composting, how to compost with worms, and how to save water in the process. A limited number of compost bins will be on sale at low cost for Unincorporated County residents. To register for this class, please call The Solana Center at (760)-436-7986, x225

Bye Bye Grass! Part 1

Wednesday May 13, 6:30-8:30 pm

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

Tired of being a slave to your water-thirsty lawn? Join gardening expert Nan Serman 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, May 17, 3:00-5:00 pm. *\$45 Members, \$50 Non-Members*

Bye Bye Grass! Part 2

Sunday, May 17, 3:00-5:00 pm

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

Your lawn is gone! What to do next? Find out with Nan Serman, gardening expert and author of California Gardener's Guide, Volume 2. 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. Nan will guide you through living examples of water smart landscapes, show you interesting drought tolerant ground covers, and introduce you to a variety of hardscape options. *\$45 Members, \$50 Non-Members*

MAY**Landscape Contest Awards and Meadow Exhibit Opening**

Saturday, May 16, 10:00 am-noon

The Garden will host the awards ceremony for the California Friendly Landscape Contest, and will also be opening its new Meadow Exhibit! Join us to celebrate these two landmark events. Call 619-660-0164 x10 by May 10 to RSVP.

Ask the Designer

Wednesday, May 20, 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*

H₂O 911!

Thursday, May 21, 6:00-8:00 pm

Like it or not, we are in a drought. Worried about the rising cost of water? Concerned about the water shortage we all are facing? Let's work together to conserve water! Join Vickie Driver for a fast and furious introduction to dealing with our water shortage. Learn simple steps for saving water and money both inside and outside your home. *\$20 Members, \$30 Non-Members. Special stimulus pricing! Two registrations for the price of one; same household only please.*

Ask the Designer

Friday, May 22, 10:30 am-1:30 pm

See class description for May 20. With professional Landscape Designer Linda Whitney. Call 619-660-0614 x10 to reserve an appointment. *\$60 Members, \$75 Non-Members*

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

Saturday, May 23. 9:00 am-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, water smart landscape in lieu of lawn. *\$20 Members, \$30 Non-Members. Special stimulus pricing! Two registrations for the price of one; same household only please.*

NEW! A New California Garden-**Create a Water Smart Landscape From the Ground Up**

Saturday, June 6, 9:00 am-noon

Not sure where to start? Landscape Designer Linda Whitney shares the basic processes she used when 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. Learn how to save money on materials and installation while building green. *\$20 Members, \$30 Non-Members. Special stimulus pricing! Two registrations for the price of one; same household only please.*

JUNE

Ask the Designer

Tuesday, June 9, 5:30-8:30 pm

See class description for May 20. With professional Landscape Designer Connie Beck. 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, June 13, 9:00 am-noon

Landscape Designer Connie Beck takes the mystery out of water smart landscaping and shows you why Xeriscape is not “zero-scape”. Learn the seven principles of the water smart gardening method, discuss plant selection, and planting techniques. *\$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.

Hillside Gardening

Tuesday, June 16, 6:30-8:30 pm

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.

Bye Bye Grass! Part 1

Wednesday, June 17, 6:00-8:00 pm

See class description for May 13. *\$45 Members, \$50 Non-Members*

H₂O 911!

Thursday, June 18, 6:00-8:00 pm

See class description for May 21. *\$20 Members, \$30 Non-Members. Special stimulus pricing! Two registrations for the price of one; same household only please.*

Bye Bye Grass! Part 2

Saturday, June 20, 10:00am-noon

See class description for May 17. *\$45 Members, \$50 Non-Members*

Ask the Designer

Friday, June 26, 10:30 am-1:30 pm

See class description for May 20. With professional Landscape Designer Linda Whitney. Call 619-660-0614 x10 to reserve an appointment. *\$60 Members, \$75 Non-Members*

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

Saturday, June 27, 9:00 am-noon

See class description for May 23. *\$20 Members, \$30 Non-Members. Special stimulus pricing! Two registrations for the price of one; same household only please.*

Stroll the Garden with Connie Beck

Wednesday, July 8, 5:30-7:30 pm

Join Landscape Designer Connie Beck for a guided walking tour and discussion about the characteristics and needs of the water smart plants at the Water Conservation Garden. Enjoy the cool of a summer's evening while learning ways to reduce water usage in your home landscape. Connie will discuss plant species growing in the Water Conservation Garden, answer your questions and share informative tips about water smart landscaping. *\$15.*

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.

NEW! A New California Garden-**Create a Water Smart Landscape From the Ground Up**

Saturday, July 11, 9:00 am-noon

See class description for June 6. *\$20 Members, \$30 Non-Members. Special stimulus pricing! Two registrations for the price of one; same household only please.*

Garden Discovery Day Camp!

Tuesday, July 14 through Friday, July 17, 9:00 am-noon

For ages 7-11 years

Explore the magic of nature at Garden Discovery Day Camp! Children will create colorful mosaics, do woodworking projects, harvest fresh vegetables, cook delicious snacks, create a container garden, meet new friends, and have fun enjoying nature! Families of registered campers are invited to come to the Garden on Wednesday evening for a family fun night. *\$80 Members, \$100 Non-Members*

Bye Bye Grass! Part 1

Wednesday July 15, 6:30-8:30 pm

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

See class description for May 13. *\$45 Members, \$50 Non-Members*

H₂O 911!

Thursday, July 16, 6:00-8:00 pm

See class description for May 21. *\$20 Members, \$30 Non-Members. Special stimulus pricing! Two registrations for the price of one; same household only please.*

Bye Bye Grass! Part 2

Saturday, July 18, 10:00 am-noon

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

See class description for May 17. *\$45 Members, \$50 Non-Members*

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

Saturday, July 25, 9:00 am-noon

See class description for May 23. *\$20 Members, \$30 Non-Members. Special stimulus pricing! Two registrations for the price of one; same household only please.*

“Because of the Garden, people are seeing what xeriscape is, what is possible with it, and they love what they are seeing!”

— Jan Tubiolo, 10 Year Honorary Docent

California-Friendly Landscape Contest Awards to be presented at The Garden

Kate Breece, Landscape Contest Committee

Beautiful drought-tolerant landscapes will once again be honored at the 6th Annual California-Friendly Landscape Contest awards ceremony. This exciting event, which features the best-of-the-best in water efficient landscape design throughout San Diego County, will be held in the plaza of the Garden at 10:00am, Saturday, May 16th.

Renowned horticultural author, Nan Sterman, and former Union-Tribune Garden Editor Mary James, will co-host the awards ceremony.



Winning Entry, CFLC 2008.
Photo courtesy of Kate Breece

Winners of the Best-in-Region categories, Do-It-Yourself and Professional, will each receive \$500 gift certificates to local nurseries. Each water agency will also select a Best-In-District winner who will receive a \$250 gift certificate.

The California Friendly Landscape Contest is sponsored by the San Diego County Water Authority, Ewing, and the San Diego Horticultural Society, and there are sixteen participating member water agencies. For entry information visit www.landscapecontest.com.

H₂O-911 Class

by Vickie Driver

So how do you cut back your water use, especially if you've already done things like change out toilets and showerheads? What do you do when the people you share your home with consider looooong showers a daily necessity? Should you plant a summer vegetable garden? How do you save your trees? And what about that lawn?

Here at the Garden, we hear these questions all the time. So we've developed a class to help you survive water cutbacks without turning your landscape into a dust bowl, and without family feuds that make the Hatfields and the McCoys look tame. With the help of our Garden experts and input from your water agencies, we created **H₂O-911**. Starting in May, the Garden will offer monthly classes to help you **permanently** reduce your water use without sacrificing your quality of life.

H₂O-911 will present ideas to save water indoors and out, from low cost options to bigger investments, from no brainers to more technical options. There are many different things you and your family can do to cut waste, control water use and bills, and maybe even calm family feuds. **H₂O-911** will help your family adopt permanent habits to live with the perennial water shortage that is the way of life for all Californians.

See the Garden Calendar for class dates.



Anigozanthos flavidus

Focus on a Species Kangaroo Paws: *Anigozanthos flavidus* by Paul Redeker

Where else would you find Kangaroo Paws but in the Australian section of the Water Conservation Garden? They are fun and unusual flowers that can be found blooming during the spring and summer months. The velvety tubular flowers, shaped like the paws of a kangaroo, have evolved with a reproductive purpose in mind. Emerging from the base of their iris-like leaves, the nectar producing paws can be extended into the air as much as 6 feet in some varieties. This is an important feature for the plants since pollination is accomplished by long-beaked birds. The typical *Anigozanthos flavidus* have yellow flowers, while many hybrid varieties include red, purple, pink, green, and many other combinations that make great cut flowers. The tiny hairs that cover the flowers are a helpful adaptation to retain water in Australia's dry climate, so it's no surprise that they make ideal drought-tolerant borders, mass plantings, and excellent container specimens. Hardy to about 25°F, these sun-loving plants prefer a well-drained sandy soil but will adapt well to a variety of soil conditions. Water in the early morning as a common black fungus may develop on the leaves from excessive air moisture. After the blooming period, they will appreciate a good rest so reduce watering as the plants go into their late summer dormancy.

"I came to the Garden in 1999...I have stayed with the Garden because new opportunities seem to pop up which satisfy my curiosity, and I have loved watching the growth of the Garden and finding new friends who share my interests."

—Meredith Hatrup, 10 Year Docent

Celebrating 10 Years

by Nora Jaeschke

As the Garden celebrates its tenth anniversary, the Friends Board would like to join Marty in thanking the original Joint Powers partners - the Otay and Helix Water Districts, and Cuyamaca College - for their foresight in getting the Garden started. We also want to thank the other JPA partners for coming on board and keeping the Garden going. Thank you, San Diego County Water Authority, City of San Diego, and Sweetwater Authority!



Thanks also go to our Garden Partners, who don't have a governance role, but who support our operations financially. Thank you Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Cox Conserves, Saturn of San Diego, San Diego Gas and Electric, California American Water, Poseidon Resources, Pardee Homes, Miramar Wholesale Nursery, Fallbrook Public Utility District, Vallecitos Water District, and our newest partner, the Ramona Water District!

Our water crisis is real, and it is good to have supporters who understand and appreciate the important work that the Garden is doing. We celebrate you all, and we celebrate a more water-wise San Diego.

"In 1998 I saw an article in Sunset Magazine that said a new garden would be built at Cuyamaca College. My first visit was wearing a hard hat and stepping over holes dug for one gallon plants....I have enjoyed watching the garden grow from lots of tiny plants to a full-fledged botanical jewel."

—Sherry Johnson, 10 Year Docent

New Members

January-March 2009

Student

Michele Madriz

Basic

Carol Allison
Renee Carson
Lory Cleveland
Cathy Dobyns
Deborah Elser
Phillip Hollingsworth
Mary James
William Johnston
Harry Kay
Chuck & Judy Lentz
Steven Loustalet
Carol Martin
Rosemary Reed

Basic, cont.

Katherine Schwartz
Bonnie Scott
Henry Shenkman
Steven Shields
Helen Shimato
Wendy Teasdale
Emily Varie
Carol Weckman
Larry & Jessica Wilson

Supporting

Nancy Cosgrove
Phillis Dozier
Bernard Everling
William McClurg

Partner

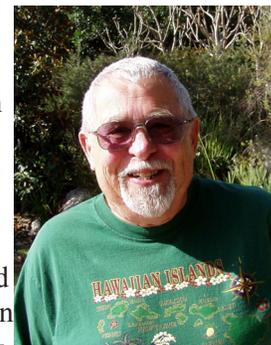
Ramona Water District

Docent Profile: Larry Wiens

by Marty Eberhardt

Larry Wiens can often be seen in our gift shop and reception area, substituting for Heather Carlton when she's in the back working on other projects. From my office, I can hear his cheerful help and advice to visitors. Larry is a genuinely positive person, and he transmits his love of the Garden to all who come.

Larry retired from the Navy in 1979, and managed a small vending machine business for many years. In 1999, he retired completely. He had noticed publicity about the Garden opening that year, and joined the Docent Class of 2000. He then served as a part time receptionist and administrative assistant at the Garden for about six months, foreshadowing his current work here. He notes that there are many more visitors now than there were in those early days!



Larry in the Garden

Larry's health caused him to leave his job at the Garden, and he didn't return until 2007, when he took the docent training class again. Now he trains other docents to work in the gift shop and reception area, and gives gardening advice at festivals. He says that working in the Garden has been good for him because he's learned how to save water in his own garden. Beyond that, he says he sees himself as a true "conservationist", and he believes deeply in the importance of the work we do in teaching people to conserve water. As Larry puts it, the world is a beautiful place, and we need to take care of it.

Summer Hours Coming Soon

Mark your calendar! The Water Conservation Garden will begin summer hours on June 1, 2009.

Enjoy the Garden on cool summer evenings. The Garden will be open until 7:00 pm every Wednesday beginning June 1. This is a great time to come and stroll the Garden with family and friends.

The Garden will be closed on Mondays throughout June, July, and August.

Summer Garden Hours (June, July and August)

Closed on Monday
Tuesday-Sunday 9:00 am -4:00 pm
Wednesday 9:00 am-7:00 pm

"The Garden is a valuable learning resource for people, especially now, at a time when they need it most."

—Jan Tubiolo, 10 Year Honorary Docent



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.

Summer Hours: Tuesday-Sunday 9:00am to 4:00pm, Wednesday 9:00am to 7:00pm.

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

City of San Diego

MEMBER AGENCIES

www.thegarden.org

Phone 619/660.0614

Fax 619/660.1687

El Cajon, CA 92019

The Water Conservation Garden
12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West
El Cajon, CA 92019

