

THE GARDEN SPRINKLER

Summer 2010

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION BY THE WATER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

The Garden Amphitheater is Reborn

By Marty Eberhardt

We are delighted to report that the Garden now has a shady, comfortable outdoor seating area that is wonderful for large gatherings. During the Grand Re-Opening on April 24, Supervisor Dianne Jacob helped us commemorate the day with a ritual parasol opening to symbolize our new shade. The “percussion movement” youth band Jr Crew helped us kick off the event.

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors was a major donor to the project, along with fellow parasol opener Bill Verbeck and his wife Norma, and the American Academy of Dermatology. We’re also grateful to the Linnie Cooper Foundation and the San Diego Xeriscape Council for their donations.



Crowds enjoy the music of Jr. Crew...in the shade!

The new shade, which stretches over the stage and a portion of the seating area in the amphitheater, provides not only cooler temperatures, but also a much more intimate space for gatherings. Backrests have also been added to most of the benches, making them more comfortable. Just weeks following the Re-Opening, we’re holding classes and events that might have been held inside or even off-campus in the new amphitheater. We were astounded by the energy and talent of the young people of Jr Crew, and we are excited to be able to use the newly shaded area to provide them with training space for a week in August.

The venue is available for rental, and makes an excellent location for many different kinds of gatherings. Rental rates start at \$500; call Heather at 619-660-0614 ext. 10 for details.

Additional thanks are due to contractors So Cal Shade Sails and TC Welding and Engineering, Inc. We would especially like to thank Paul Redeker, Horticulture and Facilities Manager, for turning this dream, and the contributions of our generous donors, into a reality. Please come by and see our “new” space!



Supervisor Dianne Jacob, WCG President Chuck Muse, and Garden Friend Bill Verbeck kick off the Grand Re-Opening of the amphitheater with parasols



The Water Smart Pipeline

Free gardening advice from renowned gardening author Nan Sterman
Tuesdays 8:30 am-12 noon and Thursdays 1-4 pm
Call 1-866-962-7021 or email pipeline@thegarden.org



Executive Director's Report

by Marty Eberhardt

Conservation does not have to be deprivation.

You can save water in your garden and still have great beauty.

Water smart landscaping is so much more than a gravel lot with a couple of cacti poking through.

These are our messages at the Water Conservation Garden. Once a visitor gets here, it's easy to convey the concept that water-smart can be beautiful. Every day, people wander into the gift shop and say, "I had no idea this garden would be so pretty!"

You can learn a lot about the specifics of irrigation methods here, about how to compost, and about types of mulch. All of this is important, but it is the sheer beauty of the Garden that often motivates visitors to take the next steps.

I'd like to thank our horticultural staff and docents for maintaining our gardens and making them just a little lovelier each day. You help inspire tens of thousands of people in our community to make changes in the landscape, and those changes are vital to sustaining the quality of life we enjoy in San Diego.

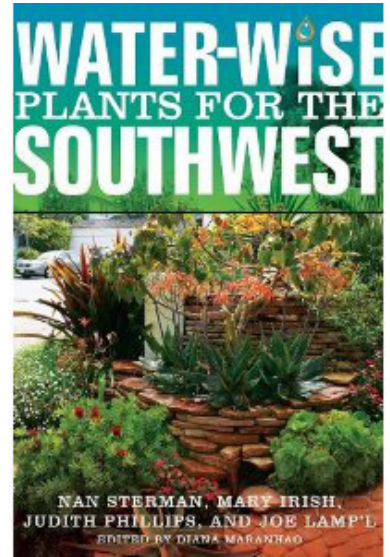


Jr Crew's upbeat sound entertained many at the Spring Garden Festival

New in the Gift Shop: Water-Wise Plants for the Southwest

by Marty Eberhardt

As a former Tucsonan and current San Diegan, I am delighted to see a book that addresses plants that work in both of these arid areas - as well as the high deserts of the Southwest. As the director of a public garden dedicated to showing people how to create beautiful gardens with little water, I know how important it is to give people easy-to-use tools. This is the kind of book that quickly becomes dog-eared, as readers check watering requirements, cold hardiness zones, soil needs, and any number of other useful tidbits of information about the 150 plants listed. A special bonus is the detailed section on irrigation; too often gardening books underreport this crucial piece of the water-wise gardening puzzle. The book's layout is inviting and easy to follow. This is destined to become a regional gardening classic.



Water-Wise Plants for the Southwest
by Nan Stermann, Mary Irish, Judith Phillips and Joe Lamp'l.
Edited by Dee Maranhao. Cool Springs Press, 2010.

Available in the Garden Gift Shop (\$17.96 Members, \$19.95 Non-Members), and also online at <http://thegarden.org/aboutus/giftShop.html>

Summer Hours Begin in June

Mark your calendar! The Water Conservation Garden will begin summer hours on June 1, 2010. 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.

Summer Garden Hours (June, July and August)
Mondays: Garden Grounds Open (Gift Shop/Office Closed)
Tuesday-Sunday: 9:00 am -4:00 pm
Wednesday: 9:00 am-7:00 pm

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
May Harris, Development Director
Elizabeth Ramos, Events & Marketing
Heather Carlton, Office Assistant
Pam Meisner, Programs Assistant
Kay McGrath, Bookkeeper



Jerusalem Sage, *Phlomis fruticosa*

Focus on a Species: Jerusalem Sage

by Paul Redeker

“What is that interesting plant with the yellow flowers?” This is a common question we get from visitors strolling through the Dorcas Utter Memorial Sensory Garden. We know instantly that they are asking about the brilliant tiered flowers of the Jerusalem Sage.

The *Phlomis fruticosa* plants complement our other sun loving perennials as they emit an aromatic sage-like perfume when the leaves are crushed or bruised. A wonderful addition to any drought tolerant landscape, this Mediterranean shrub will flourish in a well-drained soil. Its blooming season is from spring to summer and it provides great cut flowers. Even after it has bloomed, the soft woolly grey-green leaves provide a beautiful texture. Jerusalem Sage can grow to about four feet tall and wide. This plant can take hard pruning in late winter or early spring, and in colder climates may die down in winter, but will grow right back. Propagation is done by division or seed in the fall.

We are happy to find that Jerusalem Sage is rabbit resistant, and at the same time attracts butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds. It is not as widely available as some plants, and may cost a bit more, but if you add this plant to your drought tolerant landscape, your friends and family will surely be impressed by its uniqueness, color, and beauty.

Tips for Gardening in Hot Weather

by Paul Redeker

Now that the warm weather is here, it's time to make some changes in our landscape management practices. Here are a few tips to consider when gardening during the hot season:

1. Irrigation Water your plants deeply, but less frequently. This will help the plants establish a deeper root system so they will require less irrigation down the road. If you can, hand-water in the morning. It prepares the plants for higher temperatures during the day and delivers the exact amount of water you would like each plant to have. Make sure you comply with your water agency's drought ordinance! You can find it at http://www.sdcwa.org/manage/droughtordinance_agencies.phtml.

2. Mulch Use or replenish mulch or decorative rock. This will help retain moisture and can minimize the spread of weeds. Two to three inches is usually best. Too little will not retain the moisture, and too much will soak up a lot of the water intended for your plants.

3. Pruning Reserve heavy pruning for late winter to early spring before new growth and flowers are developed. Just shape or remove dead, diseased, or broken branches at this time. Late summer pruning can cause vigorous re-growth, which may not mature by winter, and in some cases may lead to cold damage.

4. Planting Wait until fall to plant new shrubs, trees, and perennials. The plants will undergo more stress if they have not yet developed a strong root system when warm weather hits. The first establishment year is critical for new plants. If the root system dries out just once, the plant will either die or have to re-grow new roots and rely on energy reserves to rebound. This will result in a weaker plant that will take longer to mature.

5. Maintenance Freshen up your yard by removing dead leaves and branches. The simple step of dead-heading (removing aged flowers) will revitalize any yard and encourage your plants to development more flowers. Weeding is also an easy and quick way to freshen up the landscape before summer visitors arrive. The nice thing is there are probably fewer weeds to pull during this part of the year.

6. Fertilizing Decrease fertilizing during the summer since plant growth should slow down. Over-fertilizing will just waste resources and may even burn the foliage.

Don't forget to take care of yourself during the higher temperatures of the season by setting aside time early in the day or late in the afternoon to work in your garden. Finally, sit back, relax, and enjoy what you have accomplished.



Hands-on learning is part of the fun at Discovery Day Camp

Get Connected to Nature at Garden Discovery Day Camp

Summer is rapidly approaching! What will your kids be doing for fun this summer? The Garden's Discovery Day Camp is a fun learning experience that exposes kids to the wonders of our natural world.

Kids, get ready to get dirty as you harvest and prepare nature's bounty for a snack each day. Learn some ethnic culinary skills and impress your family. Get involved with woodworking crafts, complete a mosaic project, create a fairy garden, make a legendary clay project and much more. Keep cool with some fun water play! Get creative while you meet new friends and explore the hidden mysteries of the Garden.

Summer camp runs Tuesday, July 13 through Friday, July 16, 9 am – 12 pm. A special Family Night with Ms. Smarty-Plants and her Magic of Water Show is included and will take place on Wednesday, July 14. \$80 Members, \$100 Non-Members. Space is limited so call early to make your reservations.



Wild Wes Returns: Kids to Rock the Garden Stage This Summer

The Garden's newly-shaded amphitheater stage will explode on Tuesday, July 20 at 10:00 am with the eco-friendly sounds of Wild Wes in concert. The stage was filled with dancing preschoolers two summers ago, and we knew we had to have Wild Wes back for more. Wild Wes writes music with an environmental message and his goal is to save the world, one song at a time. Wild Wes spends his days as E. Wesley Mason. His alter ego takes kids (and adults!) on a fun musical journey that includes something for everyone. This is no ordinary concert. You'll be singing along, impersonating animals, and you might just find yourself on the stage or dancing in the aisles!



Wild Wes

Tickets at the amphitheater gate on the day of the performance will be \$5.00 per person (adults and children). Tickets may be purchased up to one day in advance for \$4.00 per person. Group rates for schools and summer camps can be arranged for groups of 25 or more by calling 619-660-0614 x10.

An Evening with NovaMenco Saturday, July 24, 6:30pm

This summer, the Garden's newly shaded amphitheater will sizzle with the sounds of San Diego's highly acclaimed flamenco fusion group, NovaMenco. A sensual experience for the ears and the soul, NovaMenco's flamenco guitars blend rhythms of jazz, pop, and the echoes of the ancient Byzantine to produce a modern Mediterranean sound that is truly their own.

Join us on Saturday, July 24 for an enchanting evening of music that will uplift your spirits and transport you to the distant lands of the gypsies. Special guest flamenco dancers will interpret the rhythms of classic flamenco guitar, embodying the passion of the music. A selection of wines and light ethnic fare will be available for your enjoyment during the concert, and NovaMenco CD's will be available for purchase.

Doors open at 6:00 pm and tickets are just \$28 per person. Information about purchasing tickets will be available in June on the Garden's [website](http://thegarden.org).

Teen Corps at the Water Conservation Garden

by Casey Woodall

Warm sunshine, vibrant colors, and a fragrant breeze—it's no secret that spring is a beautiful time to tour the Garden. But how many times have you been meandering along one of our paths and been stopped by the sight of an unusual or unexpected plant? The variety of textures, shapes, and hues in the Garden's landscape can't help but stir many visitors' curiosity. What kinds of characteristics do our plants share that allow them to thrive in a low water environment? How do our native plants compare with their international water-wise cousins? How were native plants used by native peoples? Can you eat that bean pod?

These are the types of questions the Water Conservation Garden's newest volunteer program is ready to tackle! Teen Corps is a volunteer program for teens aged 13 to 17 who have an interest in learning about plants, what role they play in their natural environment, and why they are a good choice for a water-conscious garden. The teens will be around the Garden on Saturdays, presenting information on environmental topics and answering questions visitors may have. In addition to working with like-minded students and gaining valuable public speaking experience, teens will have the option of receiving community service credit and letters of recommendation at the end of the six-month program.

The Garden has attended several special events this year to spread the word about this exciting new volunteer opportunity. We got the chance to speak to many interested individuals at the Earth Day events in Balboa Park and Mt. Helix, as well as the San Diego Science Alliance High Tech Fair, and of course at the Garden's own annual Water Smart Plant Fair and Spring Garden Festival. Many visitors who came by told us they wished they were still in the age bracket to apply! We reminded them that we also have a docent program for adults, and welcome anyone who wants to volunteer their time.

We are still accepting applications for the Teen Corps program. For more information, stop by the Garden, or download an application on the Garden's [website](#). Look for "Teen Corps Program" under the "Volunteer" tab on the main page. Please contact Teen Corps Coordinator Casey Woodall with any questions at teencorps@thegarden.org.

The next time you visit the Garden, don't miss the chance to talk with a teen volunteer and learn a little more about our extraordinary collection of drought-tolerant plants.



California-Friendly Landscape Contest Announces 2010 Winners

by Kate Breece, Helix Water Authority

On Saturday, May 8th, a crowd gathered at the Water Conservation Garden to celebrate water-wise landscapes and to reward five of the area's most beautiful examples. Helix, Otay, and Padre Dam water districts, the Sweetwater Authority, and the City of San Diego sponsored this year's *Water Agency California-Friendly Landscape Contest*. Each agency honored one of its residents with a certificate of appreciation and a \$250 gift certificate to a local nursery for outstanding use of low-water landscaping. The winners are listed below.

Garden Executive Director Marty Eberhardt welcomed the crowd in the Garden's newly shaded amphitheatre, and garden writer and radio personality Nan Sterman served as mistress of ceremonies. Nan pointed out that the most engaging thing about these landscapes was not their water savings, but their amazing variety and beauty. Some of the landscapes were completely owner-designed and planted, beginning with just a little area that grew and grew, while others were professionally designed and installed. All but one of the winners had visited the Water Conservation Garden or taken Garden classes before redesigning, taking inspiration from what they saw and learned.

Fifty to seventy percent of the water used in San Diego County is used in the landscape, and the region imports ninety percent of its water. The cost of imported water is increasing, and regional shortages are anticipated for years to come. The prize-winning landscapes serve as shining examples of what San Diego's scenery will look like in the future—more beauty using less water.

2010 Landscape Contest Winners:

Otay Water District	Cheryl & Steve Whiteley
Sweetwater Authority	Julia & Keith Lindsey
Helix Water District	Charles Aldrich
Padre Dam Water District	Carolyn Post-Ladd
City of San Diego	Philip Diamond & Kevin Tilden

The Power of Matching Gifts

By May L. Harris, J.D., Director of Development

As a valued member of the Water Conservation Garden, did you know that you may be able to double - or triple - your charitable gift to the Garden for FREE with a corporate “match?” Your employer may be one of the more than 16,000 companies in the United States that “match” employees’ and retirees’ donations to non-profit organizations like the Garden. Some of these companies even make cash contributions for an employee’s volunteer hours!

According to the Association of Fundraising Professionals, one in ten gifts made to nonprofit organizations in the United States are “match eligible.” Matching gift programs have grown exponentially among companies since they began in the 1950s, and in 2007 matching gifts made up an estimated 9% of overall corporate support, according to the Committee Encouraging Corporate Philanthropy.

Many donors, however, don’t realize how easy it is to substantially increase their charitable support by tapping into their employer’s matching program – at no cost to the donor. Companies with matching gift programs typically have an easy-to-complete form available in their human resources department. Once completed, the form enables the employer to match employee contributions to the designated nonprofit organization.

To get started, simply check with your employer. They may ask for the Garden’s federal tax identification number (33-0639414) and the amount of your contributions to the Garden—which includes the amount of your membership. If you have any questions about supporting the Garden with matching gifts, please contact me at 619-660-0614 x17. Thank you for your generous support of the Garden!



New Members January - May 2010

Student

Xanthe Belsky
Jay Davis
Jackie Gordon
Shane Kemp
Nathan Lou
Jane Peterson
Lien Principe
Lindie Tyler

Basic

Paulette Bacling
Gail Ballard
John Beckman
and Barbara Bender
Lisa Bellora
Andrea Bitterling
Paula Block
Karen Bunkell
Thomas and Cheryl Buscher
Richard Cain
Elizabeth Cogdill
David & Heather Sheppard
Ruth De La Rosa
Jeri Denison
Dorene Dias
Sheila Durano
Kate Engler
Larry and Lynn Feinberg
Anne Fitzgerald
Patricia Flores
Angela Forney
Jack Fuller
Luis and Jen Gamez
Paul Guidice
John and Marsi Haney
Sonya Heiserman
Stephanie Holland
Franklin and Doris Houchen
Judi Jeffery
Ken and Laurie Jensen
Adele Kapp
Deborah LeBel
Rita Lee
Lynn Parrish

Basic, Cont.

Drum Macomber
Marie Maier
Camille Martin
Mark McMaster
Victoria Melrod
Bessie Mendez
Yvonne Meo
Wendy Mooklar
Barbara Moore
Teri Nelson
Eileen Neumeister
Rosalind Owen
Carolyn Post-Ladd
Sue and Sam Rearic
Cathie and Dan Robertson
Kenneth Rose
Concepcion Rubalcaba
Patricia Santana
Arlene Spaniol
Geoff and Minou Spradley
Bee St Clair
Rose Steinhart
Norman L Swensson
Bob and Patty Unger
Wendy van den Helder
Eunice Ventura
DeAna Verbecke
Jan Vessel

Supporting

Ron Anderson
Pauline Burt
Jamie Griggs
Karen Harrington
Carolyn Juarez
Kimberley and Robert Rios
Bill and Pamela Rose
Kathie Zaccaria
and John Flood

Sustaining

Richard and Sharon Bullard
Eleanor Hugus

Patron

Cindy Miles

The Garden’s Classes and Events calendar is now printed separately. Become a Member to get a copy in your mailbox, or view the calendar online at <http://thegarden.org/calendar/index.php>. Free copies are also available when you visit the Garden.