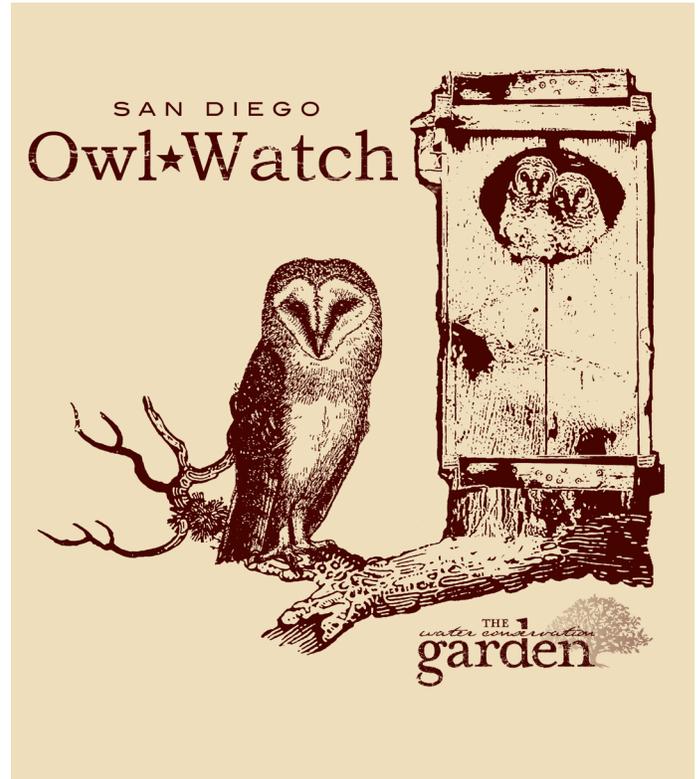


Hoot and Holla Raise a Family

by Elizabeth Ramos

A mated pair of barn owls has taken up residence at The Garden just a year after an owl nesting box was installed. The owls, affectionately named Hoot and Holla by Garden staff, moved in on February 16, and the pair wasted no time starting a family, with Holla laying a total of six eggs over a 10-day period. Because the owls' nesting box is equipped with an infrared camera, Garden staff, as well as the public, have been able to watch every move the barn owls make via the Garden's website, www.thegarden.org, where the Owlcam provides live streaming video 24-hours a day. On March 20, Hoot and Holla, and their adoring public, welcomed the first owlet into the world.

Garden Education Specialist Pam Meisner led the efforts to get the owl box installed in hopes that a nesting pair of owls would help control the population of rabbits and rodents. These creatures, which raid Garden exhibits, are the natural prey of barn owls. With a brood of ravenous owlets in the box, Hoot has proven to be a good hunter, bringing captured prey throughout the night and early morning. As the owlets mature, Holla, who has not left the box for more than a minute at a time since she laid her first egg, will join Hoot in hunting for prey to satisfy the growing appetites of their young. So far, the symbiosis between The Garden and the owls seems to be working.



The presence of wild barn owls, and the privilege of watching the parliament* up close, presents a host of educational opportunities. In April, the Garden's education team will offer two evening owl programs for children and their families. Ms. Smarty Plants Gives a Hoot will take place from 6:30-8:00pm on both Friday, April 15 and Thursday, April 28. To register for the class, and to read the daily owl log and barn owl facts, visit www.thegarden.org. Be sure to tune into the Owlcam to watch for changes in the owlets as they grow. They'll be fledging, or taking their first attempted flight, around 8 weeks of age.

The Garden is grateful to Tom Stephan of Air Superiority for donating and installing the owl nesting box. To learn more about acquiring your own owl box, visit www.barnowlboxes.com.

*A group of owls is known as a "parliament".
Whooh knew?!



The Garden's owl nesting box, now streaming live owl action to a computer near you! The Garden thanks Tom Stephan of Air Superiority for donation and installation of the owl box.



Executive Director's Report

by Marty Eberhardt

It's spring, and as I write, the flowers are a riot of color, and the hummingbirds are busily making use of them. The rabbits are bountiful and enjoying the greenery, and our owl box is full of owlets, who are being fed some of those rabbits.

The Garden's owls have been hugely interesting to people all over the country, and in fact, all over the world, as the interior of our active owl box has been streaming live on our website. It seems humans really enjoy such an intimate view of wildlife. We at the Garden are delighted to provide this to people, as well as to model natural pest control.

This spring, we'll also be showcasing our first art exhibition (see the related article, next column). *H₂O: The Art of Conservation* features fourteen artists who are interpreting our mission statement in wonderful works of outdoor sculpture. The exhibition will be up through November 12. We hope that our visitors will enjoy this new way of inspiring people to think about water conservation, and consider taking home a work of art for their own garden landscape.

The Governor may have declared that the drought is over, but we know that the state's long term water shortage means that we must all continue to conserve, and to become ever more efficient in our water use. The Garden will always provide its visitors and members with the tools they need to be good environmental stewards. It is also our great privilege to bring joy to people, through our glorious gardens, as well as through glimpses of the secret lives of owls and rabbits, and through art that spreads our message in new languages.

H2O: The Art of Conservation

By Jennifer Borba von Stauffenberg

San Diego Fine Art Society (SDFAS) and The Water Conservation Garden have collaborated to create H2O: The Art of Conservation, a unique exhibition that offers visitors the opportunity to see the Garden and the important issue of conservation in a new way. The exhibition challenges fourteen established and emerging San Diego artists to reflect on water conservation, to consider the natural context in which the artwork is being created, and to explore working with recycled, re-purposed or non-traditional materials. It will include artworks that are an aesthetic manifestation of water conservation, providing another lens with which to view our role in the efforts of the Southern California community to act sustainably, conserve energy and preserve natural habitats.

"I am pleased and proud to be working with Marty Eberhardt and the visionary staff of the Water Conservation Garden on this project," said April Game, founding executive director of SDFAS. "Asking artists to weigh in on this topic in their own way is a respectful and creative way to infuse life into the Garden's mission. Seeing the Garden transformed with art makes this project not only relevant but fun and beautiful."

(continued, next page)



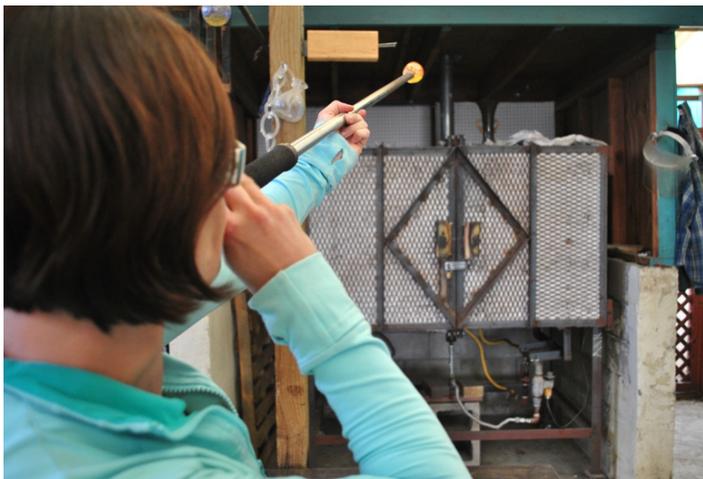
Artist Lea DeWit blows glass to create her contribution to the Gardens' sculpture exhibition H2O: The Art of Conservation.

 In Bloom

In Bloom is a quarterly publication of The Friends of the Water Conservation Garden, 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



Artwork prices are capped at \$2,000, much less than the cost of many original works of outdoor sculpture. Both Eberhardt and Game feel strongly that the exhibition should offer works that Garden visitors might choose for their own gardens. Proceeds of the sales will be shared between the artists, the San Diego Fine Arts Society, and the Garden.

Green Public Art performed a county-wide scan of 1,100 artists and chose fourteen to participate. They are: Dia Bassett, Neal and Tiffany Bociek, Lea de Wit, Rebecca Goodman, Matthew Hebert, Terri Hughes-Oelrich, Miki Iwasaki, Benjamin Lavender, Omar Lopez, Collective Magpie, Adam John Manley, Christopher Puzio, Fritize Urquhart and Ruth Wallen.

Interested in learning more? Please join us for Evenings in the Garden: H2O Art Talks. These events will be offered throughout the year at the Garden (see Garden Calendar for dates). Visitors will have a chance to meet the artists, ask questions, and learn about the installation in an enriched and meaningful way.

About San Diego Fine Art Society: San Diego Fine Art Society (SDFAS) is strengthening the art pulse of the community through education and collaboration. By removing barriers and building bridges, SDFAS is helping San Diego reach its potential as a top arts destination in the country. www.sdfas.org

About the Curator: Green Public Art is a Los Angeles-based firm founded in 2009 with a mission to advance the role of public art in green building. Rebecca Ansert, founder of Green Public Art, is an art consultant who specializes in public art project management for both private and public agencies. www.greenpublicart.com



Texas Sundrops, Calylophus drummondii

Focus on a Species:
Texas Sundrops, *Calylophus drummondii*
by Paul Redeker

One of my favorite new plants added to the Garden last year is the Texas Sundrops. This ground hugging cheerfully blooming perennial makes a great addition to the landscape. Reaching only 6 inches tall and spreading to 24 or more inches wide, this profuse bloomer delivers a show of striking yellow flowers during the spring and well into summer. Texas Sundrops appreciates a soil with good drainage and will tolerate a good amount of heat and sun, making it excellent for rock gardens. It is drought tolerant once established and can take temperatures down to 20°F. Last year we were fortunate that the rabbits only ate a bit during the spring and seemed to leave the plant alone for the rest of the summer. In the Garden, visitors can spot the Texas Sundrops growing near the Bird & Butterfly Exhibit's waterfall and also along the right side of the upper path leading to the top of the amphitheater past the Fire-Wise Exhibit.



4 Planned Giving at the Water Conservation Garden

by May Harris

Planned giving allows supporters of the Water Conservation Garden to leave a significant legacy to their community by making a gift from their estate. While membership and major gifts provide for the current needs of the Garden, an estate gift is an investment in its future.

By making a legacy gift to the Garden, you pass your values along to future generations. You are helping to ensure that the critical environmental conservation programs we present and the important outreach services we provide are always available to our community. Your gift will live on, making our region better for all.

Consider the options below, and contact us if we can answer specific questions for you. We are here to help you understand estate gift planning so you can meet your life goals and provide for the future of the Water Conservation Garden.

There are many ways to make an estate gift, some of which can provide both income and tax advantages.

By making a planned gift to the Garden, you will become a member of the Garden's Conservation Legacy Circle, receiving special invitations to Garden events and VIP presentations as our way of saying "thank you!"

If you have already named the Garden in your estate plans, or if you have any questions, please let us know. Call May Harris, Director of Development at (619) 660-0614 x17 or send an email to may@thegarden.org.

Cash and Financial Accounts – Funding a gift with cash is one of the simplest ways to create a planned gift. Financial accounts such as checking accounts, savings accounts, and certificates of deposit can be designated as "payable on death" (POD) to the Garden, meaning that you, as the owner of the account, name the Garden to receive the funds upon your passing.

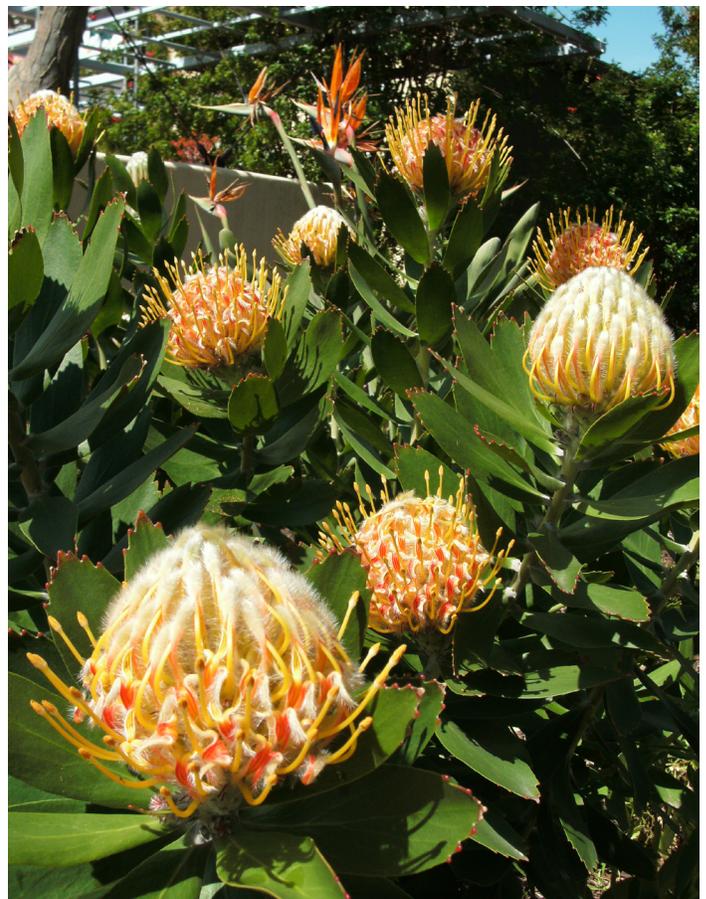
Bequests – You can name the Garden in your will or trust. Sample bequest language includes: "I hereby give, devise and bequeath to the Board of Directors of the Water Conservation Garden, a nonprofit corporation organized and operating under the laws

of the State of California and located in El Cajon, California, the sum of \$_____ [or percentage of your estate or specific description of the gift] to be used by the Water Conservation [describe purpose of gift here, if desired]."

Gifts of Stock – A gift of appreciated securities or other assets could avoid capital gains while providing a tax deduction.

Life Income Gifts – In partnership with the San Diego Foundation, donors can provide a gift to the Garden as a Charitable Gift Annuity, which not only provides the Garden with needed funds for our endowment, but also guarantees the donor a guaranteed income for life at a specific rate.

Life Insurance Policies – Whether it is an old policy that has outlived its original purpose (such as for a spouse who no longer needs it, or a child who is financially independent, or to protect a business that no longer exists) or a new policy purchased specifically to benefit the Garden, a gift of life insurance can allow you to leave a much larger gift to support our mission of conservation than may have been possible during your lifetime.



Cone Bush blooms in the Garden

New Members

September 2010-
March 2011

Student

Ann Archer
Thomas Baker
Beverly Brodsky
Amador Rey Estrada
David George
Casey Martin
Bruce Torres
Juan Torres
Lauren Tyler
Muriel Vasconcellos

Individual

Gary L Arps
Donna Bartlett-May
Donna Blocker
Robert Bobst
Maryann Callery
Kathy Cardiff
Rosa Castro
Mike Coit
Ginger Cornwell
Sally Currier
Whitney Duenez
Nancy Durning
Ellen Emery
Dominick Fiume
Zita Gardener
Mike Goebel
Jan Goldberg
Diane Hanson
Frank Hilliker
Denise Holcombe
Joyce Howard
JoEllen Jacoby
Kelli Jordan
Carl Kasimatis
Peggy Kimiecik
Joan Kouns
Suzanne Lahitte
Frederick Larsen
Fred Larson
Cheryl Levesque

Individual, cont.

Kathy Lonergan
Lynn Lord
Sissy Mac Allister
Yvonne Mao
Mary May
Erica Miller
Marilyn Mora
William and Edward Morfeld
Stephanie Murphy
Jack Pipkin
Susan Quesenberry
Judy Randant
Patricia Ruff
Mary Sannwald
Paul Schankin
Debra Seifert
Cynthia Strum
Jill Tatman
Becky Taylor
Sandra Tessier
Harold Valderhaugs
Bill Waldrop
Terressa Whitaker
Myra Zimmerman

Family

Konrad and Patricia Andersen
Ted and Janet Andrews
Jim and Carrie Ash
Peter and Ann Aylward
Doug and Lauraine Baldwin
Jonathan and Christina Benich
Ted and Carol Bietz
Bill and Kathryn Boe
Jenny Bramer Family
Steve and Tamara Brown
Lois Brown and Frank Reed
Dale and Susan Butler
Nancy Byrd
Andy and Trina Calderon
Genny Caraveo
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Cimins
Tom and Cecilia Collinson
Gerry and Vida Dacanay
Claudia Dixon
and Mike Thornburgh

Family, cont.

Charles and Rochelle Ferguson
John and Teresa Fistere
Art Garcia and Karen Thomas
Bob Hasselbrink
and Signe Von Verdo
Emil and Crystal Heringer
Jose, Kathy & Quinn Higuera
Kathy Hodges and Pete Thomas
The Hoecker Family
Bruce and Jane Hopkins
Eric Johnston
Dave Judy and Laurie Agnew
Harold and Ellen Kaplan
Dennis Lovingood Family
Cindy and Gerard McQuade
Jim and Linda Michael
Lisa and Russell Michaud
Vickie Moody-Geissler
Kathy Moorehouse and Cori Smalley
Barbara Morton and Mary Severine
Marshall and Therese Mosher
Angi and Jeff Mosier
Patricia Newman
Beth Q. Ott Family
Suha Peng and Jessica Butler
Tucker Peterson
David and Katherine Porter
Gary and Carol Prior
Rob and Joy Reynolds
Carrie Reynolds
Jesse Ross
Pete and Donna Ryken
Kerry and Karen Schaeffer
Don and Barbara Schiermeyer
Erik and Kana Schraner
Matt and Eiman Sebald
Vicki Smith
Kristin & Travis Smith
Tom Sorenson
Peter and Raydene St. Clair
Mary Ann Stepnowsky
Pat and Donna Tierney
Leah and Mark Vaughan
Steven and Joyce Welch
Rose and Eric Williams
Marlene Zeigler and Jack Johnson

Conservationist Circle

California Wild Grape

Judy Bailey
John & Suzanne Bridges
Jennifer Erwin
Barbara French-Lee
Katherine Lord
Steven Loustalet
Nancy Morrow,
Morrow Landscape
Stan & Susan Schroeder
Richard & Maureen Smith
Nan Serman, Plant Soup
Klaus & Carolyn Steuermann

California Sunflower

Damian Esparza
and Danielle Poenessa
Carol Fasching
Marilyn & Bud Hamilton
Susan Inot
Charles & Ellen MacVean
Kay & Vince McGrath
Don and Jen Melucci
Cindy Miles
Chuck and Lynda Muse
Richard & Susan Namba
Dale Petz
Fern Steiner
Jan and Paul Tubiolo
DeAna Verbecke
Mark & Anne Weston

California Lilac

Marty Eberhardt
and Phil Hastings
Joan Forbes
Michael & Dinah Grisdale
Eleanor Hugus
San Diego Horticultural Society

Director's Club - Torrey Pine

William & Norma Verbeck

Director's Club - Chitalpa

Richard Wright



Membership Enrollment Form

Please make checks payable to "The Water Conservation Garden" and send your enrollment and payment to The Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, CA 92019. You can also join at www.thegarden.org or in the Garden's Gift Shop. *Thank you for your support of the Garden!*

I would like to register at the level indicated:

- Student \$20
- Individual \$40
- Family \$60
- California Wild Grape \$125
- California Sunflower \$250
- California Lilac \$500
- Manzanita \$1000

My employer will "match" my membership/donation.

Employer Name: _____

I am interested in learning more about becoming a docent or volunteer at the Garden.

Name(s)

Address

City/State/Zip

Telephone Number

Email Address

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

The Benefits of Membership

Student—\$20
Free Newsletters
Free Garden Admission

Basic—\$40 Single Individual
Same as Student, plus
Auto Decal Cling
Gift shop-10% Discount
Free or Discounted Admission to Classes/Events

Family—\$60 All Household Family Members
Same as Individual, plus
Reciprocal Admission to 250+ Botanic Gardens
Garden Tote Bag or T-Shirt

Conservationist Circle

California Wild Grape—\$125
Same as Family, plus
Aluminum Garden Water Bottle
Gift Shop: 15% Discount
Specimen Plant
One (1) Free Admission to Class of Your Choice
Custom License Plate Frame
Facility Rental: 10% Discount

California Sunflower—\$250
Same as Wild Grape, plus
Invitations to VIP Events and Lectures
Two (2) Free Admission to Class of Your Choice
Facility Rental: 15% Discount

California Lilac—\$500
Same as Sunflower, plus
Inscribed Brick Paver in Garden Plaza
Facility Rental: 20% Discount

Manzanita—\$1000
Same as Lilac, plus
Insider Updates from Executive Director
Private Tour of the Garden for Personal Guests
Facility Rental: 30% Discount

The Water Conservation Garden
12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West
El Cajon, CA 92019
Phone 619-660-0614
Fax 619-660-1687
www.thegarden.org

Printed on recycled paper

Forwarding Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EL CAJON, CA
PERMIT 330