

In Bloom

A Newsletter of The Water Conservation Garden

Fall 2012

Volume 2, Number 1

www.thegarden.org

OUR MISSION

To educate and inspire through excellent exhibits and programs that promote water conservation and the sustainable use of related natural resources.

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NEWSLETTER

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Visit us at:
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Open daily from
9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Docent Tours: Sat. 10:30 am

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Cover photograph: *Leonotis leonurus* 'Lion's Tail'

Executive Director's Column



Greetings, friends. My name is John Bolthouse and I am pleased and honored to begin my journey as the new Executive Director of The Water Conservation Garden. The Garden's purpose – to inspire people of all ages to value the precious commodity of water through more efficient and visually- stunning

landscaping methods - reflects my own personal passion as an amateur landscape designer and gardener that I enjoy in my free time. What a privilege it is to now be part of a team here at The Garden that not only lives this mission on a daily basis but is passionate about sharing that mission with the public.

During my twenty-year career in the nonprofit community, I have been privileged to have played a small role in a number of dynamic organizations. My experience has taken me behind the scenes of many of San Diego's great arts and cultural institutions, each and every one dedicated to facilitating a greater understanding and appreciation of our world to a wider audience, ultimately, to change lives for the better. This is precisely the purpose of The Water Conservation Garden and it's what convinced me to join its efforts.

I thank my predecessor, **Marty Eberhardt**, for her tenure at The Garden. Marty helped the Garden grow during its most formative years and her dedication to its mission allows us to now set our sights on an ambitious future. Under her direction, The Garden developed numerous creative programs and made a name for itself to a growing audience. Marty has left a

legacy of accomplishment we are honored to inherit.

Of course, it takes a team to achieve great things. The Garden has a remarkable staff which I am privileged to work with and learn from every day. These professionals have been tremendously helpful during my transition and we have already accomplished a great deal together. I am also grateful for our small but dedicated Board of Directors. Their attentiveness to the best interests of The Garden and support of my efforts in these first few months has given me great encouragement for the future. Finally, The Garden's corps of dedicated volunteers is simply inspiring. These folks have been and will continue to be essential to our success, not only adding value from the gift of their time and skills but demonstrating to supporters of The Garden that the community is invested in our daily success.

As Executive Director, my job will be to provide the leadership necessary for The Garden to realize its next level of excellence. I can't do this alone so I ask you - our members and supporters - to help truly make a difference in our future. Tell your friends, family and neighbors about the majesty that is The Water Conservation Garden. Take advantage of the growing menu of fun and informative programs The Garden increasingly offers. Consider elevating your support to even more meaningful levels, whether through membership, tax-deductible contributions or the gift of your time as a volunteer. Our success is directly tied to your involvement, and I'm counting on you.

Again, to all who have welcomed me in my new role, I thank you. These are exciting times for The Water Conservation Garden, and I'm honored to join you in this endeavor.

John Bolthouse
Executive Director

Meet the Newest Members of Our Team



Lorraine Frigolet - Development Officer

A native San Diegan, Lorraine is a graduate of UCSD and holds a Masters degree from the University of Hawaii. She has shared her expertise with a wide variety of non-profit organizations both locally, statewide and nationally since 2003.



Jillian Chu - Education Assistant

Jillian is a graduate of Point Park University in Pittsburgh, PA. She has performed internationally as a contemporary dance artist, developed youth curriculum as an arts educator, and worked as an environmental campaign coordinator to raise awareness and funds for a number of conservation efforts.

Upcoming...

Join **Ms. Smarty-Plants™** and wildlife biologist **Joyce Schlachter** of Project Wildlife for a positively batty evening! Meet live bats, learn about echo-location, and watch a short film starring - you guessed it - bats! After all the fascinating bat-fact fun, you'll make a batty craft and take a flashlight tour of The Garden to search for wild bats flying through the air.

Ms. Smarty-Plants™
Goes
BATTY



Friday, October 26th
6:00 - 8:00 pm

Free Admission

Sign up at www.thegarden.org/calendar.

Fall Garden Festival 2012

Saturday, November 10, 10am-4pm

Join us at the Fall Garden Festival where vendors from throughout southern California will sell a gorgeous variety of drought-tolerant plants perfectly suited to your San Diego garden. Our "Ask the Experts" booths will be back to inform you on landscape design, making compost, growing veggies, and everything else you need to know to cultivate a water-wise green thumb! Animal encounters, face painting for the kids, and entertainment for all ages will abound. This year's festival starts at 10am to coincide with the year-round Rancho San Diego Farmer's Market that takes place in college parking Lot 4 located just outside our amphitheater. **For program details as the event nears, please check our website, www.thegarden.org.**



New in the Gift Shop

California Natives are blooming in The Garden Gift Shop thanks to the beautiful fused glass art pieces by La Mesa artist **HannaH Murdoch**. HannaH's creations include California and Matilija poppy designs - exclusive to our gift shop - which adorn wall pocket vases, bowls, trinket/soap trays, and more. Vibrant glass color combinations include cobalt blue with sunshine



yellow, lime green, and brilliant orange or complementary warm vanilla cream with turquoise.

HannaH's offerings are the beginning of a new, more sophisticated product line in the Gift Shop. In addition to our wonderful collection of books, magic tee shirts and garden art, we are expanding to feature the work of local artists and craftspeople. As the

holidays approach, watch for the addition of watercolor prints, boutique garden soaps, gourmet olive oils, preserves, and more!

We aspire to be your go-to shop for special and unique gifts. If you are a local artist interested in our consideration, please contact Heather at 619-660-0614 x10.

Recap...



(L-R) *Kylie Redford; James Redford, Watershed Producer; Mary Ann Beyster, President, Foundation for Enterprise Development; Nigella Hillgarth, Executive Director, Birch Aquarium at Scripps.*

WATERSHED Film Premiere at The Garden

WATERSHED by Executive Producer **Robert Redford**, and Producer, **James Redford** made its Southwestern premiere at The Garden on Saturday, July 28, as it embarked upon a 7-city tour. A crowd of 300 guests gathered under the night sky in The Garden's amphitheater to view cinema in this venue for the very first time, and to learn about the plight of the Colorado River - a river we southern Californians depend upon for drinking water - and what people can do locally to help the river once again reach its delta. If you are implementing water-smart gardening, you are already making a positive impact on the river. The film was followed by a lively discussion that included panelists from California American Water, San Diego Coastkeepers, the Sonoran Institute, Sweetwater Authority, and the Redford Center. Peggy Pico of KPBS served as moderator.

The film premiere was made possible in part by **SDG&E, California American Water, West Coast Group Benefits, Show Tec, Western River Expeditions, Bernardo Winery, New Belgium Brewing, AIRE, and Starbucks Coffee.**

Those interested in future screenings of the *WATERSHED* can visit watershedmovie.com for information.



Rose & the Nightingale

Presented by Wells Fargo Bank

Rose & the Nightingale graced the amphitheater stage on Saturday, August 11, with *Spirit of the Garden*, a song cycle inspired by band leader **Jody Redhage's** experiences at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and other gardens throughout the U.S. The New York City-based, all-female quartet of jazz improvisers and chamber musicians entertained nearly 100 guests with their lyrical beauty and harmonies that blur the boundaries of jazz, folk and classical music. A CD featuring songs from the concert is on sale in the Garden Gift Shop.

IN THE GARDEN

Species Spotlight: Lantana x 'New Gold', New Lantana

By the end of summer, when so many plants have finished blooming, Lantana can still be found with abundant flowers throughout San Diego, and at most, if not every nursery. Lantana is a genus of about 150 species of perennial flowering plants in the verbena family, Verbenaceae. This plant is of Latin American origin, was introduced to Australia in 1840, and has naturalized itself in approximately 60 countries. It thrives in full sun and will continue to offer vibrant blooms from spring to late fall. Once the temperature drops to about 28 degrees fahrenheit, the plant will defoliate until spring. This particular 'New Gold' species



grows from 1 to 2 feet tall and four feet wide. Its flowers attract bees, butterflies, and some birds. Lantana is a great choice for its showy color, fast growth, and hardiness, but it is important to note that it can be invasive and has been known to be toxic to animals such as cattle and other livestock if they ingest any part of the plant.

*Information obtained from: Wilsonscreeklandcare.mullum.com.au
Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG.org) Ehow.com Wikipedia.org*

Volunteer at The Garden!

Garden volunteers and docents play a special role in helping The Water Conservation Garden further its mission of promoting water-conservation in the landscape by connecting people with the rich palette of water-saving plants and water-wise landscaping practices that make beautiful, sustainable gardens in our southern California climate.

There are many ways to get involved! Volunteer opportunities include areas of horticulture, gift shop, nursery, special events, guided tours, and more.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Pam Meisner at pam@thegarden.org.



Can you guess what this is?

It is a Dragon Tree, and can be found in The Garden. It was kindly given to us by an anonymous donor.



Efficient Irrigation

One of the seven steps of xeriscaping, or low water use landscaping, is to irrigate wisely. During the high temperatures of summer it is important to put some time into checking your irrigation system to avoid unnecessary water waste. If your irrigation clock is appropriately set for early morning, you probably don't see what is actually happening when your plants are getting watered. If you have a regular sprinkler system, turn on the irrigation clock and check the spray heads that may be misdirecting water, leaking, or hitting overgrown bushes. Look around for plants that may have outgrown the original irrigation plan. Your shrubs may require some pruning to remove foliage that has grown and is now getting in the way of the spray flow. If you have a drip system, check emitters for clogging and reposition them if they have shifted from their appropriate placement. These are just a few of the simple adjustments that can help beautify your landscape through the summer season. Stop by The Garden to learn more about irrigation techniques and pick up some of our hand-outs that provide a more comprehensive look into this important xeriscaping step.



Partnerships....They're a Hoot!



This past spring, The Garden had a wonderful opportunity to partner with **Project Wildlife** as part of the programming and promotion of our annual *Spring Garden Festival*. Beautiful barn owl **Boo**, along with his handler **Mike** from Project Wildlife, joined Ms. Smarty- Plants for some early morning television spots that helped promote the

festival and raise awareness about the importance of wild barn owls as part of our region's natural ecology. The timing was perfect, because Hoot and Holla, a wild pair of barn owls that had nested at The Garden in 2011, returned for a second year, and could once again be seen on our Owlcam raising their brood of owlets. Boo was able to be an ambassador for wild owls, posing and showing off his beautiful plumage and wise owl eyes up close for the camera. Our collaboration with Project Wildlife was a great way to remind people about conservation and sustainability, and remind people that wild barn owls provide a natural form of pest control by hunting rodents, rabbits, and other pests that invade and destroy landscapes and gardens. Boo and his handler, Mike joined The Garden's Ms. Smarty-Plants at KFMB Channel 8's Good Morning San Diego just before the Spring Garden Festival.

The Living Coast Discovery Center, formally known as Chula Vista Nature Center, is another wonderful partner that helps us when we need an animal ambassador. This past spring, they brought out barn owl Tyto for a TV spot, and then offered our docents a special behind the scenes tour of their facility to boot!

The Garden is very grateful for the opportunity to partner with these organizations and spread the important message of conservation in all of its forms-natural resources,wildlife, and more.



Meet the Valhalla Students

What do you get when you mix a great idea with wrong directions? The Valhalla Student Program at The Water Conservation Garden! Six years ago **Cathy Lower**, Transition Teacher with Valhalla High School, sent one of her staff members to the Ornamental Horticulture Department at Cuyamaca College. Fortunately, he got lost and stumbled upon The Garden, and a unique partnership was born.

The Valhalla Transition Program provides vocational opportunities for 18-22 year-old students with special needs, and Cathy Lower is the creative coordinator behind the its success. The program offers a bridge between high school and adult working life, helping young adults acclimate into the "real world" through legitimate work opportunities. Students in the program come to The Garden twice a week during the school year and provide invaluable facilities services that include upkeep of the Children's Trail, special event setup, exhibit maintenance, and janitorial services. For anyone who works at The Garden, it is always a joy to see the Valhalla students and their leader, Cathy, who greet everyone they meet with a big smile and tons of good cheer.

The Valhalla Student Transition Program is made up of a wonderful team of students and a truly dedicated leader that The Garden is incredibly fortunate to work with.



Benefits Bloom for Members!

When you support The Garden through your membership, not only do you take a stand for water conservation and stewardship of related natural resources, but you reap some exciting rewards as well. As a member you'll enjoy free or reduced admission to special events and classes, year-round discounts in the Gift Shop, our full-color quarterly newsletter mailed to your home, and even discounts on the rental of The Garden for your special event.

To become a member and to learn more about the levels of membership and corresponding benefits, please visit www.thegarden.org.



PEOPLE, PLACES, THINGS

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Rosalie Dosik

Rosalie Dosik is The Garden's current Docent President, and although this role is new to her, she certainly isn't new to The Garden. Rosalie began volunteering with us in 2004, after a visit to the Heritage of the Americas Museum, located just above our venue. Upon leaving the museum, she happened to look down, saw The Garden, and exclaimed, "Oh my gosh I've got to see more!" From that point on she was involved.



Rosalie is originally from Brooklyn, New York, and taught high school level art in New York City many years ago before coming

to California with her husband Paul and daughter Nina. Art has always been her passion and her artistic talent can be seen throughout The Garden. Rosalie's most recent endeavor was directing an interior design project to upgrade the look of The Garden's classroom. She gave new life to the room with artistic painted elements, adorning the doors with plant motifs, transforming ordinary garden rakes into creative wall art, and adding whimsy to the hanging lights with splashes of color. Rosalie is fond of using color and texture in any garden, and she offers a free tour to the public on how to do this. Many of the lovely design elements in the Dorcas Utter Sensory Garden are a credit to Rosalie's talent, including the succulent wall hangings, and the sentimental replica of Dorcas' hat that is found on a bench in this exhibit. If you ask Rosalie about her contributions, she is incredibly modest, giving the lion's share of the credit to her team members who give momentum to Rosalie's vision. Her favorite artistic medium is mixed media with recycled materials, which is so beautifully illustrated by the repurposed rakes in the classroom.

When Rosalie began volunteering at The Garden eight years ago, she wasn't exactly sure what area she wanted to work in so she took her time getting acquainted. She quickly evolved into one of our most active docents and is now the team leader for the container and sensory gardens, a tour guide, a resident artist and now docent president. In 2009, Rosalie was awarded The Garden's highest honor, the Dorcas Utter Award for Extraordinary Service.

Rosalie says that her philosophy on life is, "I see life as a journey. Whether good or bad happens, learn from it and continue on".



ADVERTISE WITH US!

For advertising opportunities in this quarterly newsletter, please contact **Elizabeth Ramos** at elizabeth@thegarden.org or **619-660-0614, x14**.

PEOPLE, PLACES, THINGS



SDCWA is Water Smart

The San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) has been a member of The Garden's Joint Powers Authority since 2001. Conservation is an important part of the Water Authority's public outreach programs, and the Water Authority continually encourages people to be efficient with their water use, especially on their landscaping. But, they also 'walk the talk'. In 2006, the Water Authority began a revamp of their landscaping at their Kearny Mesa Headquarters. The decision to retrofit was an easy one: the maintenance of the landscaping was expensive and a drain to staff time, and was using more water than necessary. A three-month overhaul included the addition of artificial turf, water-wise plantings, a succulent

garden, shade trees to help with evaporation, and high-efficiency irrigation equipment.

Today, the landscape has matured into a living testament to the beauty how beautiful water-efficient landscapes can be. The completed project saves approximately \$600 dollars a year on SDCWA's water bill and conserves over 240,000 gallons of water a year. Interested residents can stop by the Water Authority building to tour the landscaping. A detailed map with names and locations of plants is available at the front desk or on the Water Authority website: <http://20gallonchallenge.com/landscaperetrofit.html>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2012- 2013

Richard Wright
President (Interim)

Dr. Richard D. Wright is Professor Emeritus at San Diego State University and a specialist on geographic information systems and watershed analysis. He holds a PhD in Geography and served on the California Planning Commission Association; San Diego County Planning Commission; Otay Water District; and Association of American Geographers National Council.



Eleanor Hugus
Treasurer/Secretary

Eleanor Hugus served for seven years as the Chief Executive Officer of property service firm N.N. Jaeschke, Inc. She has a passion for water conservation, working with the landscape department of N.N. Jaeschke that provides landscape installations to community associations. Eleanor also volunteers with Meals on Wheels, providing meals for seniors.



Harold Bailey

Dr. Harold Bailey is a registered Civil Engineer with extensive experience in policy development, environmental impact analysis, planning, and operations of waste management and resource recovery infrastructure. Harold has worked at Padre Dam Municipal Water District and the City of San Diego. He is a La Mesa Planning Commissioner and volunteers with the California Center for Sustainable Energy.



Sue Ellen Benson

Sue Ellen Benson is a retired San Diego elementary teacher. She is a lifetime member of the Water Conservation Garden and a docent since 2002, including tenure as Docent President. She has conducted tours for the Garden, Junipero Serra Museum, and U.S. Forest Service and volunteers for Reading Legacies.



Damian Esparza

Damian Esparza is Principal of Barrera and Company, preparing financial studies throughout California and Hawaii. He is Founder of SmartProperty.com, served as a Financial Analyst at SG Cowen Securities Technology Investment Banking Group, and a Statistical Analyst at Banc of America Securities Banking Group. Damian holds a BA in Philosophy from Boston College.



Darin Handley

Darin Handley is a Vice President at Wells Fargo Bank, serving as Market Growth and Development Consultant. A San Diego East County native, Darin graduated from UC San Diego with a degree in Political Science. He attended East County's Valhalla High School. Darin and his wife, Elisabeth, have three boys, now attending Valhalla and Hillsdale Middle School.



Cindy Miles

Dr. Cindy L. Miles is Chancellor of the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District. She holds a PhD in Educational Administration from the University of Texas at Austin. Cindy also serves on the boards of the American Association of Community Colleges and American Council on Education's Commission on Effective Leadership. Cindy is the Joint Powers Authority representative on The Garden's Board of Directors.



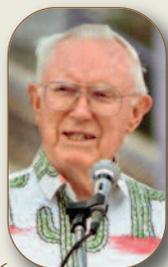
Rich Restuccia

Rich Restuccia is the Director of Water Management Solutions at Valley Crest Companies. He serves on the San Diego Water Conservation Action Committee and the Irrigation Association's Government and Regulatory Affairs Committee. Rich has presented at numerous conferences, published articles in periodicals, and writes a blog on water issues. He received his MS in Agribusiness Management from Arizona State University.



Remembering Our Friends

This year we mourned the passing of two longtime friends who were passionate supporters of The Garden. We are forever grateful for their friendship and their dedication to and support of our mission.



H. Warren Buckner

September 17, 1919-March 30, 2012

Mr. Buckner was a board member of the Helix Water District for 26 years and was instrumental in getting the Water Conservation Garden's established. He was The Garden's first board president, and served in this capacity for 6 years. The H. Warren Buckner cactus and succulent garden--a centerpiece exhibit at The Garden--was created by Warren's son, Michael Buckner, in 2005.



Norma Mae Verbeck

July 22, 1927-April 11, 2012

Mrs. Verbeck was passionate about The Garden and making it accessible to all. In 2008, she and her husband Bill donated a 6-passenger eco-shuttle so that people who are unable to walk the entire Garden can still enjoy it.

FOCUS ON PHILANTHROPY

A Board Member Shares His Dream

What is the meaning of philanthropy? The dictionary defines philanthropy as follows: “**Desire to Benefit Humanity:** a desire to improve material, social and spiritual welfare of humanity, *especially through charitable activities.*”

The Water Conservation Garden has many benefactors and supporters; each have expressed their desire to benefit humanity through their financial contributions, donations of time, services and special gifts to The Garden. We want to recognize these philanthropists and their critical role in building the legacy of The Garden by telling their stories.

Have you ever wondered where the huge water drop sculpture at the main entrance to The Garden came from? This beautiful piece of artwork was a gift from one of the Garden's strongest supporters and philanthropists, our own **Richard Wright**, Interim Board President. We recently caught up with Richard to find out what inspired him to donate the water drop to us. “I feel very strongly that we need more art in The Garden,” Richard remarked. “The integration of water, plants and art seems to me to be a natural fit.” Richard says that his donation of “The Drop” sculpture is his small effort to show how beautifully art and gardens integrate, as well as to provide an additional attraction to visitors.

“The Drop” by the artist, Ben Lavender, was one of a dozen or so works exhibited at the Garden for six months last year. The exhibition was titled “H2O, The Art of Conservation”. Richard purchased Ben's piece and donated it to The Garden. He noted that, “Of all the artworks in the exhibit, this one best communicated to me how impressive and beautiful art can be in a botanical

setting, and why I think it is an important component of any botanical garden.”

The integration of artistic elements in landscape displays adds interest and serves as an inspiration to The Garden's visitors to make similar efforts. Art can be found within various exhibits, including the Cactus Garden, the Container Garden, and the Sensory Garden. Richard says, “I hope we will do even more with art in The Garden in the future.”

Richard encourages us all to think about how we too can become “philanthropists” and support The Garden. In his words, “I urge individuals and businesses to support the Garden's mission of educating the public about the critical importance of making wise use of precious and increasingly scarce water resources. Doing so is essential to the maintenance of the quality of life in our region.”

Thank you Richard for your donation of “The Drop” and for the many other things you do to support the Water Conservation Garden.

Below please find a listing of other Friends of The Garden. We appreciate all of their support and contributions to the Garden.



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The Garden wishes to thank Miramar Nursery for its generous support of our spring and fall events.



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When people come together to celebrate shared beliefs, they create an instant community of the spirit. And before you know it, everyone is participating.

The Water Conservation Garden, your spirit of giving is an inspiration to everyone.



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