

In Bloom



A Newsletter of The Water Conservation Garden

Fall 2013

Volume 1, Number 4

www.thegarden.org



The Water Conservation Garden celebrates the fall planting season with a newly rebranded event, the *Fall Plantstravaganza!*, on Saturday, November 2, 9am-3pm. The event aims to help San Diego gardeners make the most of the fall planting season with a plentiful mix of gardening experts and plants galore offered by local growers and nurseries. Visitors can attend workshops on gardening-related topics led by experts plus visit exhibits staffed by knowledgeable Garden docents and guest exhibitors to learn about water-saving gardening, edible gardening, compost-making, gardening for butterflies and more. Partner water agencies will join the fun to reveal a range of money-saving rebate opportunities for retrofitting thirsty landscapes to those that save water and are beautiful, too. Personalized attention can be found at the "Ask the Designers" area for in-depth landscape design advice. For just \$15 for 20 minutes, a landscape designer or architect will assess a visitor's landscape and goals (through photos, diagrams, or dialogue) and recommend plants and design ideas that are a custom fit. And, for anyone still working on their holiday shopping list, The Garden's gift shop will be overflowing with unique nature-inspired treasures that are perfect for gift giving.

Reservations for the ever-popular "Ask the Designer" consultations are recommended and can be made by calling 619-660-0614 x10. View a complete event program at www.thegarden.org. Those interested in exhibitor and/or sponsorship opportunities should contact the Director of Events at elizabeth@thegarden.org. Admission: Members and Kids 12 and Under FREE; \$2 General Admission; Free Parking

STAFF NEWS



The Garden Welcomes Diane Owens

The Garden is thrilled to welcome Diane Owens to the team as its new Events and Marketing Coordinator! Diane will be working with Elizabeth Ramos, Director of Marketing and Events and the newly-formed Events Committee to produce The Garden's slate of events, including its first fundraising gala in the fall of 2014. Diane brings with her years of event planning, development, and marketing experience in the nonprofit sector, having previously worked with Project Wildlife and The Fund for Animals Wildlife Center. Welcome, Diane!

Gift Shop Holiday Open House and Sale Saturday, December 7 (9am-4pm)

Shop The Garden's holiday open house for great prices on unique garden-inspired gifts you won't find anywhere else, while enjoying our festive holiday ambience and treats!



NEWS & EVENTS

Making a Splash in Baltimore



We are thrilled to announce that our own Director of Education, Pam Meisner, has been invited to showcase The Garden's award-winning Ms. Smarty-Plants™ program at this year's North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) conference in Baltimore. Since 1972, this annual conference has served as the national arena for innovative environmental education, featuring top educators, government officials, environmental experts, and nonprofits. The fact that Pam was granted such a prominent role at the conference speaks to the meaningful impact she and her staff have made in the lives of youths since the Ms. Smarty-Plants™ program's inception in 2008.



Join Ms. Smarty-Plants™ and her animal friends from the Living Coast Discovery Center for a positively batty evening of trick-or-treating through The Garden by the light of the moon. Ms. Smarty-Plants kicks off the fun with some fascinating bat facts and other surprises just before the evening takes flight!

**Limited FREE admission.
Suggested \$5 donation per family at the door.
Reserve tickets at www.thegarden.org**

IN THE GARDEN



Dense *Myoporum parvifolium* cascades over rocks

Why We Love *Myoporum parvifolium*

Lovely *Myoporum parvifolium* is this quarter's *In Bloom* cover model and the Plant of the Month for November. Also known as Creeping Boobialla, Creeping Myoporum or Dwarf Native Myrtle, *Myoporum parvifolium* is endemic to Australia, whose climate is similar to San Diego's, so it thrives in our region's gardens. Growing just 3 inches high, but spanning up to 9 feet wide, *M. parvifolium* makes a dense groundcover with bright green leaves and small white bell-shaped flowers that bloom in the Summer followed by purple berries. Although *M. parvifolium* is not for walking upon, it is regarded as a tough drought-tolerant plant that is fast growing without choking out surrounding plants. *M. parvifolium* is a natural fire retardant that grows best in full sun open areas, is great on banks and slopes, and is adaptable to most well drained soils with a pH range from 4.5 to 7.0.

Myoporum will be available in one-gallon size during the month of November in The Garden's nursery. Shop early while supplies last!

References: Ramos, *Sunset Western Garden Book*, 2012, p.448; www.bushmagik.com.

Dorcas E. Utter Butterfly Pavilion Update



The foundation for the Dorcas E. Utter Butterfly Pavilion has been laid, and the walls of the Bill and Norma Verbeck Courtyard have gone up. We are getting closer to our fall completion date and look forward to a grand opening celebration in Spring 2014 when butterfly season begins anew!

"WaterSmart School Gardens"—Free Class for K-12 Teachers at The Water Conservation Garden



San Diego County
Water Authority

The San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) offers a FREE one-day class this fall for teachers wanting to start a school garden. Two classes offerings are available for 2013, and instruction includes curriculum and resource materials, plus payment for a substitute teacher to cover the classrooms of attendees. The 6-hour class is taught by Jan Tubiolo, Landscape Instructor and Water Conservation Specialist, and is held at The Water Conservation Garden.

Upcoming 2013 dates are Tuesday, October 8 or Tuesday, November 5 from 8:30am-2:00pm. To register, contact Susan Bohlander, SDCWA Education Programs Specialist at sbohlander@sdcwa.org 858-522-6720.



Holiday Brunch Tonic

Recipe by Martha Condra, *Cooking Light* (Nov. 2004), via myrecipes.com

Fragrant rosemary is October's plant of the month at The Garden, and this versatile herb lends itself not only to savory delights and baked goods, but also to a number of nouveau beverages and cocktails, like this refreshing alcohol-free holiday brunch tonic which can be paired with gin or vodka, if desired.

Ingredients

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup water
- 4 rosemary sprigs
- 4 cups cranberry juice cocktail, chilled
- 2 cups fresh orange juice (about 6 oranges), chilled
- 3 cups club soda, chilled

Preparation

1. Combine sugar and water in a small saucepan; bring to a boil. Reduce heat, and simmer 4 minutes or until sugar dissolves. Add rosemary; simmer 5 minutes. Remove from heat. Pour sugar syrup into a bowl; cover and refrigerate overnight.
2. Uncover sugar syrup; remove and discard rosemary sprigs. Combine the sugar syrup, juices, and soda in a large pitcher. Serve immediately over ice. Garnish with extra rosemary sprigs, if desired. Serve shortly after mixing everything together so the tonic will sparkle.



The Veggie Garden docents strike a pose in front of the lemon tree. L to R: Diane Krell-Bates, Margaret Harder, Judy Vickrey, Anne Mayer, Thom Bates, Gaylord Norcross.

fiber-packed cruciferous veggies like broccoli, cabbage, and bok choy; plus leafy lettuces, all of which they'll have to defend from marauding mammals using hardware cloth and the cages they made from irrigation pipe and chicken wire. The group will also tend to pomegranate and citrus trees, which will bear fruit during our "cool" season, as will fragrant pineapple guava.

How does this team of six decide what to plant each season? They keep things civil by using the handy "Vegetable Gardening Planting Guide" produced by the San Diego Master Gardeners. The guide conveniently spells out which months to plant cool or warm season crops, including fruit, depending upon whether you live in the coastal or inland regions of the county. How's that for simplifying life!

At the end of our visit, team leader Judy Vickrey had this advice for beginning edible gardeners, "Start small, know your soil and check your garden every day to spot and correct problems before they get out of control. And, don't forget to talk to your garden as you sip your morning coffee or evening glass of wine."

Elizabeth Ramos is the Marketing and Events Director at The Water Conservation Garden.

A Butterfly Expert Visits The Garden

Recently, as part of Team Butterfly training, The Garden was visited by author and butterfly-hobbyist-turned-expert, Kojiro Shiraiwa, who wrote the book, *The Butterfiles of San Diego County*. This introduction and identification guide, carried in The Garden's gift shop and used as a resource for the Natural History Museum, contains full-color figures of butterflies found in San Diego for easy identification, while discussing butterfly biology and ecology. Kojiro is a native of Japan, but has studied, recorded and photographed 140 species and subspecies of butterfly found in San Diego County including a rare species, the Thorne's Hairstreak, found only on Otay Mountain near the international border.

Kojiro captivated Team Butterfly with magnified images of butterfly wings revealing individual, uniquely colored scales that create the striking wing patterns we humans so enjoy. His ultraviolet photos revealed patterns only visible through ultraviolet light, a spectrum visible to butterflies but not to the naked eye of humans because of our inability to perceive colors in high frequency. For some of the best butterfly spotting in San Diego, Kojiro suggests Plum Canyon (Anza-Borrego Desert State Park), Noble Canyon (Laguna Mountain) and the Jacumba area in east San Diego.

Team Butterfly learned so much from Kojiro's visit, and is ever-more prepared for the grand opening of the Dorcas E. Utter Butterfly Pavilion! *Thanks, Koji!*



IN THE GARDEN

"Fall-ing" for Edibles with the Veggie Garden Team

by Elizabeth Ramos

I recently caught up with the Veggie Garden team who was busy removing spent summer plants to find out what's on their edibles menu for the fall planting season. I got a big helping of information from this enthusiastic group, who quickly reminded me that we San Diegans enjoy the luxury of being able to plant edibles year-round, something unimaginable in most of the US where fall and winter equal cold...the real kind of cold that halts the growing season and drives people and animals into hibernation. Not so in San Diego, where even summer tomato plants continue to bear fruit well into the fall season when nurtured properly.

The team revealed that this season they'll be planting lots of

To download a copy of the San Diego Master Gardeners' "Vegetable Gardening Planting Guide", visit www.mastergardenerssandiego.com.

CONSERVATION IN ACTION

Asian-Fusion Garden Pools Money and Water Savings



Rosalie Dosik contemplates the inukshuk she created for her Asian-fusion garden.

Long-time Garden docent Rosalie Dosik began converting her very large swimming pool into a useable gardening space in October 2012. Taking cues from gardens she visited in China and her fondness for the minimalist style of Japanese gardens where structure, shape, and proportion are emphasized over excessive plantings, Rosalie drew up an Asian design with a San Diego twist: all plants would need to be drought-tolerant.

Using the 1000 square feet of plantable space that became available to her once the pool was removed, Rosalie created a walkable oasis of calm where ledger-rock gravel pathways weave around mounded islands of plants – dwarf breath of heaven, Chinese juniper, gray honey-myrtle and creeping thyme, for instance – which are accented by cinder-block and bamboo miniature "fences" and a lovely stone *inukshuk* landmark hailing the traditions of indigenous peoples of the North American Arctic. Ledger rock, chosen for its interlocking properties that keep it neatly in place, crunches underfoot providing a contemplative sound as one wanders the garden's paths.

Rosalie's new landscape is not just calming and beautiful; it is a water and money-saver as well. Since the retrofit, she saves an average of 32% on her monthly water bill, not to mention the money saved on maintaining the former swimming pool. And, because she did all of the labor and design herself (not including the pool removal), her new garden cost her just \$1300.

Rosalie says that she took inspiration from The Water Conservation Garden in selecting the plants for her Asian-fusion landscape, which highlights how versatile drought-tolerant plants can be. We hope that Rosalie's garden will now inspire others to create a unique water-wise landscape of their own.



Asian-fusion landscape covers 1000-square feet of space that was once a swimming pool.

The poster for the "Kids Free in October" event features a colorful design with a sun, stars, and a plane. It includes logos for Time Warner Cable, Art Works, San Diego Zoo, and San Diego Natural History Museum. Text on the poster includes "San Diego Museum Council's Kids Free in October...", "Kids FREE in October", "Get out and explore museums with children throughout October!", "Get your coupon at sandiegomuseumcouncil.org", and "San Diego Museum Council".

The Garden supports the San Diego Museum Council's "Kids Free in October"! From October 1 - 31, children ages 12 and under receive free admission with a paid adult (limit 2) at close to 40 museums!

Download the coupon at:
sandiegomuseumcouncil.org

SDCWA Launches WaterSmart Website



This summer, the San Diego County Water Authority launched its new WaterSmart website, created to empower the region's residents to make water-efficient lifestyle choices. The site offers information about conservation incentives, tools and programs, and is organized to provide content relevant to homeowners, homeowner associations, businesses (including agricultural operations), public institutions and the educational sector. To learn more, visit www.watersmartsd.org

If you have visited The Garden and been inspired to make your landscape more water-wise, we'd love to feature you in this newsletter!

Please contact Elizabeth Ramos at 619-985-8337 or elizabeth@thegarden.org.

FOCUS ON PHILANTHROPY



“Building Relationships: It’s About Who You Know and Who They Know”

Securing the future of The Garden is just like life: it's all about building relationships!

The Garden's track record of excellent relationships makes it what it is today.

Many individual, corporate, foundation and government donors donate their time and money every year to support The Garden. We need many more donors to realize The Garden's vision of its future and to endow the preservation of this valuable community resource. The Garden provides a unique opportunity to impact how we all relate to water, help solve our water problems and promote our region's continued growth and prosperity for generations to come.

Who do you know that might get excited about being part of re-imagining our relationship with water? Who do you know that

would like to be part of something bigger than themselves, educating our community on how to conserve our most precious resource? Who do you know that would like to make a difference in the future of San Diego by donating to The Garden?

There are many ways to make financial contributions to The Garden: as a Garden member, by becoming a Friend of the Butterflies, or through planned giving or corporate membership. Creating networks of support for the long-term well-being of The Garden is vital to our success. If you have contacts that you believe would be interested in supporting The Garden, please connect with Development Officer, Lorraine Frigolet at lorraine@thegarden.org.

Working together, we can all promote a better brighter future for The Garden and our community!

East County Sprites Supports The Garden

Our sincere thanks goes to the East County Sprites who made a generous donation of \$1,000 this year, allowing The Garden to purchase much needed supplies for education and facilities. Established in 1968, Sprites (Spiritual, Philanthropic, Recreational, Inspirational, Teaching, Educational, Social) is a mother-daughter philanthropic group benefitting local charities, with girls from 7-12th grade participating. The Garden is very grateful to the Sprites for their ongoing community service, and for valuing the mission of The Garden.

The Garden thanks the following Corporate Partners for their ongoing support:

**Armstrong Garden Centers
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For more information on Corporate Membership, please visit www.thegarden.org or contact Lorraine Frigolet at 619-660-0614 x15.

BECOME A
“FRIEND OF THE
BUTTERFLIES”



Information at www.thegarden.org

The following donors generously contributed to The Garden during June - September 2013

\$5,000 and above	\$500-\$999	\$100-\$249		
Samuel Ciccati Family	Harold and Mary Jane Bailey	Maggie Barnett	Michelle LaGrandeur	Alicia Williams
Ken Gust	John W. Clifford		Andrew Raines and Karen Garcia Raines	Richard Wright
\$1,000-\$2,499	\$250-\$499	\$5-\$99	San Carlos Garden Club	
Sue Ellen Benson	Vince and Kay McGrath	Rosalie Dosik	MaryAnn Stepnowsky	
Union Bank Foundation	Cindy Miles	Tony Embrey	Donna Symons Family	
		Emiliana Emery	United Way of San Diego County	
			Judy Vickrey	

New Members June - September 2013

California Wild Grape Level

Charles Leix
Linda McGray & Tyrla Woods

Family Level

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Bruce & Myra Cobblewick
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Student/Military Level

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Kathie D.Legenza

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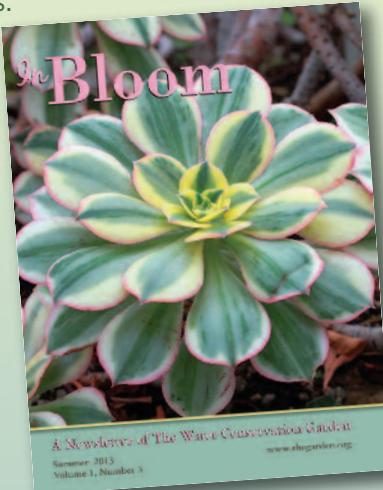
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Reach audiences interested in gardening and sustainability by advertising with *In Bloom*, which has a quarterly print circulation of 2,000 copies.



For more information, contact Director of Marketing
Elizabeth Ramos at elizabeth@thegarden.org
or 619-660-0614, x14.



GREAT MEMBER BENEFIT!!

Garden members now receive a 10-15% discount on all purchases at the following partner nurseries. A current membership card must be presented at the time of purchase.

- **Barrels & Branches Nursey** – Encinitas (www.barrelsandbranches.com)
- **Cedros Gardens** – Solana Beach (cedrosgardens.com)
- **Gardens by the Sea** – Leucadia (gardensbytheseanursery.com)
- **Hunter's Nursery** – Lemon Grove (huntersnursery.com)
- **Kniffing's Discount Nursery** – Alpine (kniffingsnursery.com)
- **Mission Hills Nursery** – Mission Hills (missionhillsnursery.com)
- **Rancho Valhalla Nursery** – El Cajon (ranchovalhallanursery.com)

For more information on Garden membership, visit www.thegarden.org.