



In Bloom

A Newsletter of The Water Conservation Garden

Spring 2013
Volume 1, Number 2

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2013

President Richard Wright
Treasurer Harold Bailey

Vice President Eleanor Garnet
Secretary Sue Ellen Benson

Tom Allingham
Tony Embrey
Cindy Miles
Cheryl Minshew
Rich Restuccia
Elyssa Robertson

VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

Docent President Carol Stevens
2nd Vice President Tony Embrey

1st Vice President Mary Ann Stepnowsky
Secretary Carolyn Steurmamn

STAFF

Executive Director John Bolthouse
Education Director Pam Meisner

Office and Gift Shop Manager Heather Carlton
Educator Tamara Michaels

Education Assistant Jillian Chu
Marketing and Events Director Elizabeth Ramos

Development Officer Lorraine Frigolet
Horticulture and Facilities Director Paul Redeker

Horticulture Technician Daniel Mayorga
Facilities Assistant Steven Zampanti

NEWSLETTER

Editor Elizabeth Ramos
Contributors John Bolthouse
Pam Meisner
Elizabeth Ramos
Paul Redeker

Design & Layout Julia deBeauclair

Columnists
John Bolthouse
Lorraine Frigolet
Paul Redeker

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

Tel.: (619) 660-0614
Fax: (619) 660-1687
E-mail: info@thegarden.org

Visit us at:
www.thegarden.org

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

Follow The Garden on

facebook

Cover photograph:

2 Tomato plant

Executive Director's Column *Spring is Our Time!*



Spring is a time of great anticipation for patrons of The Garden!

Anytime is a great time to visit us but spring is truly the “coming out” season for most of the hundreds of plant species on display. Our rock roses (*cistaceae*) burst with their characteristic brilliant

display of whites and pinks. Our March “Plant of the Month,” California lilac (*ceanothus*), offers up an elegant show of unique blue flowers. The whimsical, California-native matilija poppies (*romneya*) make their presence known with their unforgettable “fried egg” appearance. The colorful and lacy look of our numerous grevillea shrubs offer an elegant focal point on our pathways. The stunning brilliance of our pink trumpet trees (*tabebuia*) will stop you in your tracks. Remember: These and the countless other botanical specimens at The Garden are on display not only for their beauty but also because they have such a minimal impact on water use. We feature them here, and you can integrate them into your home landscape, as well. Come see how inspiring water-wise gardening can be at The Garden this spring!

Make sure to join us on Saturday, April 27 for the Spring Garden Festival at The Water Conservation Garden, (see page 3). This annual family-friendly event, co-hosted with Cuyamaca

College, features plant sales, garden supply vendors, workshops on gardening and landscape design, arts and crafts, petting zoos, food, and live music. There’s something for everyone at the Spring Garden Festival!

Butterfly Pavilion Takes Shape

As we reported to you in the last issue of *In Bloom*, The Garden was the recipient of an magnanimous gift from the family of a beloved doent, the late Dorcas Utter, for the installation of a new butterfly pavilion. Garden staff has been working diligently with designers and fabricators to create what is expected to be one of the finest butterfly habitats in San Diego County. In addition, Miramar Wholesale Nurseries has generously offered to donate the plant material for the pavilion, for which we are extremely grateful. The Garden held a groundbreaking ceremony on March 6 (see page 3) and we look forward to a scheduled public opening in August.

A unique feature of the Butterfly Pavilion will be the “Friends of the Butterflies” donor program to support the pavilion in perpetuity (see page 3). Members of the public will have the opportunity to sponsor a personalized piece of artwork with their names on them for permanent display in the exhibit. Contact The Garden today to become one of our early “Friends of the Butterflies.”

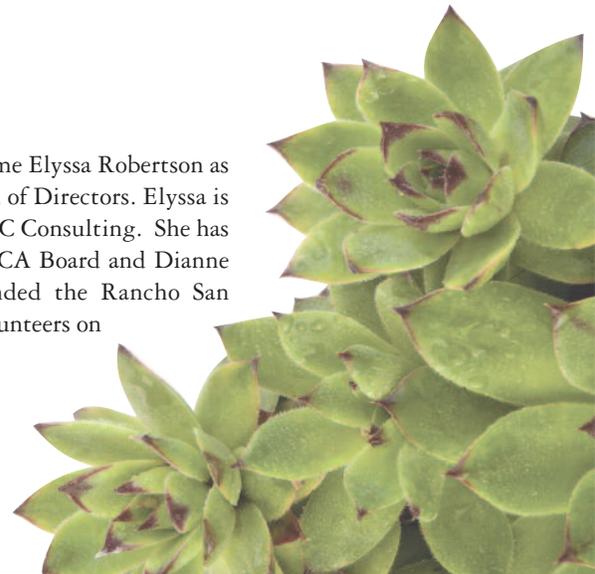
John Bolthouse
Executive Director

Introducing New Board Member



Elyssa Robertson

The Garden is pleased to welcome Elyssa Robertson as the newest member of its Board of Directors. Elyssa is the Principal Biologist with REC Consulting. She has served on the East County YMCA Board and Dianne Jacob Trails Committee, founded the Rancho San Diego Farmer's Market, and volunteers on habitat restoration projects.



20th Annual Spring Garden Festival

The Cuyamaca College Ornamental Horticulture Department and The Water Conservation Garden invite you and your family to enjoy the 20th Annual Spring Garden Festival on Saturday, April 27, 2013, from 9am-4pm.

The theme of this year's festival is *Celebrating Urban Farms and Gardens*, and the day-long community event offers an exciting day of entertainment and education, with nearly 200 exhibitors and a bevy of experts on hand to help people reconnect with the food they eat and learn to live more sustainably in our arid southern California region.

The Garden will feature education and fun, with a special focus on creating water-wise landscapes, with professional landscape design advice throughout the day. Guest speaker Greg Rubin will give a talk based on his new book, co-authored with Lucy Warren, titled *The California Native Landscape: The Homeowner's Design Guide to Restoring its Beauty and Balance*. Other experts will offer information on making compost, growing edibles, cheese making, and using permeable pavement to help protect our watersheds. The "Ms. Smarty-Plants™ Grows Earth Heroes" program will be featured in The Garden's 450-seat amphitheater in addition to other live entertainment throughout the day.



Saturday, April 27, 2013
9am-4pm.

Another highlight of the event is the Ornamental Horticulture department's biggest plant sale of the year at their on-site nursery, which will be bursting with plants, including ornamentals and edibles, at incredibly affordable prices. Horticulture demonstrations will provide insight into the department's programs, and in keeping with the event's urban farming theme, visitors will be treated to presentations on beekeeping, raising goats and chickens, and more.

Children will enjoy the various animal encounters throughout the festival, including a petting zoo, alpacas, birds of prey and other critters. The Rancho San Diego Farmer's Market, which joins the festival for the first time, will offer an international food court, locally grown organic produce, and specialty food items.

The Spring Garden Festival Committee thanks the following sponsors for their generous support of the 2013 Spring Garden Festival: San Diego Home & Garden Lifestyles, The Foundation for Grossmont and Cuyamaca Colleges, San Diego County Water Authority, Otay Ranch by Baldwin & Sons and Carollo Engineers.

For more information, visit www.thegarden.org/springfest.

Dorcas E. Utter Butterfly Pavilion Groundbreaking



A groundbreaking ceremony to kick off construction of the Dorcas E. Utter Butterfly Pavilion was held on Wednesday, March 6, with more than fifty people in attendance. Participating in the ceremony (pictured from left to right) were John Bolthouse, WCG Executive Director; Pam Meisner, WCG Education Director; Al Di Donato, Project Architect; Chuck Muse, President Emeritus of the WCG Joint Powers Authority; Dr. Mark Zacovic, President of Cuyamaca



Architectural rendering of "Vivarium"

College; Eleanor Garnet, WCG Board Vice President; Dr. Richard Wright, WCG Board President. The 600-square-foot "vivarium" is scheduled to open late this summer. The Garden is grateful to Miramar Wholesale Nurseries for their generous donation of plant material for the pavilion.

Look for an extended feature about the new Butterfly Pavilion exhibit in our summer edition of *In Bloom!*

Friends of the Butterflies

Join the "Friends of the Butterflies" and support The Garden's exciting new Butterfly Pavilion opening this summer!

The Butterfly Pavilion will serve as the Water Conservation Garden's first true nature exhibit, creating a model ecosystem that will also be an interactive educational environment for thousands of children and adults annually. The 600-square-foot enclosure will allow up to 20 visitors at a time to closely observe butterflies that are native or endemic to San Diego County.

This new donor program provides an opportunity for Garden supporters to honor, memorialize and celebrate themselves or their loved ones with a special butterfly in their name that will be displayed in the Pavilion donor recognition courtyard. A corporate donor program is also available.

The "Friends of the Butterflies" donor program starts at the \$500 level, and there will be a number of unique benefits available only to members of this program. Please contact Lorraine Frigolet, Development Officer, at 619-660-0614, ext. 15 for further information or go to www.thegarden.org and join the "Friends of the Butterflies" through and online donation.



IN THE GARDEN



Tomato Trivia!

Spring is in the air, signaling that it is time to begin sowing edible crops that will grace our kitchens in the summer and early fall. The Garden features a tomato growing class this April, and as anyone who has grown them can attest, no store-bought tomato can rival the deliciousness of one ripened on the vine and plucked at the peak of flavor. Read on for a bit of trivia for this much adored, but once maligned, magnificent fruit:

- Originally cultivated by the Aztecs and Incas as early as 700 A.D., the tomato is native to the Americas. The name "tomato" derives from "tomatl," its name in Nahuatl, the language of the Aztec people.
- Up until the end of the eighteenth century, physicians warned against eating tomatoes, fearing they caused not only appendicitis but also stomach cancer from tomato skins adhering to the lining of the stomach.
- The tomato's Latin name, *Solanum Lycopersicon*, translates to "wolfpeach" -- peach because the fruit was round and luscious and wolf because it was erroneously considered poisonous, as it so closely resembled the deadly nightshade plant.
- All parts of the tomato plant, with the exception of its fruit, are actually poisonous due to the alkaloids they contain. When the alkaloids are suspended and diluted with water, they make an easy-to-use spray that is toxic to aphids, but still safe around plants and humans (external use only).

References: About.com: "The History of Tomatoes as Food, and Tomato Lore and Legend" by Peggy Trowbridge Filippone; About.com: "Two Homemade Sprays for Fighting Aphids" by Colleen Vanderlinden; www.tomatoesareevil.com.

WaterSmart Gardening Workshop for Teachers



Don't miss a unique opportunity on Tuesday May 14, 2013 to learn how to set up a gardening program at your school. Garden Based Education strongly supports the state's academic content standards. This five-hour workshop will present the basic principles of WaterSmart gardening and includes an instructional tour of the Water Conservation Garden. Participants receive a binder with curriculum materials, plant identification information, children's gardening guide, and ideas about starting a garden at your school. To register contact: **Susan Bohlander at the San Diego County Water Authority at (858)522-6720 or sbohlander@sdcwa.org.**

APRIL PLANT OF THE MONTH - TOMATOES



Tomatoes, Marvelous Tomatoes!

Saturday, April 6th (10:00am - 12 noon)

Karan C. Greenwald, "The Tomato Queen" is back for her very informative workshop on growing Heirloom tomatoes! She will have a large variety of Heirloom tomatoes on sale after the workshop.

Members Free, \$10 Non-Members



VOLUNTEER AT THE GARDEN!

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

For more information, please contact Pam Meisner at pam@thegarden.org or 619•660•0614, ext. 13





Davila Day School Visits The Garden

Introducing the Davila Day School students! These remarkable and energetic kids attend Davila Day School's special education program for students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and who often have other developmental challenges. Some of the students from the school, and their teacher, have found The Garden to be a very special learning environment. When the children arrive for their monthly visit to The Garden, their smiles and excitement are positively infectious to everyone around!



Education Director Pam Meisner (aka Ms. Smarty-Plants™), who is certified in American Sign Language, and her team, recently created an educational program designed just for the Davila students. Deaf children learn differently than hearing children. Tactile, hands-on teaching and visual modalities are some of the methods that work

best and The Garden is a wonderful place for Deaf students to learn through these teaching methods. The children's teacher, Keri Gravette, praised The Garden's Deaf education program, saying, "My gratitude to The Water Conservation Garden extends far beyond a simple thank you. Ms. Smarty-Plants™ and her team have given my students the opportunity to enjoy an outdoor, hands-on curriculum appropriate to their developmental needs. Without these field trips, my students would not have access to a science curriculum or a learning environment outside of school."

As a token of their appreciation, the Davila students gave Ms. Smarty-Plants™ a beautiful gazing ball made from a bowling ball covered with sparkling gems. Look for it to be installed in the Dorcas Utter Sensory Garden soon.

NEW! "Ms. Smarty-Plants™ Grows Earth Heroes" Program

Who's going to save the Earth? The Ms. Smarty-Plants™ Earth Heroes, that's who! This spring, a new assembly program called "Ms. Smarty-Plants™ Grows Earth Heroes" will launch at schools all around the county. The Garden's education team has been hard at work on the interactive assembly program, and is excited to introduce the world to five new "Earth Heroes" who will help save the planet: Recycler, ENER G, Water Saver, Litter Gitter, and Wildlife Defender! This new program highlights

diversity and gets kids "interacting" with conservation. During the assemblies, children will don capes, super-power belts, and Earth Hero-specific adornments while they make decisions about how best to save the earth. Each assembly attendee will receive an Earth Hero commitment card, featuring one of the Earth Hero characters. Look for Earth Heroes all around San Diego...you never know where they may turn up!



Ms. Smarty-Plants™



Water Saver



Wildlife Defender



Recycler



ENER G



Litter Gitter

"Ms. Smarty-Plants™" Grows Butterfly Garden with High Tech Elementary!

Ms. Smarty-Plants™ recently partnered with Mr. Daniel Romo's first grade class at High Tech Elementary school to create a one-of-a-kind butterfly garden and monarch way station that serves as a science lab for the students. The children and their parents helped to build the garden and the experience has really engaged the entire classroom. These first graders truly understand the butterfly life-cycle by getting to see it in action every day! Visit www.thegarden.org to watch Ms. SmartyPlants™ interview the High Tech Elementary students in their wonderful butterfly garden.



PEOPLE, PLACES & THINGS

Philanthropy in Action



The Garden is incredibly grateful to docents Vince & Kay McGrath, Sue Ellen Benson, Mary Ann Stepnowski, and Richard Wright (picture above from left to right), who recently underwrote the purchase of a new Cushman utility cart. The new cart is already hard at work helping our dedicated facilities team with various projects around The Garden. *Thank you!*



New Member Benefit

The Water Conservation Garden is pleased to announce a great new benefit for its members! All members of The Garden now receive a 10% -15% discount on all purchases at our partner nurseries throughout San Diego County.

- **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)
- **Walter Anderson** – Point Loma, Poway (walterandersen.com)

Members must show a valid, current Garden membership card at the time of purchase. Contact The Garden if you need a new membership card to take advantage of this benefit.

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

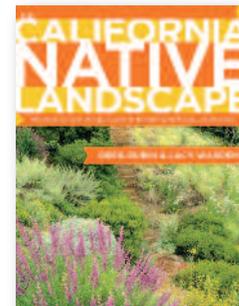
New In the Gift Shop

A Garden of Gifts for Mother's Day

The Garden Gift Shop is overflowing with new merchandise, perfect for gift-giving on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12. If Mom likes to play in the dirt, we've got floral print garden gloves, and a handy 2-in-one soil scoop and weed avenger. If relaxing in the garden is more her style, Mom will love a set of scented candles, and garden-inspired jewelry, wrapped up in a lovely garden tote, pictured.



New Book in Stock!



The California Native Landscape: The Homeowner's Design Guide to Restoring Its Beauty and Balance

By Greg Rubin and Lucy Warren
Timber Press

Stop by the Gift Shop to get your copy of an essential new resource for conservation-minded California gardeners.

The California Native Landscape teaches homeowners how to successfully create a lush and colorful landscape with native plants. The authors stress the importance of smart garden design and combining the right plants to promote the natural symbiosis that occurs within plant communities. This new book also has cutting-edge information on the crucial role that natives play in creating fire-resistant landscapes.

Greg will offer a talk and book signing at the Spring Garden Festival!
For information, visit www.thegarden.org/springfest

FOCUS ON PHILANTHROPY

Brick Paver and Bench Program

Building a legacy of giving and support for The Garden is the key to its longevity! Just as The Garden's mission is to promote water conservation and "sustainable living", we need to ensure that The Garden is sustainable through philanthropic contributions and support.

You can be part of The Garden's legacy and sustainable future by becoming a donor through our Paver and Garden Bench program. In key areas throughout The Garden are spaces where you can have your name and/or the names of your loved ones inscribed on specially designed pavers and benches. This program is also open to our friends in the business community.

The Paver program offers two levels of participation as follows:

Front Gate Pavers: A limited number of pavers are located at the main entrance to the Garden and garner significant visibility. You may invest in one or more at \$500 each.

Plaza Pavers: Located in the plaza just after you enter The Garden through the main entrance and in the plaza near the Gift Shop, you may invest in one or more of these pavers at \$250 each.



You may have noticed the attractive benches with brass plaque dedications located throughout the Garden. You can sponsor a bench to commemorate or memorialize a person or event for \$2500 for a 10-year period after which time you may renew your exclusive patronage of the bench.



We hope you will join us in sustaining The Garden! If you are interested in becoming a Garden philanthropist through the bench or paver program, please contact The Garden's Development Officer, Lorraine Frigolet at 619-660-0614 ext. 15 or Lorraine@thegarden.org

The following donors generously contributed to The Garden during Dec 2, 2012 - March 1, 2013

**Participant in this year's Annual Appeal \$5 Challenge!*

\$5,000 and above

Helix Water District
Otay Water District
San Diego County Water Authority
SDG&E
Sweetwater Authority
The City of San Diego
Bill & Deborah Utter

\$2,500-\$4,999

Rancho San Diego Rotary Foundation
Richard Wright

\$1,000-\$2,499

Armstrong Garden Centers
Vince & Kay McGrath
Jim & Cheryl Minshew*
Mary Ann Stepnowsky

\$500-\$999

Anonymous
Harold & Mary Jane Bailey
Sue Ellen Benson
Joan Forbes
Lakeside Garden Club
Maureen Stapleton

\$250-\$499

David & Betsy Buckner
Carol Fasching*
San Diego Horticultural Society
Fern Steiner
Klaus & Carolyn Steuermann

\$100-\$249

Konrad & Patricia Andersen
James & Donna Bowersox
Alan & Fran Cornell
Linda Craddock
Ellen Downing*
Jesse F. Drummer
Constance Englert
Richard Farrar*
Judy Fink
John Linden
Chuck & Linda Muse
Pacific Green Landscape
William & Bessie Pocklington
Mark & Anne Zacovic*

\$5-\$99

Ted & Janet Andrews
Lee Badger

Doug & Lauraine Baldwin
Donna Bartlett-May Family
Roxie Bauer
Katherine Belo*
Joe & Diane Bernal Family
Thomas and Vicki Bernitt*
James Beyster
Andrea Bitterling*
Susan & Steve Boudreau
Ilene Broman*
Jo Brooks Family*
Sarah Brumfield*
Naomi Buckwalter
Nancy Butsumyo
Paula Cordeiro & David O'Brien*
Jan Cousins
Morgan Dean
Julia deBeauclair*
Vergie Demanski Family
Nancy Dimsdale
Jacqueline Donnell*
Whitney Duenez
Kate Engler*
Cynthia Essary Family*
Greg & Sheri Etter
Robert Friedgen

Jesse R. Gates
Kenneth Goodwin Family*
Janet Grimes
Marcine Grubbs
Paul & Isabel Guidice
Edward Hamilton
Stephanie Hammes Family
Margaret Harder
Kathleen Hedberg Family*
Christopher & Sonya Heiserman*
Edward T. Herlihy
Cheryl Lartigua*
Karen Ledterman
Ellen Landfear
Cheryl Lendvay
Don Lochhead
Charles Lockhart*
Jim & Sally Long
Thomas Long & Beverly Harju
Corinne Lord*
Donna Mallen
Peggy Matarese
Jim & Linda Michael
Lisa & Russell Michaud*
Cynthia Millsaps & Larry Latocki*
Danielle Moher*

Suzanne Nelson*
Leslee Newton-Reed*
Diane Norman*
Kristen Olafson
Staley Pitts
Andrew & Karen Raines
Elizabeth Ramos
Mary Renfro
Kenneth Renstrom*
Jason & Jane Reynolds
Mary Jo Rice*
Patricia Ruff*
Pete & Donna Ryken
Marsha Saben
Jean Samuels & Chester Yamaga
Joe & Sue Sanders
Wade & Jennifer Smith
Carol Stevens*
Jim Taylor
Serena Urban*
Jennifer Vanden Eynder
DeAna Verbecke*
Mark Watton
Linda Whitney
Lysa Woodall*
Myra Zimmerman*

New or Renewing Members as of March 1, 2013

Katherine Belo
Thomas & Vicki Bernitt
Andrea Bitterling
Ilene Broman
Jo Brooks Family
Sarah Brumfield
Paula Cordeiro & David O'Brien
Julia deBeauclair

Jacqueline Donnell
Ellen Downing
Kate Engler
Cynthia Essary Family
Richard Farrar
Carol Fasching
Kenneth Goodwin Family
Kathleen Hedberg Family

Sonya & Christopher Heiserman
Cheryl Lartigua
Charles Lockhart
Corinne Lord
Lisa & Russell Michaud
Cynthia Millsaps & Larry Latocki
Jim & Cheryl Minshew
Danielle Moher

Suzanne Nelson
Leslee Newton-Reed
Diane Norman
Kenneth Renstrom
Mary Jo Rice
Patricia Ruff
Carol Stevens
Serena Urban

DeAna Verbecke
Lysa Woodall
Mark & Anne Zacovic
Myra Zimmerman



12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West
El Cajon, CA 92019

Tel.: (619) 660-0614, ext. 10

Fax: (619) 660-1687

www.thegarden.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
El Cajon, CA
Permit 330

Forwarding Service Requested



ADVERTISE WITH US!

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 Elizabeth Ramos at elizabeth@thegarden.org or 619-660-0614, x14.



The Garden thanks the following sponsors for their support of the 2013 Spring Garden Festival.



MEDIA SPONSOR

