I write this message to our members, donors and friends with great pride in what The Water Conservation Garden accomplished — with your support — in 2013. We again welcomed thousands of patrons from around the world through The Garden’s gates. Our classes and workshops remain popular and our events continue to be festive opportunities to learn about plants and their relationship to water use. The Garden’s wonderful youth education program surpassed the 50,000 milestone on schoolchildren outreach. And, to cap off the year, our Ms. Smarty-Plants™ program received the State of California’s coveted Governor’s Environmental and Economic Leadership Award (see story page 3).

It would be easy to rest on our laurels, but where’s the inspiration in that?

The coming new year promises to lay the groundwork for The Garden’s future. The opening of the new Dorcas E. Utter Butterfly Pavilion and family-friendly butterfly festival are sure to be highlights. We will be continuing work on a comprehensive master plan for The Garden campus; Ms. Smarty-Plants™ will reach even more schools in San Diego County; and The Garden will hold its first annual fundraising gala in October. And, we will be deepening strategic collaborations with our water agency partners in making a meaningful difference in water conservation efforts in our region.

As we mark The Garden’s fifteenth anniversary in 2014, let’s celebrate by looking back on a history of accomplishment and look ahead to a dynamic future.

Volunteerism Shines On
It’s no small claim to say that our volunteers are who really make things work here at The Garden. From our sixty-plus Garden Docents, to our friendly gift shop and kiosk volunteers, to our committee members, to event volunteers, to our Board of Directors — these talented and dedicated individuals contributed nearly 7,000 hours of time in 2013. The volunteer whom you meet at The Garden may be a biologist; a retired lawyer; a Master Gardener; a high school teacher; a banker; a retired bus driver; or a veteran of America’s armed forces. They share their personal joy in the role gardens play in our lives, and the importance of water conservation for our region. I thank our wonderful volunteer corps for continuing to choose The Water Conservation Garden as the beneficiary of their gift of selfless service.

Once again, thank you for supporting The Water Conservation Garden in 2013. From the entire Garden family, Season’s Greetings and a happy and healthy New Year.
Garden Receives Prestigious GEELA Award

The Garden’s Ms. Smarty-Plants™ program was honored with the state’s highest environmental honor, the Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award (GEELA). Several Garden staff traveled to the CalEPA headquarters in Sacramento to attend the awards ceremony in December.

Established in 1993, GEELA honors individuals, companies and organizations that make significant contributions to the state by developing environmentally-friendly practices while contributing to the local economy. The Ms. Smarty-Plants™ program, which is projected to serve over 50,000 children in 2014, was selected by the California Governor’s office in the category of Children’s Environmental Education for its hands-on approach to teaching, its broad reach to diverse student populations, and the tremendous growth the program has had since its inception in 2008, when it served 1,200 students. Other esteemed recipients of the 2013 GEELA in various categories include NASA Ames Research Center, City of San Jose, the University of California, Irvine and the California National Guard.

SAVE THE DATE

Enchanted Garden 2014

Mark your calendars for The Garden’s first-ever fundraising gala. An evening of surprises awaits you and your friends as The Garden enchants under the glow of an evening sky like never before!

Saturday, October 18, 2014
Winter-Blooming Pearl Acacia

Thinking of adding some winter color to your garden? Of the drought-tolerant, winter blooming acacias that are available to us, *Acacia podalyriifolia* or *Pearl Acacia* (also called Queensland Silver Wattle), has to be one of the most beautiful. Native to Australia, Mexico and the southwestern US, the evergreen Pearl Acacia grows to 10-20 ft tall and 12-15’ wide with roundish, 1 1/2 inch long silvery gray satiny leaves and brilliant bright yellow puffy ball flowers that are sweetly fragrant and bloom in late winter/early spring. It is a shrubby plant that can be trained into a small tree, and is tolerant of tough San Diego soils, thriving in full sun and little or no water. A lovely specimen of Pearl Acacia can be viewed at The Garden in the Design Loop to the left of the front entrance.

**FLAVORS OF THE GARDEN**

**Crispy Kale Chips**

Recipe courtesy Melissa d’Arabian, foodnetwork.com

**Ingredients**
1 head kale, washed and thoroughly dried
2 tablespoons olive oil
Sea salt, for sprinkling

**Directions**
Preheat the oven to 275 degrees F.
Remove the ribs from the kale and cut leaves into 1 1/2-inch pieces. Lay on a baking sheet and toss with the olive oil and salt. Bake until crisp, turning the leaves halfway through, about 20 minutes. Serve as finger food.

Exotic Options for Drought-Tolerant Gardens

Gracing the cover of this edition of *In Bloom* is beautiful Grevillea ‘Majestic’, a member of the drought-tolerant, yet exotic-looking and ancient family of plants known as the Proteaceae. Proteaceae are one of the oldest groups of flowering plants, which includes the genera grevillea and protea, and scientific evidence shows the presence of this family of plants on the planet 300 million years ago! Proteaceae naturally occur along the south and southwestern coastal mountain ranges of South Africa and the south and southwestern coastal areas of Australia. The genus Protea was named in 1735 by Carl Linnaeus after the Greek god Proteus, who could change his form at will, because proteas have such a wide variety of forms. Interestingly, proteas were first grown in the U.S. right here in San Diego county as well as in Santa Barbara, CA.

On Saturday, March 8 at 10:00 am, The Garden will welcome Walter Parkola, owner of Blossom Valley Protea, who will give a workshop on the Proteaceae family that will include a morning tour of The Garden’s protea and grevillea species, and a plant sale. Walter’s presentation will also feature leucospermum proteas that will be offered at Blossom Valley Protea in 2014. These new varieties are a result of many years of research and cross breeding at the University of Hawaii and are part of a limited release of 108 hybrid varieties. To sign up for the workshop (Free Members; $10 Non-Members), please call 619-660-0614 x10 or visit www.thegarden.org. For information about Blossom Valley Protea, visit www.blossomvalleyprotea.com.

Imagining Your Event at The Garden

From weddings, to corporate events, to birthday parties, The Garden has beautiful outdoor settings to complement any event. Celebrate your special occasion in an enchanting and natural environment.

Make your special day an earth-friendly one!
The Garden was honored to name Whitney Dueñez as the 2013 winner of The Garden’s Dorcas Utter Award for Extraordinary Service, given annually to a docent whose dedication extends beyond the normal course of duty. If you’ve been to one of the free compost workshops held at The Garden, you’ve probably met Whitney. If you haven’t, but have been by The Garden’s compost exhibit, you’ve seen the fruits of her labor. Whitney, who is a certified Master Composter, has been the keeper of The Garden’s compost exhibit since 2005, when she worked with our facilities team to expand it to what we now enjoy as a dynamic exhibit that features what is surely the finest compost in the county. Whitney’s compost, on display in various stages of decomposition and in several styles of bins, represents hours of tender loving care rendered weekly to transform so-called “waste material” such as coffee grounds, dead leaves, grass clippings, paper, and even dryer lint into a rich soil-like material that serves as an example for visitors interested in making compost of their own. An unassuming personality, Whitney has made composting accessible to thousands of visitors throughout the years by hosting compost classes and Q&A sessions during special events.

Whitney’s advice to people new to composting? “Just have fun with it!”, she says. “There are many ways to compost, and many materials to do it with. Stick with the basic recipe and build from there.” She also reminds people that Starbucks gladly gives out free bags of used coffee grounds which are an excellent source of nitrogen for the compost pile.

We hope that Whitney continues to “have fun” with The Garden’s compost area for many years to come, and are continually grateful for her service. Thank you, Whitney!

Spotlight on a Volunteer Whitney Dueñez, Master Composter

World Water Day

The United Nation’s World Water Day falls on March 22, 2014. To participate in the global efforts to bring awareness to water issues worldwide, The Garden will offer four free specialty tours throughout the day.

10:30am  Secrets of the Water Conservation Garden with Jan Tubiolo
11:30am  Maximum Impact with Minimal Plantings with Rosalie Dosik
12:30pm  Windows on World Heritage Gardens with Bonnie Scott
1:30pm  Water Day Around the World with Peggy Matarrese

BECOME A GARDEN DOCENT!

Garden Docents are knowledgeable individuals who are committed to sharing what they know about the beauty of water-saving landscapes. Learn to lead the public on tours of The Garden, work in our Gift Shop, volunteer for special events, or even join Team Butterfly. There are many ways to get involved. No experience required, The Garden provides all the training interested individuals need.

Join our upcoming Docent Training Program on January 18 & 25 from 12:30 - 4:30pm. Applicants to the Docent Training Program must be current members of The Garden to participate.

For more information about becoming a volunteer, please contact Pam Meisner at pam@thegarden.org or 619-660-0614 x 13.

2014 Calendar of Events

March 22 ............................. World Water Day
April 5............................. Butterfly Festival
April 27............................. Balboa Park Earth Fair
May 3.............................. Spring Garden Festival
May 9............................. National Public Gardens Day
June-August ...................... Dog Days of Summer
June 13............................. Docent Appreciation Dinner
July 20............................. San Diego Concert Band
October 18....................... Enchanted Garden Gala
October 30..................... Ms. Smarty-Plants™ Goes Batty!
November 15...................... Fall Plantstravaganza!
December 6..................... Gift Shop Open House
CONSERVATION IN ACTION

Profile of Water-Saving Gardeners: Vince & Kay McGrath

When it comes to creative water-wise spaces, Vince and Kay McGrath know how to get it done. Using expertise acquired as volunteers at The Water Conservation Garden, Vince and Kay have transformed their thirsty yard into an inviting drought-tolerant garden.

After removing a water-guzzling putting green and converting the back yard into a drought-tolerant oasis in 2006, the McGraths took things a step further a few years ago and decided to "toss the turf" and go water-wise in the front yard as well. They drew up a plan that included reworking the existing sprinkler system to include drip irrigation using the newer Rain Bird and Hunter MP 3 rotors that apply a stream of water directly to the plants. The new system replaced traditional pop-up sprayers that use a great deal more water, with a good amount of it lost to evaporation and wind flow. After removing both lawns, the McGraths’ water usage dropped by 57%!

Throughout the front and back gardens, flagstone paths lead to distinct areas such as the Butterfly Garden, the Big Bear Garden and the Whimsical Garden, all with a cornucopia of plants, shrubs and trees enhanced by garden objects and pottery. Each area is thoughtfully developed, yet never stays the same, as succulents and other drought-tolerant plants are added continually to create ever-changing views. Interspersed among the dozens of varieties of evergreens, grasses, succulents, and fruit trees are a brightly colored tool shed, garden sculptures of many shapes and sizes, and an even greater variety of bird houses, all built by Vince himself.

The transformation of the McGrath’s yard is a result of years of careful planning, craftsmanship, artistic vision and hard work. The thoughtful development of their garden reflects their ability to combine creativity with common sense water-wise landscaping to create beautiful, enjoyable spaces befitting our arid Mediterranean climate.
“Honor and Tribute” Gift Program

The Garden is pleased to announce its updated “Honor and Tribute” Gift program. The program offers opportunities to honor and pay tribute to loved ones in several venues throughout The Garden.

**Friends of the Butterflies:** This program offers donors the special opportunity to contribute to the new Butterfly Pavilion exhibit opening in Spring 2014. In recognition of each gift, donors receive a handcrafted, custom-engraved, unique glass butterfly that will be placed on the sycamore tree in the Pavilion’s courtyard. Gift levels start at $500.

**Naming Opportunities:** Throughout The Garden there are opportunities for donors to leave a legacy in honor or tribute of a loved one by naming specific features within The Garden in perpetuity. For example, the Bill and Norma Verbeck Courtyard located at the entrance to the Butterfly Pavilion is the most recent feature named in honor of these long-time Garden supporters. Naming opportunities start at the $25,000 level.

### Garden Benches

Garden benches are located throughout The Garden and donors may commemorate a special event or loved one with a bronze plaque placed on these attractive benches. A gift of $2,500 secures your dedication of the bench for a 10-year period after which time you may renew your exclusive patronage.

**Brick Pavers:** In key areas in The Garden there are brick pavers where your honor or tribute dedication can be added. Front Gate Pavers are located at the main entrance to The Garden and garner significant visibility. Your gift of $500 secures one of these pavers with a dedicated inscription. Plaza Pavers, located just inside the entrance gate and near the gift shop are just $250 and come with a custom inscription.

Please contact Development Officer, Lorraine Frigolet, at lorraine@thegarden.org, for more information about this program and join others who have honored their loved ones or paid tribute to special events in their lives by supporting The Garden.

### The Garden thanks the following Corporate Members for their ongoing support:

- **Backflow Services**
- **Baldwin & Sons**
- **Bennett & Associates**
- **City of San Diego**
- **Helix Water District**
- **Nolte Associates**
- **Otay Water District**
- **San Diego County Water Authority**
- **SDG&E**
- **Sweetwater Authority**

For more information on Corporate Membership, please visit [www.thegarden.org](http://www.thegarden.org) or contact Lorraine Frigolet at 619-660-0614 x15.

### The following donors generously contributed to The Garden during September 2013 - November 30, 2013

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Donors</th>
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<tr>
<td>$5,000 and above</td>
<td>Village Nurseries (In-Kind)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$1,000-$2,499</td>
<td>Anonymous, Stan Holman (In-Kind), Metropolitan Water District, Mountain States Wholesale Nursery (In-Kind)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$500-$999</td>
<td>Armstrong Nursery, Maureen Stapleton, David Welborn &amp; Stephanie Brownell, Richard Wright</td>
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<td>$250-$499</td>
<td>Vince &amp; Kay McGrath (In-Kind), Jim &amp; Cheryl Minshew</td>
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<td>$100-$249</td>
<td>Maggie Barnett (In-Kind), Donna Bartlett-May Family, David &amp; Paula Block, John &amp; Suzanne Bridges, Briggs Family Trust, Samuel Occiati Family, Nancy Fassett, Marian &amp; Patricia Gillespie, Michelle LaGrandeur</td>
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<tr>
<td>$5-$99</td>
<td>Constance L. Cline, Mike Colt, Julia deBeauclair, Gerald &amp; Janet Mulder, Jack &amp; Helen Ofield, David &amp; Sandra Polster, Andrew Raines, &amp; Karen Garcia Raines, Kenneth Renstrom, Sidney &amp; Sally Saltzein, Joan &amp; Ray Singer</td>
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### New Members September - November 30, 2013

<table>
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<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>Agave</td>
<td>Michael Wallace &amp; Monica Campanella, California Wild Grape, John Chapra &amp; Diane Schaeffer, Peter &amp; Kathy Cronin, Lorraine Frigolet, Kevin &amp; Chin Gannon, Everett Meiner &amp; Linda Espino, Brenda Pierce, Dan &amp; Kim Reynolds, Tom &amp; Mary Sumnicht</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>Frank &amp; Laura Tosatto, Rich &amp; Kevin Underwood, Lori &amp; Andrea Zarattini</td>
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<td>Mark Barrett, Connie Beck, Daniel Carney, Jillian Chu, Betty Clement, Patty DeBusk, Shan Fox</td>
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<td>Student/Military</td>
<td>Patricia Frank, Laurie Gore, Carol Gross, Esther Hays, Breita Henson, Linda Legerton, Ron MacFarland, Jeannia Manley, Susan McColl, Shirleen Murray, Judith Newland, Sonja Prestridge</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jeraldine Scaife, Stephanie Shanks, Carol Wells, Barbara Wight</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Katie Busch-Sorensen, Marcella Maxwell</td>
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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 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 Nursery — 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.