



In Bloom

A Newsletter of The Water Conservation Garden

Winter 2014

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

Visit us at: www.thegarden.org

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Cover photograph:
Grevillea Majestic by Walter Parkola

Executive Director's Column Not Resting on Our Laurels



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.

John Bolthouse
Executive Director

The Garden is thankful for ongoing financial support from the members of our Joint Powers Authority:



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.



L-R: John Laird, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency; Pam Meisner, Education Director and Ms. Smarty-Plants™; Matthew Rodriguez, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency; Karen Ross, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture

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.



Dorcas E. Utter Butterfly Pavilion scheduled for completion and grand opening in Spring 2014.

Celebrate the opening of the Dorcas E. Utter Butterfly Pavilion at the first-annual Butterfly Festival!

- Tours of the Butterfly Pavilion
- Pollinator Parade and Butterfly Release
- Butterfly-Habitat Plant Sale
- Butterfly Experts Booths and Workshops
- Butterfly Discovery Lab, Crafts, and Games
- Ms. Smarty-Plants™ and Miss Metamorphosis

For full program details, visit www.thegarden.org/butterfly.
Admission: \$5 18+ years; \$1 Ages 3-17. Free Parking

SAVE THE DATE

Enchanted Garden 2014

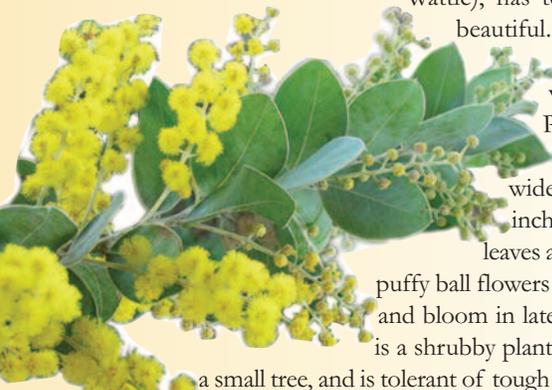
Mark your calendars for The Garden's first-ever fundraising gala. An evening of surprises awaits you and your friends as The Garden enchants under the glow of an evening sky like never before!

Saturday, October 18, 2014

IN THE GARDEN

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 south-western 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 south-western 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, protea were first grown in the U.S. right here in San Diego county as well as in Santa Barbara, CA.



Grevillea 'Moonlight'



Protea 'Sylvia'

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 Proteacea 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.

WEDDINGS • RECEPTIONS • CORPORATE EVENTS • MEETINGS • BIRTHDAY PARTIES • MEMORIALS • ANNIVERSARIES

Imagine 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!





Whitney Dueñez at The Garden's compost exhibit.

Spotlight on a Volunteer Whitney Dueñez, Master Composter

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!*



Garden Docent Whitney Dueñez (R) is presented with the 2013 Dorcas Utter Award for Extraordinary service by Executive Director John Bolthouse

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 x13.

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



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 Matarese*

CONSERVATION IN ACTION

Profile of Water-Saving Gardeners: Vince & Kay McGrath

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.



Kay and Vince McGrath enjoy their backyard.



Beautiful water-wise landscape replaced thirsty turf.

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.

San Dieguito Lagoon Open-Air Classroom Groundbreaking



Photo courtesy of Jim Coffee

Ms. Smarty-Plants™ joined officials and students at The San Dieguito Lagoon 'Birdwing' Open-Air Classroom groundbreaking event on October 24th, 2013. Ms. Smarty-Plants celebrated the opening with the students and encouraged them to conserve at home by planting native plants, which she provided to them.



The Water Conservation Garden congratulates Helix Water District on a century of excellence in water service.



VISIT www.watersmartsd.org/residential-guide to view San Diego County Water Authority's new online **eGuide to a WaterSmart Lifestyle** today!

FOCUS ON PHILANTHROPY



“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 hand-crafted, 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.



Friends of the Butterflies

Thomas Allingham	Tony & Pauline Garcia	Tom & Bonnie Scott
Sue Bell	Jenny Garland	Carolyn & Klaus Steuermann
Sue Ellen Benson	Steve & Eleanor Garnet	Carol Stevens
Chuck & Carole Ann Brown	Margaret Harder	Jan & Paul Tubiolo
James & Pat Brown	Peggy Matarese & Lucy Dunkin	Verbeck Foundation
Helen Cage	Anne Mayer Family	Judy Vickrey
John Clifford	Jim & Cheryl Minshew	Village Nurseries
Rosalie Dosik	Mountain States	Joy & Don Walsh
Tony Embrey	Wholesale Nursery	Richard Wright
Joan Forbes	Gaylord & Jill Norcross	
Fortress Fence & Landscaping		

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 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	Otay Water District
Baldwin & Sons	San Diego County Water Authority
Bennett & Associates	SDG&E
City of San Diego	Resource Conservation District of
Helix Water District	Greater San Diego
Nolte Associates	Sweetwater Authority

For more information on Corporate Membership, please visit 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

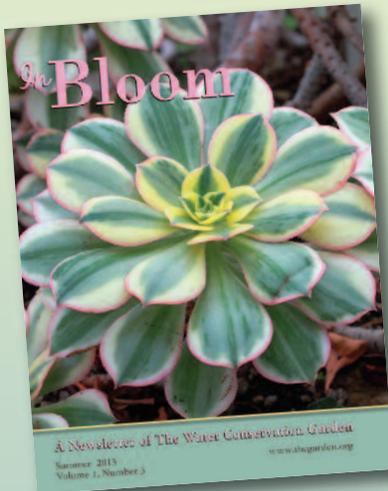
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\$1,000-\$2,499 Anonymous Stan Holman (In-Kind) Metropolitan Water District Mountain States Wholesale Nursery (In-Kind)	\$250-\$499 Vince & Kay McGrath (In-Kind) Jim & Cheryl Minshew			

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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.