

A Newsletter of 'The Water Conservation Garden

Winter/Spring 2015 Volume 5, Number 1 www.thegarden.org

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

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

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Executive Director's Column Sneaking a Peak Back



Anyone who knows me well enough, knows that I am forward-thinking in my approach to organizational stewardship. I try to keep The Water Conservation Garden's focus on its future because it is there that the relevance of our role in the community

will be defined. However, there is great pride in what The Garden accomplished this past year, so how could we not look back and smile just a little.

On October 18, The Garden held its first ever major fundraising event, "The Enchanted Garden" Gala. Wow! This one-of-a-kind event featured performance artists, farm-to-table fare, and specialty lighting throughout The Garden, and was a magical backdrop for an evening of philanthropy that enabled us to raise over \$130,000, part of which will be seed money for our future new children's garden. We are deeply grateful to all who attended and supported our event, which was made possible by our many generous sponsors, in-kind donors, event volunteers, and the dedicated volunteer leaders of our Gala Committee. Be sure to mark October 17, 2015, on your calendar for next year's gala.

In April, we introduced our Dorcas E. Utter Memorial Butterfly Pavilion, The Garden's largest new exhibit in years. Ultimately, over 4,000 patrons visited this experiential display in its first season - the first of many new demonstration exhibits we are introducing in the coming years. Be

sure to visit our next new exhibit, the Habitat Garden, scheduled to open in June 2015.

The Garden was the beneficiary of numerous examples of tremendous generosity in 2014. Our great longtime friend Bill Verbeck gave a meaningful financial gift once again this year. Hunter Industries, returning as a Garden supporter, donated more than \$60,000 worth of landscape lighting via their F/X Luminaire subsidiary. California American Water and the County of San Diego once again showed their support of our educational programs, and we were honored that the San Diego Women's Foundation joined that chorus of valued support. A number of Rotaries and individuals pitched in with wonderful gifts funding the future Habitat Garden. And, of course, we remain ever grateful for the continued major annual support of our water agency partners, always listed with pride at bottom of this page.

There's no doubt that 2014 was a great year for The Water Conservation Garden. From new donors to new members to new visitors, we experienced a significant increase in interest in The Garden's mission and our activities. But, ultimately, our success has been the result of support from you - The Garden's loyal friends. We've set a high bar to reach for the coming year. With your continued support, our best years remain ahead.



Staff News



We are pleased to announce that Lauren Magnuson came aboard as The Garden's new Education Assistant this summer! In this role Lauren will plan, implement, and deliver youth and adult education programs,

and act as a second "Ms. Smarty-PlantsTM" educator as the popular youth program continues to grow. Previously, Lauren worked with Greenpeace in San Diego and Raleigh, North Carolina leading environmental trainings and managing grassroots programs. Be sure to stop by the education department to meet this wonderfully enthusiastic lady.

 ${f T}$ he Garden is thankful for ongoing support from the members of our Joint Powers Authority:















NEWS & EVENTS

Thank you to all who supported and attended The Garden's inaugural (and sold out) "Enchanted Garden" Gala on October 18. With your support, \$130,900 was raised for our education programs and the creation of a new children's garden! The 2015 gala will be held on Saturday, October 17, and ticket sales will be announced this summer. Be sure to get your tickets early as this event is expected to sell out again!



Nomad Artz Entertainment



Hugo Murillo, Manuela Bump-Murillo, Evan Kendig as "Puck"



Nomad Artz Entertainment



Debbi Dodson, Meena Westford, Charlie Copelan



DeAna Verbeke, Lynda Muse, Nancy Kiefer



Bill and Donna Hendrix

Garden's Education Director a WILL Honoree

Congratulations to Pam Meisner, The Garden's Education Director and Ms. Smarty-PlantsTM education ambassador, who was a recipient of the East County Chamber of Commerce's Women in Leadership Luncheon (WILL) award along with six other women from various industries in San Diego on October 17, 2014.

The recipients were honored for their outstanding leadership, exemplary character and integrity in the community, as well as their efforts to empower women to succeed and prosper.



Pam Meisner (center), with members of her education team, Lauren Magnuson (L) and Jillian Quint (R).

Support Grows for Habitat Garden

The new habitat garden that will be installed next to the Dorcas E. Utter Memorial Butterfly Pavilion in the spring of 2015, recently received generous contributions from Rotary Clubs in San Diego County. The newest clubs to offer their support are Rotary Club of Lemon Grove and La Mesa Sunrise Rotary, with a matching donation from the Rotary International District, San Diego Chapter. Donors Frank and DeAna Verbeke also made a meaningful donation to this much-anticipated new garden. Thank you to these wonderful supporters!

NEWS & EVENTS

SAVE THESE DATESFOR SPRING 2015 EVENTS



SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 9AM-3PM

Enthusiastically referred to as "the tomato freak's Woodstock" by the New York Times, **TOMATOMANIA!** is the world's largest (and most fun) tomato seedling sale, and a tomato lovers' mecca! Rare, classic and brand new (to many) tomato varieties are a core attraction, and this year TOMATOMANIA! creator Scott Daigre will introduce and sign his new book, *TOMATOMANIA!* A Fresh Approach to Celebrating Tomatoes in the Garden and in the Kitchen.

FREE admission to the event with a nominal fee for presentations (\$5 Garden Members; \$10 Non-members). More information about TOMATOMANIA! is at www.tomatomania.com.



SATURDAY, MAY 9, 9AM-3PM

The Butterfly Festival returns for a flutter of butterfly fun! Let your imagination take flight as you and your family meet some of San Diego's extraordinary butterflies up-close, explore the mysteries of metamorphosis, and learn to create a butterfly habitat. Kids can dress up and join the Pollinator Parade and revel in a variety of other kid-centric activities.

Admission: \$5 18+ years; \$1 Ages 3-17; Garden Members Free. Free Parking.

Sponsorship opportunities available.
Contact Events Director Diane Owens at 619-660-0614 ×17.

Docents "Metamorphize" Pavilion Walkway



Another docent team has amazed us with the talent, creativity and generosity of each of its members. This summer, The Garden's "Tri-Team", (L-R) Pauline Garcia, Kathryn Clayton, Bonnie Kime-Scott, Sonya Heiserman, Carol Gross, Rosalie Dosik, Sally Long, and Marty Sullivan spent four months transforming Italian glass smalti tile, river rock, mortar and concrete into whimsical caterpillars that adorn what was once an ordinary DG footpath around the butterfly pavilion. The team took great care to reiterate the colors already present in the fused glass designs at the pavilion's entrance, as well as featured plants and butterflies. The results are magnificent 8 feet long caterpillar stepping stones that harmonize with the butterfly pavilion and make it a joy to navigate its exterior. Visit the pavilion soon to see for yourself!

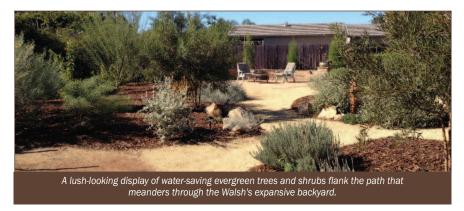
Community Volunteers Help The Garden



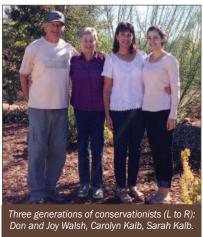
2014 was a great year for new volunteers in The Garden! Several groups from the community came forth to assist with the myriad tasks we found before us during an incredibly busy year of new exhibits and events, in particular as we geared up for our "Enchanted Garden" Gala. Our heartfelt thanks extends to: The East County Sprites, Ernst & Young Employees, Target Employees, and the University of Redlands Alumni for helping us put our best foot forward this year.

CONSERVATION IN ACTION

Lush & Low-Water



At the Walsh's ranch-style home in Fletcher Hills, water conservation is a family affair. As a Water Conservation Garden docent, Joy Walsh serves as an ambassador of saving water in the landscape, and nearly two years ago, she and her husband Don took her own good advice and installed a beautiful, lush-looking landscape in their backyard. The renovated space, once home to a swimming pool, invites leisurely strolls and contemplation of the many varieties of water-saving trees and shrubs found atop curved and softly mounded, mulched planting beds. The new space saves water and is low maintenance.

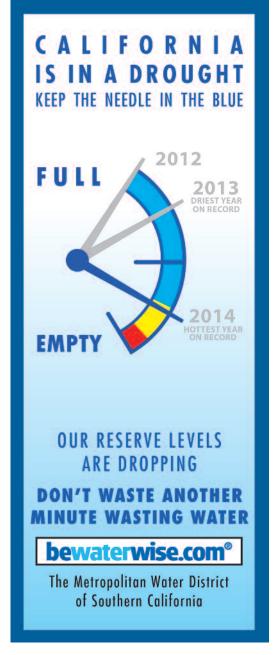


Plus, wildlife is at home here. Many small birds flit about while one explores the garden. The Walsh's daughter, **Carolyn Kalb**, created the backyard's new design. Gathering inspiration from an intimate understanding of her childhood home, including sunlight patterns and the function of the space, Carolyn's design celebrates the interplay of greens against greens: blue-greens against silver-greens, against dark and yellow-greens, while small flowers contrast the foliage in an assortment of colors. A curved stone wall made of flagstone and rock veneer from KRC Rock in Lakeside frames one



end of the space and makes a nice sitting area from which to enjoy the trees and shrubs in this ample backyard. African sumac, palo verde, Tecate cypress, and crepe myrtle trees are flanked by shrubs like feathery cassia, desert mallow, grevillea and lemonade berry to give this backyard opportunities for bloom and interest year-round. With such a diverse plant palette to contemplate, it is no wonder that the Walsh's enjoy spending time together in their beautiful, water-saving backyard.

Landscape designer Carolyn Kalb specializes in water-saving landscapes and is a graduate of Cuyamaca College's landscape design program. To inquire about her services, call 619-318-6493. For information about KRC Rock, visit www.krcrock.com.





CLASSES AND EVENTS: WINTER & SPRING 2015

PRE-REGISTRATION required for all class participants at www.thegarden.org or by calling 619-660-0614 x10.

JANUARY











FEBRUARY





MARCH





Rainwater Harvesting and Grey Water

Saturday, January 10th, 10:00am - 12 noon

Every drop counts! Candace Vanderhoff, architect and owner of "RainThanks and Greywater", demonstrates the ease of use and money-saving potential of grey water and rain harvesting systems.

Members Free, \$10 Non-Members

The Dirt on Dirt

Saturday, January 17th, 10:00am -12 noon

Important to the success of all landscapes and gardens is the soil. Join Harold Bailey, aka "Dirty Harry", for a hands-on workshop to learn how to test your soil, how to prepare it for planting, and the proper use of fertilizers. **Members Free, \$10 Non-Members**

How to Hire a Landscape Contractor and Save \$\$\$

Saturday, January 24th, 10:00am -12 noon

Join Education Director, Pam Meisner, (Ms. Smarty-Plants™) for an informative, common-sense approach to hiring a landscape professional. You'll learn which questions to ask, how to properly plan, and receive moneysaving tips too! Class made possible by the San Diego County Watershed Protection Program.

Spring Docent Training Program

Two Saturdays: January 24th & 31st or April 18th & May 2nd, 12:30pm

Utilize your skills and talents to contribute to The Garden's success! There are many ways to get involved and wonderful new people to meet. Applicants to the docent training program must be current members of The Garden to participate. To register, please contact Pam Meisner, Education Director, at pam@thegarden.org or 619-660-0614 x13.

Home Compost Workshop

Saturday, January 31st, 10:00am -12 noon

Learn the basics of composting, how to compost with worms, and how to save water in the process with The Solana Center for Environmental Innovation's FREE workshop at The Garden! Compost bins will be on sale with subsidized prices for Unincorporated County residents. Cash or check only. **Limited to 20 participants. Register at www.solanacenter.org or call (760) 436-7986 x222.**

Hillside Gardening

Saturday, February 7th, 10:00am - 12 noon

Yes, you CAN have a lovely garden on a hillside! Professional landscape designer Connie Beck teaches you the tricks of planting on a slope.

Members Free, \$10 Non-Members

Garden Design

Saturday, February 28th, 10:00am - 12 noon

Not sure where to start? Landscape Designer Connie Beck shares her process for creating a landscape design from the ground up. Learn about design, irrigation, plant selection, and maintenance.

Members Free, \$10 Non-Members

TOMATOMANIA!

Saturday, March 14th, 9:00am - 3:00pm

Join California's largest tomato seedling sale featuring hundreds of heirloom and hybrid tomato varieties, expert advice, and the accessories you'll want to grow great-tasting tomatoes in your own backyard. It's a crazy celebration of America's favorite garden vegetable! Free admission to the event with a nominal charge for presentations: \$5 Garden Members; \$10 Non-Members.

The Protea Species: Exotic Options for Drought-Tolerant Gardens

Saturday, March 28th, 10:00am - 12 noon

Walter Parkola, owner of Blossom Valley Protea, will take you on a morning tour that showcases the protea and grevillea species on display at The Garden. A limited number of beautiful, high-quality plants will be available for purchase after class.

Members Free, \$10 Non-Members

Tel.: (619) 660-0614 x10 Fax: (619) 660-1687 www.thegarden.org

CLASSES AND EVENTS: WINTER & SPRING 2015

All participants: Pre-registration is required for all classes at www.thegarden.org or by calling 619-660-0614 x10.









MAY



Irrigation 101

Saturday, April 4th, 10:00am - 12 noon

Tune up your existing irrigation system to help it save you money! Steve Sherman, with California Landscape Technologies, offers tips for retrofitting existing systems and installing a basic drip system. Great for the irrigation challenged! **Members Free. \$10 Non-Members**

Garden Photography

Saturday, April 11th, 10:00am -12 noon

Ever wonder how those nature photographers get just the right shot? Join Harold Bailey as he shows you the tricks of the trade for capturing beautiful images around The Garden including inside the new Butterfly Pavilion! You will explore composition, exposure, lighting, and more. Recommended equipment: camera (any type), tripod, spare batteries and a piece of black cloth 3' x 3'. *A few loaner cameras, tripods and miscellaneous lighting equipment will be available. Limited to 15 participants. Members Free, \$10 Non-Members

Spring Garden Festival

Saturday, April 25th, 9:00am - 4:00pm

Cuyamaca College hosts this annual celebration of spring with activities for the entire family and a bountiful plant sale. The Garden and The Heritage of the Americas Museum join in the fun and welcome visitors throughout the day. **Details at www.cuyamaca.edu/springfest/2015/** .

Butterfly Festival

Saturday, May 9th, 9:00am - 3:00pm

The Garden celebrates the re-opening of butterfly season and the Dorcas E. Utter Memorial Butterfly Pavilion at our annual Butterfly Festival! Interact with butterflies, learn about their life cycle, and find out how to create a home butterfly garden of your very own. More details to come!

Admission: \$5 (18+ years); \$1 (3-17 years); Garden Members Free. Free Parking.

ONGOING PROGRAMS



Butterfly Pavilion - April 1st - July 31st

Visit the Dorcas E. Utter Memorial Pavilion for up-close butterfly encounters! Tours offered every half hour Friday-Sunday, 9am-3pm, or by appointment at 619-660-0614 x16. **Admission by suggested donation.**



FREE Garden Tours - Every Saturday at 10:30am

Tour the lush, charming, and water-wise Garden with a knowledgeable docent to hear what makes our garden special, and you'll be inspired to create a water-wise landscape of your own. Check our website for a listing of monthly themed tours.



FREE Special Access Tour - Every Third Sunday at 10:30am

Have trouble navigating the terrain of The Garden? Let us take you for a ride! Explore The Garden from the comfortable Verbeck Shuttle with a Garden Docent. This tour seats only 4-5 people.

Advanced reservations required. Call 619-660-0614 x16.



Professional Landscape Design Consultations

Spend 45 minutes, one-on-one, with a professional landscape designer and leave with a basic design plan and list of suggested plants for your own drought-tolerant landscape. Bring a photo of your house, a list of areas you want to re-design, the dimensions of the space, and photos of design styles you love. Call 619-660-0614 x10 for appointment availability, designer information and reservations. Members \$60, Non-Members \$75



Ms. Smarty-Plants[™] School Tours and Assembly Program

Calling all kids groups! Join Ms. Smarty-Plants[™] as she takes you on a magical, fun, and interactive journey through plant adaptations, the water cycle, conservation, and much more. **Become a Ms. Smarty-Plants[™] Earth Hero! To book an educational tour of The Garden or a school assembly program, contact Education Specialist Jillian Quint at 619-660-0614 x16.**



EDUCATION

Junior Eco Ambassadors



"Once we're out of water, we're out of luck!" Ally Guzman, Team Leader of the Junior Eco Ambassadors is as concerned as she is hopeful about the current drought and its effect on our water supply for generations to come. She teamed up with fellow students from Hilltop Middle School and Tierra del Sol Middle School in Lakeside, who share her passion for protecting critical resources and encouraging others to do the same.

"There is such an awesome energy when young people are involved in conservation," says Pam Meisner, Education Director. Pam helped establish the Junior Eco Ambassadors as a way to develop the next generation of leaders, at a time when conservation is so critical.

In their monthly meetings the ambassadors learn about issues impacting their environment and express ideas for inspiring children and adults to conserve our precious water supply. At The Garden's recent "Ask the Experts" Expo, the ambassadors made their public debut by displaying a very long string of empty water bottles, which represented the amount of water that is used in a 5 minute

shower. People were surprised to see just how much water is used, and the ambassadors acquired over 50 pledges from visitors who wanted to keep their shower to five minutes or less, and in doing so help save approximately 30,000 gallons of water every month!

There are more great things to come from the Junior Eco Ambassadors who are already living up to their motto, "Water-wise & World-wise!" The Junior. Eco Ambassadors are recruiting members (grades 6th- 8th). Contact pam@thegarden.org.



Work Experience Program Grows

The Garden is excited to offer another new semester of work experience internships in Spring 2015 to college students pursuing horticulture studies throughout San Diego County. This semester, we welcome back students from Cuyamaca College who will intern at The Garden through the College's Cooperative Work Experience program.

Interning at The Garden gives students real world experience in managing a diverse selection of plant material. We offer specialized internships in seven different categories: irrigation, propagation, structural and habitat maintenance, arboriculture, plant collections, and facilities maintenance, and each student receives a unique project to complete.



For more information, please contact Steven Zampanti, Horticulturist and Work Experience Coordinator, at steven@thegarden.org





2015 SPRING DOCENT TRAINING PROGRAM

TWO SATURDAYS: JANUARY 24 & 31, OR APRIL 18 & MAY 2 12:30PM

Utilize your skills and talents to contribute to The Garden's success! Lead tours of our venue, help maintain the landscape, volunteer with special events or help with retail in the Gift Shop. There are many ways to get involved and wonderful new people to meet. Applicants to the docent training program must be current members of The Garden to participate.

To register, please contact Pam Meisner, Education Director: pam@thegarden.org or 619-660-0614 x13.

Spring Pop! Pop! Pop!









1. Baby Blue Eyes 2. Lupine 3. Farewell-to-Spring, California Poppy, Bluebells, and Goldfields

4. Calendula

In our Mediterranean climate it can be hard to tell the difference between spring and summer (hot & hotter?). But there's an inexpensive trick to creating an explosive, low-water, extravaganza of seasonal spring color: annual wildflowers. Blazing Stars, Popcorn Flowers, California Poppies, Wind Poppies, Ghost Poppies, Chinese Houses, Meadowfoam, and Canterbury Bells are just a few of the evocative, brilliantly colored, native & California-friendly wildflowers that will be featured this spring at The Water Conservation Garden.

Few gardeners utilize annuals to their best advantage, which is to mass them in bold swaths of single colors. Annual seed is relatively cheap for such a big impact, and smaller annuals can be planted amongst longer-lived perennials doing double-duty for your garden space.

Annual wildflower seed is best planted in loose soil, gravel, or cobble. In rocky conditions, simply scatter the seed into the rocks and apply water. In exposed soils, lightly cover with a thin layer of dirt or compost and water lightly to prevent pooling. If you are planting into mulched beds be sure to form small holes in the mulch to plant within so that the seedlings have access to open air and sun. Water weekly unless the weather comes through with some good rain. With 1" of rain or more you can turn off your irrigation for 3-4 weeks during the winter months in a low-water garden. Plant cool season wildflower seed successively from September to February to extend the bloom period into early summer.

The wildflowers on display at The Water Conservation Garden this spring will be

available for purchase as sprouts in six-packs at our Gift Shop from early spring through the Butterfly Festival on May 9th. There are also many mail order sources that can be found on the Internet just by searching "wildflower seeds".

Residents living close to the beach can enjoy wildflowers just as well as their inland neighbors. Five wildflower species that are reliable for producing big color in coastal San Diego are: Mountain Garland (Clarkia unguiculata), many color forms of California Poppy (Eschscholtzia californica), Snapdragons (Antirrhinum sp.), Calendula (Calendula officianalis), Desert Bluebells (Phacelia campanularia), and Baby Blue Eyes (Nemophila menziesii) for shade. And don't forget the local Miner's Lettuce (Claytonia perfoliata), which produces lush edible foliage in early spring.

GOT **BLUES**

IN THE GARDEN



Don't miss a chance to include these wildflowers in the garden.

Desert Blue Bells Blue Flax **Blue-eyed Grass Baby Blue Eyes**



FLAVORS OF THE GARDEN

Summer Tomato Vam Recipe courtesy www.finecooking.com

Sweet but not too sweet, this luxuriously textured, yet easy-to-make jam is great on burgers or served alongside grilled lamb or salmon. It also pairs exceptionally well with cheeses and cured meats, and is divine eaten right out of the jar!

INGREDIENTS

3/4 cup granulated sugar 1/4 cup good quality white wine vinegar 4-1/2 lb. ripe tomatoes, seeded and coarsely chopped (about 10 cups) 1 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes (optional) Kosher salt

DIRECTIONS

- 1. In a 5- to 6-quart pot, combine the sugar, vinegar, and 1/4 cup water. Cook over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until the sugar dissolves and the mixture looks syrupy, about 5 minutes.
- 2. Add the tomatoes, red pepper flakes (if using), and 1/2 tsp.
- 3. Cook over low heat, stirring occasionally, until the tomatoes have broken down and the juice has thickened, 1-1/2 to 2 hours. (You may need to stir more frequently as the jam thickens.)
- 4. Season to taste with salt. Let cool to room temperature, transfer to a jar, and refrigerate for up to 2 months. Yields about 1.5 cups.

IN THE GARDEN

We extend our deepest gratitude to the following sponsors that generously supported our inaugural "Enchanted Garden" Gala.



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Eternal Gardens of Rome July 9-15, 2015

The Water Conservation Garden and the San Diego East County Chamber of Commerce present an unforgettable tour of the gardens of one of the world's most historically rich regions - Rome. Pack your bags, hop aboard the plane, and leave the rest of the planning to Colette Tours who will be your hosts throughout this incredible adventure that departs from San Diego. An informational event will be held at The Garden on January 16 at 6pm. To reserve a seat, send an email to diane@thegarden.org.

The following donors generously contributed to The Garden during July - October 2014

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A very special **THANK YOU** to all who attended and supported our inaugural Enchanted Garden Gala this year.

Samuel Yu & Makiko Murakoshi

We extend our thanks to the Charter Members of the "Friends of the Butterflies":

2013 Water Conservation Garden Docents
Tom Allingham
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For more information on Corporate Membership, please visit www.thegarden.org or contact John Bolthouse, Executive Director at 619-660-0614 x11.



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Saturday, April 11th



2015 Spring Garden Tour presented by:





