BUTTERFLY SEASON BEGINS WITH FESTIVAL ON MAY 14 PAGE 9

LAUGHTER IN THE GARDEN PAGE 5

EAST COUNTY NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR PAGE 5
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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“The Earth laughs in flowers”
– Ralph Waldo Emerson

Spring is a time of renewal and in no place is this more evident than here at The Water Conservation Garden. All of our hard work during the winter rains has paid off and The Garden is in her full grandeur! People are always surprised when they visit The Garden and find that you can indeed find more beauty with less water.

To help usher in a new season at The Garden, I am very proud, excited and ready to take on the rewards and the challenges of the executive director position. I would like to thank past executive directors, staff, board members and our member water agencies for providing San Diego with such a beautiful and valuable educational resource.

Hands-on educational resources at The Water Conservation Garden are vital for our region’s continued commitment to water conservation. Water conservation in Southern California should not always be in response to a drought, but should become a way of life for us all. Water is vital not only for our health and well being, but for the beautiful environment that surrounds us. Please join me in making a commitment to conserve this precious resource.

We have two very special events this spring to help you to fulfill that commitment. The first is our First Annual Water-Wise Home Garden Tour. Five of our wonderful docents are opening their gates for you to experience the beauty of their drought-tolerant landscapes. Each homeowner is an expert in their own right with knowledge they are eager to share.

The second event is our Third Annual Butterfly Festival. Learn about plants that will attract native butterflies (including the Monarch) to your yard, join Ms. Smarty-Plants™ and Miss Metamorphosis at the pollinator party, see caterpillars and butterflies up close in the Discovery Lab, visit our gift shop for unique items and enjoy a beautiful Spring day in The Garden.

We hope to see you in The Garden at our blooming Spring events!

Elyssa Robertson
Executive Director

NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS INSTALLATION

The Garden is pleased to announce several exciting developments for its Board of Directors for 2016.

In January, The Garden elected a new slate of officers for the 2016 term. Harold Bailey was selected as Board President, Peggy Matarese as Vice President, Mora de Morguia as Treasurer and Bonnie Scott as Secretary.

All four possess strong leadership and communication skills that will ensure the success and growth of The Garden in the coming year.

In addition, we welcome Mr. Patrick Pilz as the newest member of our Board of Directors. Patrick is the Manager of Conservation and Efficiencies at California American Water, overseeing all of the company’s conservation and public outreach programs throughout California. Its parent company, American Water, is the largest investor-owned water utility in the United States. Patrick has been working for California American Water since 2004, and the company is a long-time supporter of The Garden’s Ms. Smarty-Plants™ programs.

Patrick Pilz, Board of Directors
Docent Spotlight

As with everything at The Garden, docents and volunteers help make it possible and the expansion of The Water Drop Garden Shoppe is no exception. A huge thank you goes out to docents Joan Forbes, Gaylord Norcross, and Thom Bates for their tremendous work deconstructing the metal trellis in the plaza and repurposing it for the new gift shop. To complete the transformation, they built and installed gorgeous, redwood doors. A special thanks to staff members Heather Carlton, Clayton Tschudy and Daniel Mayorga for their inspiration, design talent and help with construction.

The Water Drop Garden Shoppe

Thank you to all of the contributors for the wonderful name suggestions for The Garden’s newly expanded gift shop. After reviewing over 150 entries, the new name selected was The Water Drop Garden Shoppe! Our two winners, Tricia D. and Barbara H., each received a one-year membership to The Garden and a $100 gift certificate to The Shoppe. Stop by the newly expanded outdoor gift shop for unique gifts and garden décor!

ONGOING PROGRAMS

FREE Garden Tours
Every Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

FREE Special Access Tour
Every Third Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
Reservation required, call 619-660-0614 x16.

Professional Landscape Design Consultations
Call 619-660-0614 x10 for appointment availability, designer information and reservations.

Ms. Smarty-Plants™ School Tours and Assembly Program
By appointment, call 619-660-0614 x16.

Visit www.thegarden.org for more information about these programs.

Docent Training Program
Sunday, April 17 & Sunday, May 1 | 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Utilize your skills and talents to contribute to The Garden’s success by becoming a Garden volunteer or docent! There are many ways to get involved and wonderful new people to meet. To register, contact Pam Meisner, Education Director, at pam@thegarden.org or 619-660-0614 x13.
Wildflowers are like magic, appearing on their own in cracks where nothing should live, often familiar but without a remembered name, sometimes more beautiful than all the carefully nurtured perennials in the garden. You throw some cheap seed with abandon and then, perhaps next spring or years later when the conditions are just so, a chorus of colors appears. Wildflowers are a welcoming of strangers, a surrendering of control, a gardening act that responds as well to prayers as to fertilizers.

There are some useful tricks. Many wildflowers grow well from gravel, and especially cobble. Light raking, foot stomping, and planting in loose sandy soil can help. Planting ahead of a fall rain, like giving an offering to the rain gods, really works. And of course, the best wildflower shows occur the spring following wildfires when carpets of color extend for acres, though I’m not suggesting you burn down your garden for the flowers.

Some wildflowers on show at The Water Conservation Garden this spring will be California Poppies, Desert Bluebells, Mountain Garlands, Tidy Tips, Goldfields, Hooker’s Evening Primrose, Marsh Fleabane, Chia, and others.

The Garden Voted East County Nonprofit of the Year

The Garden is thrilled to announce that it has been named the East County Business of the Year in the Nonprofit category! The award was bestowed through the East County Chamber of Commerce at the East County Honors annual award gala that took place on February 11. Recently appointed Garden Executive Director Elyssa Robertson, Education Director Pam Meisner and Board President Harold Bailey were present to accept the award. Thank you to the many supporters who voted to help The Garden receive this wonderful recognition!

Give the Gift of The Garden

A Garden membership is an ideal gift for the garden lover in your life. Garden members enjoy free classes, free or discounted admission to special events, reciprocal admission to 300 botanical gardens in North America, discounts at local nurseries and more. For Mother’s Day, The Garden is is offering $10 off new annual memberships (Individual level and above). Present the coupon at the Water Drop Garden Shoppe or enter coupon code MD2016 online. Learn more about the benefits of membership at www.thegarden.org.
Friends of East County Student Art Exhibit

“Our World Lives Through Conservation”

The Water Conservation Garden and The Friends of East County Arts are co-sponsoring the children’s art show, Our World Lives Through Conservation, on May 21 and 22. Held at The Garden, the show will be open to public school students from fourth through eighth grades from 50 East County schools. Each school will show six pieces of art selected by their committee, and the students and the school will be eligible for prizes and media recognition. The Garden’s Ms. Smarty-Plants™ will be participating as a judge and prizes will be awarded in various categories including viewers’ choice, best of theme, and art specific to water, soil, animals, and air conservation. For more information, visit www.friendsofecarts.org.

In The Garden

In the next few weeks, keep your eye on the H. Warren Buckner Cactus and Succulent Garden. For 15 years, this area has been a wonderful place to view many beautiful species of cactus and succulents. With the help of our volunteer “Succulent Team,” this exhibit will be revitalized to showcase these amazing plants for years to come. Many thanks to the Buckner family for this wonderful place in our Garden!

Trailer Donation

The Garden would like thank long-time Garden supporter and volunteer Richard Wright for his donation of a much-needed trailer. Capable of hauling up to 2,000 lbs of mulch, green waste and other materials, it will used daily by staff and volunteers. Thanks Richard!

For more donation opportunities at The Garden, please contact us at 619-660-0614.
Ms. Smarty-Plants™ reaches more than 63,000 children and adults throughout San Diego County each year. Each InBloom issue will highlight a favorite moment from her many adventures with school field trips, assemblies and her time in The Garden.

Conversations with Ms. Smarty-Plants™

Kids Say The Darndest Things

Ms. Smarty-Plants™ reaches more than 63,000 children and adults throughout San Diego County each year. Each InBloom issue will highlight a favorite moment from her many adventures with school field trips, assemblies and her time in The Garden.

While teaching a group of 55 first graders, I was explaining how important water is to everything and how we all need water to survive. During my presentation, I asked the class: What three things do plants need to grow?

You could see by the looks on their faces the wheels were turning, but one little girl’s hand flew up right away. I called on her, and she matter-of-factly stated: “The Father, Son and Holy Ghost!”

As if on cue, the little boy next to her asked: “Ghost? Why do plants need ghosts?”

For more information about Ms. Smarty Plants™ or donate to The Garden’s education program, visit thegarden.org/learn/ms-smarty-plants.

Interesting Plant Facts

1. The Earth has more than 80,000 species of edible plants.

2. 90 percent of the foods humans eat come from just 30 plants.

3. Only one percent of rainforest plants have been studied for medicinal potential.

4. 80 percent of the Earth’s original forests have been cleared or destroyed; approximately four-fifths of the Earth’s forests are gone.

5. Just 10 percent of the world’s plant-rich areas are protected.

6. 68 percent of plants are in danger of going extinct.

7. 70,000 plant species are utilized for medicine.

cowatch.com/2013/12/31/10-incredible-plant-facts
**MARCH**

5

**The Dirt on Soils**
Saturday | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Soil is much more than just dirt! Instructor Harold Bailey shares the importance of soil as a home for living organisms that provides nutrients for plants to grow. This is a get-dirty session with both classroom and fieldwork to understand the properties of soil and enhance your garden soil.
Members Free, Non-Members $10

19

**Right Tree, Right Place**
Saturday | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Join us for a talk and walk to learn how your trees can last a lifetime. Melanie Conomikes, Board Member of Tree San Diego, discusses how to choose the best tree including preparation, maintenance and care during drought.
Members Free, Non-Members $10

**APRIL**

2

**Waterwise Irrigation**
Saturday | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Save money and water by learning how to make your irrigation system more efficient with gardening expert Jan Tubiolo.
Members Free, Non-Members $10

16 & 17

**Habitat Garden Master Class Series**

Day 1: Saturday | 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Day 2: Sunday | 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

**MEMBERS ONLY**

Presented by The Garden’s Director of Horticulture Clayton Tschudy, this two-day complete habitat gardening course will cover local ecology and native plant diversity, as well as a tour of The Garden’s Native Habitat Exhibit. Students will complete a native habitat design for their own home gardens.
Free, Garden Members only

17

**Docent Training Program**

Day 1: Sunday, April 17 | 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Day 2: Sunday, May 1 | 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Contribute to The Garden’s success by becoming a Garden docent! There are many ways to get involved and wonderful new people to meet. To register contact Pam Meisner, Education Director, at pam@thegarden.org or 619-660-0614 x13.

16

**Outdoor Garden Photography** *(limit 20 people)*
Saturday, April 16 | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Capture the essence of The Garden’s beauty with instructor Harold Bailey using point and shoot, SLR cameras or cell phones. Beginner to Intermediate level. Tripods recommended.
Members Free, Non-Members $10

24

**Qigong in The Garden**
Sunday | 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Instructor Reyna Lerma guides students through a Chinese movement series that integrates physical postures, breathing and focused intention. This is a great class for beginners. Bring a mat or blanket, and wear comfortable clothes. No class in case of rain. Free, $10 suggested donation. No registration required.

30

**Sustainable Seed Harvesting**
Saturday | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Get a head start on your vegetable garden and extend the growing season! Instructor Mannah Gbeh shares easy methods to collect seeds, along with ways to prepare for next season’s seed harvest. Class participants will receive seeds from Bee Valley Farm!
Members Free, Non-Members $10.00
PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL CLASSES AT WWW.THEGARDEN.ORG OR BY CALLING 619-660-0614 X10
In spring of 2015, the San Diego Public Utilities Department began collaboration with The Water Conservation Garden to design a drought-tolerant and climate-adapted landscape at their water testing site in the Naval Training Center (NTC) neighborhood in Point Loma. The Garden’s Director of Horticulture, Clayton Tschudy, met with site managers and city officials who wanted to create a xeriscape showcase for the coast of San Diego, and designed a landscape featuring low-water grasses, native oak trees, low-water ornamental shrubs, and plants from the local coastal sage scrub plant community.

Named in honor of The Water Conservation Garden, The Garden at NTC features permeable surfaces to support storm water pollution prevention, coastally adapted lawn alternatives such as Seashore Paspalum and the native Saltgrass, and shrubs native to the coastline composed to create habitat for local critters. Beautiful ornamental grasses like Regal Mist Muhly provide a shot of drama to the naturalistic space.

The three-acre space will service the PUD building, other local office buildings, and patrons of hotels that are currently under construction. It sits next to the harbor, and looks across a short expanse of water to the park in Liberty Station. This spring, many of the shrubs will already be in bloom, transforming what was once a tired lawn into an exciting new public park. The Garden at NTC is free to the public and open seven days a week.

InBloom highlights a local business that supports The Garden. We encourage Garden patrons to consider these wonderful establishments when working on their next garden project.

Rancho Valhalla Nursery
1998 E. Chase Ave., El Cajon, 92020
619.590.1025
www.RanchoValhallaNursery.com
Garden Member Discount: 10 percent off

Serving San Diego since 2002, Rancho Valhalla is a family owned and operated business that sits on four acres in Rancho San Diego. Owner Ross Ellis turned Rancho Valhalla into a thriving nursery thanks to hard work and the desire to learn as much as he can about plants and landscape design. The nursery has a great selection of succulents and water-wise plants as well as a delightful array of pottery. In 1973, Ross launched Monterey Landscape Construction and currently employs 24 people. His creative eye for design is evident in a number of displays on the nursery grounds. He is a self-taught professional providing service in landscape design, irrigation, hardscape, lighting, ponds and waterfalls.

Stop by and see how Rancho Valhalla Nursery can help you turn your garden into a backyard paradise!
New Members

Dec 2015 - Jan 2016

Julia Ball and Alyssa Walton
Karen and Bryant Berk
Tom and Neal Biggart
Mary Blanco
Kathryn Blankanship
Dinah Carl
Betty Corvey
G.J. Crecelius
Tricia Daley
Debra Emerson
Rose Fairweather-Quinn
Linda Gilleran
Koby Hall
Jeremy and Mariah Hamm
Alan and Donna Hayward
Ann Heck
Diana Heying
Mary Jean Holmes
Jake and Susan Jacobson
Jeannine Goodsell and Robert Pruitt
Genie Jones
Joyce Knott
Ken and Lynn Langley
Susan Martin
Al Mazur and Rob Granat

Take your turn.

Turn on to California Friendly® Plants.
Every drop we save helps.

Donors, Dec 2015 - Jan 2016

$1,000 and Above
Julia Blyth
John and Melissa Bolthouse
Jim and Cheryl Minshew
Dr. Richard Wright

$250-999
Frank Belock
James Beyster
El Cajon Animal Center
Carol Fasching
Joan Forbes
Hunter’s Nursery
Suzanne Jones
Molly Nocon
Rancho Valhalla Nursery
Lawrence and Patricia Fox
Steve and Eleanor Garnet
Susan Grayson
Kim Kane and Dean Peabody
Steve and Eleanor Garnet

$100-249
Heidi Allingham
Julia Ball and Alyssa Walton
Linda Berger
Kirby Beyer
Genevieve Caraveo

Under $100
Deborah Atkins and Joyce Boomer
Margo Bergen
Luis Bernal
Lora Brown

Rosalie and Paul Dosik
Marty Eberhardt and Phil Hastings
Nancy Fassett
Lawrence and Patricia Fox
Steve and Eleanor Garnet
Susan Grayson
Kim Kane and Dean Peabody
Anne Mayer
Kay and Vince McGrath
My Rustic Garden
Marty and Tim Sullivan
Frances Thiercof
Jan Trentacosta
Robert Vadeboncoeur
Mark Watton
Planter’s Paradise
Sue Nelson
Gardens By The Sea Nursery
Rosalie Steinhauser

Armando Buelna
Margo Clements
John Clifford
Constance Cline
Whitney Duenez
Luana Duprey
Martin and Deanna Greenberg
Kathleen Hartshorne
Joanna Ihnatowicz
Christina Jackson
Florence Koga
Don and Jen Melucci
Brian and Kimberly Monahan
Gary and Carol Prior
Heather Reed
Gary Rold
Paul and Diane Sackos
Janet Schmid
Don and Virginia Smith
Karen Stauffer
Muriel Vasconcellos
Connie and Joe Via
Gregory Villard
Shauna Walvatne
Leslie Yoder
Myra Zimmerman

Barona is proud to support the Water Conservation Garden.

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Become a Member!

Membership at The Garden comes with a host of benefits including free classes, free admission to national and international botanical gardens and discounts in the Gift Shop and at partner nurseries and garden shops.

To become a member, call 619-660-0614 x 14 or visit www.thegarden.org and click “SUPPORT.”

GREAT MEMBER BENEFITS

Garden members now receive a 10-20% discount on all purchases at the following partner businesses. A current membership card must be presented at the time of purchase.

- **Anderson’s La Costa** — Encinitas (andersonlacostanursery.com)
- **Barrels & Branches Nursery** — Encinitas (barrelsandbranches.com)
- **Gardens by the Sea** — Leucadia (gardensbytheseanursery.com)
- **Hunter’s Nursery** — Lemon Grove (huntersnursery.com)
- **Kniffing’s Discount Nursery** — El Cajon (kniffingnursery.com)
- **The Madd Potter** — Encinitas (maddpotter.com)
- **Mission Hills Nursery** — San Diego (missionhillsnursery.com)
- **My Rustic Garden** — La Mesa (myrusticgarden.com)
- **Rancho San Diego Nursery** — El Cajon (ranchosandiegonursery.com)
- **Rancho Valhalla Nursery** — El Cajon (ranchovalhallanursery.com)