The Water Conservation Garden proudly presents this annual report for the fiscal year (FY) of 2012/2013. This was an important and formative year with new faces at The Garden, expanded educational programming, and development of a robust Board of Directors.

Through our JPA Partners, our numerous donors, the over 70 volunteers and staff, The Garden continues to thrive.

The Water Conservation Garden is a six-acre botanical and demonstration garden located in El Cajon, California, adjacent to the campus of Cuyamaca College. The Garden is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate and inspire the public to appreciate the value of water in Southern California, specifically the efficient use of water in landscaping. The Garden conveys this message through its numerous demonstration gardens, interpretive exhibits, and award-winning education programs that promote water conservation and the sustainable use of related natural resources.

Since its opening, The Water Conservation Garden has received numerous state and national accolades, including an “orchid” Award from the San Diego Architectural Foundation in 1999 for design excellence and listed in the “top 10 Western Gardens” by Sunset Magazine in 2009.
Key Accomplishments for FY 2012/2013

FY 12/13 has focused on planning for the future….the future of existing exhibits, planning new exhibits and assessing maintenance needs.

- A comprehensive botanical inventory with over 300 species was compiled into one database. The database will be used to map plants throughout The Garden, determine future species needs, keep a record for the collection and to provide a complete list of plants that our visitors can purchase.
- The Dorcus E. Utter Butterfly Pavilion was designed, funded and constructed with groundbreaking occurring on March 2013. The native butterfly pavilion is one-of-a-kind in that the exhibit informs the public about the types of drought tolerant plants that can be utilized in landscaping that will attract native butterfly species including the monarch butterfly.
- The Garden participated in the 20th Annual Spring Garden Festival on April 27 with the Cuyamaca College Ornamental Horticulture Department.
- Held over 30 adult education classes
- Hosted 111 fieldtrips from over 30 schools.
- Added four new dynamic Board members each providing specialty expertise that The Garden can utilize to achieve our goals.
- Added three new staff members as our education and facilities grow.
- Hosted the eighth annual Fall Garden Festival and 14 sponsors and partners.
- Added 31 new and/or renewing members.
- Hosted the premier of the Robert Redford movie *Watershed* that was viewed by over 300 people.
- Partnered with numerous agencies including Project Wildlife, The Living Coast Discovery Center, Valhalla High School, High Tech High School.
- Continued to grow the Ms. Smarty-Plants™ Grows Earth Heroes© educational program.
- Hosted over 50 special third party events including weddings, private party functions, use of The Garden by other organizations and other special events.
- Obtained Grants from SDG&E, Hans Doe and substantial gifts from over 15 donors totaling over $126,000.

The Garden wishes to thank its over 70 docents and volunteers who’s hard work, countless hours and dedication have helped The Garden become the amazing educational, botanical and public garden resource it is today!
The Garden wishes to thank its over 500 members, donors and contributors! The Garden could not achieve its mission without your generous support.
During the Fiscal years 2012 and 2013 The Garden has seen phenomenal growth and potential. The coming year we hope to continue on this successful trajectory with the opening of more new exhibits, expansion of our education programs and launching our first annual fundraising campaign.

This year The Garden had over 60,000 visitors with more than 225 donors.

We would like to thank each and every volunteer, visitor and contributor to The Garden during this past year. Without you The Garden would not be able to grow!