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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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“A garden must combine the poetic and the mysterious with a feeling of serenity and joy.”– Luis Barragan

So much has happened at The Garden, it was truly an amazing Spring. Thanks to our many docents and volunteers, we had a successful first annual Water-Wise Home Garden Tour with over 400 attendees, we celebrated our 3rd Annual Butterfly Festival, and we revamped, replenished and renewed much of The Garden.

As we leave Spring behind and start into Summer, we are looking forward to making new friends and forming new partnerships. We are very excited to announce that due to an incredible gift from Dr. Samuel M. Ciccati, The Garden will be receiving its first ever endowment. The endowment will be managed by the San Diego Foundation and we are grateful to both Dr. Ciccati and The Foundation for moving The Garden toward a new era of financial stability. (See page 11 of this newsletter for more details regarding this gift).

There is something special about a Southern California summer: long days, warm evenings, hikes, fresh lemonade, barbecues with friends and wine at sunset. It is a time of year when we spend more time outside than inside, and nothing makes the summer more enjoyable than a beautiful garden. Although El Niño did not bring us the much-needed rainfall to replenish our landscapes, we can still have a beautiful garden of water-wise plants.

This issue of InBloom is all about Spectacular Succulents. Succulents are naturally adapted to surviving in drought conditions and are so much more than cacti. There are thousands of species of succulents worldwide, most with amazing, dramatic blooms.

Did you know there are over 60 different species of succulents here in The Garden? Not sure if succulents are right for your yard? Stop by and see the beauty of these uniquely adapted, showy plants in a garden setting.

We look forward to seeing you in The Garden!

Elyssa Robertson
Executive Director

The following are agencies that constitute the Joint Powers Authority (JPA) that owns The Garden and provides major funding:

The Garden is managed by The Friends of The Water Conservation Garden, a nonprofit organization, tax ID no. 20-4395919

The Garden is open daily from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (except for major holidays). See the “Plan Your Visit” page at www.theGarden.org for more information.

Get Social With Us!
Keep up with the latest on news, events and more!

InBloom Production
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Cover photo by: Tom Franks
Assorted succulents including Haworthia, Crassula, and Graptopetalum
**First Annual Water-Wise Home Garden Tour a Big Success!**

The Water Conservation’s Garden would like to thank the more than 400 visitors who attended our first annual Water-Wise Home Garden Tour on March 26. Our staff and volunteers enjoyed showing the gardens and sharing their knowledge of water-wise gardening to attendees!

The five beautiful and colorful gardens featured on the tour not only represented a variety of garden styles containing a wide assortment of water-wise plants, they illustrated the many ways in which you can have more beauty with less water. The homeowners were on hand to answer questions and attendees commented how inspired they were to make changes of their own after viewing the beautiful gardens on the tour.

The tour was made possible through support from the following tour sponsors: RCP Block and Brick, Hunter’s Nursery, Gardens by the Sea Nursery, Kniffings, My Rustic Garden, Planter Paradise and Rancho Valhalla Nursery. We would also like to thank Ausachia Nursery, Cuyamaca College Ornamental Horticulture, San Diego Horticultural Society, Richard Wright, Vince McGrath, Mary Ann Stepnowsky, Raymond Dexter, Rosie Steinhauser, and Sue Nelson for their support. Of course we could not have produced the event without the help of more than 50 incredible volunteers.

**Save the Date!**

Saturday, March 25, 2017 for next year’s tour!

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**In The Water Drop Garden Shoppe**

Envision an outdoor room surrounded by soft walls of living plants, filled with redwood furniture, potted succulent arrangements and garden art. This is the image that created The Garden’s new outdoor garden shoppe now open for your browsing and purchases. We have just added new products for summer, including lotions and soaps by The Naked Bee, a line made in America and dedicated to helping save the bees with Operation Pollination and includes FREE wildflower seeds with every purchase. Scents include Orange Blossom Honey and Grapefruit Blossom Honey. Come in and treat your hands to a special experience while helping to save our bees!

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**The Enchanted Garden Gala**

Save the Date! October 15, 2016

www.theGarden.org/Gala
Wags and Wine

Three Thursdays - June 16, July 21 and August 18, 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Attention dog lovers! The Garden is staying open late the third Thursday in June, July and August for you to enjoy fine wine and a leisurely stroll with your furry friend. Enjoy a lovely summer evening among the beautiful and unusual plants and trees. Wine and snacks will be provided, $5 per guest. Tickets can be purchased online or at-the-door. For more information, visit www.theGarden.org.

Recipe

Tomato and Herb Salad with Fresh Chive Cheese

Enjoying your bumper crop of tomatoes and herbs and need a cool refreshing dinner salad for those warm summer nights? Try the Tomato and Herb Salad with Fresh Chive Cheese recipe below, courtesy of Sunset Magazine.

Ingredients

2 pounds assorted vine-ripened tomatoes
12 to 14 slices fresh chive cheese or fresh mozzarella
About 1 tsp. sea salt
1 1/2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
1/2 teaspoon honey
1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
2 to 3 sprigs marjoram, plus flowers if any
10 to 12 basil leaves, plus flowers if any

Preparation

1. Slice large tomatoes; leave small tomatoes whole, or cut in wedges or halves. Arrange on a platter with cheese.
2. In a small bowl, whisk 1 tsp. salt, the vinegar, and honey until salt is dissolved; whisk in olive oil. Spoon over tomatoes.
3. Strip marjoram leaves and flowers from sprigs onto salad. With kitchen scissors, snip basil leaves and flowers over tomatoes. Sprinkle with salt to taste.

Members-Only Moon and Stargazing Party

Friday, July 15, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Garden members make it possible for us to provide fun and educational exhibits and programs to our community and we are pleased to present members-only events as one way to say thank you! Garden Members at The Wild Grape level ($100) and above are invited to attend our Moon and Stargazing Party with local astronomer George Varga. Get a spectacular view of a bright moon, along with Jupiter and Saturn, while enjoying special star-themed cookies, moon pies, Swiss cheese and other out-of-this world refreshments! Space is limited, so reserve by calling 619-660-0614 x14 or emailing Pia at pia@theGarden.org.

Members-only events are just one benefit to Garden membership. Other benefits include free or discounted admission to Garden events and classes, discounts at partner nurseries, free reciprocal admission to over 300 botanical gardens worldwide and more. For more information about the event and Garden membership, visit www.theGarden.org

Water Agency Customer Appreciation Day

Sunday, July 31, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

The Water Conservation Garden is pleased to host a special “appreciation day” for Helix Water District and Sweetwater Authority customers to visit to discover different varieties of drought-tolerant plants, learn how to “Toss the Turf” and get inspiration to incorporate water-wise gardening into their own gardens. Activities include presentations by Ms. Smarty-Plants™ about native butterflies to Southern California and how to attract them, and Clayton Tschudy, The Garden’s Director of Horticulture & Exhibits, will lead a tour of the new Native Habitat Garden and a discussion of habitat gardening and water reclamation. Customers will also enjoy special discounts in the Water Drop Garden Shoppe. See the events calendar at www.theGarden.org for more information.
The Garden’s Director of Horticulture, Clayton Tschudy, recently attended the 2016 Palm Springs Modernism Week to stay on the cutting edge of landscape design and the unique use of desert plants. What he found was so much more! Below is an excerpt of an article by Clayton.

If formalism in horticulture is defined as the imposition on a natural landscape of linear axes and geometric forms, then mid-century modernism challenged conventions by drawing inspiration from graphic design, utilizing circles, curvilinear forms, and abstract compositions to break up the regularity of designed landscapes. This take on modernism in the landscape was clearly on display this year at the 2016 Palm Springs Modernism Week, a 10-day event that celebrates the history of mid-century design in architecture. But what may be most striking about contemporary landscape design in Palm Springs is the blend of modern aesthetics and a homegrown movement towards the use of native and climate-adapted species, and other sustainable practices, known regionally as desertscaping. The confluence of these two trends yields strikingly original spaces, and points to a future where design treats sustainability challenges as opportunities for creative solutions.

Contemporary modernism in Palm Springs expresses itself as a sophisticated blend of naturalism and formal compositions, and utilizes the new diversity of climate-adapted plant species to accentuate this eclectic aesthetic. This movement is happening in local suburban home designs, such as in Robert Musial designed landscapes, where bright modern colors, specimen cacti, and loose perennial compositions that mimic natural desert topography, maintain some formal elements, but soften or omit the abstractions common in earlier mid-century landscape design.

But certainly, the most innovative sustainable modern landscape in Palm Springs is the extraordinary Gardens at Sunnylands at the Annenberg Foundation Retreat, the product of a large collaborative design effort. This contemporary garden opened in 2012 and set a new bar for landscape design in the region. Curvilinear modern compositions are made subtle by exploding out to large scale, massing of an array of climate adapted species fills the formal beds putting the emphasis on the plant life and habitat, and the widespread use of natural materials such as decomposed granite paths softens stonework and pavement. The result is a very modern space, with obvious references to mid-century modern design, that feels as if it could have appeared spontaneously in the desert. This is truly inspired desertscaping.

Palm Springs is a living museum of mid-century architecture and landscape design. But it is also a growing city struggling with environmental challenges. The combination of environmental drivers such as water scarcity, the historical frame of modernism, and a pool of innovative designers is giving birth to an inspired new landscape design movement that sees sustainability as a design opportunity and embraces the natural beauty of the local desert as an inspirational design palette. In few other cities does both the passion for design and the value for sustainability have such widespread community support. This unique mandate inspires innovation that will make Palm Springs a city to watch in landscape design for many years to come.

See the full article in the Articles section of the Landscape & Garden Resources page at www.theGarden.org/Learn.

Take your turn.

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

11 Balancing Hardscapes with Plants
Saturday, June 11 | 9:30 am – 11:30 am
Pavements, walls and other built structures create harsh glare and very deep shadows under our southern sun. Christiane Holmquist Landscape Design shows how well-selected plants can balance out the hard structures making our gardens softer and more welcoming.
Members Free, Non-Members $10

18 Drought-Defying California Garden
Saturday, June 18 | 9:30 am – 11:30 am
Author and Founder of California’s Own Native Landscape Design, Greg Rubin, touches on all aspects of native landscaping including mycorrhizal soil ecology in the home landscape, design concepts, plant selection, irrigation, pests and more. Greg’s new book, The Drought-Defying California Garden (with co-author Lucy Warren), will be available for purchase.
Members Free, Non-Members $10

25 How to Hire a Landscape Contractor & Save Money
Saturday, June 25 | 9:30 am – 11:30 am
Join Education Director Pam Meisner for an informative, common-sense approach to hiring a landscape professional. You’ll learn which questions to ask, how to properly plan, and receive money-saving tips too! Class made possible by the San Diego County Watershed Protection Program. Free, pre-registration required.

JULY

16 Lessons on Butterfly Gardening
Saturday, July 16 | 9:30 am – 11:30 am
Former High Tech Elementary schoolteacher Daniel Romo set out to grow a butterfly garden with his students. Together they created a successful monarch waystation that supports native species and nature learning. Join Daniel on a tour of the Butterfly Pavilion and hear stories that will inspire you to create your own pollinator habitat.
Members Free, Non-Members $10

23 Toss the Turf
Saturday, July 23 | 9:30 am – 11:30 am
More Beauty, Less Water, More Fun! Drought conditions are predicted to continue so why not create a beautiful landscape and save water too? Join Jan Tubiolo, landscape expert, as she takes you through the step-by-step process of removing or changing out your turf to prepare it for a more water-efficient and beautiful landscape.
Members Free, Non-Members $10

27 Wine & Walk: The Story of Plants
Wednesday, July 27 | 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm
Enjoy fine wine and a summer evening stroll along beautiful Garden trails with Docent tour guides and learn fun and interesting facts about some of the unusual plants here in The Garden. In keeping with conservation, bring your favorite wine glass and we will fill it! $5.00 per person, Pre-registration required.
Companion planting is a natural way to encourage plant growth, deter pests, attract beneficial bugs and flavor your garden vegetables. Mia Vaughnes, Founder of Good Neighbor Gardens San Diego Urban Sharecrop and a few of her student farmhands, will be here to guide us through a hands-on, companion planting, container gardening demonstration workshop. Bring your own, one-square-foot container.

Members Free, Non-Members $10

Planting Water
Saturday, August 27 | 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Regenerate your landscape with both active and passive sustainable planting and water harvesting strategies that can be used on any scale with landscape professionals from Communitree Gardens and H2OME. From techniques for modifying land contour to laundry-to-landscape systems, this class will cover a lot of ground.

Members Free, Non-Members $10

Pre-registration is REQUIRED for all classes at www.thegarden.org or by calling 619-660-0614 x10

Visit www.thegarden.org for more information about these programs.
Spring was an exceptionally busy time with the Education Team taking the Ms. Smarty-Plants™ show “on-the-road.” Ms. Smarty-Plants™ was the guest speaker at the Texas Military Institutes’ “Green Day” in San Antonio, Texas; she presented to 7,000, 3rd through 6th graders at the Children’s Water Festival in Irvine, CA; she performed on the main stage to the 23,000 attendees of the San Diego Festival of Science and Engineering’s Expo at Petco Park and led the Children’s Earth Parade at Earthfair in Balboa Park. As we head into summer, keep an eye out for Ms. Smarty-Plants™, you never know where she will turn up!

Interesting Plant Facts

1. It can take up to 75 years for a Saguaro cactus to develop its iconic “side arms” and 55 years for its first flower to bloom.

2. Cacti vs. Cactus, for a singular plant it is cactus for more than one plant it is “cacti” derived from the Latin or or cactuses” - derived from English. Both are correct.

3. The red “pear” fruit found on the Prickly Pear Cacti is also called a “tuna.”

4. There are approximately 2,000 different species of Cactus.

5. Many Euphorbia plants are succulents, but are not considered part of the Cactus family.

6. Except for the genus Rhipsalis, which is naturally occurring in both Africa and the Americas, Cacti are almost exclusively a new world plant family.

7. The white substance sometimes found on Prickly Pear Cacti, is actually an insect called a cochineal. When squished it produces a dark red carminic acid that is used as a dye commonly found in lipstick.

8. Succulents and Cacti are pollinated by butterflies, bats, hummingbirds and occasionally bees.

Education Highlights

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.

After a presentation to 5th graders at the Children’s Water Festival, a young man came up to me and with astonishment on his face said “Let me get this straight, you are a magician, a rapper AND a science teacher? Wow!” My reply, “Well, yes I am and you can be too!”

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

Plant Spotlight

Among the many colorful blooms that can now be seen in our Succulent and Cactus exhibit, perhaps the most extravagant is Echinopsis. This group of 128 South American species (and more hybrids) are known by a variety of common names such as Hedgehog Cactus, Sea Urchin Cactus, and Easter Lily Cactus. Their flowers are often 4-6” across, many-petalled, and come in satin tones of red, white, and pink. Because the Easter Lily Cactus flower is held aloft on a thin floral tube, their large blooms appear to float above the plants. All these easy cacti need is good drainage and low water to put on an extraordinary show.

A Magical Place

Looking for a one-of-a-kind outdoor venue for your next celebration? The Water Conservation Garden provides six acres of beautifully landscaped gardens that offer a unique and distinctive backdrop to your celebration. Whether the event is a wedding, work function, fundraiser, birthday party or any other type of social or corporate gathering, The Garden has the space to accommodate your needs. Our venue has even been described as “the most magical setting for a dream event.” Did you know that conducting your next business retreat or event in an outdoor setting has been proven to increase creativity, reduce stress and conflict, and, improve both concentration and memory?

The Water Conservation Garden has several unique vignettes that can be utilized for your next get-together. These include: a quiet, secluded gazebo, large and small amphitheaters (accommodating 300 and 40 people respectively), a plaza for large groups and several small patios for smaller groups. Interested in hosting your next event at The Water Conservation Garden? Call 619-660-0614 x10 for more information and to book an appointment for a tour.

At The Garden we continually remind our visitors that Water-Wise gardening does not mean that you must plant succulents. You can have a leafy green garden and be water wise. But did you know that you can also have a lush succulent garden as well?

There are thousands of succulent species in the world for you to choose from. At The Garden we showcase a lush succulent garden in our Cacti and Succulent Exhibit. Originally designed and installed in 2005 by renowned succulent expert Michael Buckner, this small oasis was renewed this spring. In the 11 years since its installation, the soil had compacted and become depleted of important nutrients needed for the plantings to thrive. The Garden’s horticulture department and the volunteer succulent team carefully removed each of the original plants, stored them, replaced the soil and added nutrients using Buckner’s “secret” recipe before replanting and adding new specimens.

This exhibit showcases over 40 colorful succulents including Easter Lily Cactus, Cherry Blossom Euphorbia, Sunset Aloe and decades-old Golden Barrel Cactus.

The original exhibit was installed in honor of Warren Buckner, father of Michael Buckner. Warren Buckner was an advocate of The Garden, serving on its board and on the board of Helix Water District. The Buckner family recently donated funds for a seating area for visitors to sit, relax and enjoy the beautiful succulent garden in honor of their parents.
Kniffing’s Discount Nurseries

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Garden Member Discount: 10%

Kniffing’s is much more than a nursery. It’s a real treat to shop the vast inventory of plants and garden accessories and visit with the various pets on the property. Kniffing’s is a nursery you’ll come back to again and again.

Don’t forget to show your Garden membership card, it will save you an extra 10% on your entire purchase!

PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

The Garden Receives

Generous Gift

The Garden has received a generous donation of $300,000 from Dr. Samuel M. Ciccati, Ph.D. Dr. Ciccati has been a long-time friend of The Garden and is one of the true visionaries that conceived of The Garden on Cuyamaca College land over 17 years ago. If it were not for Dr. Ciccati’s leadership, foresight, hard work and dedication, The Garden would not exist today. Because of his efforts, thousands of children and adults have visited and learned about natural resource conservation at The Garden.

The Water Conservation Garden, while supported by water agencies for many years, is well on its way to independence. This tremendous gift will enable The Garden to initiate an endowment through the San Diego Foundation, that will not only assure there is long term fiscal stability in our organization, it will also allow us to continue to educate residents, both young and old, about the importance of water conservation in our region.

To Honor Dr. Ciccati’s gift, The Water Conservation Garden will name its soon-to-be expanded education center “The Samuel M. Ciccati Water Conservation Education Center”. For more information about Dr. Ciccati, his gift, and The Water Conservation Garden, visit www.theGarden.org.

Become a Member for Great Benefits!

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/member.

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)

In each issue, 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.
New Members  Feb 2016 - April 2016

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Jasmine Bakker
Lexi Ballatore
Judy Basinski
Wanda Bass
Paul Beiley
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Natalie Wilson and Carol Williams
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Donors  Feb 2016 - April 2016

$1,000 and Above
Baldwin and Sons

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Maureen Stapleton
Mary Ann Stepnowsky and Tom Clark
Dr. Richard Wright

$100-249
Raymond Dexter
Ellen Downing
Robin and Barbara Mello
Robert and Joan Reese
John Young

Under $100
Ron Anderson and Nancy Mariani-Anderson
Andy and Ruth Ashcraft
Harold and Mary Jane Bailey
The Benevity Community Impact Fund
George Murphy
Melanie Schweitzer
Anthony Tesselaar
Judi Walton

Affiliate & Corporate Partners

The Water Conservation Garden would like to thank our Corporate Partners and Non-Profit Affiliates. The Garden appreciates all that these organizations do to keep The Garden a beautiful place!

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