BECOME A GARDEN 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 Garden’s Water Drop Garden Shoppe and at partner nurseries and garden shops (see list below).

We are always looking for additional ways to increase the value of membership and to show our appreciation to our members for their support. We are very excited to introduce our latest member benefit – a Quarterly Member Giveaway!

Beginning on March 1st and while supplies last, members can come by The Garden’s Shoppe for a FREE succulent plant. As noted earlier in this issue of In Bloom, many areas of The Garden have been redesigned and replanted. So now is a great time to rediscover The Garden and pick up your gift.

To become a member, call 619-660-0614 x 17 or visit www.theGarden.org/member.

Current members can find their membership expiration date above their name in the address listed above.
hab-i-tat (noun)

The natural environment in which a species or group of species lives.

We often speak of habitat when we are referring to wildlife, however, when we create landscaping at home aren’t we also creating habitat for ourselves? Habitat is created by living within the means of the surrounding environment. This includes temperature extremes, rainfall amounts, elevation, soils, available plant material and location.

When we create a landscape for our homes within these parameters we provide not only a beautifully sustainable space for us, but also nesting, feeding and protection for local wildlife. This issue of In Bloom explores how to create a landscape that is beautiful and fulfills your home design aesthetic, but is also suited to our Mediterranean climate and attracts birds, butterflies, and other beneficial animals.

Here in The Garden, staff and volunteers have been busy renovating and replanting gardens and exhibits designed to inspire beautiful and sustainable landscapes, including the Habitat Garden, the Dorcas Utter Butterfly Pavilion, the Formal Garden, the Sage Garden, the Vegetable Garden, the Meadow and the NEW Cut Flower and Cactus Gardens. These, along with our other exhibits, offer a wide variety of design and plant ideas and will provide a bounty of blooms this Spring. Come rediscover The Garden today!

For more resources about sustainable landscapes and habitat gardening, please visit www.theGarden.org.

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.
Tomato freaks, this is your celebration! TOMATOMANIA returns to The Garden for their weekend-long sale with heirloom and hybrid tomato seedlings of every size, shape, color and taste profile, along with supplies and expert tomato advice. Planting tomatoes marks the beginning of spring for many gardeners around the country and everyone loves the home grown taste of a fresh garden tomato!

Admission to TOMATOMANIA is free, with a nominal charge for a very informative tomato-growing presentation offered at 11:00am on both days. A Docent-led tour of The Garden will also be offered at 10:00am on both days. Seating is limited for presentations and visitors are encouraged to pre-register at www.theGarden.org/events/tomatomania-2017.

The Water Conservation Garden invites the public to its annual Butterfly Festival partnered with Cuyamaca College’s Spring Garden Festival, for a day of fun for all ages. The Garden will feature various family friendly activities such as tours of the Butterfly Pavilion, butterfly releases, workshops with local experts, a Butterfly Discovery Lab and Story Time with Miss Metamorphosis. Children are encouraged to dress as a caterpillar or their favorite winged pollinator for the Pollinator Party with Smarty-Plants™ at 11:30am.

Attendees will have the opportunity to meet the homeowners to get advice, purchase succulent cuttings, bird houses and other handmade garden items, and talk with The Garden’s Director of Horticulture, Clayton Tschudy, for advice on how to redesign your landscape using drought-tolerant plants.

All proceeds will benefit The Garden’s botanical collection care, exhibit upkeep and conservation education programs. For more information, please visit www.theGarden.org/events/2017gardentour.

The Water Conservation Garden invites the public to its second annual Water-Wise Home Garden Tour. The tour will highlight five beautiful gardens featuring a wide variety of colorful and low water use plants. The gardens emphasize plants from semi-arid regions of the world including Australia, New Zealand, the Southwestern U.S. and South Africa.

Attendees will have the opportunity to meet the homeowners to get advice, purchase succulent cuttings, bird houses and other handmade garden items, and talk with The Garden’s Director of Horticulture, Clayton Tschudy, for advice on how to redesign your landscape using drought-tolerant plants.

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Featured at the college will be gardening and resource conservation booths, ornamental and native plant sales & food and refreshments from local food trucks.

FREE admission and FREE parking.

A complete program is available at www.springgardenfestival.com.
What’s in your Faucet? Issues of Water Quality

May 18, 2017, 5:30pm to 7:30pm

The Garden is pleased to present the second event in our expert forum series. A variety of panelists and points of view about drinking water quality will be presented, including ocean water desalination; the pros and cons of bottled water, recycled water, the presence of iron and pharmaceuticals in our water, and ways that our water is tested. Attendees can enjoy a Garden tour and refreshments prior to the panel discussion. The forum will be held in the Garden’s amphitheater on Thursday, May 18 at 5:30 PM. Tours will be available at 5:00. Admission: $10 for members; $15 for the general public; free for students with ID.

Water Agency Customer Appreciation Day

May 21, 2017, 9:00am to 2:00pm

The Water Conservation Garden is pleased to host a special “appreciation day” for ratepayers of Helix and Otay Water Districts and Sweetwater Authority. Families will enjoy food and refreshments, kids’ activities and special habitat and butterfly gardening presentations by Pam Meisner, Director of Education and Clayton Tschudy, Director of Horticulture at The Garden. Customers will also 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. Water agency representatives will be on hand to answer questions and provide advice on sustainable water use methods and technology. For more information, please visit www.theGarden.org/events/agencyday.

The Water Conservation Garden is made possible due to the many donations from supporters like you! Your donation and memberships keep our Garden green and blooming year round! If you have a question about how to become a member, make a donation or volunteer please contact us today! We would love to share our garden with you!
The Native Habitat Garden

Constructed on the principle of replicating real ecosystems, our Native Habitat Exhibit is among the best nature gardens in our region. The idealized plant communities in this exhibit demonstrate how natural systems can be reproduced in small urban landscapes, and utilize the true plant diversity of our region, a necessary component of all effective constructed habitats.

The dissipating basin at the center of the exhibit not only diverts a significant amount of the Garden’s storm water runoff, but it also supplies the entire water need of the streamside trees within it, preventing the need for irrigation there. Our two-year old Cottonwood tree that started as a one-gallon plant will be 35’ this spring! And the upland community plants in the exhibit require only minimal summer irrigation, making this the most drought tolerant exhibit in the entire Garden.

The Ms. Smarty-Plants™ program now uses the Habitat for children’s environmental education that meets Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), and this spring the Butterfly Habitat Docent Team will start an ambitious natural journaling program focused on the animals found in the Habitat. Eventually, the Garden will publish some of this journaling on our website, extending the educational value of the exhibit even further.

Don’t miss the incredible wildflower show this winter’s rains will bring to the exhibit. And if you would like to learn how to create a garden like this at home you can sign up for our annual class, Designing Native Habitat Gardens, happening Saturday, April 8th.

Favorite Plant in The Garden:
Oh, there are so many! I especially love the California Natives in the Habitat Garden – buckwheat, monkeyflower, elderberry, coffeeberry. In particular, I am learning about the perennial, Gambelia juncea ‘Punta Banda’ – Baja Bush Snapdragon. It is a new introduction from Tree of Life Nursery, related to the Island Snapdragon, formerly known as Galvezia speciosa. This small perennial shrub with dense, light-green leaves is found in coastal sage scrub and oak woodland regions. Hummingbirds love its bright red, tubular flowers! It is endemic to Southern California and Baja and listed as rare and endangered in the CNPS list. Plant it!

Fun Facts:
I take several horticultural travel trips a year with Pacific Horticulture Society or the San Diego Horticultural Society. I really love to visit gardens in other places around the world to see the plant collections in their natural settings or in magnificent garden landscapes. On a recent trip, it was fascinating to see the constrained gardens of Singapore juxtaposed with the wildness of Bali.

“My love of gardening began as a child in Hawaii, where our family worked in the yard each Saturday. My own garden experience began when I moved to Ramona, where our property backs up to a beautiful, natural, open-space preserve complete with oaks, sycamores and a creek. I immediately recognized that our yard needed to be complimentary and support the sense of place I love.

Favorite Garden Exhibit:
The Native Habitat exhibit is so special – a really unique approach to garden landscaping, focusing on plant communities and their important association with wildlife. I am getting to see the critical interrelationships between soil, climate, plant life and animals of all types, even insects. The Butterfly Habitat Team is a great group - we are exploring the various aspects of the habitat dynamic and learning to maintain the area for maximum wildlife and plant health. Good stuff!

Why Do You Volunteer at The Garden?: Even though I already had a water-wise landscape, I became more aware of the need for water conservation as time passed. I strongly believe in volunteering and in the mission of The Garden to educate and inspire others. I am able to share my knowledge and skills and learn new things from the staff and great volunteers that I work with. I drive here from Ramona because there is nothing else like The Garden there. It is a wonderful place to visit and get involved!
MARCH

4 No Turf, Now What?
Saturday, March 4 | 10:00am – 12:00pm
You got rid of the lawn, now what to do? Landscape Designer, Connie Beck, will give you ideas and solutions to turn those areas into beautiful and inviting outdoor spaces.
Members Free, Non-Members $10

4 Blooming Desert Hike
NEW
Saturday, March 4 | 8:30am – 4:00pm
8:30am - 11:30am, Easy level
1:00pm - 4:00pm, Moderate level
Once in a blue moon our deserts get big winter rains and explode into an extraordinary spring bloom. Join The Garden’s Director of Horticulture, Clayton Tschudy, for a wildflower tour of the Anza-Borrego State Park. Bring your cameras and lunch! You will be responsible for your own transportation. Additional details will be provided prior to event.
Members $5, Non-Members $15

18 Pest Management Naturally
NEW
Saturday, March 18 | 10:00am – 12:00pm
Join Brijette Romstedt, owner of San Diego Seed Company to learn methods for “outsmarting” pests and keeping beneficial bugs in your food garden. Learn to grow a healthy vegetable garden while using preventative pest measures.
Members Free, Non-Members $10

APRIL

1 The Buzz About Native Bees
Saturday, April 1 | 10:00am – 12:00pm
Learn how you can attract non-stinging native bees to your garden. Candace Vanderhoff, Founder of SoloBee, shares the magic of these beautiful and prolific pollinators. SoloBee shelters available for purchase in The Garden Shoppe.
Members Free, Non-Members $10

2 Docent Training
FREE!
Sunday, April 2 | 12:00pm – 4:00pm
Sunday, April 9 | 12:00pm – 4:00pm
Contribute to The Garden’s success by becoming a Garden docent! There are many ways to get involved and wonderful new people to meet. FREE
To register contact Pam Meisner, Education Director, at Pam @thegarden.org or 619-660-0614 x13.

8 Designing San Diego Habitat Gardens
Saturday, April 8 | 10:00am – 12:00pm
Do you love butterflies and hummingbirds? Then this is the class for you! Join The Garden’s Director of Horticulture, Clayton Tschudy, as he takes you through the steps to create your own water-saving habitat garden! This class will cover San Diego ecology and native plant diversity, as well as a tour of the Garden’s Native Habitat Exhibit.
Members Free, Non-Members $10
Beautiful Butterflies!
Saturday, May 6 | 10:00am – 12:00pm
Join Kojira Shiraiwa author of “The Butterflies of San Diego County” and “Portraits of Southern California Butterflies” for a sensational look at these wonderful, beneficial insects. Koji’s books are available for purchase on The Garden’s registration webpage.
Members $5, Non-Members $15

Seasonal Garden Care: Spring/Summer
Saturday, May 20 | 10:00am – 12:00pm
Get your garden geared up for the dry season with Mannah Gbeh, The Garden’s Landscape Technician and owner of Bee Valley Farms. Learn seasonally-appropriate techniques along with valuable tips on how to maintain moist soil and happy plants in the warm months ahead. Keep your garden growing strong all year long! (Part of the class will be outdoors.)
Members Free, Non-Members $10

Crafts for Your Garden
Saturday, May 27 | 10:00am – 12:00pm
Add character to your garden! Join our Garden Docents and make three unique wooden birds, along with a special decorative plant box, all for you to take home.
$30 includes all supplies

TOMATOMANIA
March 11 & 12, 9:00am to 4:00pm
Water-Wise Home Garden Tour
March 25, 9:00am to 3:00pm
Spring Butterfly and Garden Festivals
April 29, 9:00am to 3:00pm
Expert Forum - What’s in Your Faucet?
May 18, 5:30pm to 7:30pm
Water Agency Customer Appreciation Day
May 21, 9:00am to 2:00pm

For more information about these events, please visit www.theGarden.org/events.
EDUCATION

CHECK IT OUT!
the NEW Ms. Smarty-Plants™ website
www.mssmartyplants.org

HABITAT
PLANT FACTS

• There are over 350 different native bee species in San Diego county and estimates have been there could be as many as 600 species in the region.

• The Monarch Butterfly got its name from the gold ring found on the chrysalis resembling a gold crown that monarchs wear.

• San Diego is one of the most biologically diverse counties in the nation with 200 or more threatened or endangered species, such as the California gnatcatcher.

• San Diego has one of the most diverse habitats in the world consisting of:
  – Coastal Sage Scrub
  – Chaparral
  – Riparian Forest
  – Grassland (native and non-native)
  – Oak Woodland
  – Vernal Pools

Sources for some of the information provided by The Nature Conservancy and UCSD News Center story by Kim McDonald, May 20, 2014.

Hurray for Habitats!
Our Garden provides wonderful habitats for many critters, including us!

Many new and exciting additions are showing up around The Garden, our new barn owl box for one! As many of you may remember we had “Hoot and Holler” our resident barn owls taking up roost here a few years ago. We are hoping to have another pair inhabit our new owl box, soon to be equipped with a digital camera for live streaming... stay tuned.

With the addition of bee and bat boxes and butterflies our Garden should be all abuzz with activities this Spring. Come visit us and enjoy!

Conversations with Ms. Smarty-Plants™
“Kids Say The Darndest Things”

For more information about Ms. Smarty Plants™ or to donate to The Garden's education programs, visit theGarden.org/learn/ms-smarty-plants.
Plant Spotlight
Magical Milkweeds
by Clayton Tschudy, Director of Horticulture at The Garden

There are certain plants that loom large in our imaginations because of their highly specialized relationship to animals. For instance, the Bullhorn Wattle tree in Africa provides tiny homes and nectar-producing glands that support ants. The Acacia Ant has adapted to these conditions, living exclusively in Acacias that make them welcome, and attacking all herbivores that threaten their home trees. The seemingly miraculous arrangement is explained by the very long period of time over which it evolved. And if we look around us, there are many similar forms of plant/animal symbiosis. One of these relationships is between the Monarch Butterfly and its larval host plants, the milkweeds.

Clockwise from left: California Milkweed, Narrow-leaved Milkweed, Monarch Butterfly on Mexican Milkweed, Bullhorn Acacia with Ants

Milkweeds are a large group of summer-blooming perennials that occur throughout the Americas. All milkweeds exude a toxic milky sap when damaged, which is how they got their name. This glycoside sap is toxic to most animals, but some, including caterpillars of the Monarch Butterfly, have adapted to ingesting it without harm. Not only does this give them a plentiful food source left alone by most other critters, it also renders the caterpillars and adult butterflies toxic to their predators! It is useful for Monarchs to advertise that they are toxic with warning coloration, a phenomenon called aposemitism, so that predators who get one nasty taste of a Monarch will remember the color of future prey and avoid it. The Monarch Butterfly and Viceroy Butterfly look remarkably similar and both are toxic to predators, through their caterpillars feed on different plants. It may be that they have developed similar warning coloration to reinforce the value of each other’s defensive mechanism, a phenomenon called Mullerian co-mimicry. So, let’s review.

Milkweeds become poisonous minimizing predation—Monarch caterpillar develops ability to eat the poison, making the Monarch poisonous to its predators—Monarch butterflies and caterpillars advertise their toxicity to predators with bright coloration—the Viceroy Butterfly, similarly poisonous, teams up with the Monarchs on warning colors maximizing protection. Wow!

And did I mention that milkweeds have a diverse range of gorgeous butterfly-magnet flowers, making them an essential part of any habitat garden in the United States? Every region has a suite of native milkweeds. The native California milkweeds occur in different plant communities so that no matter what your conditions, there is a milkweed for you, from the California Milkweed (Asclepias californica) that grows in the worst roadside conditions, to Showy Milkweed (Asclepias speciosa) and Narrow-leaved Milkweed (Asclepias fascicularis) that enjoy seasonally wet spots.

In Southern California we can also grow subtropical types like Mexican Milkweed (Asclepias curassavica), perhaps the most commonly encountered milkweed in gardens. Unlike the California species which are all winter-deciduous, Mexican Milkweed is evergreen. For the health of our local Monarch population, please cut back subtropical milkweeds hard every fall to create a break in the Monarch reproductive cycle, which helps prevent disease among the butterflies.
The Garden Welcomes New Team Members Elena and Lauren!

Elena Luz Gómez is our newest addition to the Ms Smarty-Plants™ Family. Her role will be educating children and adults throughout San Diego as our bi-lingual Ms. Smarty-Plants™, Señorita Plantasia™. We are very excited to have Elena on the team and to increase engagement with the Spanish-speaking community!

Lauren Gagliano Saline has been working with people, plants, and the planet since 2005 along with her husband, owner of CommuniTree Gardens. Hailing from Suzie’s Farm in Imperial Beach where she was General Director, Lauren will be joining the Education Team and fulfilling The Garden’s IRWM grant requirements.

Garden Partner Spotlight

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.

Mission Hills Nursery

1525 Fort Stockton Drive, San Diego 92103
Open Daily 8:00am - 5:00pm
www.missionhillsnursery.com
619 295-2808

San Diego’s oldest garden center was founded in 1910 by the “Mother of Balboa Park,” Kate Sessions.

Owners, Fausto and Toni Palafox purchased the nursery in 1989, becoming it’s 3rd owner. Mission Hills Nursery, in the heart of Mission Hills, has the most complete family-operated garden center in San Diego. The staff makes shopping easy, fun and educational. There is a great selection of California Natives, roses, landscape shrubs, trees, flowers and pottery for every spot in your garden. The gift shop is a must visit for tools, seeds and wonderful indoor and outdoor accessories for your home. Take a stroll and discover paradise in the middle of the city!

The nursery staff pride themselves on producing quality landscape designs along with installation and maintenance services. Don’t forget to check out their Facebook page for events and WCG members – be sure to show your Garden membership card for your discount.

Barona is committed to supporting those in need and dedicated to improving the world around us.

Barona proudly supports the Water Conservation Garden.

www.barona-nsn.gov

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New Members  Nov 2016 - Jan 2017

Christy Allen  
John Almazan and Georgina Fimbres  
Chris Anderson  
Dawn Augustine  
Betty Rae Bacon  
Steven and Gwen Belyea  
Mike Bezair  
Nichole Brewer  
Neil and Griselda Burns  
Kathleen Closson  
Mary Covher  
Mike and Nancy Covher  
Elena Cresap  
Gary Crite and Larkin Rodriguez  
Marlene DeMers  
Joan Dolansinski  
Sarhaem Dyer  
Noel Elmore  
Linda Espino and Sherri Howard  
Sophia Frost  
Gil and Liliana Generoli  
Susan Grayson  
Debbie Haller  
Deborah Handal  
Judy Harrington  
Jason Harris  
Debra Hoyt  
Dan and Jody Iverson  
Sky Jeannette  
Ellen Kasitz  
Robert and Cheryl Kevane  
Tom and Sandi LeDuc  
Dale and Linda Lee  
Rebecca Lee  
Jack Lentz  
Kelly Liegeois  
Don Makeever and Joanne Santangelo  
Dianne McCann  
Rob McDonald  
Suzanne Mullins  
Crystal Nelson  
Diane and Lynn Nelson  
Lila Pigg  
Carolyn Prentice  
Joanne Quinn  
Linda Richter and Gloria Pearlman  
Les and Katie Rodriguez  
Sally Saltzstein  
H. Louis Shearer  
Michael and Linda Smith  
Brandon Sroat and Bryan Bestwick  
Patrick Sullivan and Judy Robuck  
Kathryn Upchurch  
Martha Velarde and Hector Montes  
Shauna Walvatne  
Cynthia Winters  
Stephen Wright  
Emilie Yanagi  
Vicky Zollweg and Michael Dunteman

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!

Backflow Services  
Baldwin & Sons  
Barona Band of Mission Indians  
Best Best & Krieger LLP  
Bob’s Crane  
California American Water  
Carollo Engineers  
City of Encinitas  
City of San Diego  
County of San Diego  
DUDEK  
Genentech  
Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District  
Hamann Construction  
Helix Water District  
Lakeside Garden Club  
La Mesa-Spring Valley School District  
 Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
Olivehain Municipal Water District  
Open Space Management  
Ota Water District  
Padre Dam Municipal Water District  
Point Loma Credit Union  
RCP Block & Brick, Inc.  
San Diego Horticultural Society  
San Diego Metropolitan Credit Union  
SDG&E  
San Dieguito Water District  
Sweetwater Authority  
Sycuan Casino  
Village Nurseries  
Vista Paint Corporation  
Wells Fargo

Donors  Nov 2016 - Jan 2017

Anita Reith  
Bill Matella  
Brad and Therese Monroe  
Carol Fasching  
Carole Swenson  
Celeste Carter  
Christy Griffin  
Chuck and Lynda Muse  
Cindy Rittershofer  
Connie Beck  
Constance Cline  
Dan Cameron Family Foundation  
Diane and Erin Rexin  
Don and Nancy Sandweiss  
E.K. & Lily Van Vleet  
Emilie Zouhar  
Emy Mastrocola  
Eva Daggett  
Frances Thiercof  
Frank and DeAna Verbeke  
Frank Gehrke and Maureen Stapleton  
Genevieve Caraveo  
Guido and Patricia Klap  
Melvin and Juanita Jacobson  
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Vicki Smith  
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**connected to the environment**

We applaud The Water Conservation Garden for their ongoing contributions to help preserve our region’s natural resources.

Our EcoChoice® program also helps the environment by letting you purchase clean, renewable energy without the upfront installation costs of solar. Learn more at sdge.com/ecochoice.
BECOME A GARDEN MEMBER FOR GREAT BENEFITS!

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- **Anderson's La Costa** — Encinitas (andersonlacostanursery.com)
- **Barrels & Branches Nursery** — Encinitas (barrelsandbranches.com)
- **Cuyamaca College Dept. of Ornamental Horticulture Nursery** — El Cajon, (cuyamaca.edu/academics/departments/oh/)
- **El Plantio** — Escondido (ElPlantioNursery.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 (ranschosandiegonursery.com)
- **Rancho Valhalla Nursery** — El Cajon (ranchovalhallanursery.com)

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