



BLOOM
in

Spring Gardening Tips
Seasonal Classes & Events
Ms. Smarty-Plants™ Turns 10!

SPRING 2018



OUR MISSION

To inspire positive change in the living environment through the conservation of water and other natural resources.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018

President

Harold Bailey

Vice President

Peggy Matarese

Secretary

Bonnie Scott

Treasurer

Mora de Murguía

Tom Allingham

Joel Cloud, Jr.

Leah McIvor

Cindy Miles

Cheryl Minshew

Patrick Pilz

Jan Tubiolo

DeAna Verbeke

(ex officio JPA Representative)

Ed Woodruff

(ex officio Docent President)

STAFF

Executive Director

Elyssa Robertson

Director of Operations & Programs

Pam Meisner

Director of Horticulture & Facilities

Paul Redeker

Director of Marketing & Development

Diane Owens

Cherri Bailey

Devon Bender

Heather Carlton

Mannah Gbeh

Elena Luz Gomez

Lauren Magnuson

Megan McCurdy

Kay McGrath

Jillian Quint

Lauren Gagliano Saline

InBloom Production

inBloom is published quarterly by The Water Conservation Garden and mailed as a benefit to members. Content and photos by Garden staff, docents, and volunteers unless otherwise noted.

Cover Photo: Monarch on Buddleja
Photographer: Harold Bailey

Designer: H Street Design Studio
Printer: Neyenesch Printing

message from the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

"In the midst of movement and chaos, keep stillness inside of you."

- Deepak Chopra



You can't deny it, the world has gotten complicated and chaotic. E-mails, social media, constant news headlines bombard us throughout the day. We all need a place that offers a respite from this fast-paced digital world we have created. A place where one can connect with what is real. A place where the spirit can renew. I happen to know of just the place - The Water Conservation Garden!

This spring we invite you to unplug from the chaos and give yourself a break from your screens amidst our lush and restorative grounds. Meander down our numerous peaceful walking paths and find a mindful moment in one of the many meditation nooks. Take note of how the light plays on the Pearl Acacia, observe a hummingbird interact with a Bottle Brush tree, tune in to the sounds and smells of the Sensory Garden. As Goethe once said "we must always change, renew, rejuvenate ourselves; otherwise we harden." Spending time - even just 20 or 30 minutes per day - in a garden or natural setting can be extremely therapeutic to both the body and mind. The Garden is bursting with blooms, wildlife, and nature-centric activities that will nurture even the most digitally-minded spirit.

Looking for ideas to make your own back yard an oasis? The Garden is your resource. With everything from expert forums and informative adult classes, to the Water-Wise Home Garden Tour (March 24th) and the annual Spring Garden and Butterfly Festival (April 28th), we offer the tools to help you bring the peace and serenity of The Garden home. I look forward to seeing you for a lively spring season at The Garden!

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.

HOURS 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.
THE GARDEN WILL BE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS THIS SPRING: Good Friday (March 30), Easter Sunday (April 1), and Memorial Day (May 28)



Get Social With Us!

Keep up with the latest on news, events and more!



Spring Gardening Tips

1 **PRUNING!**

Now is a good time to reduce shrubs that are growing larger than intended. Many plants will grow back in quickly as the root systems have plenty of stored energy. Look at the entire landscape area and consider what each plant will grow into this season. It is unfortunate and harder to prune later when the flowers come into the picture!

2 **MULCHING!**

Nothing freshens up a yard like dark, rich mulch between plants. Apply 2-3" of fresh mulch to keep in the moisture for healthier plants. Either purchase bags of wood chips or shredded bark from your local home improvement store, or ask your local nursery or gravel company if they will deliver mulch to your home if needed. Incorporating mulch will revitalize any yard, increase organic matter into the soil as it breaks down, and reduce the amount of weeds that will be germinating in the spring.

3 **FERTILIZING AND TOP DRESSING!**

Feeding plants as they get ready to grow will reward you considerably. Most any type of fertilizer will do the trick, however using an organic fertilizer is highly recommended. Adding compost or well-seasoned manure when planting will give new plants a great start. If possible, avoid disturbing established areas deeply as complex soil ecosystems are important to sustain a healthy soil profile. The organics will work their way down into the soil naturally.

*Article by Paul Redeker
Photo by Harold Bailey*

Spring Garden & Butterfly Festival

Saturday, April 28, 9am - 3pm

The Water Conservation Garden, Cuyamaca College and the Heritage of the Americas Museum present the 25th annual Spring Garden Festival! Join us for the ultimate celebration of the season's bounty. Featured activities at the college include plant sales at the Ornamental Horticulture Nursery, viticulture demonstrations with wine tastings, food and craft vendors, and college department information booths on the grand lawn. Garden activities include butterfly releases, Butterfly Habitat and Pavilion tours, children's crafts, Story Time with Miss Metamorphosis, and a Ms. Smarty Plants™ Pollinator Party at 11am (dress as your favorite pollinator!). Museum activities include scheduled presentations and drawings. There will be something for everyone!

FREE admission and FREE parking

For detailed information, visit
www.springgardenfestival.com

Photo by James Flanagan



Water Agency Customer Appreciation Day

Saturday, May 19, 9am - 1pm

The Garden is pleased to once again host a special "appreciation day" for ratepayers of the City of San Diego, Helix, Otay, and Sweetwater Authority Water Districts. Ratepayers can enjoy local food trucks, kids activities and butterfly habitat experiences while discovering different varieties of drought-tolerant plants, learning how to "toss the turf", and getting inspiration for water-smart gardening. Water agency representatives will answer questions and provide advice on sustainable water-use methods and technology. More information available here: www.thegarden.org/agencyday

Wags & Wine

Tuesdays, May 22 and June 19, 5 -7pm

A special evening stroll just for you and your furry friend, well wine not? The Garden will be open late for you to enjoy a walk amongst our interesting plants and trees with your pooch, while sipping a glass of wine. Cool treats and activities are a must for your canine companion!

Tickets are \$8 per person and can be purchased at www.thegarden.org/events/wagsandwine.

SAVE THE DATE!

Dogs n' Donuts

Sunday, July 22, 8 - 10am



MARCH

3 Hillside Planting Saturday, March 3 | 10am – 12pm

FREE!

Ever wonder what to do with that slope/hillside you have? Renowned Landscape Designer, Connie Beck, the Holistic Gardener, will amaze you with beautiful solutions for hard to plant spaces. Class made possible by the San Diego County Watershed Protection Program.

Free



16 Plant Papparazzi: iPhone Pics!

Friday, March 16 | 9 – 11am

Are you interested in taking better photos with your smart phone? Docent Instructor, Sally Long, will show the fundamentals of shooting effectively along with awesome tricks to get the very best shots. Learn how to properly frame your shot, quickly access camera apps, master essential in-camera features, and much more.

Members Free, Non-Members \$10



18 Garden Art: Mosaic Bee Bath

Sunday, March 18 | 10am – 12pm

Welcome bees to your garden! Bee baths are smaller, shallower versions of birdbaths, with stones so bees can land and drink safely. Once you've designed your bee bath, Amber Pierce of Amber's Artistry, will take your creation and grout pieces for you to pick up at your convenience. Class is held outdoors in the Habitat Garden for inspiration. All materials included.

Members \$30, Non-Member \$35



APRIL

7 How to Catch, Store and Use Rainwater

FREE!

Saturday, April 7 | 10 – 11:30am

The biggest mistake in rainwater collection is not doing it! Candace Vanderhoff, local pioneer of rain harvesting, and founder of RainThanks & Greywater, shares how to collect rainwater for your garden. Learn Do-It-Yourself tips for collecting and storing rainwater. Class made possible by Integrated Regional Water Management.

Free

8 Garden Docent Training

FREE!

Sunday, April 8 | 12 – 4pm

15 Sunday, April 15 | 12 – 4pm

Have fun in The Garden and meet wonderful, like-minded people. Garden Docents help our plants and programs grow! There are many ways to be involved. Register with Pam Meisner, Director of Operations and Programs, pam@thegarden.org or 619-660-0614 x13.

Free

14 Roses for the Southern California Landscape

**PLANT
SALE**

Saturday, April 14 | 10am – 11:30am

Rose connoisseur, Sherri Snider of Kniffing's Nursery, shares her favorite heat-resistant roses for a water-wise garden. Rose Plant Sale open to all following class. Attendees, you get first pick! Partial proceeds go to The Garden.

Members \$5, Non-Members \$12



Photo by Sally Long

ONGOING PROGRAMS

FREE First Saturday Tours
Docent-led Garden Tour at 10am

FREE Special Access Tour
Advanced reservation required, call 619-660-0614 x16

Professional Landscape Design Consultations

Call 619-660-0614 x10 for appointment availability, designer information and reservations. Members \$60, Non-members \$75



**School Tours
and Assembly
Program**

To book an educational program for your class, visit www.ms.smartyplants.org

SPRING CLASSES 2018

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



MAY

5 Irrigation 101 Saturday, May 5 | 10am – 12pm

FREE!

Landscape Designer, Jan Tubiolo, discusses how to manage the water you give your plants, through the proper setup and maintenance of your irrigation system, and appropriate timing for your sprinklers. Class made possible by the San Diego County Watershed Protection Program.
Free

12 FREE Backyard Composting Workshop

FREE!

Saturday, May 12 | 10am – 12pm

Learn the basics of backyard composting and composting with worms. Expert Educators teach all you need to know to get started with a bin that fits your lifestyle. Class made possible by the County of San Diego, presented by Solana Center for Environmental Innovation. Register at www.solanacenter.org/thegarden.
Free

12 Dance & Exercise NewVo Fitness

NEW

Saturday, May 12 | 11am – 12pm

Perfect for Mother's Day Weekend! Bring mom, sister, or a good friend, to this fun class for all fitness and dance levels, with no experience needed. NewVo Instructor, Keilani Love, takes you on an exercise journey of the world's dance styles. Wear close-toed, light-weight footwear, and bring a hip scarf or sarong if you have one. Class is in the Outdoor Amphitheater and geared towards adults.
Members Free, Non-Members \$10



18 Butterfly Release Friday, May 18 | 9 – 10am

NEW

Experience butterflies up close! Release a butterfly and guide it to nectar on flowering pavilion plants. Learn about local butterfly species inhabiting the Dorcas E. Utter Butterfly Pavilion. Space is limited, so the butterflies can spread their wings! All ages welcome if accompanied by an adult.
Members \$10, Non-Members \$15



19 The Buzz About Native Bees

Saturday, May 19 | 10am – 12pm

Help save native bees by giving them a home in your garden. Air bee-n-bee! Candace Vanderhoff, Founder of SoloBee, shares the magic of these beautiful, non-stinging, and prolific pollinators. SoloBee shelters available for purchase in The Garden Shoppe.
Members \$5, Non-Members \$12



23 Unlocking the Power of Grey Water Wednesday, May 23 | 5:30 – 7pm

NEW FREE!

Join Scott Isaksen, of Nexus eWater, in his fascinating talk on the benefits, installation process, and newest innovations in grey water reuse. Class is geared towards those with technical skills, i.e. contractors, plumbers, landscape architects. Class made possible by Integrated Regional Water Management.
Free

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tomatomania
March 10-11, 9am – 4pm

Expert Forum
March 18, 2 – 4pm

Water-Wise Home Garden Tour
March 24, 9am -3pm

Spring Garden and Butterfly Festival
April 28, 9am – 3pm

Members-Only Butterfly Pavilion Preview
April 21, 9 – 11am

Water Agency Customer Appreciation Day
May 19, 9am -1pm

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

Ms. SMARTY-PLANTS™



"Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning."

- Mr. Rogers

10 Ms. Smarty-Plants™ YEARS

When Pam Meisner graduated from Penn State University, she took an internship with Mr. Rogers. This experience shaped her style as an educator who puts love, passion and fun first, teaching children in the way they learn best. The Water Conservation Garden thanks Pam for many 'beautiful days in the neighborhood'...

TEN YEARS to be exact!

Making Conservation Count...

2008

The Ms. Smarty-Plants™ Program began at The Garden

1,200

Number of Earth Heroes educated in first year

86,019

Number of Earth Heroes educated in 2017

10

Signature Ms. Smarty-Plants™ hats in her collection

3

Sisters in the Ms. Smarty-Plants™ family

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

Sweet Endings

Honey Bees hard at work. Photo by Mannah Gbeh.

ON A SPRING DAY IN THE GARDEN,

the Horticulture and Facilities Manager, Mannah Gbeh, spotted a wild bee swarm inside a birdhouse. As an experienced beekeeper, Mannah would normally leave the bees alone, as they are unlikely to sting unless disturbed. As a veteran farmer and a father to two young boys and a new baby girl, Mannah knows firsthand how curious children can be in a garden. Plans were made for The Garden hive to join four thriving hives at Bee Valley Farms, Mannah's garlic and honey homestead in Jamul.



Before moving the bees, the hive was inspected to ensure they were not Africanized honey bees, which are less predictable and more defensive. Once Mannah determined the hive was friendly and healthy, he began the relocation process. Working at night so as not to risk losing any of the foragers, Mannah suited up in the traditional bee suit, gathered his tools and lit his smoker. The smoke calms bees when beekeepers need close access to their hives. After lulling the bees, The Garden's birdhouse was placed into a hive box, and then left alone to settle for twenty four hours to ease their journey. While re-locating the bees, Mannah gathered a small batch of delicious honey comb and shared it with all who would try it at The Garden! Now that these bees have found a new home in Jamul, Mannah's family will be enjoying the true rewards of the bees' hard work (aka. Honey!) next year.

Article written by Hannah Gbeh, Mannah's wife, mother to their three beautiful children, and long-time Garden fan.

SPRING RECIPE

Honey & Feta

Looks can be deceiving. This dish may be a little messy, but such a tasty vehicle for our favorite bee by-product. Use pita bread, or even better, grab a cracker that has character. Have a simple picnic with yourself and listen to the spring bees buzzing.

- 1 T honey
- 1 - 6 oz piece of Greek Feta
- 2 T olive oil
- Freshly ground black pepper
- Your best crackers and/or triangles of toasted Greek pita bread

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Place feta in a small casserole a little larger than the cheese and cover with the oil. Bake about 8 minutes or until the cheese is soft to the touch.

Preheat broiler. Heat honey in a small pan until melted and brush over the top of the cheese. Place under the broiler until the top of the cheese is brown and has begun to bubble. Season with freshly ground black pepper. Serve immediately with crackers and/or pita.

Recipe credit: Eye Of The Day Garden Design Center

partners & SUPPORTERS



Welcome New Board Member Leah McIvor!

WE ARE THRILLED for our Board of Directors to grow with the addition of its newest Board Member. Leah McIvor brings with her a wealth of experience serving her community in multiple ways: with service on the volunteer boards of canine rescue groups in the National Capital Region, as campaign manager for the Grossmont-Cuyamaca District's successful Proposition V ballot measure in 2012, and as a member of the East County Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors since 2010, serving a term as Board Chair and this year's Chair Emeritus. Leah's professional life is centered on her work as a residential agent and relocation specialist with Coldwell Banker, affiliated with the Mt Helix office.

Join us in welcoming Leah to The Water Conservation Garden!

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



garden partner Spotlight



Open M-Sa 7:30am-5pm
Sun 9am-4pm
3110 Sweetwater Rd, Lemon Grove
www.huntersnursery.com
(619) 463-9341

Hunter's Nursery in Lemon Grove is the oldest continuously family-owned and operated nursery in San Diego since 1919.

Patriarch Howard Hunter, working part-time in a lemon-packing house, decided to open a citrus orchard and nursery in Lemon Grove. Today the enterprise still carries his moniker and is operated by his descendants. Having retired in 1950, the business was turned over to Howard's son Laurence and then to his son, Guy. His daughter, Kindahl, wants to continue running the business when he retires. In addition, Betty Hunter, the heart and soul of the business for over 70 years, has been involved in all aspects of the business, now 101 years young.

The nursery is 3.5 acres and is a haven for water-wise drought tolerant plants, including an assortment of plants from Australia and New Zealand. Understanding that more people want to grow their own food, they have also continued to expand the edibles in the nursery. If you are a rose lover, Hunter's has over 150 varieties.

If you have a question about a particular plant, it's water, sun and soil requirements, look for Gustavo Flores, the man with the answers for the past 39 years at the nursery.

The next time you need a butterfly bush, citrus tree, crape myrtle, veggie or any plant, think of our friends at Hunter's Nursery. Remember to show your membership card for your 10% discount!!!!

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!

Alpine Rock & Block
Backflow Services
Baldwin & Sons
Best, Best & Krieger LLP
California American Water
City of Encinitas
City of San Diego
County of San Diego

Grossmont-Cuyamaca
Community College District
Helix Water District
Lakeside Garden Club
La Mesa-Spring Valley School
District
Metropolitan Water District of
Southern California

Olivenhain Municipal Water
District
Open Space Management
Otay Water district
Padre Dam Municipal Water
District
Point Loma Credit Union
RCP Block & Brick

REC Consultants Inc.
San Diego Horticultural Society
San Diego Metropolitan Credit
Union
SDG&E
San Dieguito Water District
Sweetwater Authority
Village Nurseries

New Members Nov 2017 - Jan 2018

Rachel Allingham
William and Maryellen Bacon
Dolores Barrios
Bonnie Benitez
Steve Blackman and Sherri
Thorpe
Lori Bokert
Craig and Judy Carlson
Anne Clark
Sira Del Hierro
Deborah Eckert
Sheri Evraets

Jerome and Sandra Fogel
Leandra Garcia
Sandra Gonzales
Janelle Hotz
Rod and Joyce Howard
Catherine Jervey
Francis Kalinoski
John and Celine Krimston
Richard and Marilyn Matthews
Michael McKinney
Hugh and Anne McMillan

Ted Melville and Sandra Rocco-
Melville
Molly Nocon
Allison Ohanian and Andrea
Shellstrom
Bonnie Oliverio
Noemi and Greg Pace
Janel Pehau
Shannon Sadoudi
Sam Sanchez
Renee Simpson

Mark and Elaine Smith
Linda Stewart
Kristi Sullivan
Doug and Carla Taber
Enid Texler
Lisa Thayer
Eric and Sandy Thompson
Annie Townsend
Julie and Kaya White
Karen and Puett Willcox
Pamela Williams and John Sapp

Donors Nov 2017-Jan 2018

Dean Allen
Julia Allen
Peter and Ann Aylward
Harold and Mary Jane Bailey
Margo Bergen
James Beyster
Julia Blyth
The Brooke Foundation
Brownstein Hyatt Farber
Schreck
Susan Buckley
David and Betsy Buckner
Peggy Buffo
Richard and Vickie Butcher
Genevieve Caraveo
George Cheadle
Wallison Costa
Hans And Margaret Doe Trust
Rosalie Dosik

Ellen Downing
Rick and Whitney Dueñez
Marty Eberhardt & Phil Hastings
El Cajon Rotary Foundation
Jessie Gates
Luis and Agnes Generoso
Mary Ann Glatt
Susan Grayson
Christy Griffin
Susan Howe
Best Best & Krieger LLP
Kim Kane and Dean Peabody
Kniffings Discount Nursery
Kristen Koehrn
Florence Koga
Regina Lewis
Richard and Marilyn Matthews
Emy Mastrocola
Bill Matella

Kay and Vince McGrath
David McKinsey
Pete and Sally Nelson
Kristen Olafson
Robert Parrott & Jo Ann
Christensen
Shirley Reinhardt
Kenneth Renstrom
Mary Rice
Jerry and Betty Rivaldi
Marsha and Gary Rold
Sally Saltzstein
San Carlos Garden Club
Janet Schmid
Ricardo Silva
Mary Ann Stepnowsky and Tom
Clark
Klaus and Carolyn Steuermann
Douglas Stow

Kristi Sullivan
Tarbell Family Foundation
Frances Thiercof
Torrey Pines Landscape
Jan and Paul Tubiolo
Paula Uren
Joe and Connie Via
Xavier and Julia Villanueva
Gregory Villard
Bill and Karen Waldrop
Village Nurseries
Ed Woodruff and Peggy Dalby
Richard Wright
Stephen Wright
Pa Yang
Ybarra Family
Mark and Anne Zacovic
Emilie Zouhar



12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West
El Cajon, CA 92019

Tel: (619) 660-0614

Fax: (619) 660-1687

www.theGarden.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
San Diego, CA
Permit 2686

Forwarding Service Requested

Current members can find their membership expiration date above their name in the address listed above.

**SAVE
MONEY
AND
ENERGY
USAGE**



**SOLAR
LOAN**

... UPGRADE YOUR
HOME TODAY

RATES AS LOW AS
5.49%^{APR}

FLEXIBLE
TERMS



619.297.4835
www.sdmcu.org

Federally Insured by NCUA.
*APR = Annual Percentage Rate.