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

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Photographer: Shari Duran

Designer: H Street Design Studio
Printer: Neyenesch Printing

message from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."
- Coretta Scott King

How can The Garden express our immense gratitude to the multitudes of people who contribute to our plants, programs, and passion for nature? By continuing to be the best at what we do!

We want to pause and give thanks to all the wonderful donors who participated in our Summer Fundraising Campaign, who have made contributions to our growing endowment, to SDG&E and the County of San Diego for continuing to believe in our Garden and our programs. And while this critical funding does keep the lights on, it certainly isn't always about money. We are so incredibly grateful to our volunteers and docents (over 70 and growing!), our interns and of course all the companies who volunteer staff and time to help us with large projects. The Garden is thriving today because of you!

John F. Kennedy once said “As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them.” So as we offer a verbal THANK YOU to each and every individual who has supported The Garden, our greatest token of appreciation for you is on display every day. The Garden’s gratitude is showcased by our six beautiful acres of lush water-efficient gardens. By providing an oasis of nature in a suburban setting, we hope to create a space for all that is both educational and fun.

All of this is due to an amazing community of hard working, philanthropic friends who keep our mission and vision alive! The Garden truly is a community space, and we invite you to experience the demonstration of our graciousness.

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.

THE GARDEN WILL BE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS THIS FALL:
Labor Day (Monday September 3), Thanksgiving Day (Thursday November 22)

Get Social With Us!
Keep up with the latest on news, events and more!
For many years The Garden has provided visitors a palette of beautiful drought tolerant plants to incorporate into their landscapes, fulfilling the mantra “More Beauty, Less Water”. But our relationship with plants goes way beyond aesthetics. By digging a little deeper, we discover that the flora around us is essential to our existence. From cleaning the air and producing oxygen, to providing nutrition and medicinal benefits, plants are our allies. In this series, we will journey deeper into the connection we have with plants, using species in The Garden as inspiration while employing ancient wisdoms and modern modalities as our guides. Join us!

Around the corner, just past the new Ms. Smarty-Plants™ Cottages you will find Lantana camara on the bank on the left. Lantana is believed to be beneficial for treating cancer, chicken pox, and measles to name a few. Lantana camara is also known to be toxic to livestock and has insecticidal qualities. That’s a big red flag and brings up an important caveat: many plants that have helpful elements can also be contra-indicated for human use, especially if not extracted correctly or used in the proper dosage. I wouldn’t rush out to make tea with this one!

DISCLAIMER: The content of this series is for educational and informational purposes only, and is not intended as medical advice. Please consult with a qualified healthcare professional before acting on any information presented here.

Article by Paul Redeker
Photo by Lauren Gagliano Saline
Autumn Fest & Plant Sale

Saturday, November 3, 10am-3pm,
Special Members-Only Preview Sale: 9-10am

It’s “thyme” again for The Garden’s annual Plant Sale! Come visit us to find “unbeLEAFable” deals on all of your fall favorites.

* Plant Sales
* Craft Vendors
* Gardening Workshops
* “Ask the Designer” Landscape Consultations (Call to reserve your spot: 619-660-0614 x10)
* Refreshments Available
* Kids Activities
* Free Parking & So Much More!

Admission:
Ages 3-11: $3
Ages 12 & up: $5
Members & Kids under 2: FREE
CONSERVATION IN ACTION

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.

Garden Shoppe Holiday Sale
Saturday, December 1, 9am-4pm

Join us for a Jolly Holiday in the Garden Shoppe the first Saturday in December to celebrate your loved ones with unique garden-inspired treasures they will love. With special discounts given only during this sale, you’re sure to find yourself feeling the warm and fuzzies of the season! There will be door prizes, yummy holiday treats and drawings for incredible gift baskets too. You won’t want to miss this!

The Water Conservation Garden presents

Ms. Smarty-Plants™ Goes Batty

Due to Garden improvements, Ms. Smarty-Plants™ is flying to our partner Grossmont Center for a spooky good time on October 31 at 3pm!
FALL 2018 CLASSES & EVENTS

Pre-registration is REQUIRED for all classes at www.theGarden.org or by calling 619-660-0614 x10
Day-of walk-ins will be charged an additional fee. Classes are geared toward adults. Youth ages 12 and over are welcome to participate with supervision.

MONTHLY SERIES

Garden Yoga

17 & 15 & 19

September  October  November

Monday, September 17 | 8:30 – 9:30am
Monday, October 15 | 8:30 – 9:30am
Monday, November 19 | 8:30 – 9:30am

Mat poses, chair exercises, meditation, and smiles in every class with Jackie Gadd, Accessible Yoga Ambassador. For all levels/abilities.

Jackie utilizes an eclectic yoga blend of styles, from traditional Hatha to Iyengar, Anusara, Yin, Vinyasa, Restorative, and more. She believes her yoga “coaching” is body-positive, approachable, adaptable, and enjoyable! Participants can expect an emphasis on yogic breathing with instruction on pose alignment for best practice, and plenty of time in savasana to round out the class experience.

Bring your own mat.
Ages 18+
(IF Silver Sneakers/Tivity Prime bring ID)
Members $8, Non-Members $12

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 x10 or visit www.theGarden.org/member.

SEPTMBER

22 Your Vegetable Garden
Saturday, Sep. 22 | 10am – 12pm
Catch great tips for growing delicious vegetables this season from Brijette Peña, founder of San Diego Seed Company. Plant your own tray of cool season crops to take home.

Members Free, Non-Members $10

23 & 30 Garden Docent Training
Sundays, Sep. 23 & 30 | 12 – 4pm
Volunteer to help our plants and programs grow! There are many ways to be involved and meet wonderful people. To register for the two day training, contact Pam Meisner, Director of Programs, pam@thegarden.org, 619-660-0614 x13.

FREE!

26 Sips & Succulents Tour
Wednesday, Sep. 26 | 6 – 7pm
An evening tour filled with wine and favorite tips for succulent success. Bring your own glass for us to fill with wine or even plants! All materials included.

Members $12, Non-Members $18

29 Using Rainwater & Greywater
Saturday, Sep. 29 | 10am – 12pm
Brook Sarson of CatchingH2O/H2OME helps you maximize water conservation in your garden using simple, integrated rainwater and greywater techniques. Class made possible by Integrated Regional Water Management.

FREE!

*SIGN UP NOW for your one-on-one Water System Design Consultations with Brook, immediately following class. See website for details and registration.

12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, CA 92019
FALL 2018 CLASSES & EVENTS
Pre-registration is REQUIRED for all classes at www.theGarden.org or by calling 619-660-0614 x10
Day-of walk-ins will be charged an additional fee. Classes are geared toward adults. Youth ages 12 and over are welcome to participate with supervision.

OCTOBER

13 Specialty Tour: Colors of the Garden
Saturday, Oct. 13 | 10 – 11:30am
Docent Rosalie Dosik, professional artist, teacher and avid gardener, leads you on a Garden tour that highlights color theory examples. Learn to choose the best palette for plants, hardscape, and accessories in your outdoor spaces.

Members $5, Non-Members $10

20 Water Planting
Saturday, Oct. 20 | 10 – 11:30am
Regenerate your landscape by ‘planting water’ and growing healthy soil! Eric Saline of CommuniTree Gardens shares techniques and strategies that can be used on any scale to modify land contour, plant sustainably, and harvest water. Class made possible by The San Diego County Watershed Protection Program.

*SIGN UP NOW for your one-on-one Landscape Design Consultation with Eric, immediately following class. To register call 619-660-0614 x10.

NOVEMBER

10 Plant Paparazzi!
Basic iPhone Pics
Saturday, Nov. 10 | 9 – 11am
Take better photos with your smart phone! Docent Instructor Sally Long leads this popular, interactive class on mastering the basics, along with awesome tricks to properly frame your shot, quickly access camera apps, essential in-camera features, and much more.

Members Free, Non-Members $10

17 Plant It and They Will Come!
Saturday, Nov. 17 | 10am – 12pm
Welcome bird and butterfly visitors to your home garden! Join Moosa Creek Nursery professionals to create beautiful California native habitats. Plant selection, design, installation, and maintenance will be covered during class and Garden walk.

Members $5, Non-Members $10

FREE Backyard Composting Workshop
Saturday, Nov. 17 | 10am – 12pm
Learn the basics of backyard composting and composting with worms. Class is made possible by the County of San Diego, presented by Solana Center for Environmental Innovation. Register online at www.solanacenter.org or call (760) 436-7986 ext. 700.

NEW

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.MsSmartyPlants.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Autumn Fest & Plant Sale
Saturday, November 3, 10am – 3pm
Special Members-Only Preview Sale: 9 – 10am

Garden Shoppe Holiday Sale
Saturday, December 1, 9am – 4pm
Visit www.theGarden.org for more information about these programs.

Located next to Cuyamaca College in the Ranch San Diego area of El Cajon.
What an unforgettable science sleepover! Co-hosted by The Garden and Heritage of the Americas Museum as part of the Fleet Science Center’s incredible program for young girls, BE WISE (Better Education for Women in Science and Engineering). Girls in grades 7 and 8 explored their interest in science, met women with careers in science, and stayed up plenty late socializing!

Founder of Ms. Smarty-Plants™ Pam Meisner spoke about her career experiences in various areas of science and education. She encouraged the girls to follow their passion on a sometimes winding and always worthwhile path!

“Science is fun. Science is curiosity. We all have natural curiosity.”
– Sally Ride  
(engineer, physicist, NASA astronaut)

Internship Opportunities this Fall!
Share your love of nature!
Lead kid’s garden tours and more....
Application online www.mssmartyplants.org/volunteer

Teachers!
Book your school Field Trip or Assembly
www.MsSmartyPlants.org

“Science is curiosity. We all have natural curiosity.”
– Sally Ride  
(engineer, physicist, NASA astronaut)

Wow SCIENCE is so cool!
Did you know...

- The average time it takes for plastic to decompose is 450 years. Glass takes 4,000 years!
  How did I know that? Science!

- The earth has over 80,000 species (different kinds) of edible plants. We only eat about 30 varieties.
  How did I know that? Science!

- There are about 8.7 million unique species living on the earth! Of these, 2.2 million are in the oceans and the rest on land.
  How did I know that? Science!

- Science gives us superpowers too, like looking across the universe, flying across the Earth or to the moon, and harnessing the energy of the sun.
  How did I know that? Yep SCIENCE!

Sources www.momjunction.com  www.natgeo.com

Send me a drawing of how you are a Ms. Smarty-Plants™ Earth Hero and you might see it at The Garden!

Send your original drawing to:
Ms. Smarty-Plants
The Water Conservation Garden
12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West
El Cajon, CA 92019

Include a signature by your parent or guardian, your name, address, phone number, birthday, and title for your drawing.

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

New Exhibit

This summer The Garden celebrated 10 years of the Ms. Smarty-Plants™ education programs by giving our sassy, Earth-saving redhead a new home! The Ms. Smarty-Plants™ Cottages exhibit, located near the entrance of the Design Loop, demonstrates two ways to incorporate garden structures into a water smart landscape and will also serve as much needed new offices for Garden staff. Stop by and say hello!

A hefty “Thank You” to all who made this possible for The Garden: Ed Woodruff, Jan & Paul Tubiolo, Harold Bailey, Lynn and Diane Nelson, Sonny Tyner, ‘Mr. Smarty-Plants’™ David Truesdale, Maribel Succulents, Sue Ellen Benson, and Richard Wright are just a few of those who contributed.

Thank you to our Docents & Volunteers!

No Garden Gratitude list would be complete without heralding our beloved Docents and Volunteers! From compost and succulents to marketing and events, these unsung heroes are dedicated to making The Garden bloom year-round. Week after week, they pour their hearts, brains, and a lot of sweat into the mission and majesty of our acreage. The Garden staff would like to take this opportunity to express our profound appreciation for these amazing people and their continuous service!

The Garden is Growing

Please excuse our dust this fall! The Garden is excited to begin construction on the Samuel M. Ciccati Education Center, a new shade pergola, and an irrigation exhibit featuring storm water, rainwater, and greywater elements. These projects are truly the effort of a great community, and The Garden is incredibly grateful to all of our steadfast partners! Instrumental contributors include the Integrated Regional Water Management Program, City of San Diego, Samuel Ciccati, San Diego County Water Authority, Grossmont Cuyamaca Community College District, Hans & Margaret Doe Charitable Trust, Rice Family Foundation, Fortress Fence, Alliant Consulting, CAFWD, and the Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck Law Firm.

The Garden will remain open throughout the process.
Welcome New Board Members 
Bill and Julianna!

BILL KENNEDY AND JULIANNA BARNES join The Garden as new board members for 2018-19!

Kniffing’s Discount Nurseries
14940 Oak Creek Road
El Cajon 92021
(619) 561-0611
Open Monday-Saturday
7:00 am to 5:00 pm
www.kniffingsnursery.com
Garden Member Discount: 10%

Kniffing’s Nurseries is located on 12 sprawling acres in the Blossom Valley area of El Cajon. The Kniffing family has owned and operated nursery since its founding in 1927, and has been at the current location for the past 32 years.

The staff provides great service, quality products, and possesses a vast knowledge of water-wise plants, shrubs, succulents and trees. In addition, Kniffing’s has one of the largest selections of roses and fruit trees in San Diego County. Kniffing’s is a nursery you’ll come back to again and again.

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

Bill is a registered professional civil engineer with 45 years of experience in the planning, design, construction and operation of water resources infrastructure in the US and globally. Bill brings a wealth of expertise and accolades in water resource management and beyond.

Dr. Julianna Barnes began her tenure as President of Cuyamaca College in October 2015, bringing more than 27 years of higher education experience to this position. She is a passionate educational leader with a deep commitment to student success and equity.

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El Cajon Branch 780 Jamacha Rd., El Cajon, CA 92019
The Garden is a SDG&E Environmental Champion!

The Garden is pleased to announce the receipt of a 2018 Environmental Champions Grant from San Diego Gas & Electric for our Ms. Smarty-Plants™ Cools the Climate!© program. “SDG&E is firmly committed to improving quality of life in the communities that we serve by collaborating with organizations that address community needs in the area of environmental stewardship,” said Morgan Justice Black, Community Relations Manager at SDG&E. Thank you SDG&E for your continued support of our Ms. Smarty-Plants™ program.

Photo courtesy of Jay Renard/East County Herald
Morgan Justice Black (SDG&E) attended the Ms. Smarty-Plants™ 10-year anniversary party to deliver the $25,000 check, with Pam Meisner.

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  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  Olivenhain Municipal Water District  Open Space Management
Otaty Water District  Padre Dam Municipal Water District  Point Loma Credit Union  Rock and Block Hardscape  San Diego Horticultural Society  SDG&E  San Dieguito Water District  Sweetwater Authority  Village Nurseries

New Members  April - June 2018

Elaine Ayers  Steve Backinoff and Andrew Norton  Thomas Basso  Nancy Bayer  Erin Bergman and Josh Zinn  Lauren Chin  Pam Deloura  Kimberly Dodson  M. Jane Erickson  Karen Fenstermacher  Craig and Carol Ghio  Jill Girand  RoseAnne Goodrow  Kathleen and John Hartshorne

Only new members to the garden will be listed. All donors to The Garden will be acknowledged in The Garden’s annual reports.
Attention Garden Members! Not sure when you need to renew your membership? Look above your name and address to find your renewal date. You can renew your annual membership online at thegarden.org/member or better yet, sign up for automatic renewal so your Garden membership benefits never stop!

BECOME A GARDEN MEMBER FOR GREAT BENEFITS!

Membership at The Garden comes with a host of benefits including:

- Free and discounted classes, workshops and events
- Free admission to over 300 national and international botanical gardens
- Discounts in The Garden’s Water Drop Garden Shoppe
- Invitations to special members-only events
- Discounts at local partner nurseries and garden shops (see list below)

- 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)
- Rancho San Diego Nursery — El Cajon (ranchosandiegonursery.com)
- Rancho Valhalla Nursery — El Cajon (ranchovalhallanursery.com)

To become a member, call 619-660-0614 x 10 or visit www.theGarden.org/member.