

BLOOM in

THE ¹
water conservation
garden
Celebrating 20 years
TheGarden.org



Spring Garden &
Butterfly Festival
Stretch, Connect, Renew
Save Native Bees

SPRING 2019



OUR MISSION

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

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message from the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Spring is a time of renewal, flowers are emerging, tortoises are coming out of brumation, butterflies are breaking from cocoons, the sun is shining and the air is filled with the most beautiful floral smells. I may be biased, but I'd say the Water Conservation Garden is one of the most special places we have in San Diego, specifically East County. The solitude you can find here is rivaled by no other place in our region.



At The Water Conservation Garden everyone is invited to take the time to enjoy these tiny miracles and renew yourself and your mindset. Set goals, reflect on the past, but most importantly enjoy the present. This spring take the time to unplug, take a walk with a friend, slow down and enjoy a moment of "creative silence". Be free from interruptions and responsibility.

If you are like many you have a to-do list. So I encourage you to add a visit to The Water Conservation Garden to that list. Explore plant choices for your personal yard that benefit our pollinator friends, humming birds, butterflies and bees and witness their importance among the lives of plants.

"In nature all things are beautiful..." All living things are beautiful if one realizes what has gone into their evolution. The mysteries of how plants live and gain their sustenance, their adaptations to the environment, the infinite interdependencies between them and all living things make each one a miracle in itself."

- Anonymous

Looking forward to meeting you at The Water Conservation Garden.

Jennifer Pillsbury

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.

HOURS The Garden and Gift Shop are open daily from 9am to 4pm (except major holidays). On Sundays the Gift Shop is open from 11am-3pm. See the "Plan Your Visit" page at TheGarden.org for more information.

GARDEN WILL BE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS THIS SPRING: Easter (Sunday, April 21) and Memorial Day (Monday, May 27).

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



Heath Banksia

***Banksia ericifolia* 'Compact Form'**

I am excited to introduce a new plant to The Garden; Heath Banksia, *Banksia ericifolia* 'compact form'. This formidable shrub's dark green pine-like foliage partner well with The Garden plants of cedar, spruce, and weeping juniper located across from the Bird and Butterfly Garden around the waterfall area. It will grow about eight feet tall by six feet wide, tolerates cold temperatures below 20 degrees Fahrenheit, loves full sun, and, of course, drought tolerant once established. The flowers are something to stop and take a long look to fully appreciate, having brilliant orange-red cones that sit above the foliage from fall through spring. They make great cut flowers, although I wouldn't dare deprive the plant of such beauty, and attract hummingbirds and Orioles, Orioles being one of my favorite birds... I even went back to Walter Andersen's Nursery to buy the last one they had as a back-up.

Article by Paul Redeker

Photo by Lauren Gagliano Saline

Photo by Barbara Brush

Spring Garden & Butterfly Festival

Saturday April 27, 9am-3pm

The Water Conservation Garden, Cuyamaca College, and the Heritage of the Americas Museum present the 26th 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, food and craft vendors, and college department information booths. 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!). There will be something for everyone!

FREE admission and FREE parking

For detailed information, visit www.springgardenfestival.com



happenings & **EVENTS**

"Once In A Blue Moon" Stargazing Event

MEMBERS ONLY

Sunday May 17, 7:30-9pm

Have you ever wondered what that age old saying "Once in a Blue Moon" looked like? The Garden is excited to invite you to bring your telescope and find out! This Members-Only Event is offered as a special benefit to our members at the **Wild Grape** level and above. With a special presentation on Indian Lore and fun themed refreshments, this evening promises fun you don't want to wait another 3 years to enjoy! Space is limited for this complimentary evening event so please reserve your spot now!

To reserve your space today, visit: <https://thegarden.org/events/once-in-a-blue-moon-stargazing-event/>



Water Agency Customer Appreciation Day

Saturday, May 18, 9am-3pm

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 snacks, kids activities, a Garden Tour 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 be available to answer questions and provide advice on sustainable water-use methods and technology.

More information available on our website at <https://thegarden.org/events/water-agency-customer-appreciation-day/>



SAVE THE DATES FOR THESE AWESOME

Summer Events!

Nature Nights with Ms. Smarty-Plants™ - Dates TBA, stay tuned!

Wags n Wine - Wednesday June 12, 5:30-7:30pm

Stargazing in The Garden Plaza - Wednesday June 12, 7:30-9pm

MONTHLY SERIES



Stretch & Connect

11 & 8 & 13
 March April May

Mondays: March 11, April 8, May 13; 9 – 10am

Unwind, unplug and connect with nature. Each class will take place within the stunning Water Conservation Gardens, led by Jackie Gadd, Accessible Yoga Ambassador, and owner of BYOM. We'll serve hot tea to invigorate.

For all levels/abilities. Ages 18+ (If Silver Sneakers/Tivity Prime bring ID & select Member rate)

Garden Members \$5, Non-Members \$10



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 appointments, designer information and reservations.
 Members \$60, Non-members \$75



School Tour and Assembly Programs
 To book an educational program for your class, visit www.MsSmartyPlants.org

MARCH

16 Kickstart Your Veggie Garden

Saturday, March 16 | 10 – 11:30am

Want to start your own garden? In this fun-filled class taught by Brijette Peña, founder of *San Diego Seed Company*, learn the secrets to starting vegetables, herbs and flowers from seed, how to plant them and what you can do ensure a bountiful harvest. Bring a notebook, lots of material will be covered. Participants can plant a seed tray to take home!

Garden Members \$5, Non-Members \$12



31 Garden Docent Training

FREE!

& 7
Sunday, March 31 | 12 – 4pm
Sunday, April 7 | 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 Operations and Programs, pam@thegarden.org, 619-660-0614 x13.
FREE with materials fee.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Spring Garden & Butterfly Festival

Saturday April 27, 9am-3pm

“Once In A Blue Moon” Stargazing Event (Members-Only)

Sunday May 17, 7:30-9pm

Water Agency Customer Appreciation Day

Saturday May 18, 9am-3pm

Visit TheGarden.org for more information

MAY

3 Butterfly Release! Friday, May 3 | 1-2pm

Learn about our amazing local butterfly species inhabiting the Dorcas E. Utter Butterfly Pavilion. Release a butterfly and guide it to nectar on flowering pavilion plants. Bring your cameras for great photo ops. Space is limited, so the butterflies can spread their wings! All ages welcome if accompanied by an adult.

Garden Members \$15, Non-Members \$20



Photo by Barbara Brush

4 Using Rainwater & Greywater

Saturday, May 4 | 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*.

Garden Members and Non-Members FREE

**SIGN UP NOW for your one-on-one Water System Design Consultations with Brook immediately following class.*



FREE!

11 Backyard Composting Workshop

Saturday, May 11 | 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.

Garden Members and Non-Members FREE

FREE!

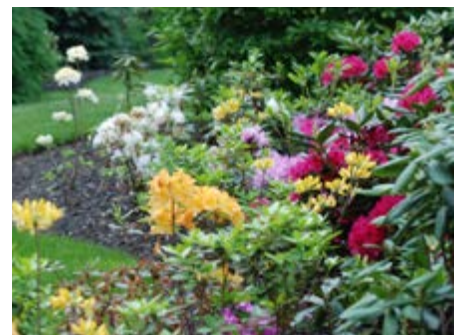
25 Year-Round Color in Your Garden

Saturday, May 25 | 10-11:30am

Moosa Creek Nursery will lead you through the steps needed to provide color in every season in your garden. Learn about the plants that provide seasonal color, the importance of year round color for wildlife, and design tips to achieve a marvelous, vibrant garden to enjoy year round.

Garden Members \$5, Non-Members \$12

NEW



14 LANDSCAPES - Irrigation 101 & Soils

Tuesday, May 14 | 6:30-8:30pm

How can I build soil fertility and good soil structure to provide long lasting water and nutrient retention? Paul Maschka, Farmer/Educator from Wild Willow Farm gets down to the "dirt" of soils and irrigation so you can have a successful garden, all without the use of chemical inputs. Class made possible by the *San Diego County Watershed Protection Program*.

Garden Members and Non-Members FREE



NEW

18 Hillside Planting

Saturday, May 18 | 10am - 12pm

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*.

Garden Members and Non-Members FREE

FREE!



26 Nature Therapy

Sunday, May 26 | 1 - 2:30pm

Not just a stroll, it's nature-healing in this locally adapted practice of Japanese "Forest Bathing" led by Lynn "Doc" Nelson Ph.D. Engage all your senses during a slow-paced, quiet discovery of nature's benefits found in our very own Garden.

Garden Members FREE, Non-Members \$10

GROWING WITH GROSSMONT

Teaching plant science at *Grossmont Center's Shop Local Market*. Check out the market on the last Saturday of every month, and Ms. Smarty-Plants™ special springtime show on Saturday, May 26th.



ALL KIDS ARE WELCOME

to join us for Garden Science, Sign Language, and more with *Soaring Minds Education*, the first Monday of the month through May 2019.

Email jillian@thegarden.org for registration.

STARTING A BUTTERFLY GARDEN WITH MS. SMARTY-PLANTS™

1. Pick a Sunny Spot and choose plants butterflies will love.

Kids who visit The Garden anytime during April - June you can get a *Ms. Smarty-Plants™ Native Pollinator Seed Pack*.

2. Prepare your soil.

Choose either a pot or in the ground. It's time to get dirty! Break up the soil and add some organic compost (if you have it) and mix it well!

3. Plant!

Scatter the seeds, cover with mulch, add a little love and water! Watch the beauty of nature unfold!

MAKE A BUTTERFLY PUDDLE

Great for butterflies because the mud is fortified with nutrients. Butterflies will drink the puddle with their proboscis, a nose-like structure.



1. Fill an aluminum container (pie tin works great) with soil.



2. In a separate bowl mix 1c water, 3tsp sugar, and a pinch of salt.

3. Mix together with soil to make mud. My favorite part!



4. Place outside in your garden and wait for butterflies to perch and drink the mud through their proboscis!



Native Bees



ROOM FOR RENT

35 bee boxes were introduced to gardens in San Diego thanks to Mason Murphy and his Eagle Scout project to increase awareness for the native bee population. Mason built the boxes and gave them away at The Garden's Agency Appreciation Day in 2018.

GIVE BEES A CHANCE!

Bee populations are declining as their habitat disappears. What can we do to help? One simple solution is to install a solo bee shelter in your space. There are many different DIY design options and ready-made shelters available as well. Visit The Garden to see an example of a ready-made shelter by SoloBee installed last year near the Butterfly Pavilion. For more information on Candace Vanderhoff and SoloBee structures look up www.SoloBee.com. Candace makes her shelters right here in San Diego using...guitar factory. Find SoloBee shelters for sale in the Water Drop Garden Shoppe!

Did you know?

- Of the 20,000 bee species in the world, 90% live alone as solitary bees. These bees are also referred to as native or solo bees, because they do not live in a hive with other bees.
- Because they do not have a hive to defend, these bees rarely sting.
- Solo bees come in a rainbow of different colors - including iridescent green and blue!
- These super pollinators are responsible for pollinating over 50% of our food crops.
- California has 1,200 species of native bees!



WAHOOT! THE GARDEN BARN OWLS ARE BACK!

Hoot and Holla returned to The Garden right on schedule, February 17! This has been their date of return for the past three years. Isn't nature amazing? Stay tuned for their antics via a daily blog from Holla, as she likes to journal during this nesting time. We will be streaming them live so be sure to tune in! For all the details visit our website, TheGarden.org and join our e-newsletter list

partners & SUPPORTERS



Classroom Construction Begins!

Our new classroom is well underway. This new multi-purpose building will allow The Garden to increase class size and facility rentals along with community and corporate usage. Thank you to our wonderful partners/supporters who have made this possible! This project is financed under the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006, administered by State of California, Department of Water Resources. Anticipated completion date is early Summer 2019.

Naming opportunities available, contact Janelle Wallace (janelle@thegarden.org) for more details!



We Need Your Pots

The Docent Succulent Team would love to give your old **garden pots and containers** a new life! We are accepting pot donations of **all sizes and shapes** in good condition for beautiful succulent arrangements sold at The Garden. All proceeds from succulent sales go back into Garden operations and keeping our exhibits blooming year-round. Pot donations can be dropped off at the Welcome Kiosk at the South entrance to The Garden. **Thanks a pot!**

garden partner Spotlight

In each issue, inBloom highlights a local nursery that supports The Garden. We encourage Garden patrons to consider these wonderful establishments when working on their next garden project.

Rancho Valhalla Nursery



Photo by Elizabeth Usborne

Serving San Diego since 2002, Rancho Valhalla Nursery is a family owned and operated business that sits on four acres in Rancho San Diego. Owners Ross and Karen Ellis turned Rancho Valhalla into a thriving nursery thanks to hard work and the desire to learn as much as possible about plants and landscape design to fit the needs of their customers in our Mediterranean climate.

The nursery has a great selection of succulents and water-wise plants, trees as well as a delightful array of pottery. In 1973 Ross launched Monterey Landscape Construction and currently employees 20 people. His creative eye for design is evident in a number of displays on the nursery grounds. He is a self taught professional providing service in landscape design, irrigation, hardscape, lighting, ponds and waterfalls.

Stop by and see how Rancho Valhalla Nursery can help you turn your garden into a backyard paradise.

1998 E. Chase Ave. El Cajon, CA 92020
(619) 590-1025 | www.RanchoValhallaNursery.com

Garden Member
Discount: 10% off with current membership card.



New Staff Member: Janelle Wallace

The Garden is excited for Janelle Wallace to join our staff as the new Development and Fundraising Manager! Janelle joins us with experience working for a variety of non-profit causes as a professional fundraiser. Please help us give Janelle a warm Garden welcome!

IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP WITH *The Water Conservation Garden?*

Photo by Sally Long

Spring is a perfect time to visit The Water Conservation Garden and utilize your membership benefits for free entrance at over 300 botanical gardens worldwide or take time for yourself and enjoy connecting with your neighbors in one of our Education classes.

Annual Membership starts at \$50 for an individual.

Contact us at 619.660.0614 x 10 to renew today

Thanks to you,
The Water Conservation Garden's beautiful gardens and rich programs can remain one of our region's finest resources of education and inspiration.

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
CAL AM 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 Metropolitan Water
District
Open Space Management
Otay Water District
Padre Dam Water District
Point Loma Credit Union

Rock and Block Hardscape
San Diego Horticultural Society
SDG&E
San Dieguito Water District
Sweetwater Authority
Village Nurseries



bewaterwise.com

New Members October-December 2018

Miranda Alexander
Nils Benson
Rita Blackwood-Ozzie
Michael Bratton and Lindsey Alper
Cynthia Boucher and
Lynda Christel
Warren and Kacie Diamond
Alana Forbes
DC Frazier
Daphne Galang
Daniel Gawrys and Elizabeth Reed
Mary Ann Glatt

Pam and Jim Gordon
Bridgette Grant
Cheryl Graves
Christ and Suzanne Haiker
Gail Hepper
Ty and Michele Hoffman
Teresa Houska
Elissa Huffsteller
Kathleen Kerrigan
Peter and Morgan Kinnally
Jeff Knoche and Joanne Childers
Linda Levin

Sandy MacKenzie
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Peggy Oertle-Cramer
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Martha Peterson
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Robert and Barbara Warner
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Pamela Williams
Derek and Brenda Wills
Allison Zimmerman



12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West
El Cajon, CA 92019

Tel: (619) 660-0614
Fax: (619) 660-1687

TheGarden.org

Garden Members - You can find your renewal date above your name and address.

Automatic Membership Renewal - When you enroll or renew your membership, consider choosing auto renewal. It's easy and your Garden benefits will never lapse! Visit TheGarden.org/member today.

BECOME A GARDEN MEMBER, FOR GREAT BENEFITS!



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

- **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 TheGarden.org/member.

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