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THE ¹
water conservation
garden
theGarden.org

“Paul-inators” In The Garden
Spring Garden &
Butterfly Festival
Upcycling Concrete

SPRING 2020



OUR MISSION

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

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WaterConservationGarden



WCGarden



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TheWaterConservationGarden

message from the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

THE RENEWAL OF SPRING.

Spring brings renewal and growth in nature, so why not mirror nature and think about renewing personal goals you may have set for 2020. Have you been telling yourself that you need more time outdoors, in nature, with friends, with family or just to simply breath and reflect? Springtime is a chance to grow a little more toward a balanced version of who we are. The Water Conservation Garden is an extension of your own backyard and is here to help you with all of your spring gardening goals. Each season at The Water Conservation Garden is unique and inspiring. This spring be sure to stop by and visit our butterflies, blossoms, tortoises, and owls all while getting inspired to make changes to your own yard. Taking care of a garden, nurturing plants and flowers, is a timeless ritual we can all enjoy. Come share your passion for gardening with your community neighbors.

See you at The Garden,

Jennifer Pillsbury

Executive Director/CEO



"The perfect garden provides homes for insects and animals, and breathes life into people."

- Emma Metson

Interested in joining a Non-Profit Board of Directors?

We are actively recruiting new members. Looking for areas of expertise in finance, estate planning, construction, legal, fundraising, small business management and marketing to name a few.

Visit TheGarden.org/board for more information.

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 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, tax ID no. 20-4395919.

HOURS The Garden and Gift Shop are open daily from 9am to 4pm (except major holidays). See the "Plan Your Visit" page at TheGarden.org for more information.
THE GARDEN WILL BE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS THIS SPRING: Easter (Sunday, April 12) and Memorial Day (Monday, May 25).

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



"Paul-inators"

We all know plants produce foods, like fruits, nuts, vegetables, etc., but they need a little help. To create fruit, plants need their flowers to be pollinated. What other creatures transfer essential pollen from flower to flower, to create fruit? Birds you say? Of course. Hummingbirds, for example, feed on plants like Salvias, Grevilleas, and other tubular flowering plants throughout The Garden. They don't pay attention to the sticky pollen they take with them but completes the transfer anyway while focusing on the tasty nectar.

Next, consider insects. Do you know which ones help create food for us to survive and enjoy? We all know that bees pollinate flowers for many fruiting plants, but what others can you name that play a crucial part in pollination? Some flies are incredibly important as pollinators, such as hoverflies. Their long list of host plants includes apples, pears, cherries, plums, apricots, strawberries, and raspberries. Both bees and hoverflies are found on every continent except Antarctica, and hoverflies are essential when bees are not present in some areas. Even mosquitoes help pollinate. The Mirror Orchid has evolved with a shape that resembles a female mosquito. Male mosquitoes can't resist stopping by to check "her" out.

Now let's talk about a few fun and memorable pollinating symbiotic relationships that have developed between food producing plants and pollinators. Figs end up on our dinner table because of one special insect—the wasp. There are about 20 species of wasps small enough to enter inside the fruit and pollinate the tiny flowers that are present there. Amazing!

The Dragon fruit, a climbing succulent, improved its ability to attract pollinators by intensifying its flower's fragrance at night, which is essential to attracting bats. As bats take the nectar, pollen rubs off on their faces and they transfer pollen from tree to tree. Bats also help provide us with Guavas, bananas, tequila (from the Blue Agave plant), and even chocolate (from the *Theobroma Cacao plant*).

How about reptiles? Well, try to think about why lizards would be interested in nectar, and you might come up with tropical wall lizards, -and you would be right. Geckos and Skinks exhibit flower visitation behaviors on plants like the New Zealand Christmas Tree, located in the Garden's Design Loop as well as in the butterfly pavilion.

Even mammals can play a role in pollinating. I want to highlight one last little, well, not so little, pollinator. Can you guess? How about elephants? Yes, even elephants. According to Science News, in Africa the pollen grains of the Corpse Lily (*Rafflesia arnoldii*), a large ground-level flower, get stuck to elephants' feet and get carried to other Corpse Lily flowers where pollination occurs on the largest individual flower on earth. Yes, nature is Wild!

Paul Redeker, Director of Horticulture & Exhibits

Photo Credit: Vince McGrath, Bee in Strawberry Tree

Resources: *The Science of Big, Weird Flowers*. Science News. *Wildlife Guide, Bees*. National Wildlife Foundation. *Species Syrphidae, Hoverfly*. National Biodiversity Network Atlas.



**Celebrate Spring at The Garden
with a Day of Family Fun!**

Butterfly Releases | Milkweed | Plant sales | Landscape Design Consultations
& Pollinator Party with Ms. Smarty-Plants™

Plus: Family fun, Vendors and Food trucks to enjoy in this annual community collaboration
with Cuyamaca College and the Heritage of the Americas Museum.

Saturday, April 25 | 9am-3pm

FREE Admisson & parking!



Wags & Wine

July 8 & August 12

5:30 - 7:30 pm

Returning again this summer:

Gregory Page in Concert

Date pending

**Nature Nights with
Ms. Smarty-Plants™**

3 Nights This Year = 3 Times the Fun!

June 26

July 31

August 31



See pg. 8 for more info!

Host Your Event at The Garden



The Garden makes an exceptional backdrop for weddings, birthdays, memorials, and corporate events.

Several unique venues of various sizes and atmospheres. Or, reserve the entire Garden for larger events!



Let The Garden make your event one to remember!

For more information, visit: TheGarden.org or email Angelina@TheGarden.org

On The Wings of a Butterfly

A hands-on experience with The Garden's butterflies. We release a new group into our Butterfly Pavilion each Friday morning during our Butterfly Season and you can join a small group that conducts this activity. Examine your own butterfly up close and **learn about:**

- * Butterfly anatomy
- * Our local species
- * Their food preferences
- * Butterfly life cycle, and
- * Environmental benefits

Our butterflies are all local so we salute them in the wild with a ceremonial release of one of our newcomers into The Garden.

Register at TheGarden.org/events

Butterfly Release

9am
Every Friday
in May!



APRIL

4	CNPS San Diego Garden Tour	Sat 9am-4pm
11	Landscape Design Consultations	Sat 9am-12:45pm
18	Irrigation Consultations	Sat 9am-12:45pm
18	Growing Gardeners	Sat 9:30-11:30am
19	Nature Therapy	Sun 1-2:30pm
19	Docent Training Part I	Sun 12-4pm
25	SPRING GARDEN & BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL	Sat 9am-4pm
25	Flights of Fancy: Butterfly Headpieces	Sat 11:30am-2:30pm
26	Nature Therapy	Sun 1-2:30pm
26	Docent Training Part II	Sun 12-4pm



GROWING GARDENERS
April 18 & May 16
Gardening for the whole family



DOCENT TRAINING
April 19 & 26
Two-part workshop
Apply & register online:
TheGarden.org/volunteer

MAY BUTTERFLY RELEASES EVERY FRIDAY IN MAY, 9am

1	Member Butterfly Release	Fri 10am
2	Garden Tour	Sat 10-11am
9	Build a Bee Home!	Sat 11am-12:30pm
9	Landscape Design Consultations	Sat 9am-12:45pm
9	Backyard Composting	Sat 10am-12pm
15	Grow Strong Trees	Fri 10am-12pm
16	Irrigation Spring Tune Up!	Sat 10am-12pm
16	Growing Gardeners	Sat 9:30-11:30am
18	Irrigation Consultations	Mon 9am-12:45pm
21	Mosaic Bee Baths	Thu 10am-12pm
30	Rainwater & Greywater Gardens	Sat 10am-12pm
30	Water System Consultations	Sat 9am-12:45pm



BUILD A BEE HOME!
May 9
Bee a Mother to the Bees

JUNE

6	Flower Sessions	Sat 10-11:30am
6	Garden Tour	Sat 10-11am
10	Wags & Wine	Wed 5:30-7:30pm
13	How to Hire a Landscape Professional	Sat 10-11:30am
13	Landscape Design Consultations	Sat 9am-12:45pm
26	Nature Nights with Ms. Smarty-Plants™	Fri 5:30-8pm
27	Flower Sessions	Sat 10-11:30am



GROW STRONG TREES
May 15
Strong Trees from the Start!



Photo by: NeschanicValleyIrrigation

IRRIGATION SPRING TUNE UP!
May 16
Set up for dry weather ahead



MAKE A MOSAIC BEE BATH
May 21 & 22
Welcome bees to your garden!



HOW TO HIRE A LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONAL
June 13

CUSTOM GARDEN EXPERIENCES

- Tours
- Shuttle Tours
- Succulent Plantings
- Butterfly Releases

Reservations required.

Questions? Call weekdays
619-660-0614 x21.



To book an educational program visit:
MsSmartyPlants.org

Call 619-660-0614 x16
for more details.

Online Garden Calendar



Scan code!

Nature Nights Are Back!

Our Nature Nights were so popular we decided to add another night this summer! Join us for three evenings of family fun!

- Animal Encounters
- Campfire
- Explore The Garden after dark!

JUNE 26
JULY 31
AUGUST 28
 5:30-8:00pm

Visit TheGarden.org/events to register for Nature Nights.



Ms. Smarty-Plants™ says, "Nature makes **US** happy!"

I love spending time outside when the weather is nice and especially in The Garden, come join me!

The Garden is a wonderful place to enjoy a stroll with your family, dog or even participate in our fun, FREE scavenger hunts around The Garden. When you finish your hunt make your way back to the "Welcome Watering Can" at our entrance to collect a prize...

...and probably a hug!



My favorite holiday is coming up: Earth Day!

Help give the earth an extra hug by reducing, reusing and recycling!

Tag me on social media and tell me how you helped the Earth!

#MSPearthheroes



RECLAIMED CONCRETE RENEWS

By: Lauren Gagliano-Saline

Upcycled concrete, often called 'Urbanite' or 'Rip Rap', is a reclaimed resource with multiple applications that can have a surprisingly luxe look with the right treatments. From planter beds to pathways, retaining walls to steps, fire pits to rock gardens....the uses for Urbanite are virtually endless!

In early 2019 The Garden broke ground on the now complete Samuel M. Ciccati Conservation Education Center. Work began with demolition of the concrete patio where the new Center would be built. The Garden opted to retain all the materials from the patio demolition on site, including tons of concrete. Almost immediately the concrete chunks were prepared and used in areas around The Garden to showcase the beauty and effectiveness of Urbanite.

Urbanite can be sourced for little to no cost. Because concrete is heavy and costly to remove, folks are typically more than happy to offload it for FREE to anyone willing to pick up and transport it. A quick search on sites like Craig's List or Freecycle may provide some sources. Be part of a win-win-win scenario: divert waste from the landfill, reduce the carbon footprint of materials, and outfit your landscape with beautiful 'mock-rock'; all for the low cost of free!

Urbanite in The Garden:

- Temperature Control Exhibit between Formal Garden and Ms. Smarty-Plants™ cottage: See the keyhole sitting area built by Docent Paul Tubiolo
- Double swale border across path from RetroFit House Exhibit
- Buckner Garden planting bed adjacent to the new Samuel M. Ciccati Water Conservation Education Center
- Container Logic Exhibit at bend past Soils Exhibit
- Trail border in the Upper Children's Trail (expected to be open Fall 2020)



Urbanite Retainer Wall for Buckner Garden & Education Center
Photo: Vince McGrath

Tips for Working With Urbanite:

1. Wear gloves when handling Urbanite as edges can be sharp. Safety first!
2. Break it up into desired size using a sledgehammer or jack hammer (don't forget personal protective gear when using these tools!)
3. Pressure wash or thoroughly clean to prevent paint or stain from chipping
4. Use concrete stain and choose at least 2 colors to achieve a natural stone look
 - The Garden used the following colors: Terra Cotta, Adobe, and Brownstone
 - It is common practice to use Urbanite without any stains or paints, depending on the desired look

Did You Know?

**June 22-28 is
National Pollinators Week.**

**Celebrate early by helping release
new butterflies into The Garden
every Friday in May at 9am.**

See pg. 5 for details!



Urbanite Swale During Install



Urbanite Swale After Completion



The Samuel M. Ciccati Water Conservation Education Center – Complete!

participating nursery
Spotlight

HUNTER'S NURSERY

3110 Sweetwater Rd.
Lemon Grove, CA 91945
www.huntersnursery.com
(619) 463-9341

Garden Member Discount:

10% off with current membership card.

The Garden is pleased to announce that construction on the beautiful new multi-purpose room is complete! This spacious room brings the outdoors inside, featuring large picture windows framing the gorgeous Buckner Cactus Garden, shiplap detailing on the ceiling and a feature wall, 3 smart TVs, a mobile whiteboard, Life Proof flooring, and a much larger capacity than the existing classroom. We are excited to offer this tech-savvy space for all of its potential uses: meetings, weddings, workshops, baby showers, conferences, networking events, and much more. Director of Operations and Programs Pam Meisner served as Project Manager and leading interior design. This building was made possible by the efforts of many individuals, organizations, and entities, and The Garden is incredibly grateful for all support and contributions to bring this building to life.

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.

Watersmart Front Yard Exhibit – Almost Complete!

Framing the east side of the Education Center is a gorgeous new Watersmart Front Yard Exhibit sponsored by the San Diego County Water Authority. This innovative exhibit offers an additional opportunity for The Garden to demonstrate guiding principles for a successful low-water-use landscape. The new exhibit has a diverse plant palette, cutting-edge water-harvesting technologies, efficient irrigation, living soils, permeable pavers and application of reclaimed resources such as Urbanite (see pg 9). The Watersmart Front Yard Exhibit inspires visitors to envision the landscape of their dreams! Watersmart landscapes are attractive and in balance with our environment and climate. A big thank you to SDCWA for funding this project.



DONOR RECOGNITION

Thank you to the following donors for generous contributions of \$100 or more between October 1st and December 31st 2019.
Your generosity helps keep The Garden growing!

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Emilie Zouhar

All donors to The Garden will be acknowledged in The Garden's annual reports.

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We would like to thank our Corporate Partners and Non-Profit Affiliates in appreciation for all they do to keep The Garden a beautiful place.



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Trust

The Rice Family
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Arthur Q. Johnson
Foundation



New Members

October-December 2019

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Only new members to The Garden will be listed.



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TheGarden.org

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

Automatic Membership Renewal - Skip the hassle and choose Auto-Renew! Visit TheGarden.org/member to enroll today.

BECOME A GARDEN MEMBER, FOR GREAT BENEFITS!

- FREE and discounted workshops
- FREE or discounted admission to over 300 national and international botanical gardens
- Discounts at local participating nurseries and garden shops (see list below)
- Discounts at The Garden's Gift 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)
- **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 Valhalla Nursery** — El Cajon (ranchovalhallanursery.com)

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

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Generosity from our donors makes our mission possible. We are grateful for all types of gifts, big and small, and welcome the opportunity to work with you and your personal advisors to meet your philanthropy goals.

For more information visit our website:

TheGarden.org/support/planned-giving

Janelle Wallace
Director of Development & Membership
Janelle@TheGarden.org

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