Waiting on Hoot & Holla
New Year’s Resolution
Plant Disease Care
WINTER 2020
message from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WINTER WARMTH.

Winter: a time for comfort, good food and warmth, the touch of a friendly hand, a talk with family and friends. What better place to enjoy this season than The Water Conservation Garden? We’re here, waiting for you to grab a warm cup of coffee or tea and stroll our winter trails. Take time for yourself and simplify the pace of the season. Come listen to winter life at The Garden and take a deep breath full of crisp, clean air.

This winter completes my first year as CEO of The Water Conservation Garden. I feel so blessed to lead such an amazing organization that’s not only beautiful, but so important to the community of San Diego. The support I have felt from our partners, members and the community has been overwhelming. I look forward to connecting with those of you I have yet to meet and sharing the bright future of The Garden. Together we will unite and inspire even more people to conserve water and other natural resources.

Often winter is a time to reflect on the past year and plan the future. The Garden needs all of you, we ask that you remember us when planning for your future events, gatherings, planting needs, and philanthropic gifts. Together we will grow.

See you soon, with your loved ones and friends, in The Garden.

Jennifer Pillsbury
Executive Director/CEO

"Anyone who thinks that gardening begins in the spring, and ends in the fall is missing the best part of the whole year. For gardening begins in January with the dream."

– Josephine Nuese

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.

Get Social With Us! #wcgarden
Keep up with the latest on news, events and more!
Walking through The Garden I noticed our Broad-Leaved Paperbark Tree, *Melaleuca quinquenervia*, looking a bit sad and dingy. This tree is located by the pencil art piece, just off of The Garden’s main patio. Closer inspection revealed black mold on many lower leaves and a white residue substance. This tree has “sooty mold”, a symptom of more than just one type of insect activity.

Several sucking insects like aphids, whiteflies and soft scales, excrete a sticky substance called “honeydew” where this mold grows. The mold doesn't damage the plant other than getting the leaves dirty, slightly reducing sunlight exposure for plant growth. The insects are the real problem. Checking the underside of the leaves for insects I found aphids and soft scale. Both feed on sap from plants which can stunt growth, decline health, deform foliage, and other harmful effects.

Before leaving I checked around for ants. Ants benefit greatly from feeding on honeydew. They even protect honeydew producing insects from danger. This can cause honeydew producing insect numbers increase and more sooty mold forms. Just keeping the ants away with “tanglefoot” or other natural home remedies and washing the honeydew and sooty mold off the leaves can reduce sucking insect levels enough to allow natural predators and parasites maintain the balance. Washing off pests and disease symptoms instead of using harsh, often unnecessary, chemicals is an important step in our Garden’s Integrated Pest Management Program. There are many options to try before buying and spraying harmful chemicals into our environment.

• Maintaining healthy plants by feeding regularly with organic fertilizers during the growing season is an important preventative measure.
• Watering early morning instead of early evening help keep moisture from lingering all night in the ground.
• Pruning allows sunlight and air movement which helps immensely, as does making proper plant choices.

What other type of plants are in the area that may be effected by the disease exposure? In this case the Jerusalem Sage, *Phloem’s fruticose*, closest to the Broad-Leafed Paperbark Melaleuca, has sooty mold, too. How will I eradicate this? First, I’ll try a good washing with mild soap. If that doesn’t work, I will reach for Neem oil, a vegetable oil derived from the seeds and fruit of the evergreen tree, Indian Lilac, common to India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.

Article by Paul Redeker
Photographer unknown

Sources:
Dept. of Primary Ind. & Regional Dev.
UC Ag & Natural Resources
http://ipm.ucanr.edu/pmg/pestnotes/pn7408.html
happenings & EVENTS

Destination: Wellness at The Garden!

Did you know that Harvard Medical (July 1, 2010) stated these 5 potential benefits of spending more time outdoors:
• Your vitamin D levels will go up
• You’ll get more exercise
  (especially if you’re a child)
• You’ll be happier
  (especially if your exercise is ‘green’)
• Your concentration will improve
• You may heal faster

Coming Again in Spring
Spring Garden & Butterfly Festival

Coming in March
Tomatomania!

The Garden is thrilled to take part in the world’s largest heirloom tomato seedling sale again this year! Scott Daigre and his team are bringing back all of your favorite varieties plus much, much more. From an experienced gardener to just a beginner, Tomatomania has the perfect blend of yummy seedlings and tools to make the ideal Summer Garden!
Host Your Event at The Garden

Have you found the perfect venue to make your special event one of a kind? With nearly six acres of lush and colorful spaces, The Garden makes an exceptional backdrop for weddings, birthdays, memorials, and corporate events.

There are several distinct 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 to info@thegarden.org!

Book a private, after-hours event!
### JANUARY

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<td>Wish Upon a Star</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Kickstart Your Veggie Garden</td>
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### FEBRUARY

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<td>13</td>
<td>Gardening for Grownups with Ms. Smarty-Plants™</td>
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<td>Kickstart Your Veggie Garden</td>
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<td>29</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>All About Worms Composting</td>
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Registration is REQUIRED for all workshops at TheGarden.org or by calling 619-660-0614 x21.

LOCATED NEXT TO CUYAMACA COLLEGE IN THE RANCHO SAN DIEGO AREA OF EL CAJON.

MARCH

19

Gardening for Grownups with Ms. Smarty-Plants™
Thursday | 5-6pm

Another playful discussion on plants and sustainability with our favorite gal in boots. Join fellow home gardeners, make a take-home craft, and enjoy tasty treats.

Garden Members $8
Non-Members $12

UPCOMING EVENTS

Returning in March: Tomatomania!

Returning this SPRING: Spring Garden & Butterfly Festival

Visit TheGarden.org for more about these programs.

WINTER GARDENING TIP: Mulching helps keep root temperatures stable.

WINTER 2020 • 7

Two-Part Docent Training Consecutive Saturdays Jan 25 & Feb 1 | 12-4pm

WaterSmart Landscape Makeover Series
Four consecutive Saturdays: March 14, 21, 28 & April 4
Must pre-qualify online.

A program by the San Diego County Water Authority that empowers you to upgrade your high-water-use turf area, into a WaterSmart landscape.

Details and Requirements at:
www.landscapemakeoverwatersmartsd.org/classes

GARDEN MEMBERS

DOCENT TRAINING

Field Trips and Assemblies
To book an educational program for your class, visit:
MsSmartyPlants.org


First Saturday Tours
Docent-led Garden Tour at 10am. No registration needed. FREE

Second Saturdays
Professional Landscape Design Consultations.
9am-2pm. Info & registration online.

Group Garden Experiences
• Tours
• Shuttle Rides
• Succulent Plantings
Reservations required

Visit TheGarden.org for more about these programs.

Locate next to Cuyamaca College in the Rancho San Diego area of El Cajon.
**Whoooo Are We Waiting For?**

The Garden is anxiously awaiting the return of our resident Barn Owls, Hoot and Holla to arrive in February. Fun Fact: Barn Owls don’t hoot, they screech. These silent flyers are very important to our ecosystem and provide natural pest control. Get ready to watch them as we livestream them from our “owlcam” inside their nesting box. Stay Tuned!

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**Send in Your Drawing!**

Send Ms. Smarty-Plants™ your owl drawings and guess what date you think they’ll arrive in February! The first 10 drawings, maybe more, will be displayed in The Garden!

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

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**Nature Nights was a hit!**

Thanks again SDG&E!

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For more information about Ms. Smarty Plants™ or to donate to The Garden’s education programs, visit TheGarden.org/learn/ms-smarty-plants
METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OFFERS CASH INCENTIVE FOR REPLACING GRASS WITH SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE

Southern Californians looking to ditch their lawn for more sustainable landscaping can now earn a rebate of up to $10,000 from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to help with the project.

The turf rebate program is mutually beneficial – participants get a beautiful garden that attracts butterflies and hummingbirds, and Southern California gets much-needed water conservation. The program is expected to help Metropolitan meet its goal to conserve an additional 180,000 acre-feet of water by 2040, enough water for about 540,000 Southern California homes a year.

“Increasing conservation in the region is a key pillar of ensuring the Southland has a reliable water supply for decades to come,” Metropolitan General Manager Jeffrey Kightlinger said. “More than half of all household water use occurs outside, so swapping out grass for more water-efficient landscapes and native plants can go a long way to reaching our conservation goals.”

Through the program, participants get $2 per square foot of lawn replaced with native and California Friendly™ plants and flowers. Up to $50 million in applications will be accepted each year. Some Metropolitan member agencies also offer additional cash incentives. Residents and business owners should check with their local water agencies or start an application at socalwatersmart.com to find out if they get additional cash back.

Notes on Qualifying Yard Makeovers: As part of the turf replacement program, updated rules require all eligible projects to have at least three plants for every 100 square feet of area transformed, a stormwater retention feature and the replacement or modification of overhead spray sprinklers. Hardscapes within a transformed area, except for permeable elements, are not allowed.

For more information and to apply, visit bewaterwise.com.
partners & SUPPORTERS

Thank You! With Your Help We Raised Nearly $60,000!

participating nursery Spotlight

Thank You Concert Auction Donors & Sponsors:

Cancun Cards
Casino Pauma
Coronado Playhouse
Cuyamaca College
Del Mar Thoroughbred Club
Emerald isle Golf Course
Fillmore & Western Railway Co.
Flagship Cruises & Events
Nick & Denise Hagers
Henebery Whiskey
Japanese Friendship Garden
Jim & Cheryl Minshew
Peggy Matarese
Ms. Smarty-Plants™
Monte Vista HQ Fire Station #20
Moronga Casino, Resort & Spa
Museum of Tolerance
Pacific Arts Movement
Rancho Val Halle Nursery
San Diego Automotive Museum
San Diego Botanic Garden
San Diego Chinese Historical Museum
San Diego History Center
San Diego Repertory Theater
San Diego Zoo Global
Stadium Golf Center & Batting Cages
Steele Canyon Golf Course Club
Supervisor Dianne Jacob
Sycuan Casino & Resort
The Anza-Borrego Desert
Paleontology Society
The Cheesecake Factory
The Fish Market
The San Diego Museum of Art
The San Diego Natural History Museum
The Stronghold
The Water Conservation Garden
The Water Conservation Garden Board
The Water Conservation Garden Docents
Tom & Lorraine Allingham
UTC Ice

Laundry Water Magic?

Visit: Watersmartsd.org for info on greywater rebates

Photo by: Sally Long

KNIFFING’S DISCOUNT NURSERIES

14940 Oak Creek Rd.
El Cajon, CA 92021
www.kniffingsnursery.com
(619) 561-0611

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

Arthur Q. Johnson Foundation

Sycuan
Casino Resort
**MEET OUR NEW FACILITIES MANAGER**

Sam comes to us from The San Diego Center for Children with a “can do” attitude, safety expertise and a great smile. Welcome Sam Miller to our Garden family!

*Words Sam lives by: “In this very moment you hold the power to change someone else’s life for the better. Go do it!”*

Gail Lynne Goodwyn

**Corporate Partners**

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.

**New Members**

**July–September 2019**

Barbara Adams
Scott Penwell & Sherry Ashbaugh
Kathryn Bollin
Fabrice & Alison Borel
Lisa Borsberry
Steven & Susan Bourdreau
Ryan & Lauren Bresnahan
Patricia Burch
Angelina Byrd
Heather Carlton
Wesley and Cathrine Whitaker
Jessica Palmer and Scott Cauthen
Esther Corley
Erin Crouthers

Richard & Judy Curry
Joelyn Curtis
Dennis Driscoll
Timothy & Kate Dzierzek
Kathryn and Robert Elsaesser
Michael & Holly Foster
Lauren Gagliano-Saline
Bob and Kathy Glass
Elena Gomez
James Gregg
Teresa Sperry & Vivian Guarinotta
Jonny Hegly
Linda Hernandez
Susan Holtz

Bill & Olivia Hoyt
Iliana Ingram
Helene Lindquist
Sara & Eleil Lizardo
Mario Lizarraga
Lauren Magnuson
Jacquelyn McWhorter
Chris Meador
Laura Medina
Pam Meisner
Romina Pacheco
Debra Pappani
Nancy Paznokas
Jennifer Pillsbury

Jillian Quint
Jay & Jyothi Reddy
Paul Redeker
Sandra Rickon
Linda Smith
Shawntae Smity
Blake Sowle
Donna Swing
Rebecca Taylor
Richard and Jennifer Tom
Daiana Wallace
Ken and Pamela Williams

*Only new members to The Garden will be listed. All donors to The Garden will be acknowledged in The Garden’s annual reports.*
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

Planning Your Legacy

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
Development & Fundraising Manager
Janelle@TheGarden.org