Using Nature to Nurture
New Online Programs
Photo Pull Out

SUMMER 2020
**OUR MISSION**

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

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**Photographer:** Paul Redeker

**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.

**HOOURS**

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, and for COVID-19 updates.*

**THE GARDEN WILL BE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS THIS SUMMER:**

- Independence Day (Saturday, July 4) and Labor Day (Monday, September 7).

**Get Social With Us! #wcgarden**

Keep up with the latest on news, events and more!
Using Nature to Nurture

Re-centering, Re-engaging and Relaxing.

As we all recently experienced, while social distancing these past months, it was made very apparent we are "social" beings and yearn for interaction with others as well as nature. Now more than ever we are assessing the priorities in our lives and realizing what it is that we really need. Having to home-shelter has given us time to reflect on and re-evaluate what really is important, and maybe even slow down a bit.

Sometimes just a walk on the beach, a hike in the mountains, rolling down a grassy hill or a stroll through The Garden is just what the doctor ordered. Throughout these unusual times, Nature and The Garden have stayed steadfast in their ability to heal and bring peace and comfort to anyone willing to step out into them. So, let's explore why we feel better when surrounded by nature.

Typically, this page of inBLOOM shares details about flora in The Garden. But there is something much deeper to consider. Something you can see, but more importantly something you can feel when visiting The Garden. Strolling its trails and being near trees reduces stress and anxiety. Some aromatic chemicals from plants sedate while others stimulate our brains. The net result is that being surrounded by plants and trees uplifts and relaxes you at the same time. Very few activities do both.

We are meant to be in a relationship with nature. Like any relationship, we miss it when separated, and long to reunite. When we do, things seem right in our world. Nature provides us with an unexplained kindness for all things. As we open The Garden trails, we hope you find it a safe and healing space for whatever ails you!

Summer 2020 • 3
NEW WORKSHOPS

Welcome Back!

CHECK ONLINE FOR UPDATES on summer events & workshops!

NEW Workshop This Summer!

WATER HARVESTING IN YOUR LIFE

Sponsored by Integrated Regional Water Management

FREE

NEW THINGS TO SEE IN THE GARDEN

CHILDREN’S TRAIL UPGRADE

Our Children’s Trail, maintained by our awesome Children’s Trail Docent/Volunteer Team is getting a little expansion. It will include an upper trail with railings and a kids “sneak away” vegetation tunnel. Our Director of Horticulture, Paul Redeker and our Facilities Manager, Sam Miller have had fun creating this addition. Don’t be surprised if you see them playing in there!

For details and updates, visit: TheGarden.org/water-harvesting-program
Host Your Event at The Garden

With several unique venues of various sizes and atmospheres, The Garden makes an exceptional backdrop for weddings, birthdays, memorials, and corporate events. Or, reserve the entire Garden for larger events! We will start booking events again soon. Contact us for updates!

Let The Garden make your event one to remember!

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

NOT ALL HEROES WEAR CAPES

I want to acknowledge all the “heroes without capes” out there that have kept us going and safe during this pandemic; the grocery and postal worker, first responders, teachers, trash collectors, parents, all medical personnel, and many others.

A special thank you to The Garden’s own family warriors, who battled on the front lines to keep us safe, Dr. Maureen Tyner (sister of Ms. Smarty-Plants™) and Amanda Miller, R.N., (wife of Sam Miller)! Thank you from Ms. Smarty-Plants™

Been Missing The Garden?

If you’re handy, don’t mind getting dirty, enjoy making a difference, and not a Docent or Volunteer yet, we have a place for you! In fact, we have a lot of places for you and hope you’ll invite some friends to join you. Training is provided! Check out our Docent/Volunteer program on our website: TheGarden.Org/Volunteer or scan the QR code to learn more.

The Garden

Needs YOU!

Volunteer
& dig in!
While we work on scheduling events and workshops for you, here are some of our favorite photos of The Garden. We hope you enjoy this small part of the beauty The Garden offers.

Photo credits: (left) Protea Blossom, Harold Bailey; (right) Peaches & Cream Grevillea Blossom, anonymous.
Located next to Cuyamaca College in the Rancho San Diego area of El Cajon.
Adaptations - The Heroes Within Us

As in nature, adaptations are meant to help plants and animals survive in changing conditions. Well I just wanted to send a shout out to all of my Earth Heroes for “adapting” to the changes we have had to make during this most unusual time of home-sheltering and social distancing! Although something like this can seem scary and uncertain at times, I want to share all the positive actions and kindnesses I have seen happening within San Diego, especially in our local community!

During these past few weeks I have seen so many “heroes in action”; parents taking on the role of teacher; neighbors helping neighbors; families playing together and having fun; imaginations exploding with unique and fun ideas; courage, strength and perseverance win out; empathy and sympathy increase; and our Earth heals!

I am so proud to be part of all of my Earth Heroes out there making the world a better place...thank you!

Ms. Smarty-Plants™ says, “Nature is so cool!”

While The Garden was closed these past months I’ve had the fun opportunity to take care of Mr. Peabody, one our desert tortoises, at my home. Wow, he has some really cool adaptations! Tortoises can actually “conserve” water in a special bladder and can go long periods of time without drinking. They gather most of their water from the foods they eat; Mr. Peabody loves melon and grass! Next time you’re at The Garden stop by and say “hi” to him!

Earth Heroes Adaptation Challenge!

Let’s explore nature and find all the cool adaptations she’s hiding! Look for unique colors, shapes & textures. Take pictures of what you find and tag me on social media and tell me what you’ve discovered!

#MSPearthHeroes
DIY Water Harvesting

During the summer months in San Diego County, we are reminded of just how precious water is. There is less rainfall, the air temperature climbs and humidity falls, sometimes to single digits during Santa Ana conditions. So why are we talking about water harvesting now? Because it is the perfect time to prepare your landscape for the “rainy” season. Finding DIY ways to capture and use rainwater can be fun and extremely rewarding.

Our new Education Center Front Yard Exhibit, made possible by The San Diego County Water Authority, demonstrates a variety of unique and low-cost rain harvesting ideas and systems.

The Garden also offers hands-on classes and workshops for capturing water in your yard; “Water Harvesting in Your Life” is coming soon! (See pg 4).

Did You Know?

Many of you love the smell right after it rains, and there’s a name for that.

It’s “Petrichor.”
We have been greatly touched by the generosity of supporters like you who have donated to our mission. The Water Conservation Garden is facing difficult times and needs your continued support now more than ever. Each year we raise over $1 million to keep our gates open, care for our plant collections and continue our conservation education mission. With the expected losses this year, we will not be able to provide all the excellent educational opportunities and workshops or our bi-lingual services and programming to our disadvantaged communities. Please consider helping us reach our fundraising goal to keep The Garden the special place that it is for so many of us!

**SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT:**
**Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club**

The Garden’s hands-on youth gardening program, “Growing Gardeners” provides all children a dynamic learning experience on growing food, gardening, and conservation. This program is being made possible to the generous support of the Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club. **Thank you, Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club** for “growing” our program!

**SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT:**
**San Diego Gas & Electric**

**Thank you, SDG&E,** for your continued support and sponsorship of The Water Conservation Garden’s, Ms. Smarty-Plants™ program! This year’s support ensures our mission continues during this challenging time by sponsoring on-line learning. SDG&E’s consistent and generous support has allowed The Garden’s Ms. Smarty-Plants™ program to offer free and low-cost activities that engage all to make inspiring, positive changes to our environment!

**STRONGER TOGETHER**

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DONOR RECOGNITION
All donors to The Garden will be acknowledged in The Garden’s annual reports.

PHILANTHROPY IN ACTION
Richard Wright

As the former President of The Water Conservation Garden’s Board of Directors, Richard Wright has played an instrumental role not only on the Board but also on many other aspects of The Garden’s success. From the Membership Team to The Dirty Docents, there’s rarely a week you don’t see Richard in The Garden!

Thanks to Richard’s continued generous support: a new Donor Wall for The Garden is in the process! Thank you, Richard, for your unwavering dedication and kindness to our community. We look forward to embarking on this new project together!

Thank you to the following donors for generous contributions between January 1st and March 31st 2020.
Your generosity helps keep The Garden growing!

$100 - $500:
- Julia Allen
- James Beyster
- Bill Matella
- Bonnie K. Scott
- Mary Brandon
- Genevieve Caraveo
- Marsha Saben
- Ed Woodruff

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
January–March 2020

Karen Anderson
Craig Ballard
Gloria Barry
Sue Brenner
Kay Carlson
Nathaly & Druso Aular
Patty Charman
Tayhid & Wisam Cholagh
Richard Erganian
Joe & Thersa Grojean
De Layne & Devin Harmon
Shawn & Heather Haynes
Alex Hazell
Linda & Jennifer Hennes
Christine Hoey
Del & Sandy Hood
Richard Ingalls
Wendy & Keith Kwasny
Glenn & Beth Leeks
Dan & Cathy Leonard
Mark Mahigian
Barbara McCubbin
Sofia Miranda
Teresa & Kenneth Moore
Renita Motz
Courtney Okamoto
Saul Parra
Jeff Schwartz
Janinne Semancsin
Susan Yeaw
Stephen Zolezzi

Only new members to The Garden will be listed.
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 Shop
- 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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**A Lasting Legacy**

A planned gift is one of the most impactful ways you can support the mission of The Water Conservation Garden. Today we highlight our Lifetime Members, Bill and Norma Verbeck and thank them for their forever friendship. Thank you for making The Garden part of your legacy.

For more information visit our website: TheGarden.org/support/planned-giving

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