

THE GARDEN

A newsletter for staff & volunteers

FEATURES IN THIS ISSUE:

Brandi's Message - 2
Neighborhood Garden
Scavenger Hunt - 3
Projects Updates - 4
Current photos - 5



SDBG California Poppies, *Eschscholzia californica*

Weeds & Wildflowers

Jill Gardner

Odd times, indeed. And, yet, so many opportunities! With most of us working or sheltering in our homes, the Garden is quiet and calm -- excepting all of the ongoing activity! We thought that you may be missing this special place and wondering how it is all faring.

We offer this little newsletter to bring you a glimpse of what's going on in your special place. Nothing elaborate but, hopefully, refreshing and settling. We are considering this a time of opportunity and progress as we work apart, but as a team.

So much for us all to look forward to in the near future!

A Message from Ari Novy

President & CEO

Dear Garden friends,

We miss you all so much! San Diego Botanic Garden just doesn't feel right emptied of the people who love it most. We can't wait until we can open again and see you all in the Garden. In the meantime, we hope you and your families are safe and well.

As I take my daily walks around my neighborhood, waving at neighbors but always staying 6 feet away, I'm thrilled by all the vegetation. The rains this winter have been good and we are graced with green hills and wildflowers. Of course, what's good for wildflowers is also good for weeds. I'm having fun enjoying the natives and the weeds. In the past week, I've seen our wonderful poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) come into bloom. Honestly, I don't think there's a more beautiful wildflower anywhere in the world. I'm also having a blast with my favorite weed, sourgrass (*Oxalis per-caprae*). My kids just love to chomp on the lemony stems wherever we find it. But it is a little invasive, so please control it if you can.

We're continuing to maintain the Garden so it is ready for you all as soon as we are allowed to open up again. But until we can see you in person, we'll keep in touch and provide glimpses of the Garden and share our love for plants through email and social media.

Stay safe and well,

Ari Novy, PhD
President & CEO

PS - Click on the link below and join me on a virtual walk via YouTube around Palm Canyon and the Rainforest.

<https://sdbgarden.org/gardentour.htm>



Echium sp. and honey bee friend

A Message from Brandi Eide

Managing Director

Hello everyone! The Garden is looking beautiful after the plentiful rains and warming weather. So much is in bloom, we don't want you to miss it! In addition to this newsletter, keep up with the Garden on our Instagram and Facebook pages. There, we are working on educational components, activities and photos of our beautiful plants to keep you in touch with what's going on in the Garden. We'll share a few of these images in these newsletters as well.

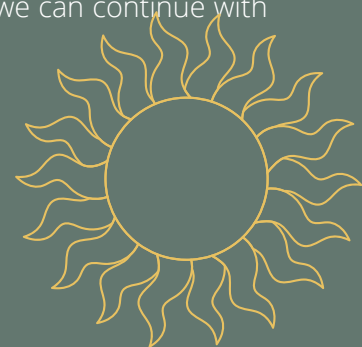
The County of San Diego has extended its 'Stay at Home' order until further notice. As such, we will not be able to reopen the Garden until this order is lifted. We are following government orders as they come, and have had only minimal staff working onsite since Friday, March 20. We had already begun planning, ensuring that essential duties will be covered and cross-trained. s it!

Employees are teleworking where possible, though we are allowed to have some staff onsite to maintain critical infrastructure. "Under federal regulations, several operations at the Garden are considered critical infrastructure, allowing us to maintain and safeguard our collections, buildings and other infrastructure. As such, we are activating essential work teams in our Horticulture, Facilities and IT departments to do some work on-site to make sure the Garden is maintained and kept at readiness to reopen whenever we are permitted to do so. All employees that can telework will continue to do so. We have promulgated additional safety and health guidance for employees who are required to work on site to protect them from coronavirus." – Ari Novy

We are taking this opportunity to catch up on many tasks that had been difficult to get to during our regular course of business. Some of our projects include cleaning up and organizing records in multiple departments, working on plant signage, creating distance learning and educational content for all ages, continuing many processes - like accounting - remotely, and developing methods of outreach to keep you, staff and the public engaged.

The County is continuing its construction projects on-site, until completion, and they are in full swing. Re-roofing the Lawn House and repairs to the Gift Shop roof are underway. The overflow parking lot is full each day, as the entire construction crew is onsite. We will continue to work on our contract with the City of Encinitas to maintain some of the City's critical vegetation. This is revenue-generating work and we are happy we can continue with this contract.

Stay well, and we look forward to seeing you again as soon as we can.



Neighborhood Garden Scavenger Hunt!

The Education Department

In order to support all of our Garden lovers, both young and wise, our Education team will be putting together resources to help the learning and fun continue at home. We will be connecting learners to plants and nature through their own backyard, neighborhood, and even kitchens.

Our goal is to provide weekly resources to keep the inquiry and discovery going through this uncharted and difficult time. Children's worlds have instantly become smaller, so this is a great opportunity to help them take an in-depth look at their connection to the plant world around them. That is the inspiration for our new #SDBGardenFunAtHome!

Neighborhood Garden Scavenger Hunt

Get outside and see what you can find!

Share what you see by uploading a photo to our social media platforms using [#SDBGardenFunAtHome](#)

A BEE ON A FLOWER

What is the bee doing? Does it have yellow or orange powder on its legs? Each time it comes to a flower to get nectar, it collects a little pollen from the flower too.

A TREE TALLER THAN YOUR PARENTS

How old do you think the tree is? How could we figure that out? Trees form rings inside their trunks each year that they grow, so we could look inside and see.

A PLANT WITH SPINES (BE CAREFUL)

Why do plants have spines? A lot of plants have spines for protection or keep them from losing water.

A BUTTERFLY

What is the butterfly doing? Does it move fast or slow? Can you see it getting the nectar from flowers?

A SMELLY PLANT

Why do you think the plant is smelly? Sometimes it is to attract or keep away things that might eat it.

A SNAIL OR SLUG

What is it doing? Is it moving slow or fast? Snails and slugs can eat a lot of different things including old leaves on the ground.

A PLANT THAT YOU DON'T KNOW

How can you figure out what kind of plant it is? You can look take a picture and send it to info@SDBGarden.org for help identifying the plant!

A LINE OF ANTS

Where are they going? Are they going underground? Ants are important in many ways. One way is when they dig in the soil, they let air and water into the ground, which helps plants grow.

A BIRD SINGING

Can you try and make the sound of the bird? Why do you think it is singing? Bird calls can often let other birds know to come near or to stay away.

AN EARTHWORM

Where did you find the earthworm? What is it doing? Earthworms are super important for the soil. They break down old leaves and give us fertilizer to help plants grow. They also help air and water get into the soil.

A PLANT GROWING IN A CRACK IN THE SIDEWALK

How do you think the plant got there? Seeds can travel from plants through the wind and water. Once it finds the right spot with water and sunlight, the plant will grow.

A YELLOW FLOWER

How do you think the yellow color helps the flower? Different colors of flowers can help attract pollinators. Pollinators are insects or birds that carry pollen from one flower to another. Once that happens, a fruit will form with seeds inside!

A FRUIT TREE

What kind of fruit comes from this tree? What does it taste like?

A SEED OR SEED POD

What plant is the seed from? You can plant it in a cup of soil to see what grows.

A PLANT YOU CAN EAT

What part of the plant can you eat? What does it taste like? Do you think any animals eat this plant too?

 **San Diego BOTANIC GARDEN** SDBGarden.org

Construction Updates

Horticulture & Facilities Buildings



Lawn House Roofing



Garden Blooms



Arctotis sp. (peachy flower)



Walled Garden



Mushrooms (aff. *Coprinus*) in mulch



Mexican Bush Sage, *Salvia leucanthatt*

Photos by Brandi Eide