

SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN

# THE GARDEN

*A newsletter for staff & volunteers*

## This week

- Message from Ari
- Thank You Volunteers!
- Brandi's Message
- Fun at Home with Tree Bingo!
- Eric's Blooms
- Arbor Day: Staff Trees
- Garden Photos



*Echinopsis gentryi*

## Appreciation for Our Volunteers

While we are not together to thank our wonderful volunteers, we are taking this opportunity to do so! It seems far longer than the almost six weeks since we've seen you all. In fact, it seems a lifetime ago. Yet we can look back to all you've done for the Garden and when we do so, we are amazed! All that has been accomplished won't be diminished in this relatively brief break. Your ongoing and dedicated efforts have helped us position the Garden for a healthy and spectacular future.

Thank you all for being such an integral part of our special Garden!

# A Message from Ari Novy, PhD

President & CEO

Happy Earth Day and Arbor Day!!!

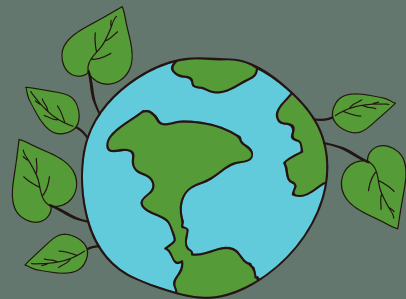
While the challenges of managing our 'blue marble' have never been greater, I'm heartened when I consider the deep care so many of us exhibit toward the earth. On Earth Day this year, I look optimistically toward a future of enlightened environmental stewardship, propelled by the billions of us who care for our earth. I am also reminded of the fragility of our lives by the tremendous hardship and uncertainty of the COVID-19 crisis.

Now, perhaps more than ever, we need to feel as a community that we can collectively make a better world for ourselves and our neighbors, whether we are battling COVID-19 or contributing to a better environment. I am certain that the attributes of a good gardener are required for success in both endeavors. As we do in our gardens, we must care for our surroundings as extensions of ourselves. We must recognize the interconnectedness of our garden ecosystems with those throughout the world. And we must cultivate wisely, carefully calibrating our actions based on the sights, smells and feel of our environment.

If we care for our earth and each other as well as we do our beloved gardens, all will be well.

Ari Novy, PhD

President and CEO, San Diego Botanic Garden



# A Huge Thank You to Our Volunteers!

Hello everyone, I wish we could see you and thank you in person for all you do to make the Garden an incredible place. For now, I hope this finds you all well, and hope you are able to enjoy plants and nature in your neighborhoods. You are missed, and we look forward to seeing you again as soon as we can. - Brandi

One of the greatest gifts you can give is time and I've seen hundreds of volunteers over the years at the Garden give thousands of hours of time! Thank you! - Gretchen & the plants

I feel so blessed to have the honor of working with so many talented volunteers. I can't wait to see you all again in the Garden! Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that you do to make the Garden a special place for all who come to visit. - Caren Clayton

My heartfelt thanks for your past, present, and continuing commitment to San Diego Botanic Garden! Membership is what it is, in large part because of the hard work and dedication of our volunteers! My words of gratitude and appreciation here must bridge the gap which social distancing demands. I thank you all, I miss you all, and I know you miss each other. Be well, be safe, and be assured we'll see each other again in brighter days! Warmly, Josh

Someone once said, "Volunteers are love in motion." While the identity of that someone has been lost to history, no truer words have ever been spoken. Thank you all so much for the gift of your love toward the Garden. We miss you so much! - Ari



Thank you to all our fantastic volunteers for their continued support and positive thoughts for our Garden. I look forward to having our Garden family, staff and volunteers back at the Garden soon! - Susan Parker

This is the first time I have ever worked for a Non-Profit so I had no idea what to expect from volunteers. What I found was beyond anything I ever imagined. Our volunteers are so diverse. But the unifying trait is how smart you are, not just plants and gardening but about life and the world in general. The fact that you are so gracious about sharing your knowledge to any and all is beyond amazing. - Liz Dill

As I always say, our amazing volunteers are our BEST ambassadors! It's like having an army of 300+ awesome PR people out there spreading the word about how wonderful the Garden is! We love you and appreciate all you do for us here at the Garden :) - Lisa Reynolds

The Garden is a peaceful haven for us all and I know we are looking forward to being back in it again. Meanwhile, in honor of National Volunteer Week, a big thank you to all SDBG volunteers for everything you do to make the Garden a success. Whether you work at the Welcome Center and the Gift Shop, turn out for Garden Beautification on Wednesdays and Saturdays, assist at Special Events, give Tours, propagate plants or participate in one of the many other volunteer opportunities, you help to make the Garden a place that connects people to plants and nature. To quote Thomas Jefferson, "No occupation is as delightful to me as the culture of the earth, and no culture comparable to that of the Garden." We look forward to seeing you again at the Garden.

Susan Starr and Jeff Clingan  
(Chair and Vice- Chair, Docent Society)

Hello to all our fabulous volunteers and docents. I am reminded at this time how much greeting you all each week feeds my soul. And boy is my soul hungry right now. Be well everyone. Sending a smile to each of you. Thank you for all you do for our Garden. - Cheryl

Thank you to our volunteers who bring a friendly face, a peaceful and happy energy to the Garden. You do so much more than our visitors know... but we do - you are truly integral to making this Garden the special and wondrous place it is. -Lane Kiefaber



We want to thank you all for the extraordinary amount of work you put in at the Garden! Over fifty-thousand volunteer hours last year is an extraordinary feat, and a lot of those hours were dedicated to the gift shop- which is largely volunteer run-our admission's booth, and our festivals. We appreciate the work you do immensely, we miss you, and can't wait to see all your smiling faces again! - Michael

When I first joined the Garden, I was amazed at how many volunteers support all aspects of our everyday functions. Now after about 5 months, I am still amazed and equally in awe at the passion, commitment, camaraderie, and knowledge our volunteers gift us with every day! Thank you for all that you do! I miss your smiling faces and never ending support. - Sarah

Something that I have huge respect for in volunteers, especially our dedicated volunteers, is a desire to keep creating and contributing. Many of our volunteers had already led full lives in terms of career, family, travel, and other things people aspire toward before ever coming to the Garden. There is no resting on laurels for these folks, and every day I see people striving to remake themselves better in a way that has some benefit beyond themselves. Something about doing what is right and good with the given that the volunteer is "not getting anything in return," (although anybody who has volunteered much can speak of the personal rewards) makes the work being done seem to be even more pure and socially impactful. - Tony



# Have you thanked a tree lately?

By Brandi Eide

Arbor day (this Friday, April 24) reminds us to plant and celebrate trees, at least one day out of the year, reflecting on all they do to enhance our lives. The services that trees provide are numerous. Beyond their beauty, they help scrub the air, provide habitat for animals, prevent erosion, filter water, provide shade and cooling effects, become building materials, medicines, food, and fuel all while increasing property values.

Many of us think about trees on a daily basis, either as part of our jobs, as a hobby, or simply because of a deep connection to nature. When recalling the most memorable places I've been, a common feature is mature, established trees. These old giants lend a sense of place, and for me, result in peace and serenity. Trees certainly deserve a holiday.

Trees in cultivation require care to develop into healthy mature specimens. With appropriate species selection and placement, proper watering to encourage deep and expansive root systems, application of needed soil amendments, managing pests and disease, and careful pruning if necessary, many trees can thrive for generations to come.

*"The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit,"*  
Nelson Henderson.

"What's your favorite plant?" I am frequently asked. The question of choosing a favorite plant is made nominally easier by limiting the choice to a group, with over 60,000 species of trees, it's hard to choose just one.

As with all plants, I have dozens of favorites, which change with the seasons. Most of my favored trees are wickedly spiny desert trees, small in stature even when fully mature. However, I am always enamored with exceptionally old or large trees, in awe of their age and stature, and cannot resist the opportunity for an embrace.

This week some staff members are sharing photos of their favorite trees. We hope you enjoy seeing some of our favorites.



# Our Staff's Favorite Trees!

In honor of Arbor Day, we offer a look at some of our staff's favorite trees -- enjoy!



Ari and Isaac Novy beneath a  
Giant Sequoia  
(*Sequoiadendron giganteum*)



Brandi Eide hugging a  
White Silk Floss Tree (*Ceiba insignis*)



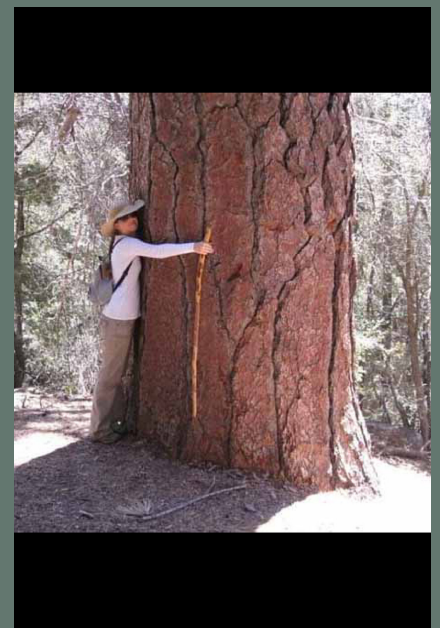
Liz Dill with her Sweet Bay Tree  
(*Laurus nobilis* 'Sarasota')



Cheryl Mergenthaler in front  
of her  
favorite Banyan Tree (*Ficus  
benghalensis*)



Gretchen Wendel and her  
Olive Tree (*Olea europaea*)



Sarah Morgan Sickler loves her  
Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*)





Wendy Czech and her glorious  
Champagne Mango  
(*Mangifera indica* 'Mango Ataulfo')



Lane Macy Kiefaber and family visiting the  
Giant Sequoias (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*)



Lisa Reynolds and Rahiti riding  
underneath a canopy of  
California Live Oak Trees (*Quercus agrifolia*)



Michael Fisher hiking amidst the  
Coastal Redwoods  
(*Sequoia sempervirens*)



Tyler Smith in her African Fern Pines  
Tree Fort (*Afrocarpus gracilior*)



# What's in Bloom at SDBG

By Eric Evans

While other botanic gardens fill their social media feeds with tulips and cherry trees, we hope you don't feel like you're missing out! Our climate is a little different, and spring springs on you here with a really different set of blooms!



Is that a peony from Mars? 'Scarlet Ribbon' Pincushion Flower (*Leucospermum cordifolium*) makes for a weird and wonderful departure from traditional spring favorites! These may fill the same role in Cape Town as peonies do in Cape Cod.

From California and Oregon comes Seaside Daisy (*Erigeron glaucus*, this cultivar is 'Wayne Roderick'). It's a favorite with bees and smaller butterflies, especially during warmer parts of the day! If you ever need sheer flower power—but want to be pollinator friendly—it's hard to beat!



Another crazy spring bloom from the Cape is Honeybush (*Melianthus major*), whose powdery blue architectural foliage erupts into gorgeous but unusual blood-red flowers this time of year! Plot twist: this one is hardy down to USDA Hardiness Zone 7, where it dies back in the winter but resprouts from the base to make a striking foliage accent all summer.





Now here's a garden joke! Baja Bush-Snapdragon (*Galvezia juncea*) has apple-green stems all year round that might lead you to suspect it's a horsetail—until it erupts all over in tubular red flowers! This IS in the Snapdragon family (Scrophulariaceae), which is DEFINITELY a cheeky twist on the springtime bedding snapdragons you get at Home Depot this time of year! If you love springtime snaps but enjoy confusing your neighbors, try this one

Albino carnivorous plant! What you're looking at here isn't a flower at all—it's the FOLIAGE of our US native pitcher plant. Most *Sarracenia*s are from the mid-Atlantic and the Gulf Coast, but some even extend into Canada and Alaska! The pitchers fill with rainwater and digest unlucky bugs! Springtime's longer daylight hours have resulted in a fresh new crop of pitchers. This is *Sarracenia leucophylla* 'Hurricane Creek White,' notable for the lack of typical red pigment in the pitchers and flowers.




# Fun at Home

Sarah Morgan Sickler, Education Manager

When I walk around my neighborhood in downtown Encinitas, I have always been amazed at the diversity of trees. Clearly we value and protect them in our city.

We may not be celebrating Arbor Day right now in person by planting trees and learning from them, but we can all still appreciate our local trees by walking in our neighborhoods. I wanted to share as many of my neighborhood trees as I could in this week's activity, Tree Bingo. Get out there and hug a tree! Happy Arbor Day everyone!





## TREE BINGO

Luckily for us, trees are found all around our neighborhoods! Not only are they beautiful to look at, but they also provide clean air, shelter, and food for people and animals. Choose 8 of your favorite characteristics of trees listed below and use them to fill in your blank bingo card. When you find one in your neighborhood, mark it off on your card. The first one to get 3-in-a-row or all 9 on their card wins!

### Needle-like Leaves

Needles have a thicker, waxy coating compared to the typical leaf. Needles are also skinnier and have less area exposed to the air. This helps the tree hold water, especially if they live in an area with less rainfall.





Stone Pine, *Pinus pinea*


### Peeling Bark

Some trees may shed their bark in order to grow or to keep some pests like insects or fungus from sticking to them.

Locally, we have planted *Melaleuca* or Paperbark Trees that are native to Australia. You can see their bark peeling off like sheets of paper!



Broad-leaved Paperbark, *Melaleuca quinquenervia*



**San Diego** BOTANIC GARDEN

Find the full game on the SDBG website at Fun at Home for Kids



# Garden Photos

by Brandi



*Solandra maxima 'Variegata'*



*Calandrinia spectabilis*



*Echeveria* sp.