

QuailTracks

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CHOCOLATE FEST

FAIRY FEST



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San Diego
BOTANIC
GARDEN



230 Quail Gardens Drive
Encinitas, CA 92024

MISSION STATEMENT: *To inspire people of all ages
to connect with plants and nature.*

The Garden Shops

Open 10 am – 4 pm daily

(Closed on Christmas Day)

When is gift shopping fun, inspiring, and charitable?

- A. When you find unique and inspiring gifts?
- B. When you find the perfect gift at a great price?
- C. When the proceeds of your purchases benefit a great cause?
- D. ALL OF THE ABOVE

The answer is D. ALL OF THE ABOVE when you are shopping at San Diego Botanic Garden's Garden Shops!

Be sure to stop by our Garden Shops on your next visit. Check out the great selection of California native plants and other ornamental plants you won't find anywhere else. Don't miss the unique decor, apparel and gardening items, all designed to inspire and foster a deeper connection with nature. All proceeds from the Garden Shops' sales go directly to support the Garden's ongoing education and conservation programs.

**Become a member and save up to 20% on
Garden Shops purchases.**



Photo: Rachel Cobb

Annual Meeting 2015

The Garden welcomed members, Docents, volunteers, and staff to our Annual Meeting on January 25th. During the meeting, we shared 2014's accomplishments and our goals for 2015. Special Guest Dr. Peter Raven, President Emeritus at the Missouri Botanic Garden, also spoke about the

importance of public gardens. Dr. Raven's PowerPoint presentation given during the Annual Meeting is available on our website at SDBGarden.org/conservation.htm



Guest Speaker, Dr. Peter Raven
President Emeritus at the
Missouri Botanic Garden



Message from the Chairman of the Board

Tom Applegate
Chairman of the Board

2014 in Review: The Garden Continues to Flourish

This is an exciting time to be Chairman of the Board at the Garden, and it is my pleasure to share our 2014 highlights. The year began with our Annual Meeting, featuring Dr. Timothy Baird, Superintendent of the Encinitas Union School District (EUSD), who presented an overview of the district's green initiatives, including Farm Lab. The Farm Lab is located across the street from the Hamilton Children's Garden and exists to provide students with hands-on educational experiences that demonstrate the interconnectedness of nutrition, agriculture, and ecology. We also dedicated the new Ecke Building Meeting Room floor, which was generously funded by a grant from the County of San Diego and County Supervisor Dave Roberts.

In February, we partnered with the Rancho Coastal Humane Society for our 2nd Annual 5K Paw Walk in the Garden. This growing event attracted over 600 people and pups with all having a howling time! March brought The Herb Festival, Spring Plant Sale, Tomatomania®, and Bromeliad Bonanza featuring a new interactive Kidzone. Speaker Sharon Lovejoy shared how her love of the natural world has guided her to become an award-winning author and watercolor illustrator.

The Encinitas Environmental Education (E3) Cluster (EUSD, Magdalena Ecke Family YMCA, San Dieguito Heritage Museum, Seacrest Village Retirement Communities, The Leichtag Foundation and the Garden), signed an important memo of understanding (MOU) on April 4th, outlining a joint agreement "to develop educational, experiential learning and multigenerational programs around the nexus of agriculture, horticulture, nutrition, science, sustainability, community building and the local history and agricultural tradition of Encinitas."

Other April events included ArtFest, Ladybug Day, Spring Party with Bunny and a special Easter Egg Hunt for families of Make-A-Wish Foundation. In May, the Garden hosted the Palm and Cycad Sale and the highly-anticipated Chocolate Festival, attracting about 1,500 attendees.

For the fifth year, we participated in the Blue Star Museums program of the National Endowment of the Arts thanks to the ongoing generous support of Frances Hamilton White. The program offers active duty military and their family free admission to the Garden throughout the summer and 2,256 qualifying guests participated. Thursday Family Fun Nights made another successful run from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Funding was received from the City of Encinitas, Mizel Family Foundation and Rancho Santa Fe Rotary Club.

In June, over 1,100 people attended the Encinitas Rotary's 11th Annual Wine and Food Festival in the Garden. The event benefited 21 organizations, including the Garden. June guests also enjoyed the Fairy Festival, sponsored by Great Smiles Pediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics, and our Sculpture in the Garden exhibit, showcasing 31 talented artists.

Docents Peter and Margaret Jones led a team of talented

volunteers who created a breathtaking gardenscape exhibit for the San Diego County Fair influenced, by The Beatles song "Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da," that brought home several awards. Also in June, Julian Duval was honored as Horticulturalist of the Year by the San Diego Horticultural Society.

Our ever-popular Insect Festival was held in July thanks to support from the County of San Diego Department of Agriculture Weights and Measures and K&M Pest Solutions, Inc.

Over 100 docents and volunteers attended the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in August, an opportunity to recognize this deserving and valuable group. In August, the Garden also hosted an evening with the Big Band and Jazz Hall of Fame Orchestra.

Over 500 guests attended our 15th Annual Gala in the Garden, "Right in Our Own Backyard," on September 6th. Gala Committee Chair Jim Ruecker and Honorary Chair Mo Ecke, along with Artistic Director René van Rems, helped lead an amazing committee and 75 hard-working volunteers. The Gala included a successful Fund-A-Need for a new electric passenger cart.

Eric Larson, Executive Director of the San Diego County Farm Bureau, was honored with the Paul Ecke Jr. Award of Excellence. Several special guests joined us with landmark announcements concerning our capital campaign for the newly-named Dickinson Family Education Conservatory. Jim Farley, President and CEO of The Leichtag Foundation, announced a \$1 million dollar grant, which will enable the Garden to make its rental spaces available to select nonprofits that might not otherwise be able to utilize the Garden; and Rebecca Dickinson Welch, representing the Donald C. and Elizabeth M. Dickinson Foundation, announced an extension of the challenge grant deadline through the end of 2015. The Gala was a huge success, netting over \$132,000.

The San Diego International Orchid Fair took place in early October followed by the annual Fall Plant Sale, our second largest fundraiser. The Fall Plant Sale was led by co-chairs Stacy Fattaleh, Jane Hunt and Liz Woodward, and their great team of volunteers, and raised over \$55,000. October ended with a newly-added Family Fall Festival and the Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale.

Nearly 23,000 people celebrated the holidays during our 23-day Garden of Lights in December. Thank you to our Presenting Sponsor the County of San Diego and sponsors Shea Homes, RR Donnelley San Diego, and Arctic Glacier.

The Campaign for the Dickinson Family Education Conservatory received boosts from several donors at year end and crossed the \$2 million mark towards our goal of raising \$3 million by the end of 2015 in order to receive the \$1 million challenge grant from the Donald C. and Elizabeth M. Dickinson Foundation.

In 2014, we realized significant advances with our partnerships. We signed a lease agreement with The Leichtag Foundation to use Greenhouse #8 to provide the Garden with much-needed space to grow a wider variety of plants, including those for the future Conservatory. Two generous friends helped to upgrade the Garden's look: Kent Scott and Scott Fence created a beautiful metal-work fence for the Hamilton Children's Garden entrance; and Sally Sandler donated new energy efficient LED light posts for the Lawn Garden.

No doubt, 2014 was an incredible year for the Garden. Over 232,000 guests visited and over 6,000 households continued their meaningful member support of our mission.

Thank You to our sponsors, donors, corporate partners, community leaders, Docents, volunteers, members, visitors and excellent staff for being a part of this success. We look forward to growing with you in 2015.

Upcoming Events

ArtFest 2015 Featuring Fine Art, Asian Art and a Quick Draw Contest for youths and adults Saturday & Sunday, April 11 – 12 | 9 am – 5 pm

ArtFest is a delightful combination of a Fine Art Show, Asian Art Show, Art Demonstrations and a Quick Draw Contest. Our juried Fine Art Show will feature over 20 artists who will be showing and selling their works including sculptors, painters, glass artists, potters, gourd and fiber artists. Many of the artists on display will also be demonstrating their craft at ArtFest.

The Quick Draw Contest will feature 20 adult and 20 youth artists who will be creating an entire work of art, in an allotted time, right before participants' eyes. These pieces will be available for purchase after the contest during the event.

The Asian Art Show will celebrate the art of Asian horticulture with outstanding displays of Ikebana and Bonsai, lectures, and a spectacular demonstration by the San Diego Taiko Drummers. Divine Fresh will be serving delicious Greek food. Bob Ballentine and friends will perform native flute music with Diddgeridoos in the Lawn Garden.

Cost: Free with paid admission or membership

9th Annual Lung Hsiang Exhibit & Sale April 29 – July 13 | Ecke Building | 9 am – 5 pm

The 9th Annual Lung Hsiang Exhibit & Sale featuring original Chinese Brush Paintings by members of the Lung Hsiang chapter of the American Artists of Chinese Brush Painting will be held at the Ecke Building at San Diego Botanic Garden from Wednesday, April 29 to Monday, July 13, 2015. The exhibit and sale is open daily from 9 am – 5 pm. Over 40 original paintings will be on display exquisitely painted by this San Diego group that has been painting together for over 25 years in the Chinese manner using ink on rice paper and watercolors.

The public is invited to the opening reception on Sunday, May 17, from 2 - 4 pm. Your paid admission to the Garden is your admission to the reception.

Cost: Free with paid admission or membership.

Chocolate Festival

Saturday May 9 | 10 am – 4 pm

Spend the Saturday before Mother's Day at San Diego Botanic Garden's famous Chocolate Festival. Enjoy dozens of delectable chocolate tastings, demonstrations, a chocolate fountain, and more. This family-friendly event also features lots of children's activities and a variety of Mother's Day gifts. Tasting tickets will be sold on site.

Cost: Free with paid admission or membership. Extra fee for tasting tickets.

Endangered Species Day

Friday, May 15 | 9 am – 5 pm

San Diego Botanic Garden will celebrate Endangered Species Day by providing guests with a map guiding visitors to some of our notable endangered species both native and from other parts of the world, and signs with QR Codes at those locations which will direct visitors to additional information and photos on plants we are helping to preserve for future generations. The Garden will offer free admission to San Diego Audubon Society Members. San Diego Botanic Garden and Living Coast Discovery Museum members can enjoy free reciprocal admission on Endangered Species Day.

Cost: Free with paid admission or membership.



"My Backyard: Song Sparrows in Bougainvillea"
by Lung Hsiang member
Stephanie Mast.

Palm, Cycad, Bamboo and Tropical Plant Sale

Saturday, May 23 | 9 am – 3 pm

This one-of-a-kind event features rare and exotic species of palms, cycads, and other tropical plants provided by exceptional Southern California nurseries. This event is co-hosted by the Palm Society of Southern California and San Diego Botanic Garden. For more information call Phil Bergman at 619/ 291-4605.

Cost: Free with paid admission or membership.

Thursday Family Fun Nights

May 28 – August 27 | 4:30 – 8 pm | Live Music 6 – 7 pm

Families are invited to pack up the kids and enjoy some outdoor fun at Thursday Family Fun Nights at the San Diego Botanic Garden from 4:30 pm – 8 pm, May 28 through August 27.

Each Thursday evening the Garden comes alive with family-friendly entertainment designed to amuse both adults and children from 6 – 7 pm, featuring a wide array of local and nationally-acclaimed musical groups. San Diego's own Hullabaloo opens Thursday Family Fun Nights on May 28. The award-winning, kid-folk duo will also perform on July 16 and August 27. To find out the rest of the entertainment schedule, visit SDBGarden.org/events.

Garden lovers of all ages are also invited to come during Thursday Family Fun Nights to take advantage of extended evening hours at The Garden.

Cost: Free with paid admission or membership.



Encinitas Rotary Wine and Food Festival

Saturday, June 6 | 5 – 8 pm | Hamilton Children's Garden

Please join us for the 12th Annual Encinitas Rotary Wine and Food Festival, a celebration of international wines, local microbrews, and cuisine.

San Diego Botanic Garden is one of the 19 beneficiaries of this event. We will receive \$60 of your \$90 ticket and 100% of your \$135 ticket when the Garden is selected as your charity of choice at time of purchase. Tickets and sponsorships benefiting the Garden at higher levels are also available.

For event details and to purchase tickets, please visit encinitaswinefestival.com or contact Jessica Brandon at jbrandon@sdbgarden.org or by calling 760/ 436-3036 x218.



Calling All Photographers!

San Diego Botanic Garden
2016 Photo Calendar Contest
Enter Yours Today!

We're looking for you – our Garden members and friends – to submit your show-stopping photographs of the Garden we all love. Wildlife and Garden photos only (no people please!). Entry deadline is June 30, 2015.

For complete rules, and entry form,
please visit
SDBGarden.org/calendar.htm



Like us on Facebook!
Get exclusive information on
your favorite SDBG events!

Photos: Rachel Cobbs

Spring Classes

Spring Journal Book Sunday, April 19 9:30 am – 4 pm

Create an extraordinary multi-signature, end-band, hand-bound book with inked and painted Masa papers. You'll learn at least five techniques in this workshop including dropped-in watercolor, ink batik lines, Masa paper process, and book binding techniques to stitch signatures with end bands. We will explore a special batik-like technique with Masa rice paper to create the folios and cover papers with stamps, acrylic inks, and watercolor washes. This watercolor and ink method involves hue fusion, allowing the water to move color on the paper surface to create interesting values changes and textures. Colored pencils, ink lines, and collage elements will be added to embellish the shapes. The paper quality is ever so soft in the finished book is one you'll love to pick up again and again.

Cost: Members \$73, Non-members \$88
Please register by: April 10.

Living Wall/Vertical Garden Saturday, April 25 9 am -12 noon

Learn the basics of planting a living wall. We will be planting a 10" x 20" wall utilizing a variety of succulents. Vertical gardens can be planted on exterior or interior walls with plants creating a multitude of colors, textures, and sizes. The possibilities of striking patterns and unique designs are endless.

Cost: Members \$30, Non-members \$36, plus a \$60 per student materials fee paid directly to the instructor at the class.
Please register by April 16

Succulent Wreath Class Tuesday, April 28 9 am – 2 pm

Take home a beautiful succulent wreath that you make yourself. Taught by the SDBG wreath team. Fee includes materials.

Cost: Members \$60, Non-members \$72
Please register by April 24.

Unique Driftwood Garden Art Design Saturday, May 2 9 am – 12 noon

Select a personal piece of driftwood as a base to hold your own unique design of succulents. You only need a pair of clippers to create this inspirational, artistic addition to your garden.

Cost: Members \$40, Non-members \$48
Please register by April 24.

Free Members Only Plant Clinic California Gardenscapes Tour Saturday, May 16 10 – 11 am

Join us for a special tour of our recently renovated California Gardenscapes Exhibit, led by SDBG Gardener Chris Garcia. Learn landscape design aspects and see living examples of many native California habitats, including woodland, chaparral, meadow, and desert.

Please RSVP to Stasi Kubrock via email at skubrock@sdbgarden.org or by calling 760/ 436-3036 x214.

Build Your Own Hydroponic Garden Saturday, May 16 9 am – 1 pm

Learn the principles of the hydroponic wick method by building your own sustainable garden to take home for summer.

Instructor: Alex Kallas of AgPALS. Fee includes materials.

Cost: Members \$75, Non-members \$90
Please register by May 8.

Succulent Wreath Class Tuesday, May 19 9 am – 2 pm

Take home a beautiful succulent wreath that you make yourself. Taught by the SDBG wreath team. Fee includes materials.

Cost: Members \$60, non-members \$72
Please register by May 15.

Food and Wine Pairing with the Opera Singing Chef Saturday, June 13 1:30 pm – 4 pm

The Opera Singing Chef's annual food and wine pairing class features a fabulous selection of local wines. This year's menu features Tuscan Spiced Chicken Wings finished with a glaze of balsamic vinegar; Tamales with a Twist filled with potatoes and cilantro, topped with two tasty salsas, tomatillo and roasted vegetable; and to top it all off Mexican Brownies made with Ibarra and dark bakers chocolates, spices and pine nuts. Recipes and tastings given for each menu item will include a song or two.

Cost: Members \$35, Non-members \$42
Please register by May 29.

Ongoing Programs

Docent-led Guided Tours Saturdays, 10:30 am

Meet at the Visitor Center. On the last Saturday of the month, the tour focuses on water-wise plants.

Cost: Free with paid admission or membership.

Botanical Printers 1st Sunday of each month, 9:30 am

Volunteers can help raise money for the Garden by creating gift cards using natural elements to be sold in the Gift Shop.

Cost: \$20 initial fee to cover expenses.

Bird Watching 1st Monday of each month, 8 am

Discover the fascinating birds and the unique art of bird watching at the San Diego Botanic Garden. Meet in the Main Parking Lot.

SAVE THE DATE GALA IN THE GARDEN

Saturday,
September 12, 2015
Jim Ruecker,
Gala Committee Chair

**Ticket information:
\$175 per person**

**\$200 per person
after August 14th**

**SDBGarden.org/gala.htm
to learn more**



Remembering Ron McAfee

Ron was a quiet, humble, steady man with a wry sense of humor. He built cabinets in his house, furniture for family and friends, and completed many special carpentry projects with fellow volunteers at the San Diego Botanic Garden. He will be greatly missed.

Herbs Shine a Light on History

by Sally Sandler
San Diego Botanic Garden Docent

In modern times, an herb is considered to be any plant humans “put to use in some way,” and we adore them for flavoring our food, their fragrances, their healing properties, and their help around the home. But another feature of these little powerhouses is their ability to shine a light on history. In fact, almost every herb has a tale to tell—a legend of other places, other people, and other times—which is enlightening and in some cases humorous, too.

Among these story tellers is the diminutive Self Heal (*Prunella vulgaris*), a mint family plant native to Europe which sheds some light on Renaissance times. A Swiss professor of medicine named Paracelsus published the *Doctrine of Signatures* in which he decreed (in a rather egocentric manner) that every plant bore an outward sign or “signature” by which its value to mankind was revealed. For example, the delicate leaves or “tresses” of the Maidenhair Fern might cure baldness. Flowers and roots also suggested cures: Bloodroot for blood ailments; Snakeroot for snakebite; and Toothwort for toothaches. Indeed, the *Doctrine of Signatures* had some teeth to it and was eventually adopted by both philosophers and theologians.

In the case of Self Heal, the telltale signature was its flower. The upper lip of the pale blue flower is shaped like a hook and... aha!... since billhooks and sickles were a primary source of injuries in the agricultural societies of the Middle Ages and Renaissance Europe, farmers determined that the purpose of this herb was to heal wounds. Thus farmers concocted a poultice or compress of stems and leaves which apparently served just that purpose, and history was made.

Anything but diminutive, the aggressively robust vine from Asia named Fo Ti (*Polygonum multiflorum*) will bowl you over with its vigor. The actual common name for this plant is “Fo Ti Ho Shou Wu,” based on the story of a Chinese man named Ho who was the first consumer of the herb in about 800 A.D.

Self Heal (*Prunella vulgaris*)



As the story goes, Ho reached the age of 58 and had not been able to father a child. He was also most unhappy about his graying hair. A monk advised him to eat Fo Ti roots gathered from a nearby mountain, and he commenced consuming it regularly. Perhaps that monk perceived the vine’s youthful, energetic growth habit as a signature or sign of its utility. Because soon after, Ho was able to father several children, his hair turned from gray to black, his vision improved, and he lived to 130, still with black tresses. He became known as Ho Shou Wu, which means “Mr. Ho’s hair is black,” a name that was adopted to refer to the herb as well.

Today, Fo Ti is the darling of the herbal world, viewed as a tonic, an elixir, a virtual fountain of youth. In traditional Chinese medicine, the dried or cured root is used to strengthen blood, invigorate the liver and kidneys, enhance longevity, increase vigor, and promote fertility. It is considered among the pantheon of China’s great herbs, the other four being *ginseng*, *garlic*, *gingko*, and *ginger*.

Traveling from Asia back once more to Europe in the Middle Ages, we find that the native Houseleek (*Sempervivum tectorum*—also called “Hens and Chicks”) played its own role in history. As a useful plant, Houseleek is similar to *Aloe Vera* with leaves that can be crushed and applied to sun burns and insect bites.

But back in the day, King Charlemagne decreed that these succulents had to be planted on every structure in his empire. Requiring very little soil or water, these “live forever” plants were used on roof tops to fix gaps between thatches or tiles, protect against fire, and most importantly to ward off the dreaded evil. Though it seems comical to us now, feuding families were quite serious when they plucked the protective plants off their enemies’ roofs, believing they left the homes vulnerable to natural disaster and the families unguarded against demons and sorcerers.

For those of us who dread learning history through textbooks, the study of herbs illuminates the past in a most enjoyable way. To continue your own journey through time, look for these herbs and many others in the Herb Garden at San Diego Botanic Garden.

(Endnotes)

1 O’Connor, Audrey H. 1984. *An Herb Garden Companion*. Ithaca, New York. Cornell University

Fo Ti (*Polygonum multiflorum*)



Birds Find a Welcoming Home at San Diego Botanic Garden

by Rita Campbell and Sue Smith



Our Garden provides a vital source of habitat for year-round, wintering and migrating birds. In 2014, nine new bird species were added to the Garden's list. To date 136 different birds have been spotted in the Garden.

Imagine what it must be like for a bird passing through Southern California during spring or fall migration - looking down on freeways, shopping malls and buildings, with so few islands of green to land in. When these avian friends spot our urban oasis from the air, what a relief it must be for them to come and roost in our 37-acre Garden.

Increasingly, we are all becoming more aware of the interconnectedness of all living things, which begins with the health of the planet and translates to our every breath. The Garden is a link in that connection and a vital source of habitat for year-round, wintering, and migrating birds.

Since the Garden began recording bird activity in 2000, we have noticed many changes. For instance, in 2014, nine new bird species were added to the Garden's bird check list, bringing the total number of species seen in the Garden to 136. It's exciting to see how new birds find a welcoming home in the Garden.

One of the new species found in the Garden last year, was the beautiful Varied Thrush. These Pacific Northwest coniferous forest birds surprised us with a visit in November/December 2014 and in January 2015. These birds enjoyed the area from the Cork Oak Grove (where they fed on cork oak acorns) to the New Zealand Garden. They were also spotted in the Subtropical Fruit Garden. In September 2014, another rare bird, a Black-and-White Warbler, was spotted enjoying the trees at the base of the waterfall. Perhaps the most unusual bird of all appeared in April 2014 when a Crested Caracara, a native of Mexico, was spotted flying low over the Australian Garden being chased by crows.

Other new species spotted in the Garden in 2014 included:

- Scaly-Breasted Munia, commonly called Nutmeg Manikins, a native to tropical Asia. These colorful birds are popular as caged birds and the birds spotted in the Garden are likely descended from escapees.

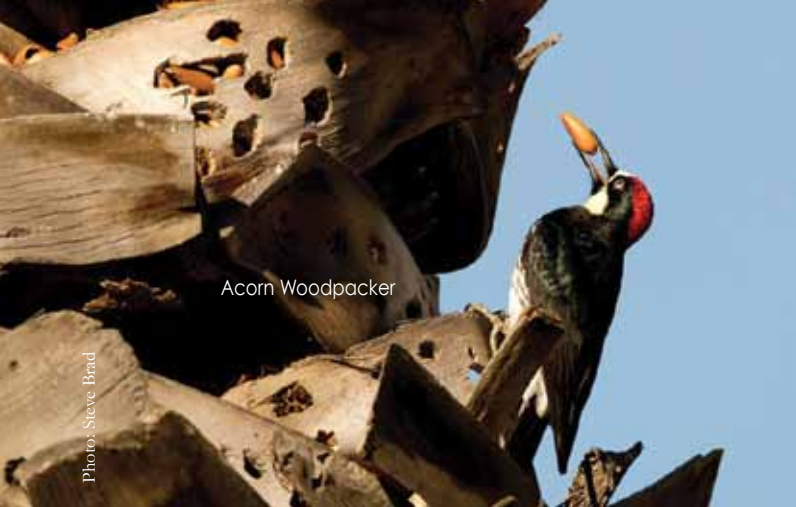


Photo: Tom Blackman

Crested Caracara

- Yellow-Breasted Chat, sighted by a visiting birder, in October.
- Purple Finch, a local mountain bird, made an appearance at the Garden in December.
- White Pelicans, who winter in our coastal lagoons, were seen flying over the Garden for the first time on April 18th. On the same day, a Great-Tailed Grackle, a bird increasing in number on the West Coast, was also spotted flying over the Garden for the first time.

Birders routinely post information online about rare and unusual species seen in the Garden, attracting visitors from San Diego County and beyond. San Diego Botanic Garden is listed as a California Birding 'hotspot' with Cornell Ornithological Laboratory's eBird



Acorn Woodpecker

Photo: Steve Brad



Black-and-White Warbler

Photo: Tom Blackman



Nutmeg Mannikin

Photo: Tom Blackman



Fox Sparrow

Photo: Tom Blackman

(of eBird.org) an online database, which is updated regularly with the latest survey information and linked to on the Garden's website. The Garden offers a well-attended bird walk at 8 am on the first Monday of every month, when about 20 people or so enjoy the fun of birding together.

The Garden has abundant native and exotic plants, water features, fruits and berries, and a healthy insect population, which combine to provide a home for our resident and visiting birds. Populations change, however, and we have witnessed the loss of a favorite species, the Acorn Woodpecker. The Garden tried to preserve the Monterey Cypress tree near the gift shop as a nesting tree for the woodpeckers, supporting it with cables as it died. Yet, the woodpecker numbers declined and then (unfortunately) disappeared. The last woodpecker was seen in the Garden in 2006. Our small group of Acorn Woodpeckers was quite unique, the only population known to adapt to feeding on an exotic tree, the Cork Oak. The woodpeckers had nested in the Garden from 1987 to 2005. During that time, the American Crow population soared in North County. Perhaps the crows, discovering the bounty of our acorns, drove the woodpeckers away. The European Starlings also left the Garden as the woodpeckers declined. The starlings and the woodpeckers fought noisy, spirited battles, jousting for dominance of the Cypress tree. We often wondered who would win the battle, but instead we lost both species. The starlings remain in the area and show up sometimes on our surveys, but the only coastal population of the comical and colorful Acorn Woodpeckers has vanished.

Our Garden, constantly evolving, continues to sustain an abundance of life. Thirty-three species nest in the Garden and many more depend on it for survival. Come join us on a monthly bird walk or buy a Bird Checklist for sale at the Gift Shop or the Welcome Center and have a look for yourself. Birders are usually happy to answer questions and point out all of the wonderful birds found in the Garden. You just might discover the excitement of birding and find even more beauty in the Garden!

Rita Campbell and Sue Smith are affectionately known as the 'Bird Ladies' of the San Diego Botanic Garden. They lead birding tours on the first Monday of every month at 8 am at the Garden.



Spotted Towhee

Photo: Rachel Cobb



SOW

Seeds of Wonder

For Children

Questions regarding Seeds of Wonder and the Hamilton Children's Garden? Please contact Susanne at SOW@SDBGarden.org or call 760/ 436-3036 x222

Upcoming Children's Events

Spring Party with Bunny in Seeds of Wonder

Saturday, April 4

Early Party: 10 – 11:30 am

Late Party: 11:30 am – 1 pm

Children ages 2 to 6 are invited to visit our gentle bunny, pet real bunnies and chicks, and make some colorful spring crafts. Children will also parade through the Garden and go on a bunny hunt. Limited to 50 children per party, pre-registration required.

Cost: Members \$15 per child, Non-members \$18 per child. Regular admission fees apply to accompanying adult(s) payable upon arrival. Free for adult Garden members.

Please pre-register online at SDBGarden.org/seeds_wond.htm or in person at the Garden Administration Office. Pre-registration by phone, e-mail, or mail will not be accepted.

Ladybug Day

Saturday, April 18

10 am – 12:30 pm



Children are invited to join docent-guided ladybug search teams through the garden and learn about ladybugs and other insects that live in our backyards. Clint Perry and the Boo Hoo Crew will provide family-friendly live entertainment in the Eucalyptus Grove. Children can participate in insect-related craft activities and show off their favorite bug costume. We will release hundreds of ladybugs at the end of the event. The San Dieguito Garden club will help children create beautiful flower arrangements to take home, and the Solana Center for Environmental Information will teach children about the joys of worm composting in a hands-on demonstration.

Cost: Free with paid admission or membership. Small fee for some crafts.

Chocolate Festival

Saturday, May 9

10 am – 4 pm

The Chocolate Festival is filled with fun activities for kids. For a small fee, children can create Mother's Day keepsakes. See page 4 for details.



Photo: SDBG Staff

Fairy Festival

Saturday, June 20

10 am – 4 pm



Calling all young fairies! Come to the Hamilton Children's Garden wearing your favorite costume. Fairy and garden-related flowery and glittery crafts will be offered for a small fee. In the morning, enjoy child-friendly live entertainment on stage. In the afternoon, San Diego favorite Hullabaloo will be performing dance and sing-along music. There will also be a Fairyland Market, pizza and ice cream. Don't forget to stop in to have a photo taken with the Fairy Princess!

Cost: Free with paid admission or membership. Small fee for crafts. No adults in costume please.

4th of July Parade

10:30 am

Join us for our annual 4th of July Parade through the Garden. Bring decorated strollers and wagons (no bikes please) and wear red, white and blue! We will meet at Seeds of Wonder at 10 am and the parade will start at 10:30 am sharp. After the parade, you are welcome to stay and enjoy the Garden.

Cost: Free with paid admission or membership.

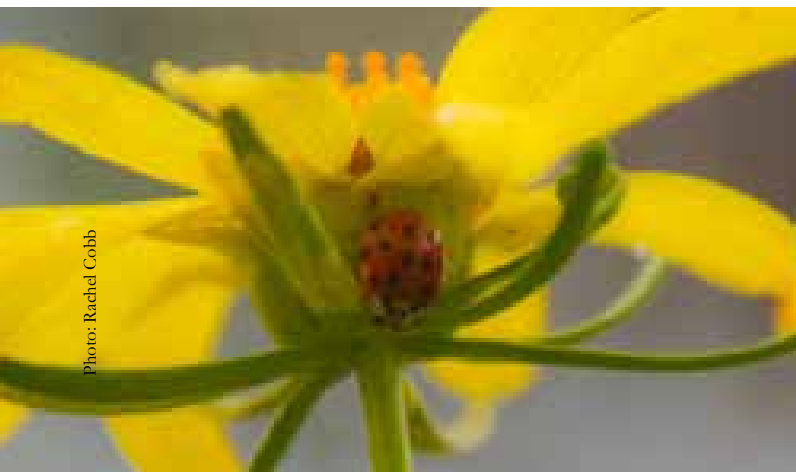


Photo: Rachel Cobb

HCGG



Hamilton Children's Garden

Summer Youth Program Enrichment Camps 2015

Grades 6 – 8 | 9 am – 12 noon

Join us for five weeks of fun and educational activities at San Diego Botanic Garden's Summer Youth Enrichment Camps. Each week is based upon five different garden themes and led by trained staff members who are experts in their field. Come for one week or all five! Space is limited to 20 campers per week. Go to SDBGarden.org or call 760/ 436-3036 x201 to reserve your space today!

Cost: Members \$15/week, Non-Members \$18 /week Maximum Enrollment: 20 students per week

This program was funded by a generous grant from the Ellen G. & Edward G. Wong Family Foundation.

Youth Photography Camp:

July 6 - 10

Led by a professional photographer, this camp will focus on appreciating the beauty of the plants in the garden around us. Students will go out into the Garden and shoot each day while practicing lighting, composition, portrait photography, and center of interest techniques. Photographs will be professionally critiqued. A culminating portfolio will be compiled and created by each camper highlighting the week's work.

Nature Camp: July 13 - 17

Campers will explore the beauty and diversity of the garden, as an instructor teaches them how to watch and listen for native life. Students will learn about Southern California's unique ecosystem and the plants and animals that inhabit our region including raccoons, mule deer, cotton tails, lizards and coyotes, as well as chaparral and other native plants. Participants will also practice the art of bird watching while learning the different calls each type of bird makes.

American Indian Cultures:

July 20 - 24

Through interactive activities, campers will learn about the fascinating culture and history of Native Americans, focusing on local tribes such as the Kumeyaay that call Southern California home. Campers

will have an opportunity to see the types of huts historic Native Americans lived in, how they ground their acorns and what daily life was like for indigenous peoples. Also included in the camp is a look toward the future, including new technologies such as solar power, and how important renewable energy sources are to our daily lives.

Organic Gardening:

July 27 – July 31

Campers will visit our organic vegetable garden and learn what goes into planting their own gardens including composting, worm cultivation and using organic fertilizers. During this hands-on week, participants will be introduced to our Rainwater Harvesting exhibit and will be able to plant a seed to take home with them and watch it grow!



Art in the Garden:

August 3 - 7

Each day students will be engaged by a new art teacher presenting them with step-by-step instructions on how to work in different media such as watercolor, oils, drawing, sculpture, prints and basket weaving. Campers will create works inspired by their outdoor adventures.



Ongoing Programs

For a detailed description and schedule of ongoing programs in Seeds of Wonder and the Hamilton Children's Garden, please check our website at SDBGarden.org and click 'For Kids' from the menu.

Birthday Parties for Children

On Saturdays and Sundays, we reserve the picnic area in Seeds of Wonder or the Hamilton Children's Garden and provide special activities like plant potting, rock painting, easel painting and bubble play for birthday parties. Please visit our website SDBGarden.org/birthday.htm for detailed information or contact Susanne at SOW@SDBGarden.org, if you would like to book a party.

School Group Visits

Detailed information and tour request forms for self-guided and docent-guided group visits can be found on our website at SDBGarden.org/hcg_tours.htm.

Volunteer and Docent News

January Volunteers of the Month: **SUSAN SMITH AND RITA CAMPBELL** **San Diego Botanic Garden's Bird Ladies**

Susan Smith and Rita Campbell are synonymous with birding at the San Diego Botanic Garden, where they lead bird walks on the first Monday of each month at 8 am. They met each other on a bird walk in San Elijo Lagoon in 2009. Sue then joined Rita at the Garden, who had been involved in bird walks at our urban oasis since 1990, and became the leader of the bird walks in 2000. Rita is a California native. Sue, on the other hand, moved to San Diego in 1990. After working for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for 30 years, Sue retired and now has her own biological consulting business. Rita still works as a Marriage Family Therapist 2 ½ days a week (in between birding, of course!) Thanks to Rita and Sue, the Garden is listed as a birding 'hotspot' with Cornell Ornithological Laboratory's eBird online database. Both Sue and Rita find "SDBG a special Garden of Eden created, maintained and led by dedicated people who love it (and make it a place that) benefits the public and wildlife so much."



February Volunteers of the Month: **JOHN AND NADINE STARR** **In Loving Memory of Nadine Starr**

We are sad to report that Nadine Starr passed away in December of 2014. She was 94. Nadine and her husband, John, became docents at San Diego Botanic Garden in 1982 and remained active for the next 32 years. The Starrs moved to Encinitas after Mount St. Helens erupted in 1980. Prior to retirement, John worked for International Paper Company as a sales department manager. While in Washington, Nadine was president of the Longview Garden Club, an avid rose grower, and devoted mother to Roland and Paul.

Nadine will be remembered by all of her friends at the Garden for her kindness, generosity, intelligence, and sense of adventure. She was at every Fall Plant Sale, making sure the workers were well cared for with free food and coffee; she worked at the Gift Shop regularly, engaging warmly with visitors from all over the world about her travels (which were extensive); and she knew and loved plants – Nadine had an *Acalypha wilkesiana*, or copper leaf, growing right outside her front door, which many of us envied!

Although it is hard for us to imagine the Garden without Nadine, we are thankful John continues to be a part of our Garden family.



March Volunteer of the Month: **KATHRYN BLANKINSHIP**

Kathryn is one of those rare individuals – a true California native! After retiring from a career both as a teacher and a mediator, Kathryn began helping out on a monthly basis in the Sub Tropical Fruit Garden. Since then she has enjoyed volunteering at a number of special events and has served as a Gala Volunteer Coordinator. Kathryn is in awe of the role the Garden plays in maintaining an extensive collection of rare, unusual and endangered plants, and finds working with dedicated plant lovers is a pleasure.



Docent Meetings – Everyone Welcome

First Wednesday of the Month
9:30 am – 12 pm | Arrive at 11 am for the program

April 1: Each year, the Garden hosts a guided travel opportunity to visit other lands, cultures and gardens. In November 2014, participants visited Cuba, the Pearl of the Antilles. Some of the travelers will share their interesting pictures and experiences from this memorable trip.

May 6: The heavy rains and hurricanes in Baja Mexico during the winter of 2014 brought new, seldom seen, life and beauty to the desert. Docent Robert Kopstein will share his pictures and his love of the native plants in that area.

June 3: Come and enjoy a potluck lunch with fellow docents and volunteers.

Volunteer Orientation

Meeting Dates: 9:30 am – 12 pm

Saturday, May 16

Friday, July 31

Saturday, October 31

Join us for one of our next volunteer orientation meetings where you'll meet interesting people, learn about our beautiful Garden, and find out how to get more involved. RSVP to Michelle Kinney at mkinney@sdbgarden.org or by calling 760/ 436-3036 x206.

Endowment Funds Provide Support for Intern and Staff Professional Development

Two endowment funds have been established at San Diego Botanic Garden to provide valuable support for professional development for staff, interns, and volunteers. *The Bill Teague Memorial Endowment Fund* and *The Hiroye Toyoda Memorial Endowment Fund* were established to honor their namesakes' passion for gardens and the sharing of knowledge.

Earnings from these meaningful funds allowed Lesley Randall, the Garden's Curator of Plant Collections, to participate in a botany field course in Sierra de San Pedro Martir National Park, in Baja California, in June of 2014. Below, Lesley describes her experience and the impact of the course on her work at the Garden.

To learn how to support the Garden and create a lasting legacy of your own, please contact Tracie Barham, Director of Development, at 760/ 436-3036 x216.

Discovering the Unique Treasures of Sierra de San Pedro Martir National Park

By Lesley Randall, Curator of Plant Collections



In mid-June, I was able to participate in a four day field class led by Dr. Jon Rebman of the San Diego Natural History Museum. The class was held in Sierra de San Pedro Martir National Park located in Baja, Mexico. Offered through the UC Berkeley Field Class program, the class was attended by both professional and knowledgeable amateur botanists.

The park is part of the Sierra de San Pedro Martir mountain range which runs north-south through Baja California. It is known for its granite formations and contains Pichaco del Diablo, the highest peak in Baja at 10,157 feet. Botanically, the park is a fascinating place. Due to the dramatic and abrupt changes in topography, there is a high diversity of habitat. Forested ridge lines are interspersed with meadows, and the lower sides of the range are covered by chaparral. The high elevation park is a "sky island," separated from adjacent high elevation areas by surrounding desert. These deserts form a barrier which many plant and animal species cannot cross. This isolation has given rise to a high level of endemism in the flora, meaning many plants in the park occur nowhere else in the world.

Dr. Jon Rebman has worked extensively in the park and is extremely knowledgeable of its unique flora. Despite the very dry winter and spring, he was able to locate a number of these endemic species. The class spent much of each day hiking and botanizing in a wide array of habitats. Although we spent much of our time on hands and knees looking at plants; the class participants also took time to enjoy the spectacular views.

I am grateful for this opportunity to develop professionally. This course increased my skills for identifying plants and also increased my understanding of plant family relationships. I also learned a lot about plant evolution and why endemism is likely to occur in such an area. This knowledge is applicable to the work I do at San Diego Botanic Garden. In addition, I made some new friends and experienced one of the most spectacular natural settings I have ever been to. It was a fabulous trip on many levels.

Benefactor Dinner – An Enchanted Holiday Garden

The holidays kicked off with the Garden's annual Benefactor Dinner on December 6th. Benefactor and Corporate members were welcomed by thousands of twinkling lights and festive décor created by the San Dieguito Garden Club. Garden Club President Deb Batey and member Geri Thirloway led the team who brought the evening's theme, "An Enchanted Holiday Garden" to life.



Gregory & Lili Harris

Evergreen branches, hurricane lanterns, sparkling butterflies and birds adorned the tree and centerpieces in the tent on the Lawn Garden. Dinner was provided by The Wild Thyme Company, which supported the event by underwriting a portion of the costs. "Added Attraction," an a cappella group, performed holiday carols while strolling throughout the event. More than 130 guests enjoyed the evening. Thank you to our premier-level members whose continued support helps our Garden thrive.

Give a Mother's or Father's Day Gift that will be Enjoyed All Year Long!

San Diego Botanic Garden memberships make great gifts. For a full year, your loved one can walk the garden trails, experience nature, and enjoy many events. The Garden also provides a wonderful setting to spend time as a family.

For more information on the benefits of membership or to purchase a gift, visit SDBGarden.org or call Stasi at 760/ 436-3036 x214.

Thank You Donors

San Diego Botanic Garden wishes to thank the following donors for cash and in-kind gifts, including Benefactor and Larabee Society memberships, received prior to January 23, 2015.

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Ruth Larabee believed in the importance of preserving open spaces and gardens for the enjoyment and education of the community. This belief led her to bequeath her 30-acre estate for just that purpose, a gift that became San Diego Botanic Garden. Planned giving is the cornerstone of the Garden's history and the key to its future.

The Arbor Vitae Guild was established to honor the Garden's friends who have indicated that they have included the Garden in their will, trust, or other deferred giving method. Gifts of all sizes are welcome, as they ensure the Garden's natural beauty and vitality for the enjoyment of future generations. We invite you to begin a conversation about how a planned gift can benefit you now and the Garden in the future. Please contact Tracie Barham, Director of Development, at 760/ 436-3036 x216 for more information.

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Meet Our New Trustees: Marcia Hall Brockett and Matt Stamper



Marcia Hall Brockett

Former Chief Executive Officer of Sharp Coronado Hospital and HealthCare Center (In her own words about becoming a trustee at the San Diego Botanic Garden)

"In 1971 I arrived in San Diego from my family farm in Oregon, where we grew walnuts, apples, cherries, and other orchard fruits (and had a wonderful kitchen garden). At that point, gardening stopped being a part of my life. Instead I focused on the sciences and a career in health care while raising my son. But does gardening and agriculture ever leave your soul? I think not. And here I am, with this lovely invitation to join the San Diego Botanic Garden as a trustee. I have been a member of many boards over the years, all in the areas of science and health care. All were wonderful organizations, and I hope I helped them. So now, thanks to the incredible serendipitous twists of life, I find myself embarking on a new adventure with you all. I have a hunch that while I may have ways to offer you my help and business experiences, you will find ways (with your beautiful garden) to feed my soul!"



Matt Stamper

Matt is a native of San Diego and worked at the San Diego Zoo for nine years, excluding a stint where he volunteered in the reptile house, while working his way through undergraduate and graduate school at the University of California, San Diego. Matt's love of the San Diego Botanic Garden began in 2001, when he and his wife Lisa moved to Carlsbad. Since the birth of their twin daughters, Lauren and Danielle, the Garden has been a staple in the family's life. Matt's love of plants (and reptiles) runs in the family. Matt's grandmother and great aunt were avid amateur botanists. This early family inspiration took root and Matt is dedicated to the conservation and preservation of open areas in San Diego and the world at large.

Matt works in the Information Technology Security and Managed Services industry and is a Certified Information Systems Auditor and is Information Technology Infrastructure Library certified. He is president of the San Diego Chapter of Information Systems Audit and Control Association, co-chair of the Federal Bureau of Investigation InfraGard's Communications Sector, and on various boards as either an advisor or director. Matt looks forward to helping the San Diego Botanic Garden continue its excellent mission and meet its master plan.



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We thank our corporate and foundation partners for their annual support of the Garden's mission *to inspire people of all ages to connect with plants and nature*. These organizations provide unrestricted cash or in-kind contributions, which fund our educational programs and the overall care and maintenance of this 37-acre botanical oasis.

Corporate partners receive recognition on our website and on signage in the Garden, family membership benefits, guest admission tickets, invitations to special events, and other attractive benefits, depending on their level of support. For information on how your organization can support the Garden as a Corporate Partner, please contact Nancy Kelly, Deputy Director of Development, at 760/436-3036 x219.

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