

The Bloomin' News

Newsletter of the San Dieguito Garden Club

Member, National Garden Clubs, Inc.
California Garden Clubs, Inc., Palomar District

Editorial office: rkoczela@hotmail.com

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Meeting on May 24

Margee Rader on *Living Wreaths*

As we gathered at Quail Gardens on April 27 to prepare for our Flower Show, I noticed a large hole in the ground in a part of the Undersea Garden near the doorway. Everyone in SDGC was purposefully and diligently working to set up the room, and the thought receded from my mind. I was not thinking about the seahorse topiary that was planned for the entrance. I had assumed it would be two- or three-feet tall. Another hour went by, and the magnificent succulent seahorse arrived. Suddenly Bill Teague and assorted Quail personnel had it planted and perfectly placed, all six or seven feet of it! It is a tenderly faced and beautifully rendered addition to the impressive Undersea Garden. Its placement was timed to arrive to showcase the theme of our Flower Show, and we thank Pat Hammer for the inception and planning of a great idea.

9:30 Coffee and social
10:00 Business meeting
**10:30 Margee Rader on
Floral Wreaths**

The artist who created it, Margee Rader, will be our featured speaker at the May meeting. Our scheduled speaker moved away, and after a bit of scrambling around and a fortuitous phone call to Pat Hammer, Jerry was able to recruit the talented Margee. Her company, *Living Wreaths*, creates beautiful works of art, miniature gardens, including wreaths, kissing balls and other free-form designs. She will demonstrate her art for us, and if it's anything like the well-planned educational display she exhibited



at our Flower Show, we are sure to learn a great deal from her.

For more information see her website: Livingwreaths.com.

— Rita Koczela

Forthcoming SDGC Events

- May 24 SDGC meeting, at Quail Botanical Gardens, Ecke Room; social at 9:30 am; meeting begins at 10:00 am. Margee Rader on *Living Wreaths***
- June 5 SDGC board meeting, at the home of Rita Koczela, 9:30 am**
- June 24 SDGC meeting, at Quail Botanical Gardens, Ecke Room, social at 9:30 am, meeting begins at 10:00 am. Greg Asbaugh will speak about his tropical garden in Leucadia. Installation of officers. Pot Luck luncheon following the meeting.**

Message from the President

It was so encouraging to see so many of our members show up for the April Flower Show with entries, lots of plants to sell, willing spirits and strong hands. It was a very busy time for most of us, and some members went beyond expectations and made it the success it was. A sincere thank-you goes out to all for their tireless efforts, and most especially, to **Quail Botanical Gardens** for joining us to make it all possible! There were four distinct facets of the show, and most individuals did multiple jobs.

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The Bloomin' News
 Newsletter of the
 San Dieguito Garden Club

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 Jerry Thirloway
Recording Secretary
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Corresponding Secretary
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Ways and Means
 Mary Davies
Yearbook
 Evalyn Rodgers

President's Message

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A Standard Flower Show conforms to the standards and objectives established by the National Garden Clubs, Inc. of which SDGC is a part. Chairman of the Show, Jerry Thirloway, and I initially sat down with our six judges, Evalyn Rodgers, Muriel Baze, La Verne Schlosser, Betty Roberts, Nadine Starr, and Sue Jean Armstrong in August 2005. The meetings continued on a regular basis and expanded to include Donna Golich, Mary Davies, Marian Griffith, and Jean Matchura. This group planned it from the beginning. They had it organized from the set-up, to the judging of the competition, and finally through to the dismantling. Mary's job as Publicity Chair began as soon as the idea was implemented, and she did a superb job! The next job was the schedule, written by Sue Jean and followed up by Muriel. Evalyn, a major mover and shaker, accomplished an unbelievable assortment of tasks, and Donna designed and set up the Ecke Room for the Design and Horticulture presentation. Betty handled classification, Muriel chaired the



*Photographs of Flower Show on pp. 1-3
 by Ellen McGrath-Thorpe*

judges' clerks, and LaVerne supervised the placement of entries. Thelma Montag and Ellen McGrath-Thorpe assisted Nadine, the Judges' Hospitality Chair. Other workers included Pam Kaspar, Marianne Light, Winnie Averill, Karlene Stinson and Patricia Lang. The show also included **Educational Exhibits** by Lola Mac Farlane, chairperson of the SDGC's Therapy Garden, Kathy Campbell of Quail's *Seeds of Wonder* program and Margee Rader (our speaker for May) of *Living Wreaths*.

On Saturday morning, our talented member, Sandy Williams, and Steve Valentine, accomplished floral designer and curator of Wild Animal Park's Bonsai Department, demonstrated six creative and varied **Floral Designs**. Steve described Sandy's style as *avant garde*, while his were large and dramatic. The friendly banter of two friends working together kept us amused as their beautiful designs were created.

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Web Site

<http://sdgc.klmmicro.com>

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Children's Workshop at the Flower Show

As part of our Club's objectives to educate the public and to coordinate with other community organizations, a Children's Workshop was incorporated into the second day of our Flower Show, co-sponsored by Quail Botanical Gardens. It was decided not to make this event competitive but to show children how to make a floral arrangement. Jerry tapped into his connections with Jan Berry, coordinator of the San Diego Flower and Plant Association and the Foxpoint Farms to obtain donations of flowers. They certainly came through with a wonderful colorful assortment of fresh-cut flowers and fill-ins.

Betty Childs, a very new member who is a former teacher and current owner of *Flower Girls*, gathered and donated all of the non-floral materials and set up the area. Other former teachers, including Myleene, Rita, and I made ourselves available to back up Betty's plan. Docent Kathy Campbell assisted. Amanda Coleman and Billy Jean Figuero from Escondido High School contributed their youthful spirits and energy.

Once a child committed to do this, they received a paper cup and a piece of soaked oasis. Then they wrote their names on the cup and decorated it with personal artwork and/or the stickers of butterflies and dragonflies. They selected their favorite colors and pushed them into the oasis. They all left proud of their creations and chanted the mantra of the day, "Add water as soon as I get home!"

We ended up expanding our definition to "children of all ages." The adults, both parents and participants, were amazed that this whole experience was free. The children, no matter what age, had fun and checked out the exhibits in the flower show. Our task was done: we planted the seeds for the next generation of garden club members.

Submitted by Ellen McGrath-Thorpe



President's Message

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It was followed by a **Fresh-Flower Activity for Children**, set up by new member, Bette Childs and assisted by Ellen McGrath-Thorpe, Myleene Sohail, and also Amanda Coleman and Billy Jean Figuero from Escondido High School. Evalyn and Jean made the attractive directional signage for all the various activities and strategically placed them at Quail to guide visitors to the different areas of the show.

During the entire time, we offered a **Sale** of plants, herbs, lemons, avocados, and related garden items. It was overseen by Eva Hallen (who never left her post) with help from Jean Saltmarsh and Karlene. Our prices were very attractive, and to our delight, Eva kept selling and selling! Thanks to everyone's efforts, we had a great deal to sell. It was obvious that members had been actively nurturing their plant contributions for months before the show giving us the largest and best-looking inventory yet. Large boxes of lemons were donated by Myleene Sohail. Cheryl Konn brought in flat after flat of herbs from her nearby retail business, *Quail Flower Garden*.

Cynthia Butler, who had her pacemaker changed, could not attend until the last day but sent her personable daughter, Melissa, over to help us in her stead. Marianne's friend, Kathie Terhune, also joined in. Karlene's and Jean's husbands helped with the heavy work both before and after the show.

A very big *thank-you* goes to the **San Diego Flower and Plant Association** and **Foxpoint Farms** for the generous donation of fresh flowers for the children's activity. Hopefully, we encouraged the appreciation of flowers among the young!

Because I kept busy going from one activity to another, I may have missed someone. If I have failed to mention any of the workers, I apologize. If you know of others I have missed, please tell me so I can thank them in the next issue.

— Rita Koczela

Garden Tours in Print, volume 7

To Create a Wonderland of Flowers

When Lynda and Bruce Wallace moved into their home in Escondido in August of 2000, they brought one van of furniture and another full of plants from their home in northern California. Lynda also brought with her a desire to emulate the gardens that she had in her native Canada despite the difference in temperature. And so her task began.

Originally the front of her one-acre-plus property was a significant grassy slope with the lowest third developed as an avocado orchard. Assisted by her two sons, she created terraces using various kinds of brick and stone work and replaced the lawn. Standing in front of her home and looking down toward the street, you can see the various tiers with the avocados still there. Immediately above this area is where Lynda grows her vegetables. Last year her ten tomato plants yielded far too much, and this year her asparagus has gone really wild. On the next tier, there are magnificent lantana that edged out the rosemary and a very strategically placed, dense bougainvillea that creates a privacy screen from her neighbor across the street who "has NO flowers." The highest level contains a blowsy combination of her favorites: irises, roses, and delphinium. My favorite rose, Ebb Tide, is there and the scent is heavenly.

Going around the side of the house, there is a rather ornate fountain. Lynda took out the mossy green ground cover and replaced it with a variety of ornamental grasses. The backyard, which contains a lovely pool, has a very tropical look. Lynda



has left that pretty much as the previous owners had designed it, replacing plants as needed. She has, however, asserted her personality in the beautiful combinations in containers she has placed in groups around the patio.

When we sat on her front porch, drank tea, and discussed some of the great social problems of our day, I lost all track of time. Our privacy was complete, the scent was lovely,

and it seemed as though we were a million miles away from everyone. Lynda has successfully created the floral ambiance reminiscent of her past.

Photographs by Ellen McGrath-Thorpe

— Ellen McGrath-Thorpe

Reminder to Members

It is that time again! Please pay your \$25 annual dues to Nadine Starr.

Correction

Editor's Note: In some issues of the newsletter for April, I mistakenly used an incorrect name for Chairperson of the Children's Floral Activity. It should have reported *Bette Childs* as the correct name.

Happy Birthdays to SDGC Members!

May		June	
Lola G. MacFarlane	4	Maryan Bunga	12
Jean Brinson	15	Thelma Montag	20
Heidi Welsh	27		

Salt Tolerance

As land and water resources grow ever more scarce, especially in the southwest, growers and breeders face the increasing challenge of making plants more tolerant of high salinity. We need to understand why ordinary plants that are *not* salt tolerant fail to grow in saline soils.

The simple answer is *water*: the array of ions and solutes within plant cells confers a high osmotic pressure, which in turn lowers the *activity* of water within the cells, making it lower than the activity of water in (non-saline) soils. Since water tends to move from a region of high activity to one of low activity—just like water flowing downhill—water in non-saline soils will spontaneously move into plant roots.

In saline soils, however, the activity of water is lowered, and, depending on just how much salt is in the soil, the water will either not move into the plant or will move at decreased rates. As a consequence, even if a plant is standing in salt water, it will wilt and fail to grow.

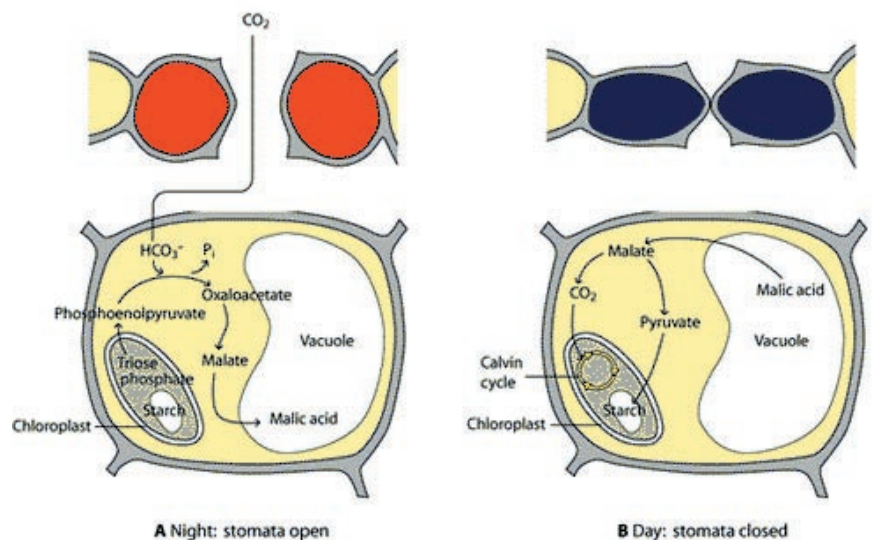
It is interesting to learn how certain plants in nature achieve salt tolerance. Two distinct strategies emerge: *crassulacean acid metabolism* (CAM) and storage of salt in the vacuole.

Crassulacean Acid Metabolism (CAM)

We all know that plants take in carbon dioxide through the stomata of leaves and, powered by sunlight, convert that carbon dioxide to sugars in chloroplasts. In addition to the diffusion of carbon dioxide into the leaf, open stomata also permit water vapor to diffuse *out* of the leaf. Rather than lose valuable water, most plants only open their stomata in bright sunshine when they can carry on photosynthesis; at other times they keep them closed to save water.

We say *most* plants, because some six percent of all land plants employ a different strategy: they open their stomata *at night*, letting carbon dioxide diffuse in and storing it in organic acids. The advantage is that less water diffuses out under the conditions of lower nighttime temperatures, less wind, and higher humidity. In the daytime CAM plants keep their stomata tightly closed, but they can still carry on photosynthesis by releasing the stored carbon dioxide!

The resulting savings in water permit CAM plants to grow with limited water supplies or in moderately saline soils.



Salt stored in vacuoles

A different strategy evolved by other plants confronts high salinity directly by taking sodium ions into the plant and storing it in the vacuoles. (Salt is composed of sodium and chloride ions.) The result is that the activity of water within the plant tissues is decreased to a level below that in a saline environment and sufficient to draw water into the plant.

This transport of sodium is achieved by an *antiporter*, specifically, a *proton-sodium antiporter*. It was identified by Eduardo Blumwald, who also isolated the gene encoding the antiporter. When the gene, *NHX1*, is introduced into tobacco, the result is a salt-tolerant tobacco plant!

The potential for creating crops that can be grown in saline environments is very promising.

— Carl Price & Ellen Reardon



UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming Events of the San Dieguito Garden Club

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Installation of officers
Pot Luck luncheon following the meeting.

Ongoing Events

Quail Botanical Gardens, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. Call (760) 436-3036 x206 or www.qbgardens.com. Ongoing children's activities. Free composting class, 11 am – 12:30 pm, first Saturday of the month.

Master Gardener Hotline, from 9 am to 3 pm, (858) 694-2860 or www.mastergardenerssandiego.org

In the Garden by Anderson's La Costa Nursery on KCEO, 1000 AM radio, 8 – 9 am on Saturdays. (760) 753-3153, 400 La Costa Ave., Encinitas. www.andersonslacosanursery

Web Sites of Interest

Palomar District, Inc.: www.geocities.com/pdgardenclubs

California Garden Clubs, Inc.: www.CaliforniaGardenClubs.org

National Garden Clubs, Inc.: www.gardenclub.org

San Dieguito Garden Club.: <http://sdgc.klmmicro.com>

The SDGC's Web site also contains current issues of *The Bloomin' News*.

Thank You!

Thank you to Quail Botanical Gardens, Encinitas Self Storage, Anderson's LaCosta Nursery, the San Diego Flower and Plant Association, Foxpoint Farms, and Quail Flower Garden for their contributions to the activities of the San Dieguito Garden Club.