



THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE BOTANIC GARDENS

# UCRBG Newsletter

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## The Butterfly Garden Unfolds

BY THERESA ARIAL, BOTANIC GARDENS MANAGER

**T**HE DEVELOPMENT OF any garden, small and quaint to large and palatial, is a process. An idea is the beginning of that process, and we have Ann Platzer to thank for that. Her vision of developing a butterfly garden here at the UCRBG was the beginning of something beautiful. In fact, her idea was my inspiration to create a butterfly garden that would unfold before our eyes.

There are many factors to be considered when planning a garden. Among these are accessibility, design, plant selection, grading, drainage, and irrigation. To achieve our end goal has taken time and patience.

The garden has been planted since early May of 2012. Like a butterfly opening its wings, every day its promise is further revealed. As the wings of our garden spread, color is exposed and patterns are discovered. As the site takes form, as the plants thrive and fulfill their potential, we can take pleasure in what is being created.

We can also take the time to delight in all of the creatures that are drawn to this vibrant living stage. Numerous birds, bees, various insects, and the main character...the butterfly. So, just as the butterfly reveals its beauty, let me share some of the

processes that have contributed to our unfolding garden.

Initially, we were very fortunate to have a flat site for the Butterfly Garden. With help from UCR's Agricultural Operations, we graded the area just before rains moved through. This gave us the perfect opportunity to observe water movement, and make any adjustments. In the winter of 2010, we

adjusted the drainage swale to the north end of the garden, blending form and function by incorporating rocks specified by the original design.

To provide delineation and a form that allowed the *Passiflora* to climb, we installed a four foot fence, running the length of west side. Ten yards of amendment were delivered and incorporated into the existing soil at a depth



**ABOVE:**  
(counter-clockwise)  
Jorge Fregoso and Theresa Arial forming swale / Theresa placing rocks & boulders. / Trenching for irrigation. / Rototilling soil. / Installing the paths.  
**CENTER:**  
The finished paths.

of six inches by rototilling. Soon after the irrigation design was trenched in, we began to install valves, hose bibs, and pipes to support the watering system.



*Justicia californica*  
Chuparosa

Volunteers Hillary Brown and Pat Young prepared the collected plants by grooming and weeding them in the containers. Before the driplines were laid out, I designated the location of every plant. Then, Hillary, Pat and I began our planting marathon. We finished the planting in three days. The plants were then plugged into the drip system and began to settle in.



*Gaillardia* 'Oranges and Lemons'

After mulching the areas around the plants, the pathways were installed. Paradise Nursery brought in eight yards of California Gold decomposed granite. The material was spread in frames created by bending heavy gage 5.5 inch Surlock into the circular pads creating the pathways. To stabilize the material, it was wetted down and then vibrated in stages.

The Scarano family and the Moore family provided memorial bench sites. These allow garden visitors to enjoy the displays while sitting comfortably. On a sunny day, one can watch children pointing and spying numerous butterflies, bees, hummingbirds, finches, and lizards.

The Butterfly Garden has proven to be a delight and benefit in so many ways. One of the lavenders (*Lavandula*

*angustifolia* 'Munstead') is a magnet for bees. It has long lasting blooms, foliage, and fragrance. You will find butterflies and hummingbirds frequenting *Justicia californica*, chuparosa. In addition, the *Gaillardia x grandiflora*, ('Oranges and Lemons') lure butterflies, and add a splash of sunny color to the garden. It is common to see various lizards warming on the rocks, and scurrying about in search of ants and other insects

As our Butterfly Garden has unfolded, so has its beauty and potential. It is an ever-changing palette that provides support to local butterflies and other creatures. The Butterfly Garden also provides a venue for the UCRBG visitors to witness the processes of nature while amplifying their awareness of them. The beauty and diversity displayed in the



Butterfly bush, *Buddleia x weyeriana* 'Bicolor', with Monarch, photo by Ann Platzer

Butterfly Garden enhances our Gardens, delights our senses, and fulfills our commitment to our donors, Friends, visitors, and our environment. 🐦 TA



*Alcea rosea*, hollyhock

## UC Riverside Botanic Gardens

The UCR Botanic Gardens Newsletter is a quarterly journal published by the Friends of the UCR Botanic Gardens, UC Riverside Foundation, 900 University Ave., Riverside, CA 92521, and is one of the benefits of membership. Articles on various aspects of horticulture and its practice, history, or related subjects, especially as they apply to inland Southern California are welcomed. The selection of copy to print is at the discretion of the editors. Send copy to Steve Morgan, Botanic Gardens, University of California, Riverside, CA 92521, call 951.784.6962, e-mail [smorgan@ucr.edu](mailto:smorgan@ucr.edu) or visit our website at [www.gardens.ucr.edu](http://www.gardens.ucr.edu) for information.

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**Graphic Design:** Tami Osmer Glatz

**Editors:** Siri Khalsa • Steve Morgan



*Lavandula angustifolia* 'Munstead'

# The UCR Butterfly Garden Is Here

By Ann Platzer

WHEN ED AND I VISITED the Patagonia Butterfly Garden in Arizona in the mid 1990's a light bulb went off in my head. Why not introduce a butterfly garden to the UCR Botanic Gardens? With our dwindling natural habitat, what better way to teach and encourage children and adults alike to consider adding butterfly-friendly plants into their own home landscapes. During the years that followed, I worked on a butterfly garden at my own home, researching compatible plant and butterfly species and passing this information along to staff at the Botanical Gardens. After years of planning and hard work, our Butterfly Garden is finally here and open to visitors.

Many people contributed to this project helping to make plans and putting them into action, getting their muscles behind digging and planting, and generously donating money to make the Butterfly Garden a reality.

Theresa Arial's artistic landscape design expertise and organization of the garden added a professional touch to the finished product. Now visitors can walk, sit, admire and watch butterflies at our Butterfly Garden.

Recently, a group of adults and teenagers visited the gardens and asked when the Butterfly Garden would be open. I took them over to the site where several butterflies were nectaring on Buddleia. The youths' sparkling eyes and signing to the adults indicated how fascinated and thrilled they were to see these lepidopterans close up.

For me, it is also exciting that I have been asked by some elementary school teachers to give classes to help them start a butterfly garden at their schools. More importantly, they want to visit the UCR Botanic Butterfly Garden for inspiration. This certainly made this addition to the Gardens worth the years of effort. Just think, I may be able to teach biology again to the



Ann and Ed Platzer

future adults of California. Wow! I will be in butterfly heaven. The butterflies and I thank you. 🌸❤️ AP

Don't forget to read the Butterfly Corner in every *UCRBG Quarterly*, this time featuring the Western Tiger Swallowtail (on page 9). Happy Butterfly Gardening!

*Note from the Editor:* Ann is far too modest. If it hadn't been for the generous contribution that she and Ed made as seed money for the Butterfly Garden, we wouldn't have it today. Her idea truly inspired people, making it possible to create this wonderful space for all we animals to share. And, its beauty is just beginning to reveal itself. – SK

## State of the Gardens

**PLANTS TO SEE:** Many plants are in flower in the new Butterfly Garden south of the lath house. Also see plants in the Herb Garden and Geodesic Dome.

'Ramona' Lilac: Sometime in the 1980s, Dr. Louis Erickson, who was the Botanic Gardens' Director previous to me, collected seed from a plant of *Syringa x hyacinthiflora* 'Pocahontas', which grew in the Botanic Gardens' collection and in his personal garden as well. Louis was not sure if it was selfed seed or open-pollinated seed produced by bees and other insects that visited lilac flowers in Riverside. In either case, the mother plant was 'Pocahontas.' Louis germinated over 20 of these seeds and the seedlings were eventually planted out in a plot he had on the UCR Agricultural Experiment Station. Louis considered only one of the resulting plants worthy of trial as

a new cultivar in the Hyacinthiflora Group.

*Syringa x hyacinthiflora* is a group of cultivars whose parents originally were *S. oblata* from China and *S. vulgaris* from southeast Europe. The first interspecific cross in this group was made by Madame Lemoine in Nancy, France, in the 1880s. *Syringa oblata* has oblate leaves and although the main bloom season is in spring, one plant we have in the Botanic Gardens tends to produce a few flowers throughout the year. On the other hand, *Syringa vulgaris* tends to flower only once a year in spring, 10 to 14 days later than *S. oblata*.

Louis Erickson provisionally named his selected plant 'Ramona' after the heroine of Mrs. Helen Hunt Jackson's novel of the same name. The cultivar name has not yet been registered with the International Lilac Society list of names for lilacs. The plant grows

about three feet tall, hence is semi-dwarf, but it has deep purple flowers in large conical inflorescences.

Another distinguishing characteristic is that it blooms very early, between the end of January and mid-February, depending on the coolness of the winter season. 'Ramona' only flowers once a year in February, but the blooms last for about a month, depending on daily temperatures.

Last year I asked Dr. Deb McCown of Knight Hollow Nursery, Middleton, Wisconsin to propagate the plant using tissue culture. We received many rooted plants from her and it is these that will be available at the fall plant sale. The plants may not flower next spring, but they should come into flower in a year or two. Lilacs flower best planted in full sun in well-drained soil and with regular watering.



### KRISTINE M. SCARANO MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE BOTANIC GARDENS, INTERNSHIP AND BENCHES:

In 2011 the family of **Dr. Kristine M. Scarano** moved the payout from the UCR Foundation endowment in her name to the Botanic Gardens. Kristine was a doctoral student in the English Department at UCR and, while she was working towards her degree, she loved to visit the Botanic Gardens. The family thought an internship in Kristine's name supporting a student to gain experience in the Botanic Gardens would be an appropriate use of the payout generated from the endowment. This summer **Amy Kwicicn**, a junior undergraduate studying Plant Biology, was awarded the internship. Amy has rotated among several different work experiences in the Botanic Gardens to gain an appreciation of what takes place in university gardens used for teaching, horticultural extension, and research. In addition to the internship, a memorial bench in Kristine's name was placed in the entrance plaza in 2011. Also, the Scarano family donated another bench in Kristine's name that was placed in the Butterfly Garden this spring. A second bench in the Butterfly Garden is a memorial to **Dr. Betty C. Moore**, who was a founding member of the Friends and an early president of the board of directors. These two benches in the Butterfly Garden provide an excellent spot to sit and

observe insects and hummingbirds visit flowers for nectar and pollination, or to view butterflies laying eggs on plant leaves.

### CONFERENCE ROOM REMODEL:

The long awaited remodel of the Botanic Gardens' Conference Room is scheduled to start at the end of October, after the Fall Dinner on October 7 and the Fall Plant Sale on the weekend of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. The remodel will be carried out by Physical Plant personnel and contractors. Funds for the remodel were generously donated as a bequest from the estate of **Mrs. Grace Pernett Lorenz**, of Riverside, who used to serve as cashier at the plant sales. Grace had a vision of enlarging the present room by moving the concertina wall towards the west end, where it would mark off a kitchen area and a storage room for tables and chairs. This will allow items presently stored in the gatehouse across the main drive to be moved to the new storage room, and the original storage space to be remodeled as additional restrooms. Grace was upset that women at plant sales had to stand in line to use the single women's restroom. **Mr. Gary Lamberson**, of Johns Island, SC, Grace's son, generously donated funds to remodel the gatehouse and restrooms, and thereby continue his mother's vision. The restroom remodel will take place once the Conference Room is finished. This is projected to take about a month.

### DONATIONS

**Botanic Gardens Endowment Fund:** For the Butterfly Garden in honor of Ann and Ed Platzer's 50th Wedding Anniversary – Dr. & Mrs. Keith Oddson, Mr. Fred Phillips, Mrs. Doris Rhine, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Tank, Ms. Esther Valdez, Dr. & Mrs. Seymour Van Gundy, J.G. Waines.

**Botanic Gardens General Fund:** Dr. Arthur Douglas, Drs. Brian & Claire Federici, Ms. Monika Ittig, Mr. David & Mrs. Lenita Kellstrand, Lake Elsinore Unified-Earl Warren Elementary, Ms. Suzanne Langhorne, Mr. & Mrs. Steven Pasarow, Dr. Thomas Scott & Dr. Elizabeth Braker, Mr. Harold C. Snyder.

**Botanic Gardens Memorial Fund:** The Hon. Margaret Mann & Mr. Michael O'Halloran, in honor of Vincent M. O'Halloran.

**Friends of the Botanic Gardens:** Ms. Deborah Bishop, Dr. & Mrs. Jerry Gordon, Mrs. Pauline Librenjak, Mr. & Mrs. Rod Miller-Boyer, Ms. Carolyn Wilson.

**Friends of Botanic Gardens Projects Fund:** Mrs. Chris House & Dr. Lee House, Dr. Gordon Pratt, Mr. Van Stout.

**Kristine M. Scarano Memorial Endowed Fund:** Col. & Mrs. Vincent Scarano.

**UCR Herbarium Fund:** Mr. Andrew Sanders, J.G. Waines.

 GW



## Sowing The Seeds...

You can ensure that future generations can enjoy the beauty and vitality of the **UCR Botanic Gardens** through a bequest.

To make a gift by bequest, simply name  
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**Will/Living Trust • Retirement Account  
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The Office of Gift Planning can provide sample bequest language for Wills/Living Trusts.

## 30<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL FRIENDS OF U.C. RIVERSIDE BOTANIC GARDENS Fall Plant Sale News

**FRIENDS PREVIEW SALE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2012, 9 A.M. TO 11 A.M.**

**PUBLIC SALE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 11 A.M. TO 4 P.M.**

**AND SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 9 A.M. TO 3 P.M.**

**W**HAT A SUMMER IT'S BEEN – hot, humid, and even measurable rain in some of our Inland gardens. But fall is in the air. The days are getting shorter and cooler as we move quickly into the fall planting season. As veteran Friends know from experience (and ongoing reminders in the newsletter), fall is the best season of the year to plant all but the most tender tropical plants. They also know that many California native plants and some other Mediterranean climate plants are very difficult to establish at any other time, particularly during our hot Inland summers. That is why we only sell these most difficult-to-establish plants in the fall. The fall sale is your opportunity to obtain and establish these choice species. In addition, we have focused on plants that are attractive to **butterflies**, and bolded the word where appropriate.

Among the fall-planting musts are many popular California lilacs (*Ceanothus*) and manzanitas (*Arctostaphylos*). Of the dozens and dozens of species and cultivars, those that are best adapted to our unique Inland conditions are selected for the sale. Generally, both groups prefer moderate winter irrigation, moderate to little summer irrigation, and good soil drainage. Even considering that, some are more tolerant than others and those are noted. The *Ceanothus* offered at the fall sale range from a woody groundcover to small tree size. Here, they are listed from shortest to tallest. For the first time, we have *Ceanothus* 'Centennial', a groundcover shrub growing only eight to 12 inches tall. It has creeping stems with tiny, round, shiny leaves and small, rounded clusters of cobalt blue flowers. In Inland gardens, 'Centennial' needs part day or light shade. Next in size, at five to six feet



*Ceanothus* 'Centennial',  
photo courtesy of San Marcos  
Growers, Santa Barbara, CA

tall and eight feet wide, is *Ceanothus* 'Dark Star'. It forms a dense shrub with tiny, textured leaves and 1.5 inch clusters of deep blue flowers. *Ceanothus* 'Concha' grows to six to seven feet tall and as wide. It has one inch, dark green leaves and clusters of electric dark blue flowers. 'Concha' is a fairly garden tolerant variety, withstanding summer watering better than most. Also tolerating summer irrigation, and heavy soils as well, is *Ceanothus* 'Blue Jeans'. It has distinctive, holly-like leaves that are small and dark green and born on spiky, reddish stems. It grows from seven to nine feet tall and wide. The clusters of tiny, powder blue flowers are produced abundantly. The largest *Ceanothus* to be offered at the fall sale is *Ceanothus thyrsoiflorus* 'Snowflurry' which can grow to 10 or 15 feet or more. It has lush, dark green leaves and needs more water Inland than other varieties. The pure white flowers are produced in large clusters on this fast growing cultivar.

Like the *Ceanothus* offerings, the manzanitas available at the sale range from a ground covering shrub to one that is nearly tree sized. *Arctostaphylos edmundsii* 'Bert Johnson' is a dense, mounding groundcover growing one to three feet high and four to six feet wide with tiny, dark green leaves on reddish stems. In winter it has clusters of tiny, light pink, urn-shaped flowers typical of manzanitas. It is slow growing and requires some shade in Inland gardens. Next in order of size is *Arctostaphylos* 'John Dourley', at about four feet tall and six or more feet wide. It has small, blue green leaves and bronze



*Arctostaphylos pajaroensis* 'Warren Roberts',  
manzanita

new growth. The flowers are light pink. *Arctostaphylos pajaroensis* 'Warren Roberts' also has blue green leaves and bronzy new growth but grows to six feet tall and 10 feet wide. Its flowers are dark pink and are produced in especially large clusters. The

largest of the manzanitas at the sale is *Arctostaphylos* 'Lester Rountree', a sturdy trunked large shrub or small tree growing to 15 feet tall and 12 feet wide. It has smooth, purplish bark, gray leaves and, in early spring, clusters of flowers that are white flushed pink. Flowers of both *Ceanothus* and manzanitas are attractive to butterflies.

We plan to have several other natives available that are more or less limited to fall planting. The spectacular **matilija poppy** (*Romneya coulteri*) will be available



*Romneya coulteri* 'White Cloud',  
matilija poppy

in its cultivar 'White Cloud', an especially floriferous selection with extra large flowers. Matilija Poppy is notoriously difficult to establish but aggressively spreading once it gets going so allow for this when choosing a site. Its

roots are fragile so it is probably best planted by cutting the pot sides and planting it pot and all. We've never been able to offer the gorgeous but tricky **bush poppy**, *Dendromecon rigida*. It is a relative of the matilija and also difficult to establish. Bush poppy is a 10 to 15 foot tall, sparsely foliated, evergreen shrub. The narrow leaves are blue green and leathery and its four-petaled, yellow flowers are produced in spring. Plant this shrub very carefully, without damaging the brittle roots. This plant needs perfect drainage and careful watering. It is not a plant for beginners.

Three species of keckiella, shrubby

penstemon relatives, are among the other California natives only suitable for fall planting. We've only offered one of these choice shrubs before — *Keckiella antiirrinoides*, **yellow keckiella**. This is a four to six foot shrub with small, toothed leaves and yellow, snapdragon-like flowers grouped at the branch ends in spring. (Its flowers are pollinated by bumblebees.) Somewhere between a shrub and a vine in habit is *K.*



*Keckiella antiirrinoides*,  
yellow keckiella,  
photo by Wynn Anderson

*cordifolia*, **heartleaf keckiella**. It grows to three plus feet high and six feet wide with small, ovate leaves and terminal clusters of tubular, two lipped, orange red flowers in late spring or early summer. *K. ternata*, **blue-stemmed keckiella**, grows to about three feet high and wide and produces terminal clusters of tubular, scarlet flowers in summer. Both *K. cordifolia* and *K. ternata* are pollinated by hummingbirds. All three species of *Keckiella* tend to be summer deciduous in Inland gardens.

Closely related to *Keckiella* is the genus *Penstemon*. A number of native *Penstemon* will be available at the fall sale. **Tinted penstemon**, *Penstemon heterophyllus* will be for sale in its adaptable and reliable selection, 'Margarita BOP'. This is a spreading perennial to two or three feet tall with gray green leaves and many spikes of tubular flowers in a blend of blue and purple. It flowers in late spring and early summer and is more tolerant of summer water than some of the other species. Also more tolerant of summer water, if the soil drainage is good, is *Penstemon palmeri*, **Palmer or fragrant penstemon**. Palmer penstemon has leathery, waxy gray green foliage and tall spikes of pink, scuttle shaped flowers that are pollinated by bees. It is one of the few penstemons with fragrant flowers. (They smell like grape soda.) It can grow four to six feet high in bloom. *P. spectabilis*, **showy penstemon** has similar waxy gray green foliage. It can be three to six feet tall in bloom. Its tall spikes can carry dozens and dozens of inch-long, lavender-purple and blue flowers, living up to its species name. *Penstemon centranthi-*

*folius*, **scarlet bugler**, has attractive blue-gray, toothless leaves and two to five foot tall spikes of one inch, tubular, orange red flowers that are particularly attractive to hummingbirds. Scarlet bugler and showy penstemon are both sensitive to summer irrigation. All the penstemons require good drainage.

Two other groups of native California plants to be available at the fall sale are the buckwheats (*Eriogonum*) and milkweeds (*Asclepias*). There will be two herbaceous species of buckwheat, red-flowered buckwheat and sulfur buckwheat. At six to 18 inches in height, sulfur buckwheat, *Eriogonum umbellatum*. var. *polyanthum* 'Shasta Sulfur', is the smallest of the two but has the longest name! It has spoon-shaped leaves that are gray green above and felty white below. It produces fluffy heads of tiny, bright yellow flowers in summer. **Red-flowered buckwheat**, *E. grande* v. *rubescens*, grows to three feet tall. It has gray green, oval leaves that are lighter underneath and many clusters of tiny, rose red flowers over a long spring to summer season. Both grow to about three feet across. **Saint Catherine's lace**, *E. giganteum*, is the giant of buckwheats, as its botanical name implies. This Channel Island native grows three to five feet plus in height and is very adaptable considering its coastal nativity; it will even come up from seed here and there in the garden. Its felty leaves are gray green and ruffled and it bears huge, flat-topped clusters of tiny off white to pinkish flowers that age to an attractive red brown. These can be cut at any stage for long lasting arrangements.

There will be three native milkweeds available at the sale. New to the sales is **woolly-pod milkweed**, *Asclepias eriocarpa*, a plant that is not commonly offered. This three-foot-tall perennial is covered in light-colored, woolly hairs. Its thick stems bear large leaves and are topped by rounded clusters of waxy, cream-col-

ored flowers that are usually tinted or blushed pink. These distinctive flowers are crown-shaped, typical of all the milkweeds. Another rarely offered species is *A. fasciculatus*, **narrow-leaf milkweed**. This herbaceous perennial grows two to four feet tall with slender stems and narrow leaves. It produces rounded clusters of waxy, white flowers. Narrow-leaf milkweed can spread rather aggressively underground so consider that when choosing a planting site. Almost shrubby is the desert native **rush milkweed**, *A. subulata*. It grows to three to five feet and has slender, wand-like, waxy white branches that are nearly leafless. Its flowers are creamy yellow. These three milkweeds all have low water needs. We always try to have an ample supply of the garden friendly, non-native *Asclepias curassavica*, **bloodflower**. This is an easy and fast growing milkweed with regular water needs. It grows three or four feet tall, has lance shaped leaves and produces clusters of colorful, red and orange flowers of the typical milkweed shape. **Both the buckwheats and milkweeds are attractive to adult butterflies and the milkweeds are larval hosts of the Monarch butterfly.**

There are a number of **other non-native plants that attract butterfly adults.**

All of these are approved and recommended by butterfly guru, Ann Platzer. Cape plumbago, *Plumbago auriculata*, has



*Eriogonum grande* v. *rubescens*,  
red-flowered buckwheat,  
photo by Gary A. Monroe

long been a popular slope plant. It is a wide-spreading, mounding shrub that should be given plenty of space. It is favored for its lush foliage and continuous supply of light blue flowers — especially richly colored in this unnamed selection. Another blue-flowered shrub is *Duranta repens* 'Sarasota',

Brazilian skyflower. This is also a rather large shrub, though smaller and more compact than the species, growing to only six or eight feet. It is a fountain shaped shrub with bright green leaves and clusters of starry blue flowers that are said to smell of cake batter; these are followed by attractive, bead-like, yellow fruits. The heat-loving *Lantana camara* 'Dallas Red' is an old fashioned selection with small heads of red, orange and yellow

flowers that are produced much of the year. It has bristly, ill scented foliage and grows three to five feet tall.

**What would a selection of butterfly attracting plants be without *Buddleia*, the butterfly bushes, themselves?** This sale will offer several. Among them is a dwarf from the 'Buzz' series that has proven itself in our Butterfly Garden. This is *Buddleia* 'Buzz Ivory' growing to only four feet tall and bearing generous, cone-shaped clusters of tiny, creamy white flowers each with a yellow "eye", or throat. Similar, but larger in size, is *B. davidii* 'White Profusion'. It grows six to eight feet tall, has



*Buddleia* 'Buzz Ivory', butterfly bush

felt, gray green leaves and large, conical clusters of creamy white flowers with yellow eyes. References say the clusters can grow to be one to two feet long! Similar in all ways except for color is *B. davidii* 'Twilight'. Its flowers are dark purple.

**The flowers of rockroses, *Cistus* and *Halimium*, also attract butterflies.**

There will be three of these tough, Mediterranean climate shrubs that have not been offered at the sales before. The smallest and most unusual of the three is *Cistus* 'Mickie'. It grows to two feet tall and three feet wide and has the typical rockrose flowers: five crinkled petals and a central cluster of golden yellow stamens. The flowers are glistening white. What stands out in this selection are the striking variegated leaves. The sage green leaves are broadly and irregularly edged in bright yellow. The variegation is so substantial that the plants will require part day or light shade in our Inland gardens. Growing two feet tall and spreading to six feet wide is *Cistus* 'Jessamy Beauty'. This has



*Cistus* 'Jessamy Beauty', rockrose



*Halimium balimifolium*, rockrose

long, lushly green, sand-papery leaves and large, white flowers with a red spot at the base of each petal. *Halimium balimifolium* is more upright than spreading and grows to three feet tall. It has small, light gray green leaves and bright yellow flowers. Not new

to the sales but one of the best rockroses is *Cistus* 'LASCA Select'. It is the largest of those being offered. At three feet tall and eight feet wide it makes a good ground or slope cover. Its short, gray green leaves are soft and felted and the two-inch flowers dark pink. All the rockroses require good soil drainage.

Coming from the same parts of the world as the rockroses and making fine companions in the garden are the various species of *Phlomis*, commonly called Jerusalem sages. These salvia relatives, like salvias themselves, range from herbaceous perennials to shrubs and are sometimes difficult to categorize. For the sake of simplicity, we'll consider a plant to be a shrub if it maintains above ground branches from year to year in our climate. Using that definition, only one is herbaceous, that is *Phlomis taurica*. It forms rosettes of large, dark green leaves that are lighter underneath and is about two feet tall in bloom. Its rich mauve, two lipped flowers are hooded and produced in separated rings in shish kebab-like spikes — much like some of our native salvias. This flower shape and arrangement is typical of all the *Phlomis*. The most distinctive of the

four shrubby types is *Phlomis lanata*. Unlike the rest of the *Phlomis* here, which have large, bold leaves, *P. lanata* has small, rounded, crinkled leaves on a dense, intricately branched plant. The plant is woolly throughout. It grows to three feet high and three to five feet wide. The typical *Phlomis*

flowers are yellow and are produced from spring to fall if the old flower stems are removed. The smallest of the shrubby types is *Phlomis cretica*. It grows to only 12 to 18 inches tall but spreads three or four feet wide. Like the rest of the *Phlomis* here, the bold leaves are thick, narrowly arrow shaped, densely woolly and rough textured. *P. cretica* has yellow hairs, giving the plant a tawny look. The flowers are yellow with a bronze blush and are produced from late spring into summer. Next in size, at three to four feet high and wide, is *Phlomis anatolica* 'Lloyd's Variety'. It is sil-



*Phlomis purpurea*, Jerusalem sage

very throughout. The flowers are yellow and are produced from summer to fall. The largest is *Phlomis purpurea*, at four to six feet tall and spreading the same. Its leaves are silvery when young but age to gray green and the summer flowers are pink. The Gardens was introduced to this wonderful species

by Herbarium Curator, Andy Sanders; seed that he brought from Spain produced the Gardens' original plants.

From the same areas of the world as rockroses and *Phlomis* come a number of *Euphorbia* species. Two of these to be offered at the sale are herbaceous perennials. *Euphorbia characias* has long been popular for its rounded heads of chartreuse flowers and bracts. This sale will offer a variegated selection, *Euphorbia characias* 'Tasmanian Tiger'. It has many three foot, upright stems clothed foxtail fashion with narrow gray green leaves that are edged white. Topping each branch is a ball of flowers and bracts, the bracts chartreuse edged white like the leaves. The flower structure lasts for months before it yellows and can be removed down to near the ground. Similar in shape and form, though topping out at about two feet tall, is *Euphorbia* 'Blackbird'. Rather than being gray green, the leaves of 'Blackbird' are a deep, velvety purple, bringing a handsome contrast with the chartreuse flowers and bracts. The genus *Euphorbia* is huge and variable and contains about 2000 species that range from herbaceous plants to trees to succulents. Three shrubby *Euphorbia* species will be

offered at the sale. *Euphorbia xanti*, Baja California spurge, is a suckering shrub. This grows to six feet tall or more, with near leafless, gray stems. It puts



*Euphorbia xanti*, Baja California spurge

on a glorious display of small pink flowers over a long winter to spring season. It requires little water – actually, less water will help control its spread. Also from Baja California, and California as well, is *Euphorbia misena*, cliff spurge. This is a curiously attractive shrub with zig-zag, white barked branches, tiny, gray-green leaves and flowers that are small and not showy but interesting up close. Contrast that with *Euphorbia pulcherrima* ‘Eckespoint’, a heritage selection of the Christmas poinsettia. This is not a small pot plant like we see at holiday time, but a six to 10 plus foot deciduous shrub. It is an Inland proven landscape plant that puts on a long lasting, spectacular display of huge, red bracted flower heads in winter and into spring. Bill Drysdale, longtime local horticulturalist and writer, grew it in his Riverside garden for decades.



*Aloe striatula*, hardy aloe, photo by Ann Platzer

Although the majority of plants discussed here are drought tolerant or water efficient, what is a discussion about water efficient plants without including succulents and cacti?! Ann Platzer, the butterfly lady and our volunteer in charge of cacti and succulent propagation, has a huge selection ready for the sale. Among the succulents is *Aloe striatula*, hardy aloe. This is a shrubby, semi-climbing plant with

many stems lined with dark green, strongly recurved, succulent leaves. The handsome, yellow flowers are tubular and strongly pendulous and are produced in tight, narrowly conical spikes.

*Aloe dorotbeae*, sunset aloe, is a small plant, only two feet tall in bloom. It forms stemless rosettes of toothed, yellow green to orange red leaves. The plants can be quite spectacular if they are grown in high light. From these rosettes arise in winter-spring, spikes of tubular, yellow-tipped, orange red flowers. Of course all the aloes are loved by hummingbirds. *Echinopsis buascha* (yellow), yellow torch cactus is one of the many cacti available. This is a clump forming cactus with many stems up to three feet tall. The columnar stems are thick,



*Echinopsis buascha* (yellow), yellow torch cactus, photo by Ann Platzer

bright green and ribbed, the ribs are lined with tan spines. The bell shaped flowers are bright yellow and have many, satiny petals. The California native succulent *Dudleya bassei*, Catalina Island live-forever, is new to the sale. It

forms multiple rosettes of red blushed, silvery gray, finger-like leaves and branching spikes of starry, creamy



*Aloe dorotbeae*, sunset aloe, photo by Ann Platzer

white flowers. The succulent and cacti list goes on and on!

As usual, there is only enough space in the newsletter to discuss a handful of the great plants available at the sale. There is no room to discuss the beautiful capers, *Capparis spinosa* that we’ve finally propagated after 25 years of trying! Nor is there room to discuss the Gardens’ first big lilac introduction, *Syringa x byacintiflora* ‘Ramona’; nor *Oxalis vulcanicola*, volcanic sorrel, with its glowing red leaves and bright yellow flowers! Friends will have to check

out the plant list to read more about these and many other choice plants. See “About the Plant List” (below) to review the many ways you can get the detailed plant list. Sadly, even that can’t include everything. There are still many



*Aloe dorotbeae*, sunset aloe, photo courtesy of San Marcos Growers, Santa Barbara, CA

cacti and succulents, hundreds of herbs, vegetables, and wildflower seeds that will be available but are not listed. Plan to spend some time studying our wide selection of plants and visiting the Gardens, too. Be sure to tell your friends and relatives about the sale. Thank you in advance for supporting this great event and, in turn, for your support of the Gardens. 🌱❤️ SM

## About the Plant List

Friends can choose one of several ways to retrieve a plant list. You can call the office at 951.784.6962 or e-mail us at [ucrbg@ucr.edu](mailto:ucrbg@ucr.edu) to request a list be mailed to you. The list may be found online at the Gardens’ website, to print or peruse. Go to [www.gardens.ucr.edu](http://www.gardens.ucr.edu) and follow the links to the calendar and plant sale. Copies of the list will be available at the entrance to the sale.

Whichever source you use, the list includes trees, shrubs, vines, herbaceous plants, most of our landscape-size succulents and cacti, shade plants, house/patio plants, and water plants. To help you prioritize your shopping, the list also includes the number of plants we expect to have available. The list is continuously being updated as the inventory changes so check in periodically and get an updated list. Note that containerized plants are a perishable commodity and are subject to non-delivery, watering problems and weather issues, so be sure to check the updated list close to the sale to make sure your choices are still available. Do make use of this informative publication!

## The Butterfly Corner:

# Attracting The Western Tiger Swallowtail

By Ann Platzer

**T**HE WESTERN TIGER SWALLOWTAIL (*Papilio rutulus*) is a large (3.5 to 4.5 inches) yellow butterfly which, as the name implies, has vertical black “tiger stripes”. From March through September, it is a familiar sight through-out Southern California. In fact, its range is throughout California and Western North America.

In early July, while Ed and I were eating lunch out-of-doors, a newly emerged Western Tiger Swallowtail gracefully glided to nectar on our large lantana plant. We rushed inside for our cameras, and it posed like a star model, slowly fluttering hither and thither as we clicked off about 200 photos.

What makes it a perfect model? Unlike most other swallowtails that flutter continuously when feeding, the Western Tiger Swallowtail nectars with its wings open and is almost motionless.

Since it favors canyons, in addition to suburbs, hikers are likely to see this large, conspicuous butterfly when it glides by. In spite of being a powerful flyer, this swallowtail is relatively easy to approach while nectaring or while at damp puddling spots. (It is an avid mud-puddler.)

The green, spherical **egg** is laid singly on host leaves. The **larva** is also green for most of its life, turning brown just before pupation. Like other swallowtail larva, it has an *osmeterium*, a forked, foul-smelling, fleshy gland behind the head that repels predators. The Western Tiger Swallowtail has one to three broods yearly. The last one over-winters as a **pupa**, which resembles a chip of wood.

The host plants of the Western Tiger Swallowtail include many genera of woody trees and shrubs, especially the native California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), and also poplars, aspen (*Populus spp.*), willows (*Salix spp.*), and alders (*Alnus spp.*). (Refer to James A. Scott for a complete list. Reference below.) I used to fret that I didn’t have a host plant. But I learned that I needn’t worry, and neither should you. Most likely one is growing in your suburban neighborhood or in a nearby, uncultivated area.

Ed found a sycamore tree just down the street from our house.

Dr. Gordon Pratt, the Southern California butterfly expert, told me that willows may be the Western Tiger Swallowtail’s favorite host plant. If you have a large pond or stream, you can consider planting willows. What you must have are plenty of tall-flowering nectar plants, such as *Lantana*, or *Buddleia* and wild sunflowers. These guarantee that this magnificent Lepidopteran will visit you. 🐛 AP

*Happy Butterfly Gardening!*



Western Tiger Swallowtail

REFERENCES: Scott, Jams, A. (1986). *The Butterflies of North America*. Stanford University Press, Stanford, California. 586pp.

## Volunteer News

**“WELCOME VOLUNTEER” MEETING.** Not a meeting to welcome volunteers, this is a new opportunity to become a Welcome-Volunteer. You can support the Gardens by welcoming visitors. If you enjoy meeting people and enjoy being outdoors, consider giving some regular hours to greeting visitors while providing them with maps and general information.

We discuss the details of this new position at the ‘Welcome-Volunteer’ Meeting on **Saturday, October 6, 2012, at 9 a.m. in the Gardens’ Conference Room**. Ideas or suggestions from members and veteran volunteers are appreciated.

On the other hand, if you are interested in volunteering for gardening jobs, don’t hesitate to contact us. When there are 4-5 interested individuals, we hold an orientation with Theresa Arial, Gardens Manager. An information flyer is always on the bulletin board. For more information about the upcoming meeting or about regular volunteering, please contact Karen Fleisher at [volunteerucrbg@gmail.com](mailto:volunteerucrbg@gmail.com) or 951.682.3795. -- Karen Fleisher & Tandy Scott, Volunteer Coordinators

## Volunteers of the Month

by Janine Almanzor

### AUGUST – JANICE PONSOR

Janice didn’t know what she was getting herself into when she began volunteering at the Botanic Gardens. She began in 2008 by taking the Docent Training Course. Next, she became part of the plant sale crew, helping before, during, and after the sales. She loved volunteering at the Gardens so much that in 2010 she became a member of the Friends of the Botanic Gardens Board of Directors. It was there that her skills as a leader were put to work. She created and leads the Kids’ Adventure in the Garden program, and coordinates a children’s activity at each plant sale. She also uses



Janice Ponsor

her creativity as she designs the bulletin board at the Gardens’ entrance.

Janice is able to see where she can be of use and eagerly works, doing an outstanding job. For three years she has volunteered at Primavera and this year she coordinated the Silent Auction Committee.

In 2011 Janice became a Master Gardener and is also a member of the Mountain View Rose Society. She manages to find the time to care for her own beautiful Tuscan style garden and is an excellent cook, using homegrown vegetables and herbs.

**SEPTEMBER – HELGA STAFFORD**

Born and raised in Germany, Helga developed a love for gardening from her grandfather. He grew vegetables, fruit trees, berries, and a variety of flowers. Her favorites were the blue and white lilacs which lined their garden. In 1964 Helga came to the United States just for a visit, but she met her future husband here. Hence, in 1966 she came back to the States to stay. Her love for gardening continued to grow, so when she retired from her job of 20 years at Riverside Community Hospital, Helga began volunteering at the Botanic Gardens. She has been volunteering just about every week since 2008. She found her niche working in the lath house propagating

*Helga Stafford*

plants for the plant sales. She helps with all the labeling and grooming before the sales and works during the sales as well. She is also involved with the Silent Auction at Primavera in the Gardens. Helga's love for gardening doesn't end at the Botanic Gardens. She became a Master Gardener in 2010 and enjoys growing a variety of plants in her own garden, especially apple trees and roses. Helga also stays active with other outdoor activities, such as swimming, walking and most of all, golfing.

**OCTOBER – BRYAN ROTH**

About two years ago, Bryan decided to check out the Keep Our Garden Clean & Beautiful Day at the Botanic Gardens. He loved it so much that he responded to the invitation to volunteer on a regular basis. Ever since that day, he has been volunteering at least once a week. Bryan enjoys doing a variety of tasks, which has led him to working in nearly every one of the

Gardens' 40 acres. He cleans up pathways, sets up tables when needed, helps with filling pots with soil, and does a lot of weeding. Some weeks, he has put in up to 32 hours simply because there were jobs that needed to be done. Bryan enjoys being off in the Gardens somewhere, working on his own, and taking in the sights, sounds, and scents. He comments that working and being in the Gardens is a nice break from apartment living where he's unable to garden. His favorite activity in the Gardens is driving the utility vehicles. At the last plant sale he was the shuttle driver, taking plant shoppers back and forth from the parking lot, seeing all their purchases and interacting with them. He enjoyed every minute of it. 🌱 JA

*Bryan Roth***MESSAGE FROM THE FRIENDS CO-PRESIDENT:**

*I* ALWAYS LOOK FORWARD TO the fall and the Friends' Fall Plant Sale. To me, it means I can work in my garden again as the temperatures start to cool after the summer heat.

Fall also marks the beginning of a busy Calendar Of Events for the Gardens. This year, 2012-2013, is especially important as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Botanic Gardens (founded 1963) as well as recognizing the 15th Anniversary of Primavera.

Katherine Kendrick, my co-President, I, and all the Board members are excited at this opportunity to honor and thank the generous volunteers, staff, and donors who have helped make the UCR Botanic Gardens and Primavera In The Gardens such a success through these many years.

We will be communicating with you about all the events. Please check the Gardens website ([gardens.ucr.edu](http://gardens.ucr.edu)), your email messages, our quarterly newsletters, and the Gardens bulletin board for information. In addition, you can always contact the Gardens office at 951.784.6962.

Looking forward to serving you, 🌱

*Amy Hao*



# Around The Gardens

## What Did You Do On Your Summer Vacation?

**TWILIGHT TOUR, August 24**

Over 100 people enjoyed this romantic tour of the Gardens one summer evening. The Botanic Gardens docent team lead our many interested guests. After the tour, everyone enjoyed refreshments on the Conference Room patio. Monika Ittig, who has served as a docent and docent trainer at the Gardens for many years, remarked that she would like to hold a winter tour, commenting that people would also enjoy seeing the Gardens in winter.

**GARDENING BASICS, September 8**

Master Gardener and award-winning landscape designer Nan Simonsen presented her signature Gardening Basics class. The informative and enjoyable class was held at the Heyming's garden. Nan began the class with a PowerPoint presentation. Then, she walked the attendees through the 5-acre property, giving them a chance to see examples in the garden of the points

presented in the lecture. Learn more about Nan and her work at [nanscapes.biz](http://nanscapes.biz).

**VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION**

**NIGHT, September 18** This wonderful evening was encouraged by Janine Almanzor and organized by your Volunteer Coordinators. (All volunteers themselves.) It was held at the Conference Room with about 50 people in attendance. Steve Morgan, curator, and Katherine Kendrick, co-president of the board, expressed the deep appreciation of all the staff for the priceless work completed by volunteers. Without us, the Gardens wouldn't be what it is today.



**BIRD WALK & BREAKFAST**

**September 29** – The always fun and exciting Bird Walk & Breakfast happened early this fall. Under the leadership of Janet Clegg and Norm Ellstrand, what birds did the bird watchers spot? To find out, check the website in October when the bird list is posted.



Janet Clegg and her brood

**NEIGHBORHOOD COLLABORATION**

– Last year, at a University Neighborhood Association free plant event at Goodwin's Organic Market, a neighbor suggested that the unsightly median strip at the corner of Big Springs & Watkins Drive across from a gateway to UCR have plants instead of asphalt. With the help of the City Works Department and the leadership of long time Friends of the Gardens, Meriel Everett and Gurumantra Khalsa, plus neighbors Frances Posoisky and Kevin Dawson, the beautifying job was completed.

**Upcoming Events****OCTOBER****WELCOME VOLUNTEER MEETING**

**Saturday, October 6, 9:00 a.m.**  
See write-up on page 9.

**Adult Ed: GARDENING WITH CACTI & SUCCULENTS**

**Saturday, October 6, 9:30-noon**  
Presenters Buck and Yvonne Hemmenway, owners of The Prickly Palace Nursery and international plant finders, speak on how to design cactus and succulent gardens; integrate these plants into your garden; create container gardens; and care for them all. Classes are \$20 for Friends and \$25 for non-members. RSVP by October 11 to Gardens office or amyucrbg@gmail.com.

**FRIENDS FALL DINNER**

**Sunday, October 7, 5:30 p.m.**

Dining in Alder Canyon is all the buzz this year. The evening is a rare pleasure, and a Friends tradition. Although 5:30 p.m. may seem early for appetizers, we count on cheating the chill that has literally cooled our heels in past years.

This year's speaker is Chris MacDonald, PhD, Desert Natural

Resources Advisor with the UC Cooperative Extension. He will talk to us about native bees: their importance to our gardens and to the environment. Chris is a very amiable and knowledgeable presenter. Look for further details about the dinner by email.



Chris MacDonald

**ANNUAL FRIENDS FALL PLANT SALE**

**Saturday & Sunday, October 20 & 21**

See pp. 5-8 for details about the sale. One of the big bonuses of the plant sales is the free classes and lectures offered on both Saturday and Sunday. A special class for children is on Sunday morning at 11. Details about the classes are forthcoming by email and by snail mail via the Fall Plant Sale mailing.

**KIDS' ADVENTURE IN THE GARDENS**

**Saturday, November 3, 9:30 - 11 a.m.**

**Bugs! Bugs! Bugs!**

Kids love bugs. The creepier, the crawler, the scarier– the better.

Jim Bethke, an entomologist from the UCR Cooperative Extension, reprises his role as teacher, telling the kids about bugs and spiders. The kids get an opportunity to see the creatures close up.

Kids 5 and up are invited. (Be sure to pick up your name tag when you check in.) The cost is \$5 for Friends member families and \$10.00 for



non-member families. There is a nominal parking fee at the Gardens parking lot. RSVP by October 31. Call Janice Ponsor, Docent, at 951-295- 1887. Space is limited.

**Adult Ed: HERBAL GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS, Saturday, November 10, 9:30 - noon**

Learn how herbs, edible flowers, and other plants from your garden can become special holiday gifts. Our presenter, Master Gardener Jean Weiss demonstrates how to make mood-

enhancing mist sprays, fragrant potpourri, and other seasonal items. Everybody will make a pomander from citrus and spices to take home. Culinary herbal and floral refreshments will be served.

**ART IN THE GARDENS**

**Sunday, November 11, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

See information on back page.

**KOGB DAY**

**Saturday, November 17, 8:00 a.m.**

Yes. Once again it's time to groom the

Gardens. Come and help. Bring your own water bottle and your own rakes



Karen Fleisher

and shovels (if you have them). Long pants recommended. No sandals or flip-flops. Contact Margo Chabot at 951.312.3367 or [gogochabot@earthlink.net](mailto:gogochabot@earthlink.net) by November 12.

**KIDS' ADVENTURE IN THE GARDENS**

**Saturday, November 24, 9:30 - 11 a.m.**

**Sucky Plants & Prickly Plants:** This time we learn about succulents and cacti. After touring the areas of interest, we walk up to Schneider House to see where and how the plants are propagated. For the craft activity, kids will create a mini succulent garden to take home. RSVP by November 21. See details at left.



Botanic Gardens  
University of California  
900 University Avenue  
Riverside, CA 92521-0124

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

# 2012 Fall Plant Sale

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20 & SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 131  
Riverside, CA

### Art In The Gardens

Spend a pleasant Sunday afternoon at the Gardens strolling through Alder Canyon where twelve California artists will be showcased, representing various mediums, including ceramics, glass, jewelry, water colors and metal.

*This is a wonderful opportunity to view and purchase unique and beautiful art pieces.  
(And, maybe shop early for the Holidays!)*

**Sunday,  
November 11,  
2012**

**10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Free to members  
\$4.00 for nonmembers  
(Regular Gardens admission)



*"View of Anza Borrego" by plein air artist Lucy Heyming*

*A portion of the sales will benefit the UCR Botanic Gardens.*

Parking: At entrance to the Gardens (nominal fee)  
and Lot 10 (\$2 per hour)

#### ARTISTS INCLUDE:

- Jennifer Katz, *Jewelry Design.*
- Bill Gardner, *Metal works.*
- Sharon Muro, *Paper and Clay.*
  - Jean Aklufi, *Fused Glass.*
- Diane Wilson, *Jewelry Design.*
- Rebecca Kallinger, *Mosaics.*
  - Kelly Noble, *Ceramics.*
- Rudy Ruihel, *Enamel Jewelry Design.*
- Sandy Garcia, *Mexican Folk Art & Hypertufa pots.*
- Marijke Terwisscha, *Ceramics.*
  - Lucy Heyming, *Watercolor.*
- Brenda Cook, *Terrarium Designs.*