



The Spindrifter

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General Meeting

Thursday, February 27, 2020
(Open to Guests)

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL
9001 TOWNE CENTRE DRIVE, SAN DIEGO

Parking garage on site; Enter from Golden Haven Drive

9 –10 a.m. Hospitality hour
10-10:30 a.m. Business meeting
10:30-11:45 a.m. Program

Emma Manners, Duchess of Rutland
Capability Brown and the Gardens of Belvoir Castle



Belvoir Castle, standing proudly in the Vale of Belvoir and home to the Duke of Rutland's family since 1067, is one of the finest examples of Regency architecture in the world. Designed by the same architects as Windsor Castle, much of the popular television series "The Crown" was filmed at Belvoir Castle.

The Belvoir (pronounced *beaver*) Estate has been passed down through 36 successive generations and remains privately owned, though it is open to visitors.

The Duchess of Rutland actively manages the estate. She is especially proud of, and has written about, the extensive conservation works in their newly landscaped garden which was restored in 2016 from Lancelot 'Capability' Brown's 1780 original designs. The Duchess recently completed restoring the Engine Yard--a collection of charming Victorian buildings--on the property. Once abandoned workshops are now a unique rural retail village.

~~From the Co-President's Desk~~

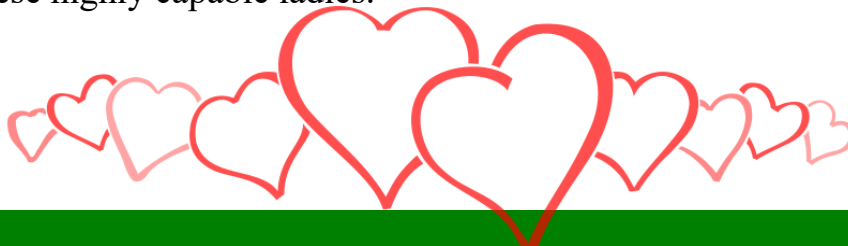
We kicked off 2020 in grand style as we experienced Monet's Garden through the lens of award-winning nature photographer, Charles Needle. The lush photographs accompanied by beautiful, idyllic music set the tone for a truly memorable morning. Charles continued to delight us with his spectacular photography and charming personality. A lively question and answer period followed his presentation, as our members sought to glean as much information as they could from our talented guest. Just when you thought the morning couldn't get any better, we were treated to the January workshop featuring Tom Nuccio from Nuccio Nurseries. Tom marched in with a variety of spectacular camellias from his nursery in Altadena along with an abundance of knowledge and enthusiasm. Lucky and happy drawing winners got to take home these beautiful plants.

There are signs of the imminent arrival of spring in our gardens as bulbs, birds, and some wildlife are starting to make an appearance, and the days are getting longer. The violet and primrose, early bloomers, are the birth flowers of February even though many associate roses with February because of Valentine's Day. In our "club garden" our committees are busy with their various projects including Expressions in Art and Flowers, the Members Garden Tour (*Note: If you have a garden you are proud of and would like to share with our members, please contact Carol Rumsey or Gail Dill. Don't be shy!*), and the May luncheon. We are busy bees, indeed, as evidenced by the buzzing of activity in the social hall before each meeting begins. All this productivity is due to our many members who work so tirelessly each month. YOU put the "spring" in our steps and we are grateful to each of you.

Sue²

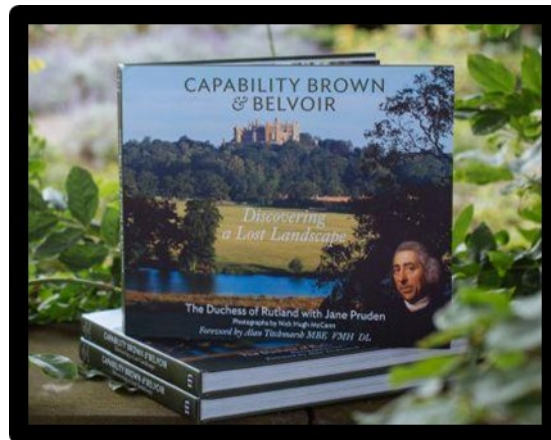
Kudos

Many thanks to Take Down Chair, Alida Bracker and new member, Cecilia Carrick for spearheading the cleanup of our storage space. Ably assisted by Torrie Schiller and Bonnie Sipe, these energetic members totally reorganized our storage area. Marie Kondo could learn a thing or two from these highly capable ladies.



Your Invitation to Pre-order a Signed Copy of the Duchess’s Book
“Belvoir Castle and Capability Brown—Discovering a Lost Landscape”

Cost: \$90.00



THE DUCHESS OF RUTLAND AT THE VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB
Thursday 27th February 2020

Belvoir Castle is the most fabulous fairy-tale castle in England. From atop a high hill it broods over immense tracts of Leicestershire and Lincolnshire. It is one of the great treasure houses of the country, and its chatelaine for the new millennium is Emma, 11th Duchess of Rutland. Since taking charge of the estate, she has shaken off the dust-sheets and brought back to life a castle that had slept for much of the 20th century.

In **Belvoir Castle and Capability Brown – Discovering a Lost Landscape**, the Duchess tells the story of her discovery of plans for the Belvoir Castle’s park, drawn up in 1780 by the great landscape designer, Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown, but then shelved and left forgotten. Her predecessor, Elizabeth, the 5th Duchess (known as the ‘Builder’), had commissioned these plans and now, over 200 years later, Emma is bringing them to fruition.

To place your order, please complete the form below and return to **Sheryl Lester** with your cheque made out to **The Duchess of Rutland**.

The books will be available for collection before the lecture on Thursday, 27th February.

Name of purchaser:

Number of copies:

Please state (in capital letters) the name of the person/persons to whom you would like the Duchess of Rutland to dedicate your copy/copies.

Four horizontal lines for providing the name of the person/persons to whom the copy/copies should be dedicated.

SCHOOLYARD GARDENING GRANTS COMMITTEE



On January 9th our members met for a presentation by Christina Abuela, Executive Director of Barrio Botany, and her teaching professional who gave an inspiring overview of this collaborative initiative focused on establishing schoolyard gardens in the most poverty impacted schools. They have targeted schools in the neediest areas of San Diego, designated Promise Zones (high poverty communities where federal government partners with local leaders to increase economic activity, improve educational opportunities, leverage private investment, reduce violent crime, enhance public health and address other community identified priorities). Barrio Botany has identified the following elementary schools to help them establish or re-establish their schoolyard gardens: Chavez, Horton, Porter and Perkins. Many of the children enrolled in these schools have high ACE (Adverse Childhood Experience) and behavioral health challenges.

Barrio Botany is a collaborative effort of the SAGE Foundation and Leah's Pantry. Their mission is based on Trauma Informed Nutrition education to help promote healthy eating choices and prevent diabetes in children. Bonnie's Seeds has provided organic seeds for the gardens, and Christina is busy recruiting support from corporate partners such as Home Depot and Whole Foods.

From our own committee's efforts, we all recognize the value of schoolyard gardens and the benefit of experiential learning activities in a calming outdoor space. Our committee will be scheduling site visits in March and April to schools we have funded, and we expect to have a visual presentation ready for our club's general meeting in April that will feature Barrio Botany and some of the gardens we have funded this year.

MaryPringle

SPECIAL INTEREST WORKSHOP

“COOKING WITH HERBS AT CYPRESS HILL FARMS”

THURSDAY, APRIL 16TH and FRIDAY, APRIL 17TH

10:30 a.m.

Enjoy a delightful cooking demonstration using fresh herbs and taught by
Marilyn Dronenburg at *Cypress Hill Farms*.

Located in the rolling hills of Fallbrook, *Cypress Hill Farms* is a working commercial flower farm that feels much like Tuscany.

We invite you to enjoy the rose filled rustic garden after the cooking demonstration and lunch.

This will be a member only event and limited to 17 participants each day.

Address and directions will be supplied after confirmed reservation.

Reservations will be taken at the February meeting beginning at 9:00 am
at the Workshop Table.

No advance reservations will be taken.

\$40 per person ~ Carpooling very helpful.

General questions: Maureen McMahon (619) 993 - 7393

Reservation questions: Mary Ruyle (619) 339 - 8743

“LET’S MAKE POSIES”

Please join our hands-on workshop where we will each make our own rustic posy bouquet!

Stylish and beautiful, these bouquets make a great hostess gift-- or simply make one for yourself!

February 27th, 12:00 pm following the General Meeting

Presenter: Breesa Lee Everett

of Blooms by Breesa Lee

(Please note this is a change from our original presenter who has retired)

Cost: \$40 workshop Box Lunch: \$12

We still have some openings for this wonderful workshop.

Please contact Mary Ruyle to reserve a space:

Mary@ruyleandrulye.com ~ 619 339~8743



The Association of Professional Landscape Designers (APLD) is presenting a 2-day conference on February 22-23, 2020 whose focus is permaculture and sustainability, certainly a buzzword for 2020. Details of the event can be found on our website.

Jacaranda and More – An Expanded Tree Planting Program

Our guiding principle at this time is to seek out existing neighborhoods where the tree canopy is sparse and where the addition of trees – habitat or jacaranda - will provide shade, beauty, and a sense of community.

As part of this effort we are working with local San Diego government which has made a commitment to plant many trees as part of their charge to mitigate global warming. To quote their website:

Trees are integral to meeting San Diego's commitment to climate change, carbon sequestration, storm water runoff reduction, and water conservation.

We met recently with Andy Field and Karen Dennison of San Diego Parks and Recreation to explain the expansion of our mission to include habitat trees in our commemorative tree planting program. They were very supportive of our goal and interested in the list of suitable habitat trees that had been recommended to us. They mentioned that Jacarandas, though beautiful and unique to San Diego, are not good shade trees during many months of the year, and for some streets the bloom drop creates a problem. We mentioned our added concern for wildlife and the environment in our desire to plant suitable habitat trees.

They suggested we scout out parks south of I-8 and gave us names of several locations to look into. Because their jurisdiction is limited to parks, we will also need to confer with the Transportation Department to identify possible neighborhood street locations. They introduced us to the City Forester, Brian Widener, who knows about our Club and will guide us to locations in San Diego where trees are badly needed.

It was also suggested we might contact other organizations focused on tree planting, such as the San Diego Parks Foundation and Tree San Diego, with a view to creating partnerships in which we would provide trees, but they could undertake the planting and maintenance .

We are very excited about this expansion of our mission, which will provide many benefits to San Diego. Devonna and new member, Debbie Handal, have updated our brochure, emphasizing that your donation of a tree (particularly a habitat tree) will cool the atmosphere to help counter global warming, provide green respite in over-built neighborhoods, create beauty and a stronger sense of community and safety, and provide habitat for animals, insects, and other living things.

We hope you will consider supporting this project by donating a tree in honor or memory of a special person.

Also, please note that Ana Lyon and Kate Engler are searching for a new venue for our May Dedication Ceremony. Unfortunately we can no longer use the Darlington House due to the increased rental cost. If anyone knows of an affordable venue, please contact us.

Penelope West and Devonna Hall,
Co-Chairs, Jacaranda and More, Tree Planting Program



BOUQUET OF THANKS WORKSHOP

On Thursday, March 5th, Annette Ritchie-Buis will once again chair and host the annual Tillandsia Workshop at her lovely home in La Jolla. The workshop will start at 10 a.m. Annette will also be treating our hardworking volunteers to lunch. Afterward, volunteers will deliver the creations to the VA Hospital for the enjoyment of patients, families and staff. Several of our regular volunteers have offered to forego this year's workshop to allow room for those who have never had a chance to attend this very popular workshop. Please contact Julia Sheldon (juliaisheldon@gmail.com or 858-792-0131) if you are interested in attending. Parking constraints require that we limit the workshop to about 15 participants. Members of the Bouquet of Thanks Committee will have priority for signing up until the February club meeting when any remaining spaces may be filled by club members. We will also need at least one driver.

This year's workshop will feature Tillandsias (also known as air plants) mounted directly on driftwood or in lovely seashells which eliminates the glass terrariums and gravel used previously. The resulting items will be simpler, lighter, and less fragile, which is a blessing to those who have to bring in supplies as well as pack up and deliver to the VA Hospital. Once again, thank you to Alice Harmon for producing our signature enclosure and care cards. If anyone has beautiful shells, coral, or driftwood that they would like to donate, please bring them to the February meeting or to the workshop. Thanks for your support!

Julia Sheldon, Chair, Bouquet of Thanks



We would LOVE to:

Recycle Your Old Yearbook!

--Please bring it to the Membership Table in February--

Thank you!

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

Karen White

I was born and raised in Stockton, CA and attended the University of California, Berkeley. After graduation I moved to Los Angeles and taught junior high school in Watts. I then returned to Berkeley with my husband where I taught in several schools in the Bay area. Changing careers, I next worked as a pharmaceutical representative for Merck before starting a family. We moved to La Jolla in 1986 where I raised my two children. Eventually I enrolled in the Master Gardener Program and became even more interested in gardening and volunteering in school garden programs. I also completed the Master Composter Program.



In 2002 two friends from my tennis club sponsored my membership in the Village Garden Club of La Jolla. My favorite job was volunteering at the Ways and Means Table. It was a great opportunity to meet members since everyone loves to shop. Later I was 2nd Vice President in charge of workshops and again as co-chair for another two years.

In 2006 I removed my front lawn much to the surprise of my neighbors. In its place I planted an informal Mediterranean garden. Marge Palmer spent hours taking pictures to present at the meeting, and later my front yard was featured in the garden tour. Presently I am a member of the Schoolyard Garden Committee. In addition I'm chairman of the Master Gardener Table along with Heather Hazen.

My husband and I are lucky to live in La Jolla where I walk to Wind and Sea every day. For fun I enjoy tennis, golf, and am learning to play pickleball plus a little bridge. My daughter and family live close by, so we enjoy seeing them, especially my 16 month old grandson.

This fall we are looking forward to my son's wedding in Pebble Beach.

Our Favorite Things!

It's not too late to purchase a copy of *Our Favorite Things*, the newest Village Garden Club cookbook! The cookbook makes a great hostess gift or a gift to family members who need some inspiration for cooking. The cookbook contains great recipes from all of you--we know because we've tried them. Yum!



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Proceeds help support all of the Club's civic projects. Please look for our table at the general meetings.

Thanks,
Robin, Kate, Pam, Devonna, Jan, Ana, Donna, Karen, and Carol.

EXPRESSIONS IN ART AND FLOWERS IS COMING ON MARCH 26TH!

A delightful array of 36 artworks has been lined up for this year's event! Needlepoint, knitting, quilting, assemblage and collage, as well as ceramics, photography, and painting – in acrylic, oil, and watercolor – are the genres represented by our very talented club members.

At the February meeting **YOU** can select one to interpret with flowers!! Arrive early, carry your coffee with you as you tour the exhibit of artworks, and pick the one that makes you want to "Say it with flowers!" Become one of our 2020 Floral Designers! Previous experience isn't necessary: no design is wrong; help is readily available in a workshop or mentoring; and best of all, it's a lot of fun to explore and develop your talents and share them.

Also, at the February meeting, you can pre-pay for guests to attend Expressions in Art and Flowers on March 27 at a discount!! Instead of the usual \$20 per guest, the special prepaid fee is just \$15! Plan to bring family members and good friends to this year's exciting event! The next Expressions will be held two years hence, in 2022.

Questions?

Ask Janet Evans, 858-454-0070, janetlyevans@yahoo.com or Bonnie Sipe, 858-454-9381, bsipe@san.rr.com



UCCE Master Gardener Program of San Diego County

Spring Seminar March 21, 2020
Classes . Workshops . Marketplace

Registration is now open for classes.

San Diego County Operations Center
5515 Overland Avenue, San Diego 92123

For classes see San Diego Master Gardeners website.

UPCOMING GARDENING EVENTS

By Pat Parks

Be sure to check individual websites for details and updated information since this posting.

Saturday, February 8 – San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society

Winter Plant Show and Sale - 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Room 101, Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, 92101. More Information: <http://www.sdcss.net>

Sunday, February 9 – Southern California Plumeria Society

February meeting is free and open to the public. Meeting 1:00 – 3:00. Speaker – **Dr. Ari Novy, President and CEO of San Diego Botanic Garden**. Jean Farb Middle School, 4880 La Cuenta Dr., San Diego, 92124. More information: <http://socialplumeriasociety.com>

Thursday, February 13 - - San Diego Floral Association

Make and take workshop of wire and bead dragon flies (one large and one small) Instructor Dale Rekus. Some finger dexterity is required. 10:00 a.m. – noon. Room 104, Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego. Cost \$25 for SDFA members, \$30 for non-members. Please bring scissors or clippers. More information: <http://sdfloral.org> (619-232-5762)

Saturday, February 15 - San Diego Mycological Society

“Fungus Fair” Come early and enjoy gourmet mushrooms and lichens, cultivation demonstrations, and speak to mushroom experts. 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego 92101. FREE - More information: <http://sdmyco.org>

Saturday, February 15 - Botany for Kids

In front of Lily Pond, Balboa Park, 10:00 a.m. More information: <http://coastalsage.mysite.com>

Saturday, - February 22 - Sunday February 23 – Association of Professional Landscape Design

Sharpen your vision 20/20 – **“Keep the Environment in Focus”** - a 2-day event at SD Botanic Garden in Encinitas. Day 1 - speakers, industry displays, garden tour, and silent auction. Day 2 - tours at multiple sites and a farm to table brunch. Cost \$100 -\$190. More info & tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sharpen-your-vision-2020keep-the-environment-in-focus-tickets-84158890507>

Wednesday, February 26 – Ikebana International Chapter 119 of San Diego Meeting

Jackie Zhang will demonstrate floral design of the Ohara School. 10:00 a.m., Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego 92101. More Information: Schneider.keiko@gmail.com. <http://ikebanasandiego.org>

FYI: **Garden Design** was a popular magazine with interesting articles, suggested monthly gardening activities and beautiful photos. It is now an e-magazine. You may view the magazine at www.gardendesign.com where you can sign up for a free weekly newsletter,

GROWING EDIBLES ON THE COAST

Harvesting Broccoli

by Arthur Dawson

The website for Stokes Seeds now rates vegetables according to how difficult they are to grow. I was surprised to see that they say muskmelons and okra, which often fail for me, are easy to grow, whereas cauliflower and broccoli are "challenging." However, after reading about it a bit, I realize that broccoli really does present a challenge to the commercial grower.

Harvesting must be done by hand and is the greatest source of expense to the farmer. New cultivars have been developed that produce a consistently large central head with a short growing season and "concentrated maturity." The last characteristic means that the entire crop from a planting can be cut over two or three days. Side shoots are of no value because the cost of cutting them would be excessive. Once harvested, the heads must be rapidly chilled with cold water or ice slurry to prevent wilting. They must be cut while they are still compact and tightly beaded. Any sign of yellow flowers would make them unmarketable. They need to be refrigerated throughout their trip from field to market.

As with many fruits and vegetables, the home gardener has completely different priorities when growing broccoli. Although a fairly large main crown is desirable, most of the crop will come from weeks of cutting side shoots. I would estimate that from our Packman plants we get at least three times as much from side shoots as from the main head.

We make three plantings, starting seeds in 4-inch containers at monthly intervals from mid-August to mid-October. We set out three seedlings from each planting. The main heads from each planting will be ready to cut in late October, early December and late January. The side shoots keep us continually supplied through the winter and spring. By May the stems of the plants have become trunks with many useless plantlets shooting up from the roots. At that point it's time to remove them as beans, corn and cucumbers begin to crowd our baskets.

The side shoots from nine plants produce far more broccoli than one elderly couple can consume, and we give away most of the harvest. If you simply cut the edible parts of the shoots, the heads will progressively decrease in size and will become more numerous, which makes collecting them an increasingly tedious task. To keep them up to a reasonable size, say an inch or more, you need to cut the stems back to the axil and remove the spindly shoots that come up from the base and from the roots. Eventually, perhaps three months after you cut the main head, the cutting becomes too much work, and you'll want to retire the oldest plants. However, if you don't mind the labour, a broccoli plant can continue producing a useful crop for many months. I've had plants still at work some nine months after the seeds were first planted.





**The Village Garden Club of La Jolla
c/o Anita Lindberg, Mailing Committee
6483 Caminito Baltsural
La Jolla, CA 92037-5802**

