



The Spindrifter



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General Meeting (via Zoom)

Thursday, February 25

Business meeting: 10:00

Program: 10:30

Kelly D. Norris

New Naturalism: Designing and Planting a Resilient, Ecologically Vibrant Home Garden



See page 3 for more information

FEBRUARY PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

February feels like a turning point in the garden. Although it is still chilly (California chilly, that is!), we see signs of spring's imminent arrival everywhere. Bulbs and birds are starting to make an appearance, and the days are starting to get longer.

Even as the last week of January ended with a roar with blustery wet weather, we were so fortunate to be transported to Chateau de Gudanes in France by January's speaker, Karina Waters. Wasn't she a lovely hostess? The beautifully restored chateau and grounds were a pure delight. If you did not have the opportunity to view this remarkable presentation, it, along with each of our spectacular presentations, can be found on our website. Please visit:

<https://www.vgclj.com/monthlyprograms>. The password is 20vgclj21.

When we think of February, we think about Valentine's Day, a day when we show fondness and thankfulness for different people in different ways. This year has been a very unusual one, and we are so grateful for the continued faithfulness and support our members, both new and returning, have shown to VGCLJ. We have done our best to learn and offer new ways to stay engaged remotely. It has definitely been a learning process for us all.

Membership renewal begins March 1st. We hope you will not only renew but also consider sponsoring a new member. As a Valentine for your loyalty and support during this unprecedented year, our membership dues will be reduced for 2021-2022. Even with this one-year adjustment, we feel we will still be in good financial shape for 2021-2022.

Just as spring is right around the corner and we welcome its changes, we look forward to welcoming a new executive board that will be nominated at the March general meeting. We know that the strength of our Club relies on our membership, and we encourage you to consider taking on a leadership role or chairing a committee. Your participation is critical to our success as we move forward.

Please know that your kindness and support, particularly during this difficult year, have filled our hearts with joy.

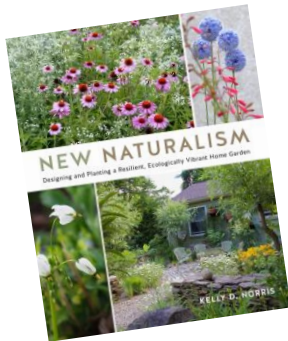
Sue and Sue / Sue²



Thank You!

MEET OUR FEBRUARY MEETING PRESENTER:

KELLY D. NORRIS



Kelly D. Norris is one of the leading horticulturists of his generation. After earning his bachelor's and master's degrees in horticulture from Iowa State University, Kelly served as the director of horticulture and education at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden. For eight years he directed efforts in design, curation, programming, garden and facility management, including serving as the owner's representative for nearly \$20 million in capital projects.

An award-winning author and plantsman, Kelly's work in gardens has been featured in *The New York Times*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, *Martha Stewart Living*, *Fine Gardening*, *Garden Design*, and in many television, radio, and digital media appearances. His passion for planting at the intersections of horticulture and ecology has culminated in a new book, *New Naturalism: Designing and Planting a Resilient, Ecologically Vibrant Home Garden*, which debuts in January 2021, from Cool Springs Press. In addition to his latest project, Kelly has authored three other books: *Iowa Gardener's Travel Guide* (2008); *A Guide to Bearded Irises: Cultivating the Rainbow for Beginners and Enthusiasts* (2012; winner of the 2013 American Horticultural Society Book Award); and *Plants with Style* (2015).

Kelly has earned recognition for his work including three awards from the Iowa State Horticultural Society (2009-2011) for his service and contributions to horticulture in Iowa; early career and young professional awards from the Perennial Plant Association (2011), GardenComm (2018), and the American Horticultural Society (2018). In addition, he received a Zone Horticulture Commendation from the Garden Club of America (2018); the Iowa Author Award for Special Interest Writing (2013); and a fellowship from the Chanticleer Foundation (2015) for his curatorial and plant exploration work at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden. Kelly also presents plants for Cottage Farms Direct on QVC and lectures widely to consumer and industry audiences.

Susan Harris



FEBRUARY KUDOS

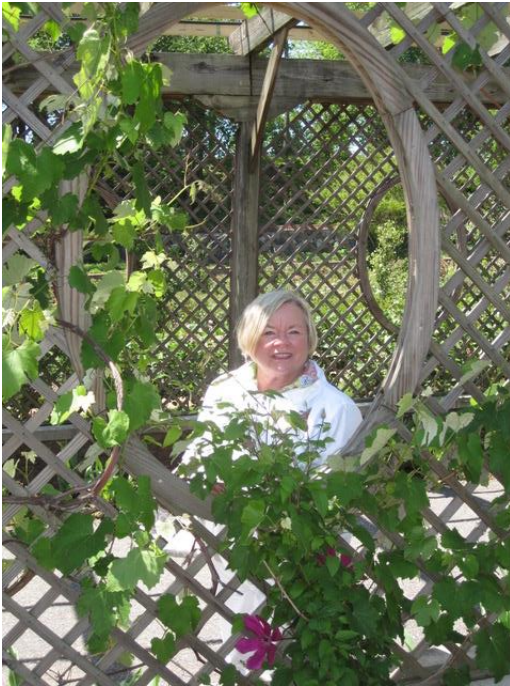
Each month, as co-presidents, we get to choose,
Who receives the Kudos from the two Sue's.
For February, our Valentine was clear,
To award it to our ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP who have so gracefully managed to persevere.
As 2020 was certainly unforeseen,
And a global pandemic was not on anyone's radar screen.
Yet, you managed to pivot from seeing your friends in a bustling room,
To learning a new technology and meeting on ZOOM.
Our civic projects have barely missed a beat,
As you cleverly refused to acknowledge defeat.
Well-coordinated Yearbook pickups were done from your car,
And a socially distanced Schoolyard Garden Sale and Plant Exchange were managed from afar.
You have been flexible, supportive, and kind as we have all navigated this new terrain,
And the qualities that make our Village so special - intact they do remain.
Until we can meet again in person, we want you to know...
Our appreciation for each of you continues to flourish and grow.
With gratitude,

Sue and Sue /Sue 2



OVER THE GARDEN GATE

Melody Petersen



I joined VGCLJ in 1994 upon the urging of the club founder Adrienne Green. We met working for SDMA as Art Alive volunteers. I was looking for a landscape designer. She helped me find a perfect, creative fit to hire. She said if I joined VGCLJ, I would never need one again because I would learn everything I needed to know. That has proven to be true. It was the educational mission of the group that drew me in by virtue of their monthly program speakers. At the time, the club consisted of about 50 women. I found myself chairing programs for five years and watched the membership expand to include friends whose paths I had crossed years earlier in other philanthropic endeavors.

In addition to programs, the membership itself became inspirational, my resources expanded, and friendships renewed. My reasons for joining have far exceeded my expectations! When my grandchildren came along in 2001 I became involved with Schoolyard Garden Programs Committee. I began working in their kindergarten classroom as a volunteer on a weekly basis. This fulfilled a wonderful connection with my twin granddaughters as well as supporting a philanthropic program of the club, another reason many are attracted to belonging.

My love of being in a garden was fostered by my maternal grandmother. It wasn't until I had raised our daughter that gardening came into my life. However, many of my favorite memories are times spent with "my ladybugs" in the garden my husband and I created. After the designer's help with our front, several years later we tackled hands-on in our rear. It was featured one year as a Secret Garden on the La Jolla Historical Society tour. We spent most of the pandemic year of 2020 redesigning our front garden.

The Bible verse put to words in many songs by various singers and groups comes to mind "To everything there is a season..." Garden club came into my life for a reason at the perfect season of my life.

WE NEED YOU!!

As Garden Cub members, we are all proud of the many contributions our various VGCLJ committees make to the San Diego community. We feel it is important to share these accomplishments with the community.

We think it is time to Toot our Own Horn!



We benefit the community at large through:

- ❖ The grants we give to San Diego schools that teach children the glories of nature and the benefits of planting nutritional fruits and vegetables while at the same time inspiring a love of gardening;
- ❖ The maintenance of the Healing Garden at UCSD Moores Cancer Center that provides a place of serenity and beauty for patients, their families, and hospital staff;
- ❖ The seasonally appropriate flower arrangements that the Bouquet of Thanks Committee delivers to the VA Hospital to honor our local veterans;
- ❖ The thousands of Jacaranda and Habitat trees planted all over San Diego to beautify neighborhoods, nurture the environment, and provide a habitat for animals, insects, and other living things;
- ❖ The pocket change our members contribute to the Penny Pines Reforestation Project to purchase seedlings that help renew the national forests in California.

If you would like to help us “**Toot our Own Horn**” by writing an occasional article for various San Diego magazines and newspapers, as well as for the District, California, and National Garden Clubs that we are affiliated with, please consider signing up for the new publicity committee on your March member renewal form.

Sue and Sue /Sue 2

Reminder: Next Spindrifter Deadline is March 4



SCHOOLYARD GARDENING GRANTS COMMITTEE



During this challenging time of COVID restrictions, the VGCLJ and the Schoolyard Gardening Grants Committee continue to spread the joy of gardening and the value of healthy eating to our local schools!!

The Schoolyard Gardening Grants Committee met in January via Zoom to determine the grants to be awarded to schools for the fiscal year 2020/2021. Priority is given to schools with the most vulnerable populations. Individual grants were awarded that totaled \$8,020 with excess funds rolled over to next year's fund.

Twenty very grateful schools received our support this year!! Responses from the school recipients have been heartwarming. Examples include: "...our gardens are a very special place"; "...the garden is an integral part of who (we) are"; (the grant award) is "...positive news so needed at this time"; "...times are challenging, but life has a way of adapting to the challenges at hand."

We are so grateful for the generosity of our members who donated to Schoolyard Garden Grant funds and to the Executive Board who allocated the funds to make the grant awards possible.

In case you did not know, VGCLJ logo aprons and high-quality totes are still available for sale, and all proceeds benefit SYG. Contact Susan Vandendriesse (avandendri@aol.com) to arrange purchase/ pick up in La Jolla.

We make such a positive difference! Thank you!!

Mary Pringle, Schoolyard Gardening Grants



GARDENERS' EXCHANGE TABLE



Hello, dear gardening lovers. Happy Valentine's Day. ENJOY. We wish you the best as we continue to get our vaccines and look forward to getting together in person in the future. In the meantime, we hope that you enjoy our lovely weather, interspersed with much-needed rain--it's always nice to garden in damp dirt. As of now, we will stay online with our amazing presenters, who have been both excellent and enthralling. We will not be able to get together to exchange items at our Gardeners' Exchange table until it is safe, so we appreciate all that can be done online. We will have to "see" you there. In addition, you can save your extra giveaways until we meet again or go online.

In the meantime, we are still doing a Virtual Gardeners' Exchange that can be done on our CLOSED Facebook CHATROOM any time you want to post what you have. You may include pictures and descriptions along with your name and any details you would like to add, such as when and where the items will be available, **OR** by appointment.

Please use your 2020-2021 YEARBOOKS for information on how to post on our CLOSED Facebook page. You may advertise ONLY gardening items, such as cuttings, excess fruit or vegetables, plants, planters, vases, gardening tools, books, and any type of garden décor.

Note: Those of you who do not use Facebook can send your posting information to suekinlj@yahoo.com for inclusion in Voices from Our Village.

Finally, happy gardening, best wishes on getting vaccinated, and stay well,

Clara Blenis and Suzanne Thomas



EXPRESSIONS IN ART AND FLOWERS



Expressions will be held in April. Since we cannot be together this year, it seemed this would be a great opportunity to ask a professional floral designer to share their thought process when interpreting an art piece. Our goal is to demystify the process of interpretation and execution so that more members will give it a try in 2022.

The Expressions Committee has selected three art pieces that were entered in last year's show for interpretation. We have arranged for a professional videographer to produce a 40-minute program which VGCLJ members will be able to see at the April 22nd on-line meeting.

The photo above shows Ann Craig's interpretation of the late Patti Coopriders ceramic, "Miro's Fiesta." Patti's inspiration for her plate was "A time to add a new energy to life . . . Let the sunshine in!"

We're hoping for lots of sunshine in the coming year.

Janet Evans and Bonnie Sipe



TREE PLANTING PROGRAM IN PRAISE OF TREES!



Did you know. . . ? In an area that is now part of the Pechanga Reservation, there stands The Great Oak, over 1000 years old and recognized as the largest naturally grown indigenous coast live oak in the western United States. It is nearly 100 feet tall and over 20 feet in circumference. Its largest branches reach the ground, supporting the tree's weight and creating a sheltering canopy for countless generations of people and animals.

Part of its significance lies in the fact that, despite its great age, it continues to produce acorns, one of the foods that sustained native Californians for thousands of years before the arrival of Europeans. The tiny acorn saplings that have sprouted under the Great Oak's canopy are put into pots and, when large enough, are planted elsewhere on the reservation.



In the Sierra Madre Mountains of Mexico, Monarch butterflies from eastern North America roost for the winter in Oyamel fir forests at nearly two miles above sea level. Monarchs living west of the Rocky Mountain range in North America overwinter in California along the Pacific coast near Santa Cruz and San Diego. Here they roost in eucalyptus, Monterey pines, and Monterey cypresses. Monarchs cluster together to stay warm, and tens of thousands of monarchs can cluster on a single tree.

Most of us are familiar with the poem, "Trees," by Joyce Kilmer, which begins: "I think that I shall never see a poem as lovely as a tree." He is known for his poetry that celebrated the beauty of the natural world and that looked upon trees not only for their beauty, but as a necessary natural resource. In his honor, there is a 3900-acre tract virgin forest in North Carolina named the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest. It is one of the largest contiguous tracts of old growth forest in the eastern US and a rare example of old growth hardwood forest.

Richard Powers, a prolific author who won the Pulitzer Prize in 2019 for his novel, *Overstory*, has said he is on a journey to understand trees and to tell the story of humans and how they are so deeply dependent and intertwined with trees. His approach is that we are not meant to dominate and control our environment, but rather that our destiny depends on making ourselves better at adapting to it.

As gardeners we are more aware of plants and trees--we appreciate their amazing beauty and understand their value in our world. We mourn when these beauties are cut down for no special reason, are destroyed in raging wildfires, and lose battles with enemy insects.

From an environmental perspective, many trees play a vital role by removing carbon from the air and that is why the Jacaranda Committee has expanded its objectives. Besides memorial donations for the planting of Jacaranda trees, the committee is now encouraging donations for the planting of habitat trees, which are more adept at carbon removal.

Jan Holst, Committee Member of the Tree Planting Program

BOUQUET OF THANKS TILLANDSIA PROJECT

Back by popular demand is our Tillandsia Project, where we will pair approximately 135 easy-care Tillandsias (air plants) with seashells and/or driftwood for the VA Hospital. As with other projects this year, we have had to modify our approach to allow our Bouquet of Thanks committee to work safely in a COVID-19 environment. Instead of meeting as a group, we will be working at individual houses. Annette Ritchie-Buis, who is chairing this project again, will be staging the materials on her spacious covered patio on March 10th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Included with materials will be our signature enclosure and care cards designed by Alice Harmon to be attached to each piece with ribbon. Bouquet of Thanks volunteers will pick up materials from Annette, work at home, and then deliver their finished creations directly to the VA Hospital in La Jolla. Hospital volunteers will unload our cars and then distribute the Tillandsias for the enjoyment of patients, their families, and staff.

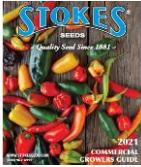


*****If anyone has Tillandsias, interesting pieces of driftwood, cholla, bark, large or small shells, bits of coral, etc., that you would like to donate, please contact Annette Ritchie-Buis.*****

Thank you for your continuing support during this challenging time. Our projects have been even more welcome this year at the VA Hospital, where normal visitation has been severely restricted. To be remembered and not forgotten has a tremendous impact on our veterans.

Julia Sheldon, Bouquet of Thanks Chair





GROWING EDIBLES ON THE COAST

BUYING SEED ONLINE



A few weeks ago, I received some unwelcome news. Stokes Seeds, my primary source for vegetable seeds for more than forty years, will no longer supply seeds in quantity suitable for the home gardener to customers in the USA. I've tried to buy seed from several other Canadian sources, but it seems that new regulations make it too much of a hassle for foreign companies to make small sales to this country. As I've mentioned before, Thompson and Morgan gave up on the USA several years ago.

This wouldn't matter too much if industry consolidation hadn't driven out of business so many of the small seedsmen who supply unusual varieties to the garden hobbyist. Stokes recommended that their US customers should go to Territorial Seed. Now, Territorial has an interesting selection of vegetable varieties, and I plan to explore what they offer, but I've learned that it's a mistake to try something new without having my standby varieties as a backup. More often than not, I'm disappointed when I succumb to the breathless accounts of the virtues of the latest offerings. I wasn't able to find at Territorial any of the varieties that I've depended on Stokes to supply over the years.

Our garden offers a challenge to the vegetable gardener. We have the peculiar conditions associated with gardening a few hundred yards from the ocean, combined with our disease-ridden soil, planted intensively without proper crop rotation for almost half a century. Breeders have come up with disease-resistant varieties but often at the sacrifice of eating quality. Finding something that thrives in our garden that also tastes good sometimes requires kissing several frogs before we connect with a prince. I experiment with a few new varieties every year but only occasionally find one that convinces me to retire one that's tried and true.

After an hour of browsing the Internet in search of the fifteen or so varieties I needed, I realized that some organization was required. Otherwise, I'd be ordering one or two packets of seeds from half a dozen suppliers and would be getting killed with shipping costs. I made up a spreadsheet, matching seedsmen with varieties, and managed to narrow it down to three, plus finding a few on my want list at Amazon. The largest number from one supplier was four, and that was from Holmes Seed, an outlet that I hadn't heard of previously. Their order arrived promptly and the packaging was solid. I'll certainly be buying from them again.

One of my favourites, the carrot 'Magnum', I could not find anywhere. I suspect that Stokes may have put their own name on a variety that's available elsewhere under a different moniker. I also had trouble finding the wonderful sweet corn variety, 'Elle', which has replaced '274A' on my must-have list. After wandering through the confusing thicket of names of augmented supersweet varieties, I stayed with 'Elle', though I had to buy 1000 seeds. I'll never use all of them, because the new hybrid corn varieties seem to have a short shelf life, their germination rate falling sharply even during one planting season.

Arthur Dawson

FEBRUARY 2021 CALENDAR

Governor Newsom has moved San Diego to the Purple Level which has opened zoos and parks and outdoor dining. Famous San Diego Tourist attractions are now open but **MOST REQUIRE RESERVATIONS**. Depending on the rate of infection, San Diego can be moved back to a more restrictive level. Please keep that in mind and check with the venues.

PLACES TO GO

San Diego Zoo and Safari Park - For reservations, tickets and more information:

<http://www.SanDiegoZoo.org/Reservations> and

<http://www.SDZSafariPark.org/Reservations/org>.

Sea World - For reservations, tickets and more information: <http://www.Seaworld.com>

San Diego Botanic Garden - Open Wed – Sun. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. For reservations, tickets and more info: <http://www.sdbgarden.org>

San Diego Japanese Friendship Garden - Daily 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Please review reopening policies regarding COVID 19 restrictions at <http://www.niwa.org>

ACTIVITIES

Tuesdays and Wednesdays in February: 9,10,16,17, 23,24 from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. **Sea World Sesame St. Parade of Lights**. Drive through event. Cost starting at \$49 per car. For reservations, tickets and information: <http://www.Seaworld.com>

Thursday February 11 at 10 a.m. **San Diego Floral Association Zoom demonstration on making a Tea Cup Bird Feeder and scones**. More information: <http://sdfloral.org> FREE Class but MUST BE PREREGISTERED at info.sdfloral@gmail.com. An email will be sent with Zoom info and a list of materials needed.

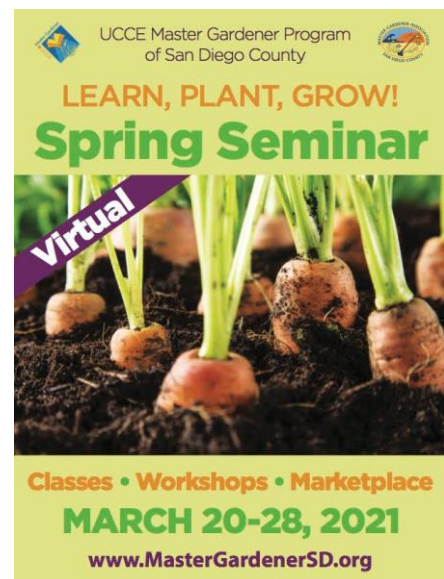
Friday February 12. **Free day at Water Conservation Garden**, 12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. West. More information on: <http://www.thegarden.org>

Saturday March 6, 9 a.m. **Water Conservation Garden Docent Led Tour**. Tour begins promptly at 9:00 a.m. in the plaza. Tours are for limited capacity with safe, social-distancing measures. No reservations are required for same household groups. 12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. West. More information: <http://www.thegarden.org>

Saturday March 20 to Sunday March 28. **Master Gardeners of San Diego's Virtual Spring Seminar**. Thirteen classes and three workshops available online for the entire week. Register at mastergardenersd.org/seminar

ORGANIZATION WEBSITES TO INVESTIGATE

San Diego Epiphyllum Society <https://www.sandiegoepi.org>



San Diego Botanic Garden <http://www.sdbgarden.org>

San Diego Bonsai Club <https://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com>

San Diego County Orchid Society <http://sdorchids.com>

California Native Plant Society, San Diego Chapter <http://cnpssd.org>

San Diego Floral Association <http://sdfloal.org>

Friendship Garden of San Diego <http://niwa.org>

San Diego Rose Society <http://sdrosesociety.org>

Ikebana International Chapter 119 of San Diego <http://ikebanasandiego.org>

San Diego Bromeliad Society <http://sandiegobromeliadsociety.org>

Patricia Parks