



The Spindrifter

January 2020
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General Meeting

Thursday, January 23, 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

“Gardens Throughout the World”

Speaker: Charles Needle



Our program for January features acclaimed nature photographer and writer, Charles Needle, an award-winning, California-based, fine art flower and garden photographer, author, speaker and workshop leader with a unique eye for design and artistic interpretation. His three books, *Tiny Worlds: Creative Macro Photography Skills*, *Impressionistic Photography: A Field Guide to Using Your Camera as a Paintbrush*, and *Creative Macro Photography: Professional Tips & Techniques*, have inspired thousands of photographers to see subjects in new ways and to experiment with innovative, expressive camera techniques.

An accomplished speaker and photography teacher who has conducted international workshops in Monet’s Garden (Giverny, France) for 15 years in a row, with exclusive private access, Keukenhof Gardens (Holland), and The Butchart Gardens (Canada). (Cont’d on pg. 3.)

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

This year the holidays seemed to arrive very quickly, but it was easy to get into the spirit at our December meeting as the social hall was bursting with festive activity. We are so grateful to our many members who worked so creatively to make it a perfect day. Linda Bienhoff, Leslie Dupree, and their committee worked their magic at the Holiday Pantry with all the festively-wrapped goodies literally flying off the table. They were right – packaging is everything! The Horticultural

Swagfest was amazing with proceeds of over \$300 donated to Schoolyard Gardening Grants, while at the Gardeners' Exchange table winter greens for decorating were offered for the taking. Schoolyard Gardening Grants and My Favorite Things gave us plenty of opportunity to do our Christmas shopping before enjoying refreshments at the beautiful holiday-themed table with the festive floral arrangement by Chana Mannen. Our speaker, Tara Dillard, inspired, educated and charmed us all. Carolyn LaPierre, Roz Bradley, and their elves arranged our traditional luncheon in the spectacular setting of the Marine Room. What a wonderful way to end 2019!

As we reflect on the year, we have been in awe of the talent and creativity that you, our members, possess and the enthusiastic way you have pitched in when needed. At the same time, we have been inspired by the many contributions of our members to our community through Schoolyard Gardens, Bouquet of Thanks, Jacarandas and More, Moores Cancer Center Healing Garden, and Penny Pines. Our December Nights tree committee, spearheaded by Linda Morse and her elves, Lisa Lomax, Cindy Lococo, and Susie Dentt, donated their ornaments to Meals on Wheels as tray favors. It is the combination of the love of beauty, nature and the environment, the desire to learn and be educated, and our commitment to the community that makes our club so very special.

Each detail that goes into making our meetings happen is important, and we really appreciate all of you who pitch in. It truly takes a village--from set-up to take down and the laundering of tablecloths! To the members of our amazing communications team who produce the Yearbook, publish the Spindrifter, send Eblasts, and make sure our database is up to date, we thank you for keeping us on track. We also know that we've done some thinking "outside the box," and we are so appreciative of your embracing new ideas.

So now, it is 2020 and we have so many things to look forward to: knowledgeable and engaging speakers, interesting workshops and field trips, plus our Members Garden Tour, Expressions in Art and Flowers, and the May luncheon. And, all of this in an atmosphere of friendship and collegiality--our village is very fortunate indeed!

Sue²

(Cont. from pg. 1.) Charles was selected as a finalist from among 15,000 entries worldwide in the 2011 International Garden Photographer of the Year photography contest, sponsored by The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (London, England). He was a semi-finalist in the 2014 Nature's Best Photography Windland Smith Rice International Awards Photo Contest and has also been a NANPA Showcase winner for seven years in a row. (<http://www.charlesneedlephoto.com>)



Oops!! It has just come to our attention that Sue Kalish's email address is incorrect on one of our very important pages in the current yearbook! Please make the following correction on Sue's address.....last line on page 11 (Spindrifter Deadlines):
suekinlj@yahoo.com

We forgot the "k" after Sue! Thank you!

KUDOS!

Kudos to Maureen McMahon and Mary Ruyle, our Workshops Chairs, who truly embraced the "Go the Extra Mile" slogan. When the Pucker Up – Everything Citrus Workshop at Maureen's home quickly sold out, they generously added a second workshop to give more members the opportunity to attend this truly extraordinary event.

An Update on Jacarandas and More

We are pleased to report that our donations this year have totaled \$850 for Jacaranda trees and \$1300 for Habitat trees. We appreciate each of you who have supported the project!

The Jacaranda trees donated to Carmel Valley 10 Project, which Julia Sheldon and Linda Shaw worked on, have been planted! With our recent rains, they should be off to a strong start.

There is, in fact, considerable interest being expressed in planting trees in San Diego. The City of San Diego is committed to a vigorous tree planting program as part of their commitment to mitigate the effects of climate change, and they are looking for community participation and support.

To help support this effort, we have a meeting with them in early January to explore opportunities for planting both habitat and jacaranda trees. We have done our homework, and after consulting with several arborists, we now have a list of suitable Habitat trees for a variety of situations.

You may have seen a recent article in the newspaper about the Parks & Recreation Department working with the La Jolla Shores Association to improve the park by the beach at La Jolla Shores. We will also explore how we might participate in this project.

In addition, the La Jolla Merchants Association has announced a goal of beautifying La Jolla, and members of our committee are interested in working with them and exploring the opportunity to plant more jacaranda trees.

We will also be meeting with Tree San Diego in January. This is a tax-exempt organization that addresses the significant deficit in the San Diego region's tree canopy – especially in low income areas. Their mission is to significantly increase the number and impact of urban trees in San Diego County and beyond by adding the right trees, in the right places, for the right reasons, with the right care. They accomplish this by collaborating with governmental, nonprofit, and private entities.

We are very excited about these many new opportunities and the contribution we can make with your help.

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



Today in the Garden



The first month of a new year is full of promise for gardens - and gardeners. Rain is awakening native plants and refreshing most others. Spring is just weeks away even though chill – and sometimes frosty temps – currently prevail. Still there is time to plant cool-season flowers and edibles for fresh color and flavors, and shrubs, perennials and trees for fresh garden style. Monitor beds and borders for snails and slugs; protect tender plants when frost threatens and take steps to reduce storm runoff to benefit the garden and the environment. All the while, resolve to garden in harmony with our enviable Mediterranean climate in the year ahead.



January is bare-root season. If you want to grow lots of fruits, this is when nurseries receive their yearly crop of bare-root fruit trees. Fruit trees are available through the year, though those are often trees the nursery potted up during bare-root season. The best and widest selections are available now. A bare-root fruit tree looks like a stick with roots. They are grown in the field, many of them often in the Central Valley. In winter, after they lose their leaves, they are dug up, their roots washed clean (hence the term “bare root”) and carefully packaged so the roots don’t dry out while in transit to nurseries around the country. These very young fruit trees are typically grafted. The growers match different types of rootstock (bottoms) with different varieties of fruit stock (top) to create trees that grow well and produce well under different kinds of growing conditions. Do your homework to decide which combination is best suited to your garden’s soil, drainage, climate, etc.

Unless you live in Julian, select low-chill fruit varieties. If you garden right along the coast, choose varieties that require 200 or fewer chill hours. A few miles inland from the beach and in the valleys, choose varieties that require no more than 500 chill hours. In the mountains, it’s cold enough for varieties up to about 800 chill hours.

- Order short-day onion sets (small, dormant onion bulbs) online to plant next month. Short-day onions require 10 to 12 hours of daylight to form bulbs. Plant in full sun, into soil amended with bone meal, blood meal, compost and worm castings. Water regularly. Harvest when the weather warms and leaves start to yellow.
- Fertilize established stone fruit trees with a low-nitrogen organic fertilizer, such as a 3:12:12 formulation with trace elements. Follow label directions.
- Continue to plant natives and other low-water, Mediterranean climate plants. Water deeply at planting, then water again often enough to keep soil around the roots damp, but not wet. By this time next year, they can probably survive with little if any irrigation.
- Resist the urge to clean up cold-damaged plants. They may look sad, but those damaged leaves and stems help protect the rest of the plant from future freezes between now and Feb. 1 (along the coast), March 1 (coastal valleys and the desert), April 1 (inland) or May 1 (in the mountains).
- Renew mulch throughout the garden. The goal is a 2- to 3-inch-thick layer over all bare soil and around the base of all plants.

- Nan Stermann

UPCOMING GARDENING EVENTS

By Pat Parks

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

January 13, Monday – San Diego Horticultural Society

“Tracking the Rare Plant Super Bloom in City Open Spaces.” Mark Bringer, City of San Diego’s Park and Recreation Department Natural Resource Manager, presents important details about San Diego city preserves, including rare plant monitoring program and vernal pools. 6:45 p.m. Congregation Beth Israel, 9001 Towne Center Drive, San Diego, Ca 92122. Free SDHS members; \$15 nonmembers (pay at door).

January 20 – 23 Monday thru Thursday - Chula Vista Garden Club

Gardening School Series 26. Course 1- Jan. 20-21, 2020 - 10 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Course 2- Jan.22-23, 2020 -10:00 a.m. – 4:15 p.m. Each course (2 days) \$50. Location: The Living Coast Discovery Center, 1000 Gunpowder Point Drive, Chula Vista, Ca. More Information and registration forms: <http://www.chulavistagardenclub.com>

January 25, Saturday – California Native Plant Society, San Diego Chapter

Day-long workshop - **“Integrating Sustainable Practices into your Native Garden”** 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Museum of Photographic Art Auditorium, Balboa Park. Five presentations with the following speakers: David Newsom, Brook Sarson, Joe Brisbois, Colin H Richard, and Ari Tenebaum. Early Bird Registration \$45. General Admission \$50. Venue capped at 200. More Information: <http://www.cnpssd.org>.

January 25 & 26, Saturday and Sunday- San Diego Orchids Society

“Winter Orchids in the Park Show and Sale.” The sales area is open at 10 a.m. on Saturday for early bird customers. The display area will be open after judging at around noon. The show closes at 6:00 p.m. Sunday. Balboa Park’s Casa del Prado, Rm 101. FREE. More Information: <http://www.sdorhids.org>



EXPRESSIONS IN ART & FLOWERS MARCH 26, 2020



If you have always wanted to show off your skill at basket weaving or finger painting, cross-stitching or iPhone photography, now's your chance! We're looking for just six more VGCLJ members to display their original art at the 2020 Expressions in Art and Flowers.

JANUARY 23 IS THE LAST CHANCE FOR ARTISTS TO SIGN UP!

30 Artists are already scheduled; only 6 spaces are left!

Sign up at the Expressions table at the January meeting.

February 27 is the last chance for floral designers to sign up!

Beginning in 2021, "Meet the Masters" will alternate with "Expressions in Art and Flowers" as each year's major event, so artists and floral designers will have to wait until 2022 to display their special talents again.

Note these important dates in 2020:

February 27 – Artists display their work in the social hall. Floral designers sign up for the artwork they wish to interpret.

March 25 – Artists and floral designers bring their work to be photographed.

March 26 – VGCLJ members and friends enjoy the 18th Expressions in Art & Flowers!

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

THE PHYSICIAN IN THE GARDEN

Albinism

By Arthur Dawson

These two fava seedlings pictured below were planted at the same time about three weeks ago. At this point their size isn't much different and they have the same length of root protruding underneath the pots. They are both ready to set out, but I won't plant the one on the right because it is an albino, with malfunctioning chloroplasts and lacking chlorophyll, the pigment necessary to trap solar energy. Once it has exhausted the nutrients stored in the seed it will fail to thrive and eventually die.

Albinism in animals is due to a lack of melanin pigment, but what is called albinism in plants is quite a different condition. However, they share the characteristic of occurring in a wide variety of species and in having a variety of causes, both genetic and acquired. The scientific literature on albinism in plants is surprisingly limited and most of the articles I found, as you might expect, concerned economically important species like wheat, rice, barley and, notably, the tea plant, *Camellia sinensis*. I, personally, haven't seen it in any of our vegetables except for favas and garden peas.



Most of the recognized genes causing albinism are recessive, as you would expect, because a dominant gene for albinism would be lethal in individuals possessing it. Preservation in the population of what would appear to be an undesirable recessive is often explained by its conferring a survival advantage in some situations. A well-known example is the occurrence of the sickle cell trait in human populations in regions where malaria is endemic.

An instance of seemingly beneficial albinism is “temperature-sensitive periodic albinism” in rice and in wheat. Seeds carrying the recessive gene produce albino plants if they germinate at temperatures less than 40° F, but the plants produce chlorophyll normally when temperatures warm up. Presumably the plants are able avoid “wasting” nutrients stored in the seed for the synthesis of chlorophyll during the period when the sun provides relatively little energy.

Another example of conditional albinism is an F1 strain of tobacco used in biology classes to demonstrate the effect of the environment on gene expression. Seedlings raised in the dark will produce pale plants. Upon exposure to light, three quarters of the plants produce chlorophyll normally, but the quarter carrying two copies of the recessive gene remain albino. (Cont'd on pg. 8.)

(Cont'd from pg. 7.) Again, the plants having a single copy of the recessive don't waste stored nutrients while the seedlings are in the dark, perhaps shaded by a fallen leaf or a clump of earth, but they rev up their chlorophyll production when there is enough sunlight for them to take advantage of it.

Leaf variegation occurs when some cells of the plant produce chlorophyll normally while others are albino. In some cases, the pigment-deficient areas consist of mutant cells, while in others the albino cells are genetically similar to those in the green sectors but something interferes with the expression of "chloroplast biosynthesis."

BOUQUET OF THANKS; HOLIDAY PROJECT WRAP UP

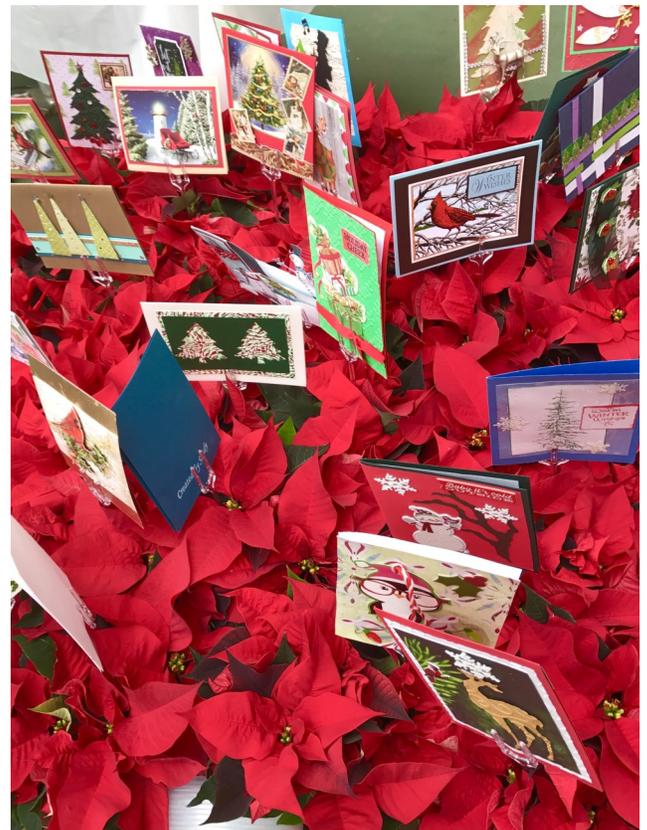
On December 18th, seven warmly clad volunteers from Bouquet of Thanks took time from their busy holiday schedules to meet at the VA Medical Center in La Jolla to help bring holiday cheer to the VA patients, families, and staff. Co-Chairs Nansea Wolff and Julia Sheldon got up early to pick up two carloads of poinsettias at Trader Joe's in Point Loma. They met five other enthusiastic volunteers (Barbara Doren, Judith Johnson, Donna Jones, Sandy Small, and Jill Holmes) at the VA. Several VA Voluntary Services staff even joined the fun, and we finished in record time. Everyone cheerfully braved the chilly weather outdoors to help unload 160 fresh 4" poinsettias, remove wrappings, add Bouquet of Thanks stickers, and poke drainage holes. They then paired the beautiful handmade cards donated by Nansea's card-making group (and personally signed by our club members in November) with the colorful poinsettias. Everyone feasted on homemade cookies, nuts, and satsumas brought by Julia, and were warmed by coffee provided by the VA.

Four of the volunteers even had enough energy left to help deliver about half the plants throughout the hospital. The interaction with the patients and families during the delivery made the day especially memorable and heartwarming. The hospital volunteers distributed the remaining plants the following day. Nansea left an additional 39 cards to be distributed to new patients in the coming week. Jill Holmes will be posting photos taken during this colorful event on our club's photo gallery (SmugMug, under Civic Projects).

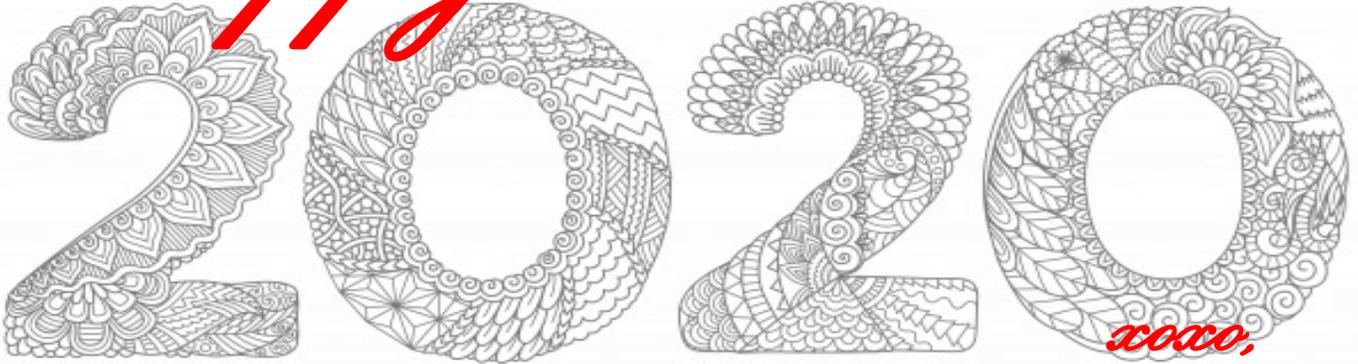
Tillandsia Project: We are already looking forward to the next project, our Annual Tillandsia Workshop, early in the new year. Hosted again by Annette Ritchie-Buis, the event will match long-lasting, easy-care Tillandsias with shells and driftwood. Anyone with larger shells or driftwood you would like to donate, please bring items to the January meeting.

Thanks for your support of all our projects!

Julia Sheldon, Bouquet of Thanks Chair



Happy New Year!



2020,

VGCJ

**The Village Garden Club of La Jolla
c/o Annette Ritchie-Buis, Mailing Chair
7890 Torrey Lane
La Jolla, CA 92037-3807**

