



The Spindrifter

October 2020
Volume 47, Issue 2



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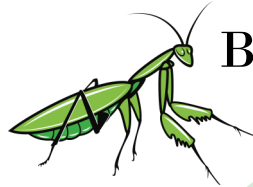
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General Meeting
Thursday, October 22



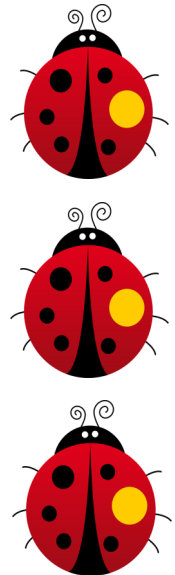
Business Meeting: 10:00
Program: 10:30



Hurt No Living Thing

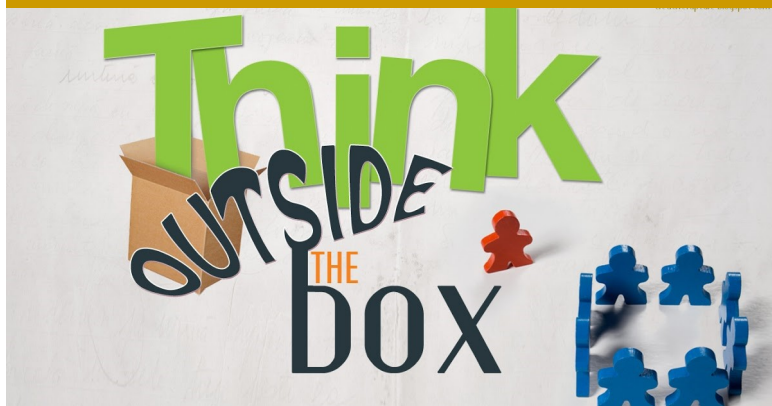
Hurt no living thing,
Ladybird, nor butterfly,
Nor moth with dusty wing,
Nor cricket chirping cheerily,
Nor grasshopper so light of leap,
Nor dancing gnat, nor beetle fat,
Nor harmless worms that creep.

By Christina Rossetti



In keeping with our club's objective to further the conservation of natural resources and wildlife, our programs this month focus on insects and the efforts of individuals and organizations who seek to protect them and their place in the natural world. (Cont. pg. 3)

OCTOBER PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



As we continue to “Think and Grow Outside the Box”, our September meeting via Zoom webinar taught us that although we are unable to meet in person, we can still enjoy the diverse, outstanding programs that Sheryl Lester and Susan Harris have put together. Along with our 10 new members, we welcomed back more than 100 of you for our short business meeting, followed by two beautiful, yet very different video programs. John Phibbs took us on a breathtaking Cotswolds Safari and then Paula Crevoshay’s video, *The Language of Flowers*,

showed us how nature inspires her unique jewelry creations. If you were unable to attend, links to these presentations can be found on our VGCLJ website. The meeting format will only get better as we learn more about Zoom technology and explore ways to personally connect through smaller virtual chat rooms. Thank you for your patience with us – we’re a work in progress!

Our committees are Zooming right along into Fall using Covid-conscious measures to meet and promote our objectives. Our virtual New Member Reception on September 10th allowed us to welcome and learn about our 10 outstanding new members. Thank you to Joanne Hughson, Diana Lombrozo, and the sponsors for their flexibility. Bouquet of Thanks has organized its fall project into smaller groups to be sure that the VA receives the succulent pumpkins they look forward to each year. Our private Facebook page is up and running for those who want to chat on an informal basis. The Schoolyard Garden Committee held its first meeting and are adjusting their grants process to accommodate the changes our schools are currently facing. Our Moores Cancer Center volunteers continue to maintain the beautiful garden enjoyed and appreciated by so many patients and staff.

We are continually challenged to reframe what was into what can be and are learning that anything is possible. One example is our successful Drive Through Yearbook Distribution and Penny Pines donation at CBI on September 17th. Ann Craig remarked that it almost felt normal driving into the parking lot. We thank those of you who helped and the many who drove through to pick up for themselves and their friends. We loved trying to guess who you were behind the masks. Our forests have recently suffered greatly due to the wildfires. Linda Karpowich and Margie Herrick are so appreciative of your Penny Pines donations of approximately \$175.

Please continue to stay connected with VGCLJ through our private Facebook page, *The Spindrifter*, and our informative website vgclj.com. We love sharing your pictures and recommendations in *Voices from Our Village*. There is a committee list in the Yearbook and if the committee you chose this year can’t be as active as before look for now to see if you can participate in another way. Although we wish we could see your smiling faces in person, we look forward to “seeing” you virtually in October.

The Sue’s /Sue²



Presenter: Lina Hirsch

(Cont. from pg. 1)

The Insect Hotel at Slottsträdgården



Lina Hirsch works as a horticultural manager at Slottsträdgården and is the initiator of the Insect hotel. She has always had a love for nature and an interest for plants and animals, after spending time with her grandfather picking berries in the woods and growing veggies in his garden. She was a beekeeper for some years and studied horticulture at the Swedish Agricultural University. In 2009, Lina studied Entomology at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia and did the practical study for her bachelor's degree in biological pest management. Lina worked with urban and community gardeners from 2008-2017, and then moved to her position at Slottsträdgården, a garden located in the middle of Malmö, Sweden.

Slottsträdgården is a municipal garden, open year-round, operated on ecological principles. It consists of 12,000 square meters, with a kitchen garden, rose garden, perennial gardens, theme gardens and orchards. There's also a greenhouse for nurturing young plants. Slottsträdgården hosts a number of festivals, garden shows and workshops during the gardening season. Lina works in the garden all year round, with her colleague, Linnéa. Together they do all the work included in running a garden, from designing new gardens, planning the budget, ordering plant material, and planting and maintaining the garden. They also educate interns from horticultural programs—and when they can—they offer work rehabilitation and volunteer opportunities in the garden.

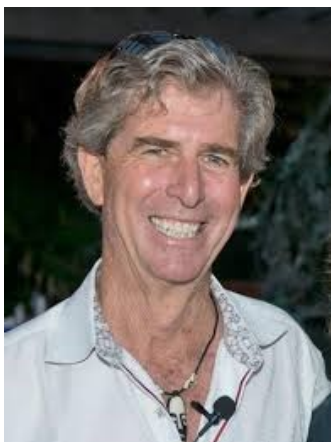
The insect hotel that Lina will discuss is 25 cubic metres in size and 49 metres long. It has 465 compartments that are open on both sides. It was built using recycled materials and the organic material was collected from parks in Malmö. The project was initiated by Lina and was built by Mikael Miolin's team, Utesnickarna, as part of the City of Malmö's job activation programme.

Balanced ecosystems are extremely important—and this is especially true for pollinators as the world's food supply depends on them. As cities become larger, there is a greater need for insect habitats. The insect hotel at Slottsträdgården provides a large habitat in Malmö, one that welcomes insects looking for a place to stay during the winter. After hibernation, the insect guests can enjoy a fabulous buffet of more than 4000 flowering spring bulbs right on their doorstep.

More info about Slottsträdgården at <https://www.spottedbylocals.com/malmo/slottstradgarden-and-kafe/>

Presenter: Bill Toone

Roar of the Monarch Butterfly



Bill Toone, Founder of ECOLIFE Conservation, will tell us the story of the amazing migration of the Monarch butterfly, which is now an endangered biological phenomenon.

Bill always dreamed of being an ornithologist and working for the Zoological Society of San Diego. He started applying for jobs when he was 8 years old. Hired to pick up trash when he was 16, Bill spent his time at work quietly observing birds and their behavior. He left to study causes of reproductive failure in endangered birds. In 1979, Bill graduated with a master's degree from the University of California where his work focused on the reproductive behavior of the highly endangered California condor. He was then hired by the Zoological Society of San Diego and was simultaneously appointed to the federally mandated California Condor Recovery Team. (Cont. pg. 4)

(Cont. from pg. 3) After rising through the ranks to the level of Curator of Birds, Bill became disillusioned by traditional efforts in conservation and was allowed to launch a new division in Applied Conservation. He ultimately left the zoo as the Director of Applied Conservation Programs. In each of these positions he traveled extensively and ultimately worked in over 30 countries including Papua New Guinea, Borneo, Paraguay, Cameroon, and Madagascar. He worked with animal species including the birds of paradise, iguanas, Chacoan peccaries, giant armadillos, elephants, and gorillas.

Through all this work there seemed to be an association between impoverished resources and impoverished people. Hoping to find a more successful path in conservation, Bill co-founded ECOLIFE Conservation in 2003. In 2008, Bill resigned from the zoo to devote full-time effort to seeing ECOLIFE succeed.

PENNY PINES THANKS YOU

Thank you for your generous donations to Penny Pines at our recent drive-through yearbook pickup event. The \$175 you donated will add 700 trees to the Cleveland National Forrest. Due to the recent forest fires, we need all the trees we can get!

Since we won't be collecting at meetings, if you have pennies or a check for Penny Pines please contact Margie Herrick or Linda Karpowich.



WREATHS *across* AMERICA

Thank you to everyone who has supported this wonderful cause in the past.

Wreaths across America is following county health guidelines throughout the United States to be able to place wreaths on veterans' graves all across our country, abroad and at sea on December 19, 2020.

DEADLINE TO SPONSOR A WREATH – November 30th

The link below will take you directly to The Village Garden Club of America's website so that you can be sure the VGCLJ will receive credit for your donation. Please feel free to share this link with family and friends. WAA and the VGCLJ welcome their participation.

www.wreathscrossamerica.org/CA0328P

Questions please email karen.novak123@gmail.com

First Oops in the New Yearbook!

No matter how many times we double and triple check, there's always something we don't catch. This year one of our current members was accidentally deleted from our yearbook roster, and we want to be sure you all know that **Julie Schultz** is still a valued member of the VGCLJ. Her addresses remain the same as in previous yearbooks, but she has disconnected her home phone in La Jolla.



Julie Schultz (Mrs. James)

P.O. Box 401 1630 Caminito Solidago
Sun Valley, ID 83353-7158 La Jolla, CA 92037-7158
208-720-0217 C

julieschultz0@gmail.com

Re-joined 2011 Birthday June 21

Susan Hood-Ruby has also just notified us that she has a new email address: susanhoodruby@gmail.com

Both of these updates are included in the roster located on the club's website, but you will need to note them in your yearbook. If there are any other problems, please contact me at kengler@san.rr.com.

Thanks!

Kate Engler

News from the Habitat and Jacaranda Tree Planting Program



A new park is being developed in South Bay, the Paradise Hills Community Park, and our Club is pleased to be contributing to it with Englemann oaks.

Irrigation cannot currently be installed in the park because it is on landfill. However, the park offers a large dirt space, where kids can bicycle or play ball, and there is a track for joggers. Native plants and trees will be added around the perimeter for which the City has granted \$25,000, while the Master Gardeners have donated two 100-gallon refillable water tanks to provide irrigation.

The adjacent parking area is where our Club has donated six Englemann oaks which will provide valuable shade for park visitors. I think we all like to find a parking spot under the shade of a tree if available, and we expect the oak canopy will cover and cool the entire parking area in a few years' time.

Our partner in this venture, Nancy Janssen of Paradise Gardeners Club, and her husband Wes are taking exceptional care of the trees. They even foraged in the canyons for oak leaves to place around the trees as mulch! As a result these new oak trees seem to have grown about a foot since planting. To celebrate this new park, both mayoral candidates, Todd Gloria and Barbara Bry, decided to use the park for separate campaign events!

So thank you VGCLJ members for your donations to our habitat tree fund. Both Paradise Hills neighbors and wildlife will enjoy these trees!

Penelope West
Devonna Hall

Tree Topping

by Robin Rivet

Tree topping is brutal. Although the term “butchered” is frequently used, butchers are highly skilled meat cutters. Tree topping is nothing short of “assault.” In 1991, the State of California adopted Public Resources Code, GOV § 53067 [1], which codified that tree-topping should be prohibited, and ordinances need to be adopted and enforced because the practice is unscientific and causes a risk to public safety [2], as well as threatening the health of valued urban trees [3]. When large tree limbs are headed back, epicormic re-growth is typically excessive and weakly attached [4]. Using tree topping to reduce canopy bulk or improve a view is a short-lived and shortsighted solution. Nevertheless, look around at parking lots, streets, homes, schools, churches, gas stations, hospitals, and HOA’s; everyone seems to ignore the intent of the civil code.

Contractor's License Required

In addition, pruning or removal of any tree over 15 feet in California also requires a C-61/D-49 CA State Contractor’s license [5]. I do not know why many businesses and homeowners continue to risk extreme liability by hiring unlicensed, ill-trained individuals armed with chainsaws but zero qualifications; it stuns sensibility. Serious injuries are predictable [6], and mutilations, falls and deaths do occur [7]. Unsafely ascending trees and lopping off huge branches on demand, ignoring state regulations, and the need for proper insurance and workman’s compensation coverage, is so risky as to be ludicrous. Even capable, licensed tree contractors who prune large trees should have an ISA Certified Arborist on staff. These professionals are trained to supervise safety protocols and must meet ongoing educational requirements, including an understanding of tree biology.

Tree Topping Myths

Nevertheless, this appalling practice persists. Why? The justifications are troubling and largely based on myths and ignorance. One erroneous idea is that trees get “too tall,” or need annual “haircuts.” However, topping a tree is NOT like trimming head hair, which is dead tissue. Topping tree limbs is more like removing part of your scalp and brain. The statistics are grim, and I have documented over a hundred topped trees within just a few blocks of my home during the past few years. Sadly, this includes trees at a large, conspicuous community center. For the third time, trees on this property were topped and adjacent median trees mutilated. Joan Kroc, whose name graces the facility, was a noted tree aficionado. If she knew her philanthropic dollars supported scofflaws and management who ignore repeated pleas to heed basic tree science, she would surely have protested.

What Can Be Done

I believe the prime reason these destructive practices continue is the lack of code-compliance and enforcement. Your municipality likely needs vigilant citizens to report illegal tree work, whether on commercial or private property [8]. Local horticulturists can also help to educate the public. Fortunately, although tree topping is always egregiously wrong, there are safer and smarter methods to gradually reduce tree size or address urban conflicts. Any decision needs to weigh public safety as well as the carbon storage and sequestration capacity of an individual specimen. Given today’s climate-changing environment with ever-increasing urban heat islands, it’s vital to maximize tree canopy. Tree “police” simply do not exist, so it is mostly an honor system. Unless someone is watching there is nothing to prevent tree topping. Today, the watcher is me.

[1] <https://codes.findlaw.com/ca/government-code/gov-sect-53067.html>

[2] https://www.ansi.org/news_publications/news_story?menuid=7&articleid=2118ed75-792c-446f-8093-b25fcc4a8a0b

[3] <https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/FNR/FNR-FAQ-14-W.pdf>

[4] <http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/430/430-458/430-458.html>

[5] http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=7026.1.&lawCode=BPC

[6] <http://www.treeremoval.com/10-common-tree-cutting-accidents/#.XItCWE3Qipo>

[7] http://www.tcia.org/tcia/Blog_Items/2017/Tree_Care_Related_Incidents_in_2016.aspx

[8] http://www.cslb.ca.gov/Consumers/Filing_A_Complaint/Complaint_Against_Unlicensed_Contractors.aspx

BOUQUET OF THANKS

Mid-October: 8th Annual Pumpkins for Patriots. Chaired by Sandy Small. Instead of meeting as a large group, we will divide up pumpkins and supplies for assembly at individual homes. Many thanks to Sandy, Gail Dill, Diana Lombrozo, Mary Ann Driscoll, Priscilla Moxley, and Carolyn LaPierre for hosting groups of three or four volunteers outside so that we can continue this beloved project while social distancing. My husband and I have already scoured the pumpkin farms in East County for beautiful heirloom pumpkins, while Sandy is collecting the mini-pumpkins. Our house and Sandy's look like pumpkin fields! Our goal is to create about 105 smaller succulent-topped pumpkins for bedside tables and 30 larger ones for public areas. Depending on when each group meets, we will be delivering to the VA hospital on October 19 and 20.

Mid-December: Holiday Project. Once again, Nansea Wolff has organized her talented card group to create holiday cards for us. Assuming we are still not holding club meetings in person, we will arrange for personal messages to be written on card stock which Nansea will glue into each card. Then we will pair cards with purchased four-inch poinsettias at the homes of Jill Holmes and Judith Johnson and deliver them to the VA.

Thanks again to all who support us!

Julia Sheldon, Chair



WHO DOESN'T NEED NEW IDEAS FOR COOKING?



Tired of the Same Old Same Old? Get the Jump on Hostess and Holiday Gifts....

WE HAVE COOKBOOKS!

If you're busy making your holiday gift lists, don't forget that our beautiful cookbook, filled with the best recipes collected from our membership, is still available. Priced at only \$15, it will provide you, your friends, and your family with new ideas for tasty dishes from appetizers to desserts as we continue to shelter in place.

Thank you so much for your support of our club's programs!

Contact Robin Vandever at 858.344.9551 or revcsv@yahoo.com.

OVER THE GARDEN GATE



Diana Lombrozo

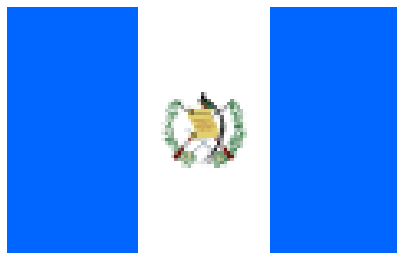
Diana was born to a family of Spanish heritage in Guatemala City, the oldest of four girls. In 1964, she graduated from Notre Dame Academy in Tyngsborough, Massachusetts, where she was fortunate enough to learn English and complete her high school studies as an international student. Upon graduation, Diana began her undergraduate studies at Boston University where she graduated in 1969 with a B.A. in Psychology. It was during this time that she met her future husband, Eliezer Lombrozo, who had recently graduated from M.I.T.

After college, Diana returned to Guatemala and worked in banking and later in advertising at McCann Erickson, Guatemala. In 1970, she was offered an exciting opportunity to work in New York City at the Guatemalan Consulate. She also represented her country as a delegate to the Human Rights

Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. She lived and worked in New York for three years.

In 1973, Diana married Eli, her college sweetheart, and they made a home in Guadalajara, Mexico, for three years where they welcomed their first daughter, Veronica. In 1977, Diana and Eli immigrated to the United States and expanded their family to include two more children, Karina and Alejandro. They established their home in La Jolla where their children attended The Bishop's School (TBS). Today she is the proud grandmother of five and continues to live in the home she and her husband built in 1983.

Diana became a proud American citizen in 1993.





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Growing Edibles on the Coast – 106

Growing asparagus from seed

By Arthur Dawson

About fifteen years have passed since we last grew asparagus successfully. We have planted three new beds during that time, all of them succumbing to asparagus Fusarium crown and root rot. We have learned that introduction of even a small amount of infected soil into a new bed will doom plants growing from new crowns. We always plant the variety UC 157, which is supposed to be relatively resistant, but the beds have consistently failed.

A year ago we had a new bed constructed and filled it with planter mix. I planned to buy crowns of UC 157 but learned that Andersen's no longer has a source of crowns and does not expect to find one. Crowns of UC 157 were available online but at a ridiculous cost, so I elected to buy seed. Many sources extolled the seed of UC 157 F2, so I bit and purchased this wonderful new variety. Only after doing some research did I realize that UC 157 crowns are cloned from F1 plants and that F2 is the same seedling that I have been pulling up for years when it appears as a weed in our beds.

I started the seeds in 3-inch pots in early January. By April they were doing very well, and I moved them to 6-inch pots. In mid-July I set them out in the beds. The roots had filled the pots by then, and I could probably have set them out a month earlier. Now, at the end of September, they are growing vigorously and are beginning to send up some more robust spears. I have thoroughly coddled them, watering them daily, and giving them three doses of balanced fertilizer. They should be good for another six weeks of growth before their winter dormancy. I'm not expecting edible spears in the spring, but at the rate they are growing, they should be capable of a useful crop in 2022. Like the late Justice Ginsburg, I now have a strong incentive to stay alive for another couple of years.

Most authorities say that asparagus grown from seeds take three years to reach harvest size, whereas two years suffice for crowns. In fact, with our long growing season, we have been able to cut a small harvest a year after planting crowns. That may compromise the ultimate yield for the commercial grower but should not be an issue for the home gardener. A few writers claim that seedlings will mature almost as quickly as crowns, and our experience might support that claim. Over the last few weeks we have seen many shoots that are much thicker than the delicate growths that appears in the first few months. I would not be surprised to see spears the thickness of a pencil, said to be the minimum harvest size, when the plants spring to life in early February after a brief winter dormancy.

Another possible advantage of growing plants from seed is that it will be relatively easy to remove female plants, if you choose to do so. The female plants have larger but fewer spears, but the main objection to them is that they produce many seedlings. UC 157 crowns produce "mostly male" (i.e. perhaps 70 percent male) plants. The proportion of male plants from F2 seedlings will be anybody's guess. The plants that have indicated their sexual preference thus far have been male. I'll think about uprooting those that prove to be female, depending on how many there are. Look for an update next year.



The photo shows seedlings nine months after I planted them in the first week of January. Some of the newer spears are reaching a respectable size.

Kudos

There are some people who far exceed all expectations. Sheryl Lester and Susan Harris are two such extraordinary volunteers who continue to go above and beyond. We are so grateful for their work reimagining our virtual speaker presentations this year. With a combination of imagination, perseverance, and a lot of hard work, they contacted experts from around the world on topics that reflect the diverse interests of our membership.

Our September meeting began with two captivating, yet very different, programs: A Cotswolds Safari and The Language of Flowers. These videos can be found on our website for a limited time. With a goal of two presentations per meeting, Sheryl and Susan's programming will continue to delight and educate us throughout the year. We can't wait to see what's in store for us in October.

Gardens and Historic Houses of Savannah & Charleston

Including the Festival of Houses & Gardens

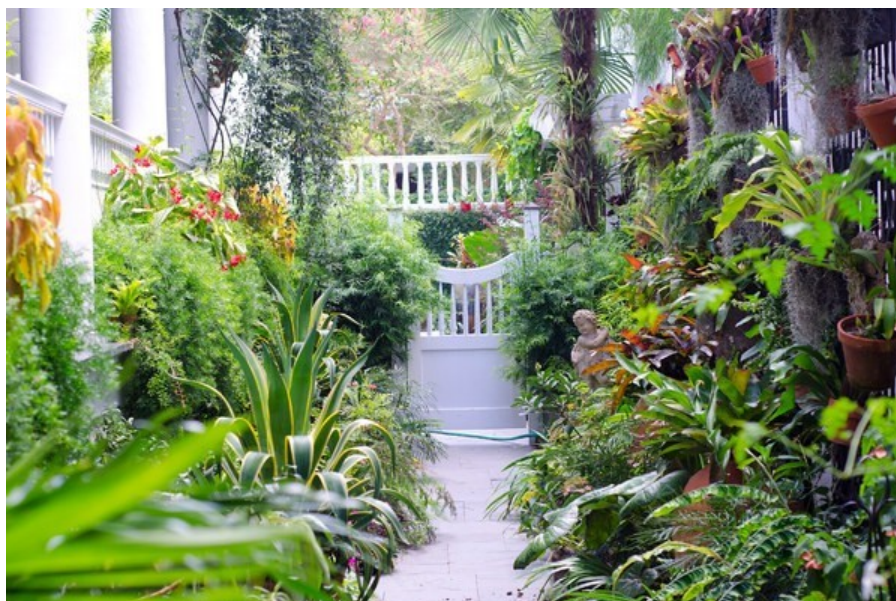
Escorted by Cheryl & Robert Nichols

April 5-12, 2021

Join the VGCLJ and friends as we discover Savannah and Charleston, two jewels of the antebellum south. From oak-shaded squares, riverfront parks and world-renowned restaurants to historic homes and gardens, we will experience the charm and hospitality of these historic cities.

For more information contact **Cheryl** at sterling1@cox.net or 619 299 3010 ext. 10

<https://www.sterlinggardentours.com/savannah2021>



OCTOBER 2020 CALENDAR

by Pat Parks

All the gardening sites I use as references for this calendar show the organizations are doing virtual and Zoom meetings. You can use this list of organizations with web links to see what is happening and become a member and participate in their Zoom meetings. Having been confined to home for these many months you are probably ready to venture out. You might like to revisit some of the famous attractions that tourists from all over the world come to see.

PLACES TO GO

San Diego Botanic Garden: Open Wednesday – Sunday 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED Cost Adults \$18, Seniors \$12, Children \$10. Reservations and tickets are available through Website. <http://www.sdbgarden.org> 230 Quail Gardens Dr. Encinitas, CA 92024.

San Diego Zoo and Safari Park are open and operating under CDC and State of California guidelines. Animal encounters, shows, bus, and trams are not available. The attendance in the parks is reduced and waiting people are admitted as people exit. I saw frequent cleaning going on throughout the parks. San Diego Zoo (2920 Zoo Dr. San Diego) Safari Park 15500 San Pasqual Valley Road, San Diego. More information and purchase tickets <http://www.zoosandiegozoo.org>

Friendship Garden of San Diego Japanese garden with walkways, bridges and landscapes. Buildings are closed. Garden open Tues.-Sun. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. cost \$4 adult \$2.50 senior. Located in Balboa Park.

OF INTEREST

Now – Oct 31 San Diego Botanic Garden is currently offering discounted admission for individuals who are card-carrying members of San Diego Museum Council Member organizations. Adults, children, seniors are all \$5! To take advantage of this offer, please make a **reservation** for the date/time of your visit. Bring your membership card from one of San Diego Museum Council Member Organizations with you. The Botanic Garden is a great place to try bird watching. <http://www.sdbgarden.org>

Upcoming Gardening Events were cancelled to comply with Governor's Stay at Home Order
Below is a list of links to websites that you can check as the Virus situation changes and consider becoming a member to participate in their zoom meetings.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

San Diego Floral Association [sdfloral.org](http://sdfloral)

San Diego Horticultural Society <https://www.sdhort.org>

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

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

San Diego zoo <http://www.sandiegozoo.com> ck 3rd Fri of month for plant days

Village Garden Club of La Jolla <http://vgclj.com>

Stay safe!