

# Newsletter

## Ruth Bancroft's Birthday, A Century In The Making

### ► Join Us On August 28 To Celebrate Ruth Bancroft's 100th Birthday

Ruth Bancroft, our founder, will celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday on September 2, 2008 and we are celebrating with the community by hosting The Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce BASH on **August 28 from 5:30-7 pm at The Ruth Bancroft Garden, 1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek, CA.** There is no admission fee to this event. In honor of her centennial landmark we are creating a memory book in which the community can write memories they have about the Garden, Mrs.

Bancroft and her family. Cards for Ruth and donations to the Garden Centennial Fund are welcomed.

Acknowledgements from the Governor's Office and The City of Walnut Creek Mayor and officials are anticipated and will be presented the night of the BASH.

Other Community organizations including: Tamayo Vineyards, Whole Foods, and Costco will participate by cosponsoring this special evening of food, wine, music and fun during this gathering to thank Mrs.

Bancroft for her contributions to the community.

Please come and enjoy the celebration. If you'd like to volunteer to help with this event, please call the office. We will need help with membership/plant sales, traffic control, and cleanup.



## President's Report

By Tom Bassett



Gardens are for and about many things: they are about splendid springs and sizzling summers, about plants and birds, about principles and design, and mostly, in the words of Tommy Church, "gardens are for people".

This drought year is re-enforcing the importance of the dry garden in our water thirsty area; our Garden, Ruth's garden, is a shining example. In the middle of Ruth's centennial year, articles highlighting Ruth and her garden have appeared in July's Sunset Magazine, in the San Francisco Chronicle's Home and Garden section and in the Walnut Creek Magazine. She continues as our ultimate ambassador for this gem of a garden.

So many of us have done our part and more in contribution to the increasing success of the Garden. Whether in the day-to-day operations, by coordinating or contributing to special events, by sharing the Garden with friends, by sending money. We are all crew. Each of us is necessary to the growth and maintenance of a flourishing garden. If I put my head to it, there is not one who is reading this who could not be named as part of the crew, each participating at his and her best.

Let me shine a spotlight on a few of our groups.

The Boosters represent the best of the Ruth Bancroft Garden qualities and spirit, the qualities of community, belonging, and hospitality; the spirit of giving, hard work, and community contribution. They are always there to fine tune every event; greeting guests, parking cars, selling memberships, bartending, plants sales, set-up-take-down at events... what-

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*Alyogyne hakeifolia* is highlighted in this month's issue. **page 5**

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We highlight some of the volunteers that The Garden couldn't live without. **page 8**

# The Ruth Bancroft Garden

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Marcheta Bowdle – *Copy Editor*

Allen Kwan – *Design & Layout*

## Contact Information

### Mail

The Ruth Bancroft Garden  
1552 Bancroft Road  
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

### Call

(925) 944-9352 Office

(925) 210-9663 Events & Tours

### Web

[www.ruthbancroftgarden.org](http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org)

### E-Mail

[info@ruthbancroftgarden.org](mailto:info@ruthbancroftgarden.org)

## ► President's Report, Continued from Page 1

ever is needed.

Aside from their usual tasks, the Board members, nearly all, either attended or brought guests to the Sculpture Show preview event. It was a terrific opportunity to introduce people to the Garden. Many of these same guests became Garden members and will attend and support our October 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner celebrating Ruth's 100<sup>th</sup> year.

We are so fortunate to have so many volunteers including our Docents each with their unique characteristics, personality and style when presenting the beauty of The Garden. The Propagation team who keep the Garden thriving by maintaining and cultivating the plants to be sold as well as used in the restoration of the garden. The daily administrative office assistants are tremendous value to the staff. These, above, are the ones who support the Garden without making it look like work.

Last among the many, our staff. Our garden staff, Brian Kemble and Andrew Wong work vigorously to keep the Garden in prime condition. Our office staff does the donkey-work of managing the office, the Garden, and producing fund-raising events. Remember that these events are produced so that we are able to support the Garden; support the Garden by attending these events, and bring your friends.

The new sound-wall, entry garden, and gate dedication attracted quite a crowd from our wide community of supporters and contributors. The new sign and publicity is bringing new visitors. We estimate our "walk-in" traffic is up about 80%!

The Spring Plant Sale was another blockbuster. There was quite a lineup to park and come away with water saving plants. Dish gardens that had

been created by talented volunteers were top sellers. The logistical support of volunteers in parking direction, cashiering, set up, garden tours was outstanding, and of course, Marcheta's merchandise table set a new record.

The Irises in full bloom, the fine weather, the spring fare, the Mother's Day Tea has become one of our more popular events. Thanks to the coordinating and the fund-raising efforts of our staff, this year's celebration of moms was a pleasant and profitable one.

The 14<sup>th</sup> annual Sculpture Show was perhaps the best yet, under the direction of Mary Bayer as artist coordinator and Merridith Pelino of Artscape Consulting—both did a HUGE amount of work to create a seemingly effortless event. They even brought guests. Participating artist David Morris somehow got the show mentioned on Channel 5.

Ritamarie Sustek made sure the cashier table was manned with volunteers for the entire three day event. Board members and friends of the Garden brought guests—Ruth Hussey invited friends from the Oakland Museum Board as well as assisted at the show. The Sculpture Preview and show was well supported by our intern, Claudia, who tirelessly created nametags and art labels, and she photographed the event.

These successful events and those that are upcoming to celebrate Ruth's Birthday and our grandest and largest annual party, the October 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner and Auction, represent the dedicated efforts of staff and a talented group of volunteers and committed Board members.

Invite your friends.... Gardens are for people.

## ► Memory Stories for Ruth – A Collection of Ruth’s Contributions

During this Centennial year we have had people come in and tell us stories about The Garden and Ruth’s family. We thought it would be interesting to gather these together and put together a memory book for Ruth. We would like to encourage anyone who has a story about the Garden or Ruth over the years to send it to the Garden or email it to [info@ruthbancroftgarden.org](mailto:info@ruthbancroftgarden.org). To start us off, our intern Claudia Maldonado tells one of her special memories:

Mrs. Bancroft had always been like a grandmother to Claudia and her siblings. “She was always helpful and kind to our family,” recalls Claudia. Mrs. Bancroft recruited Mario (Claudia’s dad) to work in The Garden, from a Christmas tree cutting company. She helped him get his residency as well as giving his wife and three daughters a place to live. Claudia feels blessed that Mrs. Bancroft has helped give her and her family a better life.

Claudia fondly remembers Halloween, one of her favorite holidays; she was always anxious to go to her first trick-or-treating destination, Mrs. Bancroft’s house. Mrs. Bancroft would graciously hand out apples, oranges and chocolate treats. Claudia had an inspiration to follow her dreams and become an Event Planner; she wants to plan weddings and help give people the best day of their lives, so she decided to enter the California Culinary Academy in San Francisco. She has come closer to completing her dream of becoming an Event planner by doing her school internship at The Ruth Bancroft Garden. Claudia is now 19 years old, the same age her father was when he first began his job at The Garden. – By Claudia Maldonado



Ruth Bancroft and Mario Maldonado.

## Executive Director’s Report

By Becky Rice

With current drought conditions and water rationing in place, The Garden’s message of water conservation has become more important than ever. Visitors learn about the many plants that can be grown in our climate with minimal supplemental irrigation. Did you know that The Garden is irrigated for thirty minutes, every other week?

We regularly address the topic of water conservation in our adult education programs, but we also bring this message to children as well. For many years we have worked with third grade students to teach them about gardening, flowers and pollinators, propagation, and water conservation. During the past two

years, we partnered with the East Bay Municipal Utility District to bring students from their service area to The Garden for field trips. During the months of March, April, and June we held 11 field trips in The Garden and hosted 367 students from 6 elementary schools. Thanks to the generous support of EBMUD we were able to provide this program free of charge to children from many areas of the East Bay. I would like to express heartfelt thanks to a wonderful group of volunteers for all their hard work this season: Carolyn Madison, Barbara Koepsell, Janet Poulson, Rita-marie Sustek, Helen Davis, Bud Rotermund, and Desiree Allyn.

In partnership with EBMUD and Contra Costa Water District, we will be constructing an infor-

mational kiosk near the Garden Office. This four-sided structure will be visible as guests arrive, and it will contain information about The Garden, the plant collection, upcoming events, and more. There will also be information about the Water Conservation programs of our sponsors, EBMUD and CCWD.

As we continue to plan for the future of The Garden, we are initiating a Centennial Fund in honor of Ruth Bancroft’s 100th birthday. This effort will provide long-term financial sustainability for the garden as well as a source of income for necessary improvements, upgrades to the infrastructure, and increased staffing needs. Donations to the Centennial Fund can be made in honor of Ruth Bancroft’s 100th birthday.

# In The Garden

It has been a treat this year to see the Lloyd Davis Entry Garden start to fill in and put on a show as the various plants have come into flower. Even before the April 10 dedication ceremony, some of the plants such as *Sedum dendroideum* had already burst into bloom, and many others have joined in with floral displays of their own in the months since. Of particular note were two *Echinopsis* hybrids, one yellow and the other magenta, which flowered so extravagantly that passersby stopped in at the office to comment on them. The entry garden's tallest resident, a twelve-foot specimen of *Echinopsis terscheckii*, has indicated its approval of its new home by sprouting several new arms, saguaro-style.

The beds of California native plants alongside the office and adjacent parking lot have also provided welcome bursts of color from penstemons, monkey-flowers, buckwheats and others. It is gratifying to have these newcomers add their special contributions to the many garden specimens which have long wowed us with their colors and textures.

Quite a few new cacti have found places in the eastern part of the garden, including a handsome clump of *Cleistocactus strausii*, a donation from the collection of the late Rinaldo Garbarino. Several others are hybrid *Echinopsis* plants developed by Brian Kemble, and we look forward to having these reach flowering size.

For several years now, the



*Sedum dendroideum* in bloom.

*Brachychiton discolor* tree in the southwest part of the garden has flowered, and last year it outdid itself. However, the specimen of *Brachychiton acerifolius* on the north drive has been in no hurry to follow suit. This species is sometimes called the Australian flame tree on account of its bright red flowers, which we have been eagerly awaiting. This year it finally put out some flowers, though these were scattered among the branches so that they were not too easy to spot. As the tree matures, it will tend to shed leaves on branches which are coming into flower, so that the scarlet blossoms are visible from afar.

Since an *Agave* plant flowers only once at the end of its life, rather than annually like most other plants, we never know which species will push up flower stalks in a given year. As in years past, we have had many kinds select 2008 as their year to put on a show. These range from pint-sized to enormous; some have already finished, while others are only now preparing to flower. This year's list includes the following species:

*Agave bracteosa*  
*A. celsii var albicans*  
*A. celsii var. celsii*  
*A. chiapensis*  
*A. filifera*  
*A. havardiana*  
*A. horrida*  
*A. lechuguilla*  
*A. lophantha*  
*A. ocahui*  
*A. parrasana*  
*A. polianthiflora*  
*A. potatorum*  
*A. salmiana var. crassispina*  
*A. salmiana var. salmiana*

*A. schottii*  
*A. sisalana*  
*A. striata*  
*A. tequilana*  
*A. victoriae-reginae x lechuguilla*  
*A. victoriae-reginae x scabra*  
*A. xylonacantha*

Some new agaves have been planted in the garden this year, often occupying spots vacated by other agaves which came into bloom last year. Some day these too will impress garden visitors when they send up their remarkable flowering shoots.



*Echinopsis* hybrid in bloom.

# Plant Profile

The Malvaceae, or mallow family, consists of herbs, shrubs and trees from around the world. Commercially, it is very important as the family to which cotton belongs, as well as other products such as okra. On the ornamental side, one of the best-known genera is *Hibiscus*, and *Alcea* (hollyhock) and *Abutilon* are also widely grown.

Flowers in the Malvaceae usually have five petals. Their unique feature, which makes them readily recognizable, is that the lower portion of the filaments are fused into a cylinder which forms a sheath around the style. This makes it appear as if the pollen-bearing anthers have sprouted out of the style, rather than arising from around its base as is usual in most flowers.

Among the many interesting horticultural subjects in the mallow family, a uniquely Australian contribution is the genus *Alyogyne*.

There are two species in cultivation, and both are shrubs with an open habit, native to western and southern Australia. The more commonly cultivated species is *Alyogyne huegelii*, sometimes called by the common name of blue hibiscus or lilac hibiscus. It has palmate leaves which are deeply divided and jagged-tipped, resembling those of a cut-leaf geranium, and it reaches a height of up to 8 feet. Various cultivars are available with flowers in shades of lilac-blue, purple and white. The second cultivated species is the subject of our

plant profile: *Alyogyne hakeifolia*. This shrub grows to be a little larger. Horticultural reference books give its height as up to 10 feet (3 m), but our tallest specimen is at least a couple of feet taller than this.

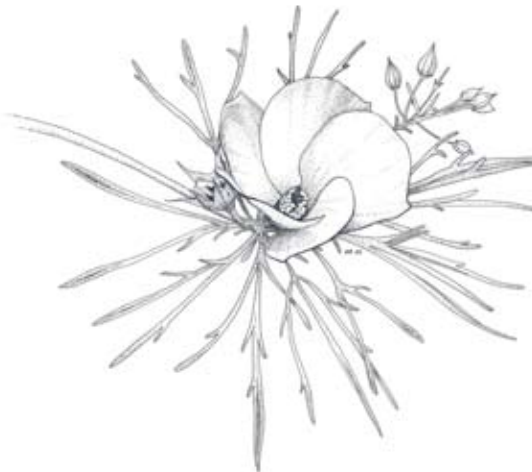
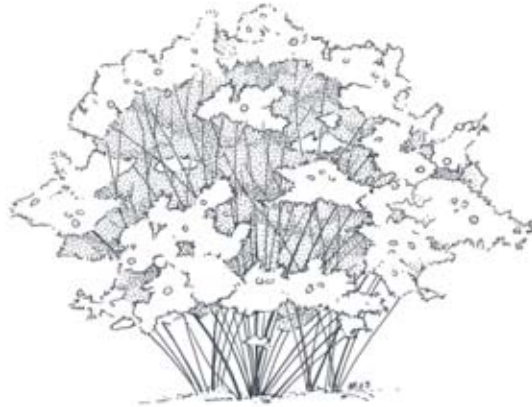
*A. hakeifolia* can be single-trunked, but ours usually have multiple woody stems. Its palmate leaves are up to 4 inches long (10 cm), and they are narrowly dissected into linear segments, giving the bush an airy, open appearance. In time, plants can become leggy,

and they can be pruned back, or pinched back at the tips, in order to induce more branching and keep them more compact.

Like *A. huegelii*, *A. hakeifolia* is very free-flowering, producing flushes of blooms over much of the year. Its usual flower color is pale lilac to lilac-purple, with a deep purple zone at the bottom on the inside of

the flower, forming a dark ring around the red stamens. We have this form at the Ruth Bancroft Garden, and also a more unusual color form with pale yellow petals bearing a dark red zone at the base. In either case, the flowers are about 2 to 3 inches long (50-75 mm) and funnel-shaped, never opening widely. The 5-chambered capsule that follows is a little over a half-inch in length (about 17 mm) and bears small round fuzzy brown

seeds which are less than 1/8 inch in diameter (a little over 2 mm).



# Members Make A Difference

Thank you for your support. The following information reflects only contributions given from March 2008 – June 2008. Memberships are based on an annual renewal from date of joining. Your membership and donations keep The Garden thriving. When renewing your membership, please consider a monthly pledge. This can conveniently be deducted from your credit card. For mor information, please contact The Garden office.

## NEW MEMBERS

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Dave Fattig  
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Fred Hofstetter  
Mr. and Mrs. Rolf Kvalvik  
Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Lee  
Carol and John Maerzke  
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Mr. William Mitchell  
David Moyal and Nicole  
Howard  
Tyler Pauling  
Eric Quan  
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Tim Somers

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### **CEREUS- \$100**

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### **ALOE - \$250**

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### **VISIONARY- \$1000**

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Martha MacLaughlin in  
honor of Ruth's Birthday

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## Centennial Fund

### ► Help plan for the future of The Garden and contribute to the Centennial Fund

By Patti Paulson

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS, VICE-CHAIR

The Ruth Bancroft Garden and its Board of Directors encourage you to contribute to the Centennial Fund . It is critical that we have the resources to maintain the Garden at its level of excellence that has been upheld over the years. This fund has been created during this Centennial year to develop funding to sustain the Garden, the gardening

staff and the overall infrastructure/ maintenance of the Garden.

Thanks to the generosity of some early donors, we are on our way towards our goal to reach \$100,000 during this Centennial year. This money will be placed into an endowment fund to generate income to sustain the Garden for the future. With your help, we can do it!

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 The Clorox Company Foundation and the Seidemanns

**IN MEMORIUM**  
 In Memory of Gloria Schwerin from Marilyn and Lu Hughes

**CORPORATE GIFTS AND GRANTS**  
 Walnut Creek Coffee Company  
 EBMUD

East Bay Community Foundation and George and Kate Rowe  
 Robert and Alice Bridges Foundation  
 City of Walnut Creek  
 Contra Costa Water District for Workshop Series  
 Garden Conservancy for documentation project

**MAJOR GIFTS**  
 The Mervyn L. Brenner Foundation, Inc.

**CENTENNIAL FUND**  
 Judith Adler in honor of Ruth's 100th Birthday

**THE WEEDING PROJECT - support**  
 Greg and Bonnie Randall  
 Gretchen Bartzen  
 Bud and Jane Rotermund  
 John and Nina Dickerson  
 Patti Paulson  
 Billie Hopper  
 Gail Giffen  
 Mary Lou Williams

**LIFETIME MEMBERS**  
 Ruth Bancroft  
 Lu and Marilyn Hughes  
 Bud and Olga Jane Rotermund  
 Patti Paulson & Pat Matthews  
 Lyles and Geraldine Pember  
 Robert and Lorraine Taylor

**PLEDGES AND ONGOING GIVING**  
 Gretchen Bartzen  
 Marcheta Bowdle  
 Lu & Marilyn Hughes  
 Trudy Huenninghaus  
 Bud & Jane Rotermund  
 Brian Theissen

# Volunteers In The Garden

By Claudia Maldonado  
CCA INTERN

Our garden is definitely well known worldwide! Our annual events are only possible with the help of our charitable volunteers! Many of our volunteers help at every event; others have their area of special interest. Our volunteers are the garden's backbone; we have volunteers in the office, propagation, docents, and fundraising and event volunteers.

## Administration

Although one of our volunteers has always been around to help with whatever is needed, she has been persistent, friendly, and overall hardworking! Her name is Marcheta Bowdle; Marcheta has a kind heart and good attitude. One of the biggest projects she takes on is the merchandising. Merchandising has expanded tremendously over the years and the sales have also. Marcheta regularly goes to the Gift Mart in San Francisco to find her wonderful treasures that she markets, displays at garden events and in our office. In addition, she works the office front desk several times a week, reconciles some of our tour funds, and copy editor for our newsletter. Thank you Marcheta from all of us here at The Garden. We appreciate everything you do; we don't know what we would do without you!

## Propagation

We are so fortunate to have Jody Morgan helping us in propagation. We would like to give special thanks to Jody, having only started volunteering at The Garden one

year ago in August after attending a Bringing Back the Natives tour. When she saw an ad in the paper asking for volunteers at The Garden, she filled out her application and found her niche. Jody has devoted many hours working in the propagation area, volunteering for tedious tasks like cleaning fallen leaves out of sharp-spined Dyckias. When we needed someone to come in each week to water in the sales house and the adjacent East Shade House, she answered the call.

Jody has two Certificates in Ornamental Horticulture from Longwood Gardens, Kentsquare Pennsylvania as well as a certificate in Floral Design. Her earlier studies presented her with a Degree in Philosophy and Fashion



Jody Morgan

Design. But her love of plants started at the tender age of four at a neighborhood farm. We really appreciate her skills, talent and dedication which will keep The Garden thriving.

## Docent

If you haven't yet been on a docent-led tour, you are really missing out! Our docents are well informed about the history of the garden, the plants in our dry garden and the benefits of having a dry garden. Becoming a docent is a unique experience. We offer training



Paul Lonsdale

through The Garden with interesting instructors; you receive hands on experience and walk through The Garden talks with experienced docents along with the Horticulture Director, Brian Kemble. It is a real commitment and Paul Lonsdale is one of our docents who definitely needs some recognition; he has been a great help, he has a wonderful attitude, took the time to learn each and every bit about the garden as possible, not to mention we have only heard great compliments about him back from our visitors!

## Docent Training

If you'd like to learn more about becoming a Docent please contact our office.

Docent training classes start September 13th. Classes meet at the Garden office on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month through November 22 at 10am - 12pm. Docent training is a 6-month course, 2009 dates TBD.

## ► Fun Times - Keep On Coming!

By Rebecca Ines  
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

The Garden has sped through the Spring events into Summer. We had our New Entry Garden dedication and since then the gates have surged open with activity. We have tripled the daily visitation to the garden. There have been an average of ten visitors per day coming through, and keeping our office volunteers extremely busy.

This year our events have been record breaking. The Spring Plant Sale was a great success. This year's event marked the first time we limited the sale to a one-day event. Member's Only Plant Sale had the advantage of coming in early to get the first selection of plants. This seemed to work really well and we gained quite a few new members who wanted to come early. This was one of our record breaking Spring Plant Sale events to date with net proceeds of \$11,700.

Our most recent event was Sculpture in the Garden. This is one of our largest fundraisers. We had another record breaking year of art, merchandise, and plant sales. Our net proceeds were \$23,500.

The Mother's Day Tea is a delightful time in the Garden, with music, food and gifts for Mom. Event Chairwoman Nina Dickerson puts on a great party.



*Save The Date*  
*for the Annual Dinner*  
**Saturday, October 4, 2008**

The Ruth Bancroft Garden Annual Dinner will be held at Diablo Country Club. This year we are celebrating the Centennial Birthday of visionary garden founder and community patron Ruth Bancroft.

We will pay special tribute to her life's work in the field of gardening and water conservation, and we will raise important funds to ensure that her garden will be preserved for our community to enjoy.

Please join us for a spectacular evening of dinner and dancing, live & silent auctions, and a very special 100th Birthday celebration!

For more information, please visit our website.

# WishList

**Laptop Computers, Slide Scanner,  
Pickup Truck, Watering cans, Weed Eater**

Please contact the office if you can donate any of these items or would like to fund an item on our wish list. Your donation is tax deductible.

*\*We appreciate all donations of New or Gently Used items.*

A special thank you to Gail Giffen for the new garden carts, they really helped during the Spring Plant Sale; thank you to Ann Cox for her donation to purchase new tools for the Garden; thank you to Larry Einhorn who has donated a multitude of vibrant dish gardens which he designed and planted to sell at our plant sale.

## ► Eagle Scouts Come Through

We want to be sure to thank Ben Smith for his Eagle Scout Project and getting our Propagation holding area organized and set up. He did a wonderful job of organizing the project and getting other volunteers to help. He got assistance from his swim team, other scouts and family and friends.

Retaining Wall Project- Eagle Scouts of Troop 216  
Thank you so much for the outstanding work –  
Leaders: John Brereton, Matt Rulifson, Adam Rulifson and Chris Wilson.

## Volunteer Merchandise Manager Needed

**Responsibilities Include:**

**Purchase, Market and Display the Merchandise sold for The Garden, Set up our "Shop" at Garden Events, Large Tours, and in the Office.**

**Train and Organize Volunteers for the Sales Manage Inventory - Stock and Storage of Merchandise**

**Handle all Accounting for the Sale of Merchandise**

**This position is available immediately.  
Current Volunteer may help with transition.**

# Interns in The Garden

By Brian Kemble and  
Rebecca Ines  
GARDEN STAFF

## ► Anne Rouat



For the fourth consecutive year, we hosted an intern from ENSNP, a landscaping school in Blois, France. This year's intern was Anne Rouat, who comes from Brittany in the northwest of the country. Each intern must prepare a report on a botanical subject,

and Anne chose pachycaul trees, or trees with swollen trunks, as her topic. While at the garden, Anne helped out with a variety of tasks including repotting plants in the Aloe collection, working in propagation, helping out at the spring plant sale and photographing plants in the garden. Anne enjoyed being in America; she commented about our big cars and big houses. Her love of nature was evident in her photography and her wonderful botanical sketches.

## ► Claudia Maldonado

We are fortunate to have Claudia Maldonado working with us from the California Culinary Academy in San Francisco. She has been here since May 20th helping us out with event planning and coordination. She is very detail oriented and creative which was a great benefit during our Sculpture in the Garden event.



All of our interns are special to us but Claudia is not new to The Garden; she may even look familiar to some of you who have been involved with the Garden since the beginning. Claudia recalls, "I had a great childhood with many outdoor activities; I fell in love with the garden!" Claudia grew up on the same property as The Garden since her father is Salvador Maldonado, known to most of us as Mario. Mario was the main gardener for The Ruth Bancroft Garden for 23 years. Mario introduced The Garden to Claudia when she was just a little girl; she would explore the garden while her father worked.



The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony during the dedication of The Garden's new entrance.

# Sculpture In



Peggy, Becky, and Paul Rice.



Billie Hopper and Rebecca Doe.



From left to right, Ritamarie Sustek, Jeanne Httell, Lois Holt, and Nancy Moss running the main table.

## Sunny Days Pay

### ► Walnut Creek Residents and Businesses that Go Solar will Help The Garden Go Solar

We are very pleased to announce a new and unique program which benefits The Garden during the Centennial Celebration for Garden Founder Ruth Bancroft.

In keeping with our mission of conservation and education, we have started a partnership with REC Solar called the Walnut Creek Solar Challenge. This community solar program will allow Walnut Creek residents to band together and install solar systems for their homes or businesses at substantial discounts.

Each installation will benefit The Ruth Bancroft Garden as when our goal of 100 kW is reached by September 2008, The Garden will receive a 2 kW system of their own at no cost. This will help The Garden save money as electricity prices increase in the future, and also be a wonderful symbol of our dedication to conservation of resources for our visitors.

This program means so much to us that we are offering two free Garden Passes good for a complimentary Docent-led or Self-guided Tour of The Garden to anyone who calls REC Solar to get a site evaluation for a solar installation. For people who participate in the program by going solar, The Garden is offering a free Family Membership good for one year.

If you are interested in this program and have been thinking about getting solar power for your home, now is the time to get your Federal Tax Credit before it expires on Dec. 31, 2008, reduce your energy costs, save money through this special community discount that is being offered, and support The Garden, which is repeatedly and deservedly recognized as one of the finest dry gardens in the world. We are thrilled to be able to expand our conservation mandate to include energy as well as water.

# 2008 special events calendar

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 28 / 5:30PM - 7PM**  
Walnut Creek Chamber BASH in The Garden – Community Centennial Celebration

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 / 4PM**  
Volunteer Party & Agave Award Presentation

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4**  
Annual Dinner, Diablo Country Club

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8 / 8AM - 10AM**  
Fruit Tasting Tour with Brian Kemble

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11**  
Fall Plant Sale  
**9AM - 11AM** – Members Only Sale  
**11AM - 4PM** – Public Plant Sale

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7-8 / 8:30AM - 5PM**  
Horticultural Seminar – Civic Arts Shadelands Center

This year's exciting events at The Garden could not have been possible without the sponsorships of the following companies; please support them as well.

Artscape Consulting, Costco, Whole Foods, Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce, City of Walnut Creek, Babalou's Mediterranean, California Pizza Kitchen, Il Fornaio, Peet's Coffee & Tea, and PF Chang's.



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The Ruth Bancroft Garden is a preservation project of The Garden Conservancy.