

Newsletter

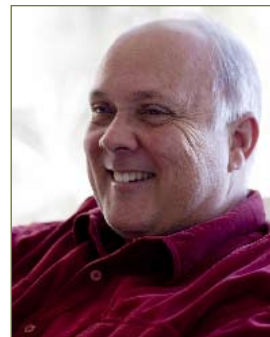


President's Report

By Tom Bassett

These are glorious days! In the garden it is spring, elsewhere snow is falling -- we fortunate few.

Let my first words after being overwhelmed by our fine weather be "thank you". First, I wish to thank Ruth Bancroft. While she may be of the opinion that her garden will be her legacy, I suggest that it is her spirit, this opportunity that is her bequest to us personally, to our families, to our community, and to the rest of the world; we are heirs to her spirit.



I want to thank the scores of volunteers at every level who have, over many years, availed themselves of that opportunity by contributing their time and resources to ensure that this special garden continues to survive and thrive. Not the least of these fine folk is Dr. Bud Rotermund, our past president, whose energy both in front of and behind the curtain has brought us most successfully to this pivotal point in our development. Thank you, Bud, with respect and admiration for your leadership and for your commitment to nurturing The Garden and the people involved with The Garden.

Often we have measured our increasing successes against past accomplishments. We must now shift the fulcrum of our measure and recognize our gains as milestones

Please see PRESIDENT on Page 2

Garden Makes First Impression

► Dedication Ceremony and Honorary Naming of New Entry into The Garden

The Ruth Bancroft Garden will recognize the new entrance with a Dedication Ceremony on April 10, 2008, at 1552 Bancroft Road, at 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 pm. The dedication ceremony will take place in front of the temporary office site, just inside the art sculptured metal gates. The community is invited to mark this momentous occasion. Light refreshments will be provided by Boudin Restaurant.

The Lloyd Davis Entry Garden enhances the new entrance to The Garden, majestically graced by plants that were collected by Lloyd Davis. Davis was a founding member of the International Succulent Institute, and a supporter of The Garden. These plants were donated to the Garden by his widow, Betty Davis, after his passing several years ago.

The entry Garden was designed by Director of Horticulture, Brian Kemble with several intentions in mind: to provide a display visible to passers-by that would showcase some of the amazing kinds

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INSIDE

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• Our most popular event returns this year on Father's Day.

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• New gardener Andrew Wong is on the run both in The Garden and out.

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The Ruth Bancroft Garden

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Founder's Day Honorary Chair

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Executive Director's Report

Becky Rice

We are beginning an exciting year in the history of The Ruth Bancroft Garden. We have the opportunity to celebrate the Centennial Birthday of our Founder, a milestone which few organizations reach. We hope you will join us this year to celebrate Ruth Bancroft and honor her achievements in the gardening world and her many contributions to the Walnut Creek community.

As an institution, we are in a most significant phase of transition. The Garden, which was cultivated and tended for so many years by Mrs. Bancroft, is now under the care and management of The Ruth Bancroft Garden, Inc.

As we transition from private to public management and settle into this new role, we are taking the necessary steps to ensure that the garden will be maintained to high standards. To help in this endeavor, we have formed a Horticultural Advisory Committee to provide advice and recommendations on the care of the plant collection and

garden maintenance.

The members of the committee are: Richard Turner, Editor, *Pacific Horticulture* Magazine; Stewart Winchester, Horticulture Professor, DVC and Merritt College; and Sherry Merciarì, Landscape Designer, Merciarì Designs.

We continue to expand our unique collection with plants that are new to horticulture, and incorporate them into the existing garden beds to trial them for use in our climate.

Mrs. Bancroft has always enjoyed “pushing the envelope” when it comes to plant choices, and we gladly carry on this tradition.

We are also making necessary upgrades to our aging infrastructure. We are installing a new pool filtration system to replace an old filter that was no longer operational.

Finally, we are investigating sources for crushed rock to spread in the paths and on the beds. The original material used by Mrs. Bancroft is no longer available, so we are seeking a suitable alternative that will blend nicely with the remaining original rock.

► President's Report, Continued from Page 1

on our way toward something. We must carefully, boldly, set goals for the future, near and distant, goals that are achievable. Often each of us has said that these things “won't happen in my time!” Now is our time.

There is much immediately ahead of us: the development of designs for the new sales pavilion, parking area, and propagation area is already underway. The planting outside of the walls is complete, and the identification signs are up including a distinctive sign announcing The Garden's presence. The Board can now work on identifying and exploring our further goals and their concomitant resource requirements.

As one of my great teachers said: “It's not what you know, It's not who you know, it's how many you know.” We are at the point in our development where we need to share this opportunity which we have been given by our good friend, Ruth Bancroft. As we celebrate Ruth's centennial year, let us, the fortunate few, make our gift to Ruth be one of sharing this opportunity with many.

► **Entry, Continued from Page 1**

of plants to be found within the garden; to highlight plants not commonly seen in cultivation which perform well in our area; to demonstrate the possibilities of gardening with low water use; and finally, to allude to the forms of the plants depicted in Phil Lange's outstanding gate.

The Garden gate is a sculptural work of art designed and built by Phil Lange, Bay Area artist, and was recognized with the "Public Art Award" from the Action for Beauty Council of Walnut Creek. The Public Art Gate and En-

try Garden were funded by the City of Walnut Creek-Civic Pride Grant and the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust.

The new sound wall was designed by Landscape Architect Thomas Bassett and funded by Lyles and Geraldine Pember, The Mervyn L. Brenner Foundation, Bob, Lorraine and Taz Taylor, The City of Walnut Creek – Civic Pride Grant, La Casa Via Associates, Dr. Luman and Marilyn Hughes, Dr. Maynard & Jane Rotermond, Ken and Donna Coit and Gail Giffen.



► **An Age of Gardeners: Mrs. Bancroft & Her Horticultural Contemporaries – 2008 Ruth Bancroft Horticultural**

This special program held on Friday and Saturday, July 18 & 19 will be dedicated to Ruth Bancroft and will feature her garden and the gardens of her Bay Area horticultural contemporaries, including: Marshall Olbrich and Lester Hawkins (Western Hills Nursery), Harland Hand, Owen Pearce and Wayne Roderick.

Registration and additional information is available at www.gardenconservancy.org or call Jay Estey, Garden Conservancy, 415-561-7895.

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*The dates for the seminar are May 13th and 20th – 7:00 PM to 8:45 PM
Held at the San Ramon Community Center, 12501 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon, CA
To sign up, please call or email me at (925) 906-4619 direct • diane@sfg-financial.com
500 Ygnacio Valley Road, Suite 150, Walnut Creek, CA 94596*

Fees:
Residents \$20.00 • Non-residents \$25.00
Plus an additional \$15.00 material fee payable to the instructor at first class

Your Future. Our Experience. Real Results.

In The Garden

► Update: New Entry Garden, Our Rough Winter, and 2008 Goals

By Brian Kemble
DIRECTOR OF HORTICULTURE

Following the completion of the soundwall along Bancroft Road

in 2007, we have been moving ahead with installing signage and plantings in the adjacent strip along the sidewalk.

Handsome new letters mounted on the wall now announce our presence to all who pass by, and signs mounted on the fences to the north and south of the wall provide a means for visitors to distinguish between the two entrances.

All of these improvements will be on display for our special ceremony on April 10, when we will officially dedicate the Lloyd Davis Entry Garden, the Phil Lange gate, the soundwall with its adjacent

The winter of 2007-08 has not been an especially severe one, but there were a couple of rough spots.

plantings and the beds of California natives near the office.

We would like to express special thanks to those who donated plants for these areas: Betty Davis, San Marcos Growers and Suncrest Nurseries.

The winter of 2007-08 has not been an especially severe one, but there were a couple of rough spots. The first of these was on the weekend between Christmas and New Year's, when we had one night on which the temperature unexpectedly dipped all the way down to 26° F. Since this was only an overnight drop and not an extended cold spell, we lost few plants, but quite a few aloe flowers were damaged. The second cause for concern came less than a week later, when a strong winter storm slammed into the Bay Area, causing widespread power outages and downed trees.

On this occasion the garden did not fare too badly. Though we had a few downed limbs and lots of storm debris to clean up, we did

not lose any trees.

For the fourth consecutive year, we have an intern lined up from ENSNP, the landscaping school in Blois, France. This year's intern will be Anne Rouat, and she will be with us for the months of April and May. We are grateful to docent David Kleinecke for once again making this possible by offering to provide housing.

We have a long list of bed renovations and other projects on our to-do list for 2008, and we are pleased to have Andrew Wong, a new member of our garden staff, on hand to help accomplish all of these goals. We have already started with a group of new plants to the south of the pool, where our large specimen of *Puya chilensis* succumbed to root problems last year. We put in a new plant of the same species to take its place, but it will be some time before this fills the space, so we have added some other puyas and phormiums (New Zealand flax) to keep it company.

New Gardener Goes The Distance

► The Garden Welcomes New Gardener Andrew Wong

We are pleased to announce the hiring of Andrew Wong as the new Gardener for the Ruth Bancroft Garden. Andrew is a Bay Area native with 5 years experience in the field of landscape gardening. He studied, Horticulture /Landscape at Merritt College with coursework in native plants, arboriculture, plant care, and soils etc.

When Andrew is not gardening, he is running. Active in the sport of ultra-marathon distance running, he has completed distances greater than 100



kilometers. Currently he is training for his first attempt at the 100 mile distance. Other goals include training for an Iron Man distance triathlon.

Andrew has been using his distance training here at the

Garden and preparing it for Opening Day. We are fortunate to have him on board.

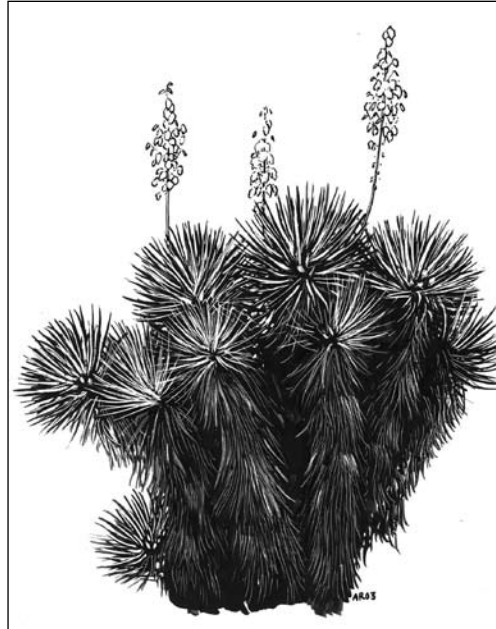
Plant Profile

Yucca thompsoniana

Yucca is a prominent group in the Agave Family, with more species than any other genus except *Agave*. These widely-grown and distinctive plants are North American in origin, occurring from the Canadian Great Plains all the way down to Central America. They are dominant plants in the landscape in some areas, such as parts of the Mojave Desert in the southwestern U.S. and various localities in Mexico. In horticulture yuccas are much valued for their bold spiky-leaved forms, for their beautiful panicles of white flowers, and for their drought-tolerance and ease of culture.

The fibrous sword-like leaves of many yuccas are similar to those found in other members of the Agavaceae, but the large pendent waxy white flowers are distinctive. The principal pollinator in the genus is a group of moths whose life cycle is closely tied to the yuccas, to the extent that plant and insect have become completely dependent on each other.

Some yuccas are stemless, but the trunk-forming kinds have a vertical presence in the garden that makes them excellent choices for garden focal points. The giants of the genus, such as *Yucca filifera*, grow so big that they can overwhelm all but the largest gardens. Happily, however, there are more modest-sized trunk-forming species which provide the dramat-



ic yucca look on a smaller scale. One of these is *Yucca thompsoniana*, sometimes called the Trans-Pecos Yucca after the region of west Texas where it is found.

The leaves of *Y. thompsoniana* radiate stiffly outward from the heads, but they are not thick and can be easily bent. They are olive-green to blue-green in color and about a foot long (25-40 cm). They have a narrow yellow margin with minute teeth, and the surfaces are slightly rough to the touch. Plants usually branch from low down to form a multi-headed mini-tree up to 8 feet or so (2.5 m) in height.

Like many other yuccas, *Y. thompsoniana* brightens gardens in spring with its showy plumes of waxy white flowers. Its usual

blooming time is May and June. The stalk bearing the flowers is quite tall, so the flowers are held well above the leaves.

Yucca thompsoniana is closely related to *Y. rostrata*, and the common name Beaked Yucca is sometimes applied to both of them, referring to the pointed tip of their seed pods. These pods are typically about 1.5 to 2.5 inches or so in length (3.5-7 cm) and contain thin black seeds. Some botanists consider the two species close enough to warrant inclusion of both under *Y. rostrata*.

Yucca rostrata in the more restricted sense differs in being a taller and less branched plant with longer and bluer leaves, and it grows farther to the south. Both of these yuccas make attractive garden plants, and both are found at the Ruth Bancroft Garden. Because the garden lies outside of the natural range of the genus, we do not have yucca moths present to pollinate them, and consequently they do not form seed pods. However, their breath-taking floral display draws considerable comment when they are in flower. As long as they have good drainage, these striking plants are easy to grow, and they are sufficiently cold-hardy to recommend them for gardens in our area.

Members Make A Difference

Thank you for your support. The following information reflects only contributions given from **November 2007 – February 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 more information, please contact the Garden office.

New Members

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Canning
Carol Lynn Pearson
Ms. Polly Boissevain
Ms. Kathy Hart
Ms. Linda Kay Keener
Mr. Alan Keezer
Mr. Jonathan Silverman
Mr. Alfred Stansbury

Gift Memberships

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Miller Gift from
Michelle Sveen
Laura Miller Gift from
Marcheta Bowdle
Mr. and Mrs. Wes Poynter Gift from
Linda Richardson
Ms. Cathy Gill Gift from
Melissa Gill

Renewals

Visionary - \$1000

The Quartre Vents Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Barclay Simpson

Agave - \$500

Richard and Sally Ingraham

Aloe - \$250

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas B.
Bassett
Linda Bily
Ms. Joyce Hawley
Mr. and Mrs. David Light
Carmelo Salgado
Ms. Laurie Shapley
Mr. and Mrs. John Sustek
Family
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Anduri
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Canning
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Coull
Ms. Analice Decker
Mr. and Mrs. Andy Gandolfo
Mr. Mark Gionet & Tish Tyson
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hartman
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Hicks
Billie Hopper and
David Mitchell
Mr. and Mrs. George Jardim
Ms. Eunice Kritscher
Mr. Stephen Lysaght and
Mr. Gary Anderson
Mr. and Mrs. Lowman
McCarley

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Shenk
Mr. Richard Turner and Tom Urani

Basic

Mr. and Mrs. Leland G.
Anderson
Barbee and Frank Billeci
Mr. Patrick Cearley
Ms. Kathleen Collins
Barbara Crawford
Gay Edelson
Ms. Roberta Edge
Ms. Linda Flood
Mr. Gregory Gatwood
Dolores Henderson
Ms. Lois O. Holt
Dr. and Mrs. Barry Hunau
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Lerner
Ms. Jean McConnell
Ms. Sherry Merciar
Ms. Betty Nostrand
Mrs. Naoko Ochikubo
Rebecca Stager
Ms. Irene Stoller
Ms. Belinda Thomas
Ms. June Vega-Duran
Ms. Jean Vieth
Ms. Beverly Weis

Major Gifts

Roger Haughton

Matching Gifts

George Jardim and Chevron
James Mills and American Express
Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. William Vierra and
Charles Schwab Foundation

In Kind Gifts

Larry Einhorn
Susan Savage and Ken Keeler
Bob Chapla
Joel Summerhill
Chris Syboski
Robin Stockwell

Garden Clubs & Societies

El Cerrito Garden Club
Mt. Diablo Iris Society
San Francisco Succulent and
Cactus Society
The Pleasant Hill Garden Study Club
The Piedmont Garden Club

In Honor of / In Memoriam

In honor of Ruth's 99th Birthday from
Ritamarie and John Sustek
In memory of David Uyen's Father from
Jan Speetzen
In memory of Joe Dickerson from H.W.
Hauschildt

Monthly Giving

► Your Monthly Contributions Can Add Up Significantly To Help Preserve The Garden

One of the challenges we face in managing garden finances is developing a regular monthly income to cover our monthly expenses (salaries, utilities, etc.).

To help us with this challenge, we are asking that our members consider becoming monthly donors. This would help give us a steady income stream for monthly expenses and allow us to focus on raising money for all the other special garden needs.

Monthly giving is a "painless" way of supporting The Garden as the monthly amount can be quite modest, but still add up to a significant contribution

over time.

The monthly donation can be made via your credit card or directly from your checking account. As with any other gifts to The Garden, monthly donations are fully tax deductible.

If you are able to support The Garden by becoming a monthly donor, please contact Rebecca Ines at (925) 944-9352 to make arrangements.

Monthly Donors Since 2005

- Marcheta Bowdle
- Bud and Jane Rotermond
- Lu and Marilyn Hughes
- Lyles and Geraldine Pember

Golden Barrel Annual Fund

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the 2007 Golden Barrel (GB) Annual Fund. Despite the fact that last year was a rough financial year for many contributors, donors came through gloriously and supported The Garden throughout the winter.

The GB Annual Fund brought in over \$30,000, this is an increase over last year and we are still receiving contributions. More contributors have decided to pledge on a monthly basis which is a tremendous help to the Garden because it brings in a continuous flow of income to maintain the Garden grounds, support our mission to preserve this exceptional example of garden design, and to continue to develop its collection of water conserving plants as our founder Ruth intended.

Golden Barrel Benefactor \$5,000-10,000

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Coit
Ms. Patricia Paulson & Pat Mathews

Preservationist - \$2,000 - 3,000

Lu and Marilyn Hughes
Mr. and Mrs. James Mills
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Randall
Dr. and Mrs. Maynard Rotermund
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Rudiger

Visionary \$1,000 - 1,999

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson Clark
Marcheta Bowdle
Jane Freeman
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Hirahara
Mrs. Jeanne Hittell
Billie Hopper
Ms. Natalie Inouye
Lyles and Geraldine Pember

Agave - \$500 - 999

Gretchen Bartzen
Peter Blaney
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Griffiths

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ingraham
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Sekella
Mr. Gary Skrel
Brian Thiessen

Aloe - \$250 - 499

Mr. and Mrs. Leland G. Anderson
Ms. Caroline Beverstock
Ms. Barbara Cox
Mr. and Mrs. John Dickerson
Ms. Debra Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Page Thibodeaux
Ms. Alida Thompson

Cereus - \$100 - 249

Dr. and Mrs. Ted Bayer
Mr. George Boyd
Ms. Gloria Duffy
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gelinas
Mr. and Mrs. David Goldsmith
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Hicks
Mr. Stephen Hudson
Mrs. Mimi Knox
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Moore
Ms. Shirley Nootbaar

Dr. Danka Petrovic
Ms. Mary Anne Pienta
Cindy and Thomas Silva
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Wulff

Basic - \$50 - 99

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Addison
Mr. and Mrs. Chris Bock
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Bonarius
Dr. Angela Tu
El Cerrito Garden Club
Dr. and Mrs. Marvin Epstein
Ms. Ursula I. Garvey
Mr. and Mrs. Lowman McCarley
Ms. Jody Morgan
Mr. Steve Oliver
Mr. Fred Thompson

Other

Mr. and Mrs. Milton Greenstein
Ms. Trudy Huenninghaus
Darien Joslin
Mr. and Mrs. William Martini
Ms. Jeanne Parham
Dr. Richard Sigel

Renewing Past Loves

What better time than “spring-time” to renew past relationships and stay on tract with those New Year’s vows of getting back to nature and nurturing your soul.

If you were a member in the past, a visitor to The Garden, or attended one of our Garden events, you can appreciate why current members continue to support and sustain this unique resource that is recognized internationally as one of the finest dry gardens in the world.

The Membership Committee has just finalized plans for the

Membership Drive that will kickoff The Garden’s Centennial events. Letters went out to past members to remind and encourage them to rekindle their relationship with the Garden.

Membership is one of our greatest sources of support for the Garden. If you are a current member, invite your friends and family to join the Garden.

We are offering many opportunities for visiting the Garden and our Opening Day is a wonderful time to visit and tour with our knowledgeable docents.

“We want to emphasize the Garden not only as a source of beauty and inspiration for this region, but as an attraction to visitors from all over the world. The Garden of course is also a premier source of water conservation education,” notes Gretchen Bartzen, Chair of the Membership Committee.

Please contact Bartzen or other members of the Committee – Pat Bassett, Marcheta Bowdle, Rebecca Ines, and Bonnie Randall – through The Garden office (phone or email) to recommend potential new members.

The Garden Welcomes New Board Members

At the January 2008 meeting of the Board of Directors, Thomas Bassett was elected as the new President. Tom is a landscape architect and a graduate of Willamette University and the University of Oregon.

Tom worked for some of the Bay Area's most prestigious design firms before starting his own company in Walnut Creek. He previously served as a RBG Director for six years and has been an instrumental member of The Garden's Building Committee.

The Board also appointed three new Directors: Darlene Cimino-DeRose, Billie Hopper and Barbara Loebel.

Darlene Cimino-DeRose is a Senior Managing Director with Montague DeRose and Associates, a privately-owned municipal consulting firm. She received a B.A. degree from Stanford University and a Masters in Public and

Private Management degree from the School of Organization and Management at Yale University.

Darlene also serves as a student mentor for the Yale School of Management, and has participated for several years as a judge or mentor for the National Business Plan Competition for Nonprofit Organizations, sponsored by the Goldman Sachs Foundation. She is the new Chairman of The Garden's Finance Committee.

Billie Hopper has a B.A. degree in Anthropology from UC Berkeley and a master's degree in Public School Administration from Ohio University.

After a ten-year career in elementary education, she worked 25 years in a variety of supervisory and managerial roles for Bechtel, a large engineering and construction company.

Billie has completed numerous courses in Ornamental Horticul-

ture at Diablo Valley College, and was a docent at the Nature Conservancy's Jepson Prairie Preserve for several years. Billie has been an active volunteer at The Garden for two years, helping organize garden records, supporting events and providing general support to the garden office.

Barbara Loebel works in sales as an Account Executive for the Contra Costa Times. She holds a B.A. in Liberal Studies from California State University at Sonoma.

Barbara has had a career as an independent sales rep, small business consultant and business coach. She is also the Secretary of the Executive Board of Directors for B'nai Tikvah synagogue in Walnut Creek, and has participated for several years on the Board of Directors for Walnut Acres Daycare. Barbara will be helping the garden with fundraising and special events.

Mother's Day Tea and Tours at The Garden

Celebrate Mothers' Day on Sunday, May 11 by bringing Mom to The Garden for afternoon Tea. May is one of the best months to visit The Garden, as so many plants are bursting into bloom.

Tables will be set in The Garden so that you can enjoy your tea outdoors among our many rare and beautiful plants. The Tea includes a gourmet box of sweet and savory treats served in China tea cups. After tea, you may do a self-guided tour included as part of the Mother's Tea package. Plants, dish gardens, artworks and gardening



gifts will be available for sale.

Reservations are required for the Tea, deadline for

reservations are May 2 and can be purchased for \$40/person online at www.ruthbancroftgarden.org or by mailing your check to The Garden c/o Mother's Day Tea. There will be two seating times: 12 Noon and 1:30 p.m. Please indicate your time preference.

If you simply want to bring Mom in for a tour of this internationally acclaimed succulent garden, we will waive her entry fee of \$7 so she gets in free for the tour. Self-guided tours for Mother's Day are 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Reservations are not required for self-guided tours.

WishList

- Tools for propagation – hand pruners, loppers
- Little red wagons for carting plants
- Watering cans
- Weed Eater
- Rakes
- Laptop Computer

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 Mary Lou Williams for the new garden hoses and shovels. Also a special thank you to Chris Syboski for the flat screen monitors and hard drive computer.

New Mailing Address

The Ruth Bancroft Garden's new mailing address is:

**1552 Bancroft Road
Walnut Creek CA 94598**

We will no longer be using our Post Office Box, so please update your records. Thank you!



Join Today!

Membership

- \$35 Individual
- \$60 Family (2 at same address)
- \$25 Senior
- \$100 Cereus
- \$250 Aloe
- \$500 Agave
- \$1,000 Visionary
- \$2,000 Preservationist
- \$2,000 & Above Corporate Sponsor
- \$5,000 - \$10,000 Golden Barrel Benefactor
- \$15 Student
- \$50 Garden Club
- Donation \$ _____

Monthly Giving

- \$10 \$15 \$25 \$50
- Other _____

Does your employer offer matching contributions? _____

- I am interested in becoming a volunteer
- I am giving the gift of membership! (Please provide us with your name for the card.)

Name _____

Address _____

Work Telephone _____

Home Telephone _____

Email _____

Visa Mastercard Exp Date _____

Credit Card No. _____

Signature _____

Make check payable to:

The Ruth Bancroft Garden

1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Volunteers in The Garden

► We couldn't do it without you!

WE NEED YOU! Our Volunteers keep The Garden alive in so many ways. Our Propagators renew The Garden by developing new plants from cuttings, shoots, and transplants for our plant sales. Our docents educate the public by taking them on tours of The Garden

and telling the history of how it came to be and how we strive to preserve it. Our fundraising/event volunteers are crucial in the quest to keep The Garden financially viable. Our office volunteers keep everything flowing; they are as essential to the staff as water to the roots of our plants. And last but not least is our Board of Directors who take on the responsibility of the life and future sustainability of The Garden. They are our core team and many times they also are found working as propagators, docents, fundraising/event volunteers and chairing committees.



Sue Martin, Propagation Volunteer

► Benefits of Volunteering

So to thank you for helping us in all the ways that you do, we would like to offer you a 20% discount on gift merchandise sold at The Garden. It is a small way we can say thank you for the hours of dedication you donate to The Garden (discounts do not apply to sale items, plants, or RBG special order logo shirts). You must be a member of The Ruth Bancroft Garden and have volunteered in The Garden on a regular basis (2 events a year minimum) to receive this discount.



► Volunteer Openings Emerge

Help us spruce up the Garden - Propagation & Weeding in the Garden.

Training classes are provided on specified dates to assist volunteers identify plants and to understand the propagation process.

Work parties will be from 9:30am – 12:30pm on the following dates:

- April 1, 2*, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11, 16, 26
 - May 7*, 10, 21, 24
 - June 4*, 14, 18, 28
- * These dates will begin with a short class.

Class Schedule

- April 2: How To Take Cuttings For Propagation
- May 7: Plants You Can Grow From A Leaf
- June 4: A Cactus Walk in The Garden

If you are interested being a part of this important work, please call The Garden at 925-944-9352 and ask for Billie Hopper.

2008 events Calendar

April 10

**Garden Opening and
Dedication**

11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Sponsored By:



April 12

Spring Plant Sale

Members Only Plant Sale

9 am – 11 am

Public Plant Sale

11 am - 4 pm

May 11

**Mother's Day Tea –
In The Garden**

Noon and 1:30 pm

Sponsored By:



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June 13

**Annual Sculpture In
The Garden Show: Member,
Artists & Guests Reception**

5 pm – 8 pm

June 14 - 15

**Annual Sculpture In
The Garden Show: Public
Showing and Garden Art
Sale**

10 am – 4 pm

Sponsored By:



walnut creek
MAGAZINE

August 28

**Walnut Creek Chamber
BASH in The Garden**

5:30 pm – 7 pm

Sponsored By:



September 2

**Ruth Bancroft's 100th
Birthday**

September 14

**Volunteer Party & Agave
Awards Presentation**

October 4

**Annual Dinner,
Diablo Country Club**

Sponsored By:

diablo
MAGAZINE

October 8

**Fruit Tasting Tour with Brian
Kemble**

8 am – 10 am

October 11

Fall Plant Sale

Members Only Sale

9 am – 11 am

Public Plant Sale

11 am – 4 pm

**Educational
Seminars
& Workshops**

April 12

**Workshop –
Soils and Slopes**

July 18 - 19

**Horticultural Seminar and
Garden Study Tour**

8:30 am-5pm

November 7 - 8

Horticultural Seminar

8:30 am – 5 pm

Sculpture In The Garden



► 14th Annual Sculpture in the Garden Show – Father's Day Weekend

The 14th Annual Sculpture In the Garden Show is one of the most popular events in the Garden. It is a wonderful way to explore the beauty of the Ruth Bancroft Garden while viewing some exceptional outdoor sculpture by local Bay Area artists.

Many of the artists are associated with the Pacific Rim Sculptors Group and Art-Scape Consulting.

The general public viewing is Saturday and Sunday, June 14th and 15th from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. General admission is \$10; \$7 for members; free for children under 12.

For more information, call (925) 944-9352 or go to our web site.



The Newsletter is printed on recycled paper with soy-based inks.



1552 Bancroft Road
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www.RuthBancroftGarden.org

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Permit No. 1094



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