



the urban horticulturist.

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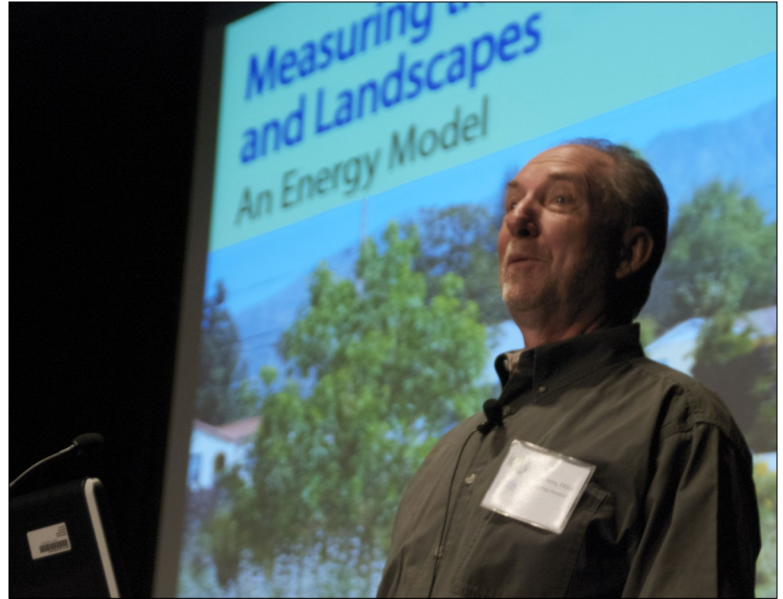
'Sustainable' Conference Draws Record Numbers

By Don Schultz

More than 260 landscape industry professionals and OH students attended the 3rd annual Sustainable Urban Landscape Conference on March 10. Their attendance represented a 50 percent increase from previous years. The event, hosted by the Ornamental Horticulture Department at Cuyamaca College's Performing Arts Theater, featured presentations and a panel discussion by landscape and storm water professionals speaking on landscape sustainability issues.

"I believe this year's conference was the best one so far," said Fred Larsen of Business and Water Management Consulting. "It was on point and fresh."

Bob Perry, landscape architecture professor emeritus from Cal Poly Pomona and author of *Landscape Plants for California Gardens*, kicked off the one-day conference with a discussion of measuring landscape sustainability by using an energy budget method.



Keynote speaker Bob Perry talks about measuring and comparing the sustainability of plants and landscapes by looking at environmental benefits and costs. Photo by Fausto Palafax



His seminar focused on energy budgets to define the sustainability of a landscape, from maintenance to installation materials to water use.

Other presenters included:

- Horticulturist and author Nan Sterman, whose presentation focused on several outstanding examples of homes whose owners have created beautiful sustainable gardens.
- Glen Schmidt, of Schmidt Design Group Inc., who spoke about renovations for commercial landscapes, and Richard Namba of Otay

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NEW!
Check out gardening tips
on pages 3 and 5.

Scenes from the Conference

See more photos from the 2011 Sustainable Urban Landscape Conference on page 9.

This publication is made possible through a grant from the Rice Family Foundation.

California Native Plant Society Internship

“My first goal is to strengthen familiarity with California native plants within the Cuyamaca College OH Department and the college nursery.”

By Tracey Grillo

Having lived in east San Diego County for many years — Julian, Ramona and Lakeside — my appreciation for our native California surroundings has grown. My 13 years in Julian made the most impact on me. Every day presented a new opportunity and challenge to exercise my landscape design passion, alongside incredible natural vistas. This, in turn, clearly opened my desire to be a landscape designer, with a devotion to native plants.

This internship opportunity is very exciting to me. My first goal is to strengthen familiarity with California native plants (CNPs) within the Cuyamaca College OH Department and the college nursery. The desired outcome is to create more awareness within the community that native plants are beautiful, beneficial and sustainable in our environment.

I've been researching plant resources and purchasing native seed and cuttings from suppliers around the Southern California area. The first round of plantings has been from seeds, cuttings and small plants. Part of the internship process is to maintain a journal of propagation efforts, making sure to keep records of successes and failures



Tracey Grillo

for reference, and for the program's future. We hope to have abundant success so there are plenty of plants to sell and also to create a demonstration garden on campus.

There seems to be a working palette of recognizable plants that the educated gardener is familiar with. It's important to include the tried and true, building upon what is known, and to introduce less common varieties thus broadening the current palette. To make the CNP selections stand out within the nursery, I'm using colored signs rather than white.

My hope is to launch a permanent place within the Cuyamaca College Nursery for CNPs to be sold and showcased. I hope to include specimens that will find their way into local landscapes, helping in their own small way toward our larger goals of creating sustainable urban landscapes here in San Diego County.

Tracey Grillo is the first recipient of the new Native Plant Internship, funded by the San Diego chapter of the California Native Plant Society. She was awarded the internship in January.

CSAC-ASLA News: Club in Full Swing with Semester Events

By David Clarke

Things are getting busy this spring semester at Cuyamaca College! For the College Student Affiliate Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (CSAC-ASLA), this means great opportunities to contribute our resources toward the goals set out at our Winter Retreat.



David Clarke

First, we volunteered at the 3rd annual Sustainable Urban Landscape Conference in early March, helping to set up/tear down and assisting

with hospitality and event production tasks. Members attended many of the lectures, especially that given by Nick DeLorenzo, ASLA. He teaches our Advanced Landscape Design section and his lectures are always informative and entertaining.

CSAC's big event will occur in early April as we host our booth at the 18th annual Spring Garden Festival on campus. We hope to have a few landscape architects from our professional chapter join us to help answer questions about the profession from aspiring landscape design students. The booth will also have literature about ASLA, sample copies of *Landscape Architecture* magazine and landscape plan drawings by stu-

Continued on page 4

Four Spring Garden Tips Inspired by a Floral Design

By Lorraine Kelley

Have you ever been captivated by a beautiful arrangement of flowers? Many design techniques used to create these artistic floral displays can also be applied to your home garden. As you begin to experiment in your garden, consider taking a tip from these floral wonders.



Lorraine Kelley

1. Experiment with Color

Do you use the same color combinations in your garden every year? Try something new! Create color bowls using warm colors (reds, oranges and yellows) or cool colors (blues, greens and violets). The nursery is stocking colorful new plants to pick from every week, including annuals, perennials, succulents and natives. The combinations are endless.

2. Add Texture

A shiny leaf may be a thing of beauty, but a contrasting texture adds interest to your garden. Keep an eye out for plants with different surface qualities: smooth, rough, leathery, spiny, fuzzy, bumpy or delicate. For example, the intricate shapes of a sedum add interest to a container of smooth, variegated agave.

3. Increase Scent

Use your nose to choose plants this year. Many varieties of lavender, scented geranium and sage add both scent and beauty to your garden. Choose one scented plant this spring to enjoy all year long. Check the nursery for many great choices.

4. Incorporate Foliage

Most garden plants are chosen for their flowers. Branch out to foliage! Aloes, agaves, hibiscus, hypoestes, geraniums, ivy and sanseveria are just a few of the familiar plants that have varieties with beautiful leaf variegation. Plants chosen for their foliage add value to your garden year-round.

Lorraine Kelley is a student intern working as an assistant grower in the Cuyamaca College Nursery.

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website at
www.cuyamaca.edu/ohweb.

Rice Family Foundation Internship: From Liberia to the OH Program

By Mannah Gbeh

As a young boy growing up in Liberia, West Africa, agriculture was the way of life. My grandfathers grew rubber, cassava and rice, and I was always around plants.

All that beauty was lost during a civil war that started in the late 1980s and forced my family to take refuge at a camp in Ghana. On our share of land at the camp, my mother grew cassava, peppers and a variety of spices that made our rations of rice and beans taste much better.

From the refugee camp, we came to the United States, where I completed high school. In 2007, I joined the U.S. Navy. I was honorably discharged from the Navy after serving seven years and doing three tours in the Middle East.

Recently, I obtained a certificate in Geographic Information Systems from Mesa College in San Diego. Unfortunately, I was not excited about my career or future. My girlfriend recognized my love for agriculture and introduced me to the Ornamental Horticulture program at Cuyamaca College. I am so happy I made the switch! I started the Nursery Tech-



Mannah Gbeh

nology program last fall, and immediately I knew it was right. The faculty is awesome, the curriculum is amazing and I love the hands-on learning we get in the greenhouse, nursery and Water Conservation Garden.

In the future, I hope to own my own African import/American export agriculture business and play in the Aggie Open as a sponsor. I love volunteering at that event! Currently, I am starting a not-for-profit organization, Charity World. I want to fight global hunger through hand-on education.

I was recently hired as the assistant manager of the Cuyamaca College Nursery, a position funded by the Rice Family Foundation. I love this position. The people are great, and every day I learn something new that will help me achieve my career goals. I am so thankful for the Rice Family Foundation and the work they do for many students around the country.

Mannah Gbeh, a Rice Family Foundation intern, is pursuing a certificate in Nursery Technology.

For more information on Charity World, visit www.gocharityworld.com.

"I started the Nursery Technology program last fall, and immediately I knew it was right."

CSAC-ASLA *Continued from page 2*

dents. And, in support of National Landscape Architecture Month, CSAC and Cuyamaca College are proud to host the inaugural installation of the SD-ASLA Ten Trees demonstration project. We kick that off at the festival, so stay tuned.

Lastly, our 2010/11 Chapter Project is nearing completion. Our demonstration green roof structure will be up and running by the festival, and we hope it sparks interest in this new and

important sustainable landscape element.

We look forward to completing our goals of raising awareness of the ASLA in the student design community, increasing our chapter membership and helping our professional chapter this fall with the National Conference in San Diego.

David Clarke, president of CSAC-ASLA, is studying landscape design and urban sustainability. He owns a landscape design studio specializing in water-wise garden design.

Schedule of Events	Spring Garden Festival	30th Annual Scholarship & Awards Banquet	Commencement Ceremony
	9 am to 4 pm Saturday, April 9 Cuyamaca College	Reception 6 pm Thursday, May 12 Holiday Inn on the Bay 1355 North Harbor Drive, San Diego	5:30 pm Thursday, June 2 Cuyamaca College

Brad Takes a Breather in Spain

Longtime OH Department chair Brad Monroe is taking a well-deserved break from his busy spring semester schedule.

His sabbatical project in Spain involves researching solar powered greenhouses. We hope to use his results by installing our own version on campus in an area that has no electrical power nearby.

Brad and his wife, Dr. Therese Botz, plan to squeeze in a few days to enjoy the sights. We are soon expecting a photo of Brad skittering away from an angry charging bull in Pamplona. But seriously, we miss Brad and are eagerly awaiting his return.

—Don Schultz



Soon after arriving in Spain, Brad Monroe posed for a photo at the Parque de Retiro in Madrid, replete with its ancient olive trees. We look forward to many more photos when he returns.

We look forward to many more photos when Brad Monroe returns from his sabbatical.

A Tip for Compost Tumblers

By Whitney Dueñez

When you purchased your compost tumbler you probably envisioned turning your organic waste into rich, earthy humus. Is your compost tumbler living up to your expectations, or is it full of smelly sludge or perhaps abandoned altogether in the back yard?



Whitney Dueñez

Get your compost tumbler on the right track with this tip:

Start with a bin filled two-thirds full of moistened brown organic material such as dried

leaves and yard trimmings or shredded paper. If you're short on "browns," stop by the Cuyamaca College Nursery and purchase some mulch to use as a starter.

This method is designed to control the "yuck" factor when people have a lot of "greens" that readily putrefy, but not enough "browns."

Then add your fruit and vegetable trimmings, coffee grounds, tea bags and other organic resources a couple of times a week. Don't forget that particle size matters. A large broccoli stalk can take weeks to decompose; if it's cut up it can seemingly disappear in a week.

Turn your tumbler regularly and you will end up with a great soil amendment and keep those useful organic resources out of the landfill.

Whitney Dueñez, a master composter, is pursuing a certificate in Arboriculture.



A compost tumbler

CCBS Corner: Club Members, Volunteers Involved in Events Aplenty

By John Noel Hervan

This year has been an exciting one for me. It has been my first opportunity to be a board member of the Cuyamaca College Botanical Society. I was thrilled when I heard the news this last semester that I was elected as an Activities Coordinator on the 34th board. Finally I could help in other ways besides volunteering at the nursery or for the different events, although we do depend on the generosity of students to donate some time as volunteers.



John Hervan

My fellow officers are Jay Davis, president; Nicole Schott, first vice president; Lynn Priddy, second vice president; Gail Ballard, treasurer; Suzi Agosta, treasurer; Louise Parks, activities coordinator; and Barbara Bender, Brenda Martin, Gabe Mitchell and Edwina Perez, assistants to the board.

The board had its annual summer retreat in July 2010 at Idyllwild, where we held team building and event planning for the coming year. So far this past year has been a real success with all the help from volunteers who we so gratefully accept. We helped plan and coordinate the Aggie Open golf tournament in October and the 3rd annual Sustainable Urban Landscape Conference in March, the upcoming Spring Garden Festival on April 9 and above all, the 30th annual Scholarship Banquet planned for May 12. This year we are hoping to raise \$30,000 to give to the honored students in the OH Department who receive these scholarships.

The CCBS is open to students who are enrolled in an OH class. There are no fees or dues for membership. Belonging to the CCBS also gives students the opportunity to network with professionals in the landscaping community. We hope to see you at one of our meetings.

John Noel Hervan is an activities coordinator for the Cuyamaca College Botanical Society.

So far this past year has been a real success with all the help from volunteers who we so gratefully accept.



Arbor Day Observance

The Fundamentals of OH class, led by instructor Don Schultz, and other students attend a tree-planting on March 1 in the Cuyamaca College Nursery to commemorate Arbor Day, a national observance dedicated to planting trees and increasing the awareness of their importance. OH student Lamont McClary stands by the western redbud planted for the occasion. *Photo by Gabe Mitchell*



Azaleas are sheared in a circular pattern against a graceful line of sycamore trees at the Getty Museum. *Photos by Don Schultz*

Field Trip: Horticulture Meets Architecture at the Getty Museum

By Don Schultz

The J. Paul Getty Museum was the destination of the OH Department's spring semester field trip for students and faculty. A total of 23 people made the trip March 16 to this noteworthy garden in Los Angeles.

A wonderland of landscape design and maintenance, the Getty is not a botanical garden, but a great example of a design meant to complement and enhance the architecture.

There are only a handful of plant species in total, and their role in the landscape is more art than horticulture. But it is the maintenance that amazes, a combination of detail-oriented landscapers guided by Getty's art directors.

Sycamore and crape myrtle tree groupings are meticulously trimmed to produce form and lines that blend in wonderfully with the backdrop of museum buildings. Arborists laboriously pluck off every other sycamore leaf during the growing season to maintain a view of the tree's framework, so important to the courtyard views.

Pollarded London plane trees in a rigid checkerboard pattern in the outdoor café provide a strong European feel for coffee drinkers huddled together in the cool breeze.

The carefully selected bare branches of Boston ivy on coarse-textured travertine walls gives more of a look of an impressionist painting of a winter scene than a botanical wall covering.



Poised like giant coat racks, these pollarded London plane trees add to the ambience of an outdoor café at the Getty Museum. They'll provide shade when they leaf out in spring.



Boston ivy branches cling in an artistic pattern along a wall at the museum. These vines are meticulously trimmed to produce a surreal winter scene against the coarse travertine walls.

A visit to the Getty any time of the year is rewarding, but a late winter visit is a good time to see the plant structure at its best.

Don Schultz is a full-time faculty member of the Ornamental Horticulture Department.

The Getty is not a botanical garden, but a great example of a design meant to complement and enhance the architecture.

Conference

Continued from page 1

Water District, who spoke on water agency conservation programs.

- Certified arborist Mark Wisniewski, who discussed trees in sustainable landscapes.
- Brian Maynard, director of business development for The Brickman Group, who discussed how contractors can make their operations more sustainable.
- Nick DeLorenzo, ASLA, of DeLorenzo Inc., who spoke on the future of sustainable landscaping.
- Dave Shaw, farm adviser with the University of California Cooperative Extension, who discussed the realities of drip irrigation.

A lively panel discussion led by moderator Mike Lee, environmental reporter for *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, delved into regional storm water regulations governed by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The panel talked about how these regulations are being addressed by local agencies, as well as contaminants, costs and low-impact development.

Besides Lee, panel members included Sumer Hasenin of the City of San Diego Storm Water Department; Kathy Garcia, FASLA, planning director for the City of Del Mar; and Gabriel Solmer, legal director for San Diego Coastkeeper.

The Cuyamaca College Botanical Society, OH staff and instructors, college theater production staff and facilities maintenance staff began planning the event in summer 2010, and their hard work was rewarded with what many attendees called a fantastic conference. Many



Nan Sterman, above, speaks at the conference. Below, Glen Schmidt discusses his turf replacement return on investment study during the proceedings. Photos by Fausto Palafox

thanks to all of the people whose dedication contributed to its success.

We are planning to resume a two-day format for the next SUL conference, scheduled for March 8 and 9, 2012, and welcome your suggestions.

Don Schultz, a full-time OH instructor, organized the Sustainable Urban Landscape Conference and served as its host.



Don't miss next year's Sustainable Urban Landscape Conference, scheduled for March 8 and 9, 2012.

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Scenes from the 2011 Sustainable Urban Landscape Conference



Clockwise from top, a conference attendee get a lesson on Toro's smart irrigation controller. Bob Perry signs copies of his book *Landscape Plants for California Gardens*. Steve Jacobs of Nature Designs shares a laugh with a guest. The outdoor vendor exhibits were a popular place during lunch and breaks. Some of our record number of attendees enjoying the conference. *Photos by Fausto Palafox*





~ Spring Garden Festival ~

Saturday
April 9, 2011
9 am - 4 pm
Cuyamaca College

- Water Smart Gardening Tips
- Plant Sale
- Expert Design Advice
- Children's Activities
- Garden Clubs
- Book Sale
- Horticulture Demonstrations
- Live Music
- International Foods

Cuyamaca College Botanical Society

30th Annual

SCHOLARSHIP & AWARDS BANQUET

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Reception begins at 6 pm

Holiday Inn on the Bay
1355 North Harbor Drive
San Diego, CA 92101

Visit our website at www.cuyamaca.edu/ohweb or call 619-660-4262 for details.