



the urban horticulturist.

A Publication of Cuyamaca College Ornamental Horticulture Department and the Cuyamaca College Botanical Society.

Spring 2012

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Saturday, April 28 - Cuyamaca College

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'Green' Expert Spreads Enthusiasm for Sustainability

By Della Elliott
Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community
College District

John Picard, an architect, builder and renowned expert in the field of green building design, is living proof that sustainable construction is a highly profitable venture. He was the ideal keynote speaker at the Sustainable Urban Landscape Conference at Cuyamaca College, having coined the catchphrase "The Future for Green Is Black," which served as the theme of the daylong symposium March 8.

He waived his usual speaker fees because he is a strong supporter of the college's efforts to increase public and business interest in sustainability, the protection of natural resources.

"You don't have to be big and powerful to effect change," Picard said. "It just takes a small, dedicated group of people to make significant changes. To all you entrepreneurs out there, don't forget to live your dream. Don't look back—quit questioning yourself. If you don't put yourself at risk by pursuing a new path, you're not going to get things done."

The innovator behind the U.S. Green Building Council, the nonprofit agency best known for its LEED green building certification system, Picard is a leading consultant to Fortune 500



Sustainability expert John Picard speaks to students and landscape professionals at the Sustainable Urban Landscape Conference. Photo by Rosalee Clanton



companies looking to implement sustainable business solutions. Since his start as a residential and commercial builder in the 1980s, Picard has been a pioneer of sustainable

design whose projects include the Greening of the White House initiative during Bill Clinton's presidency; Hangar 25 in Burbank, the first entirely sustainable airport facility; and the MGM CityCenter, an 18 million square foot

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The Urban Horticulturist Is Online

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

Spring Ushers in New Crop of Growers, Interns to OH Nursery

By Steven Zampanti

The constant flux of Cuyamaca College Nursery interns never ceases. With the growing excitement for our 19th Annual Spring Garden Festival in April comes the excitement of new grower and nursery interns.

In the spring 2012 semester, outgoing Nursery Manager Mannah Gbeh and outgoing Head Grower Lorraine Kelley have selected a worthy crop of students to fill our open positions.

Good-bye to growers

This year saw the departure of growers Richelle Stoufer and Micah Soejima. Richelle and her family have moved up to the north woods of Washington, and Micah now gives his horticultural expertise to Armstrong Garden Centers. We also wish Micah belated congratulations on the birth of his daughter, Emi Soejima.

In June we will wish farewell to Mannah, who I have to thank for the creation of the term "Neem Gun" to describe the sprayer used to apply neem oil and, of course, for his amazing camaraderie.

The departing intern I will miss most, however, is Lorraine. Being a great friend and mentor to many, Lorraine has done an unbelievable job packing our nursery with an interesting selection and quantity of plants. She herself is quite surprised that she has tended and cared for so many.



The Cuyamaca College Nursery depends on interns to keep its plants thriving. From left are outgoing Head Grower Lorraine Kelley, new staffer Pat Brazell, incoming Head Grower Steven Zampanti and new staffer April Bright. Photo by Don Schultz

Because of Lorraine's incredible diligence to the nursery, this year's Spring Garden Festival will undoubtedly be a success. Personally, I will be soaking in every bit of wisdom she has so the growers of the next year can succeed as she has. Thank you, Lorraine.

Welcome new staff members

Shout-outs also to our new retail nursery staff members, Zeek Magallanes and Joanne Brannigan, and to our recent additions to the growers' staff, April Bright and Pat Brazell.

With the Spring Garden Festival coming April 28, I am counting on our

staff to make this an even more successful event than last year. Our theme is "Growing the Urban Farm & Garden," so be on the lookout for various varieties of vegetables and herbs, with my favorite being "Aunt Gertie's Gold" heirloom tomatoes, and, of course, more ornamental varieties of plants than ever before. At the festival, the growers' group can be spotted by the numerous plant ID books in our arms and the flocks of attendees testing us with plant problems, but be sure to welcome all the new staff and congratulate them on a very successful year. See you then.

Special thanks go to the Rice Family Foundation, which established our internship program, and other generous donors who have joined in, including the Mission Hills Garden Club and the San Diego Plumeria Society, as well as our newest supporter, the Bernardo Gardeners. We appreciate their support.

Steven Zampanti will become Cuyamaca College Nursery's head grower in June.

Lorraine Kelley has done an unbelievable job packing our nursery with an interesting selection and quantity of plants.

Schedule of Events

- **Saturday, April 28**
19th Annual Spring Garden Festival - 9 am to 4 pm - Cuyamaca College Nursery & Campus
- **Wednesday, May 16**
31st Annual Scholarship & Awards Dinner - 6 pm - Estancia La Jolla Hotel & Spa, La Jolla
- **Wednesday, May 30**
34th Annual Commencement Ceremony - 5:30 pm - Cuyamaca College



OH student Hannah Murdoch, above, practices at a drawing workshop in March. At right, instructor Jim Leggitt. Photos by Brad Monroe



Quick on the Draw

Students and professionals alike attended all-day drawing workshops in March led by Jim Leggitt, who specializes in quick hand drawing skills using today's technology. Leggitt is an architect, author, urban planner and professional illustrator and has practiced for more than 30 years in Denver, Colo.

The one-day workshops were sponsored by the Cuyamaca College Student Affiliate Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (CSAC-ASLA).

"It was a phenomenal success—an intensive training session resulting in great individual improvement in just nine hours," said Michael Watts, CSAC-ASLA president. He said nearly 50 participated in the workshop, with several CCSAC members assisting. "We are thankful to the ASLA San Diego Chapter, APLD (Association of Professional Landscape Designers) and the CLCA (California Landscape Contractors Association) for their support and participation, and of course to our student mentor, (OH Department Coordinator) Brad Monroe. A great time was had by all!" He gave special thanks to OH students Hannah Murdoch and Lisa Bellora for providing snacks and beverages.

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The Urban Horticulturist is published twice a year by the Cuyamaca College Ornamental Horticulture Department and the Cuyamaca College Botanical Society. It has a circulation of more than 9,000 industry members and horticulturists in Southern California and the United States. Correspondence regarding this publication should be addressed to:

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"It was a phenomenal success—an intensive training session resulting in great individual improvement in just nine hours."

Michael Watts

“My biggest asset to my company is my horticulture knowledge.”

Amanda Simpson



On the Job: Internship Pays Off for OH Alumna at Esteemed Hotel del Coronado

Grossmont-Cuyamaca College District

Amanda Simpson found her calling when she took a floral design class at Cuyamaca College in 2004. She discovered she loved working with flowers and plants, and dropped her plans to go into real estate so she could take classes at the college's Ornamental Horticulture department.

An internship at the Brickman Group, a commercial landscaping firm, led to a job with the company. Simpson is now Brickman's crew chief at the world-famous Hotel del Coronado, supervising three other workers who maintain the landscaping on the 30-acre property.

Taking care of the landscape at the Coronado hotel can be challenging—from the palm trees that were planted when the hotel opened more than 120 years ago to the thriving herb and vegetable garden that supplies seasonings for the hotel restaurants.

Simpson said the education she received at Cuyamaca College has helped immeasurably in her job. “My biggest asset to my company is my horticulture knowledge,” she said. “The classes set me apart from the other people who might be working from the bottom up.”

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Click [here](#) to see a video by Ron Cook Media about Amanda Simpson.

OH Students' Edible Plants Group Puts Focus on Gardening in San Diego

Have you ever killed a blueberry bush? Wanted to talk to someone about adding organic matter to your garden bed? Wished that there was a place for likeminded gardeners to discuss growing food in their backyards? Well, now there is!

San Diego Edible Garden Society was founded by OH students April Bright and Erik Collins. They have created a website designed for gardeners in



You, too, can grow blueberries.

Photo by April Bright

San Diego and hold monthly meetings at Balboa Park. Meetings are at 6:30 p.m. on the fourth Monday of every month in room 104 at Casa Del Prado. The first gathering, in March, drew more than 50 participants.

Visit www.sdedible.org for more information about the San Diego Edible Garden Society and its

monthly meetings, which will feature local speakers on a variety of topics.

Plant Profile: 'Dragon Wing Red' Begonia Perfect for Summer Color

By Lorraine Kelley

Are you looking for summer color to brighten your garden? Do you want something dramatic and eye-catching? Look no further than the Cuyamaca College Nursery!

The 'Dragon Wing Red' angelwing begonia is the perfect plant to provide bright red flowers and shiny green foliage all summer long. This begonia hybrid is heat tolerant and loves the filtered shade spots in our landscapes that can be difficult to infuse with interest.

A vigorous plant, it grows to 18-24" tall and wide and is at home in beds, patio containers and hanging baskets. It is cold hardy to 30 degrees F but easily overwinters indoors in climates with frost.

It would be stunning planted with 'Artist Blue' floss flower (Ageratum hybrid) and 'Snowstorm White' bacopa (Sutera cordata). The nursery offered 'Dragon Wing Red' angelwing begonia last spring, and we were so impressed with it that we have it in red AND pink this year.

Lorraine Kelley is head grower at the Cuyamaca College Nursery.



'Dragon Wing Red' angelwing begonias grown at the Cuyamaca College Nursery will be available, along with the pink variety, at the Spring Garden Festival on April 28. Photos by Lorraine Kelley



This begonia hybrid is heat tolerant and loves the filtered shade spots.



Pinot & PINTS



Save the Date!

You're invited to a wine and beer tasting to celebrate the dedication of the Cuyamaca College Ornamental Horticulture Alumni Network and Brad Monroe's retirement as he joins in the establishment of this important new community.

Thursday, October 4

5 to 8 pm

Water Conservation Garden

12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West

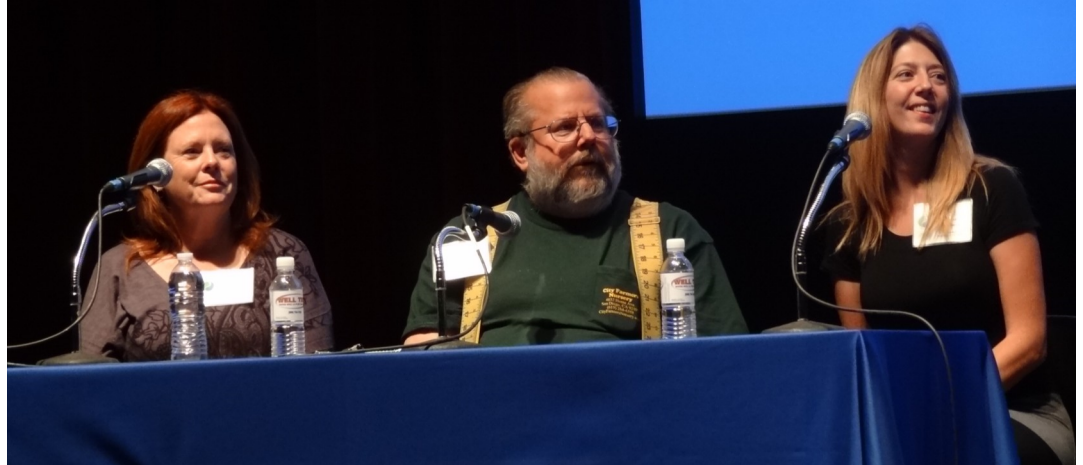
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Cuyamaca College Alumni Network (Cuyamaca CAN)

Serving Our Alumni and the Horticulture Industry

“After 20 years of not being regarded as relevant, sustainability is now at the top of every builder’s list.”

John Picard



A panel discussion on the business of urban farming was a highlight of the Sustainable Urban Landscape Conference. From left: Karen Contreras, founder of Urban Plantations; Bill Tall, founder of City Farmers Nursery; and Crystal Montoya, a certified grower. Author and educator Nan Sterman moderated. Photos by Rosalee Clanton, Joanne Brannigan

Conference

Continued from page 1

metropolis in Las Vegas that is one of the world’s largest sustainable communities.

Viewers of the Discovery Channel’s Planet Green might recognize Picard as the “green prophet” in the documentary series “Greensburg,” about the historic, eco-friendly rebuilding of a tornado-ravaged rural town on the plains of Kansas.

The conference marked the college’s fourth year of hosting an event attended by hundreds of landscape professionals and others with an interest in creating and maintaining green space with low water usage. The event was co-hosted by the college’s Ornamental Horticulture Department and the Cuyamaca College Botanical Society.

“This year, the focus was on sustainable practices being based on profit-generating enterprises,” said conference coordinator Don Schultz, an instructor in the Ornamental Horticulture Department. The program began offering a degree in Sustainable Urban Landscapes in fall 2011, with the first graduates expected this June.

Cuyamaca College President Mark J. Zacovic said the conference’s focus on sustainability is in keeping with the college’s long-standing commitment to conservation and the opportunities it offers in the area of green-industry workforce training.

Picard held conference attendees in thrall as he shared his passion for environmentalism and his “I-told-you-so” delight in proving that sustainability and entrepreneurship are the



Above, Richard Restuccia of ValleyCrest Companies Inc. speaks at the conference. Below left, Dennis Pittenger of the University of California Riverside makes a point; at right, Tom Jesch of Waterwise Botanicals takes a turn.



perfect bedfellows.

“After 20 years of not being regarded as relevant, sustainability is now at the top of every builder’s list,” he said. “These are exciting times. Right now, just 2 to 3 percent of all buildings are LEED certified. We have to get that up to 70 percent.”

Before Picard’s name became synonymous with sustainable construction, he used his own home

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Conference

Continued from page 6 in Playa del Rey, Calif., as a lab, transforming it into an off-the-grid wonder house so cutting-edge that the *National Enquirer* came calling. That photo op led to designing energy-smart homes of Hollywood executives and eventually caught the interest of the corporate world.

Picard said social media tools such as Facebook and an expanding array of mobile-platform applications can democratize sustainability, making it accessible to the farmer wanting to know soil composition for this year's crops or the commercial builder wanting to get the lowdown on the energy efficiency of a new high-rise project—information that can be accessed with a quick swipe of a tablet computer.

Picard was followed by other conference speakers, including Dennis Pittenger, environmental horticulturist at the University of California Riverside and a nationally recognized expert in landscape water management; Dave Shaw, a farm adviser with the University of California Cooperative Extension in San Diego County whose work includes presenting educational and research programs for landscape professionals; Richard Restuccia, director of water management solutions at ValleyCrest Companies Inc.; and Tom Jesch, owner of Waterwise Botanicals, a



Paul Redeker of the Water Conservation Garden leads a tour of the garden as part of the Sustainable Urban Landscape Conference. Photos by Rosalee Clanton, Joanne Brannigan



OH floristry students showed off their talents with stunning arrangements at the conference. Above, a large flower display greeted attendees in the morning. At left, an artistic display adorned every lunch table.



wholesale/retail nursery that specializes in drought-tolerant plants.

The event also featured a panel discussion on the business of urban farming moderated by author and educator Nan Sterman.

Panelists included Karen Contreras, the founder of Urban Plantations, a company dedicated to city-dwelling sanctuaries; Bill Tall, founder of City Farmers Nursery; and Crystal Montoya, a certified grower who produces food from her home for farmers markets.

For more information about Cuyamaca's Sustainable Urban Landscapes degree program, go to www.cuyamaca.edu/ohweb or call Don Schultz at (619) 660-4023.



OH Department Technician John Thomas gets a view from the top, along with many OH student volunteers, in the Cuyamaca College Performing Arts Centre at the Sustainable Urban Landscape Conference.

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growing the urban farm & garden



SPRING GARDEN FESTIVAL

Saturday, April 28, 2012 • 9am to 4pm • Cuyamaca College

www.cuyamaca.edu/springfest



FREE PARKING • FREE ADMISSION • FREE PARKING • FREE ADMISSION • FREE PARKING • FREE ADMISSION

Cuyamaca College Botanical Society

31st Annual

SCHOLARSHIP & AWARDS DINNER

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Reception begins at 6 p.m.

Estancia La Jolla Hotel & Spa
9700 N. Torrey Pines Road
La Jolla, CA 92037

Visit our website at www.cuyamaca.edu/ohweb for details.

