



Conejo Valley Botanic Garden

June Bulletin



Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá



Mission Olives (*Olea europaea*)



Historic Mission Olive Trees

After receiving orders to occupy and fortify San Diego and Monterrey for King Carlos III of Spain in 1769, Father Junipero Serra, accompanied by a group of Catholic Franciscans, established the first presidio and mission in San Diego, *Mission San Diego de Alcalá*, the first of the Alta California missions, bringing with them olive tree cuttings, which later became the cultivar *Mission Olive* (*Olea europaea*). With the arrival of artisans to build presses, the first production of olive oil began in 1803, for use in sacramental ceremonies, lamp oil, and cooking. Lasuen's *Biennial Report of 1803* states, "In San Diego they have already made some very good olive oil."

The Mission olive has been included in the **Ark of Taste**, an international catalogue of endangered heritage foods which is maintained by the global *Slow Food* movement. The Ark is designed to preserve at-risk foods that are unique in taste, and part of a distinct ecoregion. Foods included in the list are intended to be "culturally or historically linked to a specific region, locality, ethnicity or traditional production practice" in addition to being rare.

According to long time CVBG volunteer Joseph Scarpine, our Rare Fruits Orchard has **three large Mission Olive trees** (*Olea europaea*). They bear olives but are not suitable to harvest, since they have been under stress the last few years. Tours of the Rare Fruits Orchard will be announced in the monthly bulletins.

-Sandy Krutilek-

What's in a Name?

by Diane Conejo



Tradescantia pallida 'Purpurea'
Purple Heart



Tradescantia sillamontana
Cobweb Spiderwort

The genus ***Tradescantia*** was named for the 17th century botanist, world traveller and plant collector, John Tradescant. It is estimated there are 71 species of perennial Spiderworts that are native to the New World from Southern Canada down through Northern Argentina. Moisture needs vary, but the two we will discuss are water thrifty .

T. ***pallida*** (pallida meaning 'pale') '**Purpurea**' is commonly called 'Purple Heart'. It is a durable groundcover with 3-4" narrow pointed leaves and thickly herbaceous stems. Stems will trail to 18" or more. Best color occurs in full sun but will do fine in part shade also. Easily grown in rich, well-drained soil and has good drought-tolerance once established. Plant will die back with frost, but the root is hardy to 10F. It produces a small, pink/lavender triangular flower at the tips of the stems. This plant mixes well with Heuchera 'Electric Lime', lavender Petunias, Helichrysum petiolare 'Limelight', ornamental grasses, and Senecio cineraria (Dusty Miller). It is stunning when used as a groundcover or a hanging plant.

T. ***sillamontana*** This plant originates from Cerro de la Silla (Saddle Mountain) Mexico. Like T. *pallida*, it has thick, succulent stems, but smaller leaves that are opposite. (Their shape is like that of a canoe when observed from above.) The foliage is a gray-green color with silvery-white, cobweb-like hairs. It too gets a small pinkish-lavender flower with three petals. Older leaves often turn burgundy towards the edges, which makes it a great choice to combine with ornamental grasses, and Echeveria succulents (especially 'Sunset' or 'Afterglow'). It requires very little water once established.



Seen Around the Garden

Photos by Jim Cyr



California Four-O'Clock
(*Mirabilis laevis* var. *crassifolia* CA)
Nature Trail



Grevillea Moonlight
(*Grevillea whiteana*)
Australian Garden



PLANT SALES

Plant sales are held every Sunday at the CVBG from 10:30-2:30 in the area next to the Kids' Adventure Garden, located at 350 W. Gainsborough Rd. California natives, hardy, water wise perennials, shrubs, trees and succulents, reasonably priced are available. CVBG volunteers will be happy to help you with selections and share their expertise.

Irene Benyoung is willing, by special appointment only, to meet customers at the Plant Sale area on Wednesdays. Please contact her by e-mail to make an appointment.
ibenyoung@yahoo.com

BIRTHDAY PARTIES (March-September)

SUNDAY Birthday Parties are available from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Please email Jim Cyr at jcyr22@hotmail.com. Volunteers are needed to help with the parties. The volunteer hours are from 2:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

CAMILLE'S FLORAL DESIGNS EXHIBIT

Sunday, June 22 from 10-5 pm

Kids' Adventure Garden

LEARN FLOWER DESIGN

Learn Flower Design in the Sogetsu Style. Develop creative self-expression through flower arrangement and learn the beauty of line and space. Keiko (Camille) Van Ast holds a First Teacher's degree from the Sogetsu School of Ikebana in Tokyo, Japan. She has studied Ikebana for more than 25 years.

For Registration call Camille at 805-498-7421

Classes will meet the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month

9:00-11:30 a.m. in the

Kids' Adventure Garden

Classes are ongoing

A one time fee of \$20 for a textbook is required.

Class fee of \$25 per class includes the flower fee of \$10

Watercolor Classes in June by artist Peggy Reid

Kids' Adventure Garden

Ph 805-527-3120

PeggyReid99@sbcglobal.net



Want to Help us Grow?

Do you love Conejo Valley Botanic Garden and would like to help, but just don't have the time to volunteer? Even though much of the work you see going on in the garden is done by volunteers, we still have expenses for planting, heavy pruning and new improvements. These projects are funded through grants and donations from the community. If you would like to help us grow, tax deductible donations are always welcome and may be made out and sent to Conejo Valley Botanic Garden, 400 W. Gainsborough, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360. Thanks for all your support!

Conejo Valley Botanic Garden Needs You!

The Garden is managed and maintained by community volunteers. Without your help, the garden cannot thrive. None of the volunteer positions at CVBG has a minimum number of volunteer hours attached. If you can help for a few hours a month, great! For more information on any of our volunteer opportunities, please go to our web site at www.conejogarden.org and click "Volunteers."

WE CURRENTLY NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

Adopt A Garden: We have an ongoing need for volunteers to join the teams working in our theme gardens. Days and hours are flexible so give us a call.

Garden Nursery: There is no better way to learn about California native and water wise plants than to join the teams working in the propagation and sales nurseries.

The Kids Adventure Garden: KAG is open from 11:00 to 3:00 each Sunday. Docents welcome families to the garden, answer questions and ensure everyone is safe and has fun. You will train with an experienced Docent. You can sign up for one shift a month or as many as you want.

Email: conejogarden350@live.com

For information and directions to the garden, visit our web site at www.conejogarden.org.

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