



# Conejo Valley Botanic Garden

## March Bulletin



**Woolly Blue Curls**  
Trichostema lanatum



**Salvia Arroyo Azul**  
Salvia clevelandii 'Arroyo Azul'



**Pozo Blue Sage**  
Salvia clevelandii 'Pozo Blue'

### Drought Tolerant Salvias

**Woolly Blue Curls** (*Trichostema lanatum*) is a splendid evergreen California Native inhabiting dry coastal slopes from San Diego County to Monterey County. It has foot long stems covered with purple/pink "wool" and blue flowers with curling anthers. The long blooming season is from May to August. Popular with gardeners, but difficult to establish, it needs full sun, good drainage and ***no summer water after established.***

**Salvia Arroyo Azul** (*Salvia clevelandii* 'Arroyo Azul') was originally collected from coastal Baja California, Mexico in the 1990s. Reaching up to 3 feet tall, with short flowering stems of especially large clusters, ***it can take a great deal of abuse.***

**Pozo Blue Sage** (*Salvia clevelandii* 'Pozo Blue') was found as a seedling at Las Pilitas Nursery and is a natural hybrid. It inherited *Salvia leucophylla*'s extreme toughness and *Salvia clevelandii*'s scented foliage. The showy flowers are light violet blue, a favorite of hummingbirds, quails and butterflies. It grows in many soils from sand to heavy clay, ***very drought-tolerant, one tough plant!***

Look for these new plantings in the California Native section and at the Main Entrance.  
*Sandy Krutilek*

## what's In a Name?

Díane Conejo

### Get to know the "Ice Plants"

While the East coast experiences severe cold, snow and icy patches on the ground, the West coast has "ice plants" blooming as winter nears its end... here are just a few!

**Carpobrotus** (edible fruit) **edulis** (edible) - Hottentot Fig, or Freeway Ice Plant

Largest of the trailing ice plants. Leaves can be 4-5" long. A ground-cover that has naturalized on California beaches. Can become invasive. Do not plant on steeper hillsides, the weight can cause a slope to erode. Flower is bright rose with yellow eye or pale yellow; size to 4" wide.

**Cephalophyllum** ('head-leaf') **alstonii** (after Edward Garwood Alston, a botanical collector and farm manager) '**Red Spike**' - Red Spike Ice Plant

Spiky, upright blue-green leaves are a diminutive version of *Senecio mandraliscae*/Blue Chalk Sticks. Combined with the bright color of a 2" flower, 'Red Spike' grabs your attention. It grows 3-5" high and to 18" wide and blooms winter to early spring. Bees are attracted to the blooms.

**Delosperma** ('obvious seed') **cooperi** (for Dr. James G. Cooper, geologist) - Hardy Ice Plant

The most commonly grown ice plant with a summer-long display of rich lavender-mauve flowers; it is a truly drought-tolerant ground cover which can be combined with other less thirsty companion plantings. It has a procumbent or creeping habit; average 3" high and to 3' wide.

**Drosanthemum** ('dew flower') **floribundum** ('free-flowering') - Rosea Ice Plant

The best one for reducing erosion on steep slopes. Blooms are pale pink in late spring to early summer. Drapes gracefully over rocks. Attracts bees.

**Lampranthus** ('shining flower') **spectabilis** (spectacular) - Trailing Ice Plant

This genus is fleshy like *Delosperma* but more erect in habit, often reaching 2' tall and wide. Has a tendency to get "woody" at the base as it ages. Flowers are pink, red or purple and bloom in late winter to spring.

Note: Ice plants originate from South Africa. Commonly named for the bladder-like hairs on the leaf surface that reflect and refract light to make them appear to sparkle like ice crystals, all are succulent perennials that flower in colors that include white, yellow, orange, red, pink and purple. Provide well-drained soil and supplemental irrigation during bloom periods. Withhold water in fall to harden off plants for winter. (Succulents hold water in their foliage and can be more easily frozen if temperatures dip.) Gravel mulch is appreciated to protect the plants' crown from too much moisture. Numerous species, do your research before planting!



Photos by Kathy Gilbert

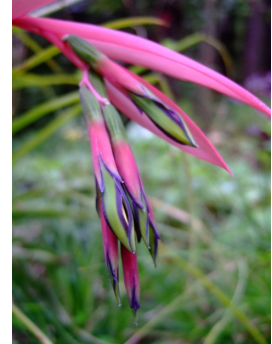


## PLANT SALES

**March specials are Western Columbine @ \$ 4.00 a gallon.  
Queen's Tears (Billbergia) @ \$ 5.00 a gallon**



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](mailto: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](mailto:jcyr22@hotmail.com). Volunteers are needed to help with the parties. The volunteer hours are from 2:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

## **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

### **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, PO Box 6614, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359. 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](http://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](mailto:conejogarden350@live.com)

For information and directions to the garden, visit our web site at  
[www.conejogarden.org](http://www.conejogarden.org).

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