



SAN MATEO ARBORETUM SOCIETY

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FALL 2015

Elegant Evening to Benefit SMAS

In case you haven't heard yet, we have postponed our annual garden tour. We are hoping to reschedule for May 14, 2016. We have viewed a number of wonderful gardens and think everyone will be pleased with the selections.

Since we will not be sponsoring the garden tour this fall, we have planned an elegant evening at Carolands Chateau on Friday, September 18 from 6-8 p.m. Support SMAS while enjoying wine, delicious hors d'oeuvres and music in this beautiful setting.

Tickets are \$125.00 per person or
\$100.00 if purchased before August 28
Reservations are extremely limited

Complimentary valet parking provided. Out of respect for the neighbors, no street parking is allowed. We are also asked not to wear narrow heeled shoes as they can damage the floors.

Carolands historian will share anecdotes about this masterpiece of classical architecture. If you want to learn more about the Chateau's history, go to www.Carolands.org or check out The Heiress and Her Chateau on KQED this August 20 and 21.

Tickets may be purchased by sending a self addressed stamped envelope (no later than September 11) with your check payable to SMAS to: SMAS, 101 Ninth Ave. San Mateo, CA 94401 or buy online at www.sanmateoarboretum.org If you have questions or need additional information call or e-mail
650-579-0536 ext 5 or smas1018@att.net



Notes from the Greenhouse

Our succulent plant tables are full with a wide variety of plants that according to home decorating designers are the stylish décor trend. Customers are drawn not only to the contemporary sculptural look of succulents, but also their ease of care. Succulents are forgiving when it comes to watering. Plants like echeveria, aeonium and haworthia are favored for their foliage colors and shapes. You'll find home décor magazines depicting these plants in unique handmade pottery or contemporary vessels. This is your opportunity to fill your home and garden with these sculptural and beautiful plants.

Plant Cutting Donations Needed

The Greenhouse/Nursery is in need of plant cuttings for our plant propagation program. As some of you know our dedicated volunteers & members donate plant cuttings from their home gardens. We propagate said cuttings and after they've rooted we place them in containers to be sold. The net proceeds from plant sales allow the organization to offer free garden seminars; maintain our Rose, Butterfly-Hummingbird, Fairy and Victorian gardens in Central Park; and Outreach Projects to schools and students. Propagating plants from cuttings is one of the easiest and most used methods of propagation. Many plants will root from just a section of a plant. You can bring your plant cutting donations to Greenhouse/Nursery during our hours of operations (Tuesday, Thursday, & Sunday 10a-2pm) or if closed you can leave them in a bag/container by main gate. Your plant donations are always greatly appreciated, thank you.

Save the Date

Sept 18, 2015 Wine Tasting at the Chateau Carolands

Sept 19, 2015 Master Gardeners Fall Plant Sale & San Mateo Arboretum Society Open House

Don't have much room? If you have just a very small space, don't let that stop you from planting a garden. You can create as much impact with careful planning as you would if you had a lot of land.

Grow up - trees that remain small and don't branch out make a great backdrop for a lot of low-growing plants. Think of crabapple trees and dogwoods for this purpose. Trellises and other frames can be used for backdrops also.

Perennials are always a good choice as are long- and repeat-blooming plants so the beds always look full and lush.

Leave space for seasonal changes and try adding seasonal color by placing container groups of annuals here and there.

Add colorful stones or ceramic or pottery animals here and there for a light touch.

If the space would justify a small bench that could create a homey touch to compliment plants nearby and give a feeling of serenity and peace.

A birdbath also can create a harmonious atmosphere and will attract hummers and many birds to the garden.

Mixing plants with the same growing habit will double the blooming power in a small space. Deep-planted bulbs can stay in place and over them fall-flowering small plants can take over the space for continuous color.

Topiaries are a good choice, too, as they provide interest in shape and design.

There are many possibilities and with careful planning, a small area can be turned into a focal point in the garden.



FALL IN THE GARDEN

Fall is the best time to make cuttings. The days are warm and the nights are

cooler. A good mix to use to help cuttings along: two parts perlite to one part vermiculite. No matter what you are propagating, always keep the mixture moist. Also, keep in good light but protected until you see they are going to take.

Iris can be divided. If allowed to get too crowded they don't bloom as well. A good rule of thumb is about every four years.

Things to think about - bulbs; cool weather pansies and violas for their color and they will make a good replacement for impatiens when they begin to give way to cooler weather. Most nurseries will have good stock when it's time to get these planted.

Perennials can be planted and some of the blue-colored are featured below:

CERATOSTIGMA is valued for its clusters of deep blue flowers that will bloom in summer to late fall. This variety is very tolerant to many conditions - varying soil types, water schedules and will do well in sun or part shade. For those who already have this shrub in their gardens, it can be cut back each winter regardless of frost.

CARYOPTERIS will produce color from late summer to frost and also makes a lovely shrub. Will take to drought conditions and likes light soil and full sun. If cut back after each wave of bloom more bloom production will be realized. A good border plant.

FELICIA is a daisy-like shrub also called the marguerite. It will spread to about five feet but will not get over two feet in height. The yellow center enhances the good looks of this perennial. Will bloom almost continuously if the spent flowers are picked off. **FELICIA** will bloom in mild winters and is good in pots and/or containers and is most effective if allowed to hang over a wall or raised bed. Any sunny location will do but needs a fair amount of water to keep the plant full and looking good. It is very vigorous and needs to be severely cut back in late summer to encourage new blooming wood. Very easy to grow.

CAMPANULA (or bell flower) is very versatile in that it can be grown as a creeping or trailing variety if that species is selected

or an erect plant can be planted. Flowers - star- or bell-shaped and can be cup-shaped or round and flat. In addition to blue, the flowers can come in lavender, violet, purple, white and sometimes pink. The trailing kind do well in hanging pots and baskets and do well, also, as ground cover. They need well-drained soil kept moist and they prefer a filtered shade but will tolerate full sun on the coast. You can do a lot with this depending on the variety chosen.

CLERODENDRUM is an evergreen, deciduous shrub that will get very tall. Has long, glossy leaves and inch-long flowers that really put on a show. Water consumption is average and it prefers shade but will tolerate some sun on the coast.

CARISSA - last, but not least, this plant is great for coast growers as it will tolerate ocean wind and salt spray and is very easy to grow. Will adapt to most soils, exposures and is fairly drought tolerant. Inland it will require more water. **CARISSA** will bloom best in full sun but can take heavy shade if need be. Blooms erratically so regular pruning is necessary. This is our exception to our featuring blue flowers. **CARISSA** is white and there are many different varieties to choose from.

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Fall is a good time to plan an itinerary for the rest of the year. Since any changes to your garden can take place now, take a tour and make notes as to what new plants you may want to add and, by the same token, decide on those you may want to eliminate.

Until it rains again with regularity, those plants that show some strain can be babied along with a little more hand watering and if some of the plants are doing fine with their water allotments, switch some over to those that could benefit the most. Even the thirstiest will adapt if they have to. Take cuttings of those that will propagate well and hand-water, keeping them protected. A lot less water will be needed and, should the parent plant not survive, at least a replacement will be available later on.

Lawns seem to be the most vulnerable and the biggest challenge. Looking around the various neighborhoods, we see many, many dead lawns. We've all heard the saying "brown is the new green".



Want an unusual houseplant?
The bromeliad is that plant.
It is one of the most bizarre,
with foliage and blooms like
no other.

They make excellent indoor
plants, requiring little care,
and they thrive on neglect. This combination
of hardiness and the long-lasting flowering
period makes bromeliads one of the most satis-
fying to grow.

Blooms are extremely attractive with an ex-
ceptional range of colors and shapes. Some
are waxy and exotic looking, while the color
in others is produced by bracts (leaves). Be-
cause of the waxy nature of the blooms (they
feel like leaves), the color of the bromeliad
bloom can endure up to eight months. In
addition, some have beautiful berries. While
blooms are the highlight of the plant, most of
the foliage is quite lovely on its own. After
a bromeliad has blossomed, it will slowly die
over a period of up to a year, but not before
producing three or four pups as a legacy.

Leaves are long and flat - some quite thick and
others very thin, ranging in striped foliage,
light green and greyish green. The flowers
grow up through the middle of the plant and can
be tall, with a "braided" paddle, towering over
the plant, others produce a flat, broad paddle
from which purple small blossoms appear on the
sides of the paddle. There are varieties that
produce flowers that look like flowers.

Because of the construction of these plants,
water is trapped in the cup of the vase-like
structure and then runs down into the soil.
Because of this, they do not need frequent
watering (about every two to three weeks de-
pending on the intensity of the light where the
plant is placed). It is important not to let
stagnant water remain in the "cup" (central
portion of the plant); therefore, it is recom-
mended the cup be emptied once a month.

These plants require bright, diffused light
but not direct sunlight because the leaves will
sunburn.

Fertilize only in summer and only give a light
dose. Never use fish emulsion or other organic
fertilizers. Use only fertilizers that dissolve
in water. They have been known to grow quite
successfully with no fertilization.

House temperatures are ideal for these plants,
usually between 55° and 85°. Because of their

low-maintenance requirement, bromeliads
are being used quite frequently in
hotels, malls, banks, restaurants, etc.
where minimum upkeep is required.

When the plant dies and produces the new
plants or pups, they will appear as off-
shoots from the side of the mother
plant near its base. They can be re-
moved with a sharp knife or clippers
when they are about a third to one-half
the size of the original plant. The
pups should then be repotted and watered
as you would an original plant. The
potting soil must drain rapidly and hold
the new plants firmly in the pot. It is
important that these new plants have an
adequate root system before transplant-
ing.

They look nice in any room in the house
so long as their needs are met.

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Another good houseplant is the flamingo
plant. This is a real eye-catcher and
will bloom all year long.

Blooms are a bright red and the foliage
is spade-shaped and a rich dark green.

They love the light, although not direct
sun, and the usual temperature of the
average room.

Water when needed in the summer but less
in winter. It can be misted, which it
seems to like, and very light feeding in
the water during summer.

If it needs transplanting, do so in March
if possible in a porous, nourishing soil.
Remove yellowing leaves and spent blooms.

Since this plant is from the tropics, it
should not be kept in a cool room in
winter. It likes the company of other
plants and really stands out when arr-
anged with other houseplants, especially
a bromeliad.

Some buying tips - the leaves should be
green and shiny and with no damage or
bad patches. It is best to purchase a
plant with half-closed bracts, although
one fully open will flower a long time.

Easy to grow, knowing no season and blooms
will last a long time, even cut blooms.
Might be difficult to bring back to bloom.



We're all getting tired of planning for every drop of water we allot to the garden. It's hard saving water from the house and is all that soap good for plants and the soil?

After the last few years with rainfall at a bare minimum, we might easily envision future gardens as stark landscapes with little color and cacti and succulents in control.

You'll be surprised to learn that drought-tolerant gardens can be filled with many beautiful flowering plants and trees, as well as succulents - many adapted to survive on very little water. Much has been written already on this; however, learning how to pick suitable plants bears repeating.

Drought-tolerant plants come in endless shapes and colors - dazzling flowers, interesting foliage and perhaps a plant or two you never considered before.

As with any garden, native plants are a good place to start. (We discussed this in a recent article.) Group plants together with the same water, temperature and sunshine needs. Pairing a drought-resistant plant with one that needs lots of water can bring unfavorable results to both plant species. Keeping a desert plant too wet will kill it - likewise, keeping a plant that requires abundant water dry can't produce favorable results either.

Just because a plant may be drought-tolerant, doesn't mean it can thrive without water forever. No plant is drought-tolerant the first year when some watering is essential. Once established, these plants can eventually survive on what little rainfall we get, but an occasional light watering can't hurt. The secret is to water them deeply but infrequently and allowing the soil to dry out between soakings. The roots should be encouraged to grow deeply and not remain too close to the surface. A drip irrigation system or soaker hose is an efficient way to water slowly, allowing the water to really penetrate without wasteful runoff. Watering early in the morning will be a big help in helping water retention and will keep evaporation at a minimum.

Weather conditions are a big factor but you'd be surprised how often the soil can still be damp three or four inches below the soil line, even though it looks dry on top.

Of course, to get optimal results, an application of mulch is a must. It will also help discourage weeds and weeds do need their share of water too.

We also listed many drought-tolerant plants recently but, as a reminder, here are a few to consider: cosmos, gazania, marigold, nasturtium and zinnia - good annuals. A few perennials are candytuft, coneflower, coreopsis, daylily and verbenas.

IN THE ROSE GARDEN

It's been a challenge keeping our roses happy so far and we have had some warm days to contend with. Give them what you can and, although they may show signs of distress, they are a pretty sturdy lot and will probably survive.



Keep deadheaded and cleaned of dead and browning leaves. If infestations aren't too severe, remove any leaves that show signs of rust, mildew and blackspot.

A lot of the blooms are smaller if water has been severely curtailed, and stems aren't as long. If a cane or two seem to be dying, cut them as they may continue to die if not remedied. Cut to where growth appears to be healthy.

Make sure your mulch is deep enough to help retain water and water as early in the morning as possible before it gets too warm. Keep beds cleaned of fallen leaves and weeds.

Fertilize a bit lighter to keep growth from becoming too vigorous - a larger plant will require more water.

Remember to prune any old roses (those that bloom once a year) if you haven't done so. However, if they show signs of new growth, reconsider as you don't want to cut off next year's blooms. They may be a little straggly next year and may not bloom as profusely but they should not suffer for not having a good pruning now.

After mid-September, you might consider stopping any fertilizing to encourage early dormancy.



Garden Tips August 2015

What is art in the garden? Is it the decorations, the sculpture or a fountain? Are the pathways art or the different perspectives from different parts of the garden? Or is the design of the garden itself art? Possibly and I am sure in some gardeners minds the plants themselves are art. This month let's look closely at our gardens and the gardens of others. Let's ask what works for us, what makes us happy, brings serenity and why. Here are the tips.

1. What is your first impression when you enter a garden? is it the color, the textures, the form?
2. What do you see first. Where is your eye drawn after that?
3. How does the scale effect you? Is it huge like Golden Gate Park or petite like a knot or herb garden?
4. Are there water features, sculpture, or structures like pergola, arbor, trellis, fences, gates, or benches? How do they compliment the overall garden. Note; I am asking you to look for what is right or correct for you, not what is wrong. Finding what is right is more difficult and builds skills that help us to be better gardeners.
5. Is the garden you are looking at pleasing, functional, shocking or all of the above? Notice your *individual* feelings at first sight and then as you walk through the grounds.
6. Has there been extra care taken in the maintenance or is this a folly? A garden meant to be just for fun. Either one has its place and takes thought and effort to achieve.
7. Is it a seasonal garden as in a vegetable garden or a rose garden?
8. What flowers are blooming now and what will be coming next month or six months from now?
9. How much time does it take to really get what is the theme or essence of this garden you are looking at? Can you get that essence in a glance or might it take a lifetime? Note; Some gardens are timeless, one can visit them for years and take away a new experience each time they visit.
10. *Is it memorable?* Are there elements that catch your interest and give you ideas about how you might want to change your garden?

Good gardening

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Butterflies add color, movement and a special element to a garden. They can be enticed into a garden by choosing plants that will produce nectar for adult butterflies, and others will provide a place to lay eggs or food for hungry caterpillars. For example, parsley is favored by the larvae of the black swallowtail, while the monarch caterpillar feeds only on milkweed. Here are some plants that will attract butterflies:

Alium or common chives
Aster
Cornflower
Shasta daisy

Purple coneflower
Heliotrope
Lavender
Sweet alyssum
Phlox
Sage
Marigolds
Nasturtium
Zinnia

Privet, lantana, lilac and huckleberry also attract if larger shrubs are desired.

Once these lovely creatures are comfortable in a garden, they will quickly take up residence and hopefully more and more will appear.

Fall planting can be started now for blooms as soon as Christmas in our temperate climate. Cool season annuals planted in early fall have time to develop stronger roots before flowering.

Among the many cool-season bedding plants that provide winter color are:

Bachelor's button
(*Centaurea cyanus*)

Upright, from 12 to 30 inches with narrow gray-green leaves and 1- to 1½-inch flowers in blue, pink, red, and white.

How to grow: Prefers light soil. Space transplants adequately to promote branching and minimize powdery mildew. Full sun.

Tips: Good cut flowers. Named varieties give a range of size and form, in single or mixed colors. Tall varieties need staking. Greatest availability is from late fall on.

Calendula
(*C. officinalis*)

Bushy, upright plants 12 to 30 inches. Abundant blooms like double daisies to 4 inches across in white, cream, orange, yellow, and apricot.

How to grow: Easy by direct seeding or from transplants. Full sun.

Tips: Good cut flower. Petals edible. Powdery mildew is a problem in coastal regions.

Canterbury bells
(*Campanula medium*)

Upright 2½ to 4 feet tall with long, loose clusters of 2-inch bell-shaped flowers in blue, pink, purple, and white.

How to grow: Set out nursery transplants (from seed, plant takes six months to flower). Full sun, partial shade inland.

Tips: Excellent plant for mixed borders. Long-lasting cut flowers. Usually needs staking.

Chrysanthemum
(*C. multicaule*,
C. paludosum)

Buttery yellow daisies of *C. multicaule* grow 1 to 1¼ inches across on 6-inch stems above mat of green foliage. *C. paludosum* has 1- to 1½-inch flower heads with white

rays and yellow centers on 8- to 10-inch stems; dark green leaves are deeply toothed.

How to grow: Give average water, full sun.

Tips: Plants may live a second year. Excellent for edging, containers, hanging baskets.

Dianthus

Annuals, and biennials and perennials often grown as annuals. Fringed flowers are ½ to 1 inch or wider in intense solid colors or in combinations of pink, purple, red, and white on plants 6 to 24 inches tall. Plants bloom from spring or early summer into fall.

How to grow: To ensure spring bloom, start with nursery transplants. Give full sun and light, fast-draining soil. Don't overwater.

Tips: Compact types are excellent for edging. Taller varieties make good cut flowers. Wee Willie sweet William (*D. barbatus*) grows to 6 inches, and Summer Beauty to 12 inches. Common *D. chinensis* hybrids are the Princess series (10 to 12 inches) and the Telstar strain (6 to 8 inches).

English daisy
(*Bellis perennis*)

Perennials often treated as annuals. Pink, rose, red, or white double flowers 1 to 3 inches across bloom on 4- to 8-inch stems above rosettes of bright green leaves. Blooms from fall into spring, with fewer flowers in coldest months.

How to grow: Give good soil, much moisture, light shade inland, full sun near coast.

Tips: Good edging or bedding plant. Combines well with bulbs.

Flowering cabbage and kale
(*Brassica*)

Grown for their colorful leaf rosettes. Some turn bright purple or rose with onset of cold weather (best

color develops below 40°); others are marked with white or cream. Cabbages are 8 to 12 inches tall with wavy leaves; kales may be compact and fringed or grow to 18 inches and be deeply serrated.

How to grow: Full sun. Control cabbage worm with *Bacillus thuringiensis*.

Tips: Many types available from specialty seed catalogs. More showing up in nurseries. Remove when plants bolt in mid- to late winter.

Forget-me-not

(*Myosotis sylvatica*, often sold as *M. alpestris*)

Tiny blue, carmine, or white flowers cover upper portion of 6- to 12-inch stems; leaves are soft, hairy. Bloom begins in late winter, early spring.

How to grow: Easily sown in place. Needs moist soil, partial shade.

Tips: Blues combine nicely with a warmer color such as coral, orange, or yellow. Attractive interplanted with bulbs. Plants self-sow and may become weedy when conditions are right.

Globe candytuff
(*Iberis umbellata*)

Bushy, free-blooming plants 6 to 15 inches high (depending on variety), with flattened globes of tiny flowers. Lance-shaped leaves to 3½ inches long. Available in pastels (pink, rose, lilac, salmon, white), or intense shades of red and purple.

How to grow: Sow seed now or set out plants in late winter (plants are scarce in fall). Plants are heat sensitive and will stop blooming in hot weather, or if soil dries. Sun, partial shade inland.

Tips: Sow seed where quick color is needed. Good for edging, in rock gardens.

Larkspur
(*Consolida ambigua*)

Upright branching plants 1 to 5 feet tall (depending on variety), with ferny foliage and dramatic bloom spikes. Delphinium-like 1- to 1½-inch flowers in white, blue, lilac, pink, salmon, and carmine. Peak bloom in spring.

How to grow: Sow seed where plants are to grow or set out transplants. Chill seed

for one week before planting. Best in fertile, well-drained soil. Partial shade.

Tips: Large (4- to 5-foot) strains such as Giant Imperial and Regal are good for middle and back of border.

Nemesia
(*N. strumosa*)

Small (¾-inch) flowers in clusters 3 to 4 inches long and snap-dragon shapes. Colors vary from bright jewel tones to soft pastels, including some bicolors. Plants from 7 to 18 inches.

How to grow: Frost tender away from coastal areas. Cut back after first flush of bloom. Full sun.

Tips: Carnival and Funfair have intense colors. Tapestry combines pastels and deeper colors. 'National Ensign' is a red-and-white bicolor.

Pansy, viola
(*Viola*)

Pansies and violas (*V. cornuta*) come in many different color variations from plain to blotched. Pansies have large flowers 2 to 4 inches across; violas are about 1½ inches. Johnny-jump-ups (*V. tricolor*) are small (¾-inch), normally purple and yellow bicolors. Plants grow to 8 inches.

How to grow: Pinch leggy plants to encourage new growth. Plants last longer in spring if protected from hottest sun. Full sun or part shade.

Tips: New colors and types introduced annually. Imperial strain Antique shades look like watercolors (plant closer together than normal); 'Pink Shades' opens plum and fades to light pink and white. Princess violas come in single colors and are very floriferous.

Petunia

Plant in fall only in mild desert climates. Funnel-shaped flowers come in many solid and bicolors, singles and doubles. Plants are compact or trailing.

How to grow: Pinch back when young to encourage bushiness. Full sun.

Tips: Many new colors introduced every year. Two new picotee types—Frost and Hulahoop—have colorful centers and white edges.

Annual phlox (*P. drummondii*)

Cool-season annual in Southern California and the desert, summer annual elsewhere. Dense clusters of 1-inch-wide flowers form on top of erect, leafy stems 4 to 20 inches tall. Many bright and pastel flower colors, some with contrasting eyes.

How to grow: Plant in rich soil, full sun.

Tips: Newer types (Fantasy Mixed, Promise Pink) are compact, bushy, and covered with blooms.

Poppy (*Papaver*)

Iceland poppy (*P. nudicaule*) is a perennial commonly grown as an annual. Three-inch crepe-papery flowers bloom on slender, hairy 1- to 2-foot stems. Slightly fragrant flowers in cream, yellow, orange, and pink. Long bloom season when flowers are picked frequently. Shirley poppy (*P. rhoeas*) is an annual with 2- to 5-foot slender, hairy stems. Flowers are 2 inches or more across with translucent petals in shades of red, pink, white, orange, and bicolors.

How to grow: Set out plants of Iceland poppy. Shirley poppy is best sown in place; you can start with transplants (available starting in late fall). Need good drainage, full sun.

Tips: 'Legion of Honor' Shirley poppy has scarlet flowers with black bases; Mother of Pearl yields smoky pastel shades. All are good cut flowers; sear cut stem ends in flame before placing in water.

Primrose (*Primula*)

English primrose (*P. polyantha*) has strappy leaves and clusters of brightly colored flowers atop 3- to 12-inch stems. *P. obconica* has roundish, hairy leaves and large clusters of 1½- to 2-inch flowers on 10- to 12-inch stalks. Fairy primrose (*P. malacoides*) has lobed leaves and lacy flower whorls on stems 12 to 15 inches tall. Colors include lavender, pink, red, rose, and white.

How to grow: Full sun or part shade in coastal fog belt, part shade inland. In

cooler areas, English primrose and *P. obconica* can be kept as perennials.

Tips: New Cantata series of *P. obconica* comes in apricot, blue, carmine, lavender, pink, red, rose, and white. Acaulis types of English primrose (Pageant, Prominent) bloom close to the leaves; Polyanthus types (Pacific Giants) have longer flower stems. Julian types are miniature English primroses.

Poor man's orchid (*Schizanthus pinnatus*)

Also known as butterfly flower. Lilac, pink, purple, rose, salmon, and white orchidlike flowers are produced in profusion on 6- to 15-inch-tall stems. Ferny foliage is bright green.

How to grow: Plants are sensitive to frost and heat (best on coast). If starting from seed, sow about four weeks before planting time (germination is slow). Filtered shade.

Tips: Star Parade grows 6 to 9 inches tall; Angel Wings and Disco grow 12 to 15 inches.

Snapdragon (*Antirrhinum majus*)

Many colors and several forms. Standard one has upper and lower jaws. Newer types include bell-shaped and azalea-shaped (double bell-shaped) flowers. Heights range from 6- to 8-inch dwarfs to 3-foot-tall varieties that are good for cutting.

How to grow: Plants bloom in winter if buds form before night temperatures drop below 50°. To reduce chance of rust, do not water overhead. Full sun.

Tips: Bright Butterflies and Little Darling strains have bell-shaped flowers. Madame Butterfly is an azalea type. Tahiti is a dwarf that blooms in winter when planted in fall (Floral Carpet won't bloom until spring).

Stock (*Matthiola*)

Old-fashioned plants with clusters of single or double 1-inch flowers in cream, pink, lavender, purple, red, and white. Flowers form on 1- to 3-foot spikes; tall ones are good for cutting. They have a spicy-sweet fragrance.

How to grow: Plant early so buds form before nights turn chilly; otherwise bloom is late. Full sun.

Tips: Plant column (tall) types for cut flowers; use dwarf types in the front border. Yellow and white Cheerful types produce fully double blooms on 2-foot plants.

Sweet alyssum (*Lobularia maritima*)

Trailing, low-growing plants (to 6 inches) have tiny but profuse fragrant flowers in dense clusters. Commonly available in white, pink, or purple.

How to grow: Plant in fall in Sunset zones 10 through 24. Easy, blooms from seed in six weeks. Grows in almost any soil. For fresh flowers, shear after four weeks of bloom. Sun or light shade.

Tips: Useful for bulb cover, edging for beds and borders, and in containers. Plant self-sows. New colors include Apricot Shades and Easter Bonnet (mixed pastels). Flowers attract bees.

Sweet pea (*Lathyrus odoratus*)

Intensely fragrant flowers on vines 4 inches to 8 feet tall. Dozens of varieties available in shades of blue, pink, purple, salmon, red, white, cream, and bicolors. Magnificent flowers for bouquets.

How to grow: Best when planted from seed. For winter bloom in mildest areas, sow in August or early September (mid- to late September inland). Soak seed for a few hours before planting. Provide trellis or strings for vining types. Full sun.

Tips: Early Multiflora and Early Mammoth have strong flower stems and are early blooming. Old Spice has smaller flowers, but they are very fragrant and somewhat heat resistant. Knee-Hi, a bush type that doesn't require staking, has flowers with long, strong stems.

Toadflax (*Linaria*)

Delicate-looking flowers in pastel and bright colors and snapdragon shapes form along upright stems. Narrow leaves are medium green.

How to grow: Easy from seed. Plant in masses; indi-

vidual plants are wispy. Full sun or light shade.

Tips: *L. maroccana* Fairy Bouquet is 9 to 12 inches tall with ½-inch pastel flowers. Northern Lights has bright, dainty flowers and grows to 24 inches. *L. reticulata* flowers are maroon and gold with yellow throats.

San Mateo Arboretum Society

Plant Clinics & Sunday Garden Seminars

MASTER GARDENER PLANT CLINIC: Sunday, September 13, October 4 & November 1. *FREE.*

Come anytime between 11:30am - 1pm. The Master Gardeners are available to answer your questions from general information to advice about specific problems. You may bring samples of your plants for better diagnosis. Use a Ziploc or similar bag to carry your sample. If you suspect insect damage, try to include some of the insects so they can be correctly identified. <http://ucanr.org/sites/MGsSMSF/>

BRING HOME THE BUTTERFLIES, HUMMINGBIRDS & MUCH MORE! Sunday, September 13, 1 - 2:30pm. *FREE.* Learn how to select plants that will attract and nourish birds, butterflies and other garden-friendly wildlife species. Use simple techniques to turn your yard into a hub of activity that will delight your senses with flashes of color, the flutter and hum of wings and the songs of birds. Join Master Gardeners Sylvia Warnes and Pat Sanford as they share ways to convert an outdoor space of any size into a haven for pollinators and people alike. We'll end the presentation with a tour of the Arboretum's recently installed Butterfly & Hummingbird Garden which illustrates many of the principles that will be covered in the lecture. <http://ucanr.org/sites/MGsSMSF/>

GO NATIVE, STAY MODERN. Sunday, October 4, 1 - 2:30pm. *FREE.* A color slide presentation of choice California native plants for Bay Area gardens, rendered through a modern lens by Geoffrey Coffey, of Madrono Landscape Design Studio in San Francisco. Native plants are wildlife friendly, drought-tolerant, and locally appropriate — not to mention beautiful. Learn how you can weave native plants and fine materials, putting color, texture, and aroma into the landscape. www.madrono.org; www.baynatives.com

COEXISTING HUMANELY WITH URBAN WILDLIFE. Sunday, Nov 1, 1 - 2:30pm. *FREE.*

Patrick Hogan, Supervisor of Wildlife Care with the Peninsula Humane Society, will discuss his organization's work and mission and how that relates to local gardeners and home owners dealing with urban wildlife challenges.

Additional Events

WINE RECEPTION at CAROLANDS CHATEAU, HILLSBOROUGH: Friday, September 18, 6 - 8pm. SMAS invites you to an elegant evening of wine, hors d'oeuvres and music. Carolands historian will share anecdotes about this masterpiece of classical architecture. Tickets \$125.00 per person; ***\$100.00 if purchased before August 28.*** Reservations are extremely limited. No narrow heeled shoes. Complimentary Valet Parking. Purchase tickets on line at www.SanMateoArboretum.org or by sending (no later than September 11) a self addressed stamped envelope with your check payable to SMAS to: SMAS, 101 Ninth Ave. San Mateo, CA 94401. Questions: 650-579-0536 ext 5 or smas1019@att.net

SMAS OPEN HOUSE: Saturday, September 19, 10am - 2pm. *FREE.* *One of San Mateo County's Best Treasures is the San Mateo Arboretum Society.*** Come & learn what we do and why we do it! Our Greenhouse/Nursery has a vast collection of plants and orchids at the best prices in the Peninsula! A ***Plant Sale*** presented by UCCE Master Gardeners tours of the Butterfly-Hummingbird Garden. Bring bring a friend or colleague who might need to spruce up their yard, or one who wants to give back to the community by volunteering; we have a number of volunteer positions available - something for everybody, even if you don't have a "green thumb!"**

NURSERY/GREENHOUSE PLANT SALES: Open Tuesday, Thursday, 10am - 2pm & Sunday, 10am - noon. We try to maintain the above hours, but since we are staffed by volunteers, we may occasionally be closed, so call 579-0536 before coming. Our greenhouse & nursery stock a variety of unique plants at very reasonable prices. ***Become a SMAS member and receive a 10% discount in addition to supporting San Mateo Central Park!***

FACILITY RENTAL INFORMATION: The Victorian Garden and Pumphouse are available to rent. The facility can be used for small indoor and outdoor business & social functions. For more information call, (650) 579-0536 x4.

**All events are at the Kohl Pumphouse in San Mateo Central Park
(except for Carolands Chateau Reception)**

**101 Ninth Ave, San Mateo. Enter park at Ninth Ave. & Palm Ave.
www.SanMateoArboretum.org; (650)579-0536**



Be sure to check the calendar of coming events - there is a wide range of very interesting programs for fall.



SAN MATEO ARBORETUM SOCIETY
101 Ninth Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94401

FIRST CLASS

