THE CALIFORNIAN

April 2, 2010



A garden that will be shown on the Fallbrook Garden Club's tour May 22. Courtesy photo

ON TOUR

SPRING HOME, GARDEN TOURS BLOOM AROUND REGION

With spring flowers about to bloom, garden tours are blossoming all over the region. Local garden clubs host tours each spring to raise money for scholarships and club programs. Many sell out in advance, so order your tickets early. Below is a guide to upcoming tours in North San Diego and South Riverside counties in order by date.

Ramona Garden Tour: The Ramona Garden Club hosts its third annual tour of private gardens from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. April 10. "Backyard Paradise" is the theme for this year's tour, which includes five gardens including a water-wise landscape, a tropical design with waterfall and palms, a backyard pond and wildlife habitat, a backyard train and more. The tour also incudes a plant sale at 1315 Main St. Tickets are $15 and can be purchased at Ramona Interiors, 707 Main St. Call 760-788-5961.

Vista Green Sanctuary Garden Tour: The Vista Green Sanctuary Team hosts a tour of six Vista gardens to support the environmental efforts of the Palomar UU Fellowship from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 11. Features include a dry creek with fragrant herbs, a hummingbird and butterfly garden, an Asian garden, a sunken rose garden, vegetable gardens and a backyard wildlife sanctuary. Tickets are $20. Call 760-724-5198 or go to www.vistauu.org/pages/cm_garden.html.

Bernardo Gardeners spring tour: The Bernardo Gardeners Garden Club will present its annual spring garden tour from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. April 15. The self-guided tour will take visitors through five gardens, including three member gardens; there will also be a plant sale at one garden, refreshments at another, and a master gardener at yet another. A staff member from Wild Birds Unlimited in Carlsbad will answer questions at the native habitat garden. Tickets are $15 per person; mail orders must be received by April 10, with checks made out to "Bernardo Gardeners," to 13085 Avenida Marbella, San Diego, CA 92128-1544. Tickets are also sold the day of the our at each home; go to www.bernardogardeners.org or call 760-480-4750 or 858-485-0583.



A variety of plants rim the pool at a home that was one of six estates featured in last year's Santa Rosa Plateau Garden Tour. The tour returns April 24. The Californian file photo

Encinitas Garden Festival & Tour: The fifth annual Encinitas Garden Festival & Tour will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 17 in Leucadia. The event will include a self-guided walking tour of more than 20 private gardens, as well as a marketplace of vendors, artists, plant growers and more. Gardens on the tour include private greenhouses, the school garden at Paul Ecke Central, a drought-resistant garden at a fire station and more. Tickets are $21 in advance for adults and $7 for children ages 10 and under; if tickets are still available the day of the event, prices will increase to $25 and $10. Buy tickets after March 1 at www.encinitasgardenfestival.org, or in person at Anderson La Costa Nursery, Barrels and Branches or Weidner's Gardens. Parking is at San Dieguito Academy; call 760-753-8615.

Lake Hodges garden tour: The Lake Hodges Native Plant Club will host its 22nd annual spring garden tour on April 23, focusing on drought-tolerant and California-friendly plants, and featuring five gardens in Poway and Sabre Springs. Tickets are $15; vendors will also sell native and drought-tolerant plants and garden-themed items. Buy tickets at Walter Anderson Nursery and Poway Nursery in Poway, El Plantio Nursery in Escondido, and at the Escondido Historical Society Office, 321 N. Broadway (Grape Day Park). Tickets may also be purchased on tour day from 9 to 11 a.m., or send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Donna Zimmer, 1428 Via Valente, Escondido, CA 92029 (make check payable to Lake Hodges Native Club). Go to www.lhnpc.org or call 858-486-8733.

Annual Charity Garden Tour: The Community Resource Center, with sponsors Ecke Ranch and Weidner's Gardens, will host the ninth annual Charity Garden Tour & Plant Sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 24. The tour will include five residential gardens (including a garden that has become a popular wedding site in Rancho Santa Fe and a California native garden in Carmel Valley), as well as admission to Ecke Ranch to buy Pack Trial Spring Plants at below-market prices. Plants include

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begonias, geraniums, "Sunpatiens" and more; tickets are $25, and proceeds benefit the Community Resource Center. Go to www.crcncc.org or call 760-230-6305. Tickets are also available at Weidner's Gardens, 695 Normandy Road in Encinitas.

Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club Tour & Luncheon: A tour of three to four Rancho Santa Fe gardens begins at 9 a.m. April 24. Ticketholders will be taken by bus for a morning garden tour followed by a catered lunch at the Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club. Tickets are $65 ($50 for club members). Reservations required by April 14. Call 858-756-1554 or 760-756-1554.

Santa Rosa Plateau Garden Tour: Santa Rosa Plateau Foundation presents its annual tour of seven estate properties bordering the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve in Murrieta from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 24. This year's tour has a Tuscan estate, a California-style ranch, a Victorian-style garden, a rock garden and more. Cost is $15 in advance, $20 at the gate, and includes four 30-minute seminars on gardening with native and drought-tolerant plants, water-wise irrigation and renewable solar energy at one tour stop. An information tent will be at Clinton Keith Road and Avenida La Cresta, Murrieta. Call 951-813-8391 or www.srpf.org.

Landmarked Homes of Kensington Tour: The Kensington Neighborhood Preservation Area hosts its third annual "Centennial Edition" tour of historical homes from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 24. This year's tour, which celebrates the San Diego community's 100th anniversary, includes the 1929 Edward C. Mann House, the 1910 Duehn-St. John Residence and more. Visit heartofkensington.org.

"Through Garden Gates": The American Association of University Women, Del Mar-Leucadia, will host the 14th annual "Through Garden Gates" from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 1. The tour features four North County gardens that boast Mediterranean, succulent and native plants. Tickets are $25 in advance or $35 the day of the event; ticket sales, as well as plant and garden art sales, will benefit the Tech Trek math and science camp and other women's education programs. E-mail throughgardengates2010@gmail.com or call 760-603-9287. Tickets are also available at The Book Works in the Flower Hill Mall, 2670 Via de la Valle in Del Mar.

Coronado historical home tour: The Coronado Historical Association will host "Historic Home Tour: The Winchester Legacy" from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 2. The tour will feature a walking tour of five historical homes and a renovated lodge; all but one home are Craftsman-era bungalows. Tickets are sold in advance; they are $30 when bought by April 20 and $35 after. Go to www.coronadohistory.org or call 619-435-7242.

Mother's Day Weekend Artist Studio and Garden Tour: The San Dieguito Art Guild hosts its annual tour of nine North County coastal homes, gardens and artist studios from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 8 and 9. At each stop on the self-guided tour, several artists will be exhibiting, including sculptor Manuelita Brown, Carolyn Cope, Charlene Bonney and more. Tickets are $20 and can be purchased in advance, or beginning at 8:30 a.m. on each day of the tour, at the Off Track Gallery, 937 S. Coast Highway, Encinitas. Visit offtrackgallery.com or call 760-805-0434 for more.

Country Garden Tour of Fallbrook: The Fallbrook chapter of the American Association of University Women hosts its 15th annual garden tour from noon to 4 p.m. May 8. Tours will start at the Palomares House, 1815 Stage Coach Lane in Fallbrook. Tour tickets are $20. Call 760-451-9532 or e-mail babbo31@sbcglobal.net.

Fallbrook Garden Club tour: The Fallbrook Garden Club will present its sixth annual garden tour from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 22. Seven gardens are included on the tour, from a Mediterranean botanical garden to a grape vineyard to a Victorian house and garden; vintage automobiles will also be on display at selected homes, as well as at the Fallbrook Historical Society. Tickets are $20 per person (two for $35) and are available the day of the event at 260 Rockycrest Road. Call 760-468-5842.

Old Riverside Foundation Vintage Home Tour: The 19th annual tour, Restoration Faire and Vintage Mercantile will be presented from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 15. Self-guided tour will include eight historical Riverside homes. There will also be an artisan fair, antiques, collectibles and more for sale. Visit www.oldriverside.org for tickets or call 951-509-7682.