



Mexican Bush Sage
(salvia leucantha)



Red Hot Poker
(kniphofia uvaria)

January in the Conejo Valley Botanic Garden

Mexican Bush Sage (salvia leucantha)

Along the service road and in the upper part of the Salvia Garden, you will find several Mexican Bush Sage in full bloom. Long velvety purple spikes arch outward with grayish green foliage. Blooms summer and fall. Sun or light shade. Mexican Bush Sage has a long and beautiful display of flowers with little maintenance. You might consider adding this plant to your garden.

Red Hot Poker (kniphofia uvaria)

In the **Kids' Adventure Garden**, you will see several large groupings of Red hot pokers in bloom. The plant comes in both dwarf and taller forms and comes in yellow, creamy white, or coral colors. Flowers attract hummingbirds and are good in flower arrangements. The Red-hot poker adds beautiful fall color to the garden.

-Jean Reiley-

Garden Nursery News

If the volunteers continue to be puzzled by erratic weather patterns, imagine how it must be for all of the flora. We remain grateful for rainfall, but put off by the hot and cold treatment.

The garden's winter landscape is varied, with deciduous trees looking sculptural while others are in bloom. Many perennials are flowering, though some are in dormancy. Always there is great scenery to enjoy and visitors to the garden are never disappointed.

Plant sales are ongoing on Sundays at the **Kids' Adventure Garden** location. We again have some very nice **orchids**, with pedigrees about to bloom, as well as California natives, hardy perennials and a great selection of **succulents** that flower at this time of the year, on sale at reasonable prices. When you buy our plants you are helping to sustain the CVBG-not a bad investment!

Remember, if Jack Frost visits your garden and plants wilt, it is best to resist trimming until spring. If you

mulch around the base of your plants, most of them will survive. Don't discard favorites as many will just rest through the cold months. **Geraniums**, are amazing fill ins and even without blooms, will put on a colorful leaf display. Hardy **cyclamens** make beautiful border displays and many **salvias** will withstand the chill.

-Happy Gardening and Happy Holidays, Barbara Song-



Silver Sage
(*salvia argentea*)

What's In a Name?

Another interesting salvia, is a broadleaf-evergreen, and covered with a layer of soft downy 'fuzz' that is silvery-white in color. It forms a large low rosette, and looks rather like a moonlit cabbage. In the summer, it can bear candelabra-like stems of white, hooded flowers. Lovely as a border along a pathway or as a specimen plant in a rock garden; children and adults alike love to stroke its soft leaves. Another common name, 'Hobbit's Foot' refers to those hairy little barefoot creatures in the JRR Tolkien books. After long and careful consideration, I think I would rather stroke this leaf than a hobbit's foot, but I do like the name. Come see the Salvia (L. saving/healing) argentea (L. 'silvery'), whose name was aptly chosen, in our garden and visit the **Sunday Plant Sale** so that you may invite this Salvia into your garden.

-Diane Conejo-

Community Outreach and Fundraising

Pat Brubaker will be leading the garden in community outreach and fundraising. We need ideas on developing community outreach programs and fundraising. Any ideas that you may have to get our name out into the community email Pat at PatBrubaker2010@gmail.com. Let's get the word out. More visitors, volunteers and members.

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!



**White Pitcher Plant
(*sarracenia carnivorous*)
Photo by Pat Carlson**

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:

Assistant to the Volunteer Coordinator: Help recruit new volunteers and match them with garden jobs they might enjoy.

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. Contact Jean Reiley at 805 374 8255.

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

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