



# Desert Horticultural Society of the Coachella Valley

## 10th Annual Desert Garden Tour

Sunday, April 12, 2015

12:00 until 4:00 p.m.

[deserthorticulturalsociety.org](http://deserthorticulturalsociety.org)

Tahquitz River Estates **Seductive, Soft & Singular Style** – Take time to explore this exciting garden with a surprise or interesting plant everywhere you look, from down at the ground with intimate plantings of succulents, to above your head with flowering trees to eye-level potted planters. Red-eared slider turtles rule a sunny pond and koi grace one by the pool, fruit trees abound – pomegranate, blood orange, citron to name a few. The rock used in the garden comes from Joshua Tree. The owners, landscape designers Troy and Gino, Mojave Rock Ranch, are true gardeners and have lovingly created this exciting garden at their renovated 1931 Mediterranean Revival home they've named "Villa Vecchia".

1. **African Daisy**, *Osteospermum x hybrida* is a tender perennial native of South Africa and a colorful and happy addition to the desert garden and will spread to 3ft. Wide variety in flower color with green or glaucous leaves (the glaucous variety is more heat resistant in our desert), blooms Spring and Fall, may stop blooming in Summer heat. Acidic soil with moderate water.
2. **Desert cassia**, *Cassia nemophila* (*Senna artemisioides filifolia*) is an evergreen feathery shrub native to Australia fast-growing to 6ft. Drought and cold tolerant. Naturally rounded shape, if needed prune when dormant. Cup-shaped yellow flowers on leaf tips late winter to summer, seed pods follow.
3. **Atlas Mountain Palm**, *Chamaerops humilis var. argentea* André is silver palm native to the mountains of Morocco and Algeria and is a slow-growing clumping palm to 12ft. It is normally dioecious, male and female flowers on separate plants like the holly bush and it pollinated by a weevil. It thrives in a temperate climate but does well in our desert and as a house plant. Frost, cold and drought tolerant, full sun to part sun. Poor to rocky soil. This plant is a beautiful focal plant for beside the pool, the entry or courtyard.
4. **Terrestrial Bromeliad**, *Bromeliaceae* is a large family of plants native to the tropics. They vary from epiphytes like **Spanish Moss**, *Tillandsia usneoides* to terrestrial species including the one shown here, **Dyckias** native to Brazil, the pineapple and the **Puya** native to the Andes (newly planted in the backyard to the right of the shade structure). The terrestrial bromeliads need loose soil with organic material to hold water but cactus mix is fine for Dyckias. Full sun to part shade. Striking and dramatic accent plants.
5. **Desert Rose**, *Adenium obesum* has a very large caudex at its base to 1ft in diameter and is multi-branched. It has bright red or pink flowers and glossy green leaves. Related to the *Pachypodium* and *Oleander* and is native to parts of Africa and Arabia. Water when soil is dry. Not frost tolerant and dormant during winter. Used as a bonsai, wash hands thoroughly before touching eyes after handling.
6. **Felt Plant**, *Kalanchoe beharens* is a member of the *Kalanchoe* family native to southern Madagascar to 5-10ft with velvety green leaves covered in brown hairs. The deeply cut leaves grown in pairs along the stem with new leaves lighter in color. Protect from full summer sun. Part shade. Moderate water, well-drained soil, take care to not over water, protect from frost.
7. **Tall Slipper Plant**, *Pedilanthus bracteatus* is a member of the *Euphorbia* family native to the woodlands of Sonora and Guerrero in Mexico to 6-9ft with leafed branches and reddish bract flowers in Spring. Drought tolerant when established, can be frost tender, well-drained soil. Full sun to part shade. Dramatic addition the garden does well in beds and containers. Attracts hummingbirds.
8. **Mexican Sage**, *Salvia leucantha* is hummingbird favorite with beautiful soft and fuzzy purple-blue blooms native to Mexico, to 5ft tall and 6ft wide. Long bloomer in spring/summer, cut back after bloom season for a more compact shape and shear back near to ground in winter to encourage growth. Cold tolerant to 15°. Low water when established. Sun to part shade.
9. **Mexican Grass Tree**, *Dasyllirion longissimum* is an excellent specimen plant with a grasslike appearance in the *Nolina* family without teeth, to 6ft. Old foliage may be removed to show a single trunk and the leaves appear to be floating above the trunk. White flowers in summer on long stalk. Moderate grower with full sun. Low water when established, cold tolerant to 15°.

continued on reverse



Written by Tracy Merrigan

10. **Chuparosa**, *Justicia californica* is a perennial native to the deserts of California, Arizona and Mexico. Its common name **Chuparosa** is colloquial Spanish for hummingbird, normally to 3ft by 4ft wide but can grow much larger with more water. The beaked red flowers in winter and spring attract hummingbirds and other birds. Has semi-succulent leaves and can have orange or yellow flowers., fast draining rocky or sandy soil. Drought and cold tolerant when established, moderate to fast growth.
11. **Cape Aloe**, *Aloe ferox* is a tree aloe (also called Bitter Aloe) native to South Africa's Western Cape and is endangered in the wild to 10ft. Used to make bitter aloe medication. Yellow flowers on 2ft high stalks. Sandy-loamy soil with moderate water. Full sun and open area. Beautiful focal plant.
12. **Chaste Tree**, *Vitex agnus-castus* is deciduous shrub to small tree to 10-15ft tall and wide and is native to the Mediterranean. Full sun with well-drained soil, moderate water. Beautiful sprays of blue or white flowers in Spring with seed pods to follow. Popular with wildlife and will sow volunteers. Takes to pruning, see it here pruned as a tree.
13. **Desert Fern** or **Feather Bush**, *Lysiloma watsonii* is a small deciduous tree to 20ft and part of the Mimosa family and native to Arizona. Full sun, well drained soil, drought tolerant when established. Cream puff-ball flowers in Spring, seed pods to follow, messy around pools. Can be multi-trunked.
14. **Tree Aloe**, *Aloe bainesii* or *Aloe barberae* is native to South Africa and can grow to 40ft. With dark green curved leaves and pink flowers. Full sun to part afternoon shade, heat resistant, cold hardy to 25°, drought tolerant when established, well-drained soil. Dramatic focal point and great addition poolside or in containers.
15. **Common Rue**, *Ruta graveolens* is an herb native to the Balkans to 3ft by 3ft with decorative yellow flowers and bluish leaves. Thrives in heat and dry soil conditions. Used for seasoning in Greek and Ethiopian cooking.
16. **Purple Queen**, *Tradescantia pallida* is a spiderwort part of a family of perennials native from Southern Canada to Northern Argentina to 2 ft tall. Purple Queen is a tender perennial and will have a dormant period where it will thin back and look dried out. Great for the northern side of the home or partial shade this plant (full sun non-desert) is a great ground cover or understory plant, pinch back for a fuller plant, stems will root along ground, small pink flowers in spring & summer. Cuttings easily root, moderate water.
17. **Pereskia**, *Pereskia horrida* is part of the cactus family native to the dry forests of Peru and grows as a shrub or tree to 20ft. Unlike all other cacti it has leaves and rose-like flowers in red, pink, orange or white. It is not a succulent, keep moister in Summer and drier in Winter. Part shade. Can propagate by cuttings, do not let cuttings dry out. This plant is a stunner.
18. **Spicy Jatropha**, *Jatropha integerrima* is an evergreen shrub or tree and part of the *Euphorbia* family. It is native to Cuba to 15ft and blooms with beautiful red flowers most of the year. Drought and poor soil tolerant, needs to be well-drained though, protect from frost. Full sun to part shade. Takes well to pruning year-round. Hummingbird and butterflies are attracted to this showy tree. Does well in containers.
19. **Poinsettia**, *Euphorbia pulcherrima* is a tree to 15ft native to Mexico and Central America with colored bracts that appear when days grow shorter - hence their colorful use as a Christmas plant. Well-drained soil, take care not to over water, afternoon shade. Has been used as a Christmas plant since 16th century Mexico.
20. **Madagascar Palm**, *Pachypodium lamerei* is a native to Madagascar to 12ft. Not a palm but a succulent related to the Plumeria. Large white fragrant blooms with narrow leaves at top of trunks. Very frost intolerant, will drop leaves below 40 degrees. Full sun to part shade. Dramatic feature plant.
21. **Fig**, *Ficus carica* is the common fig tree native to the Middle East and Western Asia to 30 ft, like the Olive tree it has been cultivated since ancient times and has been widely dispersed throughout temperate climates for food and ornamental purposes. Can be a good shade tree. The Banyan is a fig tree. Fig's latex is a skin irritant. Well drained soil.
22. **Ponytail Palm**, *Beaucarnea recurvata* is a plant of the *Asparagaceae* family native to Mexico and not closely related to the palm, to 15ft. The caudex at its base is used for storing water. A houseplant for many, it does well in our full sun and is drought tolerant, full sun to part shade. Cold tolerant to 25°. Slow grower.