



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

News Release

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A Free Educational Landscape Fair Offers Gardening Techniques to Protect Homes from Fires

SAN DIEGO, CA-- The City of San Diego Environmental Services Department and the San Diego Horticultural Society will host a free landscape fair, ***Out of the Ashes...Gardens Reborn!***, on Saturday, October 9, 2004 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the City's Ridgehaven Green Building, located at 9601 Ridgehaven Court in Kearny Mesa. Almost one year after the October 2003 Fires, this landscaping fair will offer residents rebuilding their homes after losing them in the fires, those who live in fire-prone areas or would like information about creating appropriate landscapes that work *within* San Diego's fire-prone, dry, Mediterranean climate and reduce the risk of fire hazards.

The fair will offer educational information about the many products, design philosophies, plants and creative yet practical possibilities when creating a new landscape or neighborhood green space. Expert speakers and panel discussions will cover a wide range of topics. Educational literature, landscape suppliers, designers and contractors, plant sales, book signings, hands-on demonstrations and garden tours will round out the educational components of the event. Participants will also have the opportunity to win door prizes.

Guest speakers will include well-known horticulturist Pat Welsh, who will talk about "Right Plant/Right Place," and show slides from her new book, *The American Horticultural Society Southwest SMART GARDEN™ Regional Guide*. Steve Brigham, author of *Ornamental Trees of San Diego*, will discuss dozens of beautiful trees suited to all regions of the county. Greg Rubin, of California's Own Landscape Design, will speak on "Designing a Garden of California Natives." Mike Evans, native plant restoration specialist and owner of Tree of Life

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Nursery, is another featured speaker. Mike Buckner, The Plant Man, will also uncover the world of succulents, nature's most fire resistant plants.

Other slide presentations and discussion topics will include irrigation, landscaping for fire safety, creative hardscape, garden design, low-water use landscaping, and hiring landscape professionals. San Diego landscape designer Pamela Homfelt of pH Exterior Design will lead on-site garden tours of the 'Green Building' demonstration garden which comprises seven different gardens, all appropriate to San Diego.

For more information on this event visit the San Diego Horticultural Society's Web site at www.sdhortsoc.org, or call Randy Blum at (858) 492-5036. Preferred seating will be available to garden rebuilders by emailing landscapefair@yahoo.com. For more information about the City of San Diego's Environmental Services Department or the Ridgehaven Gardens, please contact the department's Customer Service at (858) 694-7000 or visit the department's Web site at www.sandiego.gov/enviornmental-services/.

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