



Water Agency Landscape Contest Winners Announced at Water Conservation Garden

On Saturday, May 8th, a crowd gathered at the Water Conservation Garden, located on the grounds of Cuyamaca College, to celebrate water-wise landscapes and reward five of the area’s most beautiful examples. Helix, Otay, Padre Dam water districts, Sweetwater Authority, and the City of San Diego, sponsored the **Water Agency’s California-Friendly Landscape Contest**. Each agency honored one of its residents with a certificate of appreciation and a \$250 gift certificate to a local nursery for their outstanding use of low-water planting.

The winners were:

Otay	Cheryl & Steve Whiteley	Spring Valley
Sweetwater	Julia & Keith Lindsey	Chula Vista
Helix	Charles Aldrich	La Mesa
Padre Dam	Carolyn Post-Ladd	Santee
City of San Diego	Philip Diamond & Kevin Tilden	San Diego

While accepting her award, Padre Dam’s winner Carolyn Post-Ladd quipped, “Now, people stop to tell me what a beautiful landscape I have. No one ever stopped to say, ‘What beautiful grass!’”

Garden Executive Director Marty Eberhardt welcomed the crowd under the new shade sails at the Garden’s amphitheatre, and garden writer and radio personality Nan Sterman served as mistress of ceremony. Nan pointed out that the most engaging part about these landscapes was not only their water savings but their amazing variety and beauty. Some of the landscapes were completely owner designed and planted, beginning with just a little area that grew and grew, while others were professionally designed and installed. All but one of the winners had been to the Water Conservation Garden before and gotten their inspiration from what they saw or taken Garden classes.

City of San Diego

Helix Water District

Otay Water District

Padre Dam Municipal Water District

Sweetwater Authority

The Water Conservation Garden

More beauty - less water

Fifty to seventy percent of the water used in San Diego County is used on landscaping. The region imports 90% of its water. The cost of imported water is increasing and regional shortages are anticipated for years to come. Participants in this contest unanimously saw low-water landscaping as more and more attractive and necessary. The prize-winning landscapes serve as shining examples of what San Diego's scenery will look like in the future—having more beauty using less water.



Left: Cactus and succulents with amazing color and curb appeal dominate the Aldrich front yard.



Left: Helix Water District Director Kathleen Coates Hedberg gave Charles Aldrich his certificate and prize.



Left: A car plowed through the Lindsey's street-strip just a few weeks ago. However, these hardy water-wise plants rebounded with a riot of color and texture.

Below: (Far Left) Sweetwater Authority's Communications Coordinator Sue King and (Far Right) Director Rubalcaba pose with Keith and Julie Lindsey.





Left: The Diamond-Tilden residence welcomes the visitor with warm tones and defined surfaces, making the entry clean and visually appealing.

Below: Jennifer Casamassima, San Diego City's Interim Deputy Director of Long Range Planning and Water Resources for the Public Utilities awarded Philip Diamond and Kevin Tilden their prize as Nan Sterman, garden book author and mistress of ceremony, looked on.



Left: Cheryl and Steve Whitely pose with Director Gary Croucher of Otay Water Disteric



Carolyn Post-Ladd accepts her gift and certificate from Director Scalzetti from Padre Dam Municipal Water District.



Loaded with cub appeal both the Whitely (left) and the Post-Ladd (right) landscapes make an appealing impression.

