



August 2010

Welcome to our new volunteers:

Bruce, Keven, Lorraine, Alan, Rudy, Michaela, Izzy, Juan Luis, Emily, and Thomas

Thank you to the work groups who joined us this month:

Goldman Sachs worked on the west side deadheading flowers and cleaning up the toolshed terraces.

Two groups from Salesforce helped in Officers' Row: one fertilizing the pelargonium trough while the other group sifted rocks in the toolshed terraces and deadheaded the pelargoniums.

Thank you to everyone who contributed time this month. Total volunteer hours were 583.

Volunteering anniversaries

Oksana Protsukha, 2009

Highlights of August

A visitor from a correctional facility was on a private tour with Ranger John and walked through the gardens. She was very interested in the gardens and wanted to feature a story for their Correctional News. Click here to listen to the [podcast](#).

A visitor on the docent tour loved her visit so much that she blogged about her visit. Click [here](#) to read about her trip.

Volunteering on Alcatraz just got even better! Volunteers who work a minimum of 20 hours will be given 2 complimentary tickets per year for family members. Please contact Shelagh to request tickets.

Peter Chiang invites you to browse through his [photo collection](#) of Alcatraz.

Plant of the month



Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora
Common name: montbretia
Family: Iridaceae
Origin: South Africa

This plant can be found in Officers' Row and the east terrace of the cellhouse. Growing from a corm, this summer-flowering bulb is another hardy survivor of the prison closure. The plants in Officers' Row are the original corms, surviving under the cypress tree canopy that used to be in the foundation of the middle garden.

See you in the gardens,
Shelagh

[The Gardens of Alcatraz](#) | www.alcatrazgardens.org | sfritz@gardenconservancy.org





July 2010

Welcome to our new volunteers:

Evelyn, Charlie, Enrique, Sean, Sue Ann, Bob, Patty, Doris, and Melissa

Thank you to the work groups who joined us this month:

Goldman Sachs worked in the compost area and deadheading pelargoniums on the rose terrace.

O'Melveny & Myers gardened in Officers' Row and the trough planter.

Stuart Hall cleaned up the toolshed terraces.

The LINC program joined us again this summer and worked on the callas on the North Road.

SCA commuter group, a group of summer employees of the Parks Conservancy, has been busy this summer working at different locations of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and joined us on Alcatraz.

Thank you to everyone that contributed time this month. Total volunteer hours were 767.

Volunteering anniversaries

Peter Chiang, 2009

Bob and Phylis Demchick, 2009

Leah Ferrer, 2009

Highlights of July

Congratulations to Dick Miner, Chief Composting Officer (CCO), aka The Worm Man of Alcatraz, who won 'First Place' and 'Best in Show' for his Alcatraz compost at the Marin County Fair. Click [here](#) for his recipe on Facebook.



The Rose Terrace greenhouse was recently featured in Alice Joyce's garden blog, [Bay Area Tendrils](#).

The [Alcatraz Alumni](#) weekend is being held August 7-8. The gardens will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. both days and garden volunteers are very welcome to come out and meet the past residents and help show the gardens off to the many visitors. The restoration of the gardens relied on the many photographs brought forward by these past residents.

Shelagh will be ordering name tags for new volunteers; please let her know if you would like one.

Plant of the month



Lathyrus latifolius
Common name: perennial sweet pea
Family: Fabaceae
Origin: Europe

This plant can be found in Officers' Row, trailing over the terrace walls. A perennial plant that comes back vigorously year after year, the vegetation produced by this plant quickly accumulated. After 40 years with no one to remove the dead vegetation, the Officers' Row gardens were quickly consumed by this pretty survivor garden plant.

See you in the gardens,
Shelagh

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A project of the Garden Conservancy in partnership with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy and National Park Service





June 2010

Welcome to our new volunteers:

Ho Chi, Denise, Mona, Susan Joy

Thank you to the work groups who joined us this month:

The Presidio Native Plant Nursery and REI Berkeley deadheaded the pelargoniums in the Rose Terrace.

PG&E weeded the East Cell House Terrace.

Two work groups from Google cleared the Chasmanthe from the west lawn and cut it into pieces for the compost.

Thank you to everyone that contributed time this month. Total volunteer hours this month were 779.

Volunteering anniversaries

Randy Berggren, 2005

David Skinner, 2009

Helen Stimson, 2009

Highlights of June

The Gardens of Alcatraz website has been updated with a before-and-after gallery, as well as a survivor plant list and links to the latest media articles.

Have a look and send it to your friends! www.alcatrazgardens.org



Elizabeth Byers captured Mike Nevard caring for the new cuttings.

Several volunteers have been busy in the greenhouse propagating pelargoniums and succulents for planting this coming fall. If you are interested in helping and learning more about propagation please contact Shelagh.

Our favorite birds are back! Many of the gulls are busy raising their young chicks while the snowy egret chicks are almost as large as their parents. The birds will be with us until mid-September. Wildlife biologists are on the island every day if you have questions about the birds.

Plant of the month



Papaver rhoeas

Common name: Shirley poppy

Family: Papaveraceae

Origin: Europe

This plant can be found in Officers' Row in the middle foundation and in the Greenhouse Garden on the West Side. An old-fashioned garden plant, it was first introduced to Alcatraz in 1924 by the California Wildflower and Spring Blossom Society. At this time, the army was being encouraged by the town of San Francisco to beautify the island. One hundred pounds of seed, trees, and shrubs were donated and inmate gardeners helped with the planting.

See you in the gardens,
Shelagh

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