



Courtesy Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture

Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture shows Richard Dillon (left), Jane Coney and Quentin Kopp cutting the ribbon.

cultural library flourishes

plants; browse general and specialist horticulture and environmental magazines (350 titles); identify unknown plants; and scan listings for jobs in the field of horticulture. Authors, including myself, do research for their books. (There are 27,000 books for adults and a vertical file of pamphlets and clippings.) People also buy botanical art to decorate homes or give as presents.

And children are welcome, too: There are 1,600 books for children, and special children's programs. At 10:30 a.m. on the first and third Sunday of each month, children hear stories on plants, animals, nature and science themes drawn from the library's children's books. The story times are followed by a

docent-led tour, themed for children, of the Botanical Garden. And — this is a recent change — you can now get a library card to borrow books from the children's collection if you are a member of the garden or a schoolteacher. Schoolteachers will also appreciate the collection of K-12 lesson plans for garden-based science and math, eco-literacy and more.

The library's website (www.sfbotanicalgarden.org/2/library) lets you search for books and magazines (click on "search catalog") or plants in the Botanical Garden ("plant collections"). If you are touring the garden, you can use the plant database in the library to identify plants you saw there or

Plant Exchange anniversary

In Oakland, a nonprofit known as the Plant Exchange has been helping gardeners for 10 years. Their plant exchanges are free, volunteer-staffed events to which people bring unwanted plants and other garden supplies, as well as books, and take home what others have left. In the past couple of years, activities have included fundraising sales of books and plants and gardening workshops.

This year's fall plant exchange will take place noon-4 p.m. Oct. 21 at 4500 Lincoln Ave., Oakland, and will include food trucks and live music. For more information or to volunteer, go to www.theplantexchange.org or call (510) 866-8482.

find ones you want to see.

Admission to the library is free. Admission to the Botanical Garden is free to San Francisco residents with proof of residence; nonresidents pay \$7, with discounted fees for seniors, students and children. The library entrance is before the kiosk where garden en-

trance fees are collected. The library is open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday-Monday. For more information, (415) 661-1316, Ext. 403.

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