



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Where passionate gardeners meet to share knowledge and learn from each other.

socalhort.org

May 2014 Newsletter

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, May 8

Friendship Auditorium

3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles CA 90027

7:00 pm. Social Hour.

Meeting begins at

@ 8:00 pm.

SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Amy Kaplin
Janet Ogilby
Patricia Shanks
Stephanie Swengei

Please welcome any new members you see at our meetings.

SHARING SECRETS QUESTION

In anticipation of our May meeting, the Sharing Secrets question is: "Which plants do you grow to attract birds to your garden?" You can answer on our MemberLodge website or e-mail your response to: sglarkspur@aol.com by Friday, May 9.

IN THIS ISSUE

April Meeting Recap by Pat Steen.....	2
Sharing Secrets (April).....	2
Green Sheet will be back next month.	
Horticultural Happenings by Yvonne Savio.....	3
Upcoming Programs.....	4

Eric and Ann Brooks: Gardening is for the Birds Thursday, May 8, 2014



Eric and Ann Brooks teach bird watching classes at the South Coast Botanic Garden and lead field trips for the Palos Verdes/ South Bay Audubon Society. Both were fortunate to have parents with passions for things living and growing that they shared with their children. Eric's interest in observing birds ignited when he lived in San Antonio Texas and discovered beautiful and colorful birds living in his yard. He and a colleague began teaching bird watching classes in the South Bay over 30 years ago. While always appreciating the wildflowers while bird watching, Eric's interest in flora blossomed when he started working at the South Coast Botanic Garden. That interest became his vocation when he started working at a nursery in Torrance. He

became an Advanced California Certified Nursery Professional, and is presently serving on the CCN Pro committee for the California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers. Eric is also a founding member of the PV/SB Audubon Society and also of the South Bay Native Plant Society.

Ann majored in Biology in college, but her interests were redirected for a time while she went to nursing school and then became a Nurse Practitioner. A wonderful natural history tour to Thailand and Malaysia revived her interest in nature observation, and she enrolled in a bird watching class in the South Bay. A few twists of fate and time later, she went from student to chief photographer and teaching partner!

BIRD WATCHING FIELD TRIP

Saturday, May 10

Eric and Ann Brooks, our speakers for the May program of the Southern California Horticulture Society, will lead a bird-watching field trip at the Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden. We will meet at the front entrance of the Arboretum (base of steps near the gift shop) at 8 a.m. Saturday, May 10. Bring your binoculars, a wide-brimmed hat and sunscreen. We will be walking the grounds looking at birds and plants until around noon. If you are a member of the Arboretum, remember to bring your card. Non-members will be charged entry. The grounds of the Arboretum are home to many year-round resident birds as well as many migratory species (and Peacocks!)

Save the Date for a Hollywood Double-Feature Coffee in the Garden!

Sunday, June 8.



(Photo: LA Times)

In June we will have a double feature of Coffee in the Garden with two gardens, (in one day!) both in the Hollywood Hills. The gardens are a short distance from each other, yet couldn't be more different. We will visit the garden of Gail Cottman and also the garden of Judy Horton.

Gail Cottman says of her garden: Set in a frame work of tiled thrones, benches and ceramic art, my garden expands up a hillside in Beachwood Canyon. It contains various succulent sections with whimsical sculptures, a hummingbird retreat with grevillias, salvia's, honeysuckle and my favorite plant – Cantua, the sacred flower of the Incas. David Austin roses surround my heirloom tomatoes, bordered by herbs, a variety of chard, kale, onions, a large bay leaf tree and numerous lemon trees. Started in 1991, my garden features many trees and plants purchased from Gary Hammer, whose passion for gardens became contagious...in my case, perhaps even obsessive. But gardening, cooking, music, art and hummingbirds bring so much joy
(Continued on page 2.)

April Meeting Recap

The April meeting of the Southern California Horticultural Society was a presentation by Renee Shepherd on What's New and Noteworthy in the Seed World—Great Unique Varieties for the Home Gardener. Members experienced a feast for the eyes and imagination as Ms. Shepherd presented new seed introductions for 2014, edible favorites for the home garden, and beautiful flowering annuals and perennials. She began with a short description of her company, *Renee's Garden*. The company has over 100 sources worldwide for seeds, many from small farms and specialty companies, and concentrates on providing vegetable, herb, and flower seeds to home gardeners. She showed the organic, raised-bed trial gardens located in Felton, California and described the trial process, including the enviable job of taste testing. Ms. Shepherd reviewed some common terms frequently used in the seed industry for clarification before starting the series of plant photos and descriptions.

A recurring theme in the presentation was color, and lots of it: from the juicy purple of 'Lauren's Dark Grape' poppy to 'Aloha Mix' hummingbird nasturtiums to 'Peppermint Stick' chard and colorful 'Flashy Trout Back' lettuce. As the author of two cookbooks, Renee also shared food pairings and suggestions for using the bounty from the garden. SCHS is grateful for her generous donation of 50% of the cookbook sales that night and for the zinnia seeds and coupons for our members that were distributed at the meeting.

Thanks to James E. Henrich for filling in for Steven Gerischer, as well as to all of the people who helped to make the meeting run: the Programs Committee for arranging for our speaker, everyone who helped set up and run the meeting, and all of those who stayed late and helped clean up afterwards.

We hope to see you on May 8, when Eric and Ann Brooks show us why *Gardening is for the Birds!*

And remember the birdwatching field-trip to the Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden on Saturday, May 10.

-Pat Steen

SHARING SECRETS

In April, we asked you to answer "Which flowers/vegetables do you regularly start from seed each year?" and here are some of your responses. Read more on our SCHS MemberLodge website, schs.memberlodge.org.

I start melons, squash, and some tomatoes from seed every year- I love to try different varieties than the same standards the nurseries usually carry. In recent years there has been a lot more selection for tomatoes and peppers which is nice, hopefully they expand other vegetable selections as well. Some new things I'm growing this year include 'Moon & Stars' watermelon, 'Pomodoro' tomato, 'Napoli' zucchini, 'Crystal Apple' cucumbers, 'Haogen' melon, 'Banana' melon, 'African Horned' melon, and 'French pickling' cucumbers.

- Cynthia Robinson

For warm season growing: we start several varieties of (mostly) heirloom tomatoes. For winter growing: 'Goliath' snow peas are a favorite - crisp and sweet edible pods - we eat them right off the vines when the peas are almost full-sized. In fact I'm going to grab a few right now!

-Brenda Kano

For cool season growing I start Oregon sugar-pod peas, nasturtium (for eating and decoration), and sweetpeas—seed saved from old Cupani types. For warm season growing I had almost given up on green beans until I started 'Emerite' French fillet beans. They grow quickly and produce loads of tender beans in less than ideal conditions. I save seed each year. A sentimental must in my garden is blue/purple larkspur. Both my Grandmothers grew it and saved seed independently of each other—and both of them kept a jar near the back door to remember to pitch the seed out into the garden each Sept./Oct. for spring bloom (and so I named my business after the flower).

-Steven Gerischer

SCHS INTERN PRESENTATION

The 2013 SCHS intern awardee, **Cynthia Robinson** was scheduled to give a presentation of her work at Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden at the February meeting, but was ill and could not attend. The intern presentation has been rescheduled for our May meeting.

COFFEE IN THE GARDEN DOUBLE FEATURE CONTINUED

into my life...it is such a magnificent obsession.



The Cottmann Garden

Judy Horton Garden

(Excerpted from L.A. Times article)

When landscape designer Judy Horton moved into a 1925 cottage in the Hollywood Hills, the garden consisted of a lawn, a young sycamore tree, a camellia and a ficus hedge.



Photo: L.A. Times

"I needed to make quick and drastic changes," said Horton, who proceeded to remake her landscape to deliver pleasing views from the house's windows and doors.



Photo: L.A. Times

Join us to see these two contrasting gardens!

ARCADIA 91007

L.A. COUNTY ARBORETUM & BOTANIC GARDEN

301 N. Baldwin Ave.
626-821-4623; arboretum.org

May 3-4, 9:00 am–4:30 pm, SpringTopia!, Featured speakers, guided garden tours, Wildflowering LA, music, kids activities, food.

May 10-11, 9:00 am–4:00 pm, Geranium Society Show & Sale.

May 17, 9:00 am–4:00 pm, Epiphyllum Pre-sale viewing.

May 18, 10:00 am–4:00 pm, Epiphyllum Show & Sale. Epiphyllum Society of America (ESA). Cut flowers, pictures, arrangements, plants.

May 25, 10:00 am–3:00 pm, Queen Anne Cottage Open House, Arboretum. Docent-led tours. \$3.

May 24-26, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, Bonsai Show.

CLAREMONT 91711

RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN

1500 N. College Ave
909-625-8767 x200; rsabg.org

May 17, 10am–12noon, *California Native Food Plants*. Celebrate the winter harvest, California native plant-style. Production manager Antonio Sanchez discusses the basics of native edible plant gardening. Limit 20. Members \$25; public \$32.

May 25, 10:00 am–1:00 pm, *Medicinal Plants of California Herb Walk*. Join experienced herbalist William Broen discussing traditional and modern plant uses of approximately 30 species and how humans have interacted with plants throughout history. Members \$20; public \$25. Limit 20. Register online.

ENCINO 91436

SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER

16633 Magnolia Blvd.

May 13, 7:30 pm–9:30 pm, *Basics of California Indian Healing*. Jim Adams was trained for 14 years in Chumash healing and will present the basics of California Indian healing including the uses of several common California plants - white sage, sagebrush, mugwort, black sage, and yerba santa – and the pharmacology and safety issues of each plant. Sponsored by the California Native Plant Society, Los Angeles/ Santa Monica Mountains chapter.

LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE 91011

DESCANSO GARDENS

1418 Descanso Drive
818-949-7980; descansogardens.org

May 20, 2:00 pm, *Urban Beekeeping*. Walker Rollins of One Strong Hive (onestronghive.org) shares thought-provoking ideas on the importance of local beekeeping.

May 25, 10:30 am–4:00 pm, Rose Festival. Lectures on care and new varieties, arrangement demonstration, guides walks.

PALOS VERDES PENINSULA 90274

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN

26300 Crenshaw Blvd.
(310) 544-1948
southcoastbotanicgarden.org

May 4, 9:00 am–4:00 pm, South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale.

May 5, 7:30 pm, *New, Rare and Unique Native Plants for Your Garden*, Antonio Sanchez.

May 10, 10:00 am–4:00 pm, South Bay California Rare Fruit Growers Sale.

May 17-18, 9:00 am–4:00 pm, South Bay Geranium Show & Sale.

SAN MARINO 91108

HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

1151 Oxford Rd.
626-405-2128; huntington.org

May 8, 2:30 pm, Garden Talk & Plant Sale: *Australian Boabs and Bottle Trees*. Succulent expert Attila Kapitany discusses the majestic giants of the Australian continent—its boabs and bottle trees—including information on cultivation and their potential for use in landscape design. A plant sale will follow the program. Ahmanson Room, Brody Botanical Center.

May 15, 2014, 4:30 pm. *Rose Garden Tour*. Join Tom Carruth, the E. L. and Ruth B. Shannon Curator of the Rose Collections, for a private tour of the Huntington's Rose Garden and learn about its history and most recent additions. \$15. Reserve tickets online or call 800-838-3006.

May 17, 2014, 10:00am–Noon, *Native Pollinators and the Plants They Love*. Join locally based bug and insect enthusiast Hartmut Wisch for a workshop in The Huntington's Ranch Garden, where he'll provide a glimpse into some of nature's most dedicated relationships: the connections between native pollinators and the plants to which they are irresistibly drawn. \$25. Purchase tickets online or call 800-838-3006

SUN VALLEY 91352

THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION

10459 Tuxford Street
(818) 768-1802; theodorepayne.org

May 10, 1:30 pm–3:30 pm
Many Uses of Yucca Workshop with Kat High

May 17, 8:30 am–12:30 pm
California Native Plant Horticulture. The basics on gardening with California flora: the definition of "native plant", why natives are valuable, about plant communities, plus planting techniques, establishment, irrigation, pruning and ongoing maintenance. Recommended for beginners; required prerequisite to our Three-part California Native Plant Garden Design course. \$40 members, \$50 nonmembers.

May 24, 1:30 pm–3:30 pm
Kill Your Lawn with Steven Gerischer. Lawns = wasted water, air and noise pollution, and toxic runoff – and you can make a difference. \$25 members, \$35 non-members.

May 31, 1:00 pm–3:00 pm
No Plants! Hardscape Materials and Techniques with Andreas Hessing. How do you build the bones of a garden? This class surveys standard and alternative building techniques and materials for walls, walks, fences and seats. \$25 members, \$35 non-members

The Garden Conservancy Open Days

Garden Tour Los Angeles/Westside. May 10, (Most gardens open 10:00 am–4:00 pm) Please begin this Open Day at Greystone Park & Mansion where directions to each private garden will be provided. Admission to each garden is \$7, payable in cash or check, or purchase discounted tickets (\$35 for six). Go to: gardenconservancy.org for more details.

- Compiled by Yvonne Savio
Send notices to: yvonesavio@earthlink.net

UPCOMING 2014 SCHS PROGRAMS

At Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles CA 90027, starting at 7:30 pm, unless otherwise noted.

May 8—Eric and Ann Brooks: *Gardening is for the Birds.*

June 12—Hartmut Wisch: *Native Bees.*

July 10—Ron Rasmussen: *The El Moro Elfin Forest in Los Osos.*

August 14—Lucy Tolmach: *Restoring the Fruit Orchard at Filoli.*

September—Horticulturalist of the Year Award Dinner.

SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS

It is time to start collecting (or propagating!) donated items for the silent auction at the Horticulturist of the Year award dinner in September. If you are growing really interesting/rare plants start a cutting or plant up a nice container. Contact Steven Gerischer with any questions/donations: sglarkspur@aol.com.

NOTE AT PRESS TIME:

A number of books were recently donated to the SCHS from the estate of a long-time member. There will be another smaller book sale in June or July. Watch for details in the next newsletter.

Southern California
Horticultural Society
PO Box 94476
Pasadena CA 91109-4476

NEWSLETTER
May 2014

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Contributors to this issue: Steven Gerischer,

Yvonne Savio and *Sharing Secrets* contributors.

Next deadline: Friday, May 9 (for June newsletter).

It is the Friday following our monthly membership meeting.

Please contribute an article or information of interest.