



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

July 2014 Newsletter

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, July 10

Friendship Auditorium

3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles CA 90027

**7:00 pm. Social Hour.
Meeting begins at**

8:00 pm.

SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Solveig Fong
Mary Harrison
Eileen Read
Drew Ready
Rebecca Smith

Please welcome our new members when you see them at our meetings.

SHARING SECRETS QUESTION

The Sharing Secrets question for July is: *"What is your top 'Bucket List' garden (gotta see it before you turn to compost)?"* You can answer on our MemberLodge website or e-mail your response to: sglarkspur@aol.com by Friday, June 13.

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

Thursday, July 10, 2014



Ron Rasmussen, Ph.D. is Adjunct Professor Emeritus from the School of Community and Environmental Medicine at UC Irvine. He has also taught and worked on numerous research projects at UC San Francisco and NASA's Ames Research Center in Mountain View, CA, specializing in papers that reported on cancer-causing chemicals found in our environment.

Upon his retirement, Dr. Rasmussen chose the Central Coast city of Morro Bay to settle. There he quickly became involved with local, natural area preservation efforts. He is currently the President and Chair of the Los Osos/Morro Bay Chapter of Small Wilderness Area Preservation, Inc., which is in charge of preserving the Los Osos Elfin Forest. His talk will cover the history of the forest, the success of the restoration efforts (rescue from Human and Non-Native Plant

invasions), and information on the unique native plants and animals that live there.

Small Wilderness Area Preserves, Inc. (S.W.A.P.) S.W.A.P., Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) California corporation founded in 1971 by Ansel Adams, Margaret Owings, Emily Polk and Edgar Wayburn. The specific and primary purposes of the corporation are exclusively to receive, administer and disburse funds for tax-exempt, charitable, scientific, literary and educational purposes in order to provide a mechanism by which the people can preserve vitally important natural areas of undeveloped land, or small wilderness areas, through contributions for the use and benefit of the general public.

Since its incorporation S.W.A.P., Inc. has been instrumental in land acquisition and preservation in Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, San Diego and San Luis Obispo counties. Local chapters have been active in Santa Barbara, Los Osos/Morro Bay and Cambria where volunteers, in collaboration with State and local agencies, have acted to preserve, maintain and oversee the preserved lands. Combined membership of the branches was approximately 800. Once acquired, lands have been deeded to California State or County Parks or other local governmental agencies. A formal maintenance agreement between the Los Osos/Morro Bay Chapter of S.W.A.P. and the San Luis Obispo Department of General Services has continued since July 1994.

Los Osos/Morro Bay Chapter of S.W.A.P. This chapter was primarily responsible for the purchase in 1994 of a 90-acre parcel of land at the southern edge of Morro Bay and

transfer of that land to California State Parks and San Luis Obispo County Parks. This land, now known as El Moro Elfin Forest Natural Area, was originally slated for development and construction of as many as 150 houses. The northern 51 acres were added to Morro Bay State Park. Through intensive fund raising efforts in the community and by obtaining grants from state and federal agencies, the purchase price of \$1.6M for the remaining 39 acres was gathered. The goal was reached with only 2 months before the option to purchase would have expired. Today, the Elfin Forest is considered a prime example of California Coastal chaparral, and visitors from other areas often comment on the beauty of the area and the striking views of the Bay and surrounding hills. The local chapter of S.W.A.P. continues to be formally responsible for the restoration and maintenance of the Elfin Forest.



(An example of one of the Elfin Oak Groves that make the forest so unique.)

June Meeting Recap

The June meeting of the Southern California Horticultural Society was a presentation of an: *Introduction to Native Bees of California* by Hartmut Wisch. Hartmut showed us an amazing number of close up photos of our many native bees and the flowers they use for collecting food. Hours of patience are required to catch a shot of bees emerging from their underground nests, or alighting on a tiny blossom. Many of the bees pictured are only a few millimeters long.

The passion Mr. Wisch has for his subject was clearly evident as he spoke about the remarkable life cycles of these insects. Hartmut also spoke of the research which is showing that in many cases our native bee populations are well suited to pollinate crops as well as they do our California native plants. The macro-photography revealed many details that would be lost to the casual observer of these bees—many of which might be mistaken for gnats or tiny flies. Some of the easier to identify, or larger species, like our carpenter bees, were rendered in such stunning jewel-like detail with commentary about behavior and habits that they seemed utterly new. It was a treat to see pictures of the Leafcutter Bee after seeing evidence of its presence in my own garden for so many years. I have to admit that since the talk I have slowed down and watched the blossoms on my St. Catherine's Lace and Toyon a little more closely.

Of particular interest to many gardeners present was the information that many of our native bees are specialists and can only be seen in our gardens if we plant the specific plants they have evolved to utilize for pollen or nectar. Also mentioned was the need for restraint when mulching as many of our bees are ground nesters and need open soil.

We would like to thank Hartmut Wisch for the wonderful introduction to our native bees! Thanks as well to all of those who helped organize the speaker and set up and run the meeting—as well as those who stayed to help clean up.

Please join us for the July 10 meeting of SCHS as we welcome Ron Rasmussen and his presentation of: *The El Moro Elfin Forest in Los Osos*.

—Steven Gerischer

SHARING SECRETS

In June, we asked you to answer “*How has the lack of a pronounced winter chill affected your garden?*” and here are some of your responses. Read more on our SCHS MemberLodge website, schs.memberlodge.org.

Natural selection is the guiding principle in my yard, and frost tender plants that can't hack it at 33 degrees in Burbank generally fall out of the gene pool. I have an interesting tradescantia that does not like the chill so it is very lush right now! If the climate stays like this, I may have to try the *Pedilanthus tithymaloides* again!

—Sandy Masuo

Several of my fruit trees did a double-take – early ones like Tomcot apricot bloomed and set fruit two times two months apart, and later ones like Double Delight nectarine leafed out only on the bottom half of the tree and now in June are just leafing out on the top half. Definitely strange!

—Yvonne Savio

My low-chill fruit trees don't require many chill hours to set a crop, but the mild winter definitely did affect their schedule. Compared with the past couple years, my 'Royal Rosa' apricot was about two weeks premature, while my 'Arctic Star' nectarine and 'Cotton Candy' aprium were closer to four weeks ahead of schedule.

—Yoav Paskowitz

Silent Auction Donations, and Note regarding Horticulturist of the Year Award Dinner.

Our Horticulturist of the Year Award Dinner honoring Don Hodel, will be held on a **Saturday (September 13)** instead of the usual second Thursday of the month—look for details in the upcoming announcement. In the meantime we are seeking interesting and exciting donations for the silent auction to raise funds for SCHS and the work we do (including funding our speakers and our internship program). If you have favorite shops or service providers who might be willing to donate time, or gift certificates, or even a planted pot from your favorite nursery, ask them if they would be willing to support us. If you have anything to donate or need a question answered please contact Steven Gerischer at: sglarkspur@aol.com. Or call at: (323) 257-3629.

COFFEE IN THE GARDEN: DOUBLE FEATURE

Our wonderful June event took place on a mild morning and afternoon in Beachwood Canyon in the shadow of the Hollywood sign. We were privileged to see the gardens of SCHS members, Judy Horton and Gail Cottman. The two gardens could not have been more different, yet each was a beautiful expression of the passions and interests of its owner. The morning began at the garden of Judy Horton. This garden was designed to be seen from inside her charming bungalow-style home. However, the views outside and around the garden were intriguing and spectacular. The hostess and the Coffee in the Garden committee provide tables full of wonderful sweet and savory things to snack on while we toured the garden.

The next stop was the remarkable garden of Gail Cottman. This garden is as much an art installation as it is a garden, with thousands of tiles set into cement to create a series of colorful mosaics stretching up many levels of a steep hillside. There were themed areas (many referencing Oz) and whimsical collections of curious and beautiful things. The whole was almost overwhelming. Thank you! to Judy Horton and Gail Cottman for letting us see and enjoy these two beautiful gardens. Thank you as well to Joel Lichtenwalter, Yvonne Savio and Al and Pat Steen, as well as everyone else who helped make this Coffee in the Garden such a special experience.



...going about the garden below: the garden from inside the house.





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GREEN SHEET

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

APRIL 2014
PLANT FORUM NOTES

*Compiled by James E. Henrich
Photographs by Paul Martin*

Thank you to all who brought plants to the April 2014 meetings. Everyone is encouraged to bring in plants to share with the group. Remember that you receive one free Exhibitor's Ticket for the Plant Raffle if you bring one or more plants for discussion at the Plant Forum table (if there is a Plant Raffle that night).

In addition to the plants discussed below, the following plants, described or listed in the Society's Selected Plants for Southern California Gardens (2000) or previously written up for a Green Sheet, were shown. [Family names in accordance with the Angiosperm Phylogeny Group II (<http://www.mobot.org/mobot/research/apweb/>) are included for your reference.] Information in this compilation was gleaned and condensed from the Plant Forum exhibit cards, my personal library and a suite of various internet sites.

Aloysia triphylla, lemon verbena (Verbenaceae), by Gary Kamisher, West Los Angeles. [SPSCG, pg. 26]

Beta vulgaris subsp. *cicla* 'Bright Lights', Swiss chard (Chenopodiaceae), by Cynthia Robinson, Rancho Cucamonga. [SPSCG, pg. 54]

Calochortus venustus, mariposa lily (Liliaceae), by James E. Henrich, Azusa. [GS, April 2003]

Epipactis gigantea, stream orchid (Orchidaceae), by Paul Martin, Pasadena. [SPSCG, pg. 132]

Freesia laxa, false freesia (Iridaceae), by Ann Brooks, Baldwin Hills. (as *Anomatheca laxa*) [SPSCG, pg. 32]

Gladiolus cardinalis, waterfall gladiolus (Iridaceae), by Paul Martin, Pasadena. [SPSCG, pg. 165]

Leucospermum 'Spider Hybrid', spider pincushion (Proteaceae), by Gary Kamisher, West Los Angeles. [GS, February 2011]

Leucospermum 'Veldfire' (Proteaceae), by Gary Kamisher, West Los Angeles. [GS, February 2011]

Maireana sedifolia, pearl bluebush (Amaranthaceae), by Gary Kamisher, West Los Angeles. [SPSCG, pg. 238]

Papaver somniferum, opium poppy (Papaveraceae), by Aprille Curtis, Burbank. [SPSCG, pg. 270]

Salvia discolor, Andean silver leaf sage (Lamiaceae), by Dianne Connell, Torrance. [GS, January 2007]

Solanum pyracanthum, porcupine tomato (Solanaceae), by Cynthia Robinson, Rancho Cucamonga. [SPSCG, pg. 333]

Tillandsia aeranthos, air plant (Bromeliaceae), by Debra Galliani, Redondo Beach; & Jim Jaeger, Santa Monica. [SPSCG, pg. 349]

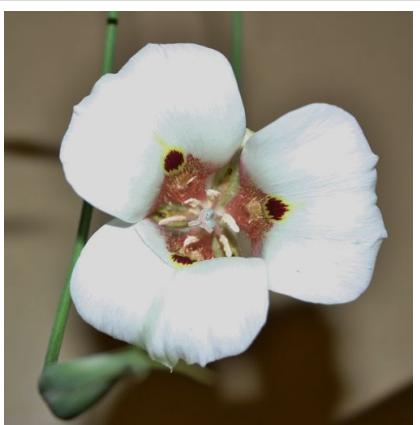
Plants that could not be fully identified:

Aeonium, houseleek (Crassulaceae), by Gail Cottman, Los Angeles.

Convolvulus tricolor 'Blue Ensign', dwarf morning glory (Convolvulaceae), by Cynthia Robinson, Rancho Cucamonga. Southern Europe and northern Africa (species). 2- to 2.5-inch fluted, vivid nautical blue flowers have a white star pattern from the throat and yellow centers. Flowers are held above the foliage for several months in summer. Habit is as a low mounding plan to 12 inches tall and 36 inches wide. Trim plants back halfway in summer if they get rangy to stimulate more flowers. This plant self sows.

Dianthus 'Cheshire Cat', pink (Caryophyllaceae), by Cynthia Robinson, Rancho Cucamonga. Large blooms (to 4" across) sport pink-based petals, flecked and streaked with deep, cherry crimson; heaviest flowering occurs in spring and summer. Flowers cut for arrangements are long lasting. This long-lived perennial grows to 30 inches tall and across with stout, arching, bluish-green stems. Provide rich, well-drained soil and side dress with compost once or twice a year for maximum bloom. Cut back to 6 inches tall to stimulate new growth and more flowers. 'Cheshire Cat' was created by John Barrington of Taunton, England, a passionate breeder, to resemble similar varieties grown in the 1800s.

Pelargonium 'Crystal Palace Gem', geranium (Geraniaceae), by Cynthia Robinson, Rancho Cucamonga. Plants grow to 24 inches tall and wide in full sun to partial shade and medium soil moisture. 'Crystal Palace Gem' was first introduced in 1869 and has been a show stopper ever since. It was named for Joseph Paxton's elaborate glass house designed in 1851 for London's Great Exhibition in Hyde Park. Like its namesake, the plant is showy with its round, chartreuse leaves and mid-green centers which contrast dramatically with its salmon-red flowers.

*Calochortus venustus**Epipactis gigantea**Papaver somniferum*

Polygala fruticosa, sweet pea shrub (Polygalaceae), by Jim Jaeger, Santa Monica. South Africa. Plants grow to about 30 inches tall and 18 inches wide. Masses of vibrant purplish-magenta pea-like flowers adorn the compact mound of gray-green leaves for much of the year. Grow in full sun to partial shade with moderate water. Prune back to about ten inches in midwinter to maintain compact habit. These pea-like plants are distinguished from legumes by having a fringed keel and fruits that are capsules.

Rosa 'Peace', Peace rose (Rosaceae), by Cynthia Robinson, Rancho Cucamonga. This hybrid tea rose has large, light yellow to cream flowers with petals flushed crimson-pink along the edges. It was developed by French horticulturist Francis Meilland between 1935 and 1939 and originally named 'Madame A. Meilland'. With the impending invasion of France by Germany, Meilland sent cuttings to friends in Italy, Turkey, Germany and the United States (safeguarded and propagated by the Conard Pyle Co.), where each country gave the rose a different name. After the war, Meilland asked Field Marshall Alan Brooke (principal strategist that won World War II) to give his name to the rose. Brooke, though honored, graciously declined and suggested the more enduring name 'Peace'. Conard Pyle Co. announced the name in the United States on April 29, 1945, the day Berlin fell.

Teucrium glandulosum, desert germander (Lamiaceae), by Ann & Eric Brooks, Baldwin Hills. Arizona, northeast Sonoran Desert, Baja California. Woody perennial or small shrub to about 3 feet tall and variously branched. Leaves to nearly 5 inches long and about 0.5 inch wide with margins that can be entire, palmate-lobed or few-toothed. Flowers are white or bluish, appearing from May to July. Plants in the wild grow in washes or canyons, or on rocky slopes. This species is considered rare.

Tillandsia caerulea, air plant (Bromeliaceae), by Debra Galliani, Redondo Beach. Southeastern Ecuador to northern Peru. This delicate-looking bromeliad is very resilient. It grows well in bright conditions and forms a lovely, symmetrical clump to 10 inches in diameter after several seasons. The long, slender inflorescences complement the leaves and add to the overall beauty. The sky-blue flowers have a delicious, delicate fragrance. Silver hairs on the leaves provide protection from the sun and reduce desiccation. It does not require high humidity.

Tritonia crocata 'Flaming Fancy', kalkoentjie (Iridaceae), by Ann & Eric Brooks, Baldwin Hills. [species SPSCG, pg. 355] South Africa. This cormous plant grows to 18 inches tall, with bright coral-orange flowers. It is winter growing and summer dormant. Provide average water for this drought-tolerant plant. Grow in sun to light shade in the ground or containers. The flowers are suitable for cutting.

Euphorbia pulcherrima 'Luv U Pink', poinsettia (Euphorbiaceae), by Cynthia Robinson, Rancho Cucamonga. [sp. SPSCG, pg. 149]
Pelargonium 'Dark Mystery', geranium (Geraniaceae), by Cynthia Robinson, Rancho Cucamonga.

Rosa 'Rock n Roll', Rock n Roll rose (Rosaceae), by Cynthia Robinson, Rancho Cucamonga.

Scabiosa atropurpurea 'Black', black pincushion flower (Caprifoliaceae), by Cynthia Robinson, Rancho Cucamonga. [sp. SPSCG, pp. 322-323]

Tillandsia bourgaei, air plant (Bromeliaceae), by Debra Galliani, Redondo Beach. Mexico.

Tillandsia meridionalis, air plant (Bromeliaceae) by Jim Jaeger, Santa Monica.

*Pelargonium 'Crystal Palace Gem'**Tillandsia aeranthos*

5 HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

ARCADIA 91007

L.A. COUNTY ARBORETUM & BOTANIC GARDEN

301 North Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA 91007
626-821-4623 arboretum.org

Saturday & Sunday, July 26&27, 9:00 am–4:30 pm. 50th Annual Fern & Exotic Plant Show. Displays of ferns and other exotic plants, vendors, lectures, and “opportunity” drawings.

LOS ANGELES 90007

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

900 Exposition Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90007
(213) 763-3499 nhm.org

Tue, July 15, 7:00 pm–9:00 pm

Moonlight Gardens. Twilight is a magical time in the garden. Join Carol Bornstein for an evening stroll through the Nature Gardens as we explore timeless garden traditions that make the most of moonlight. The workshop focuses on water-thrifty plants with silvery foliage, white blossoms, of fragrant, night-blooming flowers that are well suited to southern California gardens. Member \$10/Non-member \$15.

PASADENA 91107

EATON CANYON NATURE CENTER

1750 North Altadena Drive
Pasadena 91107
616-398-5420 ecnca.org

Sun, July 13, 9:00 am – 11:30 am

California Native Plant Society Walk
Meet leader in front of the Nature Center.
Rain cancels walk.

FULLERTON 92831

FULLERTON ARBORETUM

1900 Associated Road
Fullerton 92831
657-278-3407 fullertonarboretum.org

Saturday, July 19, 5:30pm. 17th Annual Midsummer Night in the Garden. Special event of exquisite food, fine wines, moonlight dancing, opportunity baskets and live auction and dancing honors Dr. Don Shields, the 2014 Golden Oak Honoree. Dinner by award-winning David Slay of Park Ave Restaurant, one of the Zagat-rated five best restaurants in Orange County. \$125 per person.

SAN MARINO 91108

HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

1151 Oxford Road
San Marino 91108
626-405-2100 huntington.org

Thursday, July 10, 2:30 pm. Garden Talk & Sale: *Beneficial Bugs in the Garden.* Horticulturist Lili Singer of the Theodore Payne Foundation discusses some of the good bugs to look for in your garden, with

tips on how to attract and support them. A plant sale follows the talk. No reservations required.

Saturday, July 26, 10:30 am–1:00 pm.
Ranch Open House. Self-tour The Huntington's urban agriculture site and take home some fresh ideas for sustainable gardening. From the Teaching Greenhouse, follow signs to the site.

PALOS VERDES PENINSULA 90274

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN

26300 Crenshaw Blvd
Palos Verdes Peninsula 90274
310-544-1948 southcoastbotanicgarden.org

Saturday, 7/26, 9:00 am–12:00 noon. *Small-Space Food Gardening.* Want to grow your own food but don't have a lot of space? If you can provide three basics: sun, water and great soil, you can vegetable garden regardless of how much space you have. Registration required by 7/24; contact Guest Services to reserve. \$25 members / \$35 non-members plus \$10 materials fee payable to instructor and Master Gardener Judith Gerber.

SUN VALLEY 91352

THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION

10459 Tuxford Street
Sun Valley 91352
818-768-1802 theodorepayne.org

Saturday, July 5, 1:30 pm–3:30 pm. *Look, Ma, No Lawn!* with Lili Singer. How to remove your lawn and alternatives for the space—specifically low-care native plants that need no fertilizer and use a fraction of the water required for turf. Lili is TPF's director of special projects and adult education, a Los Angeles native and an award-winning horticulturist and garden writer. \$25 members, \$35 non-members.

Saturday, July 19, 8:30 am–12:30 pm.
California Native Plant Horticulture with Lili Singer. The basics on gardening with California flora: why natives are valuable, about plant communities, plus planting techniques, establishment, irrigation, pruning and ongoing maintenance. Recommended for beginners; prerequisite to our Three-part California Native Plant Garden Design course. \$40 members, \$50 non-members.

Friday, July 25, 9:00 am–11:00 am. *Planting Native Trees and Shrubs* with Rebecca Latta. Plant health depends on many factors, including proper pruning techniques, performed at the right times of the year and only when needed. Learn which native trees and shrubs should be pruned and why, when and how to make good cuts. Class includes lecture, demonstration and hands-on practice. Rebecca is the owner of Rebecca Latta Consulting, a Southern California firm

specializing in arboriculture, horticulture and locally native plants and wildlife. She is an ISA Certified Arborist and Tree Risk Assessor. \$25 members, \$35 non-members.

Saturday, July 26, 8:30 am–12:30 pm. 3-part *CA Native Garden Design, Part I*, with Anna Armstrong & Richard Walker (Course Prerequisite: California Native Plant Horticulture class.) Part 1 of three Saturdays: July 26, August 9 and August 23. This comprehensive three-session course for home gardeners offers a sound foundation in design styles and process, the importance of sustainability and how to model a garden after patterns in nature. Anna and Richard are Monrovia-based CA-licensed landscape architects with extensive experience in planning, designing and supervising successful landscape projects. \$220 members, \$265 nonmembers; \$275 member couples, \$335 nonmember couples.

SAN PEDRO 90731

WHITE POINT NATURE EDUCATION CENTER

Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy
1600 West Paseo del Mar
San Pedro 90731
310-541-7613 pvplc.org

July 12, 9:00 am, Moderate Nature Walk. Explore Alta Vicente Reserve North Spur Trail through the last farm area on the Peninsula with coastal views, and a site of the Conservancy's recent habitat restoration to turn degraded land into native habitat for attracting birds and wildlife. All walks are free and do not require reservations. Walks are on dirt trails, and participants are urged to wear comfortable shoes with good traction and sun protection. Bring plenty of drinking water. In case of serious rain, walks are cancelled and not rescheduled. For up-to-date information on a walk, call (310) 541-7613.

Saturday, July 26, 10:00 am–12:00 noon. Explore cultural history on the preserve including how this site was used as farmland and defense during World War II.

Saturday, July 26, 12:00 pm–2:00 pm, Native Plant Sale. Purchase drought-resistant native plants grown in the Conservancy's nursery. 4th Saturday of every month.

- 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.

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

August 14—Lucy Tolmach: *Restoring the Fruit Orchard in Ojai.*
(NOTE! This meeting will take place at the Los Angeles Zoo!)

September—13:(NOTE! This is a Saturday!)—Horticulturist of the Year Award Dinner: Honoring Don Hodel. To be held at the Arboretum & Botanic Garden of Los Angeles, in Arcadia.

October—9: Bulb Panel (speakers TBD)

SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS

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

Board of Directors

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Lili Singer, *Selected Book Sales & Programs*

Jill Vig, *Pacific Horticulture Board*

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Newsletter Editor: Steven Gerischer

Contributors to this issue: James E. Henrich, Steven Gerischer, Paul Martin, and *Sharing Secrets* contributors.

Next deadline: Friday, July 11 (for August newsletter).

It is the Friday following our monthly membership meeting.
 Please contribute an article or information of interest.

Southern California
 Horticultural Society
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 Pasadena CA 91109-4476

NEWSLETTER
 July 2014