



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

March 2012 Newsletter

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, March 8
7:30 pm

Friendship Auditorium
3021 Riverside Drive
Los Angeles

*We meet the second Thursday
of each month at 7:30 pm*

It is free to SCHS members and
\$5 for non-members without a
guest pass, which is found on
the front of your member card.

**WELCOME TO OUR
NEW MEMBER!**

Jennifer Maurer

MARCH OPPORTUNITY DRAWING

Interesting and rare plants from
the **Ornamental Horticulture
Nursery at Long Beach City
College** will be provided for
the March Opportunity
Drawing. They are courtesy of
former SCHS board member
Jorge Ochoa, who is head of the
OH department.

PLANTS FOR SALE TOO!

Jorge and his students will be
selling plants along with SCHS
members **Matt-Dell Tufenkian**
and **Gary Kamisher**. Gary will
bring leucospermums that he
has been growing.

NEXT SHARING SECRETS QUESTION

Steve Gerischer has kindly
agreed to pose our monthly
Sharing Secrets questions and
his first is one that will prompt
an instant response from most
members. What's yours?

The Sharing Secrets question
for March is:

*Which plants do you
grow in your garden
for fragrance?*

You can answer on the cards
we'll supply at our March 8
meeting or e-mail your
response to bushweit@yahoo.com
by Friday, March 9.

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The March Meeting



Chip Sullivan: *The Floral Imperative*

Our March meeting guest speaker, **Chip Sullivan**, is an artist, landscape architect and professor of landscape architecture at UC Berkeley. He maintains a lifelong commitment to exploring the potential of the garden to create sustainable environments. He states, "Beauty and truth are my guiding beliefs as I seek to create and teach landscapes of meaning."

Early in his career, Sullivan developed a series of experimental gardens that reinterpreted traditional garden forms, applying classical and historical design elements to contemporary landscapes. Sullivan has devoted his career to promoting

landscape architecture as an art form.

On March 8 Chip will discuss his work, which illustrates the delicate balance between humans and nature, and has been exhibited in galleries throughout the United States, Canada and Italy. Sullivan's passion for landscape design and its representation evolved from his childhood love of model railroads, comics and motion pictures.

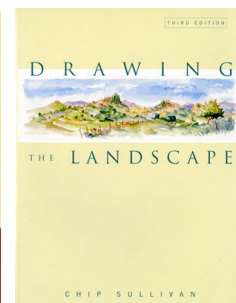
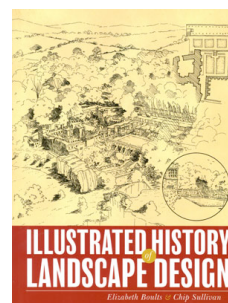
Sullivan is the author of *Drawing the Landscape and Garden and Climate*, among others. He has also produced a series of comics for Landscape Architecture Magazine titled *Creative Learning*. The series focuses on the creative process and the history of landscape representation. The drawings were exhibited at Clemson University, a breakthrough show of landscape comics in the U.S.

Sullivan's latest book, *Illustrated History of Landscape Design*, co-authored with Elizabeth Boults, uses storyboards, visual narratives and illustrative timelines to illuminate the history of landscape architecture. He describes it as taking "an optical sweep of iconic landscapes constructed throughout the ages."

Organized by century and geographic region, this highly visual reference uses beautifully detailed pen and ink drawings to capture the eye and delight the mind. Join us

at our March 8 meeting to hear Chip Sullivan discuss his work and the unique "graphic novel" format he uses to illustrate historical literary sources.

MARCH SELECTED BOOKS



Two books authored by our featured speaker, **Chip Sullivan**, will be for sale at our March 8 meeting and Chip will be pleased to autograph them.

Illustrated History of Landscape Design by Elizabeth Boults & Chip Sullivan.
John Wiley & Sons, February 2010
Soft cover, 272 pages, \$55.00

Drawing the Landscape by Chip Sullivan.
John Wiley & Sons, 3rd edition, January 2004
Paperback, 336 page, \$75.00

February Meeting Recap

The February meeting of the Southern California Horticultural Society was our introduction to the long awaited two-book set of *Conifers Around the World*, by **Zsolt Debreczy** (photographs by Istvan Racz).

Zsolt Debreczy is the Research Director of the International Dendrological Research Institute, and he expertly guided us through the story of how this massive reference work was conceived and implemented.

Many years of research, photography, study and field investigation were accomplished with the help of myriad volunteers and supporters around the globe.

Our Society's own **Kathy Musial**, Curator of Living Collections at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, and SCHS board member, assisted in the English translation of the text.

The two-volume set is beautiful – with 1,089 pages and more than 3,700 color photographs, as well as line drawings indicating the distinctive details of many species.

Debreczy presented an overview of the books – how they are arranged, what areas of the world are covered and how climate and environment are indicated.

He then went on to excerpt 11 different conifers, one from each chapter of the work, to highlight the amazing work that went into documenting the conifers of the world's temperate zones and nearby regions.

Particularly interesting (and daunting) was the necessity to climb towering trees in isolated areas to bring down cone-bearing branches from the crown to aid in identification. Dedication in the extreme!

A memorable evening and an amazing achievement for everyone involved.

Our Opportunity Drawing plants were provided by **Jo O'Connell**, at **Australian Native Plants Nursery**, and thanks to **John Schoustra** for bringing them.

Plants for sale were offered by **Matt-Dell Tufenkian** from his nursery, **Dominus Plantarum** and **John Schoustra** from **Greenwood Daylily Gardens**.

Thanks to everyone who helped set up, run and clean up after, our meeting. We hope to see you in March for Chip Sullivan and his presentation, *The Floral Imperative*.

- By Steven Gerischer

SHARING SECRETS

In February, we posed the question, "**Name a conifer that you think would enhance a garden and why.**" Here are the "secrets" some members shared with us:

I think if I had the space (and climate) I would grow a weeping Norway spruce (*Picea abies* 'Pendula'). Because I like their creepiness. They always look like they are sneaking up on you when you turn your back.

- Laura Bauer

Hollywood twisted juniper (*Juniperus chinensis* 'Torulosa'). Drought tolerant, slow growing and sculptural, with cool dark green foliage that is the best for Christmas wreaths and garlands.

- John Schoustra

If I had the room I would plant a coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*). I've seen a 50-year-old specimen growing in the front yard of a nearby home and it reminds me of the magnificent redwood forests up north.

I also like the blue atlas cedar (*Cedrus atlantica*). The cool blue color of the needles and the open structure creates a striking tree, especially over time. Perhaps the weeping or dwarf variety would fit better in home landscapes.

- Debra Bushweit Galliani

SECRET CONTRIBUTORS

Dawn redwood (*Metasequoia*). For fall effects, winter geometry, spring delicacy and prehistoric atmosphere (combine with ginkgo). Explore combination with riparian California natives.

Sandarac or arar tree (*Tetraclinis articulata*). Fragrant drought-tolerant conifer from Mediterranean.

Add your response to this question on our **Facebook** page discussion board.

YOU CAN RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND SIGN UP FOR FIELD TRIPS ONLINE!

Our on-line membership link is up and running on our website. You can now renew your membership, initiate a gift membership and also sign up for field trips. While you're there, fill out your profile so other members can get to know you. It's simple; here's how.

Welcome to SCHS MemberLodge!

Our Membership Coordinator, **Joel Lichtenwalter** (with help from fellow board member, **Jim Henrich**, and our webmaster, **Trish Meyer**), worked very hard to get our membership records into an on-line database system and interactive community called **MemberLodge**.

SCHS MemberLodge is open to SCHS members only. Your personal information is protected and it is the Society's policy to never sell or share our membership list. You choose what information you want to share with other members.

Once you log on, you can manage your membership online – create and update your own profile, send messages to other members and participate in forums and blogs. Our site administrators will also post upcoming events there to make it easier to sign up and pay for the event all at once.

Renewing memberships will also be easier online – reminder notices will be sent starting a month before your membership expires so that you can renew without missing any newsletters or *Pacific Horticulture* issues.

With MemberLodge, you can use a credit card (through PayPal) to purchase any of these on-line offers: membership renewals, special events and field trips, our annual banquet, donations and more. Of course, you can still renew with a check or cash at meetings or by mail.

We know you will like the new features. Go to schs.memberlodge.org to set up your on-line account. If you haven't given us your e-mail address (or have a new one), please consider joining us online. It's a great way to stay connected to the group.

Please contact Joel Lichtenwalter (310-908-5036 or e-mail joel@growoutdoordesign.com) or Laura Bauer (626-437-9459 or e-mail lbauer@ehuffy.com) if you have any questions or concerns.

- Laura Bauer

INTERNATIONAL MASTER GARDENERS' CONFERENCE SEEKS SPEAKERS

The International Master Gardeners' Conference, September 7-14, 2013, invites you to apply to speak at its annual conference. The 2013 conference will be held on a Holland America Cruise Line Alaskan Cruise.

This unique event blends community, youth and home gardening, landscape design and horticulture presentations with cruise excursions including on-shore visits to national parks, community gardens and arboretums.

For more information, visit their website at uaex.edu/imgc2013 or contact Janet Carson, Extension Horticulture Specialist, University of Arkansas, jcarson@uaex.edu.

- Louisa Cardenas



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GREEN SHEET

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 2011 PLANT FORUM NOTES

Compiled by Sula Vanderplank and Jorge Ochoa

Photographs by Paul Martin

Thank you to all who brought plants to the November 2011 meeting. Everyone is encouraged to bring in plants to share with the group. Remember that you do get one free Exhibitor's Ticket for the Opportunity Drawing if you bring in one or more plants for discussion at the Plant Forum table.

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.]

Cyrtanthus hybrid (Amaryllidaceae), exhibited by Sheldon Lisker, grown in Temecula.

Mimulus flemingii, monkey flower (Phrymaceae), exhibited by Eric Brooks, grown in Baldwin Hills.

Nerine bowdenii, nerine (Amaryllidaceae), exhibited by Sheldon Lisker, grown in Temecula.

Ruellia makoyana, trailing velvet plant (Acanthaceae), exhibited by Eric Brooks, grown in Baldwin Hills.

Plants that could not be fully identified:

Aechmea and a persimmon flower, exhibited by Jim Jaeger.

Calamintha (Lamiaceae).

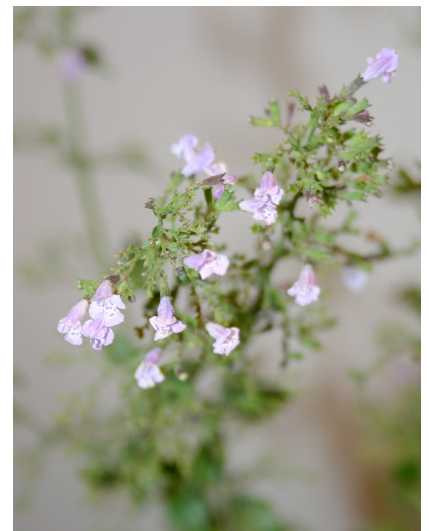
Rose hip (Rosaceae), exhibited by Gloria Leinbach, grown in Redondo Beach.

Information in this compilation was gleaned and condensed from the Plant Forum exhibit cards, numerous sources in our library, and a suite of internet sites.

Eremophila hygrophana, blue emu bush, (Scrophulariaceae), exhibited by Ann Brooks, grown in Baldwin Hills.

Blue emu bush is an evergreen shrub that combines stunning purple-blue flowers with silvery foliage. A native to the deserts of Australia, it closely resembles a leucophyllum but with larger flowers. Nectar from the tubular flowers attracts hummingbirds to the garden all year. A full sun exposure and good drainage are preferred. Plants may grow 2 to 3 feet tall and 3 feet wide. Will also grow well in containers.

Photographs (left to right): *Cyrtanthus* hybrid, *Nerine bowdenii* and *Calamintha*.



Contact individual locations to confirm events and for more details; some may require a facility entry fee.

☞ = Registration requested or required.

ARCADIA 91007

LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM & BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Thursday, March 8
10:00 am–3:00 pm

Preventing the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Weeds Workshop 2012, includes talks, discussion and field trip. Fee.

Saturday, March 10
9:00 am–4:00 pm

Going Green Together presented by the Los Angeles Environmental Education Fair, a fun-filled day for children, families and educators. Free with garden admission.

Thursdays, March 15–May 3
9:30 am–12:00 noon

Thursday Garden Talks with Lili Singer. Spring series includes *Keeping Plants in Containers* with Steve Gerischer, 3/15; *Living in the Garden, CA Style* with Laura Morton; and *The Native Garden: No Place Like Home* with Lili Singer, 3/29. Fee.

Saturday, March 24
10:00 am–12:00 noon

Family Fun Class: Bird Feeder. Registration closes Monday before class. Fee.

CLAREMONT 91711

RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN

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

First Saturdays, including March 3
10:00 am–1:00 pm

Free Native Plant Clinic with native plant experts.

First Sundays through June, including March 4
8:00–9:00 am

Beginning Birdwalks with members of the Pomona Valley Audubon Society. Free.

Saturday, March 17
8:00 am–5:00 pm

Spring Open House includes free garden admission, welcome reception and gift shop sale.

Friday–Saturday, March 30–31
9:00 am–5:00 pm

Tomatomania! plant sales and talks. At Grow Native Nursery, Davis and Constitution avenues (VA grounds), Westwood 90049. Free.

Saturday, March 31
11:00 am–3:00 pm

A Walk with Words, in which poets and poetry join bird song to celebrate the garden's season of renewal. Free with garden admission.

FULLERTON 92831

FULLERTON ARBORETUM

1900 Associated Rd. at Jamboree
657-278-3407; arboretum.fullerton.edu

Thursday, March 15
12:00–3:00 pm

Tomato Tips, a class with Steve Goto.

Friday–Sunday, March 16–18
9:00 am–4:00 pm

Monster Tomato and Pepper Sale, includes limited quantities of super-hot Bhut Jolokia and Trinidad Scorpion peppers Free with garden admission.

LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE 91011

DESCANSO GARDENS

1418 Descanso Dr.
818-949-4200; descansogardens.org

Saturday–Sunday, March 10–11
9:00 am–5:00 pm

Pacific Camellia Show and Sale. Free with garden admission.

Saturday, March 17
Three activities:

8:00 am

Birding Descanso a beginner class with Joe Kertes. Fee. ☞

11:00 am

Understanding Local Wildlife with Katherine Pease. Free with garden admission.

11:00 am

California Natives Spring Walk, led by Rachel Young. Free with garden admission.

Saturday–Sunday, March 24–25
9:00 am–5:00 pm

Cherry Blossom Festival, includes walks, story time, origami and more. Free with garden admission.

Friday–Sunday, March 31–April 1
9:00 am–5:00 pm

Tomatomania!, plant sale. Free with garden admission.

PALOS VERDES PENINSULA 90274

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Saturday, March 3
9:00 am–5:00 pm

Family Picnic Day: Cherry Blossoms. Free with garden admission.

Saturday, March 17
10:00–11:30 am

Kid's Gardening Class: Planting My Seeds Where They Grow Best, a new session for children (K-3, ages 5-8). Fee.

Saturday, March 24
10:00–11:00 am

Drought- and Fire-resistant Gardens for Spring, a lecture by Deborah Richie-Bray, Free with garden admission.

SAN MARINO 91108

HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

1151 Oxford Rd.
626-405-2100; huntington.org

Saturday, March 3
9:00 am–3:00 pm

Ranch Workshop: Foraging and the Living Kitchen, with Nance Klehm. Fee. ☞

Thursday, March 6
2:30 pm

Garden Talk: How to Grow Perfect Tomatoes, with Scott Daigre. Plant sale follows. Free.

SUN VALLEY 91352

THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION FOR WILDFLOWERS & NATIVE PLANTS

10459 Tuxford St.
818-768-1802; theodorepayne.org

Saturday, March 3
1:30–3:30 pm

Twelve Months of Color with CA Natives, a class with Melanie Baer-Keeley and Lili Singer. Fee.

Saturday, March 10
1:30–3:30 pm

Inviting Wildlife into the Garden, a lecture by Barbara Eisenstein. Fee.

Saturday, March 17
1:30–3:30 pm

The Science and Art of Native Garden Design: A Class for Landscape Professionals, with Bob Perry. Fee.

Thursday, March 22
8:30 am–12:00 noon

Native Plant Maintenance for Landscape Pros, a bilingual class (Spanish/English), taught by Antonio Sanchez. Fee.

Saturday, March 31
8:30 am–4:30 pm

Poppy Day Plant Sale, with discounts to all.

TORRANCE 90503

THE MADRONA MARSH PRESERVE

3201 Plaza del Amo
310-782-3989
friendsofmadronamarsh.com/calendar.htm

Saturday, March 3
10:00 am–12:00 noon, repeats
Tuesday, March 6
6:30–8:30 pm

Out of the Wilds and Into Your Garden, a native plant class with Connie Vadheim. Free.

The **San Diego Horticultural Society** meets Monday, March 12, 6:00–9:00 pm, at Del Mar Fairgrounds.

Activities include the talk *From Seed to Skillet*, with Jimmy Williams and Susan Heeger. Book-signing follows. Information: 760-295-7089, sdhortsoc.org. Fee.

- Compiled by Lili Singer

Send notices to lili.singer@sbcglobal.net

DEDICATION SERVICE FOR JEFF KARSNER



It is with deep sadness that we report the tragic loss of **Jeff Karsner**, 50, a long-time supporter and often member of our Society. He passed away on January 30 as the result of an accident at his home.

On February 11, several of Jeff's friends and co-workers, along with his family, attended an uplifting service at the **Huntington Botanical Gardens (HBG)** with the backdrop of his workplace, the **Children's Garden**.

HBG Director **Jim Folsom** led a service dedicating a wooden bench in Jeff's honor, that will be placed in the garden he nurtured with a plaque stating, "In loving memory of Jeff Karsner, for his creativity and energy,"



Those who attended learned about Jeff and the depth of his character, talents and about how much people loved him.

Jeff has attended SCHS meetings over the years and designed some special centerpieces for our annual HOTY banquets at the HBG, whether they were artfully arranged tillandsias, elegant succulent containers or cut flowers.

At Jeff's service, his bio was distributed, along with a gallery of photographs with family, friends and plants.

"Succulent designer Jeff Karsner has fond garden memories growing up in Maryland amidst his father's bonsai collection and his mother's rockery. But it wasn't until he moved out west that his own deep passion for plants was triggered by the cacti and succulents he found there.

Jeff was Vice President of the LA Cactus & Succulent Society and worked at the HBG Library's Desert Garden as Director of the Children's Garden at the HBG – the world's most extensive collection of cacti and

succulents, and a vast source of inspiration for his work.

Jeff designed low-water succulent gardens and created container gardens for businesses and residences. He worked on a puppet show that promoted low-water gardening – featuring characters made out of living succulents. Jeff worked as a story editor at PBS, CBS and Warner Brothers before becoming a plant-head. He received his Master's degree from New York University and his Bachelor's from University of Maryland."

At the service, Donna Banneker, who heads a special education center in South Los Angeles, spoke of the garden that Jeff designed at the center to teach moderate to severe special needs students (aged 3-22). They grew organic foods that were supplied to a special school for culinary arts program.

Jeff also developed a bas relief wall at the Frances Blend School for the Blind in Hollywood that depicts jungle and zoo animals for its elementary students to feel and experience.

Jeff had been conducting workshops at the HBG as part of their program for children in the Teaching Greenhouse just west of the Children's Garden. When Jim Folsom and **Laurel Woodley** spoke about doing something to get kids interested in succulent plants, they volunteered Jeff to assist CSSA.

Laurel recounts that the HBG provided all the materials (pots, soil, plants, rocks and top dressing) for each workshop. This was done during the CSSA Show & Sale in late June or early July at the HBG. The workshop lasted for one hour and at least one parent was to be with the child so in reality both learned about potting and staging the plants.



Jeff was a fine teacher and engaged the children. He went from table to table making certain that all were following along and offering assistance where needed.

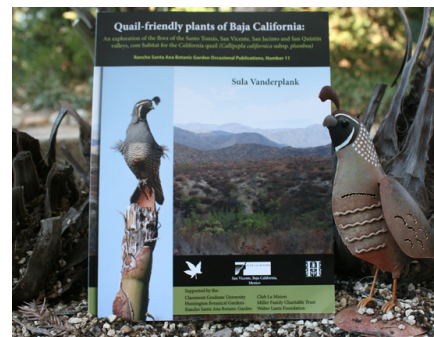
Jeff was very artistic and was continually creating new plant designs to display in the Teaching Greenhouse. Every time Laurel visited the greenhouse there were new

assemblages of plants and props. One year Jeff did underwater designs with beaded fish, driftwood and assorted plant materials. More recently he was working with tillandsias and creating mobiles hung from the ceiling.

Jeff was a caring, creative person and totally loved his job at the HBG. He will be greatly missed and warmly remembered.

Photographs: Jeff, distributed at the dedication service; Jim Folsom dedicating the bench by Debra Bushweit Galliani and Jeff at the HBG by Laurel Woodley.

NEW BOOK BY SULA VANDERPLANK



Sula Vanderplank, SCHS board member and co-author of the *Green Sheet*, has authored a new book entitled, *Quail-friendly Plants of Baja California: An exploration of the flora of the Santo Tomas, San Vicente, San Jacinto and San Quintin valleys, core habitat for the California quail (Callipepla californica subsp. plumbea).*

It is a field guide to the plants of northwestern Baja that the San Quintin quail use and share habitat with.

The book is Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden Occasional Publication #11, is 8 1/2 x 11 format, in full color with lots of great photos and it is 121 pages long.

It is an exclusive publication that is only available at RSABG where it sells for \$29.99.

This delightfully written and well-illustrated field guide to a variety of common and unusual plants from northwestern Baja California will be a most welcome addition to the Baja aficionado's backpack, vehicle and bookshelf.

Multiple images of different aspects of each plant in its natural habitat will enable you to quickly identify most of the plants that are of interest to quail in the region, while revealing facts and observations about each plant fill the brief text.

It was published in December 2011 and the supply is very limited, with the probability that it will soon sell out. Contact RSABG for more information and for ordering at rsabg.org/shop/Quail-friendly-Plants-of-Baja-California.

UPCOMING SCHS PROGRAMS

April 12 – Iris Forum, with panelists **Dr. Richard Richards, John Schoustra** and **Bob Sussman**. Opportunity Drawing plants and plants for sale will be primarily irises.

May 10 – Lorene Edwards Forkner will be our featured speaker.

June 14 – Chris Rosmini will discuss garden design.

July 12 – Sam Watters.

August 9 – Matthew Levesque will discuss *The Revolutionary Yardscape*. Book sale and signing.

September 13 – Annual Award Banquet honoring the 2012 Horticulturist of the Year at the Huntington Botanical Gardens.

October 11 – Scott Kleinrock will tell us about *The Huntington Ranch Project* at the Huntington Botanical Gardens.

November 8 – Helen Popper, author of the forthcoming *California Native Gardening: A Month-by-Month Guide*, discusses her book.

December 13 – Annual Members' Night (aka, Cookie Night).

FABULOUS USED BOOK SALE AT MARCH 8 MEETING

It's time for our next sale of used books (and some not so used). How do I know? My basement is full of boxes! I need space. We will be selling books at the March 8 meeting to benefit SCHS. A number of books were brought in from the **Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden** library – many are Timber Press releases and other interesting books in great shape. If you have books to donate, please bring them to the March meeting, noting any that should be priced higher for rarity or other exceptional qualities. We'll try to supply plastic bags to haul home your purchases. Remember your cash or checkbook and get ready to buy!

- Steven Gerischer

Southern California
Horticultural Society
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NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2012

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Bart O'Brien, *Programs*

John Schoustra, *Plant Sales & Opportunity Drawings*

Lili Singer, *Selected Book Sales & Newsletter Calendar*

Sula Vanderplank, *Green Sheet*

Jill Vig, *Pacific Horticulture Board*

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Associate Editor: Joe Galliani

Contributors to this issue:

Laura Bauer, Louisa Cardenas, Lisa Ceazan, Joe Galliani, Steven Gerischer, Bart O'Brien, Lili Singer, Laurel Woodley and all Sharing Secrets contributors.

Next deadline: Friday, March 9 (for April newsletter).

It is the Friday following our monthly membership meeting.

Please contribute an article or information of interest.