

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, April 12 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 MEMBERS!

Martine Bednarski

Sylvia Folland Hank Jenkins Tom, Jim & Julius Nuccio (Nuccio's Nursery) Steven & Dina Ormenyi Wynne Wilson

APRIL OPPORTUNITY PRAWING

Our April Opportunity Drawing plants will be different types of iris (used as visual aids during the panel discussion) and will include bearded, Pacific Coast, spuria, Louisiana irises as well as other types.

PLANTS FOR SALE TOO!

Greenwood Daylily Gardens and Matilija Nursery will be selling irises at the back of the hall.

NEXT SHARING SECRETS QUESTION

The Sharing Secrets question for April is:

Which irises do you grow?

You can answer on the cards we'll supply at our April 12 meeting or e-mail your response to bushweit@yahoo.com by Friday, April 13.

April 2012 Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE

April Meeting Recap by Steven Gerischer2
Sharing Secrets responses to: Which plants do you grow in your garden for fragrance?
On-line membership services2
December Green Sheet by Sula Vanderplank and forge Ochoa
Society News 4
Horticultural Happenings by S. Gerischer5
Upcoming Programs6

The April Meeting



Iris Forum, with panelists Dr. Richard Richards, John Schoustra and Bob Sussman

April is for irises. In ancient times Iris was the messenger who brought word from the gods to the mortals (via the rainbow.) Today irises exclaim the same message every year: IT'S SPRING AND LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL! Our panel of Iris experts will help us understand the bewildering range of iris types, from desert dwellers to swamp lovers, and teach us about the best irises for Southern California.

The Panel:

Dr. Richard Richards is Past President of the Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris www.pacificcoastiris.org, has authored numerous articles for the SPCNI Journal and has been breeding Pacific Coast native iris for over 40 years. He has also grown and bred tall bearded irises for over 25 years. Dr. Richards is a professor emeritus of Cal Poly Pomona, and is currently working on a book titled *The Philosophy of Humor*.

Bob Sussman owns and operates Matilija Nursery in Moorpark

www.matilijanursery.com. Matilija specializes in California native plants with an emphasis on Pacific Coast native irises. He also grows several other classes of irises. Bob ran the seed bank for the Society for Pacific Coast native iris for many years, is currently President of SPCNI, and is currently organizing a SPCNI bus tour for this years National Iris Convention.

After earning a landscape architecture degree from UC Berkeley, SCHS board member John Schoustra spent 20 years in landscape design/build and preservation until he resolved to focus on finding and breeding new and useful plant varieties for California landscape professionals. His nursery, Greenwood Daylily Gardens www.greenwoodgarden.com grows hundreds of daylily, iris and pelargonium varieties in the Somis area of Ventura County.

As with our very successful rose panel awhile back, at least half of the program time will be dedicated to having our three experts debate and answer questions submitted by our members. John Schoustra has already received quite a few iris questions and would welcome more before the meeting. Please e-mail your questions to john@greenwoodgarden.com, making sure to include "SCHS Iris question" in the subject line.

A NOTE FROM THE MARCH MEETING...

There is no 'P' in Australian plant food. For those of you who took home treasures from Australian Native Plant Nursery www.australianplants.com, Jo O'Connell wants you to remember that Australian plants evolved in acidic, low phosphorus soils, so:

- 1. No P (phosphorus) in the plant food.
- 2. Mulch generously.
- 3. If plants look chlorotic, sprinkle soil-sulfur and/or gypsum around plants.
- 4. Australian Natives welcome beer on all days ending in "y". (if you visit the nursery, she probably prefers Fosters)

March Meeting Recap

The March meeting of the Southern California Horticultural Society was a thought provoking journey through the history of garden design as it relates to the structure and symbolism of the flower, (and historical gardens, and religion and our relationship to nature...,etc.). The talk by Chip Sullivan, author, landscape architect and professor of landscape architecture at UC Berkeley, ranged over the history of how we garden, what it means, and how he has changed on his own journey. This was heady stuff (and funny too! Chip has a strange sense of humor). The imagery of early interpretations of nature in relation to man and the temporal world and also the spiritual world were intriguing and probably could fill an entire lecture to be fully understood.

But we didn't stop there. Mr. Sullivan is also an artist, and his pen and ink "cartoons" (this seems almost like a slur when labeling these amazing drawings), chronicling the history of garden design were illuminating (as much about the man as his journey through the history of landscape architecture). The drawings are meant to be read as a visual history of how we have manipulated the landscape (and why we choose to do it in the way we do).

This "Graphic Novel" approach to the evolution of design, is not the standard way of learning a complicated subject-- but for the creative mind (usually favoring the visual side of the brain) it is immediately accessible. When paired with the images of medieval walled gardens and Moorish "Paradise" gardens it all gets to be quite a rich mix when compressed into one hour. If this talk inspired you to purchase books I would highly recommend Chip's earlier book, Garden and Climate, which shows how we have dealt with water, irrigation, weather, etc. All fascinating. Thank you, Chip Sullivan for a feast of riches from the distant past, to the present.

Thanks to Jorge Ochoa and his students from the **Ornamental Horticulture Nursery at Long Beach City College** for bringing and describing the Opportunity Drawing plants.

Thanks to everyone who helped set up, run and clean up after, our meeting. We hope to see you in May for Lorene Edwards Forkner, incoming editor of Pacific Horticulture Magazine. Lorene will discuss her new book, *Handmade Garden Projects*.

SHARING SECRETS

In March, we posed the question, "Which plants do you grow in our garden for fragrance?" Here are the "secrets" some members shared with us:

Herbs! I love pinching them for a sniff, and it's a bonus when trimmings go through my chipper!

- Judy Springborn

I grow several:

Lavandula angustifolia 'Miss Katherine' Lavandula 'Goodwin Creek Grey'

Rosmarinus officinalis 'Primley Blue'

Heliotropium arborescens 'Atlantis'

And my favorite by far is the intoxicating *Aloysia virgata*, which I obtained as a cutting from the Huntington's Plant Sale Nursery where I volunteer weekly. The scent from this plant – which becomes very strong on hot days – will make you swoon with pleasure!

- Dorena Knepper

Jasminum polyanthum Gardenia thunbergia Rhododendron jasminiflorum

Trichostema lanatum

- Jim Jaeger

SECRET CONTRIBUTORS

Salvia 'Aromas' and Salvia 'Point Sal'
Pittosporum undulatum
Ceanothus cuneatus (for flowers)
Ceanothus 'Dark Star' and C. 'Julia
Phelps' (foliage is spicy)
Ribes malvaceum
Gnaphalium (everlasting)
Nasturtium (Tropaeolium majus)
Osmanthus fragrans – right by the front door
so I'm greeted with a load of relaxing scent
when I come home from a hard day's work!

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

Rosemary. hamseed@prodigy.net

Lemon verbena (Aloysia triphylla)

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

BOOK SALE AT MARCH MEETING

The sale of used books at the March meeting brought in \$346 dollars. I would like to thank everyone who donated books for the sale and Bart O'Brien for bringing the books from RSABG.

Thanks as well to Elizabeth Schwartz for volunteering on the spot to run the sales table for the used books.

- By Steven Gerischer

- Steve Gerischer



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GREEN SHEET

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

DECEMBER 2011 PLANT FORUM NOTES

Compiled by Sula Vanderplank and Jorge Ochoa Photographs by Paul Martin

Thank you to all who brought plants to the December 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.]

Callisia warszewicziana [Tripogandra] (Commelinaceae), exhibited by Jim Jaeger, grown at Huntington Botanical Gardens, Pasadena. Pedilanthus bracteatus, slipper plant (Euphorbiaceae), exhibited by Kathy Itomura, grown in Burbank. Pycnostachys urticifolia, hedge-hog sage (Lamiaceae), exhibited by Ann and Eric Brooks, grown in the Baldwin Hills.

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.

Aeschynanthus speciosus, lipstick vine, basket vine (Gesneriaceae), exhibited by Eric Brooks, grown in Baldwin Hills.

This species is native to south-east Asia and has stunning orange flowers up to four inches long. It is a trailing epiphyte that flowers from late summer into the fall. Care requirements are similar to those of African violets and *Streptocarpus* species, so you will want to water carefully. Eric notes that this species likes a porous compost and regular water. Available from The Potting Shed, Fullerton Arboretum.

Dermatobotrys saundersii, tree jockey (Scrophulariaceae), exhibited by Ann Brooks, grown in Baldwin Hills.

This stunning South African plant is one of very few species to still be classified in the figwort family. This is a new plant for 2011 from San Marcos Growers who describe it as an unusual epiphytic semi-deciduous subshrub, reaching up to 3 feet in height and diameter. Ann notes that it likes a well-draining soil and bright shade. Available from South Coast Botanic Garden.

Photographs (left to right): Aeschynanthus speciosa, Dematobotrys saundersii, Pedilanthus bracteatus and Pycnostachys urticifolia.









4 HORTICULTURAL HAPPENING!

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

a = Registration requested or required.

ARCADIA 91007 LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM & BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Saturday, April 7 10:00 am-2:00 pm

Let's Move! Egg Hunts and Scrambles \$3 suggested donation.

Thursdays, April 5 - May 3 9:30 am-12:00 noon (except where noted)

Thursday Garden Talks with Lili Singer. Spring series includes Life in the Red Hills with Rhett Beavers 4/5, Native Landscape Design with Bob Perry 4/12, Field Trip: Silver Lake Farms-Bonus Garden, Echo Park 10 am-1 pm 4/19, Field Trip: Earl Burns Japanese Gardens. CSULB & Rancho Los Alamitos 9:30 am-1 pm 4/26, Rebloom: Gardener's Delight, Mother Nature's Curse with John Schoustra 5/3

Saturday, April 14 9:30 am–12:30 pm *More Chickens and Bees* with John Lyons, Fee.

Saturday/Sunday, April 14/15 11 am - 4 pm Ikebana Int. Show and Sale

Saturday, April 21 10 am - 1pm Square Foot Gardening Workshop with Jo Ann Carey, Fee

Saturday/Sunday, April 28/29 1 pm - 5 pm Sat./ 10 am - 3 pm Sun. Rose Show and Sale

May 4 - 6

Friday, April 4 from 5pm - 8pm Saturday and Sunday, April 5 & 6, from 9 am - 4:30 pm

Grow! A Garden Festival featuring Plant Sales, Marketplace, Lectures and Children's Activities. Live Entertainment, Food Trucks and the ever popular Beer for Books.

CLAREMONT 91711

RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Continuing through April David Rogers' BIG BUGS

Saturday, April 7 and Saturday, April 28 10:00 am-1:00 pm

Free Native Plant Clinic with native plant experts.

Saturday and Sunday, April 7/8

Annual Wildflower Show

Monday - Friday, April 16 - 20 Native Plant Week Sunset Tour 5:00-6:00 pm

FULLERTON 92831

FULLERTON ARBORETUM

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

Saturday April 14 and Sunday April 15 The Green Scene 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE 91011 DESCANSO GARDENS

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

Saturday April 14 11:00 am

Flowering Trees Walk and Talk. Free with garden admission. Wen Wang

Saturday, April 14 and 21 1:00 pm

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

Saturday/Sunday, April 21 and 22 Earth Day 3:30 pm

Twelfth Night /Under the Oaks Theater. Free with garden admission.

Friday-Saturday, April 27 and 28 9:00 am-4:00 pm Mt. SAC. Plant Sale

PALOS VERDES PENINSULA 90274 SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Saturday/Sunday, April 7 and 8 9:00 am-5:00 pm

South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale. Free with garden admission.

Saturday, April 21 9:00–4:00 pm Spring Plant Sale

Free with garden admission.

SAN MARINO 91108 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

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

Thursday, April 12 2:30 pm Garden Talk and Plant Sale Japanese Iris with Carol Wilson. Free

Tuesday, April 17 (note: Gardens and Library closed, Friends' Hall open) 7:30 pm Free

The Japanese Garden Centennial: An Icon Turns 100

Tuesday, April 24 (note: Gardens and Library closed, Friend's Hall open)

7:30 pm

Ranch Lecture: The Wild Mediterranean Food Garden

with Darren Butler. Free.

Saturday April 28 10:30 am - 4:30 pm Members Preview Plant Sale

Sunday April 29 10:30 am - 4:30 pm Plant Sale

SUN VALLEY 91352

THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION FOR WILDFLOWERS & NATIVE PLANTS

10459 Tuxford St.

818-768-1802; theodorepayne.org

Saturday, April 14 and Sunday, April 15 10 am-5 pm

9th Annual Theodore Payne Native Plant Garden Tour, a self-guided tour of private gardens planted with at least 50% native plant material. From Long Beach to the Westside/San Fernando and San Gabriel Valleys. Tickets \$25 per person. Both Days

Saturday, April 21 1:30–3:30 pm

Manzanitas for the Garden, a lecture by Bart O'Brien. Fee.

Saturday, April 28 12 noon - 3:30 pm Entomology for Gardeners with Bob Allen. Fee.

TORRANCE 90503

THE MADRONA MARSH PRESERVE

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

Saturday, April 7 10:00 am–12:00 noon, repeats Tuesday, April 10 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, April 9, 6:00–9:00 pm, at Del Mar Fairgrounds.

Activities include the talk *Fitting California Natives into California Style Gardens*, with Susan Krzywicki.

Information: 760-295-7089, *sdhortsoc.org*. Fee non-members.

- Compiled by Steven Gerischer
- (Sorry for any omissions, see complete list online)

Send notices to lili.singer@sbcglobal.net

THE BEST OF ALTAPENA TOUR

On a beautiful Sunday morning in late February, we gathered about 40 society members at Nuccio's Nursery in Altadena.

It was a good time to visit the nursery, as most of the camellia and azalea varieties were in full bloom. Tom Nuccio showed us around the nursery and revealed some of the mysteries of growing camellias.



To propagate camellias from seeds, you need a lot of patience. The seeds may take 12 months to germinate, and then an additional 6 or 7 years for the plant to bloom. Therefore, unless they are breeding new varieties, Nuccio's grows most of their camellias from cuttings and grafting. Tom demonstrated how to graft a scion onto a rootstock and made it look easy! One lucky tour attendee got to take home a newly grafted 'High Fragrance' (and yes, the light pink flowers are highly fragrant!).

Tom also brought out some rare and unusual camellias. Camellia azalea and Camellia amplexicaulis are both Asian species with very large leaves and late summer bloom times. They contain the possibility of producing "everblooming" camellias. A third species, Camellia edithae has large leaves and scaly brown buds that open to reveal dark pink flowers. Tom also showed off an as-yet-unnamed cultivar with large, gorgeous flowers that are light pink, shading to white at the center.

Tom and Julius Nuccio helped people select some prime specimens to take home. Unfortunately, we didn't have time to hear about the amazing varieties of azaleas (how about lavender, spider-flowered, or green?) or other plants that Nuccio's sells (dogwoods, lilacs and gardenias). If you didn't have a chance to tour with us, I would urge anyone who wants to see beautiful plants to visit there.

We next visited the private garden of Wynne Wilson. Even though it was the tail end of winter, masses of coral bells, ceanothus and bush germander (*Teucrium fruticans*

'Azurea') were blooming. We gathered by the beautiful custom tiled fountain and pool to hear Wynne talk about the challenges of building the garden and her plans for its future. Then we were invited to wander along the paths through the woodland and down to the hidden backyard stream. Wynne was a most gracious host, and it was a real privilege to see her garden.

We finished up our tour day with a picnic at Charles Farnsworth Park, under the (blooming) Wisteria Pavillion. Thanks to everyone who brought food to share!

- Laura Bauer

TOUR OF JUDGE HALL'S GARDEN

The garden of the late Judge Cynthia Hall was opened to our society by special arrangement for a final look. The property is for sale and is not likely to be opened to the public again. Designed by Chris Rosmini and tended by John MacGregor, this spectacular garden began when a small section near the front entryway was redesigned by Rosmini to "see if it would work." Not long after that section was completed, she was asked to design the rest of the garden. The progression of flower and foliage color throughout the garden is remarkable. On the day we visited, the wisteria over the back entry to the pool area was in full bloom, adding perfume to all of the other early spring flowers.

The recent wind storm that slammed the San Gabriel Valley did not spare this garden, but



one could hardly tell. The riot of color and the sheer number of different plants distracts from any lingering damage. (I walked right by the headless Jacaranda and did not notice until John pointed it out.)

The approach to the house, along a long driveway is bordered by a remarkable swath of garden intermingling traditional design elements and plant material with the very unusual. The South African bulbs (corms) were particularly colorful, babiana and sparaxis taking center stage. At the back of the house is a pool surrounded by more spectacular borders. Even the diving board for the pool seems to float over the rosemary and other plants surrounding its supports.



We would like to thank Chris Rosmini and John MacGregor for talking to us about the design, construction and upkeep for this wonderful garden--and for the last-minute arrangements to allow this special treat. A big thanks to Joel Lichtenwalter, our tour/field trip chair on the SCHS board for bringing this together (as well as Laura Bauer for help with the Altadena tour). If you did not get a chance to come, visit the Memberlodge section of the SCHS website to see more photos.

- Steven Gerischer

SCHS NEEPS VOLUNTEERS GROW! GARPEN FESTIVAL LA COUNTY ARBORETUM

GROW! A GARDEN FESTIVAL is the exciting new incarnation of the LA Garden Show. The event will feature all the familiar favorites plus new cutting edge garden information and demonstrations. The Marketplace has over 50 vendors lined up with garden accessories, 25 specialty plant vendors and societies. There will be a full slate of expert garden speakers, landscape design demonstrations and garden exhibits.

SCHS will be there reaching out for new members. To volunteer contact Steve Gerischer at: sglarkspur@aol.com

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 with her new book, *Handmade Garden Projects*.

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).

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

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2012

Board of Directors

Steven Gerischer, President & Pacific Horticulture Board
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Laura Bauer, Treasurer & Finance

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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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Contributors to this issue:

Laura Bauer, John Schoustra, Paul Martin (photos in Greensheet), Sula Vanderplank, Jorge Ochoa, Steven Gerischer, and all Sharing Secrets contributors.

Next deadline: Friday, April 13 (for May newsletter). It is the Friday following our monthly membership meeting. Please contribute an article or information of interest.