



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

May 2012 Newsletter

OUR NEXT MEETING

**Thursday, May 10
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.

TOURS AND EVENTS

Our recent one-day tour/events to Altadena with Nuccio's Nursery and the picnic which followed, and the tour of the Hall garden in Pasadena were successful and a lot of fun for everyone involved. If you have any ideas of one-day tours or events you would like to see SCHS organize, please contact either Steve Gerischer at sglarkspur@aol.com or Joel Lichtenwalter at joel@growoutdoordesign.com.

NEXT SHARING SECRETS QUESTION

The Sharing Secrets question(s) for May is: **"What have you made to personalize your garden, or how have you re-purposed materials?" (Or both)**

You can answer on the cards we'll supply at our May 10 meeting or e-mail your response to bushweit@yahoo.com by Friday, May 11.

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The May Meeting



Our speaker for the May meeting of the Southern California Horticultural Society will be author, lecturer and avid gardener/cook, Lorene Edwards Forkner. (Lorene is also the new editor of *Pacific Horticulture Magazine*.) Her new book, *Handmade Garden Projects: step-by-step instructions for Creative Garden Features, Containers, Lighting & More*, will be the topic of discussion.

Lorene revels in the seasonal pleasures and broad scope of gardening life in the Pacific Northwest affords. Supported by a degree in fine art and years of practical experience owning and operating a small specialty nursery in Seattle, Lorene

considers her approach to making gardens to be rooted in childhood outdoor play. A designer's eye for re-purposing objects and a keen sense of conservation and thrift infuse her every effort with personality, wit and sustainability.

A popular speaker with a warm engaging manner, Lorene is always eager to weigh in on horticultural mysteries, landscape design, and teach DIY gardeners how to dig in and craft a personal landscape filled with an abundance of interest and delicious flavor. She blogs about gardens and the stories behind them at *PlantedAtHome.com*.

As the new editor of *Pacific Horticulture Magazine*, Lorene is overseeing the exciting projects announced recently in the on-line newsletter from Pac. Hort. A timely bequest from the "Thebaum" estate means that the resources are in place to fuel these changes. We look forward to the new look of the magazine as well as a robust online presence and increased accessibility to the vast amount of "evergreen" material from the archives of *Pacific Horticulture*.

Lorene's new book will be for sale, and she will be available to sign copies at the meeting. *Handmade Garden Projects* is published by Timber Press.



Virgina Hand garden design.

**The June 14 Meeting of SCHS
will be held at
The Los Angeles Zoo!**

(Details in the next newsletter)

April Meeting Recap

The April meeting of the Southern California Horticultural Society was all about iris. A panel of experts gathered to discuss the growth habits and cultural requirements of a number of popular iris. Our panelists were John Schoustra (SCHS board member and owner of Greenwood Daylily Gardens), Bob Sussman (Owner of Matilija Nursery) and Dr. Richard Richards (Professor emeritus of Cal Poly Pomona). These three iris experts shared secrets and tips about growing a number of beautiful and interesting species of iris. Each would add their experiences and knowledge gained over years of growing and breeding different irises. For example, we were told about the necessity of planting *Iris douglasii* and PCH iris "high" so they do not rot--and how to condition the soil to grow these intriguing natives and the cultivars bred from them. *Iris sibirica*, Louisiana iris and many more were discussed with pointed insights and a lot of humor.



(From left to right) Bob Sussman, John Schoustra and Richard Richards. (photo: Lydia Plunk)

Each iris under discussion was represented by an example plant on the lecture table. These plants were then donated to be the opportunity drawing plants for the night. Among the plants were tall bearded iris, PCH iris, spuria iris and *Iris sibirica*.

John Schoustra led the discussion and after the panelists had covered the example plants on the table, a number of questions were addressed. The questions had been submitted via e-mail before the meeting and ranged from problem plants and inquiries about soil, to diseases and pests of iris. The audience was invited to question the panelists about iris specifics and a wealth of interesting information was shared.

We would like to thank John Schoustra for setting up this wonderful panel discussion, and also, a big thank you to Bob Sussman and Dr. Richard Richards for participating.

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, speaking about her new book, *Handmade Garden Projects*.

SHARING SECRETS

In April, we asked the question, "**Which iris do you grow?**"

Here are the "secrets" some members shared with us:

I grow *Iris japonica*, tough, easy to share, shade tolerant and has a long blooming season. First given to me by Cathy Ratner 20 years ago and has provided surface runner "giveaways" many times over the years. I also grow *Iris ochroleuca*, a tough old plant that came with the house.

Susan Rudnicki

Iris germanica, from a give away box brought in by a (SCHS) member some years ago. We have watched it survive full drought from April to January each year, flooding, frost, freezes, heat, deep shade, direct sun all day--and each spring it blooms.

Catherine Pannell

Bearded iris, Dutch iris, Pacific Coast hybrid iris.

Kathy Itomura

SECRET CONTRIBUTORS

Iris ochroleuca (indestructable), 'Grandma's Purple Flag', and bearded iris 'Prospector' and 'Maid of Orange' (Thanks Joan Citron!)

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!

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

LA Science Fair Awards

The yearly outpouring of young, scientific minds was once again on display at the Pasadena Civic Center for one hectic day in March. And this intrepid representative of your Society was once again toiling through the aisles to find the mostly worthy projects related in some way to horticulture. This year there seemed to be more such projects than has been the case in the past but, eventually, the chosen 6 emerged. The 5 who received checks for \$100 each were:

Alexander Michailov: How do Pine Needles Affect Plant Growth. *Julie Chang*: Which Soil Amendment Retains the Most Water. *Nina Kaputis*: To Grow or Not to Grow. *Bridget Macmillan*: An Investigation on the Effect of Different Concentrations of Gibberellic Acid on Spinach. *Carina Aguirre*: Compost.

The recipient of the Eva Mason Horticultural Award for \$150 was: *Lyle Lee*: Cactus Growth.

Joan Citron



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GREEN SHEET

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

MARCH 2012 PLANT FORUM NOTES

Compiled by Sula Vanderplank and Jorge Ochoa

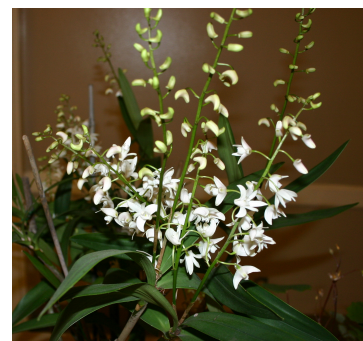
Photographs by Paul Martin

Thank you to all who brought plants to the March 2012 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.]

- Boronia megastigma*, brown boronia, (Rutaceae), exhibited by Ursula Kannofsky.
Ceropegia linearis subsp. *woodii*, string of hearts (Apocynaceae), exhibited by Allan Gonzales, grown in Long Beach.
Clivia miniata, kaffir lily (Amaryllidaceae), exhibited by Eileen Fiumara, grown in Sherman Oaks.
Echium 'David Verity', (Boraginaceae), exhibited by Dick Kohlschrienber, grown at South Coast Botanic Gardens.
Echium hybrid, (Boraginaceae), exhibited by Dick Kohlschrienber, grown at South Coast Botanic Gardens.
Ferraria crispa, spider flower, (Iridaceae), exhibited by Joan Citron.
Gladiolus dalenii subsp. *dalenii*, (syn. *Gladiolus splendendus*), (Iridaceae), exhibited by Paul Martin, grown in Pasadena.
Gladiolus tristis, yellow marsh afrikaner, (Iridaceae), exhibited by Paul Martin, grown in Pasadena.
Hyacinthoides hispanica, Spanish bluebells, (Asparagaceae), exhibited by Veronica Raymond, grown in Temple City.
Iris 'Nada', evansia crested iris, (Iridaceae), exhibited by Eileen Fiumara, grown in Sherman Oaks.
Iris germanica 'Going My Way', (Iridaceae), exhibited by Kyle Meyer, grown in Long Beach.
Lachenalia mutabilis, Cape cowslip, (Asparagaceae), exhibited by Sheldon Lisker, grown in Temecula.
Lithodora diffusa 'Grace Ward', (Boraginaceae), exhibited by Gaby, grown at Mt. San Antonio College.
Petromarula pinnata, (Campanulaceae), exhibited by Kathy Musial, grown in Pasadena.
Prostanthera rotundifolia, round-leaved mint bush, (Lamiaceae), exhibited by Ann Brooks, grown in Baldwin Hills.
Psoralea pinnata, scurf pea shrub, (Fabaceae), exhibited by Eric Brooks, grown in Baldwin Hills.
Salvia dorisiana, (Lamiaceae), exhibited by Dick Kohlschriebner, grown at South Coast Botanic Gardens.

Photographs (left to right): *Gladiolus tristis*, *Lobelia excelsa*, *Epiphyllum hybrid*. (photo: Lydia Plunk) and *Dendrobium* sp.



Sauromatum venosum (formerly *S. guttatum*), voodoo lily (Araceae), exhibited by Eileen Fiumara, grown in Sherman Oaks.

Scilla peruviana (Asparagaceae), exhibited by Gloria Leinbach, grown in Torrance.

Telopea speciosissima, waratah, (Proteaceae), exhibited by Gary Kamisher.

Veltheimia capensis (Asparagaceae), exhibited by Debra Bushweit Galliani.

Xerosicyos danguyi, dollar vine, (Curcubitaceae), exhibited by Debra Bushweit Galliani.

Plants that could not be fully identified:

Grevillea (Proteaceae), exhibited by Eileen Fiumara, grown in Sherman Oaks.

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

Banksia praemorsa, cutleaf banksia (Proteaceae), exhibited by Eric Brooks, grown in Baldwin Hills. Shrub to about 10 feet high that grows well in poor soils. The common name is inspired by the broad leaves with toothed margins. The flower spikes are conspicuous, appearing in winter and spring, yellow or wine red in color. This is one of the hardier Western Australian banksias in areas with humid summers. It requires a sunny, well-drained position and is tolerant of at least moderate frost. Plants respond to pruning but not below existing green foliage. Very useful screen plant and ornamental shrub for Californian gardens.

Eomecon chionantha, snow poppy (Papaveraceae), exhibited by Frank Figueroa, grown in Long Beach. An herbaceous perennial from eastern China which spreads quickly by rhizomes making a low groundcover 16 inches high. In early spring white poppy-like flowers appear just above the oval leaves with scalloped edges. The pure white 2"-wide flowers are centered with bright golden yellow stamens. Likes moist, well-drained soil in morning sun or light shade.

Euphorbia characias 'Tasmanian Tiger', variegated spurge, (Euphorbiaceae), exhibited by Joan Seidel, grown in Hollywood Hills. A succulent perennial which has narrow leaves with distinct variegation, green centers with white/cream margins. Plants can grow to 3 feet tall producing broad heads of flowers in summer. A stunning sight especially when combined with bold dark foliage. Plant in full sun to part shade in a well-drained soil and irrigate regularly.

Lobelia excelsa, Chilean lobelia, (Campanulaceae), exhibited by Eric Brooks, grown in Baldwin Hills. A shrub lobelia that can grow to 4 - 6 foot tall with an upright habit and gray green foliage with reddish orange flowers from spring to early fall. Plant in full sun and give little irrigation once established. Regular irrigation and feeding will cause this plant to spread rapidly. May require a hard pruning to keep under control but this plant will re-sprout from hard wood. Individuals with sensitive skin should take some precautions as handling this plant may cause irritation.

Poa fendleriana, mutton grass, (Poaceae), exhibited by Paul Martin, grown in Pasadena. Mutton Grass is so called as it grows as a bunch grass in many of the drier plant communities of the western plains and is preferred by sheep. A fair sized bunch grass of soft texture, too small to make a statement, doesn't blend well with most native landscapes. Great for massing in shady areas or as a backdrop.

Rosa 'Windrush', (Rosaceae), exhibited by Jackie Severeid, grown in Van Nuys. 'Windrush' is a Modern shrub rose, bred by David Austin, which produces semi-double lemon yellow flowers. The foliage is pale green. This rose will repeat flower during the season if deadheaded regularly. The fragrant, soft yellow blooms are held on strong branches making this an excellent choice for cut arrangements. Spreads to about 4 feet tall and wide.

Thomasia grandiflora 'Mt Lesueur', large flowered thomasia, (Malvaceae), exhibited by Jorge Ochoa, grown in Long Beach. A magnificent small shrub for southern California gardens. Plants can grow 3 feet tall by 2 feet wide with long linear dark green leaves. In late winter and spring the plant is covered by magenta flowers. Plant in full sun near the coast to part shade or dappled sun inland, with fairly well-drained soil and only occasional summer water. This plant was introduced in 2010 through the UCSC Koala Blooms Australian Plant Introduction Program.

5 H O R T I C U L T U R A L H A P P E N I N G S

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

Friday, May 4 from 5pm - 8pm

Saturday and Sunday, May 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.

Saturday, Sunday, May 12/13

9:00 am-4:00 pm

Mother's Day Geranium Show
Ayres Hall

Thursday, May 3

9:30 am-12:00 noon (except where noted)

Thursday Garden Talks with Lili Singer.

Spring series concludes: *Rebloom:*

Gardener's Delight, Mother Nature's Curse with John Schoustra

Friday, May 11

National Public Gardens Day: Free Admission

Saturday/Sunday, May 19/20

9 am - 4 pm

53rd Annual Epiphyllum Show and Sale
Ayres Hall

Saturday/Sunday/Monday, May 26/27/28

9:30 am - 5 pm

Santa Anita Bonsai Show
Ayres Hall

Sunday, May 27

Queen Anne Cottage Open House
10 am - 3 pm

CLAREMONT 91711

RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Continuing through May
David Rogers' **BIG BUGS**

Saturday, May 5

10:00 am-1:00 pm

Free Native Plant Clinic with native plant experts.

Sunday, May 6

Garden With a View

Celebrate RSABG's 85th anniversary with entertainment, an elegant garden party and auctions - all to benefit the garden.

Tickets \$85

FULLERTON 92831

FULLERTON ARBORETUM

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

Saturday May 12

Water Conservation Gardening: Design Strategies 1:30pm - 3:30pm

\$25 memb./\$30 non-memb. Free to Yorba Linda Water Dist. households (with current bill)

LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE 91011

DESCANSO GARDENS

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

Friday May 11

National Public Gardens Day: Free Admission.

Saturday, Sunday, May 12/13

Mother's Day Brunch by Patina

Reservations required (Various seating times/call to reserve)

\$44 memb./\$52 non-memb. \$19 children 4 - 12 (3 & under free).

PALOS VERDES PENINSULA 90274

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Sunday, May 6

9:00 am-4:00 pm

South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale. Free with garden admission.

Saturday, May 12

1 pm - 2:30 pm

Jewels of Nature: Hummingbirds in Your Garden.

Free with garden admission. Monique Rae, speaker.

Saturday, May 19

9 am - 4 pm

South Bay Geranium Society Show and Sale
Free with admission.

SAN MARINO 91108

HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

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

Thursday, May 10

2:30 pm

Garden Talk and Plant Sale

History of Lacy Park with Ron Serven. Free.

Saturday, May 26

10:30 am - 1 pm

Ranch Open House

A behind-the-scenes tour of the Huntington's urban agricultural site. Free with admission.

SUN VALLEY 91352

THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION FOR WILDFLOWERS & NATIVE PLANTS

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

Saturday, May 5

1:30-3:30 pm

Hypertufa Pot Workshop, with Steve Gerischer.
Fee.

Saturday, May 19

1 pm - 3:30

Look Ma, No Lawn! with Lili Singer.
Fee.

Saturday, May 26

9 am - 1 pm

Native Plant Horticulture with Lili Singer
Fee.

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Container Gardening with Native Plants with Steve Gerischer.
Fee.

TORRANCE 90503

THE MADRONA MARSH PRESERVE

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

Saturday, May 5

10:00 am-12:00 noon, repeats

Tuesday, May 8

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, May 14, 6:00-9:00 pm, at Del Mar Fairgrounds.

Activities include the talk *Handmade Garden Projects: step-by-step instructions for Creative Garden Features, Containers, Lighting & More*, with Lorene Edwards Forkner.

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

UPCOMING SCHS PROGRAMS

June 14 – Chris Rosmini will discuss garden design. (This meeting only will be at the Los Angeles Zoo)

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).

Board of Directors

Steven Gerischer, *President & Pacific Horticulture Board*

Jim Henrich, *Vice President & Membership*

Bettina Gatti, *Secretary & Internship Coordinator*

Laura Bauer, *Treasurer & Finance*

Joel Lichtenwalter, *Membership Secretary & Field Trips*

Debra Bushweit Galliani, *Newsletter & Membership*

Lisa Ceazan, *Website*

Sandy Masuo, *Facebook*

Kathy Musial, *Programs & Pacific Horticulture Board*

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:

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

Next deadline: Friday, May 11 (for June 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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NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2012