



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

June 2012 Newsletter

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, June 14

7:30 pm

Wetherbee Auditorium
Los Angeles Zoo

3

(Free Parking Near Front
Entrance)

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 NEW MEMBERS

Lucia Burke

Barbara Paul

JoEllen Smazenka

Hortencia Valencia

NEXT SHARING SECRETS QUESTION

The Sharing Secrets question
for June is: "What is your
favorite mail order source of
plants (or bulbs) and why?"

You can answer on the cards
we'll supply at our June 14
meeting or e-mail your
response to bushweit@yahoo.com
by Friday, June 15.

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The June Meeting



Our speaker for the June meeting of the Southern California Horticultural Society will be garden designer, Chris Rosmini, talking to us about the approach she uses to formulating her landscape designs. Many of our members were present in March for what was probably the final tour of the Judge Cynthia Hall garden that Chris designed.

Chris Rosmini, 1992 SCHS Horticulturist of the Year, is one of the top garden designers practicing in Los Angeles today. Her skilled work is renowned for harmoniously combining climate

appropriate plants with hardscape elements (paved surfaces, containers, water features, etc.).

Chris studied the classics at UCLA in the 1960s, but found her passion for plants and honed her skill as a designer in the 1970s. Chris is a collector of fine plants and many objects that interest her. She has been gardening her home ground since 1971.

She has said of her work, " My approach is similar indoors and out. I like to collage related things with small gradations of disparity. Same forms, slightly varied colors; or the same colors, but different shapes. The closer you get, the more you see, until you're lost in the experience."

In an article she wrote for *Pacific Horticulture* magazine in 2000 she wrote: "One of the particularly satisfying things about designing gardens for other people is that, in most instances, I get to consider the project as a whole, from the beginning. I can plan the overall structure, the hardscape and the planting as a more or less coherent design; manage the construction; and plant it as a continuous, if sometimes rather drawn-out process."

Chris will be taking us on an adventure through a selection of her garden design work, both past and present. As such, her presentation will be 35mm slides, as opposed to digital images, as these best capture the breadth of her work.



Judge Cynthia Hall garden. A tapestry-like planting of *Anigozanthos*, *Phormium*, *Cotinus* and *Cercis* 'Forest Pansy'.

A FEW NOTES ON THE ZOO AUDITORIUM

Our June 14 meeting of SCHS will be held in the Wetherbee Auditorium at the Los Angeles Zoo, northeast corner of Griffith Park. There is plenty of free parking. The Zoo is located near the junction of the I 5 and the 134 freeways. Opportunity Drawing will be provided by *Magic Growers* and we will have plant sales, and the Plant Forum (both outdoors in the area in front of the hall). There will be refreshments, though no food or drink can be taken inside the auditorium. We would like to thank board member Sandy Masuo for arranging this with Zoo management.

May Meeting Recap

The May meeting of the Southern California Horticultural Society was about the many ways gardeners express their creativity to personalize their gardens. The author of the new book, *Handmade Garden Projects*, Lorene Edwards Forkner, spoke about the *Handmade Garden* and how different gardeners apply "artistic license" in their own gardens, and gardens they design for others.

Lorene showed us that different approaches to design, and gardening can result in beautiful, simple and even startling spaces. Passion was the theme tying together all of the gardens we were shown images of from a mounded and mown lawn labyrinth, to Marcia Donohue's intricate, whimsical creations cascading through her garden (and over the pond and the chicken coop and the pathways). Clever and inventive uses for materials were illustrated,



Lorene Edwards Forkner(left) with SCHS board member Bettina Gatti.

Photo by: Lydia Plunk

including everything from old hardware to up-side-down dead trees used as garden architecture.

Lorene touched briefly on her own garden as well as the projects listed in her new book, as well as the challenges and changes in taking over as the new editor of *Pacific Horticulture Magazine*. Her humor and engaging manner made for a fun and memorable talk. After the presentation, Lorene sold and signed copies of her new book.

Thanks to everyone who helped set up, run and clean up after our May meeting. We hope to see you June 14, at the LA Zoo, for Chris Rosmini, speaking about her approach to *Garden Design*.

-Steve Gerischer

SHARING SECRETS

In April, we asked the question, "**What have you made to personalize your garden, or how have you repurposed materials (or both)?**"

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

I have started making a whimsical area, beginning with a bottle tree made with unusual/ antique bottles - and yet-to-be installed pink flamingos.

-Diane Connell

I repurpose old to antique watering cans as planters. Most look as if they are planted in the cans, however they are not. This saves the cans from rusting (some I do want to rust) as well as being easy to replace the plant should it commit suicide.

-Eileen Fiumara

I repurposed old materials (from job-sites) that would have been thrown away, to pave my dirt driveway. Bricks laid on edge around "urbanite" pavers with gravel and sand filling gaps.

-Steve Gerischer



SECRET CONTRIBUTORS

I used old crib railing as pea trellis.

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.

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

EXTRA 'SECRET'

The local cactus and succulent society had a garden tour a couple of weeks ago that I was able to attend. The owner of the garden was most gracious, offering cuttings and plants to the visitors. I took advantage of the offer to ask for a piece of a sprawling echinopsis with a dark red flower. The owner promptly put on a pair of scrub brush plastic gloves before he got the knife to cut the cactus. Whoa! Scrub brush gloves? I was fascinated, but was promptly told that "they are hard to find." They are. I searched the web in vain. But then I decided that simple scrub brushes would probably also be effective. And they are. Wonderful. A pair of brushes, handled like a pair of cymbals, has become my tool of choice for moving all of my cactus clumps up to about 10" in diameter and perhaps 10 pounds in weight. Larger specimens still need more elaborate handling, and so also will those like *Carnegiea* with really long spines, but for the usual potted specimens, scrub brushes are wonderful.

-Joan Citron



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GREEN SHEET

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

APRIL 2012 PLANT FORUM NOTES

Compiled by Sula Vanderplank and Jorge Ochoa

Photographs by Paul Martin

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

Arilbred iris, (Iridaceae), exhibited by sheldon Lisker, grown in Temecula.

Baccharis pilularis 'Chablis', Chablis chaparral broom, (Asteraceae), exhibited by Bart O'Brien, grown at RSABG.

Bletilla striata, Chinese ground orchid, (Orchidaceae), exhibited by Jill Vig.

Epiphyllum hybrid, orchid cactus, (Cactaceae), exhibited by Jane Harrington, grown in Los Angeles.

Iris Pacific Coast Hybrids, (Iridaceae), exhibited by Kathy Musial.

Iris 'Thornbird', (Iridaceae), exhibited by Jill Vig.

Iris douglasiana, (Iridaceae), exhibited by Bart O'Brien, grown at RSABG.

Iris tectorum, roof iris, (Iridaceae), exhibited by Paul Martin, grown in Pasadena.

Leucospermum reflexum, orange rocket, (Proteaceae), exhibited by Gary Kamisher, grown in West LA.

Lupinus albifrons var. *collins*, silver bush lupin, (Fabaceae), exhibited by Tim Evans, grown in Canoga Park.

Papaver somniferum, opium poppy, (Papaveraceae), exhibited by Joan Siedel, grown in the Hollywood Hills.

Penstemon x parishii 'Magenta Marvel', (Plantaginaceae), exhibited by Bart O'Brien, grown in Upland.

Salvia clevelandii 'Arroyo Azul', Arroyo Azul blue sage, (Lamiaceae), exhibited by Bart O'Brien, grown at RSABG.

Salvia dolomitica, South African sage, (Lamiaceae), exhibited by Bart O'Brien, grown in Upland.

Syringa 'Snowy Beach Party', Snowy Beach Party lilac, (Oleaceae), exhibited by John Schoustra, grown in Somis and Long Beach.

Tillandsia bergeri, air plant, (Bromeliaceae), exhibited by Jim Jaeger, grown in Santa Monica.

XChiranthofremontia lenzii 'Griffs Wonder', 'Griff's Wonder' leelenzia, (Malvaceae), exhibited by Bart O'Brien, grown at RSABG.



From left to right: *Iris douglasiana*, *Echium gentianoides*, *Salvia clevelandii* 'Arroyo Azul', *Iris munzii*. Photos by Paul Martin

Plants that could not be fully identified:

Salvia hybrid, (Lamiaceae), exhibited by Bart O'Brien, grown in Upland.

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.

Albuca suaveolens, (syn. *Ornithogalum suaveolens*), (Asparagaceae), exhibited by Sheldon Lisker, grown in Temecula. In spring, this South African bulb produces delightful spikes of yellow flowers striped with green. Easy to grow, this plant can reach a height of 1.5 feet. Excellent for dry areas and rock gardens, plant in full sun or semi-shade and feed occasionally for better growth. Good subject for containers.

Allium schubertii, ornamental onion, (Amaryllidaceae), exhibited by Sheldon Lisker, grown in Temecula. Carefree and rewarding! Large inflorescences can reach "volley ball" size with reddish purple flowers-star-shaped florets each on a long stalk. The flowers are long-lasting and heads can be dried for ornamental use. Native to Asia the plant can reach 24 inches high producing flowers in the spring. Excellent for the border and small garden, also very suitable for dried flower arrangements.

Dierama nixonianum, fairy wand, (Iridaceae), exhibited by Joan Seidel, grown in Hollywood Hills. A pretty plant, useful in the garden, undemanding, but smaller than most *Dieramas* and less graceful. Corm with narrow grass-like leaves and spikes of flowers in early spring. Grow in full sun but give this plant ample water and keep it away from severe heat. Joan is one of the few members that have been successful in growing *Dieramas* in Southern California.

Echium gentianoides, (Boraginaceae), exhibited by Bart O'Brien, grown in Upland. A true blue flower! *Echium gentianoides* is a wonderful plant from the island of La Palma of the Canary Islands. This woody shrub with a wide branching habit blooms year after year with sky-blue flowers that are truly beautiful. It grows about 4 feet tall and 4 feet wide if left unpruned. Plant has bluish-green leaves with a whitish streak which makes them look almost variegated. The leaves lack the bristly, irritating hairs found on many other *Echium* species.

Iris lonipetala, long-petaled Iris, (Iridaceae), exhibited by Bart O'Brien, grown at RSABG. Restricted to swales and moist areas in coastal grasslands from San Francisco to Monterey, this uncommon native is well worth growing. Bluish-green clumps of evergreen foliage form erect clumps 1 foot to 20 inches tall. Early spring brings beautiful lavender-blue flowers with dark purple venation. Full sun in coastal areas, and partial shade inland, with regular water through the bloom period. Can go dryer once flowering has finished.

Iris munzii, Munz's iris, (Iridaceae), exhibited by Bart O'Brien, grown at RSABG. Munz's Iris is an unusual species endemic to the southern Sierra Nevada foothills in Tulare County, California. The plants produce flowers that are pale lavender to purple. Often found in clumps with leaves that are green to grayish-green in color with an upright form.

Lupinus arboreus, tree lupin, (Fabaceae), exhibited by Tim Avans, grown in Canoga Park. A California native found in plant communities from Sonoma to Ventura counties. This species is notable for its ability to sometimes form a woody 'trunk', hence its latin name 'arboreus' meaning 'tree-like'. Plants have green foliage and canary yellow blossoms. An excellent choice for coastal gardens! Care should be taken when planting lupines since they do not like disturbance to their roots. Plants may reseed themselves and they may escape from their intended garden area.

Oxalis 'Plum Crazy', Plum Crazy wood sorrel, (Oxalidaceae), exhibited by Jorge Ochoa, grown in Long Beach. Pink, fuchsia and green variegations splash the clover-like leaves creating a bright spot for the moist garden. Pale yellow flowers emerge in the spring. Use as a groundcover or in containers. Grows 6 inches tall by 12 inches wide. A must have for every gardener!

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

Saturday, June 2
Daylily Show and Plant Sale
9 am - 4 pm

Saturday and Sunday, June 9 & 10, from 9 am - 4:30 pm
The Fern and Exotic Plant Show and Sale
Free with admission.

Saturday, June 9
9:00 am–12:30 pm
Tried And True Ways On Saving Water In Your Garden.
Laramie Haynes, instructor.
Fee.

Sunday, June 17
2 pm - 3:30 pm
Father's Day Event: An Adventure In Shakespeaere's Garden: Moth and Mustardseed.

Kids and Families.
Free with admission.

Saturday, June 30
10 am - Noon
DIY-The Green Way!
Steve Gerischer, instructor.
Fee.

CLAREMONT 91711

RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Continuing through June 21
David Rogers' **BIG BUGS**

Saturday, June 9
11:00 am
Stars Above, Earth Below: A Guide to Astronomy in the National Parks, with Tyler Nordgren.
Free with admission.

Continuing through July
Butterfly Pavillion (\$2 per person in addition to standard admission.)

Sunday, June 10
Natural History of LA Basin Butterflies, with Clark Thompson.
Fee.

FULLERTON 92831

FULLERTON ARBORETUM

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

Saturday, June 23
Water Conservation Gardening: Edibles in the Low Water Use Garden
1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
\$25 memb./\$30 non-memb. Free to Yorba Linda Water District households (with current bill).

LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE 91011

DESCANSO GARDENS

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

Saturday, Sunday, June 16 & 17
Reception June 16, 5 pm - 10 pm
Descanso Bonsai Society Show and Sale

PALOS VERDES PENINSULA 90274

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Saturday and Sunday, June 9 & 10
9:00 am–4:00 pm
South Coast Fuchsia Society Show and Sale. 32nd Annual Fuchsia Festival.
Free with garden admission.

SAN MARINO 91108

HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

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

Thursday, June 14
2:30 pm
Garden Talk and Plant Sale
Daylilies: the Next Generation, with John Schoustra.
Free with admission.

Saturday, June 30 & Sunday July 1

10:30 am - 4:30 pm
Cactus and Succulent Society of America 47th Annual Show and Sale
Free with admission.

SUN VALLEY 91352

THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION FOR WILDFLOWERS & NATIVE PLANTS

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

Saturday, June 2
1:30–3:30 pm
Enhancing Aesthetic Appeal: Design and Maintenance Tips, with Carol Bornstein
Fee

Saturday, June 9
1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Monoprint Printmaking Workshop, with Laura Stickney
Fee.

Saturday, June 16
11:30 am - 3:30 pm
Native Plant Horticulture with Lili Singer
Fee.
Saturday, June 23
9 am - 1 pm
California Native Gardening: A Month-by-Month Guide. Book sale and signing with Helen Popper
Fee.

Saturday, June 30
1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Leaf Print Workshop (for children), with Laura Stickney
Fee.

TORRANCE 90503

THE MADRONA MARSH PRESERVE

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

Saturday, June 2
10:00 am–12:00 noon, repeats
Tuesday, June 12
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, June 11, 5:30 - 7:45 pm, Special Event at Del Mar Fairgrounds.

SDHS Night at the Fair Gardens, and "Horticulturist of the Year" Presentation.
Information: 760-295-7089, sdhortsoc.org.
Fee non-members.

Compiled by Steven Gerischer

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. *Picturing The New American Garden.*

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, **Richard Turner**, 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 *Green Sheet*), Lydia Plunk, (photos of meeting), Sula Vanderplank, Jorge Ochoa, Steven Gerischer, Laura Bauer, Joan Citron and all Sharing Secrets contributors.

Next deadline: Friday, June 15 (for July newsletter).

It is the Friday following our monthly membership meeting.

Please contribute an article or information of interest.

Southern California
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NEWSLETTER
June 2012