



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

August 2012 Newsletter

## OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, August 9  
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.

Bring one or more plants,  
flowers, seeds or fruits to  
display at the Plant Forum and  
receive a free Exhibitor's Ticket  
for the Opportunity Drawing.

## AUGUST OPPORTUNITY DRAWING

We are fortunate that **El Nativio Nursery** will provide plants for the Opportunity Drawing at our August meeting.

A selection of plants from members will also be for sale.

## PRESENTATION BY INTERN KIMBERLY COMPEAU AT AUGUST 9 MEETING

**Kimberly Compeau**, the recipient of the SCHS 2012 Linda Pomerance Grant, will give a presentation on her experience at the **Huntington Botanical Gardens**. Read her article on page 5.

## NEXT SHARING SECRETS QUESTION

There are many reasons that plant lovers are inspired to propagate plants, sometimes just to see if one can. Ripe seeds are enticing, as are favorite plants you can't find elsewhere.

The Sharing Secrets question for August is:

*What is the first plant  
you ever propagated  
successfully?*

You can answer on the cards we'll supply at our August 9 meeting or e-mail your response to [bushweit@yahoo.com](mailto:bushweit@yahoo.com) by Friday, August 10.

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## The August Meeting

### Matthew Levesque: *The Revolutionary Yardscape*



### Designing Through Reuse

The speaker for our August 9 meeting will be **Matthew Levesque**. Mr. Levesque operates Building Resources and the Red Shovel Glass Company, San Francisco's only non-profit building materials salvage yard and tumbled glass manufacturing facility. The focus of his presentation will be on integrating reuse into contemporary landscape practice.

Matthew's current book, *The Revolutionary Yardscape*, is a celebration of the "Reduce/Reuse/Recycle" mantra we've all been learning and a subject he speaks about often and practices with obvious flair. The book was published by Timber Press in 2010 and has been garnering praise and great reviews since then.

We throw away so much in our "disposable society" and it is refreshing to see such creative uses for what others deem refuse. Owen Dell mentions in his talks about throwing things "away" and then asks, "Where's away? Have you been there?" It's a pertinent question and one we need to ask every time we are disposing of things, particularly things that will probably outlast us in a landfill.

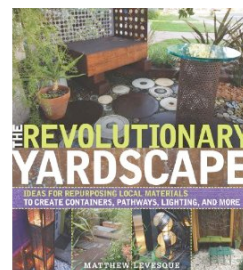
Aaron Kramer, an artist who creates amazing pieces using cast-offs says, "Trash is the failure of imagination." There is no failure of imagination here. The book is filled with projects utilizing everything from plastic straps from shipping pallets to old tool boxes.

The how-to instructions are clear and easy to follow and, while every project might not be for you it's hard to resist making your own rain chain or trying some of the remarkable lighting ideas he uses.

Matthew spoke at a Gardening Under Mediterranean Skies symposium years ago, where he showed images of his tumbled glass and terra cotta. He used the term "urbanite" for broken, recycled concrete. I, for one, have appropriated that term and use it every occasion possible (though I do credit Mr. Levesque). The core idea here is perspective and perception. One man's trash can become someone else's garden treasure.

*- By Steven Gerischer*

## AUGUST SELECTED BOOK



*The Revolutionary Yardscape* was written by our featured speaker, **Matthew Levesque**.

Copies will be available for purchase at our

meeting and a book signing will follow the presentation.

Published by Timber Press; October 2010.  
Paperback  
8.1 x 9.1 inches, 192 pages  
207 color photographs

Member price: \$18.00; List price: \$22.95

## July Meeting Recap

The Southern California Horticultural Society's July 12 meeting program featured a presentation of images that were taken early in the last century. It was also an illuminating history lesson, a commentary on the art of photography and a fascinating view of society at the time the images were developed.

The talk was given by **Sam Watters** and was coordinated with the recent publication of his book, *Gardens for a Beautiful America, 1895-1935*. This book is a collection of photographs taken by **Frances Benjamin Johnston**, a photographer-lecturer, and shows not just a look at gardens after the turn of the last century, but represents an entire social push to "better" the nation.

Originally meant as a lantern slide show accompanied by a talk, the photos had been hand tinted to enhance their appeal to the special audience for which they were intended.

Mr. Watters showed how these pictures were not just "pretty" representations of gardens and landscapes, but were meant to convey ideas of design and propriety to a well-heeled audience in a position to use this information to beautify a nation fighting urban blight, pollution and the scars of the Industrial Revolution.

Frances Benjamin Johnston presented her illuminated lectures across the nation, mainly to garden groups and societies of women agitating for change, many of them the wives of the very men made wealthy by heavy industries that had left the inner cities in such a sorry state.

One of the most telling of the sets of pictures presented showed Ms. Johnston as she represented herself to these groups: one in a quiet dress, well coifed and wearing a simple strand of pearls; and the other image, of the "artiste" wearing a work smock, stylishly over-large jewelry and a more loose and carefree hairdo.

Both of these photographs were circulated at the same time, but to very different audiences. The separations in the social strata were evident and show how well Frances Johnston understood who she was addressing.

Mr. Watters discovered these images in the Library of Congress and set about identifying as many of the gardens as he could, as many of the photos had no reference to where or when they were taken, beyond a few notes.

One of the places pictured was very familiar to Mr. Watters, since a relative of his had designed the pictured garden. The slides can be viewed at the LOC website at: [loc.gov/pictures/collection/fbj/](http://loc.gov/pictures/collection/fbj/).

We would like to thank Sam Watters for an enjoyable evening of history and all that surrounds the work of Frances Johnston. A limited number of his book, *Gardens for a Beautiful America*, were for sale and went quickly. Mr. Watters graciously signed copies.

The book is available from *Amazon.com* at: [amazon.com/Beautiful-1895-1935-Photographs-Benjamin-Johnston/dp/0926494155/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1342200433&sr=1-1&keywords=gardens+for+a+beautiful+america+1895-1935](http://amazon.com/Beautiful-1895-1935-Photographs-Benjamin-Johnston/dp/0926494155/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1342200433&sr=1-1&keywords=gardens+for+a+beautiful+america+1895-1935).

We would like to thank **Matilija Nursery** for providing the Opportunity Drawing plants and **John Schoustra** for bringing them.

Thanks as well to everyone who helps set-up, run and clean up after the meeting. Stick around some night and lend a hand! We would welcome the help.

- By Steven Gerischer

## SHARING SECRETS

In July, we posed the question "**What is the most inspirational public or private garden you've ever visited?**" Get your passport ready to visit some of these favorites.

Kew Gardens in London. I make sure I spend two days there when going through London. Trees are allowed to grow freely to become what they wish. There is always something different to see in many greenhouses and plantings. I can get lost for many hours of total delight.

- Leslie Walker

- 1) Trauttmansdorff Castle in Northern Italy. Beautiful and restful.
- 2) Giverny
- 3) Lotusland
- 4) Huntington Botanical Gardens

- Gary Kamisher

The Arlington Garden in Pasadena (corner of Arlington and Pasadena Avenues). Fantastic example of Mediterranean/dry public garden. Go use the bocce court. Also has lots of fun/whimsical touches.

- Laura Bauer

Lovely Lotusland. If I had a dozen acres and a few million dollars (and someone to complete all the import/collection permits). This is the garden I would make.

- Sandy Masuo

## SECRET CONTRIBUTORS

La Ninfa Gardens in Italy and Sissinghurst Castle in England.

Rodin Museum Garden in Paris.

- 1) Giverny in France.
- 2) Butchart Gardens in Victoria Canada.

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

## SHARING TABLE AT AUGUST MEETING, COME JOIN IN!

Inspired by our August speaker, Matthew Levesque, author of *The Revolutionary Yardscape*, **Kathy Musial** suggested that we have a **Sharing Table** at our August 9 meeting, akin to the one at our December meetings.

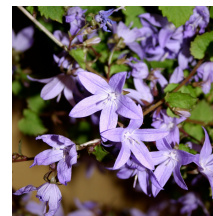
From the Timber Press website:

"...From making pathways out of scrap wood and metal to creating garden lights from discarded indoor fixtures, *The Revolutionary Yardscape* features dozens of garden design projects and inspirational ideas for taking advantage of salvaged materials found in the home, junkyard, or thrift store..."

Kathy said she has "been cleaning out my garage and it gave me an idea. I have a whole flotilla of items I've gathered over the years with the idea of repurposing them in the garden. But they've accumulated and inspiration has not struck, or they didn't work as intended. But a different kind of inspiration did strike."

Join Kathy and other members by bringing garden and non-garden items to our August 9 meeting to share with other attendees who may be able to put them to good use. We hope you are inspired to bring those things you no longer need to our next meeting. Think how good you'll feel that they'll be used by appreciative new owners.

Come early to get the best selection because you can start taking the items you want as soon as they're placed down. Items not taken must be reclaimed by their owners at the end of the meeting.



*Campanula poscharskyana* 'Blue Waterfall', at our May 2012 Plant Forum. See page 3 for details. Photograph by Paul Martin.





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## GREEN SHEET

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

## MAY 2012 PLANT FORUM NOTES

*Compiled by Jorge Ochoa and Sula Vanderplank*

*Photographs by Paul Martin*

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

*Calochortus venustus* 'Burgundy', mariposa lily (Liliaceae), exhibited by Sheldon Lisker, grown in Sun City.  
*Campanula poscharskyana* 'Blue Waterfall' (Campanulaceae), exhibited by Eric Brooks, grown in Baldwin Hills.  
*Chlorogalum pomeridianum*, soap lily (Asparagaceae), exhibited by Sheldon Lisker, grown in Sun City.  
*Clematis ligusticifolia*, western virgin's bower (Ranunculaceae), exhibited by Robin Corwin.  
*Hechtia tillandsioides* (Bromeliaceae), exhibited by Yvonne Savio, grown in Pasadena.  
*Iris germanica* 'Rhythm', novelty iris (Iridaceae), exhibited by Sheldon Lisker, grown in Sun City.  
*Kennedia coccinea*, coral pea (Fabaceae), exhibited by Eric Brooks, grown in Baldwin Hills.  
*Leucophyllum frutescens*, Texas sage (Scrophulariaceae), exhibited by Eileen Fiumara, grown in Sherman Oaks.  
*Pelargonium crispum*, lemon geranium (Geraniaceae), exhibited by Patricia McGrath, grown in Silver Lake.  
*Polygala virgata*, milkworth (Polygalaceae), exhibited by Frank Figueroa, grown in Long Beach.  
*Rhododendron* subg. *Vireya* (Ericaceae), exhibited by Jim Jaeger.  
*Rosa* 'Crown Princess Margarete' (Rosaceae), exhibited by Jean Chardy, grown in La Cañada.  
*Rosa* 'Dancing Flames' and *Rosa* 'Light My Fire' (Rosaceae), exhibited by A. Evrard, grown in Franklin Hills.  
*Rosa* 'Summer Song'; *Rosa* 'Teasing Georgia'; and *Rosa* 'Thrive F' (Rosaceae), exhibited by Jean Chardy, grown in La Cañada.  
*Salvia elegans*, dwarf pineapple sage (Lamiaceae), exhibited by Patricia McGrath, grown in Silver Lake.  
*Solanum umbelliferum*, blue witch (Solanaceae), exhibited by Allan Gonzalez, grown in Long Beach.

Plants that could not be fully identified:

*Rhipsalis*, drunkard's dream (Cactaceae), exhibited by Susan Hardman, grown in Altadena.

Photographs (left to right): *Calochortus venustus* 'Burgundy',  
*Iris germanica* 'Rhythm', *Polygala virgata*, *Kennedia coccinea*.



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

*Adiantum × mairisii*, maidenhair fern (Pteridaceae), exhibited by Joan Seidel, grown in Hollywood Hills.

A fabulous, very elegant fern. This is a vigorous sterile Victorian hybrid between *A. capillus-veneris* (which it closely resembles) and another unknown maidenhair fern. It is quite robust and spreads slowly to form a very attractive clump. This variety can only be propagated by tissue culture, hence its scarcity, but it is an exceptional fern. Just give it a sheltered situation and moist, well-drained soil.

*Echium wildpretii*, tower of jewels (Boraginaceae), exhibited by Joan Citron, grown in Reseda.

A rosette-forming biennial from the Canary Islands with narrow, silver-gray leaves that spread to about 2 feet wide. A single 5 to 7 foot tall spike is topped by hundreds of dark pink to almost red flowers in a dense terminal spike. After flowering, the plant will die so allow the plant to mature fully and set seed. For best results, plant in full sun, in a well-drained soil. Joan exhibited a plant that refused to have a single large flower spike like other echiums of its species and produced many small spikes.

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

A beautiful, small, erect shrub that combines stunning purple flowers with silvery foliage. It closely resembles a Texas sage, but this shrub is native to the deserts of Western Australia. Showy tubular flowers attract hummingbirds to the garden all year. A full sun exposure and good drainage are preferred. A prolific bloomer that may reach a height of 3 feet and similar spread.

*Freylinia visseri*, honey bell bush (Scrophulariaceae), exhibited by Ann Brooks, grown in Baldwin Hills.

*Freylinia* is an erect shrub from South Africa with small, tubular, bell-shaped flowers in clusters. A very attractive and unusual, evergreen, woody shrub that grows to a height of 5 feet. The foliage adds to the attractiveness of this plant, as the leaves are firm and pointed. The plant grows best in full to partial sun with regular water. It is considered endangered in its native habitat.

*Garuleum pinnatifidum* (Asteraceae), exhibited by Jorge Ochoa, grown in Long Beach.

Tough little perennial plant from South Africa with striking green leaves and conspicuous daisy-like lavender flowers. Easy to grow in the full sun and requires little maintenance if grown in large areas. You will be rewarded with lush growth and lots of flowers with regular water.

*Orbexilum pedunculatum*, Sampson's snakeroot (Fabaceae), exhibited by Kyle Meyer, grown in Long Beach.

This perennial groundcover may get to 1 to 2½ feet tall, branching occasionally. Each leaf is divided into three leaflets and grows along the stems. The blue-violet to white flowers are arranged densely in a spike that makes an attractive feature in the garden. The blooming period occurs from early to late spring and lasts for several weeks. It grows best in full sun with regular water.

*Petunia exserta*, hummingbird petunia (Solanaceae), exhibited by Steve Gerischer, grown in Eagle Rock.

Hummingbird petunia is an extremely rare species, known from only a single location in southeastern Brazil. Hummingbird petunia flowers are vivid red, produce no odor and have exserted stigmas, which gives the plant its botanical name. Hummingbirds are its natural pollinator, giving the plant its common name. A profuse bloomer with unusual long tubes; it flowers from early summer to fall. Easy and fast growing to 2 feet in height by equal spread. (Pictured at right.)



*Sambucus nigra* 'Eva', black lace elderberry (Adoxaceae) exhibited by Eileen Fiumara, grown in Sherman Oaks.

Black lace elderberry is unlike any other plant you can put in your garden. It has finely cut dark purple-black foliage that has some resemblance to the common Japanese maple. Creamy pink flowers in spring contrast nicely with the dark leaves. While most plants bloom for 3 to 4 weeks, the foliage adds color, interesting texture and wow appeal regardless of flowers. Black lace elderberry is very easy to grow and adaptable to most sites, although full sun is needed for the best color. (Pictured at left.)



**MEET INTERN KIMBERLY COMPEAU****AT OUR AUGUST 9 MEETING**

*Kimberly Compeau, the recipient of the SCHS 2012 Linda Pomerance Grant, will give a presentation on her experience working at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens at our August 9 meeting.*



I've been in love with the aesthetic beauty of trees (and flowers) for as long as I can recall. I briefly studied landscape architecture, that didn't satisfy my desire to work outdoors and live closer to nature.

Painting and drawing was an option, but the idea of going through a period of being the "starving artist" didn't sound secure in the least. I proceeded to get a B.A. in Liberal Studies, a wonderfully broad education.

As these things go, raising a family became my priority and I put my endeavors and dreams on hold. It wasn't until my son graduated from high school that I pursued my educational dreams only to have them dashed by the collapsing economy.

Budget cuts to higher education made applying for a second bachelor's degree in horticulture impossible. I enrolled at Mt. San Antonio College and became a volunteer working with orchids and epiphytes from the cool mountainous regions of Latin America.

I was fortunate enough to receive an internship sponsored by the Southern California Horticultural Society at the Huntington Library and Gardens in the conservatory and work with the orchid curator.

**PROJECT SUMMARY**

The project was centered on refurbishing the Cloud Forest room: rescuing senescent plants, removing dead plant material and branches, re-working, re-contouring and amending soil, heavy pruning of trees and shrubs, propagation of plants to be moved or removed, and mounting and re-mounting epiphytic orchids and other plants. Existing metal trees will be fitted with new surface and peat moss for planting.

- By Kimberly Compeau

**GROWING NATIVES:****NATIVES INCORPORATED**

**Saturday, September 22**

**At Rancho Los Alamitos**

A one-day symposium to inspire gardeners to integrate California native plants into existing, drought tolerant gardens.

Sponsored by SCHS and Pacific Horticulture Society.



Our panel of speakers will cover a range of subjects, including which plants will work best in the home garden, why we should be growing natives, vibrant plant combinations and basic design issues faced by home gardeners.

Lectures by:

**Bart O'Brien**

**Carol Bornstein**

**Lili Singer**

**Barbara Paul**



The newly renovated center at Rancho Los Alamitos will be the venue for this day of celebrating the wealth that California native plants can bring to any garden with a lean water budget. Come learn how to enrich your drought tolerant landscape without tearing out everything and starting over! Plants, books, seeds and bulbs will be for sale.

Lunch will be prepared by the kitchen at Rancho Los Alamitos, and is included in the price of admission.

The Growing Natives symposiums have been sponsored by *Pacific Horticulture* and various other agencies, including East Bay Area Water District and California Native Plant Society.

The previous events were held in the Bay area and in an effort to further the cause of educating the public about growing California native plants, this series is being extended to other regions.

Our Society is proud to co-sponsor this event for Southern California.

**HOW TO REGISTER**

You can register and pay online at [socalhort.org](http://socalhort.org) or send a check to SCHS at PO Box 94476, Pasadena CA 91109. Include the following information:

\_\_\_\_\_ Member Tickets at \$110 each =  
Total Ticket(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Non-Member Tickets at \$130 each =  
Total Ticket(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Total Ticket(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Carpooling? \_\_\_\_\_

How many in your party? \_\_\_\_\_

Member(s) Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Non-Member(s) Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address, City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone, E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

### REQUEST FOR DONATIONS TO OUR SILENT AUCTION

Silent Auction time is approaching and Steve Gerischer is already preparing space in a section of his home for your donations.

Our Silent Auctions have always been a highlight at our Annual Award Banquets, and are also important fundraising events for our Society. Each year's auction has a different flavor, depending on the interesting items that our members donate.

For our October 11 auction, we are seeking your contributions of unwanted treasures including special books. Please bring your items to our August 11 or September 13 meeting, or contact Steve Gerischer at 323-257-3629 or [sglarkspur@aol.com](mailto:sglarkspur@aol.com) to make arrangements.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION RESULTS**

SCHS members have elected the slate of nominees presented to serve through June 30, 2015. Thanks to all of our members who voted.

Incumbents **Laura Bauer, Lisa Ceazan, Lili Singer** and **Jill Vig** have been reelected and **Sabine Hoppner** has joined the board.

**Kathy Musial** has exited the board after so many years of service that we have lost track. She will be greatly missed on the board, but will continue to be active in the Society and attend meetings.

We appreciate the dedication of our board members and the energy they invest in the long-term success of our Society. Our deep thanks to them and all who volunteer their time.

## UPCOMING SCHS PROGRAMS

At Friendship Auditorium in Los Angeles unless otherwise noted.

**September 13 – Scott Kleinrock** will tell us about *The Huntington Ranch Project* at the **Huntington Botanical Gardens**.

At 6:00 pm, Scott will also host a tour of The Ranch. THIS TOUR AND MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS. Free to SCHS members.

**September 22 – Growing Natives: Natives Incorporated**, A one day symposium on native plants, is presented by SCHS and the Pacific Horticulture Society, and held at **Rancho Los Alamitos**. Lectures from **Bart O'Brien**, **Carol Bornstein**, **Lili Singer** and **Barbara Paul**. See details on page 5.

**October 11 – Annual Award Banquet** honoring **Richard Turner** as our 2012 SCHS Horticulturist of the Year. Dick recently retired as longtime editor of *Pacific Horticulture* magazine and we are changing the date to match his schedule. The dinner and Silent Auction will be held at the **Huntington Botanical Gardens**.

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

**December 13 – Annual Members' Night** (aka, Cookie Night). We will also have a DVD showing of *No Work Gardening* by **Ruth Stouts**.

### 2013 PROGRAMS

**January 10** – To be announced.

**February 14 – Andrew Bunting**, curator of Scott Arboretum at Swarthmore College in Philadelphia since 1993 and president of Magnolia Society International will speak.

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

NEWSLETTER  
AUGUST 2012

### 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*

Carol Bornstein

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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:

Kimberly Compeau, Bettina Gatti, Steven Gerischer, Paul Martin, Kathy Musial, Jorge Ochoa, Sula Vanderplank and all Sharing Secrets contributors.

**Next deadline:** Friday, August 10 (for September newsletter).

It is the Friday following our monthly membership meeting.

Please contribute an article or information of interest.