



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

[socalhort.org](http://socalhort.org)

October 2012 Newsletter

## OUR NEXT MEETING

Annual Award Banquet  
Honoring Richard Turner

Thursday, October 11

6:00 pm Social Hour &  
Silent Auction

7:00 pm Dinner &  
Presentation

Botanical Center  
Huntington Botanical  
Gardens

1151 Oxford Rd.  
San Marino CA 91108

Use the enclosed flyer to make  
your reservations or online at  
[schs.memberlodge.org/events](http://schs.memberlodge.org/events).

## OCTOBER BANQUET

We will not have our usual  
Plant Forum or Opportunity  
Drawing at our October 11  
banquet. Look for the next  
Sharing Secrets question in our  
November newsletter.

## WELCOME NEWEST MEMBERS!

Sara Griggs  
Terry Haljun  
Nancy Johnson  
Lisa Kornblith  
Marilee Kuhlmann  
Shawn Maestretti  
Gretchen Marlotte  
Pilar Reynaldo  
Normarie Waybourn

## WHERE IS MY MEMBERSHIP CARD?

The good news is that you have  
not lost yours. We no longer  
issue them because we have  
eliminated the need for you to  
bring your membership card to  
meetings.

When you sign in at a meeting,  
we will have a list of all current  
members. If you bring a guest,  
we will make a note in our  
records.

Each member receives two free  
guest passes per year. If you are  
a member at the Planter,  
Cultivator or Benefactor level,  
you received an additional two  
guest passes per year.

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## The October Meeting

### SCHS Annual Banquet Honoring Richard G. Turner Jr.



## Horticulturist of the Year

Please join us for one of the Society's yearly  
high points – the 2012 **Annual Horticulturist  
of the Year Award Banquet** at the legendary

**Huntington Botanical Gardens.** This  
always special occasion is made even more  
special this year with our final staging of the  
dinner and Silent Auction at the beautiful  
and historic Huntington.

Our 2012 honoree is the vibrant and  
delightful **Richard "Dick" Turner**, longtime  
editor of *Pacific Horticulture*, Dick will treat  
us to a special presentation he's calling *The  
Accidental Editor*.

Richard Turner originally hailed from  
Detroit, Michigan, but fled to California after  
receiving degrees in architecture and  
landscape architecture from the University  
of Michigan. He served as education director  
at Strybing Arboretum, director of the San  
Francisco Garden Show and executive  
director of the Ruth Bancroft Garden after  
shepherding it through preservation by the  
Garden Conservancy.

Dick first served on the board of directors of  
the Pacific Horticultural Foundation in the  
1980s. Then returned to the organization as  
editor of *Pacific Horticulture* in 1997.

Throughout his 15-year tenure, he cheerfully  
and tirelessly promoted the magazine and  
its mission to promote the art and science of  
gardening as he enhanced the publication's  
reputation as one of the world's finest  
horticultural periodicals.

Dick is well known beyond the West Coast

thanks to his lectures, the worldwide tours  
he has led, the educational programs he has  
spearheaded – including the Gardening  
Under Mediterranean Skies as well as the  
several books he has edited. Having retired  
in March 2012, Dick is enjoying tending to  
his garden, continuing his travels and  
collecting well deserved honors and  
accolades.

See the enclosed flyer to register or go to the  
MemberLodge page on our website at  
[schs.memberlodge.org/events](http://schs.memberlodge.org/events) to register online.

## STILL TIME TO DONATE SILENT AUCTION ITEMS FOR OUR OCTOBER BANQUET!

If you are bringing the auction items you are  
donating with you on the night of our  
October 11 banquet, please contact me  
beforehand.

I need to know the details of what the item  
is, who is bringing it and a minimum bid  
(for return if not met) or value of item.

Tags have to be made before the event and  
this information will be needed no later than  
**Saturday, October 6.**

Contact me at 323-257-3629, or e-mail me at  
[sglarkspur@aol.com](mailto:sglarkspur@aol.com). Thank you.

- Steve Gerischer

## September Meeting Recap

The September meeting of the Southern California Horticultural Society was held at the Huntington Botanical Gardens and was all about the **Huntington Ranch Project**.

**Scott Kleinrock**, Ranch manager, began the evening early with an exclusive tour of the Ranch Project. This area of the Huntington is only open to the public when used for teaching and can only be toured on special "open" days.

The Ranch is a unique experiment in urban agriculture and takes into account the semi-arid, Mediterranean climate of Southern California. This is not the row garden your grandfather planted.

The Ranch is a series of small gardens in an arrangement that mimics an urban plot. Crops are situated to take advantage of the water applied to fruiting trees and the dappled afternoon shade they cast.

Plants are allowed to bloom when they would attract pollinators and beneficial insects – no spraying here. There were many unusual fruiting trees and innovative ideas for growing crops on display (as well as the deep mulches we are all encouraged to use in our gardens).

The evening's talk began after our tour and focused on the crops, native plants and other flowering plants mixed between the produce. Scott pointed out that the Huntington is well known for its botanic garden, library and art collection – but not as well known for their working orchards and collections of fruit trees on the property.

The Ranch project is an extension of that "hidden" part of the history of the Huntington. Scott detailed the development of the Ranch, as well as their current methods to work in concert with nature and the rich diversity of a healthy, ecologically sound garden.

Of special interest was the fact that roots are left in the ground when crops are finished – the tops are ground and added to the compost bin.

And the lack (almost) of "traditional" fruit trees was evident (peach, plum, etc.). Scott explained that in the Huntington's microclimate, there are well established pests that render growing of these trees difficult or impossible without major spraying efforts.

Therefore the fruiting trees of the Ranch reflect a more Mediterranean bent, with jujube and fig as well as pineapple guava and pomegranate taking the place of peach

and plum. Even the grapes are a bit different here than in most home gardens.

Many of the tips given, learned through trial and error, or sheer experimentation, have produced a thoroughly fascinating model for home gardeners wishing to make the most of their own fruit and vegetable gardens. Thanks, Scott!

The book recommended by the speaker was, *Gaia's Garden* by Toby Hemenway.

The Opportunity Drawing plants were succulents provided by **John Mathews**. Thank you, John.

And thanks to everyone who came early and helped set up, and stayed to help clean up.

- By Steven Gerischer

## SHARING SECRETS

In September, we posed the questions "**Who in your life has most inspired you to garden? How did they do this?**" and it isn't surprising that family members were noted as a significant early influence.

The neighborhood where I grew up (north of Seattle) was built one house at a time over many years and our neighbor across the street had a triple lot. She had lived there for ages in what was basically a tarpaper shack with a wood burning stove.

What was palatial was her garden! There were flower beds with irises, lilacs, roses, hollyhocks, pansies and more interspersed with sweeeeet wild alpine strawberries.

She had a small orchard of fruit trees with pears and apples. The best was the Italian plum tree (the fruit that is made into prunes) which used to sag under the weight of its fruit in late summer. I don't know why these are not more popular--they are the best plums I have ever had. Sometimes Trader Joe's sells them as "sugar plums."

There were also huckleberries, blueberries, blackberries, and boysenberries. Much of the property was very loosely organized (a la Scott Kleinrock's talk) and the tidiest part was the vegetable garden, which would burgeon with squash, corn, peas (that we used to snack on raw because they were so tender and sweet), sunflowers, tomatoes and a host of other edibles.

Her grandkids would visit over the summers and we would spend the long days (it stays light until almost 10 p.m. up there) playing astronaut and Swiss Family Robinson while we foraged for fruits and berries (supplemented by popsicles from the ice cream truck.)

We grew vegetables on my side of the street, too (mostly my dad's strategy to kill more lawn), but Mary Holcomb's garden is why I think of my garden as a living space as much as my house.

- Sandy Masuo

My Auntie Carol in Minnesota had the most wondrous flower garden at her farm. I loved all the colors and textures - fuzzy "lamb's ears" were fascinating to a little girl. She even left the parsleyworms (swallowtails) and monarch butterfly caterpillars alone, which was pretty progressive back then.

- Laura Bauer

My sister-in-law, Cherly Grady, my friend, Nysha Dahlgren (owner of Ardenwoods Edibles, a home-based business) and now Scott Kleinrock and Kyra at the Huntington Ranch.

- Sheila Grady

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

## SCHS DONATION IN HONOR OF RICHARD TURNER

Hopefully all of you know that SCHS is one of the six sponsoring societies of the the Pacific Horticulture Society and *Pacific Horticulture* magazine. SCHS members automatically receive *Pacific Horticulture* with their membership, a wonderful benefit. In honor of Dick Turner's retirement after 15 years as editor, SCHS has made a gift of \$1000 to the Pacific Horticulture Society in his honor.

- By Kathy Musial

## SCHS INTERN HIRED AT HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

**Kimberley Compeau**, recipient of the SCHS 2012 Linda Pomerance Grant, did her internship at the **Huntington Botanical Gardens** working in the conservatory. She gave a presentation at the August SCHS meeting in which she described her project renovating the artificial trees in the Cloud Forest.

Kimberly has now been hired by the Huntington as weekend Conservatory Technician, replacing Gregg Hunt who is pursuing a teaching career. She began on August 30 and will be working in the Conservatory on Sunday-Monday, preparing the displays, maintaining the exhibits and coordinating the volunteers. If you plan to visit, be sure to say hello.

- By Kathy Musial





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## GREEN SHEET

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

JUNE / JULY 2012 PLANT FORUM NOTES

*Compiled by Sula Vanderplank*

*Photographs by Paul Martin*

Thank you to all who brought plants to the June and July 2012 meetings. 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.]

*Delphinium cardinale*, scarlet larkspur (Ranunculaceae), exhibited by Debra Bushweit Galliani, grown at South Coast Botanic Garden.

*Dierama igneum*, angel's fishing rod (Iridaceae), exhibited by Paul Martin, grown in Pasadena.

*Echeveria 'Liana'* (Crassulaceae), exhibited by Dick Kohlschreiber, grown in San Pedro.

*Epilobium canum* var. *latifolium* [*Zauschneria arizonica*], California fuschia (Onagraceae), exhibited by Ann Brooks, grown in Baldwin Hills.

*Heliconia schiedeana*, fire & ice (Heliconiaceae), exhibited by Eric Brooks, grown in Baldwin Hills.

*Hymenocallis narcissiflora*, Peruvian daffodil (Amaryllidaceae), exhibited by Ann Brooks, grown in Baldwin Hills.

*Nandina domestica*, heavenly bamboo (Berberidaceae), exhibited by Gary Kamisher.

*Rhynchospora colorata*, starrush white-top (Cyperaceae), exhibited by Eric Brooks, grown in Baldwin Hills.

*Sinningia tubiflora*, hardy white gloxinia (Gesneriaceae), exhibited by Sheldon Lisker.

*Stigmaphyllon ciliatum* and *S. litoralis*, orchid vine (Malpighiaceae), exhibited by Joan Seidel, grown in the Hollywood Hills.

A selection of *Streptocarpus* cultivars (Gesneriaceae), including Bristols's Ruby, Bristol's Red Typhoon and Bristol's Party Boy, exhibited by Jim Jaeger.

Plants that could not be fully identified:

A selection of assorted begonias (Begoniaceae), exhibited by Jim Jaeger.

*Eryngium* sp., sea holly (Apiaceae), exhibited by Joan Seidel, grown in Hollywood Hills.

*Rosa* hybrid – never introduced (Rosaceae), exhibited by Eileen Fiumara, grown in Sherman Oaks.

Photographs (left to right): *Eryngium* sp., *Sinningia tubiflora*, *Echeveria 'Liana'*.



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.



*Agave geminiflora*, twin-flowered agave (Agavaceae), exhibited by Joan Citron, grown in Reseda.

This compact agave is native to a small area of the state of Nayarit, Mexico, where it grows in woodlands. This fast-growing agave has dark, narrow, toothless leaves with a 2-foot rosette and the flower spike may reach 18 feet high. The species name comes from there being two flowers per bract along the flower spike. The flowers are green with red or purple tips. This plant is adaptable to sun or shade but may need some frost protection. (Plant pictured at left has crested growth.)

*Arachniodes simplicior*, simpler hollyfern (Dryopteridaceae), exhibited by Patricia McGrath.

A large native fern from South Carolina. This species has very attractive multi-pinnate fronds that have an attractive gold stripe down the midrib. Can reach up to 24 inches in height but is very slow growing. Likes a rich well-drained soil, makes a good shade plant but needs plenty of water. May also be grown in a pot.

*Gladiolus murielae* [syn. *Acidanthera bicolor*], sword lily (Iridaceae), exhibited by Sheldon Lisker, grown in Temecula.

This attractive and fragrant corm is native to East Africa, but most common in northern Ethiopia. It has white and purple flowers borne on flower spikes that reach up to 36 inches. This is an heirloom species introduced in 1896, fairly cold tolerant but can be dug in winter and replanted after last frost as necessary. Corm plantings are recommended at 5 to 10 per square foot.

*Ornithogalum saundersiae*, giant chinchinchee (Asparagaceae), exhibited by Sheldon Lisker.

This striking South African bulb has spikes of white flowers up to 3 feet tall for Sheldon and up to 5 feet in its native habitat. The species was named for Mrs Katharine Saunders (1824-1901), who sent bulbs to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in 1887. These long-lasting inflorescences are excellent for cut flowers but this plant is extremely poisonous. Just 5 kg of fresh material has been known to kill a calf. Best propagated from bulblets but possible from seed. (Pictured at right.)



*Scutellaria suffrutescens*, cherry skullcap (Lamiaceae), exhibited by Dick Kohlsreiber, grown at South Coast Botanic Garden.

A native of Texas, this low, evergreen, perennial shrub reaches only 1 foot in height but up to 2 feet wide for Dick. It has a compact form, is drought tolerant and requires full sun and moderate water, flowering in summer. Recommended for beds and borders and container gardening.

*Sinningia 'Carolyn'*, Carolyn's hardy sinningia (Gesneriaceae), exhibited by Sheldon Lisker.

Native to Paraguay and Uruguay, this showy pink-flowered tuberous gesneriad is an early summer bloomer that goes deciduous in winter. A cross of *Sinningia warmingii* and *Sinningia tubiflora*, this hybrid has 3-foot high flower spikes and is recommended by the American Gesneriad Society. Sheldon grew his in a pot and says that they are available from plant sales.



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](http://arboretum.org)

Thursdays, October 4–November 1  
9:30 am–12:00 noon

*Thursday Garden Talks with Lili Singer*, includes *Field Trip: Three Groundbreaking San Gabriel Valley Gardens*, 10/4; *Lush Landscapes/Little Water* with Richard Hayden, 10/11; *Field Trip: Magic Growers, Pasadena*, 10/18; *Crafting a Hillside Oasis: Water Harvesting, Edibles and Natives* with John Lyons and Leigh Adams, 10/25. Fee. Classes may be taken separately.

Saturday, October 6  
10:00 am–12:00 noon

*Arboretum Adventures* explore the Arboretum; for kids of all ages. Free with garden admission. Limited to first 25 people.

Saturday, October 13  
10:00 am–12:00 noon

*Tree Pruning Fundamentals* with Dr. Jerrold Turney. Fee.

Saturday, October 20  
10:00 am–1:00 pm

*Square Foot Gardening Workshop*, a class with Jo Ann Carey. Fee.

### CLAREMONT 91711

#### RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN

1500 N. College Ave.  
909-625-8767 x200; [rsabg.org](http://rsabg.org)

Mondays, October 1, 8, 15, 22 & 30  
9:00–10:30 am

*Walking Meditation: Qigong Energy*, with Joseph Bojanek. Fee.

First Saturday, including October 6  
10:00 am–1:00 pm

*Free Native Plant Clinic*, with native plant experts to answer your questions. Free; garden admission not required.

Saturday, October 13  
9:00 am–12:00 noon

Sunday, October 14  
1:00–4:00 pm

*Free Landscape Design Class*, by Plant Quest Landscape Design. The same one-day workshop is offered on several days. Free.

Sunday, October 14  
10:00 am–1:00 pm

*Medicinal Plants of California Herb Walk*, with herbalist William Broen. Fee.

### CORONA DEL MAR 92625

#### SHERMAN LIBRARY & GARDENS

2647 E. Pacific Coast Hwy.  
949-673-2261; [slgardens.org](http://slgardens.org)

Wednesday, October 10  
9:00 am

*Botanical Stepping Stones*. Create handmade garden stones. Fee. ☞

### LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE 91011

#### DESCANSO GARDENS

1418 Descanso Dr.  
818-949-4200; [descansogardens.org](http://descansogardens.org)

Saturday, October 6  
11:00 am

*Design Like a Pro: Demystifying the Art of Garden Design*, with Billy Goodnick. Free with garden admission.

Saturday, October 6  
1:00 pm

*Native Plant Uses*, with Rachel Young. Free with garden admission.

Saturday, October 6  
2:00 pm

*Crimes Against Horticulture: When Bad Taste Meets Power Tools*, with Billy Goodnick. Free with garden admission.

Saturday, October 13  
10:00 am

*Creating the Bird-Friendly Garden*, with Alan Pollack. Free with garden admission.

Saturday, October 13  
11:30 am

*Native & Drought Tolerant Bulb Workshop*, with Rachael Young. Fee.

Saturday, October 20  
11:00 am–12:00 noon

*Seedballs*, a class with Rachel Young. Fee. ☞

### LONG BEACH 90815

#### RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS

6400 Bixby Hill Rd.  
562-431-3541; [rancholosalamitos.com](http://rancholosalamitos.com)

Sunday, October 7  
1:30–4:00 pm

*Rancho Los Alamitos in Idea, Space and Form: A Designerly Perspective*, with speakers Milford Wayne Donaldson and Stephen J. Farneth. Fee. ☞

### NORTHRIDGE 91325

#### CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF NURSERIES & GARDEN CENTERS

Northridge Methodist Church  
9650 Reseda Blvd.  
818-399-4273; [s.list@verizon.net](mailto:s.list@verizon.net)

Wednesday, October 24  
6:00 pm

*Auction of Plants & Garden Supplies*, open to the public. Fee. ☞

### PALOS VERDES PENINSULA 90274

#### SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN

26300 Crenshaw Blvd.  
310-544-1948  
[southcoastbotanicgarden.org](http://southcoastbotanicgarden.org)

Saturday, October 6  
9:00 am–4:00 pm

*Fall Plant Sale*, includes vendors. Free.

### SAN MARINO 91108

#### HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

1151 Oxford Rd.  
626-405-2100; [huntington.org](http://huntington.org)

Saturday, October 6  
10:00 am–12:00 noon

*Flower Arranging: Herbs & Flowers*, workshop by Flower Duet. Fee. ☞

Thursday, October 11  
2:30 pm

*Garden Talk: Outstanding Orchids*, with Dylan Hannon. No plant sale follows. Free.

Friday, October 12  
12:00 noon–4:30 pm  
Saturday–Sunday, October 13–14  
10:30 am–4:30 pm

*Fall Plant Sale*. Free.

### SUN VALLEY 91352

#### THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION FOR WILDFLOWERS & NATIVE PLANTS

10459 Tuxford St.  
818-768-1802; [theodorepayne.org](http://theodorepayne.org)

Saturday, October 6  
1:30–3:30 pm

*Growing Spring Wildflowers from Seed*, with Genevieve Arnold. Fee.

Saturday, October 27  
12:00–4:00 pm

*California Native Plant Horticulture*, with Lili Singer. Fee.

#### The San Diego Horticultural Society

meets Monday, October 8, 6:00–9:00 pm, at Del Mar Fairgrounds.

Activities include *A Californian's Guide to the Trees Among Us* by Matt Ritter. Information: 619-296-9215, [sdhortsoc.org](http://sdhortsoc.org). Free to members; fee to non-members.

- Compiled by Debra Bushweit Galliani

### THANK YOU!

**Bettina Gatti** will be compiling the *Horticultural Happenings* page for our monthly newsletter beginning with the November 2012 issue. She has graciously agreed to return, having compiled this calendar listing for us from October 2007 to November 2009.

Our thanks to Lili Singer who has been performing this task since January 2011. We are grateful for the help we receive from our dedicated volunteers.

## UPCOMING SCHS PROGRAMS

At Friendship Auditorium in Los Angeles, starting at 7:30 pm, unless otherwise noted.

**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 have a DVD showing of *No Work Gardening* by **Ruth Stout** and other festivities.

Start gathering those items you no longer have a use for and think one of our members may want. We will have the **Sharing Table** at our holiday meeting and this year we encourage you to bring plants, bulbs and seeds as part of this informal exchange.

### 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.

**March 14 – Rolando Uriá**, visiting from Argentina, will be our featured speaker.

**April 11 – Billy Goodnick**, presents *Crimes Against Horticulture*.

### Board of Directors

Steven Gerischer, *President, Pacific Horticulture Board, & Programs*

Jim Henrich, *Vice President & Membership*

Bettina Gatti, *Secretary & Internship Coordinator*

Laura Bauer, *Treasurer & Finance*

Joel Lichtenwalter, *Membership Secretary*

Debra Bushweit Galliani, *Newsletter & Membership*

Carol Bornstein

Lisa Ceazan, *Programs & Field Trips*

Sandy Masuo, *Facebook & Field Trips*

Bart O'Brien

John Schoustra, *Opportunity Drawings & Plant Sales*

Lili Singer, *Selected Book Sales & Programs*

Sula Vanderplank, *Green Sheet*

Jill Vig, *Pacific Horticulture Board*

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*Newsletter Editor:* Debra Bushweit Galliani, [bushweit@yahoo.com](mailto:bushweit@yahoo.com)

*Associate Editor:* Joe Galliani

### Contributors to this issue:

Steven Gerischer, Paul Martin, Kathy Musial, Sula Vanderplank and all Sharing Secrets contributors. Photograph of Richard Turner by Cole Burrell.

**Next deadline:** Friday, October 12 (for November newsletter).

It is the Friday following our monthly membership meeting.

Please contribute an article or information of interest.

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

NEWSLETTER  
OCTOBER 2012