



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

November 2012 Newsletter

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, November 8
7:30 pm

Friendship Auditorium
3021 Riverside Drive
Los Angeles

*We meet the second Thursday
of each month at 7:30 pm*

Our meetings are free to SCHS members and \$5 for non-members without a guest pass.

Bring one or more plants, flowers, seeds or fruits for display and discussion at the **Plant Forum** and they may be included in our newsletter's *Green Sheet*.

NEXT OPPORTUNITY DRAWING AT JANUARY MEETING

There will not be an Opportunity Drawing at our November meeting and, as usual, we will not have one at our December meeting. We will start out the new year with the next Opportunity Drawing.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Glen Dake
Ryan Gyurkovitz
Lisa Kornblith
Linda Mckendry
Melissa Paltin
Normarie Waybourn

NEXT SHARING SECRETS QUESTION

Bart O'Brien and Yvonne Savio have recommended plant books they recently read on page 2, and we would like to hear your suggestions.

The Sharing Secrets question for November is:

Tell us about a novel or non-fiction book involving plants that you recommend reading.

You can answer on the cards we'll supply at our November 8 meeting or e-mail your response to bushweit@yahoo.com by Friday, November 9.

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The November Meeting

**Helen
Popper:**

California Native Gardening: A Month-by- Month Guide

Our November guest speaker, **Helen Popper**, has taken a unique but eminently logical approach with her new book, *California Native Gardening: A Month-by-Month Guide*. The guide, a first of its kind, follows a unique, nontraditional seasonal rhythm and describes the gardening that goes with it.

It begins in October, when much of California leaves the dry season behind and



prepares for its own green "spring." Popper provides detailed, calendar-based information for both beginning and experienced native gardeners.

In Popper's presentation, she will define California nontraditional seasonal rhythm and outline the gardening work that needs to be accomplished month-by-month, just as her book does.

Each month's chapter lists gardening tasks, including repeated tasks and those specific to each season. *California Native Gardening* offers planting and design ideas, and explains core gardening techniques such as pruning, mulching and propagating.

Helen Popper will share how to use native plants in traditional garden styles, including Japanese, herb and formal gardens, and recommends places for viewing natives.

Her presentation will also include some of the beautiful illustrations from her book. *California Native Gardening* is an essential year-round companion. A beautifully written book, it nurtures the twin delights of seeing wild plants in the garden and garden plants in the wild.

Helen will share these delights as well as others during her talk at our November 8 meeting.

NOVEMBER SELECTED BOOK



At our November meeting, you may purchase the book that is the focus of this month's program, *California Native Gardening: A Month-by-Month Guide*, by our featured speaker, Helen Popper.

Helen will be available to sign your book after her talk.

Published by University of California Press; March 2012.

Paperback, 7 x 0.6 x 9 inches, 224 pages.
Color photographs and illustrations.

SCHS member price: \$23.00, including tax.
Retail price: \$29.95.

October Annual Banquet Recap



A rare early fall thunder and lightning storm challenged Society members making the drive to the Huntington Botanical Gardens on Thursday, October 10 for our Annual Award Banquet. However, the many hearty souls who braved the elements were treated to an even rarer double rainbow and a delightfully warm and intimate event inside the Botanical Center.

The rain was all too brief, but the fun and social engagement lasted all night long as we gathered together in the same grand room for the Silent Auction, the dinner and the Horticulturist of the Year program.

Our endlessly energetic president, **Steve Gerischer**, managed to organize and execute the Silent Auction event despite his simultaneous preparation for escorting a *Pacific Horticulture* tour to Madagascar, where he was en route to while we were all enjoying the fruits of his labors at the Huntington.

Laura Bauer took charge of the Silent Auction from setup to collection of funds at the event and we appreciate her efforts. Many volunteers worked in advance and the day of the banquet whom we wish to thank.

After a delicious dinner from Dearmore Catering, who grilled under a canopy in the rain, the Silent Auction winners were announced. We garnered \$1,190 thanks to those of you who donated items and the generous winners who bought them.

Our charming host for the event was **Jim Henrich**, SCHS vice president, who began the warm introductions of our 2012 Horticulturist of the Year honoree, **Richard G. Turner, Jr.** Then **Carol Bornstein** and **Kathy Musial** each spoke of their long-term working relationships, personal friendship and deep respect for Dick's impact on West Coast gardening.

Before Dick spoke, Jim presented him with a commemorative engraved award plaque (pictured left).

Always the smooth, intelligent, witty and cultured speaker, Dick entertained the audience with details of his beginnings in the horticulture community, starting at the University of Michigan.

Dick shared stories about his early happy career prior to accepting his post as editor of *Pacific Horticulture* magazine. He started in the Bay area as Strybing Arboretum director, then was the director of the San Francisco Garden Show and on to the executive director of the Ruth Bancroft Garden.

With his charming and affable personality, in addition to an abundance of talent and dedicated work ethic, it is easy to see why Dick Turner was so successful all along the way as he traveled the western states.

In his role as editor of *Pacific Horticulture*, Dick sought out local authors to write about their communities. Such were his persuasive powers that within minutes of starting an initial conversation, Dick would request an article and often convince well-known writers to contribute not only their writing pro bono, but their photographs as well.

Thus *Pacific Horticulture* maintained such a high level of excellence under his leadership despite budgets that could not afford such quality.

Dick delighted the attentive audience of family, friends and fans and had us laughing repeatedly as he shared memorable stories from his 15-year tenure as *Pacific Horticulture* editor, and gave us a generous glimpse into his rich life, accomplishments and contributions to horticulture.

We owe a debt to Dick for his dedication and skill in documenting the events, people and landscape of our region in such a responsible, enriching and inspiring way. He retired from the magazine this fall and has been traveling and enjoying his personal time since.

A huge thank you to Kathy Musial for making all the arrangements for the dinner at the Huntington this year and in the past. She had set everything in motion before leaving for her *Pacific Horticulture* trip to Madagascar and returned hours before the event started. Also thanks to Kathy's assistants, Dani Rudeen and Melanie Thorpe, for their help with arrangements.

This was an evening filled with camaraderie, warm conversation and fun that the rain could not have dampened.

- By Joe Galliani & Debra Bushweitz Galliani
- Photograph by Joe Galliani

PLANT BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Two members have suggested these plant-related books that you may enjoy:

I have just finished another remarkable plant book that I highly recommend. It is *The Scent of Scandal: Greed, Betrayal, and the World's Most Beautiful Orchid* by Craig Pittman. Published by University of Florida Press earlier this year.

This is the true story of the discovery and subsequent scandal involved with a spectacular new slipper orchid from Peru (*Phragmipedium kovachii*) that has been called the most important orchid discovery of the last 100 years.

It is a thorough telling of the story, with considerable background, that lead to Federal indictments of several staff members at the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, Florida and a few commercial orchid importers, all scooped up in a CITES violation (CITES is the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora).

CITES is an international treaty that, as of this year, has been accepted by 176 countries (including the USA, which was the first signatory in 1974). Much of this happened around 10 years ago, and I do recall hearing a lot of odds and ends about it at the time.

I always thought that this could and should result in a good book, and now that has been realized. It's a page turner from beginning to end and is thoroughly referenced and documented (there's an annotated list and notes at the end of the book for each chapter, page by page).

This book is for anyone interested in knowing the background of how prosecutions like this come about, how professionals can be sucked into the vortex of their work to their own peril and how a director of a respected botanic garden and its board work (and in this case, didn't work together). Fascinating!

- By Bart O'Brien

I just finished these two plant books:

1. *Chrysalis: Maria Sibylla Merian and the Secrets of Metamorphosis* by Kim Todd, which helped me better understand the social culture of the time as well.

2. *How Carrots Won the Trojan War: Curious (but True) Stories of Common Vegetables* by Rebecca Rupp, with way-back-in-history compilations of each edible.

- By Yvonne Savio

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

☞ = Registration requested or required.

ALTA LOMA 91701

MALOOF FOUNDATION DISCOVERY GARDEN

5131 Carnelian St.
909-980-0412; malooffoundation.org

Friday–Sunday, November 10–12
11:00 am–12:30 pm

Garden Days Lecture Series. Topics and fees unavailable at press time.

Saturday, November 11
8:30–11:30 am

Pruning and Planting Workshop in the garden, a volunteer effort. Bring your own tools. Contact Martha Wolf for information.

ARCADIA 91007

LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM & BOTANIC GARDEN

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

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

Thursday Garden Talks with Lili Singer, An Introduction to Pruning with Dave Lannom. Fee.

Saturday–Sunday, November 3–4
9:00 am–4:00 pm

Winter Cactus Show & Sale, sponsored by the San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society. Free with garden admission.

CLAREMONT 91711

RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Sunday, November 4
8:00–9:00 am

Beginning Garden Bird Walk. Free with garden admission.

Saturday, November 5
8:00–10:00 am (members only)
10:00 am–4:00 pm (public welcome)

Fall Planting Festival at Grow Native Nursery in Claremont. Free with garden admission.

Saturday–Sunday, November 17–18
11:00 am–3:00 pm

Acorn Festival. Free with garden admission.

CORONA DEL MAR 92625

SHERMAN LIBRARY & GARDENS

2647 E. Pacific Coast Hwy.
949-673-2261; slgardens.org

Wednesday, November 21
9:00 am

Creating Fall Garlands & Centerpieces. Create handmade garden stones. Fee. ☞

FULLERTON 92831

FULLERTON ARBORETUM

1900 Associated Rd. at Jamboree
657-278-3407
fullertonarboretum.org

Saturday, November 3
10:00 am–12:00 noon

Elf Garden Bowls, elementary age children build a garden to take home. Fee. ☞

Saturday, November 17
9:00–10:00 am

Native Plant Tour, with an Arboretum horticulturist. Fee.

Saturday, November 17
10:00 am–4:30 pm

Native Plant Sale, large selection at the Potting Shed. Free.

Saturday, November 17
10:00–11:30 am

Worm Composting. Free to local residents; fee to all others.

LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE 91011

DESCANSO GARDENS

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

Saturday–Sunday, November 3–4
9:00 am–5:00 pm

Japanese Garden Festival & Fall Chrysanthemum Show, with plant sale. Free with garden admission.

Saturday, November 10
11:00 am

Fruit Tree Pruning, a talk & demonstration by Rachel Young. Fee. ☞

LONG BEACH 90815

RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS

6400 Bixby Hill Rd.
562-431-3541; rancholosalamitos.com

Sunday, November 11
1:30 pm

The Spanish Influence on California Gardens from the Missions to Today, with Katherine Greenberg. Meeting of the Mediterranean Garden Society, includes tour of home and gardens. RSVP to MediterraneanGardenSoc.SoCal@gmail.com. Fee. ☞

PASADENA 91125

CAL TECH UNIVERSITY

Northridge Methodist Church
1200 E. California Blvd.
olives.caltech.edu

Friday, November 9
8:30 am–2:30 pm

Olive Harvest Festival, a fun-filled day of harvesting. Free olive oil tasting & a special Mediterranean-themed lunch available for purchase.

PALOS VERDES PENINSULA 90274

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Thursdays, November 1–December 20
10:00 am–12:00 noon

One Stroke Painting. Fee.

Monday, November 5 & 26
9:00–11:00 am

Fundamentals of Gardening, with Judy Gerber; held at the Torrance Memorial Learning Garden, 4045 W. 190th St, Torrance. Fee.

SAN MARINO 91108

HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

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

Thursday, November 8
2:30 pm

Garden Talk: California Native Gardening, with Helen Popper. Plant sale follows. Free.

Saturday, November 17
10:00 am–12:00 noon

Flower Arranging Workshop: Australian Accents, workshop by Flower Duet. Fee. ☞

Tuesday, November 27
7:30 pm

Of Travels, Fruits and Gardens: Jesuits & the European Knowledge of Chinese Plants & Gardens, with Bianca Maria Rinaldi, University of Camerino, Italy. Free.

SUN VALLEY 91352

THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION FOR WILDFLOWERS & NATIVE PLANTS

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

Saturday, November 3
1:30–3:30 pm

Container Gardening with Native Plants, with Lorrae Fuentes. Fee.

Saturday, November 10
1:30–3:30 pm, repeats
Saturday, November 30
6:30–8:30 pm

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

Saturday, November 17
10:00 am–2:00 pm

California Native Plant Horticulture, with Lili Singer. Class at Scrubjay Studios, address given with registration. Fee.

The San Diego Horticultural Society

meets Monday, November 12, 6:00–9:00 pm, at Del Mar Fairgrounds.

Activities include *The Edible Front Yard* by Ivette Soler. Information: 619-296-9215, sdhort.org. Fee.

- Compiled by Bettina Gatti

UPCOMING SCHS PROGRAMS

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

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 Uria, visiting from Argentina, will be our featured speaker.

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

WELCOME NEW SCHS BOARD MEMBER YVONNE SAVIO

The SCHS board has elected **Yvonne Savio** to fill an open board position vacated by **Sabine Hoppner** this August. Yvonne is the 2010 SCHS Horticulturist of the Year and a frequent meeting attendee. Please join the board in welcoming her and thanking her for the work she will be doing to serve our Society.

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

NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2012

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*

Carol Bornstein

Debra Bushweit Galliani, *Newsletter & Membership*

Lisa Ceazan, *Programs & Field Trips*

Sandy Masuo, *Facebook & Field Trips*

Bart O'Brien

Yvonne Savio

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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Associate Editor: Joe Galliani

Contributors to this issue:

Joe Galliani, Bettina Gatti, Bart O'Brien, Yvonne Savio and Sula Vanderplank.

Next deadline: Friday, November 9 (for December newsletter).

It is the Friday following our monthly membership meeting.

Please contribute an article or information of interest.



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GREEN SHEET

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

AUGUST 2012 PLANT FORUM NOTES

Compiled by Sula Vanderplank

Photograph by Debra Bushweit Galiani

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

Combretum fruticosum, orange flame vine (Combretaceae), exhibited by Joan DeFato, grown in Burbank.

Costus barbatus, stepladder plant (Costaceae), exhibited by Eric Brooks, in Baldwin Hills.

Dalechampia dioscoreifolia, Costa Rican butterfly bush (Euphorbiaceae), exhibited by Eric Brooks, in Baldwin Hills.

Duranta repens 'alba', white sky flower (Verbenaceae), exhibited by Joan Seidel, grown in the Hollywood Hills.

Mascagnia macroptera, yellow orchid vine (Malthaceae), exhibited by Ann Brooks, in Baldwin Hills.

Senecio confusus, Mexican flame vine (Asteraceae), exhibited by Eric Brooks, in Baldwin Hills.

Stephanotis floribunda 'variegata', variegated Madagascar jasmine (Apocynaceae), exhibited by Patricia McGrath, grown in Silver Lake.

Urginea maritima, sea onion (Asparagaceae), exhibited by Joan Citron, grown in Reseda.

Ziziphus jujuba, jujube (Rhamnaceae), exhibited by Jim Jaeger, grown at Huntington Botanical Garden.

Plants that could not be fully identified:

Amorphophallus reoensis, arum lily (Araceae), exhibited by Matt & Rebecca Tufenkian. [Note: this species does not seem to be validly published and I could not ascertain its identity.]

Ledebouria sp. (Asparagaceae), exhibited by Jim Jaeger.

Neoregelia sp. (Bromeliaceae), exhibited by Jim Jaeger.

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.

Eriastrum densifolium, giant wooly-star (Polemoniaceae), exhibited by John Schoustra.

This pretty perennial herb, native to Southern California and Baja California, is commonly seen growing in sandy soils of dunes or washes. (One subspecies *sanctorum* is endemic to the Santa Ana River Watershed and is federally protected.) This plant has very attractive blue-purple flowers (occasionally white) that are borne in clusters. It flowers profusely in spring and summer and is sometimes sold at Theodore Payne Foundation. John notes that it likes a dry spot and can be hard to grow.

Rhodohypoxis baurii 'Picta' (Hypoxidaceae), exhibited by Laura Bauer.

This attractive selection of *Rhodohypoxis baurii* has large 1 inch flowers, with white petals that are subtly tipped with a deep red-pink tinge. The species is native to South Africa and as such is a summer-growing geophyte that has corm-like rhizomes. These plants like a dry, sunny position and do well in pots; they will often flower for an extended period and the flowers are very sweetly scented. Laura notes that it needs watering through the blooming season and should then be kept dry in winter. (Pictured above.)

