

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, December 13 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*.

We do not have an Opportunity Drawing at our December meeting and do not ask a Sharing Secrets question this month for our newsletter. They will resume in January.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Susan Groesbeck Donivee Nash

WE ARE ASKING FOR YOUR SUPPORT

As an all volunteer society without paid staff, we rely on you, our members, for your financial support and to work on our activities.

There are a few ways you can help us right now to foster a robust non-profit organization:

- Respond to a year-end appeal letter that is being sent to you.
- Read about volunteers needed on page 3 and contact Steve Gerischer to get more information or sign up (323-257-3629 or sglarkspur@aol.com).
- Give a SCHS membership to a friend or colleague.

Our future depends on the commitment of our members and we are asking you to get involved. Thank you.

December 2012 Newsletter

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The December Meeting

Annual Cookie Night:

A Festive Gathering

This year's Annual Cookie Night meeting will include some usual features and a few new elements to enhance the festivities.

As is our tradition, we ask attendees to bring **cookies**, **savories** or **other goodies** to share. Every year there is a fabulous spread of delectables, both homemade and store bought, thanks to our members.

Also, bring those items you no longer have a use for and think one of our members may want for the **Sharing Table**. We encourage you to bring plants, bulbs and seeds as part of this informal exchange.

You may browse the items until around 8:15 pm when it will be announced as open for the taking. An item left at the end of the evening must be taken back by its owner.

While you are snacking, perusing and conversing, you will be entertained by the **Red Car Trolley** starting at 7:30 pm. They are a Los Angeles-based vocal quartet that performs a wide range of music, from Renaissance to jazz and classical to contemporary. They will be performing a variety of songs during their program: *Christmas, Chanukah, Flowers and Nature*.

You'll recognize one of the singers as our member, **Rebecca Rasmussen Tufenkian**, who, with her husband Matt-Dell, often sells plants at our meetings.

Starting around 8:30 pm, we will offer a viewing of *No Work Gardening*, a video by **Ruth Stout** (1884–1980). She is attributed with the following quote.

"At the age of 87, I grow vegetables for two people the year-round, doing all the work myself and freezing the surplus. I tend several flower beds, write a column every week, answer an awful lot of mail. I have received thousands of letters, thanking me for making gardening easy for them. Or possible. And I feel that if you really help people you've done something worth-while."

APPROXIMATE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

7:30 pm – Cookie Tables opens Gift Baskets Silent Auction opens

7:30 - 8:15 pm - Red Car Trolley performs

8:15 pm - Silent Auction closes

8:15 pm - Sharing Table opens

8:30 pm – Ruth Stout, No Work Gardening video viewing

9:15 pm - Plant Forum discussion

SILENT AUCTION GIFT BASKETS



Homemade Gift Baskets will be sold at the meeting through a Silent Auction. We have twelve in all starting at \$25 or more, including

The holiday season is looming ... whether you are contemplating what to give a gardener in your life or want to wow the hosts of a holiday get-together, these unique gift baskets fit the bill! And purchasing one helps support the SCHS.

Each one contains a bottle of wine (red or white) plus a plant or seeds, a home furnishing item or book, a bag of organic sweets and a seasonal decoration.

The baskets themselves are nice wooden basket pails that can be repurposed. They were artfully created by members **Sandy Masuo** and **Lisa Ceazan**.

November Meeting Recap

The November meeting of the Southern California Horticultural Society featured a program by Helen Popper (pictured right), covering her new book, California Native Gardening: A Month-by-Month Guide.



The authorship of the book is credited to Helen Popper, but she made it clear in her talk that much of the book contains years of careful notes gleaned from meetings of the California Native Plant Society chapter in her area. Information offered on plant care, planting, selections and cultivation was a "collaborative" effort.

The book is calendar based, and is organized to show gardeners accustomed to a summer busy/winter dormant gardening year how they must adapt to the different rhythms of gardening in California.

As well as offering a month-by-month guide to tasks in the garden, the book also demonstrates how California native plants can be used in many different styles of gardening where design comes into play.

While many of us are readily acquainted with the different patterns of temperature and rainfall that make our area unique, it was quite telling to see those differences so elegantly displayed in graphs.

California's "hourglass" shape on a temperature/rainfall scale by month will stick with me. We welcome the information enabling gardeners to better use and enjoy the riches of the California Floristic Province. Thank you, Helen Popper.

Thank you to everyone who brought plants in for the Plant Forum table. And thank you as well to all of the dedicated people who help set-up, run and clean up after each meeting.

We hope to see you at our Annual Members Night meeting on December 13 at Friendship Auditorium.

- By Steven Gerischer

SHARING SECRETS

In November, we asked you to "Tell us about a novel or non-fiction book involving plants that you recommend reading." and here are some books you suggested.

As you think of interesting books you've read, please continue to send in your book recommendations to the newsletter so we may make this an occasional feature.

I've particularly enjoyed:

Flower Confidential, by Amy Stewart.

The Fruit Hunters: A story of nature, adventure, commerce and obsession, by Adam Leith Gollner.

Orchid Fever, by Eric Hansen.

- Kathy Musial

The Orchid Thief, by Susan Orlean. A bizarre and hilarious trip into the obsessive world of fanatic orchid collectors set in swampy, alligator-filled South Florida.

A terrific read and ride! The movie, *Adaptation*, with Nicholas Cage and Meryl Streep, was based on this book.

- Ruth Vogel

100 Flowers and How They Got Their Names, by Diana Wells.

- Libby Simon

I read about the meaning of landscape to the individual and cultures (I've been speaking about these things, too). My recent favorites:

Wisdom Sits in Places, by Keith Basso.

Coming Into the Country, by John McPhee. Plants are just one part of the complexity of human beings in place.

- Paula Panich

Botany of Desire, by Michael Pollan. Actually, just the last chapter, on the potato. You will never eat a Russet Burbank potato – or fries at McDonald's – again.

- Jill Vig

There is a small series of mysteries written by Rebecca Rothenberg, they start with the *Bullrush Murders*.

She wrote three before she died and a friend finished her fourth for her – fun books with a botanic angle from the Central Valley.

- Daniel Songster

The Secret Garden – Talking Beetles and Signaling Trees: The Hidden Ways Gardens Communicate, by David Bodanis.

Fascinating information about what plants do to thrive and survive.

The Secret Garden, by Frances Hodgson Burnett.

I read this children's book to my daughter when she was 10. She has no interest in gardening and didn't want me to read this book to her, but she ended up loving it.

The descriptions of children discovering a neglected garden and bringing it back to life are beautiful and inspiring. Reading this together afforded me the one and only opportunity to share my love of gardens and gardening with my daughter.

- Lisa Ceazan

The Coming of the Flowers, by A. W. Anderson (1950).

A series of very short stories weaving historical facts about the plants we grow and the people involved.

I enjoyed reading a couple of books by Barbara Kingsolver:

Animal, Vegetable, Miracle (2007) It follows her family's commitment to eat only locally grown or self-raised food for one year while living on their Appalachian farm in Virginia.

Prodigal Summer (2000)

A novel that weaves the stories of three characters residing on small farms in the mountains of southern Appalachia.

- Debra Bushweit Galliani

The Golden Spruce, by John Vaillant (2005).

The Wild Trees, by Richard Preston (2007).

- Jan Scow

SECRET CONTRIBUTORS

The Year I Ate My Yard, by Tony Kienitz. Amusing.

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

JOB OPPORTUNITY: THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATOIN

Assistant Sales Manager responsible for customer assistance, plant care, supervising sales staff and volunteers, maintaining the sales yard facilities and gardens, updating the weekly inventory and other duties as assigned by the Nursery Manager.

See job listing for complete details at: *theodorepayne.org/jobs.html*.

To apply, send resume with cover letter to: *Madena@theodorepayne.org*.

Send horticulturally-related job listings to *bushweit@yahoo.com* for posting.



Act NOW! Join us for a rich cultural journey to Cuba, January 18-27, 2013. Pacific Horticulture Society has received a license from the US Treasury Department for a People-to-People tour for members and friends, but you must act quickly.

Join us as we explore Havana, several Cuban botanical gardens, Zapata National Park, the Escambray Mountains, and the historic cities of Cienfuegos and Trinidad.

Throughout our journey, there will be a special emphasis on meeting the people of Cuba: botanists, environmentalists, teachers, scientists, students and national park personnel.

The Itinerary will include:

- A visit to the Havana Botanic Garden.
- La Terrazas Reforestation Project and Sierra del Rosario Biosphere Reserve. See the many orchids at the Orquidarium Sorora.
- Zapata National Park.
- Jardin Botanico de Soledad, with vast collections of palms, cactus and rubber
- Sierra del Escambray, a scenic mountainous area.
- Trinidad, a living museum and UNESCO World Heritage Site on the south coast.
- Parc Naturel de Codina, near mountainous Topes de Collantes, explore the Encantos de Codina, with orchids, bamboos and picturesque landscapes.

Some information is posted on the Pacific Horticulture Society website at pacifichorticulture.org/tours/discover-cuba/.

For a complete itinerary, registration deadlines and costs, e-mail office@pacifichorticulture.org.

The Garden Conservancy The Southern California Horticultural Society

Present a special evening with Author, DEBRA PRINZING and her book. **Slow Flowers: Four Seasons**



Grown Bouquets from the Garden, Meadow and Farm.

On Wednesday, February 27 at Friendship Auditorium, author Debra Prinzing will discuss her new book, Slow Flowers: Four Seasons of Bouquets from the Garden, Meadow and Farm.



This is a follow up to her popular book, The 50 Mile Bouquet, a sequel that plays off of the revolutionary Slow Food movement.

Debra challenged herself to create 52 bouquets, one for each week of the year, strictly from locally grown materials. Using a regional bounty of organically grown cutflowers, seed pods, greens, twigs and greenhouse materials, Debra fashioned seasonal arrangements with a timeless quality.

Design tips and "recipes" for floral arranging are presented with a region-byregion floral ingredient list so readers can make their own locally sourced, Slow

Flower creations. Debra will also demonstrate her own special way of arranging flowers with materials provided by the California Cut Flower Growers Association.



This special event is co-sponsored by the Garden Conservancy and SCHS. \$30 for GC and SCHS members; \$35 for non-members.

6:30 pm: Check in and registration. 7:00 to 8:30 pm: Lecture and floral design demonstration.

For more information check on the Garden Conservancy website at gardenconservancy.org or the SCHS website at: socalhort.org.



SCHS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

In the past we have asked for general volunteer assistance and now we have specific needs to fill. Please consider helping out as a full-time or part-time volunteer. If several people volunteer, the same task can be shared among them.

- Handle Refreshments at Meetings Make coffee and bring snacks at the start of each meeting.
- Staff the Welcome Desk at Meetings Greet attendees, direct them to sign in and make a name tag, collect the entry fee from guests or mark on roster.
- Update the Website and Provide Content Send program information to webmaster monthly, along with other updates and relevant content.
- Join the Finance Committee Our treasurer, Laura Bauer, heads this committee which needs more members.
- Join the Field Trips Committee Help organize field trips for members.
- Become a "Buddy" for Prospective and **New Society Members at Meetings** Familiarize new and prospective members with events at our monthly meetings.
- Solicit Sharing Secrets Responses at Member Meetings

The Sharing Secrets column is a popular feature in our newsletter and we need help soliciting responses at our meetings.

Write a Column or Feature Article for the Newsletter



socalhort.org

GREEN SHEET

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 2012 PLANT FORUM NOTES

Compiled by Sula Vanderplank Photographs by Paul Martin

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

Amaryllis belladonna, naked ladies (Asparagaceae), exhibited by Sheldon Lisker, grown in Sun City.

Brunsvigia littoralis (Amaryllidaceae), exhibited by Sheldon Lisker, grown in Sun City.

Podranea ricasoliana, pink trumpet vine (Bignoniaceae), [very invasive, don't plant] exhibited by Eric and Ann Brooks, grown in the Baldwin Hills.

Stenocarpus sinuatus, fire-wheel tree (Proteaceae), exhibited by Joan Citron, grown in Reseda.

Strobilanthes dyeriana, Persian shield (Acanthaceae), exhibited by Eric and Ann Brooks, grown in the Baldwin Hills.

Thunbergia erecta, king's mantle (Acanthaceae), exhibited by Eric and Ann Brooks, grown in the Baldwin Hills.

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

Albuca sprialis (Hyacinthaceae), exhibited by Jane Herrington, grown in Los Angeles.

This is succulent winter bulb from the Cape Province of South Africa where it normally grows in sandy soils. It is named for its unusual curling and spiraling leaves that give it a unique appearance. It has been rumored that the more sun it receives, the tighter the spirals become. A diminutive plant, the flower spikes generally reach just 6 inches high (although some have grown twice as tall in our region), with pretty pendulous yellow-green flowers. Can be propagated from off-sets, but they are often not prolific, so seed-propagation is common. Reported as fairly easy to grow, but must be kept dry when dormant.

Photographs (left to right): *Stenocarpus sinuatus, Amaryllis belladonna, Thunbergia erecta* (top & bottom), *Podranea ricasoliana* (top), and















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

 $\mathbf{\overline{a}}$ = Registration requested or required.

ARCADIA 91007 LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM & BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Sunday, December 9 10:00 am-4:00 pm

An Old-Fashioned Holiday at the Queen Ann Cottage. Free with garden admission.

CLAREMONT 91711

RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Sunday, December 2 9:00 am

Bird Walk. Sponsored by the Pomona Valley Audubon Society. Free.

Sunday, December 2 10:00 am-3:00 pm

Winter Holiday Open House. Unique gifts, festive live music and kids crafts in the Garden. Free garden admission all day.

CORONA DEL MAR 92625 SHERMAN LIBRARY & GARDENS

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

Thursday, December 13 9:00 am

Holiday Floral Designs. Using fresh greens, berries and tulips to create a holiday floral arrangement. Fee.

Saturday, December 15 10:00 am-3:00 pm

Holiday Basket Class for Children. Each child will create a holiday floral basket using greens, ribbon, apples and a sweet decorative bird. Fee.

FULLERTON 92831

FULLERTON ARBORETUM

1900 Associated Rd. at Jamboree 657-278-3407

fullertonarboretum.org

Saturday, December 1 9:00–11:00 am

Intro to Beekeeping and Honey Harvest Demo. Fee.

Saturday, December 8 9:00–11:30 am

Intro to Beekeeping and Honey Harvest Demo. Fee.

Saturday, December 15 10:00–11:00 am

Free Nature Tour. Meet nature guides at the Nature Center and tour the garden. Fee.

LONG BEACH 90807

RANCHO LOS CERRITOS HISTORIC SITE 4600 Virginia Rd.

562-570-1755; rancholoscerritos.org

Sunday, December 9 1:00–4:00 pm

Old Time Christmas Festival, Decorated adobe, holiday music, old fashioned crafts and activities for children, light refreshments and Santa. Donation.

Sunday–Sunday, December 15–16 5:30–7:30 pm

Christmas Candlelight Tours. Holiday traditions and life in early California with the Bixbys, their guests and ranch workers circa 1876; includes light refreshments. Fee. ☎

LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE 91011 DESCANSO GARDENS

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

Saturday, December 8 11:00 am & 2:00 pm

Holiday Wreaths. Make a wreath from natural materials for winter decorating. Members only. Registration deadline: December 5. Fee. 奇

Saturday, December 23 8:00–9:00 am

Monthly Bird Walk. Join longtime host from the Audubon Society Karen Johnson for this bird walk for birders of all levels. Free.

PALOS VERDES PENINSULA 90274 SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN

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

December 9 2:30–4:30 pm

Holiday Concert. Come celebrate the season with the Palos Verdes Symphonic Band. Free with garden admission.

SAN MARINO 91108 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

1151 Oxford Rd.

626-405-2100; huntington.org

Saturday, December 1, 8 & 15 10:00 am-3:00 pm

Botanical Drawing Series. Taught by botanical illustrator Lisa Pompelli. Suitable for all skill levels. Fee.

Thursday, December 13 2:30 pm

Garden Talk: Gifts from the Succulent Garden, with John Trager. Plant sale follows. Free.

Thursday–Wednesday, December 27– January 2 (closed January 1) 10:30 am–4:30 pm

Viewing Stones Show. The California Aiseki Kai presents its 23rd annual show featuring more than 100 outstanding examples of suiseki and other viewing stones. Free with garden admission.

SUN VALLEY 91352

THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION FOR WILDFLOWERS & NATIVE PLANTS

10459 Tuxford St.

818-768-1802; theodorepayne.org

Saturday, December 1 1:30–3:30 pm

Fire in Mediterranean Ecosystems: Ecology, Evolution and Management. A talk and book signing with Jon E. Keeley, PhD. Fee.

Saturday, December 8 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Native Plant Garden Maintenance, with Antonio Sanchez. Fee.

Saturday, December 22 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Calfornia Native Plant Horticulture, with Lili Singer. Fee.

The **San Diego Horticultural Society** meets Monday, December 10, 6:00–8:30 pm, at Del Mar Fairgrounds.

Activities include a talk, *Follow Your Flowers from Field to Vase*, with Debra Prinzing. Information: 619-296-9215, *sdhort.org*. Fee.

- Compiled by Bettina Gatti

Send noticed to bettina0203@hotmail.com.

NEXT SCHS MEETING - SPECIAL EVENT

For the Love of Roses: A Talk and Q & A with Tom Carruth, Steve Gerischer and a third panelist, to be confirmed.

Thursday, January 10, 7:30 p.m. At Friendship Auditorium.

Free to SCHS members. \$10 admission to non-members.

A free bareroot rose plant to each attendee!

Bring a friend to this special SCHS event and introduce them to our activities. Admission is free if they join the Society!

Our January 10 meeting kicks off the New Year with a celebration of roses and the pleasures of rose-growing in Southern California's mediterranean climate. The program begins with an illustrated talk by Steve Gerischer, SCHS president and lifelong local rosarian, spotlighting garden roses that thrive in this region.

Next, a panel of experts – including Tom Carruth, curator of rose collections at the Huntington Botanical Gardens; Steve Gerischer and a third panelist, to be confirmed – will field questions on all things rose-related.

Following the Plant Forum, each attendee will receive one free bareroot rose plant.

Our January Opportunity Drawing will feature choice roses and great rose-companion plants provided by John Schoustra of Greenwood Daylily Gardens.

- By Lili Singer

UPCOMING SCHS PROGRAMS

At Friendship Auditorium, 3021 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles CA 90039, starting at 7:30 pm, unless otherwise noted.

January 10 – *For the Love of Roses: A Talk and Q & A*, with **Tom Carruth, Steve Gerischer** and a third panelist, to be confirmed.

Free to SCHS members; \$10 admission to non-members.

Every attendee will receive a free bareroot rose plant!

Our January Opportunity Drawing will feature choice roses and great rose-companion plants provided by **John Schoustra** of **Greenwood Daylily Gardens**. (See page 5 for details.)

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

February 27 – A special SCHS program in conjunction with the Garden Conservancy.

Debra Prinzing, will discuss her new book *Slow Flowers: Four Seasons of Locally Grown Bouquets from the Garden, Meadow and Farm* at Friendship Auditorium.

\$30 admission to SCHS & GC members; \$35 admission to non-members. (See page 3 for details.)

March 14 – A panel discussion on salvias, with guest speakers joining us from the recent Salvia Summit II held at the Huntington Library and Botanic Gardens.

April 11 – Billy Goodnick, will present *Crimes Against Horticulture*.

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

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2012

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Newsletter Editor: Debra Bushweit Galliani, bushweit@yahoo.com Associate Editor: Joe Galliani

Contributors to this issue:

Lisa Ceazan, Bettina Gatti, Steven Gerischer, Paul Martin, Sandy Masuo, Lili Singer, Sula Vanderplank and all our Sharing Secrets contributors.

Next deadline: Friday, December 14 (for January newsletter). It is the Friday following our monthly membership meeting. Please contribute an article or information of interest.