



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

March 2013 Newsletter

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, March 14

7:30 pm

Friendship Auditorium

3021 Riverside Drive
Los Angeles CA 90039

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

This meeting is free to SCHS members and is \$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. These plants are also included in our newsletter's *Green Sheet*.

NO MARCH OPPORTUNITY DRAWING

Although we will not have an Opportunity Drawing at our March meeting, you will be able to purchase plants.

John Schoustra will be there with plants from **Greenwood Garden** and **Matt-Dell Tufenkian** will be selling plants from **Dominus Plantarum**.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Snowdy Dodson
Corrado Giovannoni
Priscilla Hoe
Lisa McCarty

NEXT SHARING SECRETS QUESTION

It seems that most gardeners are familiar with salvias, with the variety of growth habits, growing conditions, plant sizes, flower colors, fragrances and other qualities.

The Sharing Secrets question for March is:

*Which salvia is your
favorite and why?*

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

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The March Meeting



Bart O'Brien:

What's New with the Salvias?

With nearly 1000 wild species and likely as many named hybrids, cultivars and seed strains – there is never a shortage of new things to learn about the world's beautiful and enticing sages.

Our March 14 speaker, **Bart O'Brien** of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, will focus on some of the highlights from the recent second international Salvia Summit

held at The Huntington Botanical Gardens from March 7-10.

With speakers and participants from throughout the US (Alaska to Florida) and from all over the world (Japan, South Africa, Australia, Argentina, Mexico, England, Germany, etc.), there will undoubtedly be a lot of information exchanged on any number of new garden worthy species (there are even two recently described taxa from the fringe areas of the Californian group – one from Utah and the other from northern Baja California) and how to use these plants in our gardens.

Included in our meeting will be a presentation of some of the new cultivars and hybrids for Southern California gardens and how to grow them, and there will be plenty of time for questions (and answers) at the end of this talk.

From our wonderful native salvias, to the exotic species and cultivars we lust after, the genus is rich with garden worthy subjects. Salvias have long been a mainstay of Southern California gardening, with many uses from culinary and medicinal, to feeding hummingbirds and bees, to being just plain beautiful.

With so many salvias to choose from, the subject is rich with possibility for design and

cultivation offering a specimen for almost any type of garden. Think your garden is too shady, too small, too much clay in your soil? There is a salvia for you!

Come and find out what the experts are growing, breeding and looking forward to as we investigate the ever popular, beautiful and intriguing world of salvias. If you have any salvias blooming in your garden right now, bring some for the Plant Forum Table – many of the native salvias are in flower.

- Article and photograph by Steven Gerischer

- Photograph: a hybrid of *Salvia clevelandii* × *S. leucophylla* and pipevine swallowtail butterfly.

SOCIETY NEWS

A new face greets you at our meetings.

Pat Steen is the bright face now welcoming you at our monthly meetings, sitting at the table as you enter and asking you to sign in. In lieu of using membership cards, she refers to the membership log and will make note when you use your guest pass.

Our appreciation goes to Pat for taking on this responsibility and to **Lisa Ceazan**, who has been greeting attendees at the welcome table for the past few years.



February Meeting Recap

Who wouldn't want a tree that looks like a floating cloud of blossoms when it is in full bloom?

Andrew Bunting started his presentation off with mouth-watering images of magnolias in the collection of the Scott Arboretum at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, where he is curator.

Although Andrew is familiar mostly with magnolias that flourish in the Eastern US, he knows his way around this incredibly diverse genus. He is the current president of the Magnolia Society International.

Magnolias range from cold-winter to tropical climates and exhibit a variety of forms. Since they are very fast-growing trees, new cultivars and hybrids can be produced fairly quickly (2 – 3 years from seedling to flower!)

One thing that makes magnolias popular is that they are consistently heavy bloomers, year after year. Breeders have produced hundreds of cultivars with desirable traits in flower shape, color, fragrance, and also tree shape, leave size and color.

Andrew's presentation pointed out many magnolias that should do very well in Southern California. The deciduous varieties included the lovely yellow forms like *M. 'Butterflies'*, and the rosy-flowered *M. 'Star Wars'*.

For smaller spaces, he recommended 'The Girls' series of *M. stellata* hybrids – 'Betty'

'Ann' and 'Jane'. Saucer Magnolia, *M. × soulangiana* is a popular garden tree in Southern California. A hybrid of *M. denudata* (pink flower color) and *M. liliflora* (fragrance), it is one of the first blooming trees in spring in the southland.

Of the evergreen magnolias, *M. virginiana*, the Sweet Bay, really prefers a more humid environment than can be provided here in Southern California. The stately Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) is one of the more drought tolerant species and does very well here. Of course, we treat it like a street tree.

He briefly touched on two subgenera, the *Michelia* and *Manglietia*. These mainly tropical plants are not grown much in the east, but are used in breeding. He pointed out that there are dozens more species of tropical magnolias that haven't made it into cultivation yet.

He closed the talk with a tantalizing glimpse into the possibilities for magnolia breeding. A tropical magnolia, *Manglietia insignis* has true red flowers. This plant crossed with *M. virginiana* has resulted in a new hybrid evergreen magnolia with pink flowers, *M. 'Katie-O'*.

Also – I would like to make a public "Thank you!" for Al Steen's coffee run.

Since our illustrious leader, Steve, was unable to make it to the meeting, it called attention to the need for someone else to take up the mantle of coffee guru. Any volunteers? Please contact Steve Gerischer at 323-257-3629 or sglarkspur@aol.com.

– By Laura Bauer

SHARING SECRETS

In February, we asked you to "What is the most unusual thing from your garden that you use as cutting material?" and here are some of your responses.

When my *Eriogonum grande* var. *grande* flowers dry, I cut the 3 foot long stalks and place a cluster of 50 or so in the ground in a bare spot in my garden.

The dark stems look particularly nice against a white wall. They last quite a while, but may need to be rearranged when an animal decides to alter their artistic placement.

– Debra Bushweit Galliani

SECRET CONTRIBUTORS

Clusters of tangerines in a heavy vase are always well received.

Really, the older I get the less I want to bring things into the house, preferring to see them in their own context and with the plants I set beside them at planting time.

However I do love bringing in rose hips in winter – so bright and lovely! I also like to arrange the dry stalks of aloes and agaves.

I like to make nature inspired wreathes and arrangements during the holidays. I find that nuts, seed pods, especially camellia seed pods, dried hydrangeas, rose hips and whatever greenery is available makes for a great display.

A "grove" of dried Fennel stalks...airy and sculptural. The tallest ones(8–9 feet) kept falling over so I hung them from the ceiling using small screws and 10 pound test fishline. This also allowed them to move around a bit if I let a breeze in.

I like kumquat branches with bloom and fruit. Great fragrance.

Each year, we clip a branch of oranges with fruit and blossoms and send to my husband's aunt in New York. When she opens the package, she enjoys a waft of fragrance and the fruit – what Southern California's all about!

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

Happy Birthday to Elmer Lorenz

We want to wish our lifetime member, **Elmer Lorenz**, a very happy 99th birthday. He attended our *Coffee in the Garden with Joan Citron* gathering a few days after his birthday and often attends our meetings.

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

☞ = Registration requested or required.

ARCADIA 91007

LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM & BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Saturday, March 2–May 11
10:00 am–12:00 noon

What Tree is That with Jerry Turney. Learn about 15 different trees on each of four Saturdays for a total of 60 trees, began on February 12, 2013. Fee. ☞

Saturday, March 9
9:00 am–4:00 pm

Environmental Education Fair. Free with garden admission.

Saturday, March 9
12:00 noon–4:00 pm

Organic Fruit and Vegetable Gardening with Jill Morganelli. Fee. ☞

Saturday–Sunday, March 16–17
11:00 am–4:00 pm (3/16)
9:00 am–4:00 pm (3/17)

Ikebana Show & Sale. Free with garden admission.

Saturday, March 23
10:00 am–12:00 noon

Plant Propagation Workshop with Laramée Haynes. Free with garden admission.

BEVERLY HILLS 90210

TREEPEOPLE

12601 Mulholland Dr.
818-753-4600; treepeople.org

Friday, March 29
6:30–8:30 pm

Moonlight Hike. Free to members and 3 guests; fee to non-members. Pre-register to attend, contact moonlight@treepeople.org.

CLAREMONT 91711

RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Saturday, March 16
10:00 am–1:00 pm

Medicinal Plants of California Herb Walk. Join experienced herbalist William Broen for a Garden walk and presentation featuring medicinal and edible plants native to California. Fee. ☞

Saturday–Sunday, March 30–31
10:00 am–4:00 pm

Wildflower Festival. Free with garden admission

Monday, April 1
10:00 am–4:00 pm

Wildflower Festival Senior Day. Offers complimentary admission, refreshments, walking and tram tours for guests over the age of 65.

ENCINO 91436

TAPIA BROTHERS FARM STAND

5251 Hayvenhurst Ave.

Friday–Sunday, March 22–24
9:00 am–5:00 pm

Tomatomania Sale. This is the largest of their tomato seedling sales. Free.

FULLERTON 92831

FULLERTON ARBORETUM

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

Saturday, March 2
9:00 am–12:00 noon

Plant Identification I with Bob Allen. Fee. ☞

Friday–Sunday, March 15–17
9:00 am–4:00 pm

(Members: March 14; 9:00 am–4:00 pm)
Monster Tomato & Pepper Sale. To download a complete list of varieties visit: fullertonarboretum.org/pdf/TomatoesPeppers.pdf. Free.

Saturday, March 23
9:00 am–1:00 pm

Plant Identification II with botanist Bob Allen. Learn how plantings can attract feathered friends to your green space. Fee. ☞

LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE 91011

DESCANSO GARDENS

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

Saturday–Sunday, March 9–10
1:00–5:00 pm (3/9)
9:00 am–5:00 pm (3/10)

Pacific Camellia Society Show. Free with garden admission.

Saturday, March 16
11:00 am

California Native Spring Walk with Rachel Young. Free with garden admission.

Saturday–Sunday, March 23–24
9:00 am–5:00 pm

Cherry Blossom Festival. Free with garden admission.

PALOS VERDES PENINSULA 90274

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Saturday, March 9
11:00 am–4:00 pm

African Violet Show & Sale. Free with garden admission.

Thursdays, March 7–April 25
10:00 am–12:00 noon

One-Stroke Painting with Teri Richards, a series of 6 sessions total. Fee. ☞

SAN MARINO 91108

HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

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

Thursday, March 14
2:30 pm

Garden Talk: The Succulents of South Africa. Nurseryman and succulent expert Buck Hemenway will give an illustrated lecture about his recent travels to Namibia and South Africa. Plant sale follows. Free.

Saturday–Sunday, March 16–17
10:30 am–4:30 pm

Clivia Show & Sale. Free with garden admission.

Saturday, March 23
9:30 am–12:00 pm

Herbarium Tour and Pressed Flower Workshop. Fee. ☞

Saturday, March 23
2:30 pm

California Wildflowers and Early California Nurseries Lecture with Bart O'Brien. Free with garden admission.

Saturday–Sunday, March 23–24
10:30 am–4:30 pm

56th Annual Bonsai Show. Free with garden admission.

SUN VALLEY 91352

THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION FOR WILDFLOWERS & NATIVE PLANTS

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

Saturday, March 2
1:30–3:30 pm

The Small Native Garden: Creating Cozy Outdoor Spaces with Steve Gerischer. Fee. ☞

Saturday, March 9
9:00 am–12:00 noon

Propagating California Native Plants with Madena Asbell and Tim Becker. Fee. ☞

Saturday, March 9
1:30–3:30 pm

Perfect Partners: Gardening with Natives and All Sorts of Edibles with Lili Singer. Fee. ☞

Saturday, March 16
1:30–3:30 pm

Spring Foods from the Native Garden with Antonio Sanchez. Fee. ☞

Saturday, March 23
8:30 am–4:30 pm

Poppy Day Plant Sale & Spring Festival. TPF members receive 15% off plants; non-members 10% Memberships available at the door! Free.

The **San Diego Horticultural Society** meets Monday, March 11, 6:00–9:00 pm, at Del Mar Fairgrounds.

Activities include a talk, *Growing on Air: Amazing Tillandsias* with Paul Isley. Information: 619-296-9215, sdhort.org. Fee.

- Compiled by Bettina Gatti

Send notices to bettina0203@hotmail.com.

UPCOMING 2013 SCHS PROGRAMS

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

March 24 – SCHS Special “Urban Farm” Tour and Picnic in Griffith Park area; 10:00 am–12:00 noon (see enclosed flyer for details).
- Photograph below by Jacky Surber.



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

May 9 – Scott Calhoun will present *Succulently Yours: Lessons from the Desert Southwest*, with a focus on our region.

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:

Laura Bauer, Bettina Gatti, Steven Gerischer and Jacky Surber.

Next deadline: Friday, March 15 (for April 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
MARCH 2013



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

PO Box 94476, Pasadena, CA 91109-4476 . 818-567-1496 . socalhort.org

Special "Urban Farm" Tour and Picnic

Sunday, March 24, 2013 🌿 10:00 am – 12:00 noon

Griffith Park Area



Jacky Surber (formally Bolbat), a professional organic gardener, has invited us to the garden or micro-"urban farm" of one of her clients, where she has planted many types of fruit trees, berries, herbs, vegetables, flowering perennials and other plants to support a diverse edible ecosystem.

Horticultural challenges such as north facing slopes shaded by three story homes, heavy clay soil beds, as well as beds with shallow rocky soil in full sun, have inspired unique plantings and solutions for the micro-climate. The garden is an experiment in attempting to create a local diet that inspires others to get back in touch with their food sources.

IMPORTANT! Because of narrow streets and lack of parking, carpooling to the garden is necessary. Please park near the Trails Cafe in Griffith Park. BE THERE BY 9:30 am TO ORGANIZE CARPOOL TRANSPORT.

The last carpool to the garden will leave the Trails Cafe at 10:00 am.

Afterwards, we can meet up for a picnic at the Trails Cafe before going home.

Please sign up before March 21 on the SCHS MemberLodge website at schs.memberlodge.org or use the form below.
For questions, call Laura Bauer at 626-437-9459. - Photograph by Jacky Surber.

SCHS Special "Urban Farm" Tour 🌿 Sunday, March 24, 2013

PLEASE RESPOND BY THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2013 BY MAIL OR ON OUR WEBSITE

Yes, please reserve:	_____ Member Tickets at \$5 each	\$_____ Total Member Tickets
	_____ Non-Member Tickets at \$10 each	\$_____ Total Non-Member Tickets
	_____ Total Tickets	\$_____ Total Enclosed (check only)

Member Name(s) _____

Non-Member Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Make your check payable to SCHS. Mail to: PO Box 94476, Pasadena, CA 91109-4476