



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

April 2013 Newsletter

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, April 11

7:30 pm

Friendship Auditorium

3201 Riverside Drive
Los Angeles CA 90027

*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 APRIL OPPORTUNITY DRAWING

There will not be an Opportunity Drawing at our April meeting, however, we will be resuming the plant drawings soon, on an occasional basis, to make them more special and desirable. You will be able to purchase plants at most of our meetings.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

James Gardner
Katherine Gillespie
Paula Henson
Kimberly Stanton
Juliah Thrift

NEXT SHARING SECRETS QUESTION

Inspired by this month's program, the Sharing Secrets question for April is:

*"What is the most heinous
'Crime Against
Horticulture' you have
witnessed?"*

*(Remember, you can answer
anonymously.)*

You can answer on the cards we'll supply at our April 11 meeting, on our MemberLodge website or e-mail your response to sglarkspur@aol.com by Friday, April 12.

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The April Meeting



Billy Goodnick: *Crimes Against Horticulture*

Our April 11 meeting of the Southern California Horticultural Society features **Billy Goodnick** with his presentation, *Crimes Against Horticulture: When Bad Taste Meets Power Tools*.

Goodnick, an accomplished musician, discovered the world of plants through his fascination with bonsai and Japanese gardens.

His studies in Ornamental Horticulture led to work in nursery sales, landscape installation, maintenance and design. He

soon earned a degree in landscape architecture from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and went on to work as the City Landscape Architect for the City of Santa Barbara.

While there, he designed and managed the construction of parks and playgrounds – and developed policies that continue to enhance one of the world's most beautiful cities.

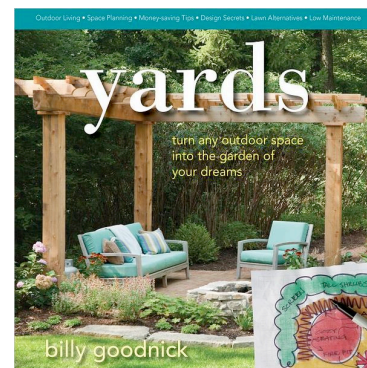
Goodnick, one of the Garden Wise Guys (along with Owen Dell) from the popular Public TV show in Santa Barbara, has become well known for his humorous approach to teaching the public how to beautify their landscapes while focusing on sustainable gardening practices.

His talk will cover the funny, sometimes disturbing side of what people do in the name of horticulture: green meatballs on spindly stems and olive trees made into sinister, multi-headed hydras (my favorite – the water heater-shaped shrub).

The essence of the talk, however, will be on creating sustainable gardens that are not at odds with nature. As an extra bonus, some lucky participants will receive rolls of yellow crime scene tape declaring "Crimes Against Horticulture" (Mr. Goodnick disavows any responsibility for where and how the tape might be used by participant.)

- By Steven Gerischer

APRIL SELECTED BOOK



At our April meeting, you may purchase the newly-released book by **Billy Goodnick**, *Yards: Turn Any Outdoor Space into the Garden of Your Dreams*.

Learn how to achieve a low-cost, low-maintenance yard that's environmentally savvy as well as beautiful – a place that works for every need, starting with a plan.

Published by St. Lynn's Press, March 2013. Hardcover, 8.2 x 8.2 x 0.6 inches, 160 pages. Full color photographs throughout.

Billy will be selling his book for \$17.95 and 20% of book proceeds will be donated to our Society. He will be available to sign your copy after his talk.

March Meeting Recap

Our March meeting of the Southern California Horticultural Society featured our own **Bart O'Brien** presenting highlights from the recent *Salvia* Summit II, held earlier this month at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens.

The *Salvia* Summit, a two-day event, covered a wide range of subjects from the botany of the genus to growing trials in Australia, to medicinal uses of *salvia*. Bart showed us many of the images each speaker used in their presentation as he distilled the salient points from each of those talks.

We were treated to samples including Argentine *salvias* from the studies of Rolando Uria, forensic research on *salvias* (especially *Salvia divinorum* – the only hallucinogenic species) from Jack Hurd of the Alaska Crime Lab.

Many of the talks covered the on-going discussion and disagreement over what constitutes a *salvia*, and whether all of the related plants should be included in the genus.

Growing trials in Australia were shown, from the talk by Sue Templeton, as well as the fascinating relationship between *salvias* and their pollinators from the work by John Whittlesey.

The growing conditions of the steppes of America was the subject covered by Panayoti Kelaidis – showing how many *salvias* are well suited to the growing conditions in the central part of the country.

There were also some intriguing pictures from the talk by Ernst van Jaarsveld, about the *salvias* of Southern Africa. Bart ended with a shortened version of his own summit presentation, California *salvias* and their cultivars. A big thank you to Bart for giving us this remarkable look into the *Salvia* Summit.

John Schoustra and **Matt-Dell Tufenkian** offered plants for sale (many *salvias* were on the sales tables). Thanks to everyone who brought plants for the forum table.

Thank you as well to all of the people who help set up the meeting, sign in our guests, run the AV equipment and help clean up afterword.

Please join us for our next meeting as **Billy Goodnick** presents his talk, *Crimes Against Horticulture*, on April 11.

- By Steven Gerischer

SHARING SECRETS

In March, we asked you to answer "**Which *salvia* is your favorite and why?**" and here are some of your responses. Read more on our SCHS MemberLodge website, schs.memberlodge.org.

My favorite *salvia* is *S. apiana* because it is elegant and aromatic, and also because I love plants with great stories to tell, and each of this plant's many names has a tale.

In addition to "white sage" and "bee sage" it has at least a dozen different Native American names, which shows its importance to the many different peoples who live throughout its range and appreciate its medicinal, culinary, spiritual and ornamental uses.

The "api" in "apiana" is the same as the "api" in apiary because bees are very attracted to its flowers and produce fantastic honey from its nectar. It is also known as sacred sage because of its importance in purification ceremonies, and its genus name comes from the Latin "salvus" which means healthy, uninjured and/or safe – character traits people value in many of its relatives around the world.

- Sandy Masuo

One of my favorite sages is *Salvia clevelandii* 'Winnifred Gilman' because of its neat, rounded shape, dark-colored flowers and stems and incredible sweet scent. I planted two outside a window that we usually open during the day. When the sun warms the plant, or when it rains, the scent permeates the room. The cultivar 'Betsy Clebsch' is even more awesome because some of the flowers are pure white.

- Laura Bauer

Salvia heldreichiana. It's a 1 x 1 foot subshrub with 1 foot spikes of big, purplish-blue flowers, just coming into bloom now. Very drought tolerant. Native to southern Turkey. I got mine in 2004 from Chris and Trish Meyer when they were still in Southern California. It's oddly uncommon for one that does so well here.

- Kathy Musial

Salvia 'Mole Poblano' – because it's hot!

- Ann Brooks

Salvia chiapensis – blooms all year, sun or shade, leaves look bright, flowers are showy and hummingbirds love it.

- Eric Brooks

SECRET CONTRIBUTORS

Salvia canariensis – large, showy inflorescences; unique, triangular foliage; large, slope "filler."

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS & COFFEE IN THE GARDEN

Although we had to cancel our trip to an "urban farm" near Griffith Park, we are researching other similar venues for another trip later – stay tuned!

We are also working on *Chavez Ravine Arboretum III: The Eucalyptus Collection* for a time in June. This would be another session with our tree experts at the beautiful Chavez Ravine Arboretum, followed by a picnic lunch.

When the weather heats up in July, we will be planning a **trip to coastal Ventura County**, home of some wonderful specialty nurseries.

And building on the success of our very first *Coffee In The Garden* at **Joan Citron's garden** a couple of weeks ago, we'd love to open up to our membership the opportunity to share **your garden** and the stories that accompany it – and we ALL know there are so many interesting stories that we can relate to behind each garden – by **hosting future Coffee in the Garden events at your garden space**.

The garden doesn't need to be a particular style, size or location. As members, we appreciate all of our varied interests and experiences and are always eager to see what others are growing and are passionate about. If you are interested in hosting us, please contact **Joel Lichtenwalter** at: socalhortsociety@gmail.com.

- Laura Bauer

EVER THINK ABOUT JOINING OUR BOARD?

If you were at our March meeting, you heard Steve Gerischer announce that we will be losing several current board members at the end of June, primarily due to terms ending.

That means our nominating committee is seeking members who are interested in serving on our board.

As we are an all-volunteer, non-profit organization, we have an active, working board that takes on the responsibilities of running our Society.

We meet every other month at Descanso Gardens from 7:30–9:30 pm. Business is carried out through e-mail communications between meetings. Terms begin July 1.

If you have any questions or have an interest in being considered as a candidate, please contact **Steve Gerischer** at sglarkspur@aol.com. Voting for board nominees will take place in June.



socalhort.org

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

DECEMBER 2012 / JANUARY 2013
PLANT FORUM NOTES

GREEN SHEET

*Compiled by Sula Vanderplank
Photographs by Paul Martin*

Thank you to all who brought plants to the December 2012 and January 2013 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.]

Datura metel cultivar (Solanaceae), exhibited by Ann Brooks, grown in Baldwin Hills.

Deppea splendens 'Cristobal' (Rubiaceae), exhibited by Eric Brooks, grown in Baldwin Hills.

Lithodora diffusa 'Grace Ward' (Boraginaceae), exhibited by Patricia McGrath, grown in Silver Lake.

Salvia costaricensis (Lamiaceae), exhibited by John Schoustra.

Salvia 'Waverley' (Lamiaceae), exhibited by Gary Kamisher.

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

Erica × *darleyensis* 'White Perfection', White Perfection heath (Ericaceae), exhibited by Patricia McGrath, grown in Silver Lake.

This attractive evergreen shrub has a dwarf habit, reaching only 16 inches tall. Small white flowers are borne in clusters during winter and spring. This plant recently won the Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society of Great Britain. It is noted to require very little care and to take 2 to 5 years to reach maturity. It is generally pest free and can be propagated by semi-hardwood cuttings, likes well-drained, neutral to acid soils and prefers a sunny position.

Euphorbia Blackbird, Blackbird spurge (Euphorbiaceae), exhibited by Patricia McGrath, grown in Silver Lake.

This striking perennial shrub of garden origin is derived from a cross between *Euphorbia amygdaloides* and *Euphorbia martini*. Despite its dark purple foliage, it has recently been shown to be surprisingly heat tolerant in California. It has dramatic spikes of yellow flowers held above the foliage on red stems in spring and reaches about 2 feet tall and wide. It has moderate water needs and is fairly hardy, but be aware that this plant may be poisonous.

Pyrus calleryana 'Sierra Blanca', Sierra Blanca callery pear (Rosaceae), exhibited by John Schoustra, grown in Somis.

This decorative tree will reach 30 to 40 feet tall and wide and is an attractive deciduous ornamental. Single, white flowers are borne abundantly in spring and it has attractive shiny, green foliage that turns bright red before leaf drop.

This tree requires moderate water and full sun, and is reported to be resistant to fire blight.

Photographs: *Deppea splendens* 'Cristobal' (upper right); *Salvia costaricensis*, *Datura metel* cultivar and *Euphorbia* 'Blackbird' (bottom left to right).



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

Thursday, April 4, 11, 18 & 25
9:30 am–12:00 noon

Thursday Talks with Lili Singer. Includes *Hollywood at the Arboretum* with Vince Foley, 4/4; *Design Like a Pro: Demystifying the Art of Garden Design* with Billy Goodnick, 4/11; *Handmade Garden Projects* with Lorene Edwards Forkner, 4/18; *Field Trip: Nursery Hopping off the I-210, Bountiful Gardens & Lincoln Avenue*, 4/25. Fee. ☞

Wednesday, April 10
10:00 am–12:00 noon

Great Tomato Talk & Sale with Steve Goto. Free with garden admission.

Saturday, April 13
12:00 noon–4:00 pm

Iris and Bulb Show & Sale. Iris plants will be for sale. Free with garden admission.

Sunday–Monday, April 21–22
9:00 am–4:00 pm

Geranium Society Show & Sale. Free with garden admission.

Saturday–Sunday, April 27–28
1:00 pm–5:30 pm (4/27)
10:00 am–3:00 pm (4/28)

Pacific Rose Society Rose Show & Sale. Free with garden admission.

BEVERLY HILLS 90210

TREEPEOPLE

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

Saturday, April 6
9:00 am–1:00 pm

Rainwater Harvesting Workshop. Free. ☞

CLAREMONT 91711

RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Monday, April 1
10:00 am–4:00 pm

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

Saturday, April 6
8:00 am–5:00 pm

Tomatomania Plant Sale. Tomato seedlings and native plants will be for sale. Free.

Saturday, April 13
9:00 am–12:00 noon

Getting Dirty. Learn through hands-on planting, irrigation and mulching demonstrations. Fee. ☞

Saturday, April 20
1:00 pm

California Author Series, Talk & Book Signing: Lorraine Passero, *Clara Mason Fox: Pioneer, Painter, and Poet of Orange County, California*. Free with garden admission; reservations required. Contact registrar@rsabg.org for information. ☞

ENCINO 91406

SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER

16633 Magnolia Blvd.

Saturday, April 20
10:00 am–4:00 pm

Native Plant Week Symposium, Wildflower Show & Plant Sale. Free.

FULLERTON 92831

FULLERTON ARBORETUM

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

Saturday, April 6
9:00 am–12:00 noon

Eat the Yard #2: The Complete Summer Vegetable Garden. Fee. ☞

Saturday, April 13
9:00 am–1:00 pm

Intro to Plant Identification III with Bob Allen. Introduces some California plant families and helps identify these plants. Fee. ☞

Saturday, April 20
9:00–10:00 am (Friends of the Arboretum)
10:00 am–4:00 pm (Public)

Greenscene 2013. Large garden show & sale of plants, tools & garden related items. Check website for info. Fee.

LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE 91011

DESCANSO GARDENS

1418 Descanso Dr.
657-278-3407; descansogardens.org

Saturday–Sunday, April 6–7
9:00 am–5:00 pm

Tomatomania Plant Sale. Free with garden admission.

Saturday, April 20
10:30 am

"Slow Flower" Workshop with Debra Prinzing. Fee. ☞

Thursday–Sunday, April 25–28
9:00 am–4:00 pm

Mt. Sac Plant Sale. Students in the Mount San Antonio College horticulture programs will sell a wide variety of fresh plants and provide advice. Free with garden admission.

PALOS VERDES PENINSULA 90274

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Wednesdays, April 3–May 29
7:00–9:00 pm

Bird Lectures with Eric and Ann Brooks. Fee. ☞

Saturday–Sunday, April 13–14
9:00 am–4:00 pm

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show and Sale. Free with garden admission.

Saturday, April 20
10:00 am–4:00 pm

Spring Plant Sale & Boutique. Free.

SAN MARINO 91108

HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

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

Thursday, April 11
2:30 pm

Garden Talk: California Wildflowers for the Home Garden with Bart O'Brien. Free.

Saturday, April 20
9:30 am–12:00 pm

Flower Arranging: Garden Bouquets with the floral design team from Floral Duet. Fee. ☞

Saturday–Sunday, April 27–28
10:30 am–4:30 pm (3/27–3/28: Members)
1:00–4:30pm (3/28: Public)
39th Annual Spring Plant Sale. Free.

SUN VALLEY 91352

THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION FOR WILDFLOWERS & NATIVE PLANTS

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

Saturday–Sunday, April 6–7
10:00 am–5:00 pm

10th Annual Native Plant Garden Tour. More than 40 gardens in a two day, self-guided journey. Fee. ☞

Saturday, April 20
10:00 am–12:00 noon

FREE Wildflower Watercolor Workshop (for adults with children, age 7 and up) with Laura Stickney. Preregistration required. Free. ☞

Saturday, April 27
9:00 am–1:00 pm

Native Garden Design. Part 1 of 3 on Saturdays including May 11 & 25. Fee. ☞

Saturday, April 27
10:30 am–1:00 pm

Hike and Learn with Cassy Aoyagi. This hike in the San Gabriel Mountains highlights native plants that work well in the garden. Fee. ☞

The **San Diego Horticultural Society** meets Monday, April 8, 6:00–9:00 pm, at Del Mar Fairgrounds.

Activities include a talk, *Writing the Book on Natives* with Greg Rubin and Lucy Warren. Information: 619-296-9215, sdhort.org. Fee.

Also, the SDHS Spring Garden Tour takes place on April 6 from 9:00 am–4:00 pm. Tickets can be purchased online.

- Compiled by Bettina Gatti

Send notices to bettina0203@hotmail.com



COFFEE IN THE GARDEN WITH JOAN CITRON

Article and Photographs by Yvonne Savio

The inaugural “Coffee In the Garden” garden tour was enjoyed on Saturday morning, February 23, 2013, by some 50 SCHS members and guests. The beautiful spring day with temperatures in the 70s made for perfect weather to wander in the garden and formulate personal queries for Joan when she arrived.

As guests queried out loud “Oh, I wonder what that is!” and exclaimed at how well-developed some of the plants were, and well-pruned the crape myrtles were, other members ventured their thoughts and mutual appreciation. **Steve Gerischer** and **Joel Lichtenwalter** were able to answer some questions since they had visited with Joan in her garden in the past.

Succulents and cacti are impressively enormous, and some were blooming.

Blooming bulbs included yellow and orange *Bulbinella*, star-shaped *Gladiolus murielae*, tiny *Iris reticulata*, and *Lycoris radiata*. Her *Amaryllis belladonna* bulbs sent up a multi-colored sport, with differing shades of pink on each stem, and an great number of blooms – so she’s gradually culling the “regular” pale pink ones.

Some annuals like pansies offer color highlights until perennials and other plants come into bloom.

Roses throughout the garden were just putting out their newest foliage. But one – a mystery even to Joan – bloomed in a delicate creamy pink.

Another of Joan’s special passions is her rocks. In exquisite colors and patterns, they’re carefully placed throughout the garden and highlight nearby plantings.

Once Joan arrived, everyone eagerly listened to her stories of successes and tribulations. Some bits:

- The garden’s water table is some 20 feet down, so she doesn’t have to water her trees.
- The garden soil is rich, so she doesn’t fertilize.
- She does apply some mulch, but not very thickly.
- Frosts result in plants being replaced. Others thrive as a result.
- She does water, but only periodically with a hose for specific plants.
- She pruned her crape myrtles to 5 feet tall so they wouldn’t be taller than she is, and she could see beyond them to the rest of the garden.
- Joan’s great frustration with the formal mandala pattern is with plantings of multiple plants – like five on either side of a pathway – only to have one do poorly or another die – destroying the symmetry of her plan.
- Joan simplifies and edits her garden constantly – trading some items, and providing many extras at our SCHS meetings.

I was pleased to serve on the Coffee In the Garden committee and wish to thank fellow members **Joel Lichtenwalter**, **Al** and **Pat Steen** and **Laura Bauer** for a wonderfully successful tour and yummy refreshments.



UPCOMING 2013 SCHS PROGRAMS

At Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles CA 90027, starting at 7:30 pm, unless otherwise noted.

May 9 – Scott Calhoun will present *Succulently Yours: Lessons from the Desert Southwest*, with a focus on our region. He will be selling and signing copies of all six of his books.

June 13 – To be announced.

July 11 – Amelia Lima will present a program about Roberto Burle Marx, Brazilian landscape architect.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR CHANGES

This newsletter ends my second term serving as your editor, this time for the past two and a half years. I greatly enjoyed producing the newsletter each month, but am not able to continue because of time constraints.

Until our next editor is found, **Steve Gerischer** has generously volunteered to be our newsletter editor in the interim. He did a terrific job last year when I was on leave for three months. Let's give him our support and thanks. He is already handling a large number of SCHS responsibilities and could use a helping hand, so if you are interested in the editor duties, please let Steve know.

I wish to express my gratitude to all of you who have been involved in the newsletter during my recent term, including my husband, Joe Galliani. Thanks so much for your contributions, your readership and your warm support.

- Debra Bushweit Galliani

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Horticultural Society
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NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2013

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Bart O'Brien

Yvonne Savio, *Programs & Field Trips*

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, Paul Martin, Yvonne Savio, Sula Vanderplank and all Sharing Secrets contributors.

Next deadline: Friday, April 12 (for May newsletter).

It is the Friday following our monthly membership meeting.

Please contribute an article or information of interest.