



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

May 2013 Newsletter

## OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, May 9

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*.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Michele Jacknik  
Christine Zardenet  
Julian and Galena Fowles

## NEXT SHARING SECRETS QUESTION

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

*"What is your favorite  
succulent plant, and why?"*

*You can answer on the cards  
we'll supply at our May 9  
meeting, on our MemberLodge  
website or e-mail your response  
to sglarkspur@aol.com by  
Friday, May 10.*

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## The May Meeting



## Scott Calhoun: *The Graphical Garden: A Bold Approach to Succulent Gardening*

Scott Calhoun will be the featured speaker  
for our May meeting, presenting his talk, *The  
Graphical Garden: A Bold Approach to  
Succulent Gardening*.

Scott Calhoun loves wildflowers, spiny  
plants, tacos and rocks. He spends as much  
time as possible deep in the Mexican  
backcountry searching for new plants and  
eating local cuisine. He has gardened in the  
American southwest for over 20 years and is  
the author and photographer of six books  
about the region. Scott's work has been  
featured in the *New York Times* and the *Wall  
Street Journal*. He writes a monthly column  
for *Sunset* magazine and freelances for  
numerous publications. Scott runs Zona  
Gardens, a design studio based in Tucson,  
Arizona. He designs, writes and lectures  
throughout the United States. (You can find  
out more at: [zonagardens.com](http://zonagardens.com).)

About his talk, Scott says that when it comes  
to selecting durable plants for gardens in  
arid climate zones - "don't think floral, think  
graphical." His approach, honed while  
designing and installing over 100 residential  
gardens in the desert southwest, is bent on  
form, filled with color and bristling with  
succulents. Scott draws inspiration from  
wild places as well as from the children's  
books, graphic art and woodcuts of Dr.  
Suess, George Harriman and Paul Landacre.

Learn how graphic design, and desert  
landscaping techniques can inform your  
own gardening style. Join us as Scott  
promises us a rollicking journey into the  
graphical garden.

## MAY SELECTED BOOK(S)



Scott Calhoun is  
the author of six  
books about  
gardening in the  
southwest. He  
will have all of  
his titles  
available for sale  
and signing at

our meeting. Included will be: *The Gardener's  
Guide to Cactus*, *Hot Garden: Landscape Design  
for the Desert Southwest* and *Yard Full of Sun*.



## April Meeting Recap

Our April meeting of the Southern California Horticultural Society featured **Billy Goodnick** presenting his talk, *Crimes Against Horticulture: When Bad Taste Meets Power Tools*. Billy showed us horrifying and humorous pictures of the terrible things mankind can wreak on plants in the name of landscaping: poodle-cut olive trees, box-shaped plugs of fountain grass and lollipop ficus.

We have all witnessed these crimes, and the evidence surrounds us on a daily basis. As funny as the results can be, they are symptomatic of a complete lack of understanding about the way well chosen plants can grow without the radical surgery needed to "keep them in line".

Unless you are a master of the topiary art form and are spending time, money and precious natural resources to shape a menagerie of animals or a whimsical field of chessmen, all of this cutting, clipping and shearing just points to the fact that the wrong plants have been put in the wrong place, or that there is no understanding or appreciation of their natural growth habits.

Mr. Goodnick showed us his formula for creating a sustainable, livable landscape that does not require the periodic butchering of plant material. A basic knowledge of plants and their needs is key to understanding how to choose a well-balanced palette of material to create a beautiful, and relatively care-free landscape.

There was also a "snarkiest comment" competition for subtitles to some of Billy's oddest and funniest photos. The prizes were rolls of crime scene tape, printed with the words, "CRIME AGAINST HORTICULTURE." (Mr. Goodnick disavowed all responsibility for how the tape might be used). Thanks to Mr. Billy Goodnick for an enjoyable evening.

**John Schoustra** and **Matt-Dell Tufenkian** offered plants for sale. Thanks to everyone who brought plants for the forum table.

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

Please join us for our next meeting as **Ernest Miller** presents:

*How Food Preservation Fostered Civilization* on June 13.

- Steven Gerischer

## SHARING SECRETS

In April, we asked you to answer "What is the most heinous Crime Against Horticulture you have seen?" and here are some of your responses. Read more on our SCHS MemberLodge website, [schs.memberlodge.org](http://schs.memberlodge.org).

Every year, without fail, the owner of the apartment complex across the street from my home hires a crew of butchers to cut back all the trees. First they lollipop the ornamental pears along the sidewalk so that they will make perfectly round new growth. That's bad, but at least the trees seem to reach a somewhat normal volume as they recover. What is heinous is the three or four silk oak trees that were tragically planted between the buildings. *Grevillea robusta* is the largest species in the genus, and to make them fit into the space available, they lop off their "arms" and tops creating horrible, humungous coatracks. Unlike the pear trees, they never cover their disfigurement with sucker growth and so I have to look at these tortured trees until the pear trees screen them. The whole process is atrocious, from the loud, stinky power tools to the spectacle of the mow-and-blowers hacking the debris into bits. Have you ever seen film of a whale being butchered? It's the botanical equivalent. I try to flee the house until it's all over. Thank god they can't touch the beautiful old live oak that is also on the property!

- Sandy Masuo

Caltrans using green dye in herbicides when spraying along freeways and roads.

- Veronica Raymond

Trees and large agaves tagged in Atwater Village. A street tree cut down for a view (tree hacking).

- Gary Kamisher



Photo by:  
Laura Bauer

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS & COFFEE IN THE GARDEN

We are working on *Chavez Ravine Arboretum III: The Eucalyptus Collection* for sometime in October. 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 number of weeks ago, and the upcoming visit to **Sharon Milder's** garden, (see details, page 5) we'd love the opportunity to open up to our membership 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](mailto:socalhortsociety@gmail.com).

- Laura Bauer

## EVER THINK ABOUT JOINING OUR BOARD?

If you were at our March meeting, you heard Steven 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](mailto:sglarkspur@aol.com). Voting for board nominees will take place in June.





**socalhort.org**

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 2013  
PLANT FORUM NOTES

## GREEN SHEET

*Compiled by James E. Henrich  
Photographs by Paul Martin*

Thank you to all who brought plants to the February 2013 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 (if there is an Opportunity Drawing that night).

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.]

*Eremophila maculata* 'Valentine', Valentine emu bush (Scrophulariaceae), exhibited by Ann Brooks, grown in Baldwin Hills. [February 2010]  
*Lachenalia bulbifera*, cape cowslip (Asparagaceae), syn. *Lachenalia pendula*, exhibited by Sheldon Lisker, grown in Temecula. [SPSCG]  
*Scadoxus puniceus*, paintbrush lily (Amaryllidaceae), exhibited by Ann & Eric Brooks, grown in Baldwin Hills. [February 2011]

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

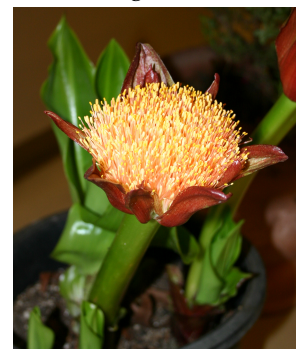
Agave 'Blue Glow', Blue Glow agave (Asparagaceae), exhibited by Gary Kamisher, grown in Los Angeles. Parent species of this hybrid are Agave ocahui and *A. attenuata* and the cross is reported to have been made by Kelly Griffin. Plants grow to 1-2 feet tall and 2-3 feet wide; tolerate full sun; and form solitary rosettes. The leaves are dark blue-green, with red margins that are edged in yellow. Leaf margins have soft spines and a stout terminal spine.

Camellia x 'Night Rider', Night Rider camellia (Theaceae), exhibited by Paul Martin, grown in Pasadena. This hybrid was created in 1985 by O. Blumhardt in Whangarei, New Zealand. It is the progeny of Camellia x 'Ruby Bells' x *C. japonica* 'Kuro-tsubaki'. The miniature to small, semi-double flowers are produced mid to late season and are noteworthy because they are dark red black. It grows slowly and is more challenging to grow than most camellias.

Hakea scoparia, kangaroo bush (Proteaceae), exhibited by Sheldon Lisker, grown in Temecula. This native of Western Australia grows from 5 to 9 feet tall, in full sun to partial shade and is drought tolerant once established. It performs best in well-drained alkaline soil. Flowers are cream to pink pincushions that are strongly scented.

x Pachyveria 'Scheideckeri', jeweled crown (Crassulaceae), exhibited by Gary Kamisher, grown in Los Angeles. This is a bigeneric cross between *Pachyphytum bracteosum* and *Echeveria secunda*, leading to the name x Pachyveria. It was created around 1870 by Peter Scheidecker in Munich, Germany. Plants grow to about 6 inches tall and wide. The fleshy leaves are glaucous blue-gray; leaf edges and tips often flush soft reddish-pink when grown in full sun. It tolerates either full sun or shade and is drought tolerant.

(Visit our website at [socalhort.org](http://socalhort.org) for an expanded version of Green Sheet.)



# 4 H O R T I C U L T U R A L H A P P E N I N G S

Contact each listing below to confirm the event, for details and for a full schedule.  
☎=Registration requested or required.

## ARCADIA 91007

### L.A. COUNTY ARBORETUM & BOTANIC GARDEN

301 N. Baldwin Ave.  
626-821-4623; [arboretum.org](http://arboretum.org)

Thursday, May 2

9:30am-12:00pm

*Spring Thursday Talks. Hum on In: Attracting Tiny Birds to Your Garden* with Lili Singer. Fee ☎

Saturday & Sunday, May 4 & 5

10:00am-4:00pm

*Wild West Days Festival*. Free with garden admission.

Saturday, May 4

10:00am-2:00pm

*Hypertufa Container Workshop* with Steven Gerischer. Fee ☎

Saturday and Sunday, May 11 & 12

9:00am-4:00pm

*Chrysanthemum Society Show & Sale*. Free with garden admission.

Saturday and Sunday, May 18 & 19

9:00am-4:00pm

*Annual Epiphyllum Show and Sale*. Free with garden admission.

Saturday-Monday, May 25-27

9:30am-5:00pm

*Santa Anita Bonsai Show & Sale*. Free with garden admission.

## BEVERLY HILLS 90210

### TREE PEOPLE

12601 Mulholland Drive  
818-753-4600; [treepeople.org](http://treepeople.org)

Saturday, May 25

6:30-8:30pm

*Moonlight Hike*. Free to members and three guests; \$5 for non-members. Pre-register to attend, contact [moonlight@treepeople.org](mailto:moonlight@treepeople.org).

## CLAREMONT 91711

### RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Saturdays & Sundays

May 4, 5, 11, 12, 25 & 26

11:00am-12:00pm

*Weekend Wildflower Walks*. Free with garden admission.

Saturday, May 11

1:00-2:00pm

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

Saturday & Sunday, May 11 & 12

10:00am-3:00pm

*Butterfly Festival*. Free with garden admission.

Sunday, May 19

10:00am-1:00pm

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

## LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE 91011

### DESCANSO GARDENS

1418 Descanso Drive  
818-949-7980; [descansogardens.org](http://descansogardens.org)

Saturday, May 4

10:30am

*New Threats to Oak Trees* with Brian Sullivan. Free with garden admission.

Saturday, May 4

10:30am

*Rose Garden Walk* with garden staff. Free with garden admission.

Saturday, May 11

10:00am-1:00pm

*Bee Seminar* with Dr. Gordon Frankee. Fee ☎

Tuesday, May 21

2:00pm

*Organic Vegetable Gardening*. Fee ☎

## PALOS VERDES PENINSULA 90274

### SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Sunday, May 5

9:00am-4:00pm

*South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale*. Free with garden admission.

Sunday, May 5 & Wednesday, May 17

8:00am-12:00pm

*Monthly Bird Walks*. Local Audubon members guide this walk through the garden looking for unusual birds. Free with garden admission.

Saturday and Sunday, May 18 & 19

9:00am-4:00pm

*South Bay Geranium Society Show and Sale*. Free with garden admission.

Sunday, May 26

9:00am-5:00pm

*South Coast Bonsai Association Show*. Free with garden admission.

## SAN MARINO 91108

### HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

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

Wednesday, May 1- Friday, May 31

12:00-4:30pm weekdays (closed Tues)

10:30am-4:30pm weekends

*When They Were Wild: Recapturing California's Wildflower Heritage*. This on-going exhibit in the Boone Gallery ends July 8. Free with garden admission.

Sunday, May 5

2:00pm

*Japanese Gardens of North America* with Kendall Brown. Free with garden admission.

Thursday, May 9

2:30pm

*2nd Thursday Free Garden Talk and Plant Sale*. Gene Bauer on *Paper, Paint and Postage*. A book signing will follow the talk. Free.

## SUN VALLEY 91352

### THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION

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

Saturday, May 4

9:00am-11:00am

*An Introduction to California Native Bees* with Hartmut Wisch. Fee ☎

Saturday, May 4

9:00am-12:00pm

*Propagating CA Native Plants* with Madena Asbell and Tim Becker. Fee ☎

Saturday, May 4

11:30-3:30pm

*Native Plant Garden Maintenance* with Antonio Sanchez. Fee ☎

Saturday, May 18

9:00am-1:00pm

*Basics of Native Plant Identification: Flowers* with Lorrae Fuentes. Fee ☎

Saturday, May 18

1:30-3:30pm

*Hypertufa Container Workshop* with Steven Gerischer. Fee ☎

Saturday, May 25

1:30-3:30pm

*The California Native Landscape* with Greg Rubin and Lucy Warren. Fee ☎

### The San Diego Horticultural Society

meets Monday, May 14 at 6 pm at the Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds. John Schoustra will be speaking on *Seriously Funny--The Business of Plants*. Fee for non-members. Information: 619-296-9215, [sdhort.org](http://sdhort.org).

- Compiled by Bettina Gatti  
Send notices to [bettina0203@hotmail.com](mailto:bettina0203@hotmail.com)





## UPCOMING "COFFEE IN THE GARDEN": SHARON MILDER'S GARDEN

**Sunday, May 19 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm**

Sharon's charming garden in the Westwood section of Los Angeles near UCLA overflows with roses, hardy geraniums, clematis, heliotropes, lilies, fuchsia and many more of her favorite things including alliums (a plant that many of us only dream of growing!). She has dug every hole and planted every plant with a gardener's optimism and, like all fanatic gardeners, she gardens by day and reads about gardens in the evening and dreams about gardens at night.

Sharon's garden has been featured on the cover of the *Los Angeles Times* Garden Calendar, and in several publications including *Country Accents*, *Ladies Home Journal* and *Sunset* Magazines as well as the *Sunset Garden Guide*.

Please join us for an informal tour with coffee and light refreshments on Sunday, May 19 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. This tour is free to SCHS members, but a \$5.00 entry fee will apply to guests. Sharon's garden is located in the Westwood area of West Los Angeles, near UCLA. Once you sign up, we will contact you with directions.

## ANNUAL SCHS SCIENCE FAIR JUDGING AND AWARDS

by Joan Citron

With the coming of Spring Vacation, cometh also the Los Angeles Science Fair. Or so it has come for 63 years. And this year two of us, Bart O'Brien and I, waded through the throngs of children, parents and judges to see what might be worth and award from the Southern California Horticultural Society.

There were the usual trials subjecting plants to a assortment of liquids, fertilizers, music and lights, but even among these there were some projects worthy of our consideration.

This year there were many more senior division projects than usual, and one of those, a collaboration by two students, we liked enough to give both experimenters an award.

For those of you who are not aware of the Society's on-going relationship with the Science Fair, The Society annually gives 6 awards: 5 of \$100 each, and the **Eva B. Mason** Horticultural Award of \$150.

The students and projects to which awards were given were:

**Abdullah Khan:** Plant Naps: Do Plants Grow Better With Continuous Light?

**Mary O'Brien:** Does the Composition of the Compost Affect the Growth of the Plant?

**Taylor Tombo:** Do Plants Like Our Leftovers?

**Brandon Fong and Austin Raymundo:** Which Plant, Organic or Genetically Modified is the Most Economical for California Farmers?

**Brianna Magallanes:** Glowing Green (Eva Mason Award)

## SANDY MASUO, NEW SCHS VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

At recent meetings there has been a call for volunteers and a number of people have responded-and then not much came their way as far as information or what to do. SCHS now has a Volunteer Coordinator, board member, Sandy Masuo. If you are interested in serving the Society in an active way as a volunteer, whether its an on-going job, like setting up the refreshments at the meeting, or a one-time stint on one of our fieldtrips or a "Coffee in the Garden" outing, Sandy should be your first contact. Our Society is an all volunteer effort and we need a helping hand once in awhile. If you haven't volunteered before, you can talk to Sandy at the next meeting you attend, or contact her on our Facebook page or through MemberLodge: [schs.memberlodge.org](http://schs.memberlodge.org) on our website at: [socalhort.org](http://socalhort.org). Please consider volunteering. It's a great way to meet other members.

- Steven Gerischer



## UPCOMING 2013 SCHS PROGRAMS

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

**June 13 – Ernest Miller**, will present a program about how food preservation has fostered civilization. He will also discuss food preserving tips.

**July 11 – Amelia Lima** will present a program about Roberto Burle Marx, Brazilian landscape architect. (Note: This meeting will be at the Los Angeles Zoo--details will be in July newsletter)

**August 8 -** To be announced.

### A BIG "THANK YOU" TO DEBRA BUSHWEIT GALLIANI

For many years the editing of the newsletter has been in the capable hands of Debra Bushweit Galliani. Debra is stepping down from her position as editor, and from her board position for the Southern California Horticultural Society. We would like to thank her for the many years of service in providing a well balanced and beautifully produced newsletter.

Debra has worked patiently with all of the contributing writers, never losing her cool even when they were late and she was under deadline. Please take a moment if you see her at our meeting and thank her personally. The job of editing a newsletter on a volunteer basis is nearly an invisible one--yet takes a tremendous amount of time and effort.

I would be remiss to leave out mention of Debra's husband, Joe Galliani, who has also contributed much to the newsletter over the years helping write, or rewrite much of the content.

Thank you, Debra, and thank you Joe.

-Steven Gerischer

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

NEWSLETTER  
May 2013

### Board of Directors

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

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Bettina Gatti, *Secretary & Internship Coordinator*

Laura Bauer, *Treasurer & Finance*

Joel Lichtenwalter, *Membership Secretary*

Carol Bornstein *Programs*

Debra Bushweit Galliani, *Membership*

Lisa Ceazan, *Programs & Field Trips*

Sandy Masuo, *Facebook & Field Trips & Volunteer Coordinator*

Bart O'Brien

Yvonne Savio, *Programs & Field Trips*

John Schoustra, *Opportunity Drawings & Plant Sales*

Lili Singer, *Selected Book Sales & Programs*

Jill Vig, *Pacific Horticulture Board*

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*Newsletter Editor:* Steven Gerischer

### Contributors to this issue:

Laura Bauer, Bettina Gatti, Steven Gerischer, Paul Martin, James E. Henrich and all Sharing Secrets contributors.

**Next deadline:** Friday, May 10 (for June newsletter).

It is the Friday following our monthly membership meeting.

Please contribute an article or information of interest.