



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

August 2013 Newsletter

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, August 8
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.

SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Mardi Caruso

Carol Knight

Danielle & Brian Smith

NEXT SHARING SECRETS QUESTION

The Sharing Secrets question
for August is: *"Do you
encourage beneficial insects in
your garden, and if so, how?"*

**You can answer on the cards
we'll supply at our August 8
meeting, on our MemberLodge
website or e-mail your
response to:
sglarkspur@aol.com by Friday,
September 13 .**

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The August Meeting

Lili Singer: *Beneficial Bugs in the Garden*



Healthy productive gardens include a miniature menagerie of tiny animals that keep garden pests in check. This illustrated talk features good bugs you're likely to find in the landscape, with tips on how to attract and support them. Lili is an award-winning horticulturist, educator and garden writer, and a member of the SCHS Board of Directors. In 1997, she was named Horticulturist of the Year by the Society.

(Note: Daniel Marlos' *The Curious World of Bugs* was originally announced as our August program. Mr. Marlos had to cancel due to a family matter and our own Board Member, Lili Singer has graciously offered to give a presentation on a similar subject.)

While most of us who garden can identify a number of common beneficial insects, some are not so easily recognized. The photos below, provided by our speaker, illustrate one case in point. The mealy bug destroyer is not immediately familiar to many people, but those who understand the life cycle of this voracious beetle and the odd larva it matures from are overjoyed when they spot one in their yard. Come and learn more...



Cryptolaemus montrouzieri, adult and larva,
mealybug destroyer.



CALL FOR SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

September, and our Horticulturist of the Year event is the time for our annual silent auction. The silent auction is a major source of funds for our Society and a great way to bid on cool, garden-related items and other useful and fun things. If you have items you would like to donate to our silent auction, please contact Steven Gerischer at:
sglarkspur@aol.com or phone (323)257-3629.

Bring items to the August meeting, call or e-mail and I will try to arrange a time for pick-up. We are accepting interesting plants, garden related items and anything other gardeners and interested members of the human race would find fun and/or useful (a certificate from a day spa for a massage perhaps?). You can also just bring the items to the Horticulturist of the Year event, but please contact me first so I can prepare a bid card for the item.

-Steven Gerischer

SPECIAL NOTE ON OUR HORTICULTURIST OF THE YEAR AWARD BANQUET

A number of Dave Lannom's current and former students, and many of his friends have expressed interest in attending this year's award banquet. The venue, at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden, can hold a few more than our previous location-but if you are interested it might be wise to get your tickets early. See the flyer in this newsletter.

July Meeting Recap

Amelia Lima gave us a presentation detailing the life and work of the Brazilian artist, garden designer and landscape innovator, Roberto Burle Marx. Her talk began with a short history of Brazil, covering the peculiar Old World agreement between Spain and Portugal that led to a distinct separation between languages and cultures in South America. Portuguese is spoken in Brazil, and Spanish is the predominant language in the rest of South and Central America. The cultural influences that shaped Brazil are from Portugal.

Amelia's presentation then detailed the early creative life of Burle Marx, with his interest in music and studies in other artistic fields. Marx suffered as a young man from deteriorating eyesight and traveled to Berlin to seek medical help. She told us how his studies in painting and visual arts led him to the Botanical Garden Berlin Dahlem as he sought subjects for representing on paper and canvas. She explained that it was in Germany, so far from his home, that Burle Marx first saw Brazilian plants. He was immediately struck by their fantastic forms and exaggerated colors. The artist had started a life-long fascination with his native flora.

Amelia detailed the travels of Burle Marx with his family, and his return to Brazil in 1929. He decided to study architecture, but a teacher convinced him to switch back to visual arts. This was a fortunate decision and set Burle Marx on a course that would lead him into designing gardens as he continued with his painting, printmaking, sculpture and other artistic ventures. Burle Marx had made connections with numerous architects, such as Oscar Neimeyer and Lucio Costa, and began to design landscapes for projects headed by them. His designs were influenced by the Bauhaus movement and were conceived to integrate the structures, public and private, into their surroundings. Burle Marx developed his signature style during this period using native plants he had collected and propagated. This was a break from tradition and would continue throughout his working life. Burle Marx kept a nursery at his private residence that allowed him to use masses of Brazilian plants (many he had collected in the wild) not available in the nursery trade. Burle Marx also began designing mosaics in the Portuguese tradition (usually black and white and sometimes red) incorporating his flair for visual arts.

We would like to thank Amelia Lima for illuminating the life of this incredibly creative man and to show his lasting influence on landscape design.

A big thanks to all who helped set up the meeting and to those who help run things smoothly and helped clean up afterwards. Also we would like to thank Sandy Masuo and the volunteers at the Los Angeles Zoo who helped guide our members and make sure everything went well.

-Steven Gerischer

ESCAPE TO VENTURA FIELD TRIP

Saturday, July 27 saw a large number of our membership and their guests converge on Ventura and surrounding areas for what turned out to be a fun and educational trip. We started at Australian Plants Nursery, in Ojai. Jo O'Connell, who runs the nursery, could not be on hand as she had to travel to her native Australia on sudden family business. Her husband, Byron, greeted us and showed us around the nursery as his staff helped answer questions relating to the plants there. The nursery was looking great, flush with hundreds of gallon and larger sized plants for sale. The demonstration garden area had passed its winter/spring prime time but many plants were still in bloom, attracting insects and birds. Everyone who attended was given a discount on sales that day with deeper discounts for check or cash. A great big "thanks" goes out to Jo, Byron and all the staffers at the nursery.

Our next stop was Love House Dahlia Farm where owners Ann and Andy Dunstan indulge their passion for growing dahlias. Andy gave us an overview of how they grow their dahlias and how they deal with the pests and diseases that can ruin a crop. Flowers are offered for sale during peak season and rooted cuttings are available in 4 inch pots. Their style of growing was interesting, with sheets of aggregate roofing shingle used as edging for raised beds. The support system for the heavy flowering stems of the dahlias was lengths of expandable nylon netting stretched between fenceposts, an ingenious and economical solution to the problem of broken stems. The dahlias were just starting to come into flower with a few standouts, most notably a single, bi color type called 'Pooh' that was buzzing with bees. Thanks to the Dunstons for letting us invade their dahlia paradise.

Our last stop was the home and garden of our boardmember and treasurer, Laura Bauer. Laura's garden has only been in for a year but was looking splendid. Many of you had seen her previous garden in Altadena on various tours, and it looks as if she is on her way to creating another wonderful garden filled with interesting, climate-appropriate plantings. Her front yard was mainly inspired by her recent trip to Santa Cruz Island, with many of the beautiful endemics planted along a "dry creek" created to catch rainwater during storms. The back garden overlooks a seasonal seep/stream with towering eucalyptus trees as a backdrop.

Laura and her husband showed us before pictures of the property. Amazing what changes a year (and a lot of work) can bring! There was wonderful food and beverages laid out that had been mistakenly described as "light fare", and we all had a second lunch on the fruit and cheese and cookies, etc. Thanks to Laura and everyone who helped make this another special day in the continuing SCHS field trip/coffee in the garden series.

-Steven Gerischer

SHARING SECRETS

In June, we asked you to answer "What is your favorite new plant?" and here are some of your responses. Read more on our SCHS MemberLodge website, schs.memberlodge.org.

My favorite new plant this year is *Abelia* 'Kaleidoscope'. It is a wonderful compact, colorful, foliage plant that is part of the Sunset Western Garden collection. It is currently flowering, with small white fragrant flowers, in my test garden. The foliage provides a year-round color show. It is drought-tolerant once established, provides many complementary and dramatic companion plant options, versatile as a border, filler plant to provide a pop of color or in mass planting, containers, and easy to maintain due to its size.

-Magda Krachmalnick

Begonia acutifolia 'Richmondensis' (angel wing begonia). I have a 100 year old 'Torulosa' (Hollywood twisted juniper) in my front yard that is well over 40' tall. The begonias thrive in the shade with just a smattering of dappled afternoon sun and bloom 365 days a year with zero maintenance. It doesn't get much better than that. For me, dry shade plants are the holy grail of Southern California. So many of our properties contain a great deal of shade due to buildings and other impediments it is an important component to successful landscaping.

Stay green out there!

Lynn

-Lynn Hoopingarner

My favorite plant this summer is *Lotus hirsutus*, or hairy canary clover. The silver foliage and low growth habit is perfect for edging my hillside stairs.

-Gloria Leinbach

Salvia 'Amistad', a compact *guaranitica* type salvia with dark purple flowers and purple tinted bracts. It is blooming at less than half the size of 'Black and Blue'. This plant is another in the Sunset Western Garden collection. Much easier to place in the garden with its compact form.

-Steven Gerischer



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GREEN SHEET

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

MAY 2013

PLANT FORUM NOTES

Compiled by James E. Henrich

Photographs by Paul Martin

Thank you to all who brought plants to the May, 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 Plant Raffle if you bring in one or more plants for discussion at the Plant Forum table (if there is a Plant Raffle 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.]

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

Billbergia chlorosticta (syn. *B. saundersii*), rainbow plant (Bromeliaceae), by Jim Jaeger, Santa Monica. [SPSC, pg. 55]
Cotyledon orbiculata, pig's ear (Crassulaceae), by Gary Kamisher, Los Angeles. [SPSC, pg. 104]
Grevillea robusta, silky oak (Proteaceae), by Sandy Masuo, Los Angeles Zoo, Los Angeles. [SPSC, pg. 170]
Pelargonium carnosum, fleshy-stalk pelargonium (Geraniaceae), by James E. Henrich, Azusa. [SPSC, pg. 274]
Pelargonium gibbosum, gouty pelargonium (Geraniaceae), by Leslie Walker, Redondo Beach. [SPSC, pg. 275]
Pelargonium tetragonum, square-stemmed pelargonium (Geraniaceae), by James E. Henrich, Azusa. [SPSC 278]
Rhodohypoxis baurii, red star (Hypoxidaceae), by James E. Henrich, Azusa. [SPSC, pg. 307]
Sisyrinchium palmifolium var. *fuscoviride* (syn. *S. macrocephalum*), (Iridaceae), by Paul Martin, Pasadena. [SPSC, pg. 331]

Plants that could not be fully identified:

Carex, sedge (Cyperaceae), by Mark Infusino, Burbank.

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

Aechmea 'Bert' (Bromeliaceae), by Jim Jaeger, Santa Monica. Brazil. Tropical epiphyte. Hybrid between *Aechmea orlandiana* and *A. fosteriana*. Habit is upright with pale green leaves distinctively marked with maroon bands.

Aechmea 'Royal Wine' (Bromeliaceae), by Jim Jaeger, Santa Monica. Brazil. Performs best in filtered sun to shade. 'Royal Wine' is a hybrid between *Aechmea miniata* var. *discolor* and *A. victoriana* var. *discolor* created by Mulford Foster. The 2-inch-wide leaves are green above and cherry maroon beneath forming a graceful open rosette. Semi-pendant inflorescence bears dark blue flowers followed by closely spaced orange fruits.

Aeonium 'Martian Heads' (Crassulaceae), by Bart O'Brien, Upland. Canary Islands. This herbaceous plant is a purported to be a hybrid of *Aeonium spathulatum*, *A. sedifolium* and *A. lindleyi*. Huntington Botanical Gardens received this plant from Janis Noyes (former owner of Squaw Mountain Gardens in Estacada, Oregon in January, 2003. The cultivar name references the summer dormant, stalked rosettes that resemble Brussels sprouts.

Albuca clanwilliamae-gloria, slime lily (Asparagaceae), by Sheldon Lisker, Temecula. South Africa. Bulbous plant found in the winter rainfall region requiring a dry and dormant summer. It is a monster in the genus grows to 6 feet tall; only recently discovered and named. Flowers are yellow and pendant. Named for Clanwilliam in the Western Cape Province.

Begonia ruhlandiana, begonia (Begoniaceae), by James E. Henrich, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia. Brazil. Herbaceous perennial that is a brown pubescent succulent, uncommon in the genus *Begonia*. Panicles of flowers are white with golden stigmas and anthers. Grows equally well grown as a wet tropical or desert plant. Plant collected by nurseryman Fred Meyer in the mid 1990s and distributed by Huntington Botanical Gardens. It is native to the open, rocky, hot and sunny habitat of Morro do Chapeu, Bahia.

Leucocoryne 'Caravelle', glory of the sun (Amaryllidaceae), by Bart O'Brien, Upland. Chile. Winter-growing bulb that performs best when grown in full sun to light shade, attaining a height of 15 to 20 inches. Starry flowers are violet with red or reddish centers and fragrant; works well as a cut flower.

Pelargonium campestre, geranium (Geraniaceae), by James E. Henrich, Azusa. South Africa. This succulent perennial grows from a nearly invisible caudex to about 6 inches tall and bears white flowers with narrow dark purple stripes. Provide a well drained planting medium, moderate water and light shade to full sun for best performance. It is native to the Port Elizabeth area.

Pelargonium curviandrum, geranium (Geraniaceae), by James E. Henrich, Azusa. South Africa. This is another succulent perennial that grows from a fleshy caudex. Best growth is achieved when grown in well-drained gritty medium, moderate water and full sun. Plants grow to nearly 6 inches tall. They bear pale cream flowers with red markings.

uesnelia lateralis (Bromeliaceae), by Jim Jaeger, Santa Monica. Brazil. Herbaceous epiphyte to about 1.5 feet with erect, green leaves above and covered with irregular banding of silver trichomes beneath. Small spines line the leaf margins. Flower stems are covered with crimson sheathing bracts; flowers are bright azure blue.

Salvia macrophylla, Peruvian sage (Lamiaceae), by Bart O'Brien, Upland. Colombia, Peru and Bolivia. Evergreen giant understory perennial to 15 feet! It performs well in partial shade but more sun yields more flowers. Leaves are triangular hastate, green above and violet beneath, bear many glands, and are sticky and aromatic. Flowers are blue with the lower lip shorter than the upper. Flowers are attractive to hummingbirds and plants are deer resistant.



Albuca clanwilliamae-gloria



Pelargonium campestre



Pelargonium curviandrum



Aeonium 'Martian Heads'



Begonia ruhlandiana

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

Saturday, August 10

10:00am-4:00pm

Saturday Botanical Art & Illustration. Cristina Baltayan is the instructor and all levels of experience are welcome. Fee ☐

Saturday & Sunday, August 17 & 18

9:00am-5:00pm

Intercity Cactus Show & Sale. Free with garden admission.

Tuesdays, August 20-December 10

5:00-9:30pm

Horticultural Science Class with instructor Dave Lannom. This for-credit class (3 units) is a course on basic horticulture skills and techniques. Students must register through Mt. SAC before the class begins. For information, call Mt. SAC at 909-594-5611, ext. 4540.

CLAREMONT 91711

RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Sunday, August 18

5:00-8:00pm

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 ☐

FULLERTON 92831

FULLERTON ARBORETUM

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

Wednesday, August 7

6:00-7:00pm

Wildflowers of Orange County and the Santa Ana Mountains. A book launch and signing event with authors Bob Allen and Fred Roberts. Fee ☐

LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE 91011

DESCANSO GARDENS

1418 Descanso Drive
818-949-7980; descansogardens.org

Saturday, August 17

10:00am

Basic Propagation. Descanso horticulturist Guy Hernandez will demonstrate the basics of plant propagation and the many ways to "clone" your favorite plants. Fee ☐

PALOS VERDES PENINSULA 90274

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Saturdays, August 3, 10, 24 & 31

10:00-11:00am

Creating a Fall Edible Garden. This four-week course with instructor Judith Gerber will provide you with all the information you need to grow a cool-season edible garden including fruits, vegetables and herbs. Fee ☐

Sunday, August 4

1:00-2:00pm

Geranium Propagation Workshop. Cuttings will be supplied as well as pot and soil and instructions for planting. Free with garden admission.

Sunday, August 11

1:00-2:30pm

Summer Floral Design Secrets and Demonstration with instructors Kit Wertz and Casey Schwartz of Flower Duet. Fee ☐

SAN MARINO 91108

HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

1151 Oxford Rd.
626-405-2128; huntington.org

Thursday, August 8

2:30pm

Garden Talk and Plant Sale: Growing Daffodils in Southern California. Harold Koopowitz discusses the challenges of growing daffodils in Southern California, their horticultural classification, and cultivars that do best in this climate, including the new miniature daffodils. Free.

Sunday, August 25

1:30-3:00pm

Tropical Nursery Tour. Explore the botanical nurseries where rare orchids, aroids, and carnivorous plants are grown, tour with Dylan Hannon, curator of tropical collections. Reserve online or call 800-838-3006. Free with garden admission.

SUN VALLEY 91352

THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION

10459 Tuxford Street
(818) 768-1802; theodorepayne.org

Saturday, August 3

9:00am-1:00pm

California Native Plant Horticulture. Learn the basics on gardening with California flora with instructor Lili Singer. Fee ☐

Saturday, August 3

1:30-3:30pm

Pruning Native Trees and Shrubs. Class includes lecture, demonstration and hands-on practice with instructor Rebecca Latta. Fee ☐

Saturday, August 10

9:00-11:00am

Look, Ma, No Lawn! We'll explain how to take it out and offer alternatives for the space—specifically low-care native plants that need no fertilizer and use a fraction of the water required for turf. Instructor Lili Singer. Fee ☐

Saturday, August 17

8:30am-4:30pm

Dog Days of Summer Plant Sale. Members receive 15% off plants and 10% off seed and store items!

Saturday, August 24

1:30-3:30pm

Perfect Partners: Gardening with Natives and All Sorts of Edibles with instructor Lili Singer. This class discusses how best to combine natives and edibles in the home garden, why this partnership is so rewarding for both the gardener/chef and wildlife, and which plants make the best companions. Fee ☐

Saturday, August 31

9:00am-12:00pm

Everything Elderberry. Discover and celebrate the seasonal cycles of our native elderberry in this unique hands-on workshop! Make an elderberry/wansak claspstick and—if berries are ripe and ready to gather—some elderberry syrup! Instructor Kat High is a Native Californian of Hupa descent. Fee ☐

The San Diego Horticultural Society meets Monday, August 12 at 6:00pm at the Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds. Nan Sterman to speak on how drip irrigation saves water, which is one of the main goals of sustainable gardening.. Fee for non-members. Information: 619-296-9215, sdhort.org.

- Compiled by Bettina Gatti

Send notices to bettina0203@hotmail.com.

UPCOMING 2013 SCHS PROGRAMS

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

September 12 - Horticulturist of the Year dinner at Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden. Honoring Dave Lannom.

October 10 - Native Plant Growers Panel (Details TBA).

November 14 - Bernard Trainor: Landprints.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

Southern California Horticultural Society would like to welcome our new board members.

Yoav Paskowitz

Tom Carruth

Pat Steen (our new secretary)

We are excited that we have so many new board members to help keep our Society functioning. If you have an interest in serving on the board, or attending a board meeting, please see any one of our board members at the next meeting.

-Steven Gerischer

Board of Directors

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

James E. Henrich, Vice President, Green Sheet & Membership

Laura Bauer, Treasurer & Finance

Joel Lichtenwalter, Membership Secretary

Pat Steen, Secretary, Membership

Carol Bornstein Programs

Tom Carruth

Sandy Masuo, Facebook & Field Trips & Volunteer Coordinator

Yoav Paskowitz

Yvonne Savio, Programs & Field Trips

John Schoustra, Plant Raffle & 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: Bettina Gatti, Steven Gerischer,
James E. Henrich, Paul Martin and all Sharing Secrets contributors

Next deadline: Friday, August 9 (for September 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
August 2013



2013 Annual Award Banquet

Horticulturist of the Year Dave Lannom

[illegible]

Southern California Horticultural Society 2013 Annual Award Banquet

PLEASE RESPOND BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 2013

Yes, please reserve: _____ Tickets at \$45 each [Total enclosed \$ _____ (check only)] (or register online at: socialhort.org)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ E.mail _____

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

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