

April Meeting Recap

The April meeting of the Southern California Horticultural Society was a presentation by Renee Shepherd on What's New and Noteworthy in the Seed World—Great Unique Varieties for the Home Gardener. Members experienced a feast for the eyes and imagination as Ms. Shepherd presented new seed introductions for 2014, edible favorites for the home garden, and beautiful flowering annuals and perennials. She began with a short description of her company, *Renee's Garden*. The company has over 100 sources worldwide for seeds, many from small farms and specialty companies, and concentrates on providing vegetable, herb, and flower seeds to home gardeners. She showed the organic, raised-bed trial gardens located in Felton, California and described the trial process, including the enviable job of taste testing. Ms. Shepherd reviewed some common terms frequently used in the seed industry for clarification before starting the series of plant photos and descriptions.

A recurring theme in the presentation was color, and lots of it: from the juicy purple of 'Lauren's Dark Grape' poppy to 'Aloha Mix' hummingbird nasturtiums to 'Peppermint Stick' chard and colorful 'Flashy Trout Back' lettuce. As the author of two cookbooks, Renee also shared food pairings and suggestions for using the bounty from the garden. SCHS is grateful for her generous donation of 50% of the cookbook sales that night and for the zinnia seeds and coupons for our members that were distributed at the meeting.

Thanks to James E. Henrich for filling in for Steven Gerischer, as well as to all of the people who helped to make the meeting run: the Programs Committee for arranging for our speaker, everyone who helped set up and run the meeting, and all of those who stayed late and helped clean up afterwards.

We hope to see you on May 8, when Eric and Ann Brooks show us why *Gardening is for the Birds!*

And remember the birdwatching field-trip to the Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden on Saturday, May 10.

-Pat Steen

SHARING SECRETS

In April, we asked you to answer "Which flowers/vegetables do you regularly start from seed each year?" and here are some of your responses. Read more on our SCHS MemberLodge website, schs.memberlodge.org.

I start melons, squash, and some tomatoes from seed every year- I love to try different varieties than the same standards the nurseries usually carry. In recent years there has been a lot more selection for tomatoes and peppers which is nice, hopefully they expand other vegetable selections as well. Some new things I'm growing this year include 'Moon & Stars' watermelon, 'Pomodoro' tomato, 'Napoli' zucchini, 'Crystal Apple' cucumbers, 'Haogen' melon, 'Banana' melon, 'African Horned' melon, and 'French pickling' cucumbers.

- Cynthia Robinson

For warm season growing: we start several varieties of (mostly) heirloom tomatoes. For winter growing: 'Goliath' snow peas are a favorite - crisp and sweet edible pods - we eat them right off the vines when the peas are almost full-sized. In fact I'm going to grab a few right now!

-Brenda Kano

For cool season growing I start Oregon sugar-pod peas, nasturtium (for eating and decoration), and sweetpeas—seed saved from old Cupani types. For warm season growing I had almost given up on green beans until I started 'Emerite' French fillet beans. They grow quickly and produce loads of tender beans in less than ideal conditions. I save seed each year. A sentimental must in my garden is blue/purple larkspur. Both my Grandmothers grew it and saved seed independently of each other—and both of them kept a jar near the back door to remember to pitch the seed out into the garden each Sept./Oct. for spring bloom (and so I named my business after the flower).

-Steven Gerischer

SCHS INTERN PRESENTATION

The 2013 SCHS intern awardee, **Cynthia Robinson** was scheduled to give a presentation of her work at Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden at the February meeting, but was ill and could not attend. The intern presentation has been rescheduled for our May meeting.

COFFEE IN THE GARDEN DOUBLE FEATURE CONTINUED

into my life...it is such a magnificent obsession.



The Cottmann Garden

Judy Horton Garden

(Excerpted from L.A. Times article)

When landscape designer Judy Horton moved into a 1925 cottage in the Hollywood Hills, the garden consisted of a lawn, a young sycamore tree, a camellia and a ficus hedge.



Photo: L.A. Times

"I needed to make quick and drastic changes," said Horton, who proceeded to remake her landscape to deliver pleasing views from the house's windows and doors.



Photo: L.A. Times

Join us to see these two contrasting gardens!