

## December Meeting Recap

The December meeting of the Southern California Horticultural Society was our annual Members Holiday Party: aka "Cookie Night". And our membership did not let us down! There was a plethora of savory and sweet treats for everyone. We also had a good representation for our first try at a Cookie Raffle. Several of our members got to take home wrapped collections of deliciousness for later. Many thanks to everyone who brought treats to share or raffle!

We also had a few people bring in decorations for the forum table. Our "Vote for your favorite decoration" contest ended in a tie - a possibility we did not anticipate! Happily, our winners Lora Hall and Aprille Curtis agreed to divide up the goodies in the prize basket. Special thanks to President Steve for putting together the fabulous prize basket!

The sharing table this year was overflowing with "gently-used" items. (Seriously - we had to add another table to the sharing area.) I hope everyone got what they had their eyes on.

Holiday music and a garden slideshow were provided by our A/V guru, Al Steen. Thanks, Al, for adding to the festivities!

The California Native Plant Society was on hand to sell California wildflower seeds. They may be back one more time at the January meeting, since there's still time to get your seeds sown before the rainy season ends. And Matt-Dell

Tufenkian, of *Dominus Plantarum* of course, had an assortment of interesting succulents and other plants for sale. A gorgeous variegated clivia was my Christmas present to myself!

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and best wishes for bountiful gardens in 2015!

- Laura Bauer

### SHARING SECRETS

In December, we asked you to answer "What is your favorite garden related book? Would it make a great present?" and here are some of your responses. Read more on our SCHS MemberLodge website, [schs.memberlodge.org](http://schs.memberlodge.org).

OK, it's not really a gardening book, but Michael Pollan's *Botany of Desire: A Plant's-Eye View of the World* really fulfilled the promise of its title and made me appreciate the world from a plant perspective. I am a very concept-driven person, and the way he presents the natural history and behavior of plants gave me a new way of relating to the plants in my life—not just the ones I obsessively collect and grow, but the ones I eat, wear, and use as furnishings. So it really is a gardening book in a macro sense.

-Sandy Masuo

Sad to say, it's not the "opus." (*SCHS Selected Plants for Southern California Gardens*) That's number 2. The first in line has much less cultural information, but covers a much larger world. It's the *RHS Index of Garden Plants* edited by

Mark Griffiths. It's the 4 volume RHS encyclopedia stripped of all articles and discussions, but still a hefty 1234 pages.

-Joan Citron

It's not really a book - but a little garden story publication - *Greenprints - Weeder's Digest* - it is published quarterly and has just wonderful stories - all garden related - an easy read - an easy gift! <http://www.greenprints.com/>

-Cindy Werner

My favorite garden book that would make a great gift for any southern California gardener is a blast from the past!

"*52 Weeks in the California Garden*" by Robert Smaus lays out seasonal timetables of when to plant and prune various cultivars. These timetables prevent (and hopefully eliminate) the disasters of procrastination. Smaus also helps novice green thumbs understand the importance of regional gardening which includes selecting appropriate garden literature. The results are well worth the price of this classic work first published in 1996 by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

-Gloria Leinbach

