



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

January 2014 Newsletter

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, January 9
Friendship Auditorium
3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles CA 90027
7pm. Social Hour Meeting begins at @ 8pm.

SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Stephanie Landregan

Please welcome our new members when you see them at our meetings-make a new friend!

SHARING SECRETS QUESTION

In anticipation of our January meeting, the Sharing Secrets question for January is: "What is your favorite Aloe?" (PLEASE SEE SURVEY/QUESTIONNAIRE THIS PAGE) You can answer on our MemberLodge website or e-mail your response to: sglarkspur@aol.com by Friday, January 10.

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The January Meeting

Brian Kembel:
Aloes of South Africa's Winter Rainfall Region
Thursday, January 9, 2014



This talk will cover the aloe species found in the western part of South Africa, where the rainy season is in winter, as it is in California. The talk will feature photos of the plants growing in their native habitats, augmented with photos of plants in cultivation in California. Because of the climatic similarity, many of these aloes perform very well in California gardens.

Brian is the president of the San Francisco Succulent and Cactus Society, the vice president of the Institute for Aloe Studies, and the curator at the Ruth Bancroft Garden, located in Walnut Creek, CA. He has been growing succulent plants for about 40 years, and is especially fond of aloes, agaves and echeverias. He has traveled extensively to see succulent plants in their native habitats, and has written numerous articles about them. He has also contributed photos to 7 books on succulents and spoken about them at many conventions, plant societies and garden clubs.



Brian Kembel

SHARING SECRETS QUESTION FOR JANUARY. END OF YEAR SURVEY/QUESTIONNAIRE.

Our Board Member, John Schoustra asked, then answered our January *Sharing Secrets* question (see his responses on Page 2) and also suggested we might review the past year to better serve our members in 2014. (Thanks John!)

Please take a few moments to answer these questions and help us keep SCHS monthly speaker programs new and interesting for all our members. You can respond by e-mail directly to me at: sglarkspur@aol.com or respond in our Members Forum area of the website at: socalhort.org.

1. "Who was your favorite speaker this past year?"
2. "What was the most interesting bit of horticultural trivia you learned at SoCalHort this year?"
3. "What subject(s) would you most want to see covered in our monthly speaker programs?"

THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL DONORS!

Our 2013 year-end fundraising appeal raised \$1400.00 for the Society. Thank you to everyone who contributed! The money raised will be used to bring us more fascinating speakers in the coming year, and support our mission of horticultural education. Happy 2014 to you all!

- Laura Bauer, Treasurer

Decemebtr Meeting Recap

The December meeting of the Southern California Horticultural Society was a presentation by Tom Nuccio of Nuccio's Nursery showing us *Early Camellias and other Winter Wonders*. Tom showed us a number of sasanqua camellias-many familiar standards of the season, and many that were not so familiar. There were also examples of very early flowering japonica type camellias. Hybrids between different camellia species were discussed and Tom had a nursery flat full of blossoms picked from the plants he spoke about. While Nuccio's Nursery has hybridized many camellias now considered standards of the landscaping trade, they have also introduced many types of camellia from Japan and elsewhere. Azaleas that bloom early (or some which never really stop) were shown as well. One exciting example of where hybridizing is leading was a camellia called 'Azalea Camellia', a confusing name for an interesting plant. The foliage of 'Azalea Camellia' looks like rhododendron leaves and the blossoms are large, single flowers with orange tones.

We want to thank Tom Nuccio for giving us a wonderful talk about what is blooming during the holidays.

The December meeting is also Member's Night (aka:Cookie Night) and there was a festive spread of savory and sweet foods to celebrate the season. We want to thank everyone who brought goodies to share and who helped make the evening special.

Our annual Sharing Table was in full swing (even though it wasn't announced in the newsletter-thanks especially to Joan Citron!)

We hope your holiday season was a good one and that the coming New Year is a happy one. We look forward to bringing you interesting programs in 2014 to educate and intrigue all of our members with the most interesting speakers we can bring to Friendship Auditorium (and other venues).

Thanks to all who helped set up and run the meeting as well as those who stay after and help clean up!

See you in the new year on January 9, for a program presented by Brian Kemble on: *Aloes of South Africa's Winter Rainfall Region*.

-Steven Gerischer

SHARING SECRETS

In December, we asked you to answer "What changes are you planning for your garden this coming year?" and here are some of your responses. Read more on our SCHS MemberLodge website, schs.memberlodge.org.

We will be putting in a vegetable garden with tomatoes, green beans, sweat peas, eggplant, cucumbers and possibly celery.

-Elysa Rosenfeld-Ortiz

I'm planning to find homes for all of the orphan plants I've potted up (hundreds). I am going to give away or sell all of the roses I don't much like-how can catalog writers/breeders describe coral pink as orange? I am moving other roses (ones I do like) that have ended up shaded by growing trees. I am hoping to get a greater sense of order in the chaos that is a "collector's garden." More California native plants are awaiting cool weather (or rain I hope?) to get planted-I'm adding a manzanita and a 'Concha' ceanothus. I need to cut down a tree (*Lophostemon confertus*) I put in a bad spot-a left over from a garden show installation.

Taking it out will give me another spot for a citrus or apple tree. I need to move a fig and a pomegranate while they are dormant-both need a sunnier spot. Getting rid of an overgrown (and boring color form) *Echium fastuosum*. All of this will be easy to accomplish in my spare time. (Hey, I can dream! That's what New Year wishes are for!)

-Steven Gerischer

SHARING SECRETS QUESTION FOR JANUARY- "WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ALOE?"

JOHN SCHOUSTRA RESPONDS

Mine is *Aloe x principes*. While I love the Old California feel of *Aloe arborescens* hedges, along with their toughness and reliable flower displays, they always seem to bit sloppy. There can be yellowing foliage, brown leaf tips and a general untidiness. *Aloe x principes* is like a well groomed, style conscious *Aloe arborescens*, with darker green tidier foliage and spectacular candelabras of deeper red-orange blooms. If *Aloe arborescens* is Gilligan or Snoop Dogg, then *Aloe x principes* is Thurston Howell, or Kanye West with manners.



Aloe x principes

JOHN ALSO RESPONDS TO HIS SURVEY/ QUESTIONNAIRE QUESTION: "WHAT WAS THE MOST INTERESTING BIT OF HORTICULTURAL TRIVIA YOU LEARNED AT SOCALHORT THIS YEAR?"

1. Bart O'Brien finally identified my Ecuadorian Blue Bush Sage, *Salvia flocculosa*. Apparently extinct in the wild because it never produces seed, which is probably why it blooms 10 months per year.

2. From the talk on food preservation....All of the peppers that go into the trendy Sriracha sauce are grown by Somis neighbor, Craig Underwood.

3. From the Bart O' Brien talk about the *Salvia* conference.... Rosemary is genetically more of a sage than most sages. Apparently some of the less sage-like sages subject to climate change can now be reclassified as *AlGoresrevengia*. (I think I remembered that right. It was pretty late.)

4. From Amelia Lima...something about the Pope deciding that Brazil would be Portuguese and the rest of Latin America Spanish, AND there was a Portuguese Emperor, along with a Brazilian one.

-John Schoustra

Please respond to the survey/questionnaire and like John, you can send photos!
Thanks!



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GREEN SHEET

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

OCTOBER 2013
PLANT FORUM NOTES

Compiled by James E. Henrich
Photographs by Paul Martin

Thank you to all who brought plants the October, 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 one or more plants for discussion at the Plant Forum table (if there is a Plant Raffle that night).

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

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.]

Brassica oleracea, purple kale (Brassicaceae), by Gary Kamisher, West Los Angeles. [SPSC, pg. 61]

Pachypodium brevicaule, Madagascar palm (Apocynaceae), by Matt-Dell Tufenkian, Altadena. [SPSC, pg. 268]

Rhododendron javanicum (Valder form), vireya rhododendron (Ericaceae), by Jim Jaeger, Santa Monica. [SPSC, pg. 306]

Plants that could not be fully identified:

Protea, protea (Proteaceae), by Gary Kamisher, West Los Angeles.

Datura metel 'Purple People Eater', devil's trumpet (Solanaceae), by Joan Seidel, Hollywood Hills. See SPSC, pg. 115 for a detailed description of *D. metel* 'Cornucopia' which is very similar to this selection with tube-in-tube bicolored flowers, causing them to appear double. No information was found about this specific cultivar causing me to think it is a common name applied to it. All parts of this species contain significant levels of alkaloids, making it highly poisonous.

Euphorbia milii 'Red Jillian', giant crown-of-thorns (Euphorbiaceae), by Anna Cardella, Los Angeles. Madagascar. 'Red Jillian' is a Thai Giant hybrid, a series of hybrids produced in Thailand. They feature larger leaves, upright growth and the largest bracts ever seen on a crown-of-thorns. Flower clusters can reach 4-6" with each pair of colorful bracts measuring 2" across. 'Red Jillian' has unusual red bracts with green markings. It is easy to grow as a container plant and thrives in full-to-partial sun. Allow the planting medium to dry out between waterings.



Euphorbia milii 'Red Jillian'



Rhododendron javanicum (Valder form)

Graptopetalum paraguayense, ghost plant (Crassulaceae), by Gary Kamisher, West Los Angeles. Mexico. Stems on this succulent are decumbent and can grow to about 12 inches long. Leaves are grey-green in color, to 2 inches long and 1 inch wide, arranged in rosettes the ends of the stems. Multiple stems create a wonderful mounding plant. The small star-shaped white flowers, speckled with red, are borne on branched inflorescences.

Rosa x noisettiana, Roseville Noisette rose (Rosaceae), by Gloria Leinbach, Sacramento City Cemetery Rose Garden. Hybrid. Noisette roses are the progeny of China roses and musk roses. Roseville Noisette is a "found" rose in Roseville, California. This plant came from Sacramento City Cemetery and plants are available from their plant sales. It bears pale pink-suffused buds that open to double flowers 1.5 to 2 inches in diameter.



Datura metel 'Purple People Eater'



Rosa x noisettiana, Roseville Noisette

3 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

Saturday, January 11

10:00am-12:00pm

Hypertufa Workshop, Again! Steven Gerischer leads a workshop for creating "instant antiques" from a mixture of cement, coir and perlite. All students will make a small bowl or trough. Fee ☎

Saturday, January 18 / Sunday, January 19

10:00am-4:30pm

Baiko-En Bonsai Kenkyukai Show and Sale Free with admission-Ayres Hall.

Saturday, January 25

10:00am-12:00pm

Basic Tree and Shrub Pruning Workshop for Homeowners. Rebecca Latta, consulting arborist, leads a class about pruning techniques for small garden trees, fruit trees and shrubs. Fee ☎

BEVERLY HILLS 90210

TREE PEOPLE

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

Saturday, January 25

12:00pm-4:00pm

Fruit Tree Program. Come join TreePeople's Rachel Malarich as we prep bare root fruit trees for our 2014 Fruit Tree Program. Every January, TreePeople distributes free fruit trees to low-income communities in Los Angeles as part of our Fruit Tree Program.

CLAREMONT 91711

RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN

1500 N. College Ave
909-625-8767 x224; rsabg.org

Saturday, January 4

10:00am-1:00pm

Free Native Plant Clinic. Get native plant gardening questions answered by RSABG gardening experts. Garden admission not necessary to attend.

Sunday, January 19

10:00am-11:00am

See the California coast and Mojave Desert in an hour! This tour offers guided exploration of the Garden's northern 55 acres and highlights the beautiful and amazing diversity of the California Floristic Province. Tickets are available after 8 a.m., at the admission kiosk the day of the tour. Fee ☎

LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE 91011

DESCANSO GARDENS

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

Saturday, January 18

11:00am

Rose Pruning Demonstration.

Winter is rose-pruning season in Southern California. Learn how to do this essential garden task. Free with admission. In the Rose Pavilion

LOS ANGELES 90049

GROW NATIVE NURSERY

100 Davis Avenue
424-234-0481

Saturday, January 18

10:00am-11:00am

Winter Plant Care for Your Native Garden.

This class will be led by Antonio Sanchez, and will offer valuable tips for tending your native garden during the winter season.

Saturday, January 25

10:00am-11:30am

Medicinal Plants of the Los Angeles Basin. Nicholas Hummingbird Hernandez will help you identify native plants commonly found in the Los Angeles Basin that can be harvested and put to use in daily life.

PALOS VERDES PENINSULA 90274

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Saturday, January 4

12:00pm-3:00pm

Rose Society Pruning Demo. South Coast Rose Society rosarians will demonstrate how to prune roses on various types of potted roses such as Hybrid Teas, Floribundas, Climbers, and Miniatures.

Sunday, January 5

8:00am-12:00pm

Audubon Bird Walk. This group meets in the courtyard then heads out into the garden looking for unusual and residents birds. Free.

SAN MARINO 91108

HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

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

Thursday, January 9

2:30pm

Garden Talk and Plant Sale: Guaranteed Success with Bare-Root Roses. Tom Carruth, the E. L. and Ruth B. Shannon Curator of the Rose Collections at The Huntington, shares professional tips for planting and caring for bare-root roses. Free

SUN VALLEY 91352

THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION

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

Saturday, January 11

8:30am-12:30pm

California Native Plant Horticulture with Lili Singer. Essential information on gardening with native plants. Required prerequisite to the three-part California Native Plant Garden Design course. Fee ☎

Saturday, January 11

1:30-3:30pm

NEW! Got Wildflowers? A talk and book-signing with Bob Allen and Fred Roberts Got wildflowers? You will when our speakers present their long-awaited book, *Wildflowers of Orange County and the Santa Ana Mountains.* This fabulous field guide is filled with thousands of photographs and aims to inform and delight with tidbits about local flowering plants and associated insects and birds. Fee ☎

Saturday, January 25

9:00am-12:00pm

Propagating California Native Plants with Tim Becker and Madena Asbell. Various species of native plants will be discussed and started from cuttings in this hands-on session, and you'll leave with a flat of cuttings for your own garden! Fee ☎

THOUSAND OAKS 91358

CONEJO VALLEY BOTANIC GARDEN

350 W. Gainsborough Rd.
805-494-7630; conjojogarden.org

Sundays, January 5, 12, 19, 26

11:00am-3:00PM

Plant Sale. Native and water-wise plants; held at Kid's Adventure Garden. Free

Thursdays, January 2, 16

9:30am

Floral Design Classes. Floral design in the Sogetsu style will be taught in the garden center. Fee ☎

LOS ANGELES /SANTA MONICA MTNS.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

818-881-3706; lasmmcnps.org

Tuesday, January 14

7:30pm-9:30pm

Native California Bulbs for the Garden presented by John Wickham. (Monthly meeting of the LA/SMMCNPS Chapter) at Sepulveda Garden Center 16633 Magnolia Blvd. Encino

- Compiled by Bettina Gatti
Send notices to bettina0203@hotmail.com.

UPCOMING 2014 SCHS PROGRAMS

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

January 9- Brian Kimbel: *Aloes From Winter Rainfall Areas of South Africa.*

February 13- To be announced.

March 13- Randy Baldwin: *Australian Native Plants for California Gardens.*

April 10-Renee Shepherd.

MATT RITTER OFFERS TREE ID APP

Hey Tree Huggers!

Our friendly expert and sometimes guest lecturer, Matt Ritter, has written a great App for identifying trees. It's called **City Tree**, and it's available on both the iOS and Android platforms. Much like Matt's book *A Californian's Guide to the Trees Among Us*, the app offers an easy way to key trees in the field and offers great pictures and information.

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Laura Bauer, *Treasurer & Finance*

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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: Laura Bauer, Steven Gerischer, James E. Henrich, Paul Martin, John Schoustra and *Sharing Secrets* contributors.

Next deadline: Friday, January 10 (for February newsletter).

It is the Friday following our monthly membership meeting.

Please contribute an article or information of interest.

Southern California
Horticultural Society
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Pasadena CA 91109-4476

NEWSLETTER
January 2014