



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

February 2014 Newsletter

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, February 13
Friendship Auditorium
3201 Riverside Drive, Los
Angeles CA 90027
7pm. Social Hour. Meeting
begins at @ 8pm.

SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Maria Blum

Julie Deamer

Deborah and Douglas Hild

Christian Kiillkaa

William Shapiro

SHARING SECRETS QUESTION

In anticipation of our February meeting, the Sharing Secrets question for February is: *"How is the on-going drought affecting/ changing your garden?"* You can answer on our MemberLodge website or e-mail your response to: sglarkspur@aol.com by Friday, February 14.

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Joe Clements: Designing with Succulents and other Drought-tolerant Plants

Thursday, February 13, 2014



At this month's meeting, Joe Clements will address: *Landscaping with Succulents and other Drought-tolerant Plants*. The presentation will feature local public and private landscapes, many with before and after shots. Joe is Arboretum and Grounds Manager at Pitzer College in Claremont. Before that, he was Curator of the Huntington's Desert Garden for 22 years. He is a long-time board member of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America and recipient of their Superior Service Award.

SCHS INTERN PRESENTATION AT FEBRUARY MEETING

The 2013 SCHS intern awardee, Cynthia Robinson will give us a short presentation of her work at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden.

COFFEE IN THE GARDEN, SUNDAY MARCH 9. 10am to 1pm.

(Remember daylight savings time !)



**12079 Samoline Avenue,
Downey, CA 90242**

Welcome to Downey! Catherine Pannell and Robert Waters, SCHS members, have lived and gardened in Downey for 38 years. They still laugh about buying a house for the gardening potential of the 1/3-acre lot and only later discovering the house had no closet space, needed a furnace and none of the windows opened. Doing all the gardening and other work on their own, their garden has gone through a palm phase, a cacti phase, an annual phase, a perennial phase, etc. A few years back they purchased the vacant lot next door and are now going through a truly fun California native plant phase. There's a little bit of everything in their garden --an orchard, a vegetable garden, lawns, native plantings, espaliers, and a camp ground picnic area.

Avid bird watchers and nature lovers as well as gardeners, the yard bird list stands at 110 species, reptiles at 4 species, butterflies at 14 and counting, 12+ species of bees and innumerable, mostly unidentified, spiders, moths and beetles. In the recent past this garden has been featured in Wild Bird Magazine and Hobby Farmer Magazine.

As a reminder - wear flat shoes and long pants --there are some uneven surfaces and a few thorny plants in the native garden. A bathroom will be available. Portions of the yard are accessible for those using walkers or wheelchairs. Parking is on the street. If you have physical limitations, feel free to park in the house driveway, pulling forward. Directions are below. If you are coming a distance there are a few interesting public gardens of historical note nearby that you might want to include in your outing:

The Gypsy & Parley Johnson House (Casa de Parley Johnson) in Downey has a garden designed by Florence Yoch/Lucile Council. **Rancho Los Alamitos**, Long Beach (where SCHS Board Member John Schoustra served as the consultant for planning their grounds and garden restoration). **Rancho Los Cerritos**, Long Beach, recently featured in a series in Pacific Horticulture, has recently completed the restoration of their garden.

HOW TO GET THERE

Directions: 12079 Samoline Avenue, Downey, CA 90242, phone: 562-869-6718, e-mail: cpannellwaters@yahoo.com. The physical location of this house is one block west of Paramount Blvd. between Imperial Highway and Stewart-Gray Rd. Cross street is Albia. E-mail or call for directions, if you need them.

January Meeting Recap

The January meeting of the Southern California Horticultural Society was a presentation by Brian Kemble (my apologies for spelling his name incorrectly in last month's newsletter--SG). His talk focused on the many species of *Aloe* hailing from the winter rainfall areas of South Africa. A number of these aloes are the parents of garden hybrids we are all familiar with, and some of the species went directly from the wild and into our gardens.

The images were beautiful and showed how varied a single species can be when growing in different terrain and with differing rainfall amounts. Also of great interest was seeing how winter rainfall and summer rainfall areas overlap, and how that affects the plants growing in those areas. Many of the bloom spikes of these aloes seen in the talk displayed a bi-color pattern of flowering starting red in bud and opening to various shades of yellow or orange--reminiscent of red hot poker, or *Kniphofia* (also from South Africa).

Thanks to Brian for sharing this wonderful overview of aloes in Africa. Seeing how and where they grow is helpful in understanding how we might grow them in our own gardens.

Thanks to Matt-Dell Tufenkian, of *Dominus Plantarum* for bringing in a multitude of aloes for sale, and his generous stocking of the raffle table with aloes, aloes, aloes!

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

See you on February 13, for a program presented by Joe Clements on: *Designing with Succulents and other Drought-tolerant Plants*. Come and learn how to incorporate drought-tolerant plants into your landscape.

-Steven Gerischer

SHARING SECRETS

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

What's **NOT** my favorite aloe? I love the majestic *A. bainesii* though.

-Curt Klebaum

This is *Aloe marlothii*. It is the STAR of my garden and my favorite Aloe!



Aloe marlothii

-Cheryl Lerner

AMERICAN PENSTEMON SOCIETY APPLICATIONS SOUGHT FOR SPECIAL PROJECT GRANTS



The purpose of the APS Special Projects Program is to stimulate activities that promote knowledge and appreciation of penstemons. The Society is particularly interested in funding projects that:

- 1) Promote conservation of *Penstemon* species in the wild, especially rare or sensitive ones, through understanding of factors that affect their survival, and
 - 2) Promote appreciation for the diversity and beauty of penstemons in wild and domestic landscapes, through horticultural research, dissemination of information of interest to gardeners, or the construction or enhancement of educational display gardens.
- More information about the American Penstemon Society can be found at: www.apsdev.org.

All applicants must be current members of APS, and may join APS for the purpose of submitting a proposal. Maximum award amount is \$1000; in the past three years, awards have ranged from \$100 to \$1000. Awards are not intended to pay wages or travel to meetings. The number of successful awards in any year will be determined by the number of high-quality proposals, value of the awards and the annual budget. Awardees are required to submit a final project report, due one year after the award is made, and provide either an article for the newsletter or an oral presentation at an annual meeting.

Proposal Format

Proposals should not exceed five pages and must follow this format:

1. Project name.
 2. Name and contact information of submitter.
 3. Requested funding amount.
 4. Objective of the project.
 5. Background and rationale.
 6. Proposed methods and timeline.
 7. Itemized budget.
 8. Description of submitter's qualifications.
- Submit proposals to Dorothy Tuthill via: e-mail (dtuthill@uwyo.edu) or mail (Berry Biodiversity Conservation Center, Dept. 4304, University of Wyoming, 1000 E. University Ave., Laramie, WY 82071) no later than March 31, 2014. Receipt of proposals will be acknowledged by e-mail, and successful awardees will be notified no later than April 30, with disbursements made in early May.



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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

NOVEMBER and DECEMBER 2013
PLANT FORUM NOTES

GREEN SHEET

Compiled by James E. Henrich
Photographs by Paul Martin

Thank you to all who brought plants the November/december, 2013 meetings. 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.] Information in this compilation was gleaned and condensed from the Plant Forum exhibit cards, my personal library and a suite of various internet sites.

- Allium schubertii*, ornamental onion (Amaryllidaceae), by Sheldon Lisker, Sun City. [GS, April 2012]
Hydrangea quercifolia 'Snow Queen', oak leaf hydrangea (Hydrangeaceae), by Eileen Fiumara. [SPSC, pg. 193]
Iris unguicularis, Algerian iris (Iridaceae), by Paul Martin. [SPSC, pg. 203]
Iris unguicularis 'Walter Butt', Algerian iris (Iridaceae) by Paul Martin. [GS, January 2004]
Leucadendron 'Jester', sunshine conebrush (Proteaceae), by Gary Kamisher, West Los Angeles. [GS, January 2011]
Malvaviscus arboreus, Turk's cap (Malvaceae), by Ann & Eric Brooks, Los Angeles. [SPSC, pg. 239]
Montanoa grandiflora, tree daisy (Asteraceae), by Bart O'Brien, Upland. [SPSC, pg. 250]
Nerine sarniensis (hybrid), Guernsey lily (Amaryllidaceae), by Sheldon Lisker, Sun City. [SPSC, pg. 258]
Plectranthus argentatus, silver plectranthus (Lamiaceae), by Jim Jaeger, Santa Monica. [SPSC, pg. 290]
Schefflera arboricola, dwarf umbrella tree (Araliaceae), by John Schoustra, Somis. [SPSC, pg. 324]
Stenotaphrum secundatum, variegated St. Augustine grass (Poaceae), by Jim Jaeger, Santa Monica. [GS, April 2003]
Vitis californica 'Roger's Red', California wild grape (Vitaceae), by Bart O'Brien, Upland. [SPSC, pg. 362]



Leucadendron 'Jester'



Malvaviscus arboreus



Orbea speciosa



Lepechinia fragrans



Montanoa grandiflora

Plants that could not be fully identified:

Iris "Faust" (Iridaceae) possessed by the "devil grass," *Cynodon dactylon* (Poaceae) retaining the pot shape sans pot, by John Schoustra, Somis. This entry deserves a humor award!

Neoregelia hybrid, *neoregelia* (Bromeliaceae), by Jim Jaeger, Santa Monica.

Iris unguicularis 'Mary Barnard', Algerian iris (Iridaceae), by Paul Martin, Pasadena. Algeria. The species is described on page 203 of SPSC. Mary Barnard collected the original plant of this variety near Algiers in 1937. She shared a piece with John Gray who gave a division to E.B. Anderson. Anderson could not match it to any other *I. unguiculatus* selections of the time and named it in honor of the original collector. This selection has rich violet flowers that are darker than the species and much darker than *I. unguicularis* 'Walter Butt'.

Lepechinia fragrans, fragrant pitcher sage (Lamiaceae), by Gary Kamisher, West Los Angeles.

Rare! Documented on herbarium specimens from Santa Barbara to San Bernardino and San Diego counties. This fast-growing native evergreen perennial grows to 3 feet tall and 4 feet wide. Growth habit is upright and multi-branched. Lavender flowers are borne in spring and fall. Site in full to part sun with moderate to low moisture; tolerates a variety of soil types. It is an excellent hummingbird plant with lemon-scented leaves. The CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants includes it on list 4 due to limited distribution.

Ocimum x africanum 'Pesto Perpetuo' PP16,260, lemon basil (Lamiaceae), by Eileen Fiumara, Sherman Oaks. Tropical Africa. This stunning herb was discovered in 2004 amidst a group of nonvariegated *Ocimum x africanum* 'Lesbos' at Sunny Border Nurseries, Inc. in Kensington, CT. Its distinguishing features include variegated lime green leaves with cream margins, columnar growth form and non-flowering habit. It is first and foremost a beautiful ornamental and secondarily its aromatic quality provides culinary uses like other basil varieties. Considered perennial in USDA hardiness zones 9-11, it is best treated as an annual. This variety grows 1.5 to 4 feet tall and 1 to 2 feet wide; pinch to encourage compact growth. Grow in full sun with medium moisture; it has been reported to be somewhat drought tolerant. The name *Ocimum x citriodorum* appears in most literature associated with this plant, including the plant patent, but it is a synonym.

Orbea speciosa, starfish or carrion flower (Apocynaceae), by Laura Bauer, Ventura. KwaZulu-Natal. The genus *Orbea* was described by Haworth in 1812. *Orbea*, from the Latin word *orbis*, describes the central raised disc or annulus, characteristic of the flowers. These leafless succulents have 4-angled stems bearing sharp tubercles. Flower color ranges from cream to dark mustard yellow with maroon blotches. Grow in well-draining medium like cactus mix, water during spring-fall growth cycle and withhold water during the winter dormant phase. It is easily propagated from stem cuttings when plants are in active growth. Shelter plants from intense sunlight. Common pests are scale and mealybugs. Its primary value is horticultural and has no medicinal uses. Many of the species have vibratile hairs on the petal edges that move in the slightest breezes, thought to also attract flies. Seeds have a coma, or tuft of hairs, like milkweeds that aid in dispersal.

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 February 1

10:30am-5:00pm

Pacific Rose Society Annual Auction.

Over 100 unique and beautiful roses, some regional and national prize-winners, will be available to the highest bidders in a no-reserve, no-holds barred, fast-paced old-fashioned auction. Free with garden admission.

Thursdays, February 6-27

9:30 am-12:00 noon

Thursday Garden Talks with Lili Singer.

Includes *Dreams and the Dream Landscape* with Paul Comsock, 2/6; *The Birders Garden* with Steven Gerischer, 2/13; *Field Trip: The Audubon Center at Debs Park*, 2/20; *Gardening with History, A Special Presentation* with Richard Schulhof, James E. Henrich, Mitchell Hearn Bishop, and Don Hodel. 2/27. Fee ☎

Sunday, February 9

9:00am-5:00pm

Wild Mushroom Fair. Los Angeles

Mycological Society (LAMS) holds its Annual Wild Mushroom Fair with activities that include a demonstration on how to grow mushrooms, cooking demonstrations, and wild mushrooms with proper identification on display. The public is invited to bring their found mushrooms for identification. Free with garden admission.

Tuesdays, February 25-June 10

5:30-10:00pm

Horticulture Science (a Mt. San Antonio

College class). Instructor Dave Lannom will cover the basic horticultural skills and techniques for use in gardening, nursery and landscape applications. Students must register through Mt. SAC before the class begins (www.MTSAC.edu). For information, call Mt. SAC at 909.594.5611, x4540. Fee ☎

BEVERLY HILLS 90210

TREE PEOPLE

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

Sunday, February 15

9:00am-3:30pm

Fruit Tree Grafting Workshop with Nursery Manager Steve Hofvendahl and Master Gardener Herb Machleder. Participants will gain hands-on experience and will take their grafted fruit tree home to plant. Register online. Free.

CLAREMONT 91711

RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Saturday February 22

10:00am-1:00pm

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 ☎

LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE 91011

DESCANSO GARDENS

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

Saturday, February 15

10:30am

Backyard Chickens and Bees. Expert John Lyons will teach the basics of raising chickens and beekeeping in an urban environment. Fee ☎

Saturday & Sunday, February 22 & 23

1:00-4:30pm

Southern California Camellia Council Show.

Free with garden admission.

PALOS VERDES PENINSULA 90274

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Sunday, February 23

12:00-3:00pm

Mosaic Workshop with Robin Bott. Create a beautiful mosaic frame inspired by the garden. Tile and decorate a wooden frame using a mix of glass tiles, glass gems, ceramic tiles, and more. Fee ☎

SAN MARINO 91108

HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

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

Saturday, February 1

1:00-4:00pm

Great Rosarians of the World Lecture.

Danielle Hahn of Rose Story Farm, this year's Great Rosarian honoree, discusses her family's boutique rose nursery in a lecture at 2:45. The program also includes a talk and book signing by Michael Shoup, author of *Empress of the Garden* (1pm), and presentation of the Rose Garden Hall of Fame awards (2pm) Free with garden admission.

Saturday & Sunday, February 8 & 9

1:00-4:30pm (Sat.)

10:30am-4:30pm (Sun.)

42 Annual Camellia Show. Hundreds of gorgeous blooms will compete for top honors at The Huntington's 42nd annual Camellia Show, co-sponsored by the Southern California Camellia Society. Free

with general admission.

Thursday, February 14

2:30 pm

Garden Talk & Plant Sale: Growing Pacific Coast Irises. Bob Sussman, owner of Matilija Nursery, will discuss tips on how to grow and care for these irises. Free.

Saturday, February 22

9:00am-12:00pm

Bonsai Workshop. Learn the ancient art of growing and shaping miniature trees, and then take home your own bonsai to nurture and enjoy for years to come. Trees and supplies provided. Fee. ☎

Saturday & Sunday, February 22 & 23

10:30am-4:40pm

Bonsai-A-Thon. Internationally recognized bonsai masters will share their passion for the art form in this annual event that includes exhibits, demonstrations, prize drawings, a "bonsai bazaar," and a live auction at 3pm each day. Free with garden admission.

SUN VALLEY 91352

THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION

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

Saturday, February 1

8:30am-12:30pm

CA Native Plant Horticulture with Lili Singer. Fee. ☎

Saturday, February 1

9:00am-12:00pm

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

Saturday, February 15

1:30-3:30pm

Winter Foods from the Native Garden with Antonio Sanchez. Fee. ☎

Saturday, February 15

9:00-11:00am

Pruning Native Trees with Rebecca Latta. Fee. ☎

Saturday, February 22

1:30-3:30pm

From Lawn to Native Garden with Barbara Eisenstein. Fee. ☎

- 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.

February 13--Joe Clements: *Designing with Succulents and other Drought-tolerant Plants.*

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

April 10--Renee Shepherd.

TIME FOR ANOTHER BOOK SALE! (STEVE'S BASEMENT IS OVERFLOWING)

Our March meeting will feature a number of tables at the back of the hall for the sale of used books relating to gardening and nature. All proceeds will benefit SCHS and contributions of used books are welcome. Bring donation books to the February meeting or contact Steven Gerischer at: sglarkspur@aol.com.

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 *Sharing Secrets* contributors.

Next deadline: Friday, February 14 (for March 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
February 2014