



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

March 2014 Newsletter

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, March 13

Friendship Auditorium
3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles CA 90027

7:00 pm. Social Hour.
Meeting begins at @ 8:00 pm.

SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Anne-Marie Barreau

Rachel Young

Please introduce yourself to new members. Let's make them feel welcome.

SHARING SECRETS QUESTION

In anticipation of our March meeting, the Sharing Secrets question for March is: *"Which Australian native plants do you grow? (and how are they doing?)"* You can answer on our MemberLodge website or e-mail your response to: sglarkspur@aol.com by Friday, March 14.

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Randy Baldwin: New Australian Plants for California Gardens

Thursday, March 13, 2014



Randy Baldwin is a partner and General Manager of **San Marcos Growers**, a wholesale nursery in Santa Barbara known in the nursery industry for the diversity of plants that it grows and for the introduction of new plants suitable for cultivation in California. Randy has worked for San Marcos Growers since 1981 and prior to this worked for a retail nursery while completing a BA in Environmental Studies at the University of California at Santa Barbara. In his spare time Randy speaks to groups about his love of plants and maintains the web pages for the San Marcos Growers Horticultural web site.

Many Australian plants are drought adapted and will fit in nicely with California native plants and plants from other summer-dry regions.

COFFEE IN THE GARDEN, SUNDAY MARCH 9. 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

(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 campground picnic area. Avid bird watchers and nature lovers as well as

gardeners, the yard's 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.

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.

February Meeting Recap

The February meeting of the Southern California Horticultural Society was a presentation by Joe Clements on designing landscapes using succulents and other drought-tolerant plants. Joe showed us gardens from up and down the state of California, ranging from Point Loma, up to the Huntington Library and Botanic Gardens and out to Claremont and beyond.

Many of the images showed either before and after views of projects, or even more interesting, start to finish shots of the gardens from their layout prior to ground breaking, all the way through the construction and planting phases. A number of the montages were of the gardens that Joe helped install at Pitzer College in Claremont. (I think gardening would be a whole lot easier for all of us with the "student helpers" Joe showed us!) The progression of images as large rocks and boulders were placed was enlightening—and many a landscape designer could benefit from seeing those images.

Thanks to Joe for sharing this illustrated talk on how to build drought-tolerant gardens using succulents and other plants that need less of our precious water.

Thanks to James E. Henrich and the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden for supplying the raffle table. 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 March 13, for a program presented by Randy Baldwin, of San Marco Growers, on: *New Australian Plants for California Gardens*. Come and learn which Aussies will work well in your garden.

-Steven Gerischer

SHARING SECRETS

In January, we asked you to answer "How is the on-going drought affecting/changing your garden?" and here are some of your responses. Read more on our SCHS MemberLodge website, schs.memberlodge.org.

Quite honestly the combination of drought and the trebling of our water bill sent us scrambling over the past two years. Normally we used very little water over 8 months of the years. We began decreasing our usage by turning off our two automatic irrigation clocks. We put small mechanical

timers on every hose spigot and hand operated nozzles on all hoses. In selected planters we decided to see what no watering would do. And, we began grouping plants by their ability to withstand drought or their requirement for regular water (a cherished *Azalea*, three old *Brunsfelsia*). We took out a pretty but aging perennial bed and replanted it with natives until the drought breaks. We also started an experiment with watering bags to keep newly planted trees alive and thriving and went from there to using them to keep favorite struggling vines alive. We plan to experiment with using gray water from the washer to fill the bags if the need arises. We are still experimenting with the best way to water our small orchard and fruit espaliers. The older citrus really, really suffered last summer and the eldest of them have failed to recover. We have run off channels on our roof and we are using garbage cans, under those where there is no planter, to catch water from what little rain we've had.

-Catherine Pannell

MARCH MEETING BOOK SALE TO BENEFIT SCHS

We will be having a sale of used books at the March meeting of SCHS. Books are garden/nature related. All books will be priced with post-it labels and sales are cash or check. All proceeds will go to SCHS to help us keep bringing you fascinating speakers and interesting opportunities for "Coffee in the Garden" or field trips.

If you are bringing books to donate, please indicate who is donating and any pricing ideas for more unusual or beautiful books. (Not that we're judging them by their covers!)

Remember your reusable bags if you plan to shop!

If you would like to volunteer to help sell books, please contact Steven Gerischer at: sglarkspur@aol.com.

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 will be rescheduled for a later date (perhaps April or May). We hope Cynthia is feeling better!

HORT HAPPENING EXTRAS!

THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF LOS ANGELES INVITES YOU TO GO FOR A HIKE



"HORT HIKE"

Out of the Wild & Into the Garden

A Horticultural Excursion In Griffith Park

Sunday, March 16

9:00 am—12:00 pm

Whether you are an experienced California native plant gardener or considering planting natives for the first time, this casual hike is for you. Join Head Gardener Richard Hayden and Director of the Nature Gardens Carol Bornstein for a close-up look at our local plant communities including chaparral, oak woodland, and riparian woodland. Discover which species work well in the designed landscape and how to use them in your own garden as we visit this beautiful and botanically diverse canyon right in Hollywood's backyard.

Fee is \$20 for Members / \$25 non-Member

Register online:

nhm.org/fieldtrips

or call: (213) 763-3499

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

The CNPS Los Angeles / Santa Monica next monthly meeting takes place on Tuesday, March 11 from 7:30pm-9:30pm at the Sepulveda Garden Center. Cristina Walsh will present a program on *The Wondrous Natural Environment of the Simi Hills*. Non members are welcome and encouraged to attend. More details at www.lacnps.org.



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GREEN SHEET

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

JANUARY 2014
PLANT FORUM NOTES

Compiled by James E. Henrich
Photographs by Steven Gerischer

Thank you to all who brought plants the January, 2014 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/>)] Information in this compilation was gleaned and condensed from the Plant Forum exhibit cards, my personal library and a suite of various internet sites.

Gladiolus priorii, red Afrikaner (Iridaceae), by Sheldon Lisker, Sun City. [SPSCG, pp 165-166]

Pachira aquatica, money tree/Malabar chestnut/Mexican fortune tree/Guiana chestnut/saba nut (Malvaceae), by Gary Kamisher, West Los Angeles. [SPSCG, pg 268]

Portulacaria afra (prostrate form), elephant bush (Didiereaceae), by Jim Gardner, Rolling Hills Estates. [SPSCG, pg 294]

Plants that could not be fully identified:

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

Aeonium canariense var. *subplanum*, aeonium (Crassulaceae), by Jim Gardner, Rolling Hills Estates. Endemic to La Gomera, Canary Islands. This variety differs from the species by typically being smaller (6 to 7 inches in diameter) and bearing sticky, hairy leaves that hold dust and debris. It grows above 1,800 feet on cloudy ridges and wetter forested northern slopes. Plants are single-stemmed and bear yellow flowers. They are typically monocarpic and die after flowering. Recruitment is mostly by seeds as offshoots are seldom produced. Older leaves take on a crimson hue while new growth is a strongly contrasting green. This species does not tolerate frost.

Aeonium nobile, noble aeonium (Crassulaceae), by Jim Gardner, Rolling Hills Estates. Endemic to La Palma, Canary Islands. The noble aeonium grows primarily on the west side of the island at 150 to 3,000 feet elevation. Crowns can grow to 21 inches across and mature leaves can weigh up to 2.2 pounds. It occurs with several other *Aeonium* species but does not appear to hybridize with any of them. Plants bear red flowers, are monocarpic and propagation is nearly always from seeds. It is one of the few species found growing in grasslands where it tolerates fires. This species tolerates heat and a little frost.

Agave desmettiana, spineless jade agave (Asparagaceae), by Gary Kamisher, West Los Angeles. SE Mexico (Oaxaca, Yucatan and Veracruz). This agave grows to 2-3 feet tall by 3-4 feet wide and produced yellow flowers. Leaves have a smooth margins and single terminal spine. Grow in full sun to partial shade.

Aloe 'Blizzard', aloe (Xanthorrhoeaceae), by Carol Knight, San Pedro. It is a Dick Wright hybrid and a variation on *Aloe* 'Doran Black' named for Doran Black of Black's Nursery in Stanton, CA. This cultivar has beautiful pale green leaves that are so warty they appear nearly white with jagged bands of gray-green across the leaves and bears red-orange flowers. It is an excellent container plant for filtered sun to shade; grow in well-drained planting medium.

Aloe deltoideodonta var. *fallax*, short-stemmed aloe (Xanthorrhoeaceae), by Matt-Dell Tufenkian, Pasadena. Fianarantsoa Province of southern central Madagascar. Leaves are pale green, nearly white, with dramatic narrow darker green stripes; marginal teeth are very small. Grow in full sun to light shade in a well-drained planting medium with occasional water during summer. Pale orange with green-tipped buds open nearly white. It occurs at 2,100 to 2,600 feet elevation in mountains.

Aloe x principis, aloe (Xanthorrhoeaceae), by John Schoustra, Somis. Natural hybrid between *A. arborescens* and *A. ferox*. This tree-form aloe has thick, blue-green leaves. Numerous bright red flower spikes are produced in winter/spring that are very long lasting. It is not as branched as *A. arborescens* and can grow to 6-8 feet tall.

Aloe vanbalenii, Van Balen's aloe (Xanthorrhoeaceae), by Jim Gardner, Rolling Hills Estates. KwaZulu-Natal & southeastern Mpumalanga in South Africa. Stemless rosettes form clumps 1-2 feet tall by 3 feet wide. Flowers are yellow to orange-yellow. Summer grower with flowers in winter to spring. Full sun to light shade. Water spring through summer and keep dry during winter; although adaptable to winter rainfall, leaves are showier (bright red) without winter moisture. Bruised leaves have a cinnamon to musky smell. Name commemorates the first collector of this species, J.C. van Balen, who was a director of the Park Department in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Begonia 'Black Beauty', begonia (Begoniaceae), by Carol Knight, San Pedro. This old rhizomatous begonia cultivar has dark brown-green leaves that are toothed and lobed almost to a star shape. Leaf veins are light green. It is grown for more for its spectacular leaves than for its pink flowers.

Camellia japonica 'First Prom', camellia (Theaceae), by Gary Kamisher, West Los Angeles. The species is described in SPSCG on pages 165-166. The flower brought to the meeting was called 'Prom' which is not a recognized cultivar. The only other cultivars recognized by the American Camellia Society with "prom" in the name are 'First Prom' and 'Junior Prom'. The latter is a large rose form to occasionally irregular loose peony flower (per Nuccio's Nursery). It is most likely the former which was hybridized by Leslie Marshall, San Gabriel and first flowered in 1965. The formal double flower is white with blush undertones and is about 4 inches across with 70-75 petals. Plant growth is vigorous, compact and upright. Flowers early to mid-season.

Salvia karwinskii, Karwinski's sage (Lamiaceae), by Jim Jaeger, Santa Monica. Mexico and Central America. Evergreen plant has leaves often to 6 inches in length; grayish; with prominent underside veins covered with cream-colored hairs. It can grow to 8 feet tall and 4 feet wide (up to 12 feet in the wild). This winter-flowering species produces 15-inch racemes that bear brick-red, rose-red or scarlet one-inch-long flowers held in dark red calyces. Prune nearly to the ground after flowering to encourage upright growth. Propagate from cuttings taken after flowering. Native habitat is oak forests at 4,000 to 8,000 feet.



Protea



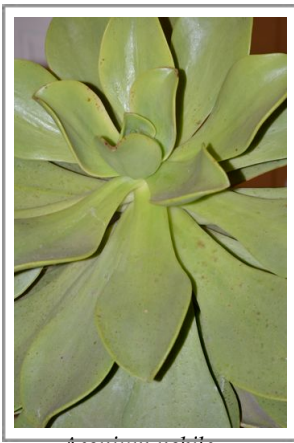
Salvia karwinskii



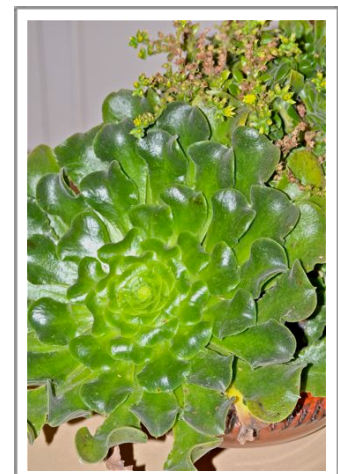
Aloe vanbalenii



Aloe 'Blizzard'



Aeonium nobile



Aeonium canariense var. *subplanum*

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

Fridays, March 14, 21 & 28
9:30—10:30 am (Basic)
10:30—11:30 am (Advanced)

Ikebana Classes. Learn about Japanese cultural traditions in these popular workshops while practicing the techniques of Moribana, Heika and landscape arrangements. Please bring a 10" to 12" shallow container, clippers and a large needle holder (frog), at least 3 inches by 4 inches, to the first class. Pre-registration preferred. Fee. ☎

BEVERLY HILLS 90210
TREE PEOPLE

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

Friday, March 14
7:30—8:30 pm

Moonlight Hike. Free to members and three guests; \$5 for non-members. Pre-register to attend, contact moonlight@treepeople.org.

CLAREMONT 91711

RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Saturday, March 1
10:00am-12:00pm

California Native Food Plants. Celebrate the winter harvest — California native plant-style! Production manager Antonio Sanchez treats participants to a cornucopia of great information. Fee. ☎

Saturday, March 22
10:00 am—3:00 pm

Native Sage Festival and Spring Open House. Free admission for all.

Saturday, March 29
9:00 am—12:00 pm

Propagating California Native Plants. Learn how to sow seeds, take cuttings and prepare divisions. Fee. ☎

ENCINO 91436

TAPIA BROTHERS FARM STAND

5251 Hayvenhurst Ave.

Friday-Sunday, March 21-23
9:00 am—5:00 pm

Tomatomania Sale. This is the largest of their tomato seedling sales. Free.

FULLERTON 92831

FULLERTON ARBORETUM

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

Friday- Sunday, March 21- 23
9:00 am—4:00 pm (Friday 3:00 pm—
7:00 pm is for members only.)

Veggiepalooza Plant Sale. Over 250 varieties of tomato plants and 190 varieties of pepper plants will be on sale. In addition, vegetables, fruits, herbs, and companion plants from around the world will available! Free.

LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE 91011

DESCANSO GARDENS

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

Saturday & Sunday, March 29 & 30
9:00 am—5:00 pm

Tomatomania Sale. “How to grow perfect tomatoes in your own backyard” classes will be held both days at 1pm. Free with garden admission.

LOS ANGELES 90049

RSABG GROW NATIVE NURSERY

(at the Veterans Garden)
100 Davis Avenue
424-234-0481

rsabg.org/grow-native-nursery

Saturday, March 1

1:00 pm—2:00 pm

Spring Into Your Vegetable Garden. Garden designer and horticulturist, Stephen Baldonado will explain how to prepare the spring vegetable garden. Free.

Saturday, March 15

10:00 am—11:00 am

Welcoming Wildlife into Your Garden. Learn how to provide shelter, water, food and nesting sites for a wide variety of our animal friends. Free.

Saturday, March 22

10:00 am—12:00 pm

Concrete Art and Stepping Stones Workshop. Space is limited, please RSVP to: cwheeler@rsabg.org. Fee. ☎

LOS ANGELES 90007

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

900 Exposition Blvd.
(213) 763-3349; nhm.org

Sundays, March 2, 9, 16 and 23

1:00pm—4:30 pm

Learn How to Grow Your Own Food! with Florence Nishida. Create your own edible garden for fresh, organic produce. Fee. ☎

PALOS VERDES PENINSULA 90274

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Saturday, March 9

11:00 am—4:00 pm

African Violet Show & Sale. Free with garden admission.

SAN MARINO 91108

HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

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

Thursday, March 13

2:30 pm

Garden Talk and Sale. *Echinops: Queen for a Day* with John Trager, curator of desert collections at the Huntington Botanic Gardens and Library. Free.

Saturday/Sunday, March 22 and 23

10:30 am—4:30 pm

11th Annual Clivia Show and Sale. Dozens of outstanding plants compete for top honors at the 11th Annual Clivia Show and Sale, featuring plant sales, an auction, informal talks, and a chance for visitors to cast their vote for the “People’s Choice” award.

SUN VALLEY 91352

THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION

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

Saturday, March 8

9:00 am—12:00 pm

Propagating California Native Plants with Madena Asbell and Tim Becker. Learn basic skills of vegetative propagation with TPF nursery staff. Fee. ☎

Saturday, March 8

9:00 am—11:00 am

An Introduction to Native Bees with Hartmut Wisch. Fee. ☎

Saturday, March 15

1:30 pm—3:30 pm

Container Gardening with Native Plants with Steve Gerischer. Fee. ☎

Saturday, March 22

1:00 pm—3:30 pm

Four Seasons of Color with California Natives with Lili Singer. Fee. ☎

Saturday, March 29

8:30 am—4:30 pm

POPPY DAY PLANT SALE! Our spring celebration and sale, featuring native plants for every corner of the garden with discounts to all – plus advice from expert TPF staff and volunteers!

UPCOMING 2014 SCHS PROGRAMS

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

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

April 10—Renee Shepherd: *What's New and Noteworthy in the Seed World – Great Unique Varieties for the Home Gardener.*

May 8—Eric and Ann Brooks: *Birds and Gardens.*

POSSIBLE BIRD WATCHING FIELD TRIP

IN MAY

Watch for an announcement regarding the possibility of a bird watching field trip in May to coincide with our guest speakers, Eric and Ann Brooks and their talk about birds and gardens.

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*

818-567-1496 / socalhort.org / **Join us on Facebook**

Newsletter Editor: Steven Gerischer

Contributors to this issue: Bettina Gatti, Steven Gerischer,

James E. Henrich and *Sharing Secrets* contributors.

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