



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

April 2014 Newsletter

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, April 10

Friendship Auditorium

3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles CA 90027

7:00 pm. Social Hour.
Meeting begins at

@ 8:00 pm.

SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Michael Boess
Peter Evans
Byron Foote
Gerry Kiffe
Dawn Saunders
Teresa Wilde
Ian Winick

SHARING SECRETS QUESTION

In anticipation of our April meeting, the Sharing Secrets question for April is: *"Which vegetables or flowers do you regularly start from seed each year?"* You can answer on our MemberLodge website or e-mail your response to: sglarkspur@aol.com by Friday, April 11.

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

Thursday, April 10, 2014



Our guest speaker, Renee Shepherd will give us a preview of hot items from seed breeders and growers all over the world: new and delicious vegetables; savory & sweet herbs; and wonderful bouquet flowers. The talk will include interesting heirloom perennials that bloom their first year from seed; the best annuals from seed including new colors; and combinations of sweet peas and zinnias; vegetables you may not have thought of growing from seed; and gourmet picks for the cook's garden.

Renee Shepherd—Seed Developer, Gardener, Entrepreneur, Author. She is widely regarded as a pioneering innovator in introducing international specialty vegetables and herbs for home gardeners and gourmet restaurants. After receiving

her PhD from UC Santa Cruz and teaching in the Environmental Studies department there, she founded Shepherd's Garden Seed in 1985, which she ran until 1996. In 1997 she founded her current company, Renee's Garden, offering her selected choices of seeds for exciting new and time-tested heirloom gourmet vegetables, culinary herbs and a wide range of fragrant and cutting flowers, sourced from seed growers both large and small around the world. Renee's Garden seed packets are available directly from www.reneesgarden.com and are offered through independent garden centers in the US and Canada.

Renee regularly writes gardening articles and creates recipes for Renee's Garden monthly e-newsletter, which reaches over 35,000 gardeners monthly online. She writes the descriptions and growing information for all the company's seed packets, chooses seed varieties, manages marketing activities, and directs and enjoys the company's large trial gardens in California and Vermont. She has authored two kitchen garden cookbooks, *Recipes from a Kitchen Garden* and *More Recipes From a Kitchen Garden* and is putting the finishing touches on a third book combining both gardening advice and great recipes. You can find her blog at: reneesgardenseeds.blogspot.com.

Renee lectures widely at national and regional garden shows and is a featured speaker at numerous gardening conferences. She has many community and environmental interests and serves on the Planning Commission for Santa Cruz Co. California. She has served on the board of the National Garden Association and is

currently president of the Home Garden Seed Association.

"Renee's Garden is my practical way to spread the joy of gardening as a meaningful, productive and satisfying activity that connects us to each other and the earth."

—Renee Shepherd

BIRD WATCHING FIELD TRIP IN MAY (Saturday, May 10)

Watch for an announcement in the next newsletter of a bird watching field trip in May to coincide with our guest speakers, Eric and Ann Brooks and their talk *Gardening is for the Birds*. We will stroll the grounds of the Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden looking for the many visiting, and resident bird species.

On-line members will get an e-mail blast with details even sooner.

Save the Date for a Hollywood Double-Feature Coffee in the Garden!

Sunday, June 8.

In June we will have a double feature of Coffee in the Garden with two gardens, (in one day!) both in the Hollywood Hills. The gardens are a short distance from each other, yet couldn't be more different. We will visit the garden of Gail Cottman and also the garden of Judy Horton.

Look to next month's newsletter for a full set of details for our next Coffee in the Garden.

March Meeting Recap

The March meeting of the Southern California Horticultural Society was a presentation by Randy Baldwin, of San Marcos Growers, on the *New Australian Plants for California Gardens*. As a grower and nurseryman, Randy is on the forefront of trials and evaluations of the new plants being introduced for the retail market in California. Australia has provided a wealth of new plants in recent years and while many of the genera discussed at the talk were familiar to gardeners, the cultivars and forms were not.

San Marcos Growers is marketing numerous plants that hail from all parts of Australia, with a focus on drought-tolerant and water-thrifty plants which will be a boon to California landscapes. It was interesting to hear about how many varieties and cultivars of plants had been tried and rejected—either because of difficulty in propagation or cultivation.

Randy showed many beautiful and instructive images of the Aussie flora growing in the nursery or in landscapes utilizing drought-adapted plants. His handout was very useful in remembering the dazzling array of choices, including an amazing number of *Lomandra*!

The information in Randy's talk was of particular interest for anyone wanting to mix Australian plants with plants from other Mediterranean climates. Their adaptability and tolerance for a wide set of conditions make many of these plants attractive in ways that go beyond their obvious beauty.

Randy also provided and discussed the raffle plants, and we would like to thank him for that, as well as for giving us a comprehensive and beautifully illustrated talk covering all of the recent introductions from "Down Under."

Thanks to all of the people who helped to make the meeting run; the Programs Committee for arranging for our speaker to present his program; everyone who helped set up and run the meeting; and all of those who stayed late and helped clean up afterwards.

Join us on April 10 for a talk by Renee Shepherd on: *What's New and Noteworthy in the Seed World – Great Unique Varieties for the Home Gardener*.

–Steven Gerischer

SHARING SECRETS

In March, we asked you to answer "*Which Australian native plants are you growing, and how are they doing?*" and here are some of your responses. Read more on our SCHS MemberLodge website, schs.memberlodge.org.

Some of my favorite Australian natives are: *Darwinia citriodora* 'Seaspray', *Correa* 'Dusky Bells', *Carex apressa*, *Myoporum parvifolium* 'Pink Form'—creeping boobialla, *Chorizema illicifolium*, *Anigozanthos* 'Amber Velvet', *Dianella* 'Little Becca', *Lomandra longifolia* 'Breeze', *Hibbertia aspera*, *Prostanthera rosea*, *Callistemon* 'Little John', *Leucospermum* 'Vlam', *Leucadendron* 'Safari Sunset'.

Most of my plants are new to the garden and have just started their spring growth spurt. They all survived the winter with no sun and almost no water, quite a testament to their hardiness. The shining star of the collection is *Chorizema illicifolium*, a ground cover that is smothered in orange pea type flowers. The flowers last a long time and are highly visible from quite a distance away.

–Gloria Leimbach

I planted four grevillea bushes last spring. They require moderate watering, have bright red blooms most of the year and (best of all) attract hummingbirds. It's become my favorite plant.

–Gail Cottman

After seeing the blooms of *Hakea laurina* that Sheldon Lisker brought in to the SCHS Plant Forum table I wanted to plant one. I asked Jo O'Connell (of Australian Native Plants Nursery) about the plant and found that with careful watering it will tolerate my clay soil (along with a number of wonderful grevilleas and chamelauciums). It is now ten feet tall and filling in nicely.

–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 will be rescheduled for our May meeting.

Coffee in the Garden A Beautiful Day in Downey

On a lovely March morning close to eighty SCHS members and their guests met at the garden of Catherine Pannell and Robert Waters, in Downey. The recent heavy rains had refreshed a thirsty landscape and encouraged a flush of bloom. The garden around the house is a mixture of some of the more traditional and familiar landscape plants with some spectacular and unusual plants which were showing their best on this bright spring morning.

The habitat/native garden occupies a formerly empty lot next to the house and was busy with activity from bees and other insects, as well as numerous birds. The fremontodendrons were just coming into bloom and many of them could be heard before seen from the number of bees visiting the open flowers. It was remarkable to learn that this garden was only ten years old. The size of many of the California native plants was testament to their rapid growth under good conditions. A winding trail that runs through and around the garden allows viewing from all angles and the dense growth, particularly around the perimeter planting, provides many hiding, perching and nesting sites for birds.



Fremontodendron

The refreshments provided by our generous hosts, and by the members of the Coffee in the Garden committee were a welcome way to sit and enjoy this beautiful garden. A big thanks to Joel Lichtenwalter, Yvonne Savio, Pat and Al Steen, and Laura Bauer and everyone else who helped to make this such a wonderful day!

A special thanks to Catherine Pannell and Robert Waters for opening their garden to us and providing much of the refreshments.

We hope you will all keep coming to our Coffee in the Garden events.

–Steven Gerischer



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GREEN SHEET

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 2014
PLANT FORUM NOTES

Compiled by James E. Henrich
Photographs by Paul Martin

Thank you to all who brought plants the February, 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/>)] 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.

Chorizema ilicifolium, holly flame pea (Fabaceae), by Gloria Leinbach, Redondo Beach. [SPSCG, pg. 91]
Dodecatheon clevelandii, shooting star (Primulaceae), by James E. Henrich, Azusa. [SPSCG, pg. 121]
Echeveria agavoides, molded-wax hen-and-chickens (Crassulaceae), by Jim Gardner, Palo Verdes. [SPSCG, pg. 127]
Gasteria bicolor var. *liliputan*, dwarf gasteria (Crassulaceae), by Matt-Dell Tufenkian. [SPSCG, pg. 160]
Gladiolus tristis, yellow marsh Afrikaner (Iridaceae), by Paul Martin. [SPSCG, pg. 166]
Gladiolus watermeyeri, sweet kialkoentjie (Iridaceae), by James E. Henrich. [SPSCG, pg. 166]
Protea cynarioides, king protea (Proteaceae), by Gary Kamisher, West Los Angeles. [SPSCG, pg. 295]
Prunus dulcis, almond (Rosaceae), by Gary Kamisher, West Los Angeles. [SPSCG, pg. 296]
Wurmbea stricta, star-of-the-marsh (Colchicaceae), by Sheldon Lisker, Sun City. [as *Onixotis stricta*, GS March 2004]

Plants that could not be fully identified:

Lachenalia collection, cape cowslip (Asparagaceae) and Muscari, grape hyacinth (Asparagaceae), by Sheldon Lisker, Sun City.

Hippeastrum cybister 'La Paz', spider amaryllis (Amaryllidaceae), by Sheldon Lisker, Sun City. Species is native to Argentina and Bolivia. This selection develops large bulbs and is essentially evergreen. Purple-tinted scapes bear relatively petite, burgundy-red flowers with creamy green bands on their lower three petals. This cultivar was bred by Fred Meyer and registered in Holland in 2002.



Protea cynarioides



Romulea monadelphus



Wurmbea stricta



Hippeastrum cybister 'La Paz'



Gladiolus watermeyeri

Kalanchoe marmorata, pen-wiper (Crassulaceae), by Don Lorenzini, Pasadena. Central and West Africa. Succulent plant to about 16 inches tall bearing opposite ovoid leaves with rounded, shallow teeth, marked irregularly with maroon blotches. White flowers with 2.5 to 4 or more inch tubes have four petals and a slightly inflated calyx. This species grows best in light shade but needs sun to intensify blotching. Does not perform well below 55o F.

Neoregelia carolinae 'Empress Variegated', blushing bromeliad (Bromeliaceae), by Jim Jaeger, Santa Monica. This sport of 'Empress' has red leaves with dark green and white stripes showing through red. Grow either as an epiphyte or in extremely well-draining planting mix in bright light but not direct sunlight. Keep central "tank" filled with water and flush weekly.

Neoregelia 'Dangerous Dana', neoregelia (Bromeliaceae), by Jim Jaeger, Santa Monica. Narrow dark green leaves with irregular horizontal maroon bands. To 10 inches across. Culture as above.

Romulea monadelphae, romulea (Iridaceae), by James E. Henrich, Azusa. South Africa. Plants grow to about 9 inches tall from corms. Flowers are dark red with yellow and black blotches ringed with blue at bases of petals; underside of petals with black, yellow and silvery streaks. Winter growing and summer dormant, dry. Flowers open only during the day. This species occurs in damp limestone flats and outcrops.

5 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

Thursdays, April 3, 10, 17 & 24

9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Spring Thursday Talks with Lili Singer. Includes *Spring Tram Tour* with Timothy Phillips, 4/3; *Mosaic Brick Workshop* with Leigh Adams, 4/10; *Introduction to Native Bees* with Hartmut Wisch, 4/17; *Plants for California* with Nicholas Staddon, 4/24. Fee. ☎ Classes may be taken separately.

Saturday, April 12

9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Spring Iris and Bulb Show & Sale. Free with garden admission.

Saturday, April 12

10:00 am-1:00 pm

Square Foot Gardening Workshop. Fee. ☎

Saturday, April 26

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Rose Show & Sale. Rose shrubs and cut flowers will be on sale. Free with garden admission.

CLAREMONT 91711

RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Saturdays, April 5 & 12

9:00 am -1:00 pm

The Pressed Plant: Techniques in Plant Collecting and Herbarium Specimen Preparation. Fee. ☎

Saturday & Sunday, April 19 & 20

10:00 am-4:00 pm

Wildflower Festival and Show. Free with garden admission.

ENCINO 91436

SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER

16633 Magnolia Blvd.

Saturday, April 12

1:00 pm-4:00 pm

Rose Flower Show. Presented by the San Fernando Valley Rose Society. Free.

Saturday, April 19

9:00 am-4:00 pm

Wildflower Show, Symposium & Plant Sale. Sponsored by the California Native Plant Society and the Theodore Payne Society. Free.

Saturday, April 26

9:00 am-2:00 pm

48th Standard Flower Show. Presented by the Southern California Garden Club. There will be a plant market and a white elephant sale. Free.

FULLERTON ARBORETUM

1900 Associated Rd. at Jamboree

657-278-3407; fullertonarboretum.org

Saturday & Sunday, April 12 & 13

10:00 am - 4:00 pm (Members Only Preview, Saturday 9:00 am-10:00 am)

Green Scene Plant & Garden Show. Over 80 specialty garden vendors offering extraordinary plants, handcrafted & custom garden art and pottery. Fee.

LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE 91011

DESCANSO GARDENS

1418 Descanso Drive

818-949-7980; descansogardens.org

Saturday, April 19

10:00 am-4:00 pm

Earth Day Celebration. Free with garden admission.

Saturday, April 26

9:00am-5:00pm

Montrose African Violet Society Show. 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, April 5

9:00am-5:00pm

Tomatomania Plant Sale. Free.

PALOS VERDES PENINSULA 90274

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN

26300 Crenshaw Blvd.

(310) 544-1948

southcoastbotanicgarden.org

Saturday, April 5

9:00 am-4:00 pm

Spring Plant Sale & Boutique. Shop early for best selection. Free with garden admission.

Saturday & Sunday, April 12 & 13

9:00 am-4:00 pm

South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale. Free with garden admission.

Saturday, April 19

9:00 am-11:00 am

Overcoming Your Anxiety About Gardening. Come to this class and learn the practical and simple steps necessary to create the garden of your dreams without the anxiety. Fee ☎

SAN MARINO 91108

HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

1151 Oxford Rd.

626-405-2128; huntington.org

Thursday, April 10

2:30 pm

Garden Talk & Plant Sale: So Much Beauty with So Little Water. Wendy Proud of Mountain States Wholesale Nursery shares a unique mix of southwestern plants that can be used in combination with California natives to bring drought-tolerant beauty and color to the garden. Free.

Friday-Sunday, April 25-27

10:30 am-4:30 pm (Fri-Sun members);

1:30 pm-4:30 pm (Sunday open to the public with general admission.

40th Annual Spring Plant Sale. The sale will be held in the Botanical nursery area. For convenient shopping, bring a wagon or cart to carry your purchases.

Saturday, April 26

10:30 am-1:00 pm

Ranch Open House. Self-tour The Huntington's urban agriculture site and take home some fresh ideas for sustainable gardening. Free with garden admission.

SUN VALLEY 91352

THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION

10459 Tuxford Street

(818) 768-1802; theodorepayne.org

Saturday & Sunday, April 5 & 6

Theodore Payne Native Plant Garden Tour. More than 40 gardens in a 2 day self-guided tour. Fee. ☎

The **CNPS Los Angeles/Santa Monica** next monthly meeting takes place on Tuesday, April 8 from 7:30 pm-9:30 pm at the First United Methodist Church in Santa Monica, 1008 Eleventh St. *Thirty Years of Native Plant Gardening* by Doug Allen. Event is free, non-members welcome.

The Garden Conservancy Open Days

Garden Tour returns to Pasadena on April 27 from 10:00 am-4:00 pm with six private gardens to visit. Tickets can be purchased at the Arlington Garden in Pasadena from 9:30 am-3:30 pm. Go to: gardenconservancy.org for more details.

- 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.

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: *Gardening is for the Birds.*

June 12—Hartmut Wisch: *Native Bees.*

July 10—Ron Rasmussen: *The El Moro Elfin Forest in Los Osos.*

August 14—Lucy Tolmach: *Restoring the Fruit Orchard at Filoli.*

SUCCESSFUL BOOK SALE!

Thank you to everyone who contributed books to our March book sale. We raised approximately \$250 for the Southern California Horticultural Society. There are a few left over books that will be put out for free distribution or put into the silent auction at the Horticulturist of the Year award dinner in September.

Southern California
Horticultural Society
PO Box 94476
Pasadena CA 91109-4476

NEWSLETTER
April 2014

Board of Directors

Steven Gerischer, *President, Pacific Horticulture Board, Programs & Newsletter*

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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 and *Sharing Secrets* contributors.

Next deadline: Friday, April 11 (for May newsletter).

It is the Friday following our monthly membership meeting.

Please contribute an article or information of interest.