



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

August 2014 Newsletter

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, August 14

Witherbee Auditorium

Los Angeles Zoo

5333 Zoo Drive, Los Angeles,
CA 90027

7:00 pm. Social Hour. Meeting
begins at

8:00 pm.

SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Claudia Holguin
Ruth Scribner

Please welcome our new
members when you see them at
our meetings.

SHARING SECRETS QUESTION

The Sharing Secrets question for August is: "Are you currently using gray water, or other new strategies to save water in this drought? And how is it working for you?" You can answer on our MemberLodge website or e-mail your response to: sglarkspur@aol.com by Friday, August 15.

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Lucy Tolmach: The Ojai Vineyard Farm-New Venture in Modern Farming Thursday, August 14, 2014



This practical talk on edible gardening will offer a first look into The Ojai Vineyard Farm, which Lucy and her husband Jonathan started on family land soon after they retired from Filoli in 2012. They are using organic and sustainable methods, to grow mixed fruits and nuts, herbs, vegetables, and cut flowers supplying farm to table events planned for the winery and for The Ojai Vineyard tasting room. Their first hand experience preserving historic rare fruit, and restoring the Gentlemen's orchard

at Filoli proved inspirational, and helped to pave the way for the Tolmach's new venture.

Lucy Tolmach managed the horticultural operations at Filoli, a property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation for 33 years until her retirement as Director of Horticulture in 2012. She began her employment at Filoli as a gardener in 1977 after receiving her B.S. degree in plant science from the University of Delaware and M.S. degree in environmental horticulture from University of California, Davis. Lucy was a founding board member of the Gamble Garden Center in Palo Alto. She served as the Coordinator of the Pacific Region of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta (AABGA) (1996-2000), now called the Public Garden Association, and chaired the Historic Landscapes Committee. Lucy collaborated in the writing of The Great Book of Pears, which features Filoli's heritage orchard. She is the recipient of the Professional Citation from the AABGA (1991). Lucy was invited to become an honorary member of the Garden Club of America (2001) and was recipient of the Ellen Eddy Shaw Lifetime Achievement Award from the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (2004). Lucy was honored with a Diamond Award in the special recognition category by the Peninsula Arts Council, celebrating the arts in San Mateo County. Lucy Tolmach has given presentations at garden shows, garden clubs, professional landscape conferences, U.C. Davis, other public gardens and for the National Park Service.

See you at the Zoo!

Silent Auction Donations, and a Note regarding Horticulturist of the Year Award Dinner.

Our Horticulturist of the Year Award Dinner honoring Donald R Hodel, will be held on a **Saturday (September 13)** instead of the usual second Thursday of the month—look for details in the upcoming announcement. In the meantime we are seeking interesting and exciting donations for the silent auction to raise funds for SCHS and the work we do (including funding our speakers and our internship program).

If you have favorite shops or service providers who might be willing to donate time, or gift certificates, or even a planted pot from your favorite nursery, ask them if they would be willing to support us. If you have anything to donate or need a question answered please contact Steven Gerischer at: sglarkspur@aol.com. Or call at: (323) 257-3629.

If you will be bringing item for donation with you to our meeting at the LA Zoo, or if you will be bringing them directly to the award dinner in September, please call or e-mail with a description. If you cannot transport the item a pick-up may be arranged.

See page 4 of this newsletter for information about the award dinner and signing up for tickets, or go to: socalhort.org Member Lodge to sign up online. Please note that Don will be leading a short tour to see some of the palm trees at the Arboretum before the festivities begin.

—Steven Gerischer

July Meeting Recap

The July meeting of the Southern California Horticultural Society was a presentation by Ron Rasmussen: *The El Moro Elfin Forest of Los Osos*. This remarkable landscape, just south of Moro Rock, was nearly lost to destructive land use and coastal development. Mr. Rasmussen's talk detailed the convoluted history of the formation of what is now a state park, preserving this land for the enjoyment of future generations. The efforts of private citizens and the non-profit S.W.A.P. (Small Wilderness Area Preserves, Inc.) completed their purchase of the land and transfer to the state and county parks system, just prior to the deadline for sale of these coastal dunes. This unique habitat featuring stunted oak trees, native flora and even a wetlands/marsh was nearly lost to yet another tract home development.

Ron showed us the progression of reclamation of the dunes through eradication of invasive, exotic plants and weeds—mostly accomplished by dedicated volunteers. A number of large format photo posters were displayed on tables at the back of the hall (along with tee shirts and other items sold to raise funds for the park) showing aerial views of "before and after" shots of this restoration.

Of special interest was learning about the state-funded experts who must be hired at great expense to guard the resident population of native snails.

The installation of a boardwalk through the park has now made the area accessible to visitors without the worry over damage done by people straying from the pathways. Some of the dwarfed oak trees were nearly lost to soil compaction from over use. This was an interesting history of a fascinating area now part of our State Park system due to the efforts of so many dedicated folks who care very deeply about the environment.

We would like to thank Ron Rasmussen for his thoroughly enjoyable presentation on the Elfin Forest. Thanks as well to the program committee and to Rebecca Rasmussen Tufenkian for working to make this talk happen. Thanks to those who help set up and run the meeting as well as those who helped clean up afterwards.

Join us on August 14 at the Witherbee Auditorium of the Los Angeles Zoo for our presentation by Lucy Tolmach: *The Ojai Vinyard Farm—New Venture in Modern Farming*.

—Steven Gerischer

SHARING SECRETS

In July, we asked you to answer "What is your top 'Bucket List' garden (need to see it before you turn to compost)?" and here are some of your responses. Read more on our SCHS MemberLodge website, schs.memberlodge.org.

Beatrix Potter's Hill Top Farm & Garden in the Lake District of England (as part of a walking tour of the area).

—Brenda Kano

Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens, South Africa, is my dream, but I have grave doubts I'll ever get there. It's too far to bicycle!

—Tim Evans

Butchart Gardens. I'm sure everyone else has been. But I haven't. Every time I take a trip I think I'll see amazing flowers that we can't grow here. Not that I've been many places. Tokyo was all green. The Peonies were done in Chicago. But when I come home I realize we have the most amazing flowers here in SoCal!!! Of course I haven't been to Singapore nor Malaysia. I bet they have incredible flowers!!

—Aprille Curtis

It would have to be Versailles - pictures are one thing, but the size and scope in person have to be pretty amazing...

—Magda Krachmalnik

Butchart Gardens. It holds the story of the indomitable human spirit to create beauty in whatever circumstances we find ourselves in: even in a cement pit can be made into a beautiful garden.

—Lydia Plunk

I was lucky enough to cross one off in June -- the International Garden Festival at Chaumont-sur-Loire. (Anyone want to hear about it? The theme this year: the Deadly Sins.)

Chanticleer comes to mind; also the gardens of Morocco.

—Paula Panich

Jardin Majorelle, Morocco
The Garden of Cosmic Speculation, Scotland
And after hearing Eric Haskell's lecture two weeks ago, Vaux le Vicomte, France.

—Kathy Musial

PLANT FORUM IMAGES.

Photos by Paul Martin. See Page 3 for descriptions.



Calochortus hybrids



Albuca clanwilliamae-gloria



Ornithogolum 'Namib Gold'



Uncarina grandidieri



socalhort.org

GREEN SHEET

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

MAY 2014

PLANT FORUM NOTES

Compiled by James E. Henrich

Photographs by Paul Martin

Thank you to all who brought plants to the May 2014 meetings. Everyone is encouraged to bring in plants to share with the group. Remember that you receive 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).

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.

- Hesperaloe parviflora*, coral yucca (Asparagaceae), by Eric Brooks, Baldwin Hills. [SPSCG, pg. 183]
Leucadendron 'Jester', sunshine conebrush (Proteaceae), by Gary Kamisher, West Los Angeles. [GS, January 2001]
Leucospermum cordifolium 'Yellow Bird', nodding pincushion (Proteaceae), by Gary Kamisher, West Los Angeles. [GS, March 2014]
Leucospermum 'Spider Hybrid', spider pincushion (Proteaceae), by Gary Kamisher, West Los Angeles. [GS, February 2011]
Limonium perezii, statice (Plumbaginaceae), by Gary Kamisher, West Los Angeles. [SPSCG, pg. 226]
Romneya coulteri, Matilija poppy (Papaveraceae), by Mary Montes, West Hills. [SPSCG, pg. 310]
Uncarina grandidieri, mouse trap tree (Pedaliaceae), by Ann Brooks, Baldwin Hills. [SPSCG, pg. 357]

Plants that could not be fully identified:

- Calochortus* hybrids, mariposa lily (Liliaceae), by Sheldon Lisker, Sun City.
Oncidium, dancing lady orchid (Orchidaceae), by Lyle Wiedeman, Silver Lake.

Albuca clanwilliamae-gloria, glory of Clanwilliam (Asparagaceae), by Sheldon Lisker, Sun City. NW Cape region of South Africa near Clanwilliam. This bulbous plant grows in deep sandy soils of South Africa's fynbos, providing tolerance for southern California's heat. Its yellow to golden flowers comprise the largest inflorescence in the genus. The leaves are generally fleshy, filled with mucilaginous sap, which give it another common name, slime lily. The genus has a very interesting pollination process: pollinators deposit pollen on the tips of inner tepals (undifferentiated petals); there they germinate in fluid secreted by the tepals; penetrate the stigma; grow normally to fertilize the ovules and produce seeds. This phenomenon may provide some insight into how the primitive flowering plant stigma evolved from spore-bearing leaves.

Euphorbia milii 'Peppermint Candy', crown-of-thorns (Euphorbiaceae), by Anna Cardella, Los Angeles. [Species, SPSCG, pg. 149] This new cultivar has beautiful white-and-green variegated leaves and bright red, half-inch "flowers." Like other euphorbias, it tolerates dryness and neglect. It flowers throughout the year and, unlike some of the green forms, has a compact branching habit, growing to 3 feet tall. Variegated euphorbias tend to grow more slowly—a positive attribute for limited-space situations. Water when the soil is dry and give plenty of direct sunlight to develop its full glory.

Ornithogalum 'Namib Gold' PP16,423, star of Bethlehem (Asparagaceae), by Sheldon Lisker, Sun City. Europe, Asia and Africa. 'Namib Gold' has long flower stems (12 to 24 inches), yellow flowers and grows vigorously, distinguishing it from other cultivars and justifying the US and South African plant patents. Inflorescences can last up to 5 weeks as a cut flower in normal room temperatures and 6 weeks in a cooler. Gail Margaret Littlejohn Venecourt selected this cultivar from a seedling lot in 1999 in Elsenburg, South Africa. The hybrid resulted from crossing *Ornithogalum conicum* (white flowers) and *O. dubium* (orange flowers). It bears US PP16,423 and Republic of South Africa PBR RSA PT3773 plant patents.



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

PO Box 94476, Pasadena, CA 91109-4476. (818) 567-1496. socalhort.org

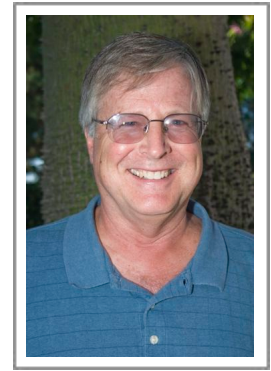
2014 Annual Award Banquet

Honoring

Horticulturist of the Year: Donald R. Hodel

Saturday, September 13, 2014

Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden.



Don will lead a palm tour before the social hour—tour begins at 5:15 from the Peacock Café.

Southern California Horticultural Society is recognizing Donald R. Hodel with the 2014 Horticulturist of the Year award. His work has made a significant impact on both residential and commercial landscape horticulture in Southern California.

As the University of California Cooperative Extension, Environmental Horticulture Advisor in Los Angeles County, Don devises applied research projects and educational programs to develop and extend information about the selection and management of landscape plants to commercial landscapers, tree care industries, residents and homeowners of Southern California. He has developed an expertise in trees and palms and other woody plants that has earned him a statewide, national and international reputation in the culture, including selection, planting, nutrition, irrigation, pruning, pest management and taxonomy of landscape plants.

He has authored or co-authored more than 500 publications about various aspects of the identification, selection and management of landscape plants in Southern California. He has authored or co-authored eight books, including *Exceptional Trees of Los Angeles* (1988; funded by SCHS). Don has made more than 750 presentations to industry, governmental agencies and homeowners in Southern California about various aspects of the selection and management of landscape plants.

His research on trees and palms has taken him numerous times to Mexico, Central America, South America, Hawai'i and the South Pacific, and Southeast Asia. He has named and described more than 50 species of palms that were new to science, many of which can or are now being successfully cultivated in Southern California. Don has shared many of his plant discoveries and introductions with the primary botanical gardens and arboreta in Southern California.

Don graduated from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona (BS 1974) and the University of Hawai'i (MS 1975) with degrees in ornamental horticulture. As an undergraduate at Cal Poly, he was the 1973 recipient of the Southern California Horticultural Institute's (as we were formerly known) student scholarship. After graduation from the University of Hawai'i, Don worked for the National Tropical Botanical Garden on Kaua'i and the wholesale nursery industry on the Big Island. Returning to the mainland in 1980, Don worked in the wholesale nursery industry in San Diego before being appointed to his current position with the University of California in 1983.

Saturday, September 13, 2014: at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden.

Join us at the Peacock Cafe at 6pm for social hour and silent auction. Dinner and presentation begin at 7pm.

You can purchase tickets to the dinner online through the SCHS MemberLodge: <http://schs.memberlodge.org/> or by mailing in the form below.

Please call Steven Gerischer at (323)257-3629 with any questions.

Southern California Horticultural Society 2014 Annual Award Banquet

PLEASE RESPOND BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 2014

Yes, please reserve: _____ Tickets at \$45 each [Total enclosed \$ _____ (check only)]

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Make your check payable to SCHS. Mail to: PO Box 94476, Pasadena, CA 91109-4476

Please check box if requesting **VEGETARIAN** meal. How many? _____

ARCADIA 91007

L.A. COUNTY ARBORETUM & BOTANIC GARDEN

301 North Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA 91007
626-821-4623 arboretum.org

Saturday, August 9, 10:00 am–12 noon, Palm Room. *Broken Concrete...Reuse is the Best Recycle!* Make beautiful paved areas for walking and relaxing in your garden by using recycled materials such as broken concrete, local stones, old bricks and stepping stones. Laramie Haynes, owner of Haynes Landscape Design, will bring material examples, photos of projects and a handout to help guide you through your first project. \$25 members, \$30 non-members (includes garden admission).

Saturday and Sunday, August 9 & 10, 9:00 am–5:00 pm, Ayres Hall. Inter-City Cactus Show & Sale.

Saturday, August 23, 11:00 am–12:30 pm. Tour of the Plumeria Collection, led by James E. Henrich, curator of living collections. Free for members; free with admission for non-members.

LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE 91011
DESCANSO GARDENS

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

Tuesday, August 19, 2:00 pm–3:00 pm, Van de Kamp. Scott Mathers of Hey!Tanks LA and Leigh Jerrard of Greywater Corps discuss rainwater harvesting and recapturing greywater to use in your garden. Free public admission to the gardens and lecture on the third Tuesday of the month, part of “*Get Dirty: A Garden Series by Descanso*” on Third Tuesdays.

PASADENA 91107
EATON CANYON NATURE CENTER

1750 North Altadena Drive
Pasadena 91107
616-398-5420 ecnca.org

Friday, August 8, 7:15 pm. Moonlight Walk. Groups can be faster or slower, have more or less educational information depending on the folks present, their ages and their interests. We try to group folks by their general preferences, such as families with small children in the same group, families with older children in the same group, but all depends on who's present. Suggested \$2.00 donation per person (including children) to help cover the costs of refreshments. Wear sturdy walking shoes or boots; dress appropriately for the weather. Bring water (no glass containers). No dogs except service dogs. No flashlights. Wear any Eaton Canyon T-shirt or hat (or join the ECNCA on the night of the walk) and the walk is FREE! For those who join ECNCA, their entire group (up to 5 people) get the walk for free. Moonlight Walks will be

cancelled without notice if there is any rain or nighttime conditions are deemed to be unsafe. For more information, call 626-398-5420.

FULLERTON 92831

FULLERTON ARBORETUM

1900 Associated Road
Fullerton 92831
657-278-3407 fullertonarboretum.org

Saturday, August 9, 9:00 am–12 noon. *What's Bugging You?* Strategies to deal with pest problems without turning to harsh chemicals. Learn tips and tricks of integrated pest management techniques to foil what's bugging you. Life-long horticulturalist Valerie Loew will teach you how to use simple strategies to reduce pest populations, and encourage beneficial insects in your garden. \$40 members, \$45 non-members.

SAN MARINO 91108
HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

1151 Oxford Road
San Marino 91108
626-405-2100 huntington.org
Thursday, August 14, 2:30 pm, Ahmanson Room, Brody Botanical Center. *Iris & Pelargoniums: A Match Made in the Garden.* Nursery owner and plant breeder John Schoustra discusses some of the newest and best varieties for Southern California gardens. A plant sale follows the talk. Free with General Admission.

Saturday, August 23, 10:30 am–1:00 pm, The Ranch. Ranch Open House. Self-tour The Huntington's urban agriculture site and take home some fresh ideas for sustainable gardening. From the Teaching Greenhouse, follow signs to the site. General admission.

Sunday, August 24, 1:30 pm–3:00 pm. Tropical Nursery Tour. Go behind the scenes with Dylan Hannon, curator of tropical collections, for a botanical nursery tour. \$5. Purchase tickets online or call 800-838-3006. Meet at the entrance to The Rose Hills Foundation Conservatory for Botanical Science. (Note: For non-Members, Huntington admission is a separate required cost.)

LOS ANGELES 90049
RSABG GROW NATIVE NURSERY

(at the Veterans' Garden)
100 Davis Avenue
Los Angeles 90049
909-625-8767 rsabg.org

Saturday, August 9, 10:00 am–11:30 am. Stephen Baldonado covers the basics of lawn removal and how to design a pleasing, water-wise, low-maintenance replacement. Free, but RSVP to <https://11213.blackbaudhosting.com/11213/Replacing-Your-Lawn-with-Water-wise-Plants>

PALOS VERDES PENINSULA 90274
SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Saturday, August 9, 10:00 am–12 noon. *Medicine-Making Basics: Oils and Salves.* Infused oils are highly beneficial for healing skin disorders, but also for keeping healthy skin healthy and supple. We'll make some oils in class and sample others, and you'll take home a healing salve that we make in class. \$25 members; \$35 non-members; \$5 materials fee payable to instructor Julie James, Certified Herbalist, Green Wisdom Herbal Studies.

Sat, 8/16 9:00 am–11:00 am. *Ergonomics: A Guide to Pain-free Gardening.* If you love to garden but find that after working in your garden your back aches, your wrists are sore, and your knees are hurting, there are some things you can do to eliminate or greatly reduce the pain of gardening. Registration for this class is required 24 hours in advance of class start date. Please contact Guest Services to reserve the class. \$25 members, \$35 non-members; \$10 materials fee payable to instructor Judith Gerber, Master Gardener.

Saturday, August 23, 9:00 am–4:00 pm. Palos Verdes Begonia Society Show and Sale.

SUN VALLEY 91352
THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION

10459 Tuxford Street
Sun Valley 91352
818-768-1802 theodorepayne.org

Friday, August 15, 10:00 am–2:00 pm. *Native Plant Garden Maintenance* with Antonio Sanchez. Watering, fertilizing (or not), pruning, grooming, mulching and other aspects of garden maintenance will be covered. This is a long class, so bring a snack. Part of the class will be outdoors. \$45 members, \$60 non-members.

Saturday, August 16, 1:30 pm–3:30 pm. *Look, Ma, No Lawn!* with Lili Singer. Are you ready to lose the lawn? required for turf. Lili is TPF's Director of Special Projects and Adult Education, a Los Angeles native and an award-winning horticulturist and garden writer. \$25 members, \$35 non-members.

- Compiled by Yvonne Savio
Send notices to: yvonesavio@earthlink.net

UPCOMING 2014 SCHS PROGRAMS

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

August 14—Lucy Tolmach: *The Ojai Vinyard Farm-New Venture in Modern Farming.* (NOTE! This meeting will take place at the Los Angeles Zoo!)

September 13 *(NOTE! This is a Saturday!)—**Horticulturist of the Year Award Dinner: Honoring Don Hodel.** To be held at the Arboretum & Botanic Garden of Los Angeles, in Arcadia.

October 9: Bulb Panel (speakers TBD)

November 13—Matt Ritter: *Natural History of California*

SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS

There is still time to donate items for the silent auction at the Horticulturist of the Year Award Dinner in September.

Contact Steven Gerischer with any questions/donations:
sglarkspur@aol.com.

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

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Lili Singer, *Selected Book Sales & Programs*

Jill Vig, *Pacific Horticulture Board*

Rachel Young, *Finance*

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Newsletter Editor: Steven Gerischer

Contributors to this issue: James E. Henrich, Steven Gerischer, Paul Martin, and *Sharing Secrets* contributors.

Next deadline: Friday, August 15 (for September 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
August 2014