



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socialhort.org

September 2014 Newsletter

OUR NEXT MEETING

Saturday, September 13 at
The Los Angeles County
Arboretum and Botanic
Garden
6 pm. Social Hour and Silent
Auction
Dinner and Award
Presentation, 7 pm.

SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

(There were no new members signed up during the previous month—remember that a membership makes a great gift for friends or neighbors!)

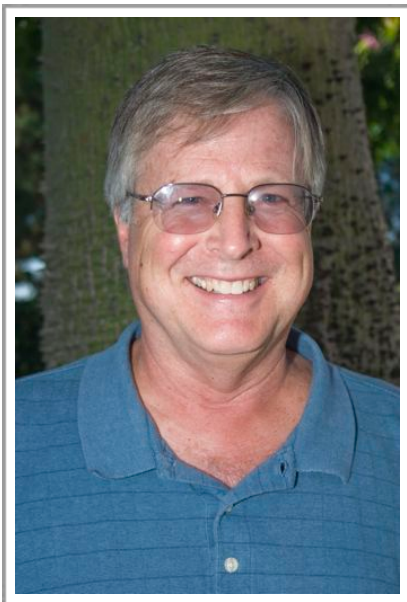
SHARING SECRETS QUESTION

To honor our H.O.T.Y., Donald R Hodel, the Sharing Secrets question for September is: *"What is your favorite palm tree, and why?"* You can answer on our MemberLodge website or e-mail your response to: sglarkspur@aol.com by Monday, September 15.

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Donald R Hodel:
*Southern California
Horticulture Society
Horticulturist of the Year
(Award Dinner and Meeting)*
Saturday, September 13, 2014



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.

MISSED THE DEADLINE ANNOUNCEMENT?

If you missed the deadline to sign up for our Horticulturist of the Year Award Dinner but are interested in attending there still may be time to sign up! Please call Steven Gerischer at (323) 257-3629 or e-mail to: sglarkspur@aol.com.

We look forward to a wonderful night at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden as we honor Donald R Hodel as Horticulturist of the Year.



August Meeting Recap

The August meeting of the Southern California Horticultural Society was a presentation by Lucy Tolmach: *The Ojai Vinyard Farm—New Venture in Modern Farming*. The meeting was held at the Los Angeles Zoo in the spacious and well appointed Witherbee Auditorium. Lucy treated us to a two-part talk beginning with her time working at Filoli, a property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. When she came to Filoli in the 1970s, Lucy began caring for the extensive grounds of the estate. Later she convinced the board of directors that it was well worth the time and money to restore the gentlemen's orchard to its original glory. The restoration project began in 1997. Very little in the way of records was available to help identify the remaining fruit trees. As the revitalization of the orchard moved forward, local experts were consulted when the trees began producing fruit once more. As varieties of apples and pears were identified they were also being propagated. Todd Kennedy, a fruit historian and Filoli volunteer worked with Lucy, and eventually donated his collection of historic fruit trees to round out the replanting of the orchard. The remarkably dedicated group of volunteers caring for the grounds at Filoli then and now are part of the legacy Lucy helped create.

The second half of the talk covered Lucy's move to Oakview California and her work, with her husband, Jonathan, on their family owned Vinyard Ranch. The vinyard and farm are not open to the public, but are run in conjunction with a tasting room in nearby Ojai (for wine club members only). The details of the day to day struggles with figuring out soil fertility, proper watering, various pests and other headaches and heartaches associated with a modern, and organic approach to farming were insightful and amusing (Including the benefits of pigeon manure!). We learned the finer points of killing or deterring gopher and deer as well as when is the proper time to plant kale to reduce cabbage looper damage. For any of the audience members growing vegetables in their home garden, the information was useful, and dealt with familiar challenges and easy to understand solutions (on a much larger scale). Lucy has a direct and no nonsense approach to solving problems and trying new methods that is endearing and educational. Thank you, Lucy for a wonderful talk. Thanks as well to the staff and volunteers at the Los Angeles Zoo for helping make the meeting possible (and thanks as well to our Board

Member, Sandy Masuo for obtaining permission for SCHS to have another meeting at the Zoo).

Join us on Saturday, September 13 at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden for the Horticulturist of the Year Award Banquet honoring Don Hodel. (Please see the details online at: socalhort.org. in the Member Lodge section.) Thank you as well to all of our members and volunteers who help at these meetings with set up, running the meeting and clean up afterward.

—Steven Gerischer

SHARING SECRETS

In July, we asked you to answer "*Are you currently using gray water, or other new strategies to save water in this drought? And how is it working for you?*" and here are some of your responses. Read more on our SCHS MemberLodge website, schs.memberlodge.org.

I have given up baths; instead, I take five-minute or less showers along with a bonny blue bucket, which is dumped when full in my (too many) large pots. I keep a plastic pitcher by the kitchen sink to harvest any water I would throw out -- boiled water from the kettle for morning tea, for example. The pitcher is then poured into pots. Fancy nozzles are now on all hoses. I drip drip drip into pots from the hoses now. I live in LA and would like to stay within the first tier of water allocation but I'm not going to make it -- not in summer. We have irrigation, most of it underground. Will I have to kill off some of the garden? Oh I hope not. (It's only a 5,000 sq.-foot lot, but densely planted.)

—Paula Panich

We've been conserving laundry water for the garden for about 30 years now and it is distributed to the fruit trees and ornamentals in the back yard. The front has been planted in CA drought tolerant natives and other drought resistant plants for about 15 years; we water these once a month during summer. The edible garden wants what it wants, but like others who've responded to this post, we've begun carrying out kitchen water in pitchers and pots. Especially I like reusing water used to steam or parboil vegetables (cooled first), as whatever vitamins or minerals shed in the process get returned to the new crop coming on. For about 25 years we've saved rainwater for use on container plants. I plan to increase the number of rainwater storage barrels this year. I plan to decrease the

quantity of container plants. Yes, we take 5 minute showers. Washing machine and dishwasher are run with full loads only.

—Kathryn Itomura

I'd been thinking about it for a long while; I wanted to sink a cistern in my yard to collect rainwater from the roof. Last year I ended up with a 5000 gallon tank buried in my back yard - it was a long process to get to that point and since the permit was signed off on, we have had one decent rainstorm - last March 2014, 3". That 3" allowed me to water my yard -at no cost- for 6 weeks. It will take an awful long time to pay off the initial cost of the cistern but it really does feel wonderful when I use 'free' water and over time it will make a difference and pay for itself.

I also bale my bathtub after a bath or shower to re-use the pretty clean 'greywater' water. The location of my clothes-washer is too 'downhill' to be able to use that water for any garden purpose....until I come up with a new plan. "Keep calm and carry on".

—Suzanna Wood

The house I live in is tucked into a slope in Glassell Park and the laundry room is in a basement. Water empties from the washer into a tub before it goes into a sump/cistern to be pumped up into the sewer. I had long thought about a gray water retrofit for the plumbing (and someday perhaps I will). In the meantime I purchased a submersible pump that hooks up to a garden hose. (I use bio-degradable, coconut oil based detergent to wash laundry.) I interrupt the wash and rinse flow of water, stopping it in the tub and pumping it out into the garden (the pump will even get it up-slope). I am currently watering the cruder and more water hungry plants this way (*Iochroma* and *Brugmansia* in particular). The downside so far is having to monitor all of this closely so as not to flood the basement or burn out the pump, but it seems to be working fine and I am now watering older, established shrub roses as well as trees this way. I will watch all for signs if the wash water is adversely affecting them—but so far so good! I also save kitchen water/rinse water from veggies and cooking etc. to water the many potted plants. On two of the three downspouts I have sections of rain gutter to direct rain out into the garden, the third goes into a 70 gallon galvanized trough (during heavier rain I pump overflow with my trusty submersible pump into plastic trashcans). Every drop counts!

—Steven Gerischer



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GREEN SHEET

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

JUNE 2014

PLANT FORUM NOTES

Compiled by James E. Henrich

Photographs by Paul Martin

Thank you to all who brought plants to the June 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.

- Aechmea fasciata* (syn. *A. fasciata* var. *purpurea*), urn plant (Bromeliaceae), by Jim Jaeger, Santa Monica. [SPSCG, pg. 11]
Agave stricta, hedgehog agave (Asparagaceae), by Matt-Dell Tufenkian, Pasadena. [SPSCG, pg. 17]
Brachychiton discolor, Queensland lacebark (Malvaceae), by Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia. [SPSCG, pp. 59-60]
Brachychiton populneus, bottle tree (Malvaceae), by Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia. [SPSCG, pg. 60]
Cassia brewsteri, cigar cassia (Fabaceae), by Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia. [SPSCG, pg. 78]
Costus barbatus, spiral ginger (Costaceae), by Eric & Ann Brooks, Baldwin Hills. [GS, August 2010]
Eriogonum giganteum, St. Catherine's lace (Polygonaceae), by Sheldon Lisker, Sun City. [SPSCG, pg. 135]
Fockea edulis, Hottentot bread (Apocynaceae), by Matt-Dell Tufenkian, Pasadena. [SPSCG, pg. 154]
Jacaranda mimosifolia 'Alba', white jacaranda (Bignoniaceae), by Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia. [SPSCG, pg. 206]
Leucophyllum frutescens, Texas sage (Scrophulariaceae), by Joan Seidel, Hollywood Hills. [SPSCG, pg. 223]
Pelargonium gibbosum, gouty pelargonium (Geraniaceae), by Matt-Dell Tufenkian, Pasadena. [SPSCG, pg. 275]
Pelargonium x glaucifolium, black-flower geranium (Geraniaceae), by Matt-Dell Tufenkian, Pasadena. [SPSCG, pg. 275]
Sinningia tubiflora, fragrant white gloxinia (Gesneriaceae), by Jim Jaeger, Santa Monica. [SPSCG, pg. 331]
Tecomanthe dendrophila (syn. *T. venustus*), New Guinea creeper (Bignoniaceae), by Eric & Ann Brooks, Baldwin Hills. [GS, May 1999]
Trachelium caeruleum, blue throatwort (Campanulaceae), by M. Pisano, Silver Lake. [SPSCG, pg. 353]

Plants that could not be fully identified:

- Cactus (Cactaceae), by Patricia McGrath, City.
 Grass (Poaceae), by Matt-Dell Tufenkian, Pasadena.

Agave parryi (syn. *A. patonii*), Parry's agave (Asparagaceae), by Matt-Dell Tufenkian, Pasadena. SW United States and Mexico. Blue-gray leaves to 1 foot long and 4 inches wide form a compact rosette. Each leaf is tipped with a 1-inch spine and edged with smaller recurved spines. Inflorescence can grow to 15 feet tall, bearing creamy yellow flowers. This species requires full sun and well-drained soil, and is very tolerant of dry conditions. Propagate from offshoots removed in the spring. It is one of the cold-tolerant species, adapted to USDA zones 5-11.

Brachychiton bidwillii, little kurrajong (Malvaceae), by Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia. SE Queensland and NE New South Wales, Australia. This small tree or shrub is native to dry rainforests but is drought tolerant once established. Grow in partial shade to full sun in well-drained to poorly-drained soils. Flowers are pink to deep red, appearing during summer; often before the deeply lobed leaves emerge. The species name commemorates botanical collector John Carne Bidwill (1815-1853).

Delonix decaryi, fengoky (Fabaceae), by Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia. Toliara, Madagascar. Small tree to about 20 feet tall, summer growing, winter deciduous and dormant. It produces white flowers to nearly 3 inches in diameter that age to yellow, with red filaments and styles. Fruits can grow to about 10 inches long and are woody. Grow in full sun. Tree trunks develop a characteristic constriction near the base and then broaden, becoming almost bottle like. Fengoky grows in the coastal dry spiny forests. It is near threatened on the IUCN Red List.

Limonium arborescens, tree limonium (Plumbaginaceae), by Matt-Dell Tufenkian, Pasadena. Islands of Tenerife and La Palma, Canary Islands. This species superficially resembles *L. perezii* but differs in producing woody stems and branches, growing to 3 to 5 feet tall and wide. New leaves are crimson, becoming shiny olive green. Small white flowers are subtended by persistent lavender sepals. Tree

limonium grows on cliffs and shady rocky slopes with some accumulated humus. It is listed as near threatened on the IUCN Red List due to pressures of past and present over grazing.

Mestoklema tuberosum, donkie-vygie (Aizoaceae), by Matt-Dell Tufenkian, Pasadena. Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. Succulent plant with swollen roots to nearly 2 inches in diameter. Plants can grow to about 2 feet in height. It performs best in grit or well-drained soil in full sun. Small flowers to 3/8 inch in diameter can be salmon, pink to red, or in the red-orange-yellow range, or even salmon-orange. Most members of the Aizoaceae are prostrate but this genus is characterized by being upright, small shrubs. The genus name is from the Greek words mestos, meaning full, and klema, meaning a small branch, or densely branching.

Odontonema callistachyum, purple firespike (Acanthaceae), by Eric & Ann Brooks, Baldwin Hills. Mexico and Central America. Tall perennial to 6 to 10 feet tall and 4 to 6 feet wide. Lavender-purple, tubular flowers are borne in dense spikes. It will flower year-round. Site this plant in shade to full sun. A hard frost will cause die back but the plant will readily resprout. Relatively drought tolerant once established; average water needs. Butterflies and hummingbirds actively seek nectar from this species.



Brachychiton discolor



Brachychiton populneus



Aechmea fasciata



Pelargonium gibbosum



Jacaranda mimosifolia 'Alba'

ARCADIA 91007

L.A. COUNTY ARBORETUM & BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Wednesday, September 3, 1:30 pm–3:30 pm. *Planting Bulbs and Succulents Together – South African Section Tour.* Arboretum Botanist Frank McDonough covers various landscaping and gardening topics plus the latest news in gardening and plant science. For meeting place and details, contact Frank McDonough, 626-821-3236 or frank.mcdonough@arboretum.org

Saturday, September 6, 9:30 am–12:30 pm. Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Biology Professor Matt Ritter with discuss the remarkable tree diversity in Southern California, highlighting native trees and how to identify and appreciate them. \$25 members, \$30 non-members. Register at the door or call the Class Registration Line at 626-821-4623.

Sunday, September 7, 11:00 am–12:00 noon. Arboretum Superintendent Timothy Phillips will guide this walk through the bamboos and cycads. Meet at the Gift Shop Patio.

Saturday, September 13, 12:00 noon–4:00 pm. Arboretum Horticulture Supervisor Jill Morganelli will discuss growing fruits and vegetables organically in your home garden, highlighting winter planting, composting, and garden maintenance. \$25 members, \$30 non-members. Register at the door or call the Class Registration Line at 626-821-4623.

Thursday, September 18, 9:30 am–12:00 noon. Wildflowers of Cismontane Southern California and Associated Wildlife with Bob Allen. Part of series of 8 Thursday meetings. \$100 for the series or \$20 per class (includes garden admission). Registration: 626-821-4623 or jill.berry@arboretum.org, or pay at the door.

Saturday, September 20. 9:00 am–1:00 pm (class may go longer). *Hands-On Lasagna Mulching Workshop.* Arboretum Design Consultant Leigh Adams and Rishi Kumar will demonstrate how to create natural raised beds through sheet mulching to bring to life extremely beautiful, low-maintenance, low-cost gardens. \$5 members and non-members (includes garden admission). Registration: 626-821-4623 or jill.berry@arboretum.org, or pay at the door.

Thursday, September 25, 9:30 am–12:00 noon. *A Gallery of Succulents* with Lili Singer. Part of series of 8 Thursday meetings. \$100 for the series or \$20 per class (includes garden admission). Registration: 626-821-4623 or jill.berry@arboretum.org, or pay at the door.

**LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE 91011
DESCANSO GARDENS**

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

September 6, 10:00 am–11:30 am. *Green Thumb 101: Propagation Part II.* Learn easy, cost-effective ways to replicate your favorite plants. Meets in Birch. \$15 members, \$20 nonmembers. Registration deadline Aug. 30. Pre-register at the Visitor Center or by phoning (818) 949-7980.

Tuesday, September 16, 2:00 pm. *Water Conservation Tips.* Water efficiency experts from

the Foothill Municipal Water District share information on water-wise practices. Meets in Van de Kamp. Part of “Get Dirty: A Garden Series by Descanso” on Third Tuesdays. Public admission to the Gardens and the lecture is free of charge the third Tuesday of the month.

**SAN MARINO 91108
HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS**

1151 Oxford Road
San Marino 91108
626-405-2100 huntington.org

Friday & Saturday, September 12-13, Annual American Bamboo Society Conference. The theme is “Bamboo in Asian Culture” in honor of The Huntington’s Chinese Garden, Japanese Garden, and Bamboo collections. Single day (\$100) or two-day (\$175). Registration: <http://www.bamboo.org/2014ABSAnnualMeetingRegistrationForm.pdf>.

**CLAREMONT 91711
RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN –
GROW NATIVE NURSERY - CLAREMONT**

1500 North College Avenue
Claremont 91711
909-625-8767 rsabg.org

Sunday, September 21, 10:00 am–1:00 pm. 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. \$20 members, \$25 non-members. Program is limited to 20 participants. Bring a sack lunch or snack and water. Register online at www.rsabg.org, pay by check or charge by phone 909-625-8767, ext. 224 or email registrar@rsabg.org.

**LOS ANGELES 90049
RSABG GROW NATIVE NURSERY
(at the Veterans' Garden)**

100 Davis Avenue
Los Angeles 90049
909-625-8767 rsabg.org

Saturday, September 20, 10:00 am–4:00 pm. Autumn Garden Party. Join us in celebrating the fall planting season with free workshops, edible native plant tastings, casual music, and our widest selection of rare, hard to find, and edible California native plants! At 10:30am, *Re-Imagining the California Lawn*, Carol Bornstein will discuss ideas for replacing your lawn with beautiful, resilient California native plants. At noon, *Traditional and Medicinal Uses of Native Plants*, Nicholas Hummingbird will present many uses of native plants, which you can grow in your own garden! At 1:30, *Creating Wildlife Habitat in Your Garden with Native Plants*, with Barbara Eisenstein.

**PALOS VERDES PENINSULA 90274
SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN**

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

Saturday & Sunday, September 20 & 21, 9:00 am–5:00 pm Saturday, and 9:00 am–4:00 pm Sunday. South Bay Orchid Society Show and Sale. Commercial growers will showcase their outstanding plants with artistic exhibits and displays. Thousands of orchids and supplies will be available for sale. 'Orchids-R-Easy' classes will be conducted throughout the

show. An hourly raffle will be held on each day. For complete show information please visit: <http://www.southbayorchidsociety.com/Show/index.html>

**SUN VALLEY 91352
THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION**

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

Friday, September 12, 9:00 am–11:00 am, *Look, Ma, No Lawn!* with Lili Singer. Lili will discuss how to take the lawn out and offer alternatives for the space - specifically low-care native plants that need no fertilizer and use a fraction of the water required for turf. \$25 members, \$35 non-members.

Saturday, September 13, 1:30 pm–3:30 pm. *Hypertufa Container Workshop* with Steven Gerischer. Using cement, perlite and coir, each attendee will make a relatively lightweight container that resembles a time-weathered stone trough. Wear old clothes and shoes. All materials provided. \$30 members, \$40 non-members.

Saturday, September 20, 10:00 am–11:30 am. *Native Plants – Planting for Success: Installation, Establishment and First Year Care* with Mike Evans. \$25 members, \$25 non-members.

Saturday, September 20, 1:00 pm–3:30 pm. *Four Seasons of Color with CA Natives* with Lili Singer. \$25 members, \$35 non-members.

Saturday, September 27, 9:00 am–12:00 noon. *Native Seed-Starting Workshop* with Madena Asbell and Genevieve Arnold. Learn the ins and outs (and ups and downs) of propagating native plants from seed. This hands-on class covers basic seed physiology, seed viability, germination cues and pretreatments, and sowing and aftercare. Each student will take home a flat of seeds they've sown. All materials provided. Madena is TPF's Director of Horticulture. Genevieve is our Seed Program Manager. Limit: 8 participants. \$45 members, \$60 non-members.

Saturday, September 27, 11:30 am–3:30 pm. *California Native Plant Horticulture* with Lili Singer. The basics on gardening with California flora: why natives are valuable, about plant communities, plus planting techniques, establishment, irrigation, pruning and ongoing maintenance. Recommended for beginners. Prerequisite to our Three-Part California Native Plant Garden Design course. Lili is an award-winning horticulturist, educator and garden writer, and TPF's Director of Special Projects and Adult Education. Long class; bring a snack. \$40 members, \$50 non-members.

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

UPCOMING 2014 SCHS PROGRAMS

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

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

Bulb Panel (speakers TBD)

November 13—**Bulb Panel (Speakers TBD)**

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.

Board of Directors

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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: Monday, September 15 (for October 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
September 2014