



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

November 2014 Newsletter

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, November 13 at
Friendship Auditorium, 3201
Riverside Drive, Los Angeles
CA, 90027
Socializing time at 7:30 pm.
Meeting begins at 8:00 pm.

SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Diana Nightingale.

Remember, with the holidays approaching, a membership makes a **Great Gift** for friends, family or neighbors!

SHARING SECRETS QUESTION

The Sharing Secrets question for November is: *"What is your favorite geophyte or bulb, and why?(and, where did you get it?)"* You can answer on our MemberLodge website or e-mail your response to: sglarkspur@aol.com by Friday, November 14.

IN THIS ISSUE

October Meeting Recap
by Steven Gerischer..... 2
Sharing Secrets
(October).....2
Horticultural Happenings
by Yvonne Savio.....3
Upcoming Programs.....4

Geophyte Panel:

*Dylan Hannon, Sheldon
Lisker and Fred Roberts.*

Thursday, November 13, 2014



Our November program is a Geophytes Panel featuring three stellar Southern California bulb experts: Dylan Hannon, Sheldon Lisker and Fred Roberts. Each panel member will have 15 minutes to discuss 10 of their favorite geophytic plants, followed by five minutes of questions from the audience. Expect a fascinating array of "earth lovers," including true bulbs, corms, tubers and rhizomes. Following the presentations, there should be more time for Q & A.

Before and after the program, you can purchase geophytes from Dylan's Bulbs and the Theodore Payne Foundation (CA native bulbs); other cool plants from Greenwood and Dominus Plantarum; and prints, cards and t-shirts with original art by Fred Roberts. Please support our vendors – they contribute 20% of their sales to SCHS.

About our panel:

Dylan Hannon was raised in Southern California, where he developed an early interest in a wide range of plant groups. Both his mother and grandmother helped nurture an avid appreciation of plants. He has worked in the botanical garden field for more than 25 years, starting as a research assistant to Dr. Thomas B. Croat at Missouri Botanical Garden, working on the taxonomy of Araceae (aroids). He spent nine years as Plant Propagator at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and has been Curator of Conservatory and Tropical Collections at The Huntington Botanical Gardens since 2003.

Between these posts, Dylan worked in the wholesale cactus industry and for consulting firms as a field botanist in the San Diego area. His main interest is the propagation and distribution of cultivated plants, particularly material of known wild origin. These themes run through Dylan's writing, lectures, plant collecting and mail-order business ("dylansbulbs" on eBay – to date he has offered more than 500 different rare plants). He is blessed to have his supportive wife Antoinette by his side.

Sheldon Lisker is a long-time SCHS member and plant forum contributor. He grew up on a farm in New England and spent three years in Peace Corps in Thailand, teaching English as a second language and working in close proximity to exciting and beautiful tropical plants. He is Associate Dean Emeritus of UC, Riverside. For most of his 34 years at UCR, he set up courses for the Extension program, including classes in agricultural science, botany and gardening, and learned much from teachers he hired. A member of many horticultural groups, he is a longtime judge of the landscape design exhibits at the San Diego County Fair.

In his Riverside County garden, he grows

geophytes from around the world and primarily those from South Africa and Chile – and most are started from seed. His collection, which includes about 300 species, is mostly in ground (with those that need the most water in pots). As his residence of more than 40 years draws water from a well, water has always been a precious commodity. As soon as the kids were grown, his small lawn was gone!

Fred M. Roberts, Jr., is a consulting botanist, artist, and author. His most recent book is *Wildflowers of Orange County* and the *Santa Ana Mountains*, co-authored with Bob Allen. Fred grew up in Dana Point, where thousands of acres of undeveloped grasslands and hiking opportunities contributed to a strong interest in natural history. While attending Dana Hills High School, he became interested in reptiles, amphibians, birds and plants. He attended Saddleback College and received his BS in Geography with an emphasis on Botany from the UC, Santa Barbara.

He worked as an assistant curator in the Museum of Systematic Biology, UC, Irvine, and as a botanist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service before starting his own botanical consulting business. Fred is a Research Associate at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and is currently working on several book projects, including *A Flora of Orange County, California*. He lives in Oceanside with his wife, Carol, and their two personable cats.

As a member of our geophyte panel, Fred will discuss California native mariposa lilies (*Calochortus* spp.) – one of his many areas of expertise and a favorite subject for his art.

–Lili Singer

October Meeting Recap

The October meeting of the Southern California Horticultural Society was a talk by Matt Ritter, covering the *Natural History of California*. Matt showed us some his favorite places in the California floristic province and how these diverse locations have given rise to a remarkable number of unique habitats and plant communities. With trees being his specialty, Matt's talk focused on the trees that are such a recognizable part of these places. From the towering redwoods to the almost iconic oak trees that dot our rolling hills (and even identify Southern California when it is trying to stand is as some far-flung location in so many of our movies and television shows.)

When the term "biodiversity hotspot" is used—a place where unique and endemic biological organisms are under pressure from habitat loss and development etc.—California may not pop immediately to mind. Matt showed us how so many of our natural wonders are under increasing pressure from housing, agriculture and loss of contiguous habitat. He touched on the problems of invasive species being introduced into the state as well as over use of beloved parks and reserves, pollution and degradation of habitat. Some of his slides were taken years apart and allowed us to see these processes at work. The entire talk was a valuable reminder of what an amazing state we live in and that wherever you go in California there is something there that can be found nowhere else.

We would like to thank professor Matt Ritter for this thoughtful and inspiring talk on the *Natural History of California*. The many treasures our state has to offer cannot be taken for granted.

Thanks as well to all of the members who help set up and run the meetings as well as those who stay after and clean up the auditorium. Join us in November for our *Geophyte Panel Discussion*—with Sheldon Lisker, Dylan

Hannon and Fred M. Roberts, Jr.

—Steven Gerischer

SHARING SECRETS

In October, we asked you to answer "What is your favorite place/destination to experience nature in California?" and here are some of your responses. Read more on our SCHS MemberLodge website, schs.memberlodge.org.

(Apparently the Sharing Secrets question never made it online so there were no answers.)

Note: I did ask our speaker, Dr. Matt Ritter what his favorite place in California was. He replied that: "it was not a fair question as the answer changed constantly. But Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve in San Diego County was up somewhere near the top for its amazing diversity and beauty".

James E. Henrich Relocating to Bay Area

James E. Henrich has been named as the new director of the Conservatory of Flowers and the San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum in Golden Gate Park.

Jim, as we know him, is leaving his position as curator of living collections at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Gardens. He had also been serving for a number of years on our SCHS board and was our vice president for the last two years. We will miss his many contributions to SCHS (including his editing the Greensheet section of the newsletter) as well as his contributions to the local horticultural scene. We wish him great luck and good fortune as he embarks on this exciting opportunity.

—Steven Gerischer

The Greensheet will be back in the newsletter as soon as possible.

DRAGONFLY PROJECT

Want to help dragonfly populations? The Migratory Dragonfly Project is a citizen science project you can participate in. All you need is a pond or wetland to visit and a computer.

<http://www.migratorydragonflypartnership.org/index/welcome>

Participants monitor the timing, duration, and direction of travel of migrating dragonflies, and note any additional behaviors in a directed migratory flight such as feeding or mating. Photos or videos are strongly encouraged to aid in identification. When gathered across a wide geographic range and throughout a span of years, these data will provide answers to questions about which species are regular migrants; the frequency and timing of migration in different species; sources, routes, and destinations of migrants; and patterns of reproduction, emergence, and movement among migratory dragonflies along their flight paths.



ARCADIA 91007

L.A. COUNTY ARBORETUM & BOTANIC GARDEN
301 North Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA 91007
626-821-4623 arboretum.org.

Saturday and Sunday, 11/1&2, 9am-5pm, Ayres Hall. Winter Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale. The San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society exhibits the splendors of the fall-and-winter-growing succulents and cacti rarely seen in summer shows.

Thursday, 11/6, 9:30am-12noon, Palm Room. No Plants! Hardscape Materials and Techniques with Andreas Hessing. How do you build the bones of a garden? This class surveys standard and alternative building techniques and materials for walls, walks, fences and seats and illustrates innovative examples of hardscape. Andreas is an artist, landscape designer and licensed contractor (www.scrubjaystudios.com). For more than 20 years, his site-specific installations have celebrated regional biodiversity while focusing on the philosophical, political and social implications of California's indigenous flora.

LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE 91011

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

Saturday and Sunday, 11/8&9, 9am-5pm. Japanese Garden Festival. Descanso celebrates the art and culture of Japan with this annual family-friendly festival. Activities are free with admission. Ikebana display, the art of flower arranging, is one of the most actively practiced of Japan's traditional arts. The Sogetsu School of Ikebana promotes a contemporary and international understanding of this art form. In-depth Japanese Garden Tour (Saturday 10am only) led by Dr. Kendall Brown, professor of Asian art history and author of "Quiet Beauty: The Japanese Gardens of North America." In the Camellia Lounge on both days 11am-3pm, Patina will sell distinctive Japanese cuisine, sake and beverages. Taiko drummers from Kishin Daiko perform their feats of percussive magic, both days 11:30am & 1:30pm Under the Oaks Theater

SAN MARINO 91108

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

Saturday, 11/8, 9am-noon. Ecosystem-Based Gardening Series: Propagating California Native and Drought-Tolerant Plants. Learn vegetative propagation skills with Madena Asbell and Tim Becker of the Theodore Payne Foundation. The workshop for advanced gardeners, held in The Huntington's Ranch Garden, focuses on how to start various native and water-wise plants from cuttings. \$45. Register online or call 800-838-3006.

Saturday, 11/8, 9:30am-noon. Autumn Dyeing and Weaving. Kids can make colorful dyes from plants and weave some hand-tinted yarns in an Herb Garden workshop with gardener Kelly Fernandez. Ages 7-12. Fee includes one accompanying adult. Members: \$25. Non-Members: \$35. Register online or call 800-838-3006.

Saturday, 11/8, 10am-12noon. Fall Flowers with Succulents. Combine autumn-hued cymbidiums and other premium flowers with long-lasting succulents, accented with touches of gold, in a floral design workshop presented by Flower Duet. Members: \$85. Non-Members: \$100. Register online or call 800-838-3006.

Saturday, 11/8, 1-2:30pm. Children's Flower Arranging: Simple Succulents. Create a fun tabletop arrangement made with succulent plants and fresh flowers in a workshop with the designing duo from Flower Duet. Ages 7-12. Fee includes one accompanying adult. Members: \$25. Non-Members: \$35. Register online or call 800-838-3006.

Thursday, 11/13, 2:30pm, Ahmanson Room, Brody Botanical Center. Garden Talk & Sale: Algal Dynamics in Garden Ponds. What causes an "algal bloom"? The accumulation of algae that can turn a body of water bright green. Marine biologist Erica Seubert, who studied a bloom in the Chinese Garden lake in 2011, discusses algal dynamics and shares the results of her investigation. A plant sale follows the talk. Free.

Saturday, 11/15, 9am-noon. Ecosystem-Based Gardening Series: Native Seed-Starting Workshop. Advanced gardeners can learn how to propagate native plants from seeds in this hands-on class led by Madena Asbell and Genevieve Arnold of the Theodore Payne Foundation. The session covers basic seed physiology, seed viability, germination cues and pretreatments, sowing, and aftercare. \$45. Register online or call 800-838-3006.

Sunday, 11/23, 1:30-3pm, Rose Hills Foundation Conservatory for Botanical Science. Tropical Nursery Tour. Go behind the scenes with Dylan Hannon, curator of tropical collections, for a botanical nursery tour. Non-members, \$5 besides admission. To order tickets, call 800-838-3006.

CLAREMONT 91711

RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN -
GROW NATIVE NURSERY - CLAREMONT
1500 North College Avenue
Claremont 91711
909-625-8767 rsabg.org

Saturday and Sunday, 11/15&16, 11am-3pm. Acorn Festival. Fall is a time of harvest and festivities for the people of Southern California. Acorns from the live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) were traditionally an important and major food source. Native American dancers, singers, and tribal leaders join us to celebrate our connections with California native plants. There will also be an artisans' marketplace, cultural display booths and family crafts. This event is free with Garden admission. Some activities require a small materials fee.

Los Angeles 90049

RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN -
GROW NATIVE NURSERY - VETERANS'
GARDEN
100 Davis Avenue
Los Angeles 90049
909-625-8767 rsabg.org

Friday, 11/28, Green Friday California Native Plant Sale.

SUN VALLEY 91352

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

2014 GATHERING OF FRIENDS: BREWING UP SUPPORT FOR TPF (Special fundraising event)

Friday, November 7, 7:00-11:00 p.m.

at Golden Road Brewing

Spend an evening with like-minded people supporting a cause you love! Enjoy great food, craft beer, fun, and live music by the Dustbowl Revival, a rockin' Americana Swing Group that L.A. Weekly called the

best live band of 2013.

Admission: \$60 -- includes buffet dinner, two drink tickets, entertainment and a commemorative beer glass. Purchase tickets. Bring your checkbooks and credit cards! All sponsorships and donations help us build our new educational facilities. (Call or go online for details: 818-768-1802 theodorepayne.org)

Saturday, 11/8, 8:30am-12:30pm. 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. \$40 members, \$50 non-members

Saturday, 11/8, 1:30-3:30pm. No Plants! Hardscape Materials & Techniques with Andreas Hessing. How do you build the bones of a garden? This class surveys standard and alternative building techniques and materials for walls, walks, fences and seats -- and shows many innovative examples of hardscape. \$30 members, \$40 non-members

Saturday, 11/15, 1:30-3:30pm. Irrigation Practices for Native Plant Gardens with TPF Nursery Manager Tim Becker. This new class for home gardeners discusses irrigation principles, techniques and equipment best suited for native plant landscapes -- with practical examples and plenty of time for questions. \$30 members, \$40 non-members

Friday, 11/21, 9-11am. Look, Ma, No Lawn! with Lili Singer. Are you ready to lose the lawn? We'll explain how to take it 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, 11/22, 1:30-3:30pm. Perfect Partners: Gardening with Natives and All Sorts of Edibles with Lili Singer. Gardening with natives and growing our own food are two wonderful activities that help us connect with nature and use our land in a positive ways. This class discusses how best to combine ornamental and edible natives with non-native edibles in the home garden, why this partnership is so rewarding for both the gardener/chef and wildlife, and which plants make the best companions. \$25 members, \$35 non-members

Saturday, 11/29, 1:30-3:30pm. Holiday Card Workshop with TPF Nursery Sales Manager Flora Ito. A totally fun class for adults or adult/child (age 6 and up) pairs. Create unique holiday cards featuring native plant shapes and contours using a sustainable technique, while learning how to grow these beautiful plants in the garden! Each student will craft a set of cards in class! No experience necessary; all materials provided. \$25 members, \$35 non-members

San Pedro 90731

WHITE POINT NATURE EDUCATION CENTER
PALOS VERDES PENINSULA LAND
CONSERVANCY
1600 West Paseo del Mar
San Pedro 90731
310-541-7613 pvplc.org

Saturday, November 22, 12-2pm, Native Plant Sale. Purchase drought-resistant native plants grown in the Conservancy's nursery. 4th Saturday of every month.

UPCOMING 2014/2015 SCHS PROGRAMS

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

November 13—Bulb Panel (Sheldon Lisker, Dylan Hannon, Fred M. Roberts, Jr.)

December 11—Members (aka. "Cookie") Night (Program TBD)

January 8— TBA_____

Board of Directors

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

Laura Bauer, *Treasurer & Finance*

Pat Steen, *Secretary, Membership*

Carol Bornstein, *Programs*

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John Schoustra, *Plant Raffle & Plant Sales*

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: Steven Gerischer, Yvonne Savio, Lili Singer, and *Sharing Secrets* contributors.

Next deadline: Friday, November 14 (for December newsletter).

It is the Friday following our monthly membership meeting. Please contribute an article or information of interest.

Southern California
Horticultural Society
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Pasadena CA 91109-4476

NEWSLETTER
November 2014