



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

December 2014 Newsletter

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, December 11 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

Mimi Andersen
Roxanne Correa
Steven Singer

Please welcome our new members and remember, with the holidays approaching, a membership makes a **Great Gift** for friends, family or neighbors

SHARING SECRETS QUESTION

The Sharing Secrets question for December is: *"What is your favorite garden related book? Would it make a great present?"* You can answer on our MemberLodge website or e-mail your response to: sglarkspur@aol.com by Friday, November 12.

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Members Holiday

Party : aka COOKIE NIGHT!

Thursday, December 11, 2014



Its that time of year again! Pull out the favorite family recipes and start baking. Our holiday gathering has a few new twists this year and their success depends on you! We have always gathered in December to socialize and enjoy good company, savory treats and of course cookies. This year we thought we would try something a little bit different: **Remember-this party depends on you!**



FORUM TABLE

For the forum table, make a table arrangement, or wreath or decoration of your choice from your favorite materials from your garden. Each arrangement will be described by whoever brought it (what materials you used-how you put it together), and each will have a sheet for voting. Once the votes are tallied the winning holiday arrangement/wreath will win a special gift--so get creative and have fun!



COOKIE (AND OTHER TREAT) RAFFLE

When you are baking, or making treats (like-Key Lime White Chocolate Truffles?), whip up an extra batch and wrap them up nicely in a box or basket or anything festive. (To help everyone out, write a description of what you wrapped and place it with the package.) We will then raffle off the cookies and other treats. Each displayed, wrapped package will have a container in which you will drop one of your pair of raffle tickets (hold onto the other ticket). When a number is called at each package, the winning number gets the treat.



SHARING TABLE

For the ever popular Sharing Table bring anything garden related that you are no longer using, or have never gotten around to using, or that you would just like to share. Pots, plants, seeds-that antique English watering can! Anything that's been sitting around long enough to make it apparent that someone else might want it or need it more than you do! Make someone's holiday-and get that warm fuzzy feeling by unloading your white elephants!



November Meeting Recap

The November meeting of the Southern California Horticultural Society was a *Geophyte Panel Discussion*—with **Sheldon Lisker, Dylan Hannon** and **Fred M. Roberts, Jr.** Our panel met to share with us their favorite geophytes (literally “earth lovers”) including true bulbs, corms and tubers. Each speaker was given a time limit and asked to briefly cover information on the bulbs they had chosen and how they grew them. The majority of the plants we were shown by our three panelists come from winter wet/summer dry areas—whether our own natives, or exotics from South Africa and Chile. Some of the details of variation in flower form and color (particularly with our native calochortus) were remarkable. One of the chief features of the night was the marked differences between each panelist regarding cultivation. Dylan Hannon has nearly perfected the practice of growing bulbs in containers with a very spare, well drained mix. Fred Roberts showed us many examples of bulbs in the wild and his gardening experience was more broadly based with some bulbs grown in containers and many in the ground. Sheldon Lisker mentioned that he does not grow plants in containers, preferring to construct raised beds (mainly with cinderblock) and work amendments into his soil to aid drainage and encourage growth. While each speaker had strong ideas about cultivation and gardening practices each showed that their results came more from understanding the life cycles of these plants. Thanks to our three speakers.

We had a number of vendors selling merchandise and plants at the back of the hall. Fred Roberts was selling his artwork in the form of cards and printed tee-shirts. Dylan Hannon was selling some of his selected rarities grown from seed and off-sets. We also had Rebecca Tufenkian representing

Dominus Plantarum (Matt-Dell was at the Cactus Succulent meeting. CNPS was represented, selling packets of native wildflower seed. And, Theodore Payne Foundation was selling native bulbs. It was a fun, informative gathering and showed how different approaches can lead to the same end—having amazing and beautiful geophytes in your garden. Thanks to everyone who helped setup and run the meeting. Special thanks to Lili Singer for arranging the event. Thanks to all who stayed after to help clean up. Next time it will be the Holiday Meeting—an event we all make together!

—Steven Gerischer

SHARING SECRETS

In November, we asked you to answer “*What is your favorite geophyte/bulb and why (and where did you get it?)*” and here are some of your responses. Read more on our SCHS MemberLodge website, schs.memberlodge.org.

Eucomis comosa variety unsure but it has some purple in the fresh leaves and rich pink flowers. Purchased at Huntington plant sale. The reason I like it so much is that it reappears with great enthusiasm each year after dormancy. The original bulbs have now filled out the shallow bowls. And I hardly care for them. Easy bulb for SoCal.
—Laura Morton

Drimia (and *Urginia*) *maritima*
Been growing these large bulbs as commercial cut flowers for some years now
I also use them in my xeriscape gardens I design & install
A bulb that erupts in the depth of hot summer months with glorious 4'-5' flower spikes out of hot baked soil
Huge bulbs available from Protea Farms of CaliforniaFallbrook Ca.
They are winter growers and now erupting with an interesting type of blue-green rosette foliage
—Roger Boddaert

Although I love the many crazy bulbs that have evolved in southern Africa (Albuca, Ledebouria, Urginea, Drimia), the bulbs that have delighted me most are the garlic chive bulbs (*Allium tuberosum*) that I received for free at a SCHS meeting. The plant is attractive and doubles as a landscape plant and a food plant. It's low maintenance, and incredibly handy! Unlike onions, I don't need to harvest them and store them or worry that I won't get around to using them quickly enough, and unlike chives, I can't seem to kill them. The flavor is great and they are handy to have when you just need some green flecks for a garnish. Also, they are almost never dormant.

—Sandy Masuo

Scadoxus multiflorus - orange sparklers in summer!
Spiloxene capensis
Sparaxis 'Lady Buttercup'

—Kathy Musial

I love bulbs of all kinds and I grow a large number of them (some better than others). But I must admit to having a sentimental attachment to crinum. These easy to grow lily-like flowers were a huge part of my childhood gardening experience. I joked that every house built before 1970 came with them pre-installed in the garden. I don't know if any were ever sold here in Southern California, as they seem to be what Felder Rushing calls a “passalong plant”. A British garden writer once said of crinum, “when the beautiful flowers appear one can almost forgive them their sleazy foliage”. I'm not sure I would be that harsh—in fact their unfurling leaves (if protected from snails and slugs) are a rather pretty reminder of spring and rebirth in my yard. I am currently trying some of the really dark flowered forms more common in southern gardens.

—Steven Gerischer

ARMSTRONG GARDEN CENTERS

Including: ANAHEIM, CLAREMONT, COSTA MESA, GLENDORA, HUNTINGTON BEACH, IRVINE, LA CANADA-FLINTRIDGE, LA CRESCENTA, LAGUNA NIGUEL, LA HABRA, LONG BEACH, MONROVIA, NEWPORT, PASADENA, SANTA MONICA, SHERMAN OAKS, THOUSAND OAKS, TORRANCE, TUSTIN, WESTCHESTER.

www.armstronggarden.com/

Sunday, December 7, 9am; also Wednesday, December 10, 3pm. Poinsettia Planters. Nothing says Christmas like the rich, velvety red of poinsettias combined with complementary plants for beautiful, long-lasting planters for porches, patios and courtyards. Contact your local store for more information.

Saturday, December 27, 9am. Rose Pruning Demystified. Learn how pruning keeps plants healthy and promotes lots of gorgeous blooms. Contact your local store for more information.

Sunday, December 28, 10am. Fruit Tree Pruning. Simple principles of dormant season pruning will be discussed and demonstrated. Contact your local store for more information.

ARCADIA 91007

L.A. COUNTY ARBORETUM & BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Tuesday, December 9, 10am-12noon. Make an Old-Fashioned Wreath. Instructors Marla Carter and Mary Hampton will use unusual natural "ornaments" from the Arboretum grounds and greens from the Los Angeles Flower District to guide you in creating your own unique wreath for the holidays. Please bring your own gardening gloves, clippers, and any decorations you wish to add to your creation. \$35 members, \$45 non-members. Register at 626-821-4623.

Saturday, December 13, 12 noon-4pm. Organic Fruit & Vegetable Gardening. Instructor Jill Morganelli will help you learn how to grow fruits and vegetables organically in your home garden, including discussion of winter planting and composting. \$25 members, \$30 non-members.

LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE 91011

DESCANSO GARDENS

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

Tuesday, December 16, 2:00pm. Designing the Oak Woodland. Executive Director David Brown shares insights on the design of the newly opened Oak Woodland space, and the trend toward native-plant collections and displays in botanic gardens. Part of "Get Dirty: A Garden Series by Descanso" on Third Tuesdays. Meets in Van de Kamp. 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

Thursday, December 11, 2:30pm, Ahmanson Room, Brody Botanical Center. Infrared Photography - A New Realm in Seeing. Photographer Keith Skelton discusses the technique and shares some of his own photographs taken in the gardens. Infrared light is invisible to the eye, but when revealed through the use of a specially equipped camera, the resulting images can be spectacular. A plant sale follows the program.

Saturday, December 13, 10am-noon. Evergreen Wreaths with Fresh Flowers. Learn two ways to create distinctive holiday wreaths -- by creating one from scratch and by deconstructing a ready-made wreath and embellishing it with ornaments, fresh flowers, berries, and branches. \$85 members, \$100 non-members. Register online or call 800-838-3006.

LOS ANGELES 90049

RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN - GROW NATIVE NURSERY - VETERANS' GARDEN

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

Saturday, December 13, 10-11am. Winter Prep for a Spring Meadow. Many people ask us in the spring about planting wildflower seeds, but meadows are more successful when planted in time for the winter rainy season. Join us for this workshop as Antonio Sanchez presents what to do now, in the autumn & winter, for a beautiful wildflower display in your garden come springtime. Free, but please RSVP. <https://11213.blackbaudhosting.com/11213/Winter-Prep-for-a-Spring-Wildflower-Meadow>

SUN VALLEY 91352

THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION

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

Friday, December 5, 1:30-3:30pm. Four Seasons of Color with California Natives with Lili Singer. Your native plant garden can be a seasonal showcase of flowers, seed, fruit and foliage. This program showcases trees, shrubs, vines, perennials and grasses that will ensure year-round color and includes a short walk on TPF grounds. \$25 members, \$35 non-members.

Saturday, December 13, 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, December 13, 1:30-3pm. When the Lawn is Gone: Design Ideas for the New California Landscape with Joshua Link. A recent groundswell of awareness has prompted home gardeners to set aside the lawn mower and seek out vibrant, previously marginalized places for inspiration. With a rich, compelling natural heritage at hand, Southern California is ripe for such a movement, a thoughtful celebration of the true California landscape. Learn more at this inspiring illustrated talk. \$30 members, \$40 non-members.

Saturday, December 20, 1:30-3:30pm. 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.

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, December 27, 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.

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

January 8—Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (Speaker TBD)

February 12—Bart O'Brien, Manzanitas

March 12—Daffodils and other Narcissus for Southern California Gardens (TBD)



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

NEWSLETTER
December 2014

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John Schoustra, *Plant Raffle & Plant Sales*

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Jill Vig, *Pacific Horticulture Board*

Rachel Young, *Finance*

Sabine Steinmetz

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Newsletter Editor: Steven Gerischer

Contributors to this issue: Steven Gerischer, Yvonne Savio, and *Sharing Secrets* contributors.

Next deadline: Friday, December 12 (for January newsletter).

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