

January Meeting Recap

The speaker for the January meeting of the Southern California Horticulture Society was Steven Gerischer, presenting: *Discover Cuba, the December 2014 Pacific Horticulture Tour*. The Pacific Horticulture tour to Cuba was the third trip the Society has taken to this fascinating Caribbean island nation (a fourth tour leaves February 5 with a final tour planned for November of this year). Cuba has been front page news lately as the push to normalize relations with the United States was recently announced (in fact, the day after the Pacific Horticulture tour returned). There will be immediate changes for U.S. tourists going to Cuba, but there are also many thorny issues that will take years to resolve, if indeed they can be resolved.

The current state of travel from the U.S. to Cuba involves the issuing of "People to People" licenses with a carefully choreographed tour focusing on meeting and speaking with experts and educators in the field of interest cited in the license. The Pacific Horticulture tour was focused on horticulture, botany and botanical studies as well as farming and agriculture.

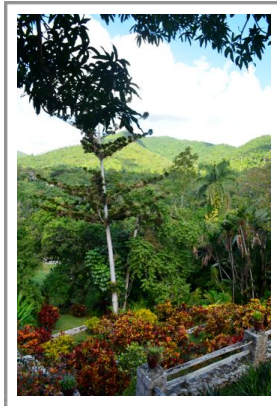
Some of the highlights covered were;

the **National Botanic Garden** outside of Havana.



(The Pavilion Gardens at the National Botanic Garden with our guide, Dr. Carlos Sanchez.)

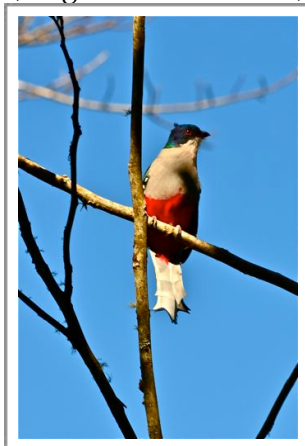
La Terrazas (a reforestation project) and the **Sierra del Rosario Biosphere Reserve**.



The **Alamar Organoponico**, a community run organic urban farm.



Topes de Collantes/Codina.
(Trogon-National Bird)



And the **Zapata National Park.**
(The Bee Hummingbird)



SHARING SECRETS

In January, we asked you to answer "Do you have any 'New Year's Garden Resolutions' or plans for changing your garden this season?" and here are some of your responses. Read more on our SCHS MemberLodge website, schs.memberlodge.org.

My top 3 garden resolutions- Over the years- we have grown "shade"- there are plants which deserve more sun. When I do this- I'll have more room to plant shade-lovers.

There is a garden project which is 75% done- that last 25% - its time has come.

I need to pay more attention to the calendar- remember not to schedule meets for South Orange County on the same date as So Cal Hort- Diamond Bar is crazy enough - but at least that is sane.

Thank you for making me put those in writing)

-Lydia E Plunk

RESOLUTION FOR 2015

" I WILL BUILD MYSELF A GREENHOUSE TO GROW SHOW WORTHY BROMELIADS AND ORCHIDS."

-Jim Jaeger

Find a way to grow snap peas that the White-Crowned Sparrows cannot figure out how to foil and eat the seedlings (they opened the netting like curtains this year!) Start all of the various seeds I bought last year! And grow more native milkweed.

-Steven Gerischer

