



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

January 2015 Newsletter

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, January 8 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

Arleen Ferrara

Jain Fletcher

Karl Vandervoort

Linda World

Please welcome our new members when you see them at a meeting.

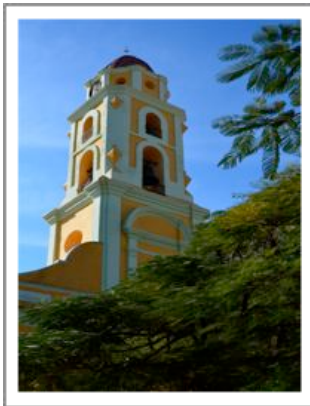
SHARING SECRETS QUESTION

The Sharing Secrets question for January is: *"Do you have any 'New Year's Garden Resolutions' or plans for changing your garden this season?"* You can answer on our MemberLodge website or e-mail your response to: sglarkspur@aol.com by Friday, January 9.

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Steven Gerischer: DISCOVER CUBA-the Pacific Horticulture Tour (December, 2014)



The Pacific Horticulture Tour of Cuba ended just days before the announcement of the landmark decision by the Obama administration to normalize relations with this remarkable country. The license for the Pacific Horticulture tour to visit Cuba was issued on a 'people to people' basis to establish educational exchange between professionals in the areas of horticulture and botanical interest. Our group toured botanic gardens, an organic urban farming cooperative, a reforestation project as well as coffee plantations and various ecologically sensitive reserves. The recent isolation of this Caribbean island nation has contributed to some interesting farming practices as well as preservation of everything from World Heritage historical sites to 50's era American automobiles. This talk will offer an overview of some of the fascinating places we visited,

people we met and natural wonders we were able to experience.

Steven Gerischer is the current president of both the Pacific Horticulture Society and Southern California Horticulture Society.



Join us for an evening learning a few things about this delightful Caribbean island nation. (Rum will not be served.)

SPECIAL NOTE

Our announced program for January was a talk concerning the serious threat posed to Southern California agriculture, horticulture and even wild lands by the **Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer**. Unfortunately that talk could not go forward as scheduled. We will have a program on this important subject in the near future (probably April or May). SCHS Board Member, John Schoustra is also writing a shot article which will appear soon.



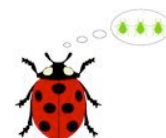
IF YOU WORK WITH PLANTS

If you work with plants and are feeling that your creative skills and knowledge are not appreciated in an increasingly busy and tech-heavy world you may want to link to this article from the *Washington Post*, titled: *"Why We Need Horticulturists"* at: <http://wapo.st/1D4LVaF>

It was forwarded to me by both Carol Bornstein and the editor of Pacific Horticulture, Lorene Edwards Forkner.

CNPS MEETING (Page 3 Overflow)

Tuesday, January 13, 7:30-9pm. Insects and Native Plant Gardens. Presenter Jim Hogue discusses how to recognize and encourage beneficial and other multi-legged creatures (spiders, centipedes) into your gardens. Many of these visitors will prey on "problem" pests and enable you to have a pesticide free and healthier ecology in your yard. Jim is particularly interested in the systematics and the natural history of flies (especially crane flies and flower flies), beetles, the roles of insects in human culture, photography of arthropods, and the ecology of running water ecosystems. Jim recently co-authored two books on the beetles of California that were published by the University of California Press, a booklet on the flower flies of Los Angeles County, and he is working on a new edition of his book, *"The Insects of the Los Angeles Basin."*



December Meeting Recap

The December meeting of the Southern California Horticultural Society was our annual Members Holiday Party: aka "Cookie Night". And our membership did not let us down! There was a plethora of savory and sweet treats for everyone. We also had a good representation for our first try at a Cookie Raffle. Several of our members got to take home wrapped collections of deliciousness for later. Many thanks to everyone who brought treats to share or raffle!

We also had a few people bring in decorations for the forum table. Our "Vote for your favorite decoration" contest ended in a tie - a possibility we did not anticipate! Happily, our winners Lora Hall and Aprille Curtis agreed to divide up the goodies in the prize basket. Special thanks to President Steve for putting together the fabulous prize basket!

The sharing table this year was overflowing with "gently-used" items. (Seriously - we had to add another table to the sharing area.) I hope everyone got what they had their eyes on.

Holiday music and a garden slideshow were provided by our A/V guru, Al Steen. Thanks, Al, for adding to the festivities!

The California Native Plant Society was on hand to sell California wildflower seeds. They may be back one more time at the January meeting, since there's still time to get your seeds sown before the rainy season ends. And Matt-Dell

Tufenkian, of *Dominus Plantarum* of course, had an assortment of interesting succulents and other plants for sale. A gorgeous variegated clivia was my Christmas present to myself!

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and best wishes for bountiful gardens in 2015!

- Laura Bauer

SHARING SECRETS

In December, we asked you to answer "What is your favorite garden related book? Would it make a great present?" and here are some of your responses. Read more on our SCHS MemberLodge website, schs.memberlodge.org.

OK, it's not really a gardening book, but Michael Pollan's *Botany of Desire: A Plant's-Eye View of the World* really fulfilled the promise of its title and made me appreciate the world from a plant perspective. I am a very concept-driven person, and the way he presents the natural history and behavior of plants gave me a new way of relating to the plants in my life—not just the ones I obsessively collect and grow, but the ones I eat, wear, and use as furnishings. So it really is a gardening book in a macro sense.

-Sandy Masuo

Sad to say, it's not the "opus." (*SCHS Selected Plants for Southern California Gardens*) That's number 2. The first in line has much less cultural information, but covers a much larger world. It's the *RHS Index of Garden Plants* edited by

Mark Griffiths. It's the 4 volume RHS encyclopedia stripped of all articles and discussions, but still a hefty 1234 pages.

-Joan Citron

It's not really a book - but a little garden story publication - *Greenprints - Weeder's Digest* - it is published quarterly and has just wonderful stories - all garden related - an easy read - an easy gift! <http://www.greenprints.com/>

-Cindy Werner

My favorite garden book that would make a great gift for any southern California gardener is a blast from the past!

"52 Weeks in the California Garden" by Robert Smaus lays out seasonal timetables of when to plant and prune various cultivars. These timetables prevent (and hopefully eliminate) the disasters of procrastination. Smaus also helps novice green thumbs understand the importance of regional gardening which includes selecting appropriate garden literature. The results are well worth the price of this classic work first published in 1996 by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

-Gloria Leinbach



ARCADIA 91007

L.A. COUNTY ARBORETUM & BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Sunday, January 11, 11am-12noon. Historic Tree Walk. Meet at Queen Anne Cottage Steps. Arboretum Curator of Historical Collections Mitchell Hearn Bishop will lead walk through trees planted more than a 100 years ago during the Baldwin era and discuss the history, land and life on the Baldwin Ranch.

Saturday, January 24, 11am-12noon. Fruit Tree Walking Tour. Meet at the Gift Shop patio. Arboretum Botanical Information Consultant Frank McDonough will lead exploration of fruit trees and their culture from the first Californians to the present.

LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE 91011

DESCANSO GARDENS

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

Saturday and Sunday, January 17&18, 9am-5pm. Pacific Camellia Society Show.

Saturdays, January 17, 24, and 31, 11am-12:30pm. Horticulturist Mike Brown will teach how to get the best results from your home garden the natural way in this three-week workshop. Members \$15 per class/\$40 for series; nonmembers \$20 per class/\$55 for series. Advance registration recommended. Register for programs at www.brownpapertickets.com, by phoning (818) 949-7980, or at the Visitor Center.

Saturday and Sunday, January 24&25, 9am-5pm. Southern California Camellia Society Show.

SAN MARINO 91108

HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

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

Thursday, January 15, 10-11:30am. Rose Pruning Techniques. E.L. and Ruth B. Shannon Curator of the Rose Collections Tom Carruth leads a workshop that takes the mystery out of rose pruning. Participants are encouraged to bring gloves and pruning shears for hands-on practice in the Rose Garden. Members: \$30. Non-Members: \$40. Register online or call 800-838-3006.

Thursday, January 15, 2:30pm. Second Thursday Garden Talk & Sale: Healthy Roses in a Water-Wise Garden. Ahmanson Room, Brody Botanical Center. E.L. and Ruth B. Shannon Curator of the Rose Collections Tom Carruth shares important tips for getting your roses through the drought. A plant sale follows the talk.

Thursday, January 29, 11:30am. Curator Tour: Desert Garden. Curator of the Desert Collections John Trager leads a walk through the seasonal beauty of the Desert Garden, discussing some of the rarest plants in this 10-acre landscape.

Members: \$15. Non-Members: \$20. Register online or 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

Sunday, January 18, 10am-1pm. Medicinal Plants of California Herb Walk. Join experienced herbalist William Broen for an exciting Garden walk and presentation featuring medicinal and edible plants native to California. Participants will learn both traditional and modern plant uses of approximately 30 species, as well as relevant folklore associated. Program is limited to 20 participants. Please bring a sack lunch or snack and a water bottle. RSABG members \$20, public \$25.

PALOS VERDES PENINSULA 90274

South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd
Palos Verdes Peninsula 90274
310-544-1948

southcoastbotanicgarden.org

Sunday, January 4, 12noon-3pm. Rose Pruning Demonstration. Frances Young Hall. South Coast Rose Society features pruning demonstrations of hybrid tea, floribundas, climbing, miniature and old garden roses.

Saturdays, January 17 & 24, 1:30-3:30pm. Organic Vegetable Gardening for Winter. Classroom A. Certified UC Master Gardener and Torrance Memorial Program Coordinator Judith Gerber teaches gardening for winter harvest.

Sunday, January 18, 1-4pm. Fuchsia Propagation and Pruning Demonstration and Lecture. Classroom B and garden grounds. Instructors Jackie Coppin, Marsha Hopwood and David Morse will discuss how to grow fuchsias. South Coast Fuchsia Society members will be available to answer questions.

Sunday, January 25, 1-4pm. Fruit Tree Pruning Demonstration. Frances Young Hall and orchard. Certified Arborist and owner of Island Mountain Tree & Plant Services Rick Wheeler will walk you through the basics of the correct method of pruning fruit trees.

SUN VALLEY 91352

THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION

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

Saturday, January 10, 8:30am – 12:30pm. California Native Plant Horticulture with Lili Singer. Recommended for beginners; prerequisite to our Three-Part California Native Garden Design course. Long class; bring a snack. \$45 members, \$55 members

Saturday, January 10, 1:30-3:30pm. Botanical Discoveries and Insights in Urban Los Angeles

with Dan Cooper. Explore overlooked and surprising habitat relicts on the floor of the L.A. Basin from the Valley to the coast, based on recent research and survey work. \$25 members, \$35 non-members.

Saturday, January 17, 1:30-3:30pm. The Small Native Garden: Creating Cozy Outdoor Spaces with Steven Gerischer. Learn how to create a pocket-sized personal oasis with attractive hardscape, comfortable seating, a fire pit or bird bath or water feature, and, of course, California plants to add color, fragrance, texture and wildlife habitat. \$25 members, \$35 non-members.

Saturday, January 24, 8:30am-12:30pm. Basic Botany with Lorrae Fuentes. This introductory course in botany for the non-scientist and specifically for amateur plant enthusiasts includes an overview of general botany topics and focuses on members of the Asteraceae, Lamiaceae, Fabaceae and “Scroph-like” families. Students will begin to master the terminology associated with botany and plant identification. Instruction is informal and hands-on, with dissection and examination of fresh and dried plant material, and a walk on TPF grounds. If possible, bring The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California to class; hand lenses will be provided. Limit: 12. \$45 members, \$55 non-members

Saturday, January 24, 1:30-3:30pm. Look, Ma, No Lawn! with Lili Singer. We’ll explain how to remove the lawn 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.

Thursday, January 29, 9am-1pm. Native Plant Garden Maintenance with Antonio Sanchez. Subjects covered include watering, fertilizing (or not), pruning, grooming, mulching and other aspects of garden maintenance. You’ll also discover how native plants respond to pruning cuts (good and bad), what we trigger with our gardening activities, and how to develop good maintenance goals. \$45 members, \$55 non-members.

Saturday, January 31, 9am-12noon. Propagating California Native Plants with Tim Becker. TPF’s Nursery Manager discusses the basic skills of vegetative propagation, including the various species of native plants. In this hands-on session, you’ll leave with a flat of cuttings for your own garden! Limit: 8. \$50 members, \$60 non-members.

Saturday, January 31, 1:30-3:30pm. Irrigation Practices for Native Plant Gardens with Tim Becker. This 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.

UPCOMING 2015 SCHS PROGRAMS

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

January 8—Steven Gerischer: Discover Cuba (Pacific Horticulture Tour Dec. 2014)

February 12—Bart O'Brien, Manzanitas

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Thanks to all who contributed to SCHS in response to our year end appeal, and throughout the 2014 year. We look forward to making 2015 a great year for SCHS.

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

NEWSLETTER
January 2015

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Yoav Paskowitz, *Finance*

Yvonne Savio, *Field Trips & Horticultural Happenings*

John Schoustra, *Plant Raffle & Plant Sales*

Lili Singer, *Selected Book Sales & Programs*

Jill Vig, *Pacific Horticulture Board*

Rachel Young, *Finance*

Sabine Steinmetz

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Newsletter Editor: Steven Gerischer

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

Next deadline: Friday, January 9 (for February newsletter).

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