



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

February 2015 Newsletter

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, February 12 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

Ron Baalke

Jane Coogan Beer

Larry and Julie Brown

Kelly Comras

Ronald Levitt Lanyi

SHARING SECRETS QUESTION

The Sharing Secrets question for January is: *"Do you grow Manzanitas (Arctostaphylos) and which are your favorites, and why?"* You can answer on our MemberLodge website or e-mail your response to: sglarkspur@aol.com by Friday, February 13.

IN THIS ISSUE

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

Bart O'Brien:

Manzanitas for Every Garden



Manzanitas are incredibly diverse – there are over 100 taxa worldwide, and nearly all are found within the California Floristic Province. Plants range in size from the lowest most prostrate groundcovers to small trees up to 20 feet tall. Their clean evergreen foliage, spectacular smooth reddish bark, and profuse winter-early spring bloom make them especially desirable for our gardens and landscapes. As with most diverse plant groups, the key to success is matching plant selection with your garden conditions. Bart has been growing and working with manzanitas since the 1980s and has many insights to share.

Bart O'Brien is Manager/Director of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden (RPBG) in Tilden Regional Park in the Berkeley Hills, since late 2013. This outstanding and beautiful garden is dedicated to horticulture, conservation and research of California native plants. An authority on the California flora and of northwestern Baja California, Mexico, he is also an accomplished collector,

grower, photographer, lecturer, and author. He is co-author of three recent books: the award winning California Native Plants for the Garden (2005), Re-imagining the California Lawn – Water-Conserving Plants, Practices, and Designs (2011) and the bilingual Care & Maintenance of Southern California Native Plant Gardens – Cuidado y mantenimiento de jardines de plantas nativas del sur de California (2006). His most recent major publication (2012) is a 514 page edit of a Percy Everett manuscript which was completed and published online and is titled: A Second Summary of the Horticulture and Propagation of California Native Plants at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden 1950-1970. He was co-curator and co-instigator of the When They Were Wild exhibit on California Wildflowers at The Huntington in 2013. He is lead author of two major contributions on the flora of northwestern Baja California, Mexico that have been submitted for publication in 2015: The Rare, Endangered, and Endemic Plants of the California Floristic Province Portion of Baja California, Mexico and A Checklist of the Flora of the California Floristic Province Portion of Baja California, Mexico.

Bart is also a past President, and was a long time Board Member of the Southern California Horticulture Society.



Bart O'Brien

Is Horticulture Becoming Hip?

I listen to a lot of Podcasts, and I recently heard not one, but TWO recent podcasts that referenced a love of gardening by real Hollywood people! The interviewers are NOT gardeners, so I found it really fun to hear their questions and reactions.

On OBSESSED: with Joseph Scrimshaw, actor Kaj-Erik Eriksen (The Commish, Boston Public, See No Evil 2) discussed his obsession with vegetable gardening. You can hear about his war against grubs, mega-pumpkins, and the tenacious nature of jalapeno plants. Episode #66, December 8, 2014.

On NERDIST, film director Sam Raimi (The Evil Dead, Spider-Man 1, 2 & 3) talks about fruit trees (Host: "Are those perennial plants?") and gardening as a break from Hollywood. Episode #618, December 29, 2014.

Both of these podcasts are available for free on iTunes, or you can stream them from the podcast websites. So put on your skinny jeans, grab your favorite microbrew and enjoy some garden humor. WARNING: both of these Podcasts contain strong language.

- Laura Bauer (not a hipster, but enjoys podcasts)



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.

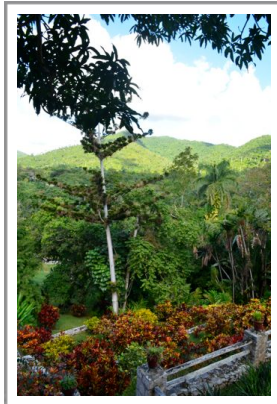
Some of the highlights covered were;

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



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

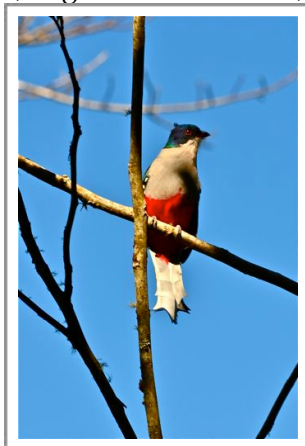
La Terrazas (a reforestation project) and the **Sierra del Rosario Biosphere Reserve**.



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



ARCADIA 91007

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

Thursdays, (Thursdays with Lili Singer series)

February 5 Field Trip: Sustainability Tour of Santa Monica (10am-1:00pm)

A private tour of varied sustainable sites.

February 12 Cooking from the Garden with Rosalind Creasy. Not to be missed: a brand-new talk on growing, harvesting and preparing your own food.

February 19 Following Nature's Lead: Color thru the Year with Native Plants with Ron Vanderhoff A beautifully illustrated talk showcasing the natural cycles of wild California.

February 26 Two Mediterranean-Climate Floras of the Southern Hemisphere with Kathy Musial An armchair tour of SW Australia and South Africa, presented by the Huntington's Curator of Living Collections.

Saturday, February 28, 10:00am-12:00pm
Raised Bed Gardening with Farmscape.

Join us for a workshop that will cover picking the right soil for your raised bed, manual and automatic irrigation techniques, garden planning, and seasonal growing tips to help you achieve abundant harvests in your vegetable garden!
Instructor: Matthew Geldin/Farmscape \$25 members; \$30 non-members
Call 626.821.4623 to register or pay at the class

LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE 91011

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

Saturday and Sunday, February 28 and March 1, 1-4:30pm. Southern California Camellia Council Show.

SAN MARINO 91108

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

Thursday, February 12, 2:30pm, Ahmanson Room, Brody Botanical Center. An Australian View of Native Plant Design. Acclaimed landscape designer Andrew Pfeiffer is a firm believer that gardens should be based on the natural surroundings and local indigenous flora. Pfeiffer discusses his garden projects around the world and the work of others who have influenced him, including California designer Thomas Church. A plant sale follows the talk.

Saturday, February 14, 9am-noon. Wild Food Foraging with Nance Klehm, Ranch Garden. Garden designer and food forager Nance Klehm explores the role of edible wild plants in sustainable urban agriculture. Participants will learn how "spontaneous" vegetation builds healthy soil, creates habitat, and provides new tastes to experience. \$35. Register online or call 800-838-3006.

Saturday & Sunday, February 14 & 15. Saturday 1-4:30pm; Sunday 10:30am-4:30pm, Brody Botanical Center. 43rd Annual Camellia Show & Sale. Hundreds of winter blooms will compete for top honors. Also explore the acres of blooming camellias in the gardens

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. 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

Saturdays, February 21 & 28, 1:30-3:30pm, Room A. Organic Seeds: Selecting, Starting and Sowing for Spring. This two-part class will provide all the information you need to get a head-start on your spring vegetable garden, including seed basics, the use of different types of organic seeds, the difference between heirloom and hybrid seeds, seed collection and storage, germination, light requirements, hardening off, transplanting, planting seasons and seed resources. \$50 members; \$65 non-members; additional \$10 materials fee payable to instructor Judith Gerber, certified UC Master Gardener, Torrance Memorial Garden Program Coordinator.

SUN VALLEY 91352

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

Saturday, February 7, 1:30-3:30pm. Grass, Not Lawn: California Native Grasses in the Garden with Barbara Eisenstein. Some native grasses live to be hundreds of years old, provide critical habitat for birds and other animals, are important for erosion control, and are found in the some of the most endangered ecosystems in the world. This class focuses on garden use of this fascinating but under-utilized group of plants, with images of grassy landscapes for ideas and inspiration. \$25 members, \$35 non-members

Saturday, February 14, 8:30am. 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. \$45 members, \$55

non-members.

Saturday, February 14, 1:30-3:30pm. Wild Flora and Fauna of Griffith Park with Jorge Ochoa. An armchair tour of Griffith Park, our nation's largest urban park, located at the western end of the Santa Monica Mountains, and site of a major fire in 2007. The fire provided the opportunity to survey native flora long-hidden by invasive non-native vegetation and led to the rediscovery of native species not seen for many years, as well as discovery of previously unrecorded plants. \$25 members, \$35 non-members.

Saturday, February 21, 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.

Saturday, February 28, 8:30am-12:30pm. 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, February 28, 1-3:30pm. Native Groundcovers, Hedges and Screens with Orchid Black. A designer's palette of native plants that serve specific purposes: groundcovers for small or large spaces on flat land or slopes, and tall plants that provide privacy, define property lines or block an unsightly view. \$30 members, \$40 non-members.

SANTA MONICA 90403

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
First United Methodist Church
1008 Eleventh Street
Santa Monica 90403
www.lacnps.org

Tuesday, February 10, 7:30-9:30pm. Restoring Los Angeles Coastal Dunes Habitat. The Los Angeles International Airport Dunes are well known for its endangered inhabitant, the El Segundo Blue Butterfly, but it is also home for over 900 other species, 151 of them arthropod species, and at least 10 species which appear restricted to the El Segundo sand dunes and an additional 25 found only on southern California coastal dunes systems. Preserve Manager for the Coastal Dunes and El Segundo Blue Butterfly Preserve on the westernmost 307 acres of Los Angeles International Airport, Peggy Nguyen will share the successes of past restoration efforts, and discuss current restoration methods, and the important role of community and active environmental citizenship in the long-term sustainability of those efforts.

UPCOMING 2015 SCHS PROGRAMS

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

February 12—Bart O'Brien, Manzanitas

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

A Big THANK YOU to our Donors!

Thank you to all the people who made donations to SCHS for our end of the year fundraising drive. We raised \$945 for use on bringing you great speakers, this newsletter and Raffle plants.

—*Laura Bauer, Treasurer*

Board of Directors

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

Laura Bauer, *Treasurer & Finance*

Pat Steen, *Secretary, Membership*

Carol Bornstein, *Programs*

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

Steven Ormenyi

Marilee Kuhlman

818-567-1496 / socalhort.org / [Join us on Facebook](#)

Newsletter Editor: Steven Gerischer

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

Next deadline: Friday, February 13 (for March 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
February 2015