



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socialhort.org

March 2015 Newsletter

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, March 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

Caroline Brenner

Patricia Brown

Janet Kim

Please welcome new members at
our meeting.

SHARING SECRETS QUESTION

The Sharing Secrets question for March is: "What is the most unusual herb you grow, and how is it used?" You can answer on our MemberLodge website or e-mail your response to: sglarkspur@aol.com by Friday, February 13.

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Dr. John Kabashima: The Latest on Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer aka PSHB



An important and timely topic for gardeners! Bring your friends!

The March program focuses on a serious new insect pest threatening and affecting many species of landscape and forest trees in Southern California.

The Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB) is killing trees in Los Angeles, Orange, and parts of San Bernardino, Riverside, and San Diego counties. Though very tiny (< 1/10 inch), this wood-boring beetle is the vector for a fungus that causes Fusarium dieback, a disease that kills susceptible hosts. The beetle is known to feed on hundreds of different species, more than 110 of which are known to be susceptible to the disease.

Our speaker, Dr. John Kabashima, will talk about biology, signs and symptoms, and current research being conducted on PSHB.

Scientists realized only two or three years ago that PSHB was a new exotic species and still don't know as much about the insect's biology and control as they'd like. Recent observations, for example, show that the San Diego County infestation is a slightly different PSHB and is attacking commercial avocado, in addition to landscape trees.

As gardeners, we can help scientists monitor this pest and help prevent its spread. Don't miss this important presentation!

Dr. Kabashima is Environmental Horticulture Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension, Orange County, working also at South Coast Research & Extension Center and in Los Angeles County. His impressive education includes: a PhD in Entomology, UC Riverside, 2005; an MBA, Pepperdine University, Irvine, 1986; an MS in Pest Management, UC Riverside, 1980; and a BS in Agricultural Biology, Cal Poly Pomona, 1979.

His specialties include ornamental horticulture, nursery crops, pest management, exotic and invasive pests, water runoff and water quality. Among other responsibilities, he manages the UCCE Master Gardeners of Orange County. He is also an engaging speaker, inspiring teacher and wonderful photographer.



Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer

'BABY SHOWER' AND RAFFLE

Watch the Plant Table for several new plant cultivars being introduced for the first time to the world, including California native Salvia 'Love Child' and Pelargonium 'Painted Dunes'. Greenwood Daylily Gardens will provide the raffle plants, which will all be 2014 or 2015 introductions.

-John Schoustra

COFFEE IN THE GARDEN IS BACK!

March, 29, 2015

The first Coffee in the Garden of 2015 will be in the Haynes family garden in Pasadena on March, 29. See details in the flyer in this newsletter-and sign up early!

February Meeting Recap

The speaker for the February meeting of the Southern California Horticulture Society was Bart O'Brien speaking about *Manzanitas for Every Garden*. Bart move north from the Southern California area late in 2013 to become the Manager/Director of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden (RPBG) in Tilden Regional Park in the Berkeley Hills. Bart had long been a fixture in the horticultural community in our area, from his many publications to his work at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and elsewhere and his many years on the Board of SCHS. It was wonderful to have Bart back, speaking on a subject near and dear to him. Bart has been growing and working with Manzanitas since the 1980s and had many things to tell us about using them in our gardens. The most important factor in keeping them alive and healthy is knowing when to cease watering them. As gardeners our inclination to 'help' a plant through a dry spell may be the very thing that kills it if that plant is adapted for long periods of drought. Bart was adamant that overwatering is the single worst thing for Manzanitas. His recommendations on how to choose the right *Arctostaphylos* for your area, and garden will be helpful to anyone considering adding one of these beautiful shrubs to their seasonally-dry garden (or in a container if you have no other choice).

Thank you, Bart for an illuminating talk about one of the treasures among California native plants. Thank you to all the SCHS members who help arrange the speakers and subjects; those who help set up the logistics and mechanics of the meeting; and everyone who stays to help clean up. Thank you.

—Steven Gerischer



Manzanita barrens, Santa Cruz Island.

SHARING SECRETS

In February, we asked you to answer "Do you grow Manzanitas (*Arctostaphylos*) and which are your favorites, and why?" and here are some of your responses. Read more on our SCHS MemberLodge website, schs.memberlodge.org.

My favorite Manzanita is *Arctostaphylos densiflora* 'Howard McMinn'. It is the first Manzanita I learned about at the Mildred Mathias garden at UCLA where they had a beautiful example.

Manzanitas planted in our sandy soil often struggle but Howard McMinn is a survivor and thrives here as well as in heavier soils. I often plant Howard McMinn in gardens with *Ceanothus* 'Ray Hartman' (Calif Lilac) and refer to them as Howard and Ray.

—Mimi Andersen in Manhattten Beach CA.

I like *Arctostaphylos* 'Howard McMinn'.

—Jim Jaeger

Yes we grow a number of them. Until recently they were beautiful. However this past year we lost two mature specimens of Refugio Manzanita to what I felt was fireblight but others insisted wasn't but they could offer nothing more than that. The symptoms were exactly what I was trained to identify as fireblight. They were crushing losses and not our only ones. Four smaller specimens of equal age and maturity but differing variety were lost, too, and our last large specimen is showing the same problems. Those we replanted with died almost immediately. We are facing the reality that we may never be able to grow them again. Because we have fast draining soil that is not water retentive, we have been hard hit by the drought. However it appears we are ground zero these days for a resurgence of armillaria, water mold fungi and two newly introduced species of tree killing borer beetle larvae. The other day we came home from being gone a week and found a twenty year old *Schefflera arboricola*, that had only recently reached majestic maturity, had just upped and died. About the Manzanitas, the way we did or did not water could have exacerbated the situation but there was absolutely no knowledgeable guidance available. We have found no consulting arborist who can offer any degree of certainty regarding what pathogens killed our *Arctostaphylos* but we found pruning out dead branches/limbs was not a solution. It has been a frustrating experience.

—Catherine Pannell and Robert Waters, Downey, California

3 H O R T I C U L T U R A L H A P P E N I N G S

ARCADIA 91007

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

Fridays, 3/6, 13, 20, 27, 1:30-4pm. Arboretum Botanical Information Consultant Frank McDonough will instruct this class that looks at more than a dozen major plant families represented by specimens here at the Arboretum. You will learn about plant classification, how to identify plants by genus, using both printed and digital plant keys. Each student is required to have: a 10X or 20X jewelers loop (preferably with light), and a copy of "How to Identify Plants" by H.D. Harrington. \$60 members; \$65 per non-member (includes Arboretum admission).

Saturday, 3/7, 10am-12noon. Does growing food have to be such hard work? Can we grow gardens without breaking our backs? Yes! Learn how to use methods developed by urban growers and supported by nature to grow nutrient-dense organic fruits, vegetables, herbs, and livestock without all the hustle and muscle. Instructor: Rishi Kumar. \$25 members, \$30 non-members (includes Arboretum admission).

Saturday, 3/14, 12-4pm. Organic Fruit and Vegetable Gardening. Horticultural Supervisor Jill Morganelli will discuss spring crops and companion planting, weeds and insects, disease identification and treatment and prevention, planting bare root fruit trees and grape vines, wild potatoes, soil fertility and cover crops, organic labeling, and sustainability in the kitchen. \$25 members, \$30 non-members (includes Arboretum admission).

Saturday, 3/28, 10am-12noon. Rosalind Creasy: Heirloom Vegetables. Garden writer and landscape designer Rosalind Creasy will give an illustrated lecture on how to select, grow and cook with heirloom vegetables; and how to find heirloom varieties of flowers. \$25 members: \$30 non-members (includes Arboretum admission).

LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE 91011

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

Saturday & Sunday, 3/14&15, 9am-5pm. Pacific Camelia Society Show.

Saturday & Sunday, 3/21&22, 9am-5pm. Cherry Blossom Festival. Welcome springtime with this annual celebration of Japanese culture and the beautiful flowering trees in the landscape. Enjoy music, origami, food and guided garden walks. Activities free with admission except where noted. Cherry Tree Sale, both days, 10am-4pm, gift shop, beautiful flowering cherry trees will be available for purchase. Cherry Blossom Walk & Talk, both days, 10am, 12noon, and 2pm, Center Circle.

SAN MARINO 91108

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

Sunday, 3/1, 10:30am-4:30pm. Internationally recognized bonsai masters will share their passion for the art form in this annual event that includes exhibits, demonstrations, prize drawings, a "bonsai bazaar," and a live auction at 3 p.m. Proceeds from the event support the Golden State Bonsai Collection at The Huntington. General admission. Brody Botanical

Center.

Thursday, 3/12, 2:30pm. Garden Talk & Sale - Aloes on My Mind: Exploring Aloe Hybrids. Karen Zimmerman, succulent plant propagator at The Huntington, discusses the work she has done breeding aloes to create collectable "fantasy" plants with colorful, toothy, and textured leaves. A plant sale follows the talk. Free. Ahmanson Room, Brody Botanical Center.

Sunday, 3/15, 1:30-3pm. Tropical Nursery Tour. Go behind the scenes with Dylan Hannon, The Huntington's curator of tropical collections, for a tour of the botanical nurseries where rare orchids and other plants are grown. \$5. Purchase tickets online or 800-838-3006. Meet at the front entrance to The Rose Hills Foundation Conservatory for Botanical Science. (Note: For non-Members, Huntington admission is a separate required cost.)

CLAREMONT 91711

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

Saturday, 3/7, 10am-2pm. Sustainable Garden Design #1: Soil, Water, and Sun. April Garbat will teach this workshop covering site analysis and design ideas toward creating a flourishing garden and caring for your soil and water. Participants will have homework (optional but highly recommended) to complete on their own after class. Please bring a sack lunch. \$36 RSABG members, \$45 public. Limited to 30 participants.

Saturday, 3/14, 10am-3pm. Spring Open House and Plant Sale. Free.

Saturday, 3/14, through 6/28, 10am-4pm. A Living Legacy: The Collections of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. A new exhibit in our gallery.

Saturday, 3/14, 10-11:30am. Traditional Uses of California Native Plants. Learn uses of several native plant species, many of which you can grow at home. Free.

Saturday, 3/21, 10am-2pm. Sustainable Garden Design #2: Making A Scene. How do you make your garden look like it fits both you and the location? This workshop will discuss selecting plants and hardscape materials for a sustainable garden. Participants are strongly encouraged to take Sustainable Garden Design #1 (Soil, Water, & Sun) and to bring their homework to this class. Please bring a sack lunch. \$36 RSABG members, \$45 public. Limited to 30 participants, priority given to those who take Sustainable Design #1.

Sunday, 3/22, 10am-1pm. Medicinal Plants of California Herb Walk. Join experienced herbalist William Broen for a 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. \$20 members, \$25 public.

Saturday, 3/28, 10am-3pm. California Native Sage Festival. Experience the scents, sights, and flavors at this 2nd annual garden event celebrating Salvia species native to California. Sage-related vendors, try a sample of some sage-inspired culinary delights, enjoy a free workshop or wildflower walk, listen to music and get sage advice (of course!). Special RSABG member event from 10 am to noon in the Container Garden. 20-minute lectures in the California Courtyard. Free with

standard admission or membership.

SUN VALLEY 91352

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

Saturday, 3/7, 9am - 12pm. Propagating California Native Plants with Tim Becker. Learn basic skills of vegetative propagation with TPF's Nursery Manager. Various species of native plants will be discussed and started from cuttings or divisions in this hands-on session, and you'll leave with a flat of cuttings for your own garden! \$50 members, \$60 non-members.

Saturday, 3/7, 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.

Saturday, 3/14, 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. \$45 members, \$55 non-members.

Saturday, 3/14, 2-3:30pm. Design Fundamentals: Looking at Space with Amy Nettleton. Why do our spirits soar when walking through a high-canopied native woodland? And why does that dark, cramped space by the garage leave us feeling so glum? This illustrated talk reveals elements that define landscape space and how they interact to affect physical and emotional qualities of an area - information that lets us look at gardens with new eyes and shape satisfying spaces that emulate powerful native landscapes. \$25 members, \$35 non-members.

Saturday & Sunday, 3/21&22, 10am-5pm. 12th Annual Theodore Payne Native Plant Garden Tour. The Theodore Payne Native Plant Garden tour is a self-guided journey showcasing more than 35 Los Angeles-area gardens that feature California native plants and ideas for beautiful, sustainable, water-conserving landscapes.

Friday & Saturday, 3/27&28, 8:30am-4:30pm. Poppy Days Plant Sale. Our big spring plant sale, offering native plants for every corner of the garden! Special member 15% discount before 8:30-11:00am. Non-member 10% discount off plants and seed after 11am. Not yet a member? Join at the door!

ENCINO 91406

California Native Plant Society
Sepulveda Garden Center
16633 Magnolia Blvd
Encino 91406
www.lacnps.org

Tuesday, 3/10, 7:30-9:00pm. Mushrooms and fungi of the Santa Monica mountains. What IS a mushroom anyway? Do we have any in Los Angeles? Where can I find some? These are some of the questions that Florence Nishida, mycologist, will answer as she takes you through a tour of some of our interesting mushrooms in and around Los Angeles. Florence Nishida is a master gardener and research associate at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

UPCOMING 2015 SCHS PROGRAMS

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

March 12—Dr. John Kabashima: **The Latest on Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer aka PSHB.**

April 9—Karen England (Talk subject 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*

Sabine Steinmetz

Steven Ormenyi, *Coffee in the Garden*

Marilee Kuhlman

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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, March 13 (for April 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
March 2015



Southern California Horticultural Society

Coffee In The Garden: the Haynes Family Garden Sunday, March 29, 2015, 10:00am – 1:00pm

Starting in 1977 with the removal of a boxwood hedge, the Haynes family garden has been an ever-changing project. It is used by fellow SCHS member and landscape designer/contractor Laramie Haynes as a display and test garden for Haynes Landscape Design. The garden has hosted various social events including 8 weddings, 14 open house/plant sales and countless Easter egg hunts. The new back patio garden includes many water-thrifty flowering plants and a slow-moving, heat-powered sculpture.



The back garden nursery and greenhouse have produced thousands of plants that are well

suited to our California climate and often hard to find. This working garden is ever changing with new puzzles to solve, care to give, joy to celebrate and sadness to endure. It is a story to tell for the many people who visit and care for it.

Please join us for an informal tour with coffee and light refreshments. This tour is free to SCHS members, but a \$5.00 entry fee will apply to guests. Please sign up at the March meeting, online at the SCHS MemberLodge, by printing out and mailing in the PDF flyer, or by emailing socalhort@gmail.com **Deadline for registration is Friday, March 27.**

The Haynes Family Garden is located in Pasadena. Once you sign up, we will contact you with directions.



SCHS COFFEE IN THE GARDEN – SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2015
PLEASE MAIL NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25.

Yes, please reserve: _____ Member Reservation
_____ Non-member Tickets at \$5 each = \$_____ Total

Member's Name(s) _____

Non-Member Name(s) _____

Contact Phone _____ E-mail _____

Make your check payable to SCHS. Mail to: P.O. Box 94476, Pasadena, CA 91109
SCHS Phone: 818/567-1496 Website: www.socalhort.org