



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

April 2015 Newsletter

## OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, April 9 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

Joya Salas

Laura Scott Sellers

Catherine Tosetti

Please welcome new members at  
our meeting.

## POLLING MEMBERS QUESTION

The Polling Members question for April is: " *Would it be a benefit to start meetings a half hour earlier?* " You can answer on our MemberLodge website or e-mail your response to: [sglarkspur@aol.com](mailto:sglarkspur@aol.com) by Friday, April 10.

## IN THIS ISSUE

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

## Karen England: Herbs: Fresh and Dried, Sweet and Savory



An entertaining and elucidating program for gardeners and cooks and those who simply love to bask in the scents, tastes, color and texture of herbs. Learn easy ways to use herbs everyday to add flavor and fragrance to your life, and especially to the foods you eat. An assortment of annual and perennial herbs will be discussed, with tips on cultivation

and harvest. Karen England has been growing and enjoying herbs for more than 20 years. From the age of twelve, she has worked for her cousin's plant nursery, Sunshine Gardens in Encinitas, and she still works special events for him at the same location some 43 years later. In the meanwhile, after graduating college, Karen was also a docent and chef-in-residence for The Lavender Fields of Valley Center. She is a past board member and current member of the International Herb Association and a past President and current member of the Vista Garden Club. Karen has attended three different cooking intensives at the Ballymaloe Cookery School in County Cork, Ireland. These days, she has two acres on which to play in the herb garden at her home in Vista, CA. Join us for an entertaining evening all about herbs and how to grow and use these fragrant, tasty additions to cooking—and to so many other areas in our lives. All of us can benefit from a little pinch of something from our own garden.



## RARE ROSES FOR SALE AT APRIL MEETING

Rare roses from Descanso Gardens will be for sale at the April meeting! SCHS Board member Rachel Young has procured these excess plants for us, so that we can offer them for sale at a great price to SCHS members and friends. Some of these varieties have come from Japan and are not easily purchased in the United States. Thank you, Rachel! (About 50 plants will be for sale—some may need a little TLC—but they're roses!)

## Coffee in the Garden

The first Coffee in the Garden was at the home and garden of landscape designer and contractor, Laramee Haynes. A beautiful spring day was the backdrop for our enjoyment of this large, complex garden (and nursery—with plants for sale!). Thanks to Laramee for allowing us to visit. A big thank you to everyone who brought food and drink for all to enjoy. Thank you CitG Committee. We look forward to the next CitG.

## March Meeting Recap

The speaker for the was Dr. John Kabashima, speaking on a new and serious threat to our trees and shrubs—the Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer. The news was grim, but Dr. Kabashima injected as much humor as possible into the talk. The Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (or PSHB) is a type of ambrosia beetle. Ambrosia beetles are beetles of the weevil subfamilies which live in nutritional symbiosis with ambrosia fungi and with bacteria. The beetles excavate tunnels in trees in which they cultivate fungal gardens, their sole source of nutrition. It is this fungal infection which usually spells doom for the tree or shrub. PSHB was introduced from South East Asia (probably into two distinct areas—South-east San Diego County and Los Angeles County). Currently there is no biological control for the beetle but researchers are touring parts of South East Asia looking for anything that might help. Catching the infestation early may allow for treatment of an affected tree with expensive injections of systemics. Many plant pests live on a narrow range of plant types—the PSHB preys on many types of trees and shrubs—hence ‘polyphagous’. The extra bad news is that once the beetle has bored into a tree and created nesting galleries the female and her progeny don’t emerge (often a time when biological controls would be effective). Brother and sister beetles can mate within the protection of tree tissues. Identifying PSHB can be challenging as there are many other pests that can create some of the same symptoms. Dr. Kabashima showed us how the borer holes can be photographed alongside a ballpoint pen tip—this can help experts figure out the size of the beetle that made the hole and help identify whether or not its PSHB.

We would like to thank Dr. John Kabashima for giving us this informative (though depressing) talk. He did warn us we would feel like crying. For more info go to: [ucanr.edu/sites/socaloakpests](http://ucanr.edu/sites/socaloakpests) and: [civr.ucr.edu](http://civr.ucr.edu).

Thanks to all of the members who help set up, run and clean up after the meeting. Thanks to John Schoustra for providing the raffle plants (some of them new introductions from his nursery).

—Steven Gerischer

### SHARING SECRETS

In March, we asked you to answer “What is the most unusual herb you grow, and how is it used?” and here are some of your responses. Read more on our SCHS MemberLodge website, [schs.memberlodge.org](http://schs.memberlodge.org).

I have grown lovage and love it. It's been in my garden for 2 years and I'm hoping it returns this year. It tastes like celery, but maybe celery on steroids, a bit. The reason I grow it is for its hollow stems which may be used for a sipping straw in a bloody mary. Divine.

—Kathy Itomura

### HORT HAPPENINGS EXTRAS

(It's Spring! Lots of Happenings!  
No More Room on Page 3!)

#### ENCINO 91406

California Native Plant Society  
Sepulveda Garden Center  
16633 Magnolia Blvd  
Encino 91406  
[www.lacnps.org](http://www.lacnps.org)

Saturday, 4/18, 9am-4pm. Native Plant Week Wildflower Show,

Symposium, and Plant and Book Sale. Symposium will feature speakers throughout the day: 10-11:30am Finding L A's Hidden Wildlife Through Citizen Science by Lisa Higgins; 12-1:30pm Chumash Indian Plant Knowledge by Jan Timbrook; 2-3:30pm Small-Space Native Garden: Creating Intimate Outdoor Spaces by Steve Gerischer. Plants for sale will be available courtesy of our co-sponsor Theodore Payne Foundation. We welcome native plant cuttings from home gardens -- they must be available for set-up on Friday April 17. For more information, contact Snowy Dodson at [snowy.dodson@csun.edu](mailto:snowy.dodson@csun.edu)

#### PASADENA 91107

Eaton Canyon Nature Center  
1750 North Altadena Drive  
Pasadena 91107  
616-398-5420  
[ecnca.org](http://ecnca.org)

Thursday, 4/23, 7-9:30pm.  
California Native Plant Society - San Gabriel Mountains Chapter meeting.

#### FULLERTON 92831

Fullerton Arboretum  
1900 Associated Road  
Fullerton 92831  
657-278-3407  
[fullertonarboretum.org](http://fullertonarboretum.org)

Saturday & Sunday, 4/18&19, 10am-4pm. Green Scene. More than 80 specialty garden vendors offer extraordinary plants, handcrafted & custom garden art and pottery. Speakers on a variety of inspiring garden topics. More information at [http://fullertonarboretum.org/event\\_green.php](http://fullertonarboretum.org/event_green.php)

# 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](http://arboretum.org)

Wednesday, 4/8, 10am-12noon, Palm Room. Great Tomato Talk and Plant Sale. Steve Goto, back for the 13th year, will share his top tomato picks for 2015 as well as growing tips and tricks of the trade for planting and harvesting the best tomatoes in Southern California. Following the talk, you'll find a wide variety of tomato plants for sale in the Gift Shop patio.

Thursday, 4/9, 9:30am-12pm. Field Trip: Three Great Gardens Around (but Not in) Pasadena, 9:30am-12:30pm. Pre-registration required.

Saturday and Sunday, 4/11&12, 9am-4:30pm, Ayres Hall. Spring Iris and Bulb Show and Sale. The Southern California Iris Society and Southern California Hemerocallis & Amaryllis Society present tall bearded, small bearded and aril-bred irises. Members will be available to answer cultural questions.

Thursday, 4/16, 9:30am-12pm, Palm Room. Chili, Chilies and Hot Sauce: A Spicy Sampling of Southern California History with Ernest Miller. Ernest is a chef, food historian, UCCE Master Gardener, educator, consultant and founder of Rancho La Merced Provisions LLC. He has been a Master Food Preserver since 2009 and is the program's lead instructor. He has been called the Huell Howser of California food.

Saturday, 4/18, 11am-12noon. Arboretum Botanical Information Consultant Frank McDonough will lead this walking tour discussing the Australian influence on the Southern California landscape.

Thursday, 4/23, 9:30am-12pm, Palm Room. Hipster Horticulture: A Look at What Might Be Growing in Your Future Garden with Frank McDonough. A look at what's trending in terms of new vegetables, grains and fruits, many of which can be grown in local home gardens. You're going to quinoa-nt to be there to find out about oca, ulluco and other exotic foodstuffs that perform well here, and some of them are drought tolerant, too.

Saturday and Sunday, 4/25 (1-5pm) & 26 (9am-4pm), Ayres Hall. Rose Show and Sale. The Pacific Rose Society will present grandifloras, hybrid teas, floribundas, miniatures and new and old varieties. Shrubs of miniature and larger varieties, as well as cut flowers, will be on sale both days.

Thursday, 4/30, 9:30am-12pm, Palm Room. In Praise of Garden Blues with Lili Singer. A plant lover's exaltation of plants with flowers, fruit or foliage in various tints, shades and hues of blue – a color that shines like no other in the garden. The presentation features both native and non-native plants for a range of garden conditions, with suggested companion plants whose colors accentuate the power of the blues.

## LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE 91011

DESCANSO GARDENS  
1418 Descanso Drive  
818-949-7980; [descansogardens.org](http://descansogardens.org)

Saturdays, 4/11, 18, 25, 11am-12:30pm. Planting the Organic Garden. Learn how to get the best results from your home garden the natural way at this three-week series. Bring gardening gloves. \$15 per class/\$40 for series for members; \$20 per class/\$55 for series for nonmembers. Advance registration recommended. Register for programs by phoning (818) 949-7980 or at the Visitor Center.

Thursday-Sunday, 4/23-26, 9am-4pm. Mount San Antonio College Horticulture Program Plant Sale. Students will sell a variety of potted plants to make your home garden zing this spring. On the Main Lawn. Free with admission.

Saturday & Sunday, 4/25&26, 10am-4pm. Earth Day: Wildflowers and Wildlife. Celebrate Earth Day and the spring season with programs focusing on wildflowers, wildlife and water-wise home gardening. Activities free with admission.

Wildflower display, both days 10am-4pm, El Portal, enjoy beautiful spring blooms in the California Natives Garden. Meet the Wildlife, Saturday 10am-2pm, Oak Woodland, meet a variety of native reptiles and amphibians, and discover the animals that would have called the Oak Woodland home. Flower Planting, Sunday, 10am-2pm, Promenade, plant your own flower seeds to grow at home. Wildflower Walk, Saturday, 1pm, Center Circle, learn about wildflowers and pollinators on this walk suitable for all ages. Re-envisioning the California Lawn, Sunday, 1pm, Birch, award-winning landscape architect and Descanso favorite Billy Goodnick leads a panel discussion on residential garden design with a focus on sustainability. Panelists include Carol Bornstein, one of Southern California's most highly respected native plant specialists, and sustainable exterior designer and landscape water management expert Pamela Berstler. Come for a stimulating discussion, a walk around Descanso, and leave inspired.

## SAN MARINO 91108

HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS  
1151 Oxford Road  
San Marino 91108  
626-405-2100 [huntington.org](http://huntington.org)

Thursday, 4/9, 2:30pm, Ahmanson Classroom, Brody Botanical Center. Garden Talk - Growing the World's Best Edibles. Alice Doyle of Log House Plants discusses the wide variety of heritage cultivars and new "artisanal hybrids" that offer amazing flavor at the table and extraordinary vigor in the garden. Note: There is no plant sale this month.

Sunday, 4/26, 10:30am-4:30pm, Brody Botanical Center. 41st Annual Spring Plant Sale. Looking for water-wise options for your garden? You'll find them here at the annual spring sale. A wide selection of Southwest and California native plants will help you bring abundant color and varied form into your garden without using a lot of water. You'll also find a great assortment of vegetable seedlings, fruit trees, herbs, cacti, succulents, roses, flowering shrubs, perennials, bulbs, and much more.

## CLAREMONT 91711

RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN –  
GROW NATIVE NURSERY - CLAREMONT  
1500 North College Avenue  
Claremont 91711  
909-625-8767 [rsabg.org](http://rsabg.org)

Sunday, 4/19, 1-4pm. Annual Wildflower Show and Claremont Eclectic: A Tour of Six Local Gardens. A unique opportunity to visit six outstanding and varied local gardens. If you are interested in inventive Claremont landscaping, you won't want to miss this! Tickets are \$20 per person. Tickets may be purchased online up to the night before the tour, in person in advance at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden's Admissions Kiosk, Claremont Heritage (located in the Garner House at Memorial Park), or Rio de Ojas and Vom Fass (located in the Claremont Village). If tickets remain available on the day of the event (April 19) they will be sold at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. Garden Tour Ticket holders can pick up a brochure and tour map at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

beginning at 10 a.m. on Sunday April 19 (RSABG opens at 8 a.m., ticket holders are also welcome to enjoy the Garden before 10 a.m. as well.) Proceeds benefit Sustainable Claremont Garden Club and Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden.

## SUN VALLEY 91352

THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION  
10459 Tuxford Street  
Sun Valley 91352  
818-768-1802 [theodorepayne.org](http://theodorepayne.org)

Saturday, 4/4, 8:30am-12:30pm. California Native Plant Horticulture with Lili Singer. Recommended for beginners; prerequisite to Three-Part California native Plant Garden Design course.

Saturday, 4/11, 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.

Friday, 4/17, 11:30am-3:30pm. Native Plant Garden Maintenance with Madena Asbell. 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, 4/18, 1:30-3:30pm. Spring Gathering Workshop with Kat High. This workshop centers around ready for harvest at class time – most likely including miner's lettuce, mugwort, stinging nettles and elderberry flowers – with tips on how to grow, gather and use them at home; a slide show of plants; and a walk on TPF grounds to look for "little green things." Kat is a Native Californian of Hupa descent. Trained by elders in Native American land management traditions, she teaches others how to adapt those principles to the modern world and offers environmental education as a traditional path through this time of climate change. \$25 members, \$35 non-members.

Saturday, 4/25, 1:30-3:30pm. Lester Rowntree: A Woman's Life with Native Plants with Lester Bradford Rowntree. Renowned field botanist and horticulturist Lester Gertrude Ellen Rowntree (1879-1979) was, like Theodore Payne, a pioneer in the study, propagation and conservation of California native plants. Lester Bradford Rowntree is an environmental geographer who, after a long career as a Professor of Environmental Science at San Jose State University, is currently a Research Associate at the UC Berkeley. Born in Carmel, he interacted continuously with his beloved grandmother until her passing five days after her 100th birthday. \$10 members, \$20 non-members.

## ENCINO 91406

California Native Plant Society  
Sepulveda Garden Center  
16633 Magnolia Blvd  
Encino 91406  
[www.lacnps.org](http://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.

**April 9—Karen England: Herbs: Fresh and Dried, Sweet and Savory.**

**May 14—Laramie Haynes: Removing Lawn and the art of Landscaping.**

**June 11—Marilee Kuhlman: Water Harvesting in Dry Times**

### SHARING SECRETS QUESTION is POLLING MEMBERS QUESTION

We usually ask a “Sharing Secrets” question every month, but this month we are polling our members about an idea to start meetings a half hour earlier (7:30–9:30). Would this be helpful? (Getting out by 9:30) Or would traffic be so bad as to negate the benefit? Answer via e-mail, or Member Lodge on website. We need to hear from you!

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

NEWSLETTER  
April 2015

### 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, *Coffee in the Garden*

Marilee Kuhlman, *Programs*

**818-567-1496 / [socalhort.org](http://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, April 10 (for May newsletter).

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