



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

May 2015 Newsletter

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, May 14 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 and Lora Martinolich

Millicent Mito

Florence Nishida

Please welcome new members at
our meeting.

SHARING SECRETS QUESTION

The Sharing Secrets question for May is: *"Seen any yards with really well designed gardens? Where?"* You can answer on our MemberLodge website or e-mail your response to: sglarkspur@aol.com by Friday, May 15.

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Laramée Haynes: USING ART PRINCIPLES IN GARDEN DESIGN



Gardens without grass are often described as cluttered or messy looking. This is usually because the garden has not been designed as an artistic composition. Laramée Haynes, Landscape Designer, will review artistic principles such as color, form, texture and contrast as they apply to garden design. After the review he will lead a discussion to evaluate 10 landscape gardens and how they might be improved artistically. A fun exchange of thought and ideas usually ensues. The goal is to help exercise your artistic mind/eye so you understand why something is beautiful to you, or how it can be improved.

With lawns being removed at an ever increasing rate there has never been more of a need for a broad-ranging public dialog about design (or lack-there-of) and how it can help change attitudes for the better, or foster a resentful, resistant attitude that will create a water guzzling backlash at the first sign of any rain in Southern California. Come and join in this discussion about what makes a design work, or not work. Bring an open mind (and your truckload of opinions).

If you missed our last Coffee in the Garden and you didn't meet Laramée or get to see his garden-Laramée Haynes is a landscape designer and contractor in Pasadena. After engineering school, Laramée worked in manufacturing as a machine designer. He built special machines to package powders and liquids used to test water. After many years he decided to buy his father's home and landscaping business and start a new life in Pasadena. Now over 14 years later, he cannot imagine choosing another path. Laramée loves the art, science, beautiful plants, people, problems and places that are his typical day.

Laramée has installed several gardens for Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts including a greenhouse display where he gave plant propagation demonstrations. The spring 2014 Theodore Payne Foundation garden

tour included a large 100 percent California native garden in Altadena installed by Laramée and company. Laramée frequently gives garden talks at the LA County arboretum.

PLANTRIGHT LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Do you like to spend time at nurseries scoping out potential plants for your garden? Are you concerned about the impact that invasive plants are having in our gardens as well as in the wild? If yes to both, you can be a part of the solution by helping PlantRight.org. This non-profit organization is conducting a Spring Nursery Survey to find out where invasive species are still being sold in California. They still have 19 stores in Los Angeles County left to survey and their goal is to finish before the end of May.

Participation is simple and takes place entirely through the PlantRight.org website, aside from the visit to the selected nursery. The survey process takes around 2.5 hours from start to finish, and can be conducted with other volunteers. Learn more on the Survey homepage and gain access to instructions and a short training on this registration page: <http://www.plantright.org/survey-registration>.

April Meeting Recap

The April meeting was a savory experience, in more ways than one. Presenter Karen England, owner of Edgehill Herb Farm, gave an lively, unconventional, and flavorful talk about herbs, sans slide show and seasoned with quirky humor. England's knowledge of herbs is very hands-on, and she emphasized her vocation as "herbologist" rather than herbalist. She provided an overview of her professional experience, which includes decades in the nursery business, soap making, and lavender farming. The main focus of the evening was uses for herbs (culinary, crafting, medicine), rather than the horticulture of herbs. "Is Greek oregano the best type to grow?" asked one audience member. "Well, it's the only one that will grow in my garden, so, yes!" quipped England.

In addition to many colorful anecdotes (and a recurrent theme of savory, 2015 herb of the year selected by the International Herb Association), she imparted a wealth of useful tips. French thyme and English thyme are one and the same; French tarragon is sterile, so any seeds you find for sale are for some other plant—hopefully not Russian tarragon, which is apparently horrid. If you forgo the most common variety of rosemary (Tuscan blue) for Miss Jessopp's upright, you will have a steady supply of skewers that will impart your kabobs with a delightful infusion of rosemary. Rather than a mortar and pestle, which yield mixed results in crushing herbs (and make some seeds into projectiles), an old fashioned hand-cranked coffee grinder, or an electric model, can be more effective, and is easily

cleaned by grinding raw rice to a powder.

To cap the evening off, England, who studied at Ballymaloe Cookery School in County Cork, Ireland, not only provided recipes for herbs de provence, herbs de provence chutney, and cheese ball, but also a smorgasbord of well herbed samples, including rice pudding with cinnamon and sweet bay, deviled eggs, and a cheese ball that England observed had slumped into more a fromage Frisbee.

Accompanying the canapes were refreshing cups of cool "froofy" water infused with lime leaves, pineapple sage, mint, and rose.

Heartfelt thanks to Karen England for a tasteful (and tasty) evening. Raffle plants were generously provided by SCHS Board member Rachel Young, who was able to offer some rare rose varieties from Descanso Gardens. Special thanks to the fabulous Steen Team (Al and Pat) for taking over the coffee duties in President Steven Gerischer's absence.

—Sandy Masuo

SHARING SECRETS

In April, we asked you to answer more of an informal poll than a Sharing Secrets question. We wondered how many of you would like to see the meeting start a half hour earlier. The overwhelming majority of responses were in favor of starting earlier, while a few members worried that with traffic always bad, it would be even worse a half hour earlier. This is still in the talking stage and we would have to re-negotiate our rental of the Friendship Auditorium, so don't start showing up any earlier yet! We always welcome input from our members so if you didn't get a chance to respond, you can speak to

any board member at our general meeting.

—Steven Gerischer

HORT HAPPENINGS EXTRAS

PALOS VERDES PENINSULA 90274

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

www.southcoastbotanicgarden.org

Saturday, 5/9, 9am-5pm. National Public Gardens Day – Discover South Coast Botanic Garden. National Public Gardens Day raises awareness of America's public gardens and the various roles they play in communities nationwide.

Sunday, 5/24, 3-4pm. Garden Lecture: The History of Palos Verdes and the South Coast Botanic Garden: Past, Present and Future. Board President of the South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation Peter Olpe will talk about the history, people and the geology of Palos Verdes that helped create the South Coast Botanic Garden.

ENCINO 91406

California Native Plant Society
Sepulveda Garden Center
16633 Magnolia Blvd
Encino 91406
818-881-3706

www.lacnps.org

Tuesday, 5/12, 7:30-9pm. Sepulveda Basin Wildlife and Native Vegetation Areas – Past, Present and Future. Steven Hartman, chair of the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee, will discuss plans for restoring the area.

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.

Saturday-Sunday, 5/9-10, Saturday 9am-4pm, Sunday 10am-4pm. Geranium Society Show & Sale. The International Geranium Society, Los Angeles branch, presents this wonderful annual display of geraniums.

Saturday-Sunday, 5/16-17, Saturday 9am-4pm, Sunday 10am-4pm. Annual Epiphyllum Show & Sale.

Saturday-Sunday, 5/23-24, 9am-5pm. Santa Anita Bonsai Show. The Santa Anita Bonsai Society will present trees trained to look like miniature forest giants. Trees up to four feet tall such as maples, junipers and pines will be displayed.

Saturday-Sunday, 5/30-31, 9am-5pm. Descanso Chrysanthemum Plant Sale. [Yes, at Ayres Hall] More than 150 varieties of rooted chrysanthemum cuttings will be available at the show.

LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE 91011

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

Saturday-Sunday, May 16-17, 10am-5pm. Rose Festival. Celebrate America's favorite flower. Both days, 10am-1pm, family activities. Saturday 10:30, Director of horticulture and garden operations Rachel Young discusses sustainable roses for California gardens. \$35 includes materials; register at www.peoplespopup.com/descanso. Both days, 1:30pm, Guided walk with rose horticulturist Hector Silva-Ruiz.

PASADENA 91107

Eaton Canyon Nature Center
1750 North Altadena Drive
Pasadena 91107
616-398-5420
ecnc.org

Saturday, 5/2, 10am-5pm, Spring Awakening Festival. Share the rich cultural traditions of Native Americans. Enjoy traditional musicians, singers, storytellers, and dancers. Learn about the rich natural history and wildlife around us. Free admission.

Sunday, 5/10, 9-11:30am. California Native Plant Society Walk.

Thursday, 5/28, 7-9:30pm. California Native Plant Society - San Gabriel Mountains Chapter meeting.

EATON CANYON NATURE CENTER

1750 North Altadena Drive
Pasadena 91107
616-398-5420
ecnc.org

Sunday, 5/10, 9-11:30am. California Native Plant Society Walk.

Thursday, 5/28, 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

Thursday, 5/21, 1-4pm. Visitors' Illustrated Guide to the Palm Garden. Learn about the Arboretum's plant

collections and begin an illustrated guide to the Arboretum. No art experience necessary. Garden enthusiasts, first-time botanists and first-time artists welcome! Register at www.fullertonarboretum.com/Art/

LOS ANGELES 90049

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden - Grow Native Nursery - Veterans' Garden
100 Davis Avenue
Los Angeles 90049
909-625-8767
rsabg.org

Friday, 5/1, through Saturday, 5/10. GROW NATIVE NURSERY - WESTWOOD - CLOSING. After five years of operating as the only all-California native plant nursery serving the greater Westwood community, Grow Native Nursery at the Veterans Garden will be closing. The last day of operation will be Sunday, May 10, 2015. For our closing sale, all plants in stock will be 50% off starting Wednesday, April 22. Factors related to the financial sustainability of the nursery and veterans training program, combined with events beyond our control at the Veterans Administration, led the Trustees of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden to this decision.

SAN MARINO 91108

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

Thursday, 5/14, 2:30pm. Garden Talk & Sale - Rx for Healthy Oaks. Learn what you can do to help keep your oak trees healthy. Plant pathologist Akif Eskalen and interpretive biologist Shannon Lynch, both of the University of California, Riverside, discuss common oak diseases and best management practices. Free. Ahmanson Room, Brody Botanical Center.

Saturday, 5/16, 9am-noon. Avid Gardener Series - Plant Propagation Workshop. Learn the basic skills of vegetative plant propagation in this hands-on workshop in the Ranch Garden led by Alicia Baugh, part of a new series designed for dedicated amateur gardeners. Members: \$45. Non-Members: \$55. Register online or call 800-838-3006.

Tuesday, 5/19, 7:30pm. East Asian Garden Lecture - About Meaningful Gardens in Korea. The garden culture of Korea remains far less familiar in the West than those of China and Japan. Gert Gröning, professor of urban horticulture and landscape architecture at the University of the Arts, Berlin, explores the gardens of South Korea, in particular Hee Won (Huiwon) in Yongin, Cheonggyecheon in Seoul, and Hwaseong in Suwon. Free; no reservations required. Rothenberg Hall.

Wednesday, 5/20, 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.)

Saturday, 5/23, 10:30am-1pm. Self-tour The Huntington's urban agriculture site and take home some fresh ideas for sustainable gardening. From the Teaching Greenhouse, follow signs to the site. General admission. (Cancelled in the event of rain.) Ranch Garden.

CLAREMONT 91711

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

Friday, 5/8, 8am-5pm. National Public Gardens Day Celebration - Free Admission Day. Join Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden for this special day of celebrating the environmental stewardship, conservation, and education efforts put forth by botanical gardens around the nation.

Saturday, 5/9, through Sunday, 8/2, 10am-3pm. Butterfly Pavilion. Tickets: \$2 per person in addition to standard Garden admission. The Butterfly Pavilion unites science education and hands-on fun for visitors of all ages. Hundreds of butterflies call the temporary enclosure home this spring and summer.

Saturday, 5/16, 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. Fee: members \$20, public \$25. Program is limited to 20 participants. Please bring a sack lunch or snack and a water bottle.

Saturday, 5/23, 10-11am. Summer Color with Native Plants. Water-wise California native plants for summer seasonal interest. Free, but please RSVP.

SUN VALLEY 91352

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

Saturday, 5/16, 8:30am-12:30pm. California Native Plant Horticulture with Lili Singer. Learn 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, 5/16, 1:30-3:30pm. Hypertufa Container Workshop with Steve Gerischer. A super-fun, hands-on messy activity for grown-ups! Using cement, perlite and coir, each attendee will make a relatively lightweight container that resembles a time-weathered stone trough. Wear old clothes and shoes. All materials provided. \$30 members, \$40 non-members.

Saturday, 5/23, 8:30am-12:30pm. 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, 5/23, 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

UPCOMING 2015 SCHS PROGRAMS

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

May 14—Laramie Haynes: Using Art Principles in Garden Design.

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

July 9—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, *Programs*

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Newsletter Editor: Steven Gerischer

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

Next deadline: Friday, May 15 (for June newsletter).

It is the Friday following our monthly membership meeting.

Please contribute an article or information of interest.

Southern California
Horticultural Society
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Pasadena CA 91109-4476

NEWSLETTER
May 2015