



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

June 2015 Newsletter

## OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, June 11 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

Gabrielle Benson

Christine Metro

Gregory Travis

Vivian Woo

## SHARING SECRETS QUESTION

The Sharing Secrets question for June is not a 'Sharing Secrets' question, but another appeal to our membership as a whole for their thoughts. Please see the article below—and respond. We are interested in what you have to say about the future direction of our Society.

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## Marilee Kuhlman: WATER HARVESTING IN DRY TIMES



### Thinking About Rain Harvesting

People all over the world collect rain water and use it for many purposes. Does it rain enough in Los Angeles to justify the cost to install a rain harvesting system? Is it right for you?

This talk will be a look at rain harvesting from passive collection for infiltration into rain gardens, or rain barrels, to full out active collection and storage for non potable use. She will review the current legal uses for collected water. Merilee will also review installed systems to see if rain harvesting might be feasible at your home.

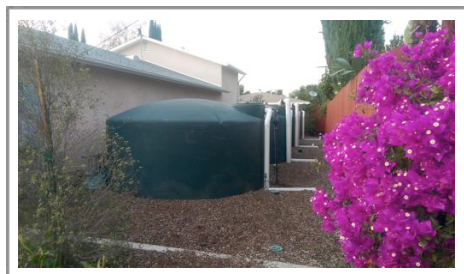
Marilee Kuhlmann is a third-generation California native, landscape consultant, sustainable garden designer and founder of Comfort Zones Garden Design. Comfort

Zones is an exterior landscape design practice committed to sustainable principles and has participated in LEED for home projects, partnered with clients in Santa Monica to design and build gardens funded by Sustainable Landscape Grants.

Merilee's gardens have been photographed and written about for Sunset Magazine, Pacific Horticulture Magazine and the Los Angeles Times. She is also an award winning designer on residential rain water harvesting and infiltration – having installed systems ranging from 200 gallons to 40,000 + gallons.

Marilee served as President of the Association of Professional Landscape Designers, Greater Los Angeles District in 2013—while there, she helped develop programs for Los Angeles based designers and interactions with the community. Recently in partnership with the Pacific Horticulture Society the APLD co-hosted a symposium at Tree People on Regional Landscape Design for Southern California. She now serves on the board of the Southern California Horticulture Society.

Join us for a timely talk from one of our newest Board Members! Who knows, you may find yourself considering installing a 20,000 gallon catchment system (or perhaps just a rain barrel).



## WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS

(The "Not a Sharing Secrets Question"-  
Question)

The Board of the Southern California Horticulture Society would like to hear your thoughts on who we are as a Society—what our aims should be. Currently we operate under the mission statement, "Promoting Excellence in Horticulture" with our banner reading, "Where passionate gardeners meet to share knowledge and learn from each other." The SCHS picks the Horticulturist of the year, as well as funding our ongoing internship program—we have our general meetings and our special events and field trips. Are we fine just as we are? Should we, could we do more? These questions came about as the Board was considering scheduling a special meeting later in the year to discuss the greater ideas and ideals that drive our members, our Board, and the horticultural community at large. Gardening and horticulture as an art form, scientific pursuit or a business, is rapidly changing every day. Is our Society keeping pace? You can give your answer by e-mail to: [sglarkspur@aol.com](mailto:sglarkspur@aol.com), or you can answer on the Member Forum website. You can even tell any Board Member at the next meeting.

### SPECIAL FIELD TRIP ANNOUNCEMENT!

'SECRETS OF SOMIS-REVISITED'  
SATURDAY, JUNE 27.

SEE THE FLYER FOR DETAILS.

This field trip was put together at very short notice (by our dedicated Board Members!) to take advantage of the bus service provided by the office of Tom LaBonge. We would like to thank all involved. Space is VERY LIMITED—HURRY! Sign up.

## May Meeting Recap

At the May meeting our speaker, Laramee Haynes presented a program investigating 'Using Art Principles in Garden Design'. With the historic drought heading into its fourth year many homeowners are tearing out their thirsty lawns and replacing them with drought tolerant gardens. But are these replacements always an improvement? We have all seen yards that have not been designed with any great consideration—lacking in any artistry. The purpose of this talk was to get an overview of what makes good garden design good. Laramee, who has been designing gardens for fourteen years, led us through the many aspects of artistic principles that are used in the creation of pleasing, useful and lasting landscapes. He began with a discussion of things like lines and form, texture and contrast – and many of the ideas represented in other visual arts. The next section of the talk focused on common mistakes or missed opportunities found in many gardens—the garden and house not relating, not enough room for growth, one of everything. Laramee showed us a series of images of gardens and asked us to look at certain parts of the whole and having to imagine them without certain things or with changes always asking ourselves, "better with, or without?". This was a valuable, easy to remember way of simplifying the best parts of design. This last part of the discussion was an audience participation with a lot of back and forth about what could improve each garden we were seeing. (This also led to some interesting, awkward moments as some of the pictured gardens were

designed by our audience members—but Laramee steered the talk well, keeping it from diving into 'snarkiness'.) The focus was kept to the positive, always asking, "how could this be better?" – instead of just pointing out what makes it bad. It is always valuable to anyone working in a creative/ design arena to look through other eyes and learn how others approach the same challenges.

We would like to thank Laramee Haynes for guiding this talk and sharing his vision with our group. Thanks go out as well to all of the members who work so diligently to organize, set up and run a meeting as well as those who stay after it is finished to help clean up.

—Steven Gerischer

### SHARING SECRETS

In May, we asked "*Have you seen any yards with really well designed gardens? Where?*" Here is the one (very extensive and well thought out) answer we received.

Well, one of the finest gardens I've seen recently is in Hanford, California and on the grounds of the Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture. The garden is the Clark family's private garden set in the middle of their orchards and farm in Hanford. Not exactly close. The collection has been given to the Minneapolis Museum of Art and the bonsai collection has been moved, but the garden has always been private and it is beautiful.

And there was a gorgeous garden in Altadena that has been on the Theodore Payne Foundation tour multiple times and they seem to be generous with it. It is for want of a better description, simply lovely, <http://www.nativeplantgardentour.org/>

[gardens/garden-11-in-altadena/](#). I'm sure you've seen it.

They have restored their garden at Rancho Los Cerritos and refurbished the buildings. Its quite lovely and I bet they'd be glad to host us off hours. The one that John Schoustra worked on at Rancho Los Alamitos is lovely, too. These were once private "home" gardens.

Further afield is Mike Evans' garden at Tree of Life Nursery. Real old California but in OC.

Another private garden is the Gypsy Johnson garden in Downey. The property is owned by the Assistance League. The garden is private and maintained by them. The house was designed by Roland Gates and the garden by Frances Yoch and Lucille Council.

—Catherine Waters

### KATHY MUSIAL, SCHS 'HORTICULTURIST OF THE YEAR' 2015



On September 10, the SCHS will honor Kathy Musial as our 'HOTY' for 2015 (about time!). The event will be held at the Los Angeles Arboretum and Botanic Garden. Details will be published in a future newsletter.

# 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).

Saturday, 6/13, 12noon- 4pm, Palm Room. Organic Fruit and Vegetable Gardening. Jill Morganelli will discuss summer crops, herbal companion planting, summer disease identification and treatment and prevention, biodiversity, summer weeds and Insects, remedies and recipes, horticultural therapy, and small space gardening. \$25 Arboretum members, \$30 non-members per class (includes Arboretum Admission). Call 626-821-4623 to register or pay at the class.

Saturday, 6/13, 7:30-10pm, Garden Night Photography. Frank McDonough will discuss night's unique photographic opportunities in the garden. Share your night photography techniques with other photographers. Special emphasis will be placed on the 'Painting with Light' technique, so bring your 'big gun' flashlights. \$30 members, \$35 non-members. Call 626-821-4623 to register or pay at the class.

Saturday, 6/27, 11am. Amazing Plants Tour. Frank McDonough will guide walk to some of the biggest, oldest, and weirdest plants in the Arboretum. Members Free; Free with Admission.

Saturday, June 20, 10am-12noon, Rotunda. Family Adventures: Can You Undo Water Pollution? Children learn just how hard it is to undo water pollution, and how to keep our planet healthy. \$8 per child for members, \$10 per child for non-members. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration required. Enrollment includes admission to the Arboretum.

## LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE 91011

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

Saturday, 6/6 & 13 & 20, 11am-12:30pm. Harvesting the Organic Garden. This three-part workshop series focuses on getting the best results from your home garden the natural way. Each workshop includes a lecture and "in garden" hands-on practice. Learn about how to harvest, including timing, techniques, and practices that will help you get the most from your garden, as well as get your garden ready for the next season of planting. Join horticulturalist, naturalist, and radio personality Mike Brown for an informative and fun 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 at the Visitor Center or phone 818-949-7980.

Sunday, 6/14, 9am-5pm. Descanso Bonsai Society Show. Find details at the Descanso Bonsai Society website, <http://descanso-bonsai.com/>. The society meets at Descanso Gardens at 7:30 pm the third Tuesday of the month, February through November. Visitors welcome.

## PASADENA 91107

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

Thursday, 6/25, 7pm. San Gabriel Mountains Chapter of the California Native Plant Society monthly meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month. For more information, see [www.cnps-sgm.org](http://www.cnps-sgm.org)

Sunday, 6/14, 9am. California Native Plant Society plant walks are on the second Sunday of each month. For more information, see [www.cnps-sgm.org](http://www.cnps-sgm.org)

## SAN MARINO 91108

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

Thursday, 6/4, 4:30pm. Curator Tour: Chinese Garden. Join curator David MacLaren for a private tour of the Garden of Flowing Fragrance and learn how the beauty of the landscape is given deeper meaning through art and poetry. Members: \$15. Non-Members: \$20. Register online or call 800-838-3006.

Thursday, 6/4, 7:30pm. East Asian Garden Lecture - Emperor Qianlong's Entrusted-to-Serenity Mountain Villa (Jingji Shanzhuang 静寄山莊): The Reconstruction of a Lost Imperial Garden. Fu Shen 傅申, the eminent Chinese art historian and calligrapher, Professor Emeritus at National Taiwan University in Taipei, will discuss the great Qing dynasty imperial garden retreat Entrusted-to-Serenity Mountain Villa, completed during the reign of Qianlong (1736-1795). Free.

Saturday, 6/6, 9am-5pm and Sunday, 6/7, 9am-12noon. Garden Workshop - Paving the Way for an Organic Planet: Growing with Healthy Soil Biology. Dr. Kris Nichols and Farm Director Jeff Moyer from the Rodale Institute, lead this 1 1/2 day workshop explaining the relationships between soil biology and healthy soil, and management practices in soil health. \$300 includes lunch and handout materials. Register online.

Thursday, 6/11, 2:30pm, Ahmanson Room, Brody Botanical Center. Garden Talk & Sale - From Lawn to Garden. If you've been wanting to transition from a lawn to a sustainable native garden, horticulturist Barbara Eisenstein has tips to help you get started. A plant sale follows the talk. Free.

Saturdays and Sundays, 6/13, 6/14, 6/20, 6/21, 10am-4pm. Bonsai Academy. Bonsai master Ted Matson leads an intensive four-session gakko, or school, in the art of bonsai. Geared to beginners, the sessions explore the history of bonsai, basic tree botany and horticultural challenges, design concepts and training techniques, and bonsai display. All supplies and tools are provided. Members: \$120. Non-Members: \$135. Register online or call 800-838-3006.

Saturday, 6/13, through Sunday, 8/23. Weird, Wild & Wonderful: The New York Botanical Garden Second Triennial Exhibition. The eccentric beauty of the plant kingdom is celebrated in this traveling exhibition of 47 contemporary botanical illustrations by artists from Australia, Canada, India, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Friday, 6/26, 10:30am-4:30pm, Brody Botanical Center. Cactus and Succulent Early Bird Sale. An early-bird sale gets under way in advance of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America's annual show and sale on June 27-28.

Saturday and Sunday, 6/27-28, 10:30am-4:30pm. Brody Botanical Center. 50th Anniversary Cactus and Succulent Show. Hundreds of outstanding and intriguing plants will be on view as the Cactus and Succulent Society of America presents its annual show and sale. Free with general admission.

Saturday, 6/27, 10am-noon. Flower Arranging: Living Garland. Create a long-lasting living garland complete with succulents, greenery, and fresh flowers in a workshop led by Kit Wertz and Casey Schwartz of

Flower Duet. When the flowers fade, the succulents can be replanted into a pot or garden. Members: \$85. Non-Members: \$95. Register online or call 800-838-3006.

Saturday, 6/27, 10:30am-1pm, Ranch Garden. Ranch Open House. Self-tour The Huntington's urban agriculture site and take home some fresh ideas for sustainable gardening.

## 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)

Saturday, 6/6, 10am-12noon. Summer Maintenance of California Native Plants. Learn about proper pruning, mulching, and whether or not to irrigate your plants during the summer. RSABG members \$20; Public \$25. Please RSVP.

Saturday, 6/13, 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. Please bring a sack lunch or snack and a water bottle. Fee: members \$20, public \$25. Program is limited to 20 participants. Register online, pay by check or charge by phone. For more information or to register for a class call 909-625-8767x224 or email [registrar@rsabg.org](mailto:registrar@rsabg.org).

Saturday, 6/13, 10-11:30am, Grow Native Nursery, 100 Davis Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90049. Replace your lawn! Stephen Baldonado explains important basics of lawn removal, and how to design a pleasing replacement.

## SUN VALLEY 91352

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

Sunday, 6/7, 8am-1pm. Choice selection of native plants. Hollywood Farmer's Market at Selma & Ivar on the first Sunday of each month. Call ahead for special orders: 818-768-1802.

Saturday, 6/6, 1-3:30pm. Four Seasons of Color with California Natives with Lili Singer. Your native plant garden can be a seasonal showcase of flowers, seed, fruit and foliage. This program showcases trees, shrubs, vines, perennials and grasses that will ensure year-round color. \$25 members, \$35 non-members. Register online.

Saturday, 6/13, 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. Register online.

Saturday, 6/13, 1:30-3:30pm. Many Uses of Yucca Workshop with Kat High. Learn and experience what the mighty chaparral yucca - *Hesperoyucca whipplei* - has to offer us for food, cordage, medicine and more! Class includes hands-on activities and native food tasting. \$25 members, \$35 non-members. Register online.



## UPCOMING 2015 SCHS PROGRAMS

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

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

**July 9— Jim Riley: Maritime Succulent Scrub Region, Northwest Baja California, Mexico.**

**August 13—Rare Fruit Growers rep. will speak about growing rare fruits in Southern California. (Details TBA)**

**September 10—The Horticulturist of the Year Awards Dinner—this year honoring Kathy Musial. LA Arboretum and Botanic Garden.**

### 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*

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*Newsletter Editor:* Steven Gerischer

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

**Next deadline:** Friday, June 12 (for July 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  
June 2015



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

## THE SECRETS OF SOMIS - REVISITED

**Saturday, June 27, 2015**

*Get an exclusive behind the scenes tour of Boething Treeland Nursery, visit Greenwood Daylily Gardens and enjoy a catered lunch (included in price of trip!), and be guided through Richard Baron's evolving 40+ acre Chinese Garden.*

Where (and what) is Somis? It is a horticultural paradise in the Ventura County agriculture preserve. The SCHS last visited in 2009, and we are very fortunate to be able to offer another excursion this year. Whether you attended last time or this is new territory for you, please join your fellow Southern California Horticulture Society friends for a day of horticulture immersion exploring Somis. Board our reserved bus and be transported to a rural area where avocado trees outnumber humans, and countless nurseries grow over two hundred million dollars worth of nursery stock per year, all less than an hour's drive from L.A.

### *Stop 1. Boething Treeland Nursery*



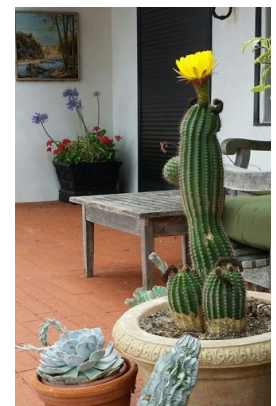
Ever see a 500 cubic yard pile of potting mix? How about 5,000 blooming 5 gallon Kangaroo paws? Large scale will be the theme as our bus travels through the Boething Moorpark tree and shrub yards, two of their ten ranches that ship plants throughout the western U.S. and Canada. The nursery was founded in 1952 by the late Susan and John Boething, and is now managed by their four daughters. Note: Boething only sells to licensed landscape professionals and nurseries. No shopping at this stop. [www.boethingtreeland.com](http://www.boethingtreeland.com)

### *Stop 2. Greenwood Daylily Gardens*



It's 10 minutes to our next stop, owned by SCHS members Cynthia and John Schoustra. Stroll through acres of blooming daylilies and over 100,000 potted irises. See how hundreds of pelargonium varieties are propagated and grown, potting mix is made using local waste materials, and learn how the nursery is being reshaped to capture up to one million gallons of rainwater per storm. Check out future plant introductions and shop before the bus heads up to the one acre hilltop garden where new plants are tested in a garden setting overlooking the valley. Those who visited previously should enjoy all the changes, many aimed at capturing rain runoff or limiting brushfire danger, along with fitting in more interesting plants.

*(Cont'd on reverse)*



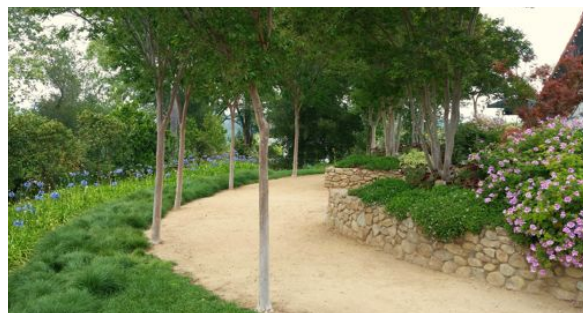


# SCHS - SECRETS OF SOMIS TRIP

## Stop 2. Greenwood Daylily Gardens (cont'd.)

Lunch will be served under the grape arbor and prepared by the restaurant of Food Network contestant Damiano Carrara, [www.carrarapastries.us](http://www.carrarapastries.us)

Nursery: [www.greenwoodgarden.com](http://www.greenwoodgarden.com)



## Stop 3. Richard Baron's "Garden of Dreams"



During the last Secrets of Somis tour SCHS members saw Richard Baron's 40+ acre "Garden of Dreams" (a term overheard on the tour.) At that time we saw a 5 acre dry lake, with an "island" full of choice gingko, acer, quercus and other tree specimens. Since then, the lake has been finished and hundreds of additional trees have been planted. Landscape architect Nick Williams will join us to talk about his involvement in the project and plans

to eventually make it a public garden. Richard Baron will personally lead the tour along the stream, over the moon bridge to the island, and on up to a garden overlooking the lake. Shopping for trees (in boxes up to 12 ft. square)

is permitted at this stop, but no trees will be allowed on the bus. Delivery by crane truck is available.

## Southern California Horticultural Society "Secrets of Somis - Revisited" June 27, 2015

This trip will be on a chartered bus, departing from the Los Angeles Zoo parking lot in Griffith Park at 8 am. We plan to return by 4 - 5pm. Sorry, no private cars allowed on this trip. Further details will be provided upon registration.

### REGISTRATION

Due to the limited space, "first come, first served" reservations will only be allowed through our online system at SCHS MemberLodge (<http://schs.memberlodge.org/>) or by contacting the trip organizer by phone: Laura Bauer at 626-437-9459.

Member tickets are \$50 each/ Non-Member tickets are \$65 each. Catered lunch is included. Non-members may attend only as guests of current members.

*Please make your reservation soon as we expect this trip to fill up quickly.*

We apologize there is limited space available on this tour. We are already planning future tours with more space and more notice.