



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

September 2015

OUR NEXT MEETING

Annual Horticulturist
of the Year Banquet
(and Silent Auction)

September 10

See details in this issue,
and see you there!



SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

*No new members
joined in August*

*We would like to encourage
all members, new and old,
to attend the HOTY banquet
and continue to build
new relationships
within the organization...*

SHARING SECRETS

The SCHS Sharing Secrets
question for September is:

*How are you keeping
your trees alive during
this extended drought?*

Answer on our web site at
schs.memberlodge.org
or e-mail your response to:
gardensbysabine@aol.com
by Friday, September 11

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2015 ANNUAL AWARD BANQUET

Honoring Horticulturist of the Year Kathy Musial

Thursday, September 10, 2015


The Southern California Horticultural Society is recognizing Kathy Musial with the 2015 Horticulturist of the Year award. Her work as Curator of Living Collections at the Huntington Botanical Gardens for the last 30 years has made a significant contribution to horticultural and botanical knowledge both locally and globally. While much of this work goes on quietly behind the scenes, it is in the public arena of local horticultural societies where Kathy may be better known. She served on the Board of the Southern California Horticultural Society for 28 years, was an SCHS representative on the Board of the Pacific Horticulture Society for 21 years, and was a founding board member of the San Diego Horticulture Society.

Kathy earned a B.A. in Biology at UCLA in 1980 and a certificate in Horticulture, UCLA Extension in 1982, at which time she began work at the Huntington Botanical Gardens. From 1983 to 1985 she worked as a Botanist for the Huntington and has been their Curator of Living Collections since 1985.

Kathy has authored numerous publications ranging from professional papers dealing with her job as Curator, to excerpting her travel diary of her tours to Chile. Her articles have often been in the pages of *Pacific Horticulture*

Magazine. Additionally, she has served on many advisory boards for plant selection and evaluation, from *Sunset Magazine* to Quail Botanic Gardens (now San Diego Botanic Garden), and edited horticultural books dealing with everything from houseplants to the *Reference Lists of Ornamental Plants for Southern California Gardens* (Southern California Horticultural Society, Los Angeles, 1993), and - most notably - *Conifers Around the World*. This massive two volume set now graces the shelves of major collections of botanical related books around the world.

For many years, as a participant on the Tours Committee of the Pacific Horticulture Society, Kathy developed and escorted excursions to destinations such as Australia, Chile, New Zealand, South Africa and Madagascar. Her encyclopedic knowledge of botany was an invaluable resource in helping tour participants understand the fascinating flora of these exotic locales.

Please join us in celebrating the remarkable work and dedication of Kathy Musial in the field of horticulture and in advancing a greater understanding of the flora of our world. 



Banquet registration info. on Page 3

PLEASE RESPOND BY
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2015

CALL FOR SILENT AUCTION

The SCHS holds its annual Silent Auction during our Horticulturist of the Year event. The auction is a major source of funds for our Society and a great chance to bid on a diverse assortment of intriguing things. If you have a donation you would like to contribute, please contact Steven Gerischer to coordinate a time for pickup at: sglarkspur@aol.com or by phone (323)257-3629. We are accepting interesting plants, garden-related items and anything other gardeners or the human race in general would find fun and/or useful... You may also bring items to the event, but please contact me at least a day ahead of time so I can prepare a bid card in advance. Thank you!

 Steve Gerischer

AUGUST MEETING RECAP

The August meeting covered a lot of ground - from California natives to a world of exotic fruits. The program began with SCHS intern Adriana Garcia, who shared an overview of her experiences at Rancho Los Cerritos in Long Beach. Her presentation included charts and photos of projects she had participated in. These ranged from assisting with maintenance pruning, espalier, and iris rhizome division to tracking the growth rates of various native plants in a landscape setting and installing a drought-tolerant garden at the Virginia Country Club. It is gratifying to know that there are inspired young people such as Adriana who are eager to carry Southern California horticulture into the future.

The featured speaker, Bruce Blavin, program chair of the California Rare Fruit Growers, spoke about the dazzling array of great fruit trees suitable for growing in Southern California. In addition to presenting a comprehensive PowerPoint tour that included many of the 5,000 plants growing in his personal one-acre Beverly Hills area garden, Bruce also provided useful information about a wide range of trees and shrubs as well as cursory information about such related topics as pruning, grafting, chill factor, and plant selection. Counter-intuitively, he advised that when selecting tropics to grow in Southern California it is better to purchase the largest specimen available. This is contrary to the conventional wisdom pertaining to non-tropics - that a smaller tree will adapt more readily and produce fruit within a year or two. Bruce also briefly touched on his experiences with honeybees and beekeeping.

There were a good many questions from the audience after his talk, and the intriguing variety of exotic fruit samples that Bruce provided drew an inquisitive gathering of frugivores. Some selections were more familiar (cherimoya, figs, jack fruit, avocado, dragon fruit) than others (rose apple, finger lime, marian plum), but all were fascinating. Bruce invited interested parties to join California Rare Fruit Growers' regular monthly meetings, which alternate between lectures and field trips. For those interested, it is advisable to check the California Rare Fruit Growers website for the nearest chapter and current program schedule: www.crfg.org/.

✿ Sandy Masuo

SCHS BOARD PLANNING MEETING OVERVIEW

The majority of the current Board Members of the Southern California Horticultural Society met on August 23 in the Somis garden of SCHS Board Member John Schoustra to discuss the current state of our Society. The intent of this "Strategic Planning Meeting" was to begin an open dialogue about the future of the organization in general, develop specific goals, and to exchange ideas in answer to questions posed by more recent additions to our board.

Our purpose on the Board is to consider ways we might improve what the SCHS already does, and determine how we would like to grow in response to the changing face of gardening and horticulture in our region. Certain areas were targeted for improvement and there was much discussion about ways we can position ourselves to be a better recognized resource for people getting past the introductory side of gardening and horticulture, and

who are wanting more. Web development and future meeting content are two of the specific ways we will be working on to achieve this objective.

Keeping in mind that everyone is very busy, and we are a volunteer organization, the Board is still committed to seeing the SCHS grow and adapt to the changing needs of our membership while maintaining our unique position within the Southern California horticultural community. While we continue to work on various agenda items, we will share more details through the newsletter, on the website, and at our general meetings in the near future.

As always, we also encourage, welcome and appreciate active participation by more of our members as we begin to shape the future of the SCHS.

✿ Steven Gerischer
Sabine Steinmetz

LAST CHANCE (Almost) FOR SCHS PUBLICATIONS!

We will be discontinuing the sale of our three SCHS publications at the end of December. If you would like a copy for your library, you can purchase them with a downloadable mail-order form through our website (see the Publications page) or contact Joan Citron directly at: jobie.garden@yahoo.com

Selected Plants for So. California Gardens

Editor: Joan Citron, Illustrator: Leslie Walker
Aka "The Opus", this brings together the collected wisdom of SCHS members from Plant Forums and personal observations covering 50 years. This encyclopedia of native and exotic plants covers over 2700 species grown in Southern California. A very useful reference! (Published in 2000; 416 pages)
Members price: \$25.00 (Regular: \$34.95) + CA Sales Tax

Reference Lists of Ornamental Plants for Southern California Gardens

By: Philip E. Chandler Editor: Kathy Musial
Can't think of what to plant in that shady location with sandy soil? This collection of reference lists is great for the landscape designer as well as the backyard gardener. (Published in 1993, 1998; 330 pages)
Members price: \$15.95 (Regular: \$19.95) + CA Sales Tax

Outdoor Growing Orchids for Greater L.A. Area

Editor: Joan Citron, Illustrator: Leslie Walker
This booklet gives basic information on size, culture, blooms and fragrance for over 250 orchids that will do well in Southern California. (Published in 1997, 2003; 28 pages)
Members price: \$5.00 (Regular: \$6.00) + CA Sales Tax

SHARING SECRETS RESPONSES:

*What exotic fruits do you grow?
And how do you use them?*

Just picked up two new **Dragon Fruit** cultivars this spring. I have grown other Epis, but these are the fastest growing I've ever seen, having almost doubled in size in just 3 months! Looking forward to bloom and fruit.

- Lynn M. Hoopingarner

I started growing **Finger Lime** last year. It's the first exotic fruit I've tried. It has not produced yet (5 gal. at planting), though we get fragrant flowers occasionally, and there seems to be one fruit on it. I don't know if it will grow to maturity. I'll be patient. Fruits resemble clear fish roe and when sprinkled on food, a burst of lime is your reward when you bite into one. They are delightful - visually and as a taste explosion. I have high hopes.

- Kathy Itomura

Of course the **grape** is not rare, but the **Kyoho variety** is uncommon here, seen only in some farmers markets. Dark purple and seeded, similar to our Concord, it was hybridized in the 1930s in Japan where it is apparently their most popular variety. Mine is only a few years old but produces delicious fruit, which is why raccoons and other wild critters usually get it before I do. This year I'm letting Elephant Food grow up around the vine which seems to be successfully hiding the sweet bunches from the hungry wildlife.

- Yoav Paskowitz



HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS / SCHS ANNUAL BANQUET REGISTRATION

Please contact location(s) to confirm listed events, and for a full schedule.

Events are free with admission unless otherwise indicated.

ARCADIA 91007 Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden

301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia 91007
626.821.4623 arboretum.org

Saturday, 9/12, Noon-4pm, Palm Room. Organic Fruit and Vegetable Gardening. Fall crops, weeds, insects, diseases; treatment and prevention; organic gardening history and current events; different farming practices; tool maintenance; Community Supported Agriculture; Slow Food; cover crops; organic labeling; sustainability in the kitchen. \$25 members, \$30 non-members (includes Arboretum Admission). Call ahead to register, or pay at the class.

Thursdays, 9/17, 9:30am-Noon, Palm Room. Thursday Garden Talks Series. Roots: The Real Story with Robert Kourik. They're rather ugly, mostly invisible and nobody really understands them, yet they provide sustenance and support for all plants. \$20. Call ahead to register, or pay at each class.

Saturday, 9/19, 10am, Crescent Farm. Sheet Mulching Workshop. You will be shown how to use cardboard and mulch to build fertile productive soil. This is a proven method for lawn removal and reducing weeds as you transition into a water wise landscape. Presentation and a hands-on activity where you will help to build our new Crescent Farm.

Saturday, 9/19, 11am-12:30pm, Meet at Gift Shop Patio. Strategies for Water Conservation in the Landscape, with Arboretum Plant Information Consultant Frank McDonough.



LA CANADA/FLINTRIDGE 91011 Descanso Gardens

1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada 91011
818.949.7980 descansogardens.org

Saturday, 9/12, 1pm. Edible Landscaping. Landscape architect Billy Goodnick leads a discussion on design focusing on edible gardening (part of "Re-envisioning the California Lawn" series). Panelists are Christy Wilhelmi, author of Gardening for Geeks and founder of Gardenerd; and David King, instructor

of food gardening and sustainability for UCLA Extension's Gardening and Horticulture program, and head of the Venice High School Learning Garden.

Saturday, 9/19, 10am. A New Look for L.A. Cassy Aoyagi of FormLA Landscaping, designers of the Center Circle low-water garden, will discuss her vision and aesthetic for a new L.A. landscape where drought is the norm. She is the founder of FormLA and president of the Theodore Payne Foundation.



SAN MARINO 91108 Huntington Botanical Gardens

1151 Oxford Road, San Marino 91108
626.405.2100 huntington.org

Sunday, 9/27, 2pm, Botanical Auditorium. California Gardener Series - More than Ornaments: Gardens for a Sustainable Southern California. Landscape designer Andreas Hessing of Scrub Jay Studios will discuss ecological gardening and the use of drought-tolerant native plants in landscape design.



CLAREMONT 91711 Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

1500 N. College Ave., Claremont 91711
909.625.8767 rsabg.org

Sunday, 9/20, 10am-1pm. Medicinal Plants of California Herb Walk. Join herbalist William Broen for a walk featuring medicinal and edible plants native to California. Learn traditional and modern uses of approx. 30 species, as well as relevant folklore. Bring a sack lunch & water bottle. \$20 members, \$25 non-members.



SUN VALLEY 91352 Theodore Payne Foundation

10459 Tuxford St., Sun Valley 91352
818.768.1802 theodorepayne.org

Whole month of September. Applications being accepted for 13th Annual Theodore Payne Native Plant Garden Tour, Saturday and Sunday, April 2 and 3, 2016. Gardens must be located in L.A. County, with at least 50% California native plants and no exotic invasive species. For more, visit: www.nativeplantgarden.org/apply/ Applications will be reviewed through October 1.

Saturday, 9/19, 8:30am-12:30pm. Native Plant Garden Maintenance. TPF's Director of Horticulture Madena Asbell discusses watering, fertilizing (or not), pruning, grooming, mulching, 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, 9/19, 1:30-3:30pm Insects in Native Plant Gardens. Manager of Biological Collections and part-time lecturer in the Biology Dept. at Cal State Northridge, James Hogue's exquisitely illustrated program is not a session in pest control, but an appreciation of the community of native insects and plants that occupy a healthy native plant garden. \$25 members, \$35 non-members.

Saturday, 9/26, 1:30-3:30pm. Irrigation Practices for Native Plant Gardens. TPF's Nursery Manager Tim Becker discusses home-garden irrigation principles, techniques and equipment best suited for native landscapes - with practical examples and time for questions. \$30 members, \$40 non-members.



PALOS VERDES 90274 South Coast Botanic Garden

26300 Crenshaw, PV Peninsula 90274
310.544.1948
southcoastbotanicgarden.org

Thursdays (9/24 - 10/17), 6-8:30pm. Navigating Our California Drought Series. Learn what the drought means to you, including rebate programs, restrictions, grey water and more. Presented in coordination with the MWD, West Basin Municipal Water District, California Water Service and South Bay Environmental Services. Series = \$15 members, \$20 non-members. Individual Classes = \$5 members, \$7 non-members. Please visit SCBG website calendar listings for details.

Sunday, 9/27, 12-2pm. Pollinator Friendly Gardens. Madena Asbell, Theodore Payne Foundation's Director of Horticulture, will speak on how to save our pollinators from their recent drastic decline. Guests will be taken through the importance of including water-wise, pollinator-friendly plants in their own yard or balcony. Plants will be available to purchase. Proceeds benefit the SCBG Foundation..

Yvonne Savio

2015 Annual Horticulturist of the Year Banquet - Thursday, September 10, 2015

Los Angeles Arboretum · 301 N Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA 91007 · Peacock Cafe 6 pm Social Hour & Auction · 7 pm Dinner

(Reminder: We are unable to accept credit card payments at the auction. Cash and checks only please.)

Tickets are still available on-line at www.schs.memberlodge.org for \$45 each

(Mail in registration closed as of September 3, but we can accept cash and checks at the event.)

Please call Steven Gerischer (323) 257-3629 with any questions.

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

❧ Sept. 10 - Horticulturist of the Year Annual Banquet, honoring Kathy Musial. L.A. Arboretum
REGISTER NOW!

❧ Oct. 8 - Panel Discussion on Landscape Design

❧ Nov. 12 - Plant Breeding talk with John Schoustra

❧ NO MEETING IN DECEMBER



"Like people, trees are all individuals."

- David Hockney

Steven Gerischer, *President, Pacific Horticulture Board*

Laura Bauer, *Treasurer & Finance*

Pat Steen, *Secretary, Membership*

Carol Bornstein, *Programs*

Yoav Paskowitz, *Finance*

Yvonne Savio, *Horticultural Happenings*

John Schoustra, *Plant Raffle & Plant Sales*

Lili Singer, *Selected Book Sales & Programs*

Jill Vig, *Pacific Horticulture Board*

Rachel Young, *Finance*

Sabine Steinmetz, *Newsletter*

Steven Ormenyi, *Coffee in the Garden*

Marilee Kuhlmann, *Programs*

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Contributors to this issue: Laura Bauer, Steven Gerischer, Sandy Masuo & Yvonne Savio

Next deadline: Friday, September 11 (for Oct. newsletter)

Please contribute an article or information of interest.



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