



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

November 2015

## OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, November 12

Los Angeles Zoo  
Witherbee Auditorium  
5333 Zoo Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90027



Socializing: 7:30 pm  
Meeting begins: 8:00 pm

## SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

*Please welcome our newest member when you see her at our meetings...*

Jennifer Hume

*...and invite your friends to become members as well!*



## SHARING SECRETS

The SCHS Sharing Secrets question for November is:

*What are your "Go-To" plants when designing or renovating a garden?*

Answer on our web site at [schs.memberlodge.org](http://schs.memberlodge.org) or e-mail your response to: [gardensbysabine@aol.com](mailto:gardensbysabine@aol.com) by Friday, November 13

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## The Who, How and Where of New Garden Plants

Who are the amateur and professional plant people that discover and breed new garden plants for us? How are these new plants selected, named, propagated and promoted? Where do these new plants travel before they reach our gardens?



To answer these questions and more, will be this month's featured speaker John Schoustra, SCHS board member and owner of Greenwood Daylily Gardens and long-time Board member with the Nursery Growers Association of California. Presenting as a plant breeder and nurseryman,

John will take us from hobbyist gardens to "the General Motors of US horticulture," connecting the dots between Ventura County, Chicago, Columbus Ohio, Uganda, Costa Rica and your garden.

John's considerable knowledge and expertise in the field began with a UC Berkeley landscape architecture degree and 20 years of landscape design/build experience. Using his practical knowledge as a foundation, he founded his own nursery, Greenwood Daylily Gardens, in 1989, for the purpose of finding, breeding and growing superior daylilies for California landscape professionals. Over time the mission broadened, and he added other flowering perennials that are as resilient as daylilies, including irises, clivias and pelargoniums. John has introduced over 30 cultivars to California horticulture, ranging from 'Frankly Scarlett', the 2003 All American Daylily, and 'Snowy Beach Party', a low-chill lilac, to 'Love Child', a native sage and more than a dozen pelargoniums.

We are pleased to have John present his behind-the-scenes look at how our treasured plants arrive in our gardens. It promises to be an informative journey, and we invite you all to come along.

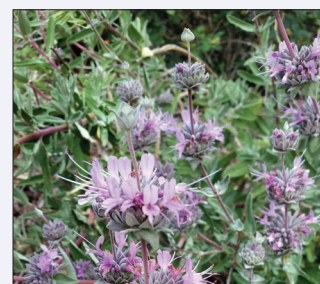
## Selected Schoustra Plant Introductions



*Hemerocallis 'Dusky Rouge'*



*Pelargonium sidoides 'Punch'*



*Salvia 'Love Child'*

## OCTOBER MEETING RECAP

The October panel of local garden designers featured Chris Rosmini and Steve Gerischer, plus the extemporaneous input of several other audience members in place of Andreas Hessing who was taken ill and was unable to attend. Favorite plants were the theme, and each speaker made the case for his and her favorites. All reinforced the choice of plants according to foliage traits since foliage is so much longer-lasting than ephemeral blossoms.

Chris Rosmini, according to Steve Gerischer's introduction, "altered the look of Los Angeles... with her bold plant statements." She enthused about euphorbias, loropetalum's purple leaves working in with bronzes of isoplexis, *Cercis canadensis*, flax, and carex; and dymondia growing happily with succulents. Chris related the origin of dymondia in this country beginning with nurseryman Ed Carman bringing several small plants from South Africa and nursing them along for four years. He then gave two to Chris, who gave one to Gary Hammer. Inside of 6 months, Gary had propagated that one plant into many gallon containers. Chris concluded, "It's a matter of knowing what the successful conditions are that the plant wants." Gary certainly had the touch.

Steve Gerischer's "Plant Picks (and Pics)" included plants he uses frequently, his real workhorses. *Ceanothus 'Wheeler Canyon'* is tough, of moderate size, and with bubblegum pink and blue flower buds. *Iochroma cyanea* attracts hummingbirds. Roses - a special love of his - include climbing 'Butterscotch' and 'Distant Drums,' singles, shrubs, and English Austins. But if pressed to choose just one, it'd be the Austin rose 'Ambridge'. Additionally, Steve spoke of *Dodonea viscosa 'Purpurea'*, which does well paired with many drought-tolerant plants, is a fast grower that remains gracefully pointing upwards, and is good for open hedges planted four feet apart to obtain a full but not oppressive look; however it's not long-lived and it sows itself easily. *Coleonema pulchrum* originally hailed from South Africa, and chartreuse 'Sunset Gold' - which arose in Australia as nursery stock and was distributed from there - is tough once established, smells wonderful, and can be pruned fairly hard. *Arbutus 'Marina'* works well in Mediterranean, drought-tolerant, as well as more formal gardens; its smooth, reddish-brown bark is similar to manzanitas. *Grevillea 'Poorinda Constance'* and *'Moonlight'* are part of a great genus of plants from Australia with wonderful foliage and other

groundcover forms. *Aeonium 'Sunburst'* offers architectural structure, and Steve raved about a particularly handsome form of 'canariense' with beautiful and exciting red edging on chartreuse leaves. Steve added this caveat about succulents - many kinds don't last forever, and to retain their good looks in the garden over time they must be replaced with young plants as older ones fade or become leggy.

Afterward Chris and Steve answered questions and then Steve called on audience members to volunteer some of their favorite native landscape choices.

- Amy Nettleton: Endemics from the Channel Islands. Santa Cruz Island Ironwood, also called Catalina Ironwood, *Lyonothamnus floribundus ssp. asplenifolius*, an upright tree with fern-like leaves, of medium size that's good in groups or groves. Saint Catherine's Lace, *Eriogonum giganteum*, a rounded shrub to 6'x6' with largish silvery felty leaves, has flat flower umbels that can be as big as dinner plates, which start white and age to cinnamon then dark, chocolatey brown. Evergreen Currant, *Ribes viburnifolium*, is a dark green, arching, mounding groundcover for shady areas and under oaks.

- Orchid Black: Adding to the Channel Island theme with plants for year-round color include *Dendromecon harfordii*, Island Bush Poppy; *Lavatera assurgentifolia*, Island Tree Mallow; *Gambelia (Galvezia) speciosa*, Island Bush Snapdragon; *Verbena lilacina*, Lilac Verbena; and *Eriogonum grande rubescens*, Rosy Buckwheat. She also reminded folks that year-round bloomers generally originate in the Channel Islands or the deserts.

- Carol Bornstein: Native sages, especially *Salvia 'Winnifred Gilman'*, a wonderful cultivar of Cleveland or Fragrant Sage; and Island Snowflake or Catalina Silverlace (*Eriophyllum nevinii*; new name = *Constancea nevinii*).

- Sabine Steinmetz: *Eriogonum arborescens* and *Abutilon palmeri* were cited for their reliable performance as frequently used selections.

- Steve Gerischer: Steve then mentioned the beautiful seed heads the Abutilon produces after flowering, which adds to its charm and many of us do not trim off until much later. His final suggestion was of toyon, saying "I'll plant more toyon than anyone wants!" How appropriate, since toyon is the official native plant for the city of Los Angeles!

Yvonne Savio

## SHARING SECRETS RESPONSES:

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

I transformed my father's landscape in Covina to all 2" thick mulch and drip irrigation. I've been giving the trees minimum fertilizer to slow their growth and a deep soaking once a month. The mulch keeps soil cooler, holds moisture in, and adds much needed organic matter to soil depleted by years of lawn.

Once our trees are mature, they will get water provided by the drip irrigation for the perennials and shrubs living under them. Our 30-year-old Carrotwood is lush and very healthy, and while the 30-year-old citrus need more water, they have a bumper crop due to the mulch and switching to organic fertilizer every month.

Every day in my zone (West Los Angeles) I see many dead trees since people have stopped watering lawns. How very sad, but on the other hand, I see City of Santa Monica buying watering bags for the street trees.

- Katarina (Kat) Eriksson



California ReLeaf, Save Our Water, and the U.S. Forest Service partnered to create two instructional videos showing how to best care for our trees during this historic drought. CALFIRE and Davey Tree Expert Company provided technical support for the videos.

The link below will take you to the Save Our Water web page from where you can select from viewing a video on watering mature trees, or young trees, as the two techniques differ somewhat.

<http://saveourwater.com/what-you-can-do/tips/landscaping/save-our-water-and-our-trees/>

- Carol Bornstein



# HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

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

Saturday & Sunday 11/7 & 8, 9am-5pm, Ayres Hall. Winter Cactus Show and Sale, The San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society exhibits the splendors of the fall and winter growing succulents and cacti rarely seen in summer shows.

Saturday, 11/21, 10am-2pm, Crescent Farm. Drought Tolerant Plants. As we deal with a hotter, drier climate, what are the wisest plant choices for both food and ornamental purposes? Come see, taste, and smell some interesting variants on the gardens you currently see in Los Angeles.



**LA CANADA/FLINTRIDGE 91011**  
**Descanso Gardens**  
**1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada 91011**  
**818.949.7980 descansogardens.org**

Tuesday, 11/17, 10 am. Native Plant Care. Descanso's horticulturists show how to plant and care for native plants, including irrigation and pruning tips. Bring gardening gloves. Admission to the Gardens and this workshop are free of charge the 3rd Tuesday of the month.



**SAN MARINO 91108**  
**Huntington Botanical Gardens**  
**1151 Oxford Road, San Marino 91108**  
**626.405.2100 huntington.org**

Saturday, 11/7, 9am-Noon. Ecosystem-Based Gardening Series: Propagating California Native and Drought-Tolerant Plants. Advanced gardeners will learn basic vegetative propagation skills with Tim Becker, nursery manager of the Theodore Payne Foundation. Various species will be started from cuttings, and each participant will leave with a flat of cuttings. \$45. Registration: [huntington.org/calendar](http://huntington.org/calendar)

Thursday, 11/12, 2:30pm, Ahmanson Room, Brody Botanical Center. 2nd Thursday Garden Talk & Sale: Lush Landscapes, Little Water. Richard Hayden, head gardener for the Natural History Museum's Nature Gardens, discusses using low-water plants, designs, and features to create an exuberant, lush garden while meeting today's strict irrigation standards. Plant sale follows program.

Saturday, 11/21, 9am-noon. Ecosystem-Based Gardening Series: Native Seed-Starting Workshop. Learn how to propagate native plants from seed in this hands-on workshop for advanced gardeners led by Madena Asbell and Genevieve Arnold of the Theodore Payne

Foundation. Covers basic seed physiology, viability, germination cues, pretreatments, sowing, and aftercare. \$45. To register, go to: [huntington.org/calendar](http://huntington.org/calendar).

Sunday, 11/22, 2pm, Ahmanson Room, Brody Botanical Center. Southern California Gardener Series: "Ugly" Isn't a Turf Replacement: Doing Native Plants Right. When removing turf to conserve water, the replacement garden should be inviting, functional, sustainable, and beautiful. Mike Evans, founder of Tree of Life Nursery, discusses how an attractive landscape of native plants will save water and also pass the test of time as an authentic representation of the true California garden.



**CLAREMONT 91711**  
**Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden**  
**1500 N. College Ave., Claremont 91711**  
**909.625.8767 rsabg.org**

Saturday & Sunday 11/7 & 8, 8am-5pm. Oaks of Southern California Workshop. Fred Roth, Jr. will discuss key characteristics, how to ID Southern California species and hybrid forms, plus some systematics and ecology. Sunday is a field day. \$125 RSABG and Southern California Botanist members; \$150 public. To register or for more info. go to <https://11213.blackbaudhosting.com/11213/Oaks-of-Southern-California>.

Saturday, 11/21, 1-4pm. Habitat Gardening with California Native Plants. Workshop discusses providing food, shelter, moisture and nesting sites for birds, bees, and butterflies. \$36 members, \$45 non-members. To register and for more info, go to <http://rsabg.org/community-education/1051-habitat-gardening-workshop>.



**SUN VALLEY 91352**  
**Theodore Payne Foundation**  
**10459 Tuxford St., Sun Valley 91352**  
**818.768.1802 theodorepayne.org**

Saturday, 11/21, 1:00-3:30pm. Irrigation Practices for Native Plant Gardens. Tim Becker discusses irrigation principles, techniques and equipment best suited for native plant landscapes with practical examples. \$30 members, \$40 non-members.

Saturday, 11/28, 9:00am-Noon. Native Seed-Starting Workshop. Madena Asbell and Genevieve Arnold discuss propagating native plants from seed. Hands-on class covers basic seed physiology, viability, germination cues and pretreatments, plus sowing and aftercare. Students will take home a flat of seeds they've sown. All materials provided. Limit: 8 people \$45 members, \$60 non-members.

Saturday, 11/28, 1:30-3:30pm. Beneficial Bugs in the Garden. Lili Singer discusses keeping a healthy native garden with the help of a miniature menagerie of insects and other creatures that keep pest populations in check. This richly illustrated lecture highlights helpful bugs you're likely to find in home landscapes, with tips on how to attract and conserve them. \$25 members, \$35 non-members.



**LOS ANGELES 90007**  
**Natural History Museum of Los Angeles**  
**900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles 90007**  
**213-763-3466 nhm.org**

Sunday, 11/8, 9am-Noon. Gardening for the Bees. Museum experts discuss growing a home garden for bees and other pollinators, including how to track its success using the Great Sunflower Project's citizen science methods. Participants receive a free plant to kick start their garden! \$20 members, \$23 non-members. Register by calling 213.763.3499 or going online at [nhm.org/workshops](http://nhm.org/workshops).



**ENCINO 90274**  
**California Native Plant Society**  
**L.A. & Santa Monica Mtns. Chapter**  
**16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino 90274**  
**818.782.9346 lacnps.org**

Tuesday 11/10, 7:30 pm. Miguel Ordenana will share a program / slide show titled Studying Elusive Mammals of L.A.'s Urban Core. Program is free and non-members are welcome.



**PALOS VERDES 91436**  
**South Coast Botanic Garden**  
**26300 Crenshaw, PV Peninsula 90274**  
**310.544.1948 southcoastbotanicgarden.org**

Sunday, 11/15, 12-2pm, Cornish Courtyard. Shop & Learn Plant Clinic. Tanya Finney will talk about common problems that plague home gardens and container plants, and how they can be prevented. Propagation Workshop Plant Gurus will be on hand to troubleshoot specific issues and provide advice on making more drought-tolerant choices. Bring pictures or specimens of the problems you're having - in ziplocked plastic bags, please! Drought-tolerant plants will be available for purchase.




**FULLERTON 92831**  
**Fullerton Arboretum**  
**1900 Associated Rd., Fullerton 92831**  
**657-278-3407 fullertonarboretum.org**

Saturday & Sunday, 11/7 & 8, 10am-4pm. California Native Plant Sale. Over 100 varieties of native plants for sale. Learn how to build a habitat garden to attract butterflies, bees, and birds. For more info., go to [http://fullertonarboretum.org/ps\\_CaliforniaNative.php#sthash.4aYgE3mCdpuF](http://fullertonarboretum.org/ps_CaliforniaNative.php#sthash.4aYgE3mCdpuF)


Saturday, 11/14, 10-11:30am, Arboretum Bleachers. Composting with Worms. Education Program Manager Miguel Macias will show how to introduce and maintain worms in a home composting system, to yield rich fluffy soil that works wonders in your garden. \$10; register online.


Yvonne Savio

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

 Nov. 12 - Plant Breeding Talk with John Schoustra  
NOTE: This meeting will be held at the L.A. Zoo

 NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

 Jan. 14 - So Many Manzanitas, So Little Time - with Tom Parker

 Feb. 11 - TBA

## GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH



Steven Gerischer, *President, Pacific Horticulture Board*  
Laura Bauer, *Treasurer & Finance, Website Liaison*  
Pat Steen, *Secretary, Membership, Internship Coordinator*  
Carol Bornstein, *Programs*

Yoav Paskowitz, *Finance*

Yvonne Savio, *Horticultural Happenings, Coffee in the Garden*

John Schoustra, *Vice-President, Plant Raffle & Plant Sales*

Lili Singer, *Selected Book Sales, Programs, Archives*

Jill Vig, *Pacific Horticulture Board, Special Projects*

Rachel Young, *Finance*

Sabine Steinmetz, *Newsletter*

Steven Ormenyi, *Finance, Coffee in the Garden*

Marilee Kuhlmann, *Programs*

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**Next deadline: Friday, November 13** (for Dec. newsletter)

Please contribute an article or information of interest.



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