



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

December 2015

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday,

January 14, 2016

Friendship Auditorium
3201 Riverside Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90027



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

SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome our newest members and say "hi" to them at our meetings...

Jennifer Anderson
Pamela Meyer

We're glad you've joined us!



SHARING SECRETS

The SCHS Sharing Secrets question for December is:

"What is your favorite plant name (common name or latin/scientific name) and why?"

Answer on our web site at schs.memberlodge.org or e-mail your response to: gardensbysabine@aol.com by Friday, December 12

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NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

Due to a scheduling conflict with the Friendship Auditorium, the SCHS Board opted to cancel the December meeting rather than try to reschedule or look for another venue. We're hoping our decision will lighten the load for everyone at this very busy time of year and help free up your December calendars!



At this time, we would like to wish everyone a very Happy Holiday Season, and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year - at meetings, field trips, "Coffee in the Garden" and many other SCHS events. We already have a very active calendar planned for 2016!

your SCHS Board

NOTE for the NEW YEAR: Based on members' survey responses, our monthly meeting time will move up one half hour beginning in March of 2016.

SHARING SECRETS RESPONSES:

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

Two plants I have come to appreciate in recent years (even before our drought), are the Desert Marigold, *Baileya multiradiata*, and California Sea Lavender, *Limonium californica*.

Baileya multiradiata has silvery-gray leaves and sunny yellow asteraceous flowers. Even though it is a desert species, it seems to do better (denser growth, more flowers, prolonged bloom time of 8-10 months) in the San Fernando Valley when given a little extra water. We have been growing this species for 9+ years, and depending on how much water an individual plant receives, it can be anywhere from 8" to 18" tall, and slightly wider. Also, while this is supposed to be a short-lived perennial, some of our plants are in their 4th and 5th years.

The other species I like, *Limonium californica*, is also known as the Western Marsh Rosemary because it is found along coastal California into Baja. We have found that it is

a tough little gem of a plant and can tolerate life in the San Fernando Valley very well - even in heavy clay soil! It has the numerous, small lavender flowers typical of statice, and the color lasts for months on the dry flowers while still on the plant (providing an excuse not to deadhead). One plant will slowly form a dense, neat clump of medium green leaves. A single clump may grow to over 12" wide, and it can be gently divided. While it does not need a lot of water, it will tolerate fairly frequent irrigation for short periods of time. Its short stature, 6" high leaves, plus 8" of inflorescence, make a tidy border planting with sustained color.

- Brenda Kanno
CSU Northridge Botanic Garden



"Sharing" continued on Page 2

NOVEMBER MEETING RECAP

Our November meeting was held at the Witherbee Auditorium of the Los Angeles Zoo and featured multiple plant sales, as well as a presentation by SCHS board vice-president and plant breeder, John Schoustra.

“I love horticulture and could go off in many directions - and I probably will,” commented John. Indeed, the long-time board member with the Nursery Growers Association of California took us wandering on a journey through time and space, providing an overview of the nursery trade from its historical roots to a summary of its current state of affairs, as well as its relevance to himself both professionally and personally.

John first gave us a brief description of his own horticultural “roots”: beginning with house-sitting plants at age 7, to selling Burpee seeds at 9 and growing *Gloxinia* at 14, to eventually graduating from UC Berkeley and beginning his professional career in landscape architecture. He has held varied positions in the horticultural industry since then and currently is the owner of Greenwood Daylily Gardens, where he has been growing and breeding primarily daylilies and pelargoniums since 1989. Switching from the personal to the global, John then took us on a magical history tour of the nursery trade.

Since its origins in the orchards of fifteenth century Boskoop, Holland, the science and art of plant breeding has become an industry driven primarily by mass market demand for “color,” otherwise known as annuals. On a micro-level, independent breeders such as Jay Kapac (“the Picasso of pelargoniums”) continue to develop inspired hybrids and unusual cultivars. On a macro-level, like so many other industries, it has become consolidated in the hands of a few corporate giants such as Ball Horticultural (the “General Motors of plants”) whose motto, “We color the world,” is no overstatement.

John also provided a vivid summary of how operations such as Ball work, marshaling enormous resources around the globe to propagate plants with specific traits (reliable hues or tolerant temperaments) under carefully controlled conditions that would seem to have more in common with the International Space Station than the average greenhouse - all because, John observed, “a bunch of

people in Ohio want impatiens that will all be dead by October.”

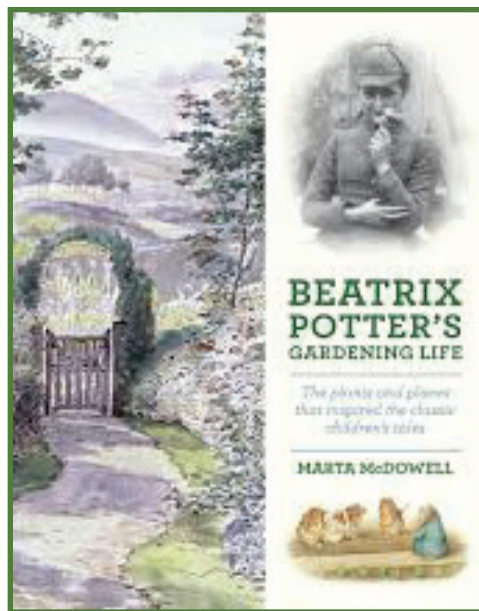
Sterile lab cuttings are shipped for propagation to countries clustered in Equatorial regions where day length remains almost constant throughout the year affording a perpetual spring/autumn growing season. However, while these practices sustain year-round production, John pointed out that these international companies also provide better livelihoods for the people they employ than many alternative local industries.

These days, marketing is by and large geared toward a clientele that views plants as a lifestyle purchase versus targeting the “plant geeks”. And although profit is its primary goal, the passion for plants is still at the heart of the nursery industry - so for every utilitarian ‘Knock Out’ rose (“the most widely sold rose in North America,” boasts the Star website), there’s a *Coreopsis* ‘Jethro Tull,’ developed by ITSAUL Plants and named for its whimsical petals, which are... fluted.

 Sandy Masuo
with Sabine Steinmetz

JUST PUBLISHED

Thanks to Yvonne Savio for making us aware of this new book, released just in time to give to ourselves for the holidays!



Timber Press ISBN: 9781604693638

SHARING SECRETS

(cont'd from Page 1)

Members' "Go-To" Plants

Here are my favorite reliable perennials for garden renovation:

1. *Teucrium chamaedrys*
2. *Ceratostigma plumbaginoides*
3. *Plectranthus* 'Mona Lavender'
4. *Helichrysum* 'Variegatum', *H.* 'Limelight'
5. *Cotoneaster dammeri* 'Lowfast'
6. *Salvia greggii* 'Furman's Red'
7. *Trichostema lanatum*
8. *Penstemon spectabilis*
9. *Salvia spathacea*
10. *Sesleria autumnalis*

- Kathy Glascock
Landscape Designer,
Studio City



During 2015, I worked on a number of lawn replacement projects, and found myself using several plants again and again.

Their individual traits (in addition to being water wise), when used in combination meet many of the criteria I try to adhere to when choosing plants for home gardens: providing seasonal interest through bloom, seed production or leaf color, offering unique attributes such as attractive pods or being a food source for wildlife, ease of maintenance, and /or having a pleasing scent.

It's easy to mix 'n' match from the following list using your client's personal preferences as a guide... Have fun!

Abutilon palmeri - California native with soft leaves, apricot flowers, attractive pods

Cassia artemisioides - feathery gray foliage, yellow flowers, chartreuse pods

Eriogonum arborescens - compact form, pale pink flowers, rusty seed heads; attracts butterflies

Salvia clevelandii - Flowers! Fragrance!

Salvia microphylla (various) - good accent, edging or filler, many colors to choose from and most can be kept short

Westringia 'Blue Gem' - same look as 'Wynnie Gem', but shorter and denser; plant singly or mass as a low hedge

- Sabine Steinmetz
Garden Designer, Burbank

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

Wednesday, 12/9, 10am-12noon, Ayres Hall. Make An Old Fashioned Wreath. Marla Carter and Mary Hampton help you create a unique holiday wreath using natural "ornaments" from the Arboretum grounds and greens from the Los Angeles Flower District. \$35 members; \$45 non-members (all materials included). Call 626.821.4623 to register.

Saturday, 12/12, 12-4pm, Palm Room. Organic Fruit and Vegetable Gardening. Jill Morganelli discusses seasonal winter planting, including the national organic program, crops, companion planting, weeds and insects, winter disease identification, treatment and prevention, maintenance, cover composting, worm bins, pruning and gopher-proofing planting beds. \$25 Arboretum members, \$30 non-members. Call 626-821-4623 to register or pay at the door.

Saturday, 12/19, 10am. Crescent Farm Water Workshop: Water Conservation. How many ways do you know how to harvest and conserve water? What happens to the water that falls on your roof? How much is leaving your property? Come and learn new strategies and applications. Books and a resource list will be provided with attendance.



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

Saturday, 12/5, 11am & 2pm. Wreath Making. Make a beautiful wreath from natural materials for your winter decorating. Descanso staff will provide expert instruction to get you going. \$40 includes materials. Early registration is encouraged.



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

Saturday, 12/19, 10am-12noon. Flower Arranging: Pine Boughs and Flowers. Learn how to work with tall floral elements including fresh pine boughs and flowers to create a bold floral statement for your holiday celebrations. The design team from Flower Duet leads this festive workshop. Members: \$85. Non-Members: \$100. Registration: huntington.org/calendar.

Saturday, 12/19, 1-2:30pm. Children's Flower Arranging: Mini Holiday Trees. Evergreen trees a traditional part of winter solstice celebrations. Kids can put a new spin on tradition by creating mini holiday trees from fresh greenery and cut flowers in this workshop led by the design team from Flower Duet. Ages 7-12. Fee includes one accompanying adult. Members: \$25. Non-Members: \$35. Registration: huntington.org/calendar.



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

Saturday, 12/12, 9am-12noon. Propagating California Native Plants with TPF's Nursery Manager Tim Becker. Learn basic skills of vegetative propagation. Various species will be started from cuttings or divisions in this hands-on session, and you'll leave with a flat of new starts for your own garden. Limit: 8. \$50 members, \$60 non-members.

Saturday, 12/12, 8:30am-12:30pm. California Native Plant Horticulture. Lili Singer shares the basics on gardening with California flora: why natives are valuable, plant communities, planting techniques, establishment, irrigation and ongoing maintenance. Recommended for beginners; prerequisite to TPF Three-Part California Native Plant Garden Design course. \$45 members, \$55 non-members.

Saturday, 12/12, 12:30-3:30pm. Habitat Gardening with Native Plants. Build it, and they will come! Madena Asbell reveals how easy it can be to attract a variety of critters – including hummingbirds, song birds, insects, reptiles, even salamanders – to your garden with California native plants. Get tips on how to maintain your native garden in a wildlife-friendly way, hear how to provide a healthy home for native bees and discover which native plants attract which pollinators. A portion of the class will be spent outdoors. Children 8 and up are welcome! \$30 members, \$40 non-members.

Thursday 1/7/16, 8-10am. First Thursday Bird Walk with Ken Gilliland. Join a passionate local birder for a morning ramble in scenic canyon land, where over 50 species of birds have been seen. Bring binoculars, a hat and water. Repeats first Thursdays through June. Free, but RSVP to info@theodorepayne.org.



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

Sunday, 12/13, 9am-12noon. Workshop: Save Your Water! L.A. is experiencing one of the worst droughts on record, however a torrent of rain is promised with the arrival of an El Nino

weathersystem. So what do these contradictions mean for our yards? How do we preserve the water we have, no matter how much or how little? In this workshop, learn how to maintain a water-wise landscape that relies on household greywater and rainwater instead of the tap. You will learn the basics of sustainable technologies, bioswales; plus you'll have a chance to roll up your sleeves and build a greywater system in the Museum's Nature Garden. \$15 members, \$17 non-members. Register by calling 213.763.3499 or going online at nhm.org/workshops.



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

Sunday, 12/5, 12-2pm, Cornish Courtyard. Shop and Learn Plant Clinic: Festive Natives - Toyon. Connie Vadheim will discuss one of the most beloved and useful California native plants to our region and its connection to California's history. Toyon encourages bird life, supplies bees with an excellent source of honey, and protects hills from erosion. Connie will also discuss other plants for winter color. Plants will be available to purchase. No registration required.



SANTA MONICA 90403 **California Native Plant Society** L.A. & Santa Monica Mtns. Chapter First United Methodist Church 1008 11th Street, Santa Monica 90403 **818-881-3706 / 818-782-9346** lasmmcnps.org / lacnps.org

Tuesday, 12/8, 7:30pm. A Grass Roots Garden Without the Grass. Arlington Garden in Pasadena is an inspiring success story of residents working with a landscape designer to create the city's first public garden.



ENCINITAS 92024 **San Diego Botanic Garden** 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas CA 92024 **760-436-3036** sdbgarden.org

Saturday, 12/12, 10am-2pm, Holiday Wreath Making. Students will build a full-sized, mixed green wreath for their holiday decorating or gifting. This technique can be applied to items often found in the garden. Cost: SDBG Members \$50, Non-members \$60.

Yvonne Savio

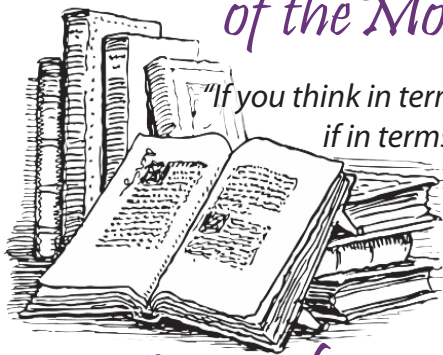
Meetings regularly held at Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles CA 90027, starting at 7:30 pm, unless otherwise noted.

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

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

Feb. 11 - Unconventional Chocolate - Patricia Tsai

Gardening Quote of the Month -



"If you think in terms of a year, plant a seed;
if in terms of ten years, plant trees;
if in terms of 100 years,
teach the people."

- Confucius

December



Southern California
Horticultural Society
P.O. Box 94476
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NEWSLETTER December 2015

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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Contributors to this issue: Sandy Masuo & Yvonne Savio

Next deadline: Friday, December 11 (for Jan. newsletter)

Please contribute an article or information of interest.