



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

January 2016

## OUR NEXT MEETING

**Thursday, January 14**

Friendship Auditorium  
3201 Riverside Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90027



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

## NEW MEETING TIMES BEGINNING IN MARCH

Please see  
announcement below.



## SCHS NEW MEMBERS

*No new members joined in  
December, but we encourage  
you to bring friends in 2016!*

## SHARING SECRETS

The SCHS Sharing Secrets  
question for January is:

*What is your least  
favorite gardening  
chore and why?*

Answer on our web site at  
schs.memberlodge.org  
or e-mail your response to:  
gardensby Sabine@aol.com  
by Friday, January 15

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## So Many Manzanitas, So Many Little Apples

Over 100 species and subspecies of manzanitas occur in the Golden State, primarily in regions where the mediterranean climate prevails. This specialized presentation will explore what's behind this remarkable diversity. Our speaker will be Tom Parker, Professor of Biology at San Francisco State University, where he conducts research on the dynamics and ecology of plant communities.

Tom's academic credentials include a B.A. in Biology from the University of Texas, Austin, as well as an M.A. and Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of California, Santa Barbara. He has published over 100 papers and book chapters on topics such as chaparral seed banks, freshwater tidal wetland dynamics, seed dispersal of tropical trees, mycorrhizal ecology of forests and chaparral, and the evolution of manzanitas (Arctostaphylos). He wandered into studying manzanitas in hopes of answering many ecological questions and ended up as the lead author for the treatment of Arctostaphylos in the Flora of



North America and the 2nd edition of The Jepson Manual. Tom is co-author of the new book, Field Guide to Manzanitas, copies of which will be for sale during the meeting.

This enlightening talk will no doubt enhance our appreciation of this stunningly beautiful genus as well as increase our understanding of the role manzanitas play in the natural landscape and in human history. Tom's presentation will give horticulturalists, gardeners, designers and native plant enthusiasts new insights for growing and using these versatile plants in the built landscape.

## SCHS ANNOUNCEMENT: NEW MEETING TIMES

Beginning in March 2016, and based on members' responses to last year's poll, our Monthly Meeting times will be adjusted by a half hour. **Socializing will begin at 7:00 p.m., and the meeting will start at 7:30,** enabling everyone to get home a little earlier.

## SHARING SECRETS RESPONSES:

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

My favorite plant name has always been *Dizygotheca elegantissima* (even though it has been reclassified as *Schefflera elegantissima* and now *Plerandra elegantissima*), with *Cryosophila stauracantha* being a close second. I have both plants in my yard and love them, but it's more the sounds of the names. I even got my e-mail address way back in 1995 based on it!

- Heath Jorgenson

"Secrets" cont'd. on Page 2

Since there was no meeting in December to recap, we instead welcome 2016 with anticipation of the all the events SCHS members can look forward to: Monthly Speakers (sometimes with demos, give-aways and plants!), Coffee in the Garden, Plant Forums and Sharing Secrets, Field Trips (often to locations not typically accessible to the public), Book Sales, Raffles and Free Stuff, plus snacks! We hope to see more of you in the coming year, and to hear from you in person or on-line at our website's Member Lodge or on Facebook. There are many ways to participate and much to look forward to... like these views we can enjoy in our January gardens. See you soon!



All photos © Sabine Steinmetz

## SHARING SECRETS RESPONSES - cont'd.

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

I like punny and weird scientific names. I always thought Fuchsia was funny. I also like *Amorphophallus titanum*. A new favorite is a genus of sunflowers named *Zyzyxia*. From the website, "Curiosities of Binomial Nomenclature", here is the backstory:

"*Zyzyxia* (H. Robinson) Strother, 1991. In the later stages of revising North American Ecliptinae (a subtribe of sunflowers, Heliantheae), John Strother realized that one species placed in the genus *Wedelia* differed enough to merit considering it a separate genus. By that time, however, the monograph was already written and being proofed for publication. The editor agreed to accept the new genus only if came after all the other genera - to minimize the number of pages which would need to be altered. The genera were ordered alphabetically, so Strother created a name that would come after the previously last genus, *Zexmenia*. (In the monograph itself, Strother says only that the name was arbitrarily formed.)"

- Laura Bauer

This is an easy one... I've always been enchanted by *Nigella damascena* because its botanic name is as lyrical and charming as its common counterpart is poetic: Love In a Mist. Watercolor flowers balanced on delicate, spidery bracts appear to float above a green cloud. As an annual, its transitory life only adds to this plant's appeal for me, and I enjoy collecting the papery pods to disburse more seeds in the garden for next year's display.

- Sabine Steinmetz

*Verbena lilacina* 'De la Mina' - 'cause it's fun to say!

- Steve Gerischer

My favorite botanical name - for its lyricism and plenitude of syllables - has always been *Cupaniopsis anacardioides* (carrotwood tree). This was already my opinion years before I bought my current home with one growing in the parkway.

- Yoav Paskowitz

## NEW LECTURE SERIES

### NEW SERIES OF GARDENING CLASSES at the L.A. ARBORETUM

A new, 8-part series of lectures entitled "What's Happening in the Garden?" began on Thursday, January 7. The 9:30 - noon classes feature a variety of speakers and are \$20. each. Series is hosted by Matt-Dell and Rebecca Tufenkian and future dates will appear in Horticultural Happenings. Go to: [arboretum.org](http://arboretum.org) for all class descriptions.

Still open in January: 1/14 - Near Natives with garden designer Laura Bauer. "Drought-tolerant" doesn't have to mean cactus and lava rock! Laura will share her experiences using water-wise plants from California and beyond.

1/21 - What's Better Now in the Arboretum Library? with Arboretum Librarian, Susan Eubank. Explore collections from 1578 to 2016 in a fresh, new location, guided by a 20 year+ botanical garden librarian who's excited to share her knowledge and assist with visitor's quests.

To register, or for more details, call 626.821.4623 or e-mail [ted.tegart@arboretum.org](mailto:ted.tegart@arboretum.org).

## HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

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

*Events are free with admission unless otherwise indicated.*

**Locations are listed by Zip Code.**

**SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN**  
26300 Crenshaw, PV Peninsula 90274  
**310.544.1948** southcoastbotanicgarden.org

Saturday, 1/16, 9:30am-12pm. Soil 101 Workshop. Learn about growing soil, its maintenance, care and restoration. Examine the composition and essential role of soil in the urban garden, learn how to test soil for texture, compost and green manure, and how to open it up to receive roots, attract organisms and develop mycorrhizae. \$15 members, \$20 non-members, Free for SCBG volunteers. Registration required.

Sunday, 1/31, 1-4pm, Rare Fruit Orchard. 30th Annual Fruit Tree Care and Pruning Demo. Rick Wheeler will discuss trimming and fertilizing, plus insect and disease control. There will be a raffle for fruit trees, tools and organic products. No registration required.



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM**  
301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia 91007  
**626.821.4623** arboretum.org

Saturday, 1/9, 10am-12noon, Education House. Rose Pruning. Victorian Rose Gardener Jill Morganelli will discuss why January is the month for proper rose pruning and soil building to determine plant health and performance throughout the year. Disease control will also be covered. Demo in the Rose Garden afterwards. Bring water and comfortable shoes. \$25 Arboretum members. \$35 non-members (includes Arboretum admission). Call 626-821-4623 to register, or pay at the class.

Saturday, 1/23, 10am-12noon, Palm Room. Tree Diseases, Pests and the Drought. Dr. Jerry Turney will discuss common tree diseases and insect pests of Southern California. Learn how to identify/diagnose/prevent them, and how to treat affected trees. \$25 Arboretum members, \$35 non-members (includes Arboretum admission). To register, please call 626-821-4623 or pay at the class.



**DESCANSO GARDENS**  
1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada 91011  
**818.949.7980** descansogardens.org

Saturday, 1/16, 10am. A New Look for LA Walk. Cassy Aoyagi of FormLA Landscaping, will discuss water catchment and management strategies including permeable paving, bioswales, rain gardens, infiltration and rain barrels.

Saturday & Sunday, 1/30 & 1/31. Camellia & Tea Festival. Celebrate the camellia, whose blooms brighten our winter days! See all events on website.



**HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS**  
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino 91108  
**626.405.2100** huntington.org

Thursday, 1/14, 2:30pm, Ahmanson Room, Brody Center. Second Thursday Garden Talk & Sale: Bulbs and Roses: A Winning Combination. While roses are resting, winter-blooming bulbs can enhance the garden. Tom Carruth, Curator of the Rose Collections at The Huntington, discusses favorite bulbs to plant as companions among the roses, including Narcissus, Oxalis, Muscari, and Gladiolus. Plant sale follows and will feature a wide selection of bulbs and bare-root roses.

Sunday, 1/24, 2pm, Ahmanson Room, Brody Center. Southern California Gardener Series: Your Garden and Your Water Bill. Home gardeners need to reduce water usage, but by what measure? What amount of water is appropriate to the landscape? Jim Folsom, Director of the Botanical Gardens at The Huntington, and Scott Kleinrock, landscape design and planning coordinator, discuss how to interpret usage in light of objective standards, and what techniques or design solutions could give gardeners the most bang for their water bucks. Attendees are invited to bring their water bills, sampling all seasons, for discussion.



**RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN**  
1500 N. College Ave., Claremont 91711  
**909.625.8767** rsabg.org

Saturday, 1/9, 10-11am. How to Plant and Water Native Plants. Learn the basics to give your plants a good start toward becoming drought-tolerant. To register and for more info., go to: <http://rsabg.org/community-education/1006-programs-at-grow-native-nursery-claremont>.



**THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION**  
10459 Tuxford St., Sun Valley 91352  
**818.768.1802** theodorepayne.org

Saturday, 1/9, 1:30-3:30pm. How to Keep 'em Alive: Getting Plants Established with Barbara Eisenstein. This class covers proper care for California natives during the critical establishment period, when young plants make the transition from nursery conditions to your home garden. \$25 members, \$35 non-members.

Wednesday, 1/13, 10am-12noon. Look, Ma, No Lawn! with Steve Gerischer. 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.

Saturday, 1/23, 9am-12noon. Propagating California Native Plants with Tim Becker. Learn basic skills of vegetative propagation with TPF's Nursery Manager. Various species of native plants will be started from cuttings or divisions in this hands-on session, and you'll leave with a flat of starts for your own garden. Limit: 8. \$50 members, \$60 non-members.

Saturday, 1/23, 1:30-3:30pm. Look, Ma, No Lawn! with Lili Singer. (See description for Wednesday 1/13) \$25 members, \$35 non-members.

Friday, 1/29, 1:30-3:30pm. Perfect Partners: Gardening with Natives and All Sorts of Edibles with Lili Singer. Gardening with natives and growing our own food are activities that help us connect with nature and use our land in positive ways. Learn how best to combine natives and edibles in the home garden, why this is rewarding for both the gardener/chef and wildlife, and which plants make the best companions. \$25 members, \$35 non-members.

Saturday, 1/30, 9-10:30am. Beyond the Barrel: Practical Rainwater Harvesting with Andreas Hensing. When precious rain falls, keep it on your property! This class offers timely sound advice on harvesting and using rainwater, including reservoir types, system requirements and how much you're likely to catch, with helpful suggestions on what to water and why. \$25 members, \$35 non-members.



**SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN**  
230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas 92024  
**760-436-3036** sdbgarden.org

Saturday, 1/16, 9am-12noon. Living Wall/Vertical Garden. Mary Lou Morgan teaches students to plant a 10" x 20" wall of succulent varieties. Living walls can be used outside or inside, and offer endless design possibilities. SDBG members \$30, non-members \$36. Additional \$70 materials fee per student is paid directly to instructor on the day of the class.



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

Thursday, 1/14, 9am-12noon. Plant Propagation. Nursery Manager Brian Maddock will lead a tour of the Arboretum to collect a variety of California and drought-tolerant plant species seeds/cuttings, and then instruct participants in propagating them utilizing numerous techniques. \$10.00. Second Thursday of every month.

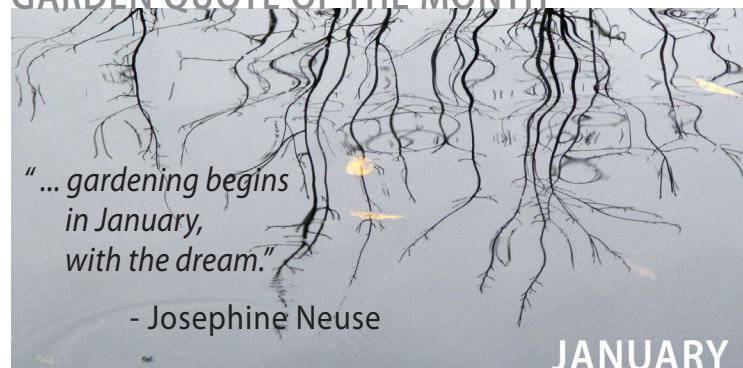
Saturday, 1/23, 10-11am, Nature Center. Nature Tour. Second and fourth Saturdays of every month. Arboretum guides explore 26 acres and over 4,000 plant species from around the world, including ponds, streams and wildlife. Free, but donations are appreciated.

Yvonne Savio

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

- January 14 - So Many Manzanitas, So Little Time with Tom Parker
- February 11 - Unconventional Chocolate with Patricia Tsai
- March 10 - Speaker TBA  
NEW MEETING TIMES BEGIN

### GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH



Southern California  
Horticultural Society  
P.O. Box 94476  
Pasadena CA 91109-4476

NEWSLETTER January 2016

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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*Newsletter Editor:* Sabine Steinmetz

Contributors to this issue: Carol Bornstein & Yvonne Savio

**Next deadline: Friday, January 15** (for Feb. newsletter)  
 Please contribute an article or information of interest.