# Southern California Horticultural Society

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

### socalhort.org

### NEWSLETTER

### April 2016

### OUR NEXT MEETING

### Thursday, April 14

Friendship Auditorium 3201 Riverside Drive Los Angeles, CA 90027

63

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

## SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Last month we gained the following new members:

### Jackie Scheidlinger Rachel Surls

Please say "hello" at our next meeting!

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#### SHARING SECRETS

The SCHS Sharing Secrets question for May is:

Do you have a new or favorite gardening tool you can't live without?

Answer on our web site at schs.memberlodge.org or e-mail your response to:

gardensbysabine@aol.com by Friday, April 15

### IN THIS ISSUE

March Meeting Recap 2
Editorial 2
Green Sheet / Plant Forum 3
Announcements & Links 4
Horticultural Happenings 5
Upcoming Programs and SCHS Contact info 6

## GROWERS' PANEL: Cool Plants for Hot Gardens

### Panel Presentation & Plant Sale

Please join us for an evening featuring "cool" plants for our local gardens: some new to us all, and some that have been around but may not be familiar to everyone. A plant raffle will follow the panel presentation which features speakers representing four different southland nurseries.

### Our panelists are:

Laura Bauer, garden designer, who will show South African and Australian plants. She will be acting as the representative for Jo O'Connell, owner of Australian Native Plants in Casitas Springs (in Ventura County), who contributed the specimens.

John Schoustra, grower and owner of Greenwood Daylily Gardens in Somis, will be sharing some of his new and favorite varieties of daylilies, iris, pelargoniums and more.

*Lili Singer*, Director of Special Projects and Adult Education at the Theodore

Payne Foundation in Sun Valley will be talking about California native plants. Her focus will be on lesser known selections that can be used in different types of garden settings.

Bob Sussman, grower and owner of Matilija Nursery in Moorpark, will be presenting a variety of California native plants and bearded iris from his inventory.

Each of the speakers will be allotted time to describe their selections, many of which will be available in the plant raffle afterward. We encourage everyone to buy tickets and participate in the raffle for a chance to take home some of these unique specimens. You will also be able to purchase additional plants during the evening, as at least two of the growers will be selling their selections before and after the presentation.

Don't miss this meeting as it will be a unique opportunity for attendees to learn about, examine and take home unusual specimens that they might otherwise have to search for, or travel to obtain.

# SHARING SECRETS RESPONSES:

What marks the first sign of Spring in your garden?

Signs of spring in my garden are: my Redbud tree, *Sparaxis* bulbs and *Hawera* daffodil bulbs.

Aprille Curtis



Used to be the poppies opening, but now they do that in Winter (late January, early February). It's a puzzlement: does Spring spring in early February, or must I look for a new marker for Spring? Ask me next year, I'll have decided by then...

- Anonymous

### **ടെ** SCHS UP-DATE രു

We are still gathering stories and remembrances about long-time SCHS member Elmer Lorenz who recently passed away. If you would like to share a favorite memory of your own, please contact Steve Gerischer at sglarkspur@aol.com or 323.257.3629.

## MARCH SCHS MEETING RECAP

### EDITORIAL

In March, our featured speaker was Philip Rundel, Director of the Mildred E. Mathias Botanical Garden at UCLA, and a Distinguished Professor of Biology in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Professor Rundel's presentation drew upon his over 30 years of teaching and field experience, looking at the five global Mediterranean climate regions from a floral diversity perspective.

Rundel began by describing what constitutes a Mediterranean climate region, and how these factors create hotspots of biodiversity. The zones located at latitudes 30° - 40° north and south of the equator are characterized by dry summer and wet winter seasons. These mediterranean-type ecosystems (MTEs), are able to support a great variety of plant life, generally comprised of shrublands, woodlands and sclerophyll forests, that share commonalities of leaf shape, size, and texture. The focus of Rundel's presentation was on the diversity of plant life within these regions and adaptability for use in Southern California.



He briefly talked about the California Floristic Province, which is comprised of over 4,700 plant species. Dominant plant communities with Mediterranean characteristics are oak woodlands, coniferous forests, chaparral and sage scrub. Many plants have also evolved with adaptations for the regular occurrence fire plays in the ecosystem.

By contrast, similar communities in the Mediterranean Basin consist primarily of maquis and garrique scrub, coniferous forests, and very few remaining woodlands. With the largest land area of the MTEs, and over 25,000 species, many plants commonly used in Southern California landscaping originate in this area, including Italian cypress, lavender, rosemary, olive trees and stone pines.

Rundel explained that both South Africa and Southwest Australia are the most ecologically stable of the five regions, being the oldest in geological age. Yet differences in topography, fire cycles and soils have led to the evolution of unique plant communities in these two regions.

He went on to describe the Cape Floristic Region of South Africa, and encouraged visiting the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden in Cape Town to see examples of the many indigenous regional plants, including leucadendron and a vast collection of proteas. South Africa is the smallest in area of the five regions, but is home to over 9,000 species in its Afromontane forests, renosterveld grasslands and dominant fynbos vegetation. Within the fynbos, three families do especially well in Southern California: the Proteaceae, Restionaceae and the Ericaceae, with the latter having over 680 endemic subspecies in South Africa.

Next, Rundel talked about Southwest Australia, with its mallee heathlands, kwongan shrubland, banksia woodlands and eucalyptus forests. Topography is low, but vegetation height of the more than 8,000 species varies between being either very tall or very short. Plants have evolved to survive in extremely depleted sandy soils, as the land has weathered for a long period of time. Centers of richness and endemism are in areas of indeterminate rainfall, making many of these plants adaptable for Southern California gardens, including members of the Proteaceae, Myrtaceae and Fabaceae families, as well as certain Australian orchids and geophytes such as gastrolobium, macropidia fuliginosa and haemodoraceae.

The final region Rundel covered was that of coastal Chile, with its matorral vegetation, sclerophyll woodlands, evergreen forests and the grassy espinal. Over 3,900 species are found in this region which is characterized by weather that has no fire seasons, unlike the other four MTEs. Succulents are widespread due to the absence of fire, and are among the many Chilean plants which do well in Southern California. Other imports include: Lobelia, Puya, Escallonia, and Alstromeria. Rundel postulated that due to the geographic commonalties shared by Chile and California (coastal ranges and inland valleys), this region could potentially be a source for more landscaping plant materials in the future.

In conclusion, while these five global regions have Mediterranean climate similarities, it is their support of rich and varied plant life that



makes them hotspots of biodiversity. Typically, they also share low extinction rates, exhibit niche conservation, and (other than Chile), have fire adaptability. And while these MTEs account for only 2.25% of the world's land area, they support 16% of all plant species. However,

Rundel pointed out that all of the regions are continuously endangered due to human population growth, with its associated threats of habitat loss, land degradation, invasive alien plants and conversion of land for urbanization.

**R** Sabine Steinmetz



# RAMIFICATIONS OF PLANT SMUGGLING

At a recent SCHS meeting a person drew a round of applause for proudly displaying smuggled leaves and fruit. Apparently folks don't realize the catastrophic consequences for California agriculture and native plants that plant smuggling can lead to. California experiences invasions by exotic pests at least once every 3 months. Most arrive on poorly inspected or smuggled plant matter.

## Consider 2 of our more recent unwanted visitors:

- Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP), which spreads the deadly citrus greening disease (Huanglongbing) has become established in Southern California. As a result, tens of thousands of acres will have to be helicopter-sprayed with pesticides 3-4 times per year, organic citrus growers will go non-organic and the USDA will spend \$40 million just to slow the bug down until we can find a permanent solution. At this point the only long term solution may be GMO citrus trees. The two detections of Huanglongbing were caused by smuggled curry leaves and a smuggled citrus cutting.
- Polyphagous Shothole Borer (PSHB and KSHB), also referred to as "Treebola". These tiny beetles from Asia and the deadly fungi they carry threaten hundreds of tree species. They've wiped out native willows in the Tijuana river and killed thousands of native oaks, box elder and sycamore trees throughout Southern California. California avocado growers have already spent over \$2 million fighting this pest and Orange County plans to spend the same amount this year just to grind up dead oaks and sycamores.

If you don't want to cause more GMOs, wasted tax dollars and pesticide spraying, and you also don't want to eliminate organic produce and native trees, then please don't even think about smuggling plant matter.

ca John Schoustra

See related article & links on Page 4

## Southern California Horticultural Society



## Plant Forum Plants • January & February 2016

The Plant Forum is a display of plants grown by members & exhibited at our monthly general meeting.

### PLANTS SHOWN at JANUARY 14, 2016 MEETING

Arctostaphylos 'Pacific Mist' (Eriaceae) Shown by Gary Kamisher. Pacific Mist is a gray-green sprawling ground cover of hybrid origin that is very fast growing for a manzanita.

Echeandia species (labeled texana/perhaps texensis?) (Lilliaceae) Crag lily/Copper lily. Shown by Eric and Ann Brooks. Echeandea, with its nodding, yellow star-like blooms, comes from clay soils in the dunes and arroyos of the Rio Grande River Valley of southern Texas, including locations on the Gulf Coast. Grown in Baldwin Hills. (Originally purchased at Cal State Fullerton.)

Tulbaghia fragrans (Amaryillidaceae) Sweet Garlic. Shown by Aprille Curtis. This easy-to-grow South African bulb is extremely fragrant, especially at night. Full sun/part shade. Flowers are mauve, lilac or white.



Tulbaghia fragrans

Leucadendron 'Safari Sunset' (Proteaceae) Shown by Gary Kamisher. Safari Sunset is a vigorous, tall and erect grower to over 8 feet, but can be kept lower and more dense with regular pruning. The flowering cones are surrounded by deep reddish bracts and last long as cut flowers. NOTE: The variegated form called 'Jester' was shown by Gary at the February meeting.

Haemanthus pauculifolius (Amaryillidaceae) Shown by Aprille Curtis. This South African bulb is a very rare, relatively newly described species from the Drakensberg Mountains of South Africa. Flowers have the familiar "shaving brush" spray of stamens, and are a creamy white (something like H. albiflos).

### PLANTS SHOWN at FEBRUARY 11, 2016 MEETING

Chaenomeles (Rosaceae) (species unknown - most likely C. x superba) Flowering Quince. Shown by Sheldon Lisker. This form had deep pinkish-red single flowers with pronounced stamens. Sheldon mentioned this old-fashioned garden shrub is one of the first to bloom. Flowering quince are of easy culture, and can remain in the garden for many years. Numerous color forms range from pure white through all shades of pink, into deep carmine reds. Flowering branches can be cut for floral display and budded branches are sometimes cut for indoor forcing.

Pelargonium transvaalense. (Geraniaceae) Shown by Matt-Dell Tufenkian. This South African pelargonium is a deciduous, herbaceous perennial. The species is known from only two locations, Mpumalanga (the Barberton area) and in KwaZulu-Natal. The plant has large, lobed leaves, sometimes zoned with deep purple rings. Flowers are pink with red veins.

Pelargonium alchemilloides. (Geraniaceae) (Lady's Mantle Stork's Bill) Shown by Matt-Dell Tufenkian. A South African herbaceous perennial. Deciduous, but can remain evergreen with consistent moisture. Distinctive five-lobed leaves are marked with dark purple zoning. Flowers are narrow petaled and pale pink or nearly white, held on thin stems high above the foliage.

Fockea edulis (Asclepiadaceae). Shown by Matt-Dell Tufenkian. A semi-deciduous caudiciform plant from South Africa and Namibia, grown for its bulbous, swollen trunk. In the wild, roots and trunk are mainly underground, but collectors grow them with the trunk exposed. Requires fast drainage and a rest period but is considered long-lived and reliable if given proper care.

**Compiled** by Steven Gerischer

### **RESOURCES & LINKS**

# UC REQUESTS RESIDENTS' AID IN CONTROLLING SPREAD OF ASIAN CITRUS PSYLLID

The University of California is asking residents growing citrus to inspect their trees for Asian citrus psyllid.

California citrus - both on farms and in home landscapes - face a very real threat from a disease that is spread by Asian citrus psyllid. Florida and Texas citrus is already suffering terribly. California may be able to avoid the same fate, if all residents and farmers do their part to combat the pest. We hope you'll help us spread the word.

### **RESOURCES**

Feel free to share the following on your website or social media.

- This video on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v =UhqwUQm0zpk&feature=youtube
- High-resolution photos at: http://ucanr.edu/News/ACP-HLB/

# Spring in California is the time to inspect citrus trees for Asian citrus psyllid.

A tell-tale sign of spring in California is a flush of new leaf growth on citrus trees. Because the feathery light green leaves are particularly attractive to Asian citrus psyllids (ACP), the leaves' emergence marks a critical time to determine whether the pest has infested trees.

"We encourage home citrus growers and farmers to go out with a magnifying glass or hand lens and look closely at the new growth," said Beth Grafton-Cardwell, UC Agriculture and Natural Resources citrus entomologist. "Look for the various stages of the psyllid – small yellow eggs, sesame-seed sized yellow ACP young with curly white tubules, or aphid-like adults that perch with their hind quarters angled up."

If you find signs of the insect, call the California Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Exotic Pest Hotline at (800) 491-1899.

psyllids Asian citrus feared because they can spread huanglongbing (HLB) disease, an incurable condition that first causes yellow mottling on the leaves and later sour, misshapen fruit before killing the tree. Everywhere Asian citrus psyllids have appeared including Florida and Texas - the pests have found and spread the disease. A few HLB-infected trees have been located in urban Los Angeles County, and were quickly removed by CDFA officials.

"In California, we're working hard to keep the population of ACP as low as possible until researchers can find a cure for the disease," Grafton-Cardwell said. "We need the help of citrus farmers and home gardeners."



Grafton-Cardwell has spearheaded the development of the UC ANR ACP website: http://ucanr.edu/sites/acp/ for citrus growers and citrus homeowners, that provides help in finding the pest and what to do next. The site has an interactive map tool to locate residences and farms that are in areas where the psyllid has already become established, and areas where they are posing a risk to the citrus industry and must be aggressively treated by county officials.

The website outlines biological control efforts underway, and directions for insecticidal control, if needed. An online calculator allows farmers and homeowners to determine potential costs for using insecticides.

# Additional measures can be taken to support the fight against ACP and HLB in California:

- When planting new citrus trees, only purchase trees from reputable nurseries. Do not accept cuttings or budwood from friends or relatives.
- After pruning or cutting down a citrus tree, dry out the green waste or double bag it to make sure that live psyllids won't ride into another region on the foliage.
- Control ants in and near citrus trees with bait stations. Scientists have released natural enemies of ACP in Southern California to help keep the pest in check. However, ants will protect ACP from the natural enemies. Ants favor the presence of ACP because the psyllid produces honeydew, a food source for ants.
- Learn more about the Asian citrus psyllid and huanglongbing disease on UC ANR's Statewide Integrated Pest Management website (http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74155.html).
- Assist in the control of ACP by supporting CDFA insecticide treatments of your citrus or treating citrus yourself when psyllids are present.
- Support removal of HLB-infected trees.

Contact: Jeannette Warnert, UC Riverside (559) 240-9850, jewarnert@ucanr.edu

### RELATED ARTICLE

Link to information from Invasive Species Awareness Week (Feb. 2016):

http://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=20281

**Contributed** by:

Carol Bornstein & Yvonne Savio

### 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

Now through 5/8, 9am-5pm. Nature Connects. A virtual garden built with LEGO pieces, featuring 27 larger-than-life sculptures, including an 8 foot tall hummingbird and a 7 foot tall rose. This is a hands-on, interactive installation.

Fridays, 4/15, 4/22, 4/29, 5/6, 5/13, 5/20, 9:30-11:30am, Classroom B. Successful Gardens, presented by UCLA County Master Gardeners. This series will have a different topic each class, beginning with basic design principles and advancing through sustainability, soil, irrigation, troubleshooting and navigating many misconceptions of gardening. Each class requires prep work to be done prior to class. Series: \$65 members, \$80 non-members; single-class cost \$12 members, \$15 non-members.

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

Saturday, 4/16, 10am-2pm, Crescent Farm Grand Opening. Visit the Arboretum's newest landscape dedicated to teaching water conservation by sharing water-saving approaches to help gardeners adapt to the drought. Join us for tours, plant give-a-ways and live music. Learn about California native plants and other water efficient trees and shrubs as well as techniques for capturing water. At 11 am, featured speaker Ron Finley, an urban farmer and popular TED speaker, will talk about how gardens can change communities. To reserve a space for Finley's talk, call 626-821-4623. Both events free with regular admission; Arboretum members free.

Friday & Saturday 4/29 & 30 and Sunday, 5/1, 11am-5pm, The Oak Room. First Annual ARTboretum! Botanical Art Show & Sale presented by the Arboretum's botanical illustration class. Free with regular admission; Arboretum members free.

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### DESCANSO GARDENS

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

Saturday, 4/16, 10am. A New Look for LA. Cassy Aoyagi, founder of FormLA, which designed the Center Circle lowwater demonstration garden, guides a walk in the Center Circle and discusses sustainable garden design.

Saturday, 4/23, 11am. Oak Woodland Walk. Native Garden Horticulturalist Layla Valenzuela leads a walk exploring the Oak Woodland, a wildlife restoration site.

Weekend of 4/23 & 4/24 - Earth Day Celebration, including Botanic Bling, Descanso's trunk show of accessories and jewelry, California Wildflower Display: a floral installation, Mount San Antonio College Plant Sale, and a Wildflower Seed Activity. Check website for specific event times.

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

Wednesday, 4/20, 7:30pm, Rothenberg Hall. Mid-Century Landscape Architecture and the Southern California Look. Design pioneer Ruth Shellhorn helped define midcentury landscapes with such visionary projects as Disneyland and the campus of UC Riverside. Landscape architect Kelly Comras, author of a biography about Shellhorn, examines her legacy in a lecture and short film screening. Book signing follows.

Friday & Saturday, 4/22 & 4/23, 10:30am-4:30pm (Members only); Sunday, 4/24, 10:30am-4:30pm (Public and Members). Annual Spring Plant Sale. A wide selection of water-wise Southwest and California native plants will bring abundant color and varied form into your garden. Choose from vegetable seedlings, fruit trees, herbs, cacti, succulents, roses, shrubs, perennials, bulbs, and many more.

#### 63

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

Saturday, 4/30 & Sunday 5/1, 8:30am-5pm. Grass Identification with Travis Columbus. A professional level workshop about the vegetative and reproductive features of grasses (Poaceae), and how to ID members of the Poaceae using The Jepson Manual (2nd edition), microscopes and dichotomous keys. Includes a field trip on Sunday. Coffee, tea, water, snacks included; lunch not provided. \$250 members, \$300 non-members. To register and for required supply list, go to http://rsabg.org/community-education/

#### **63**

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

Friday & Saturday, 4/15 & 4/16, 8:30am-4:30pm. Poppy Days Plant Sale. The region's best selection of native plants for every corner of the garden with discounts to all!

Thursday, 4/21, 2-3:30pm. Beyond the Barrel: Practical Rainwater Harvesting with Andreas Hessing. Learn to keep rainwater on your property! Includes reservoir types, system requirements and helpful suggestions on what to water and why. \$25 members, \$35 non-members.

Friday, 4/22, 11:30am-3:30pm. Three-Part California Native Garden Design with Steve Gerischer. This comprehensive course offers a foundation in design styles and process, importance of sustainability and how to model a garden after patterns in nature. Students will devise a base/plot plan, including hardscape materials, irrigation, and more. Prior to class, students will complete a questionnaire, and are asked to bring site photos plus a baggie of the site's soil to first day of class. COURSE PREREQUISITE: TPF's California Native Plant Horticulture class. Must be completed before start of design course. \$225 members, \$275 non-members; \$285 member couples.

Saturday, 4/23, 9am-1pm. Three-Part California Native Garden Design with Andreas Hessing. Please see description directly above.

Saturday, 4/23, 10am-12noon. Welcoming Wildlife into the Native Garden with Carol Bornstein. Learn how to attract birds, insects, reptiles, even salamanders, by planting California natives. Tips maintaining a wildlife-friendly garden, providing a healthy home for native bees and encouraging pollinators. Children 8 and up are welcome with accompanying adult! \$30 members, \$40 non-members.

Saturday, 4/23, 1:30-3:30pm. Look, Ma, No Lawn! with Steve Gerischer. We'll explain how to take out your lawn and also suggest alternative low-care native plant options that need no fertilizer and use a fraction of the water required for turf. \$25 members, \$35 non-members.

Saturday, 4/30, 9am-1pm. School Native Plant Gardens with Lisa Novick. Hands-on class for teachers covering planning, design, plant palettes, installation and maintenance practices for native plant school gardens, including ways to use the garden in conjunction with Common Core Standards. All materials provided. \$50 members, \$60 non-members.

Saturday, 4/30, 1:30-3:30pm. Your Native Garden's First Year with Lili Singer. This overview of the 12 months following installation of a native plant landscape provides tips on getting plants established, including what to do and expect from your new garden. \$25 members, \$35 non-members.

#### 63

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

Daily through April 30, 9am-5pm. Sculpture in the Garden. Curator Naomi Nussbaum has put together an exhibition emphasizing diversity of media and scale. \$14 adults, \$10 seniors/students/active military, \$8 children ages 3-12, free for children ages 2 and under. Register on-line.

#### 63

# PALOMAR ORCHID SOCIETY 1105 La Bonita Dr., Lake San Marcos 92078 palomarorchid.org

Saturday, 4/30, 9:30am-3pm. Sale of flowering orchids and orchid arrangements from 9:30am - 11am prior to annual auction. Auction follows: 11am-3pm

#### 63

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

Saturday & Sunday, 4/16 & 4/17, 9am-4 pm Green Scene Plant & Garden Expo is the most complete outdoor sale in the region, featuring nearly 100 exhibitors. Admission \$8, Arboretum members free.

#### C3

### COASTKEEPER GARDEN 1560 E. Santiago Cyn. Rd., Orange 92869 714.850.1965 coastkeeper.org

Saturday, 4/23, 10am-1pm. Earth Day Event. Celebrate our planet with family fun in the garden: planting seeds, creating garden art and enjoying local music and entertainment!



Meetings regularly held at Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles CA 90027, unless otherwise noted.

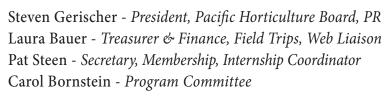
**NEW MEETING TIMES** - Socializing at 7:00 · Meeting at 7:30

April 14 - Growers' Panel: Cool Plants for Hot Gardens (representing 4 southland nurseries)

May 12 - The Why & How of Seeds with David King

June 9 - Lane Goodkind - Program TBA





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68

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Newsletter Editor: Sabine Steinmetz

Contributors to this issue: Carol Bornstein, Steve Gersicher, Yvonne Savio, John Schoustra

Yvonne Savio, John Schoustra

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



6

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

**NEWSLETTER** April 2016