



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

June 2016

## OUR NEXT MEETING

**Thursday, June 9**

Friendship Auditorium  
3201 Riverside Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90027



**Socializing: 7:00 pm**

**Meeting begins: 7:30 pm**

## SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

*Last month we had one  
new member join us:*

**Ruth Gallardo**

*We're pleased to welcome  
her to the group!*

[www.schs.org](http://www.schs.org)



## SHARING SECRETS

The SCHS Sharing Secrets  
question for June is:

*How do you use  
water as a feature in  
your 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, June 10

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## Grasslands & Human Nature - Promoting Wildness in Urbanized Areas

Lane Goodkind has been practicing landscape architecture in Oregon, California and Arizona since 1992. While working in Southern California during the '90s, Lane was troubled by the environmental problems urban storm water runoff was causing. He became a pioneer in his field for implementing swales, rain gardens and infiltration areas into his work long before the benefits of these mitigation measures were recognized by agencies and the general public. His compulsion to make a difference and learn from experts led him to Portland, Oregon in 1999 where he worked on projects integrating storm water filtration into urban landscapes. Since relocating to Santa Barbara and starting his own office in 2003, Lane has been involved in a diverse list of projects. He currently is working on large-scale urban renewal projects, private estates in natural areas, and county and city parks.

Lane will be speaking on how the concept of wilderness has been shifting throughout human history, and how our relationship with the natural world can be examined in this context. Grasslands and meadows represent a conceptual wilderness in that they are often regarded as neither planned nor tamed. But as human-generated landscapes, they often elucidate our struggle to relate to this "wildness" as both stewards and passive



observers. Through this talk and in his work, Lane explores the difficulty, not only in recreating wildness in an ornamental landscape, but why it should or shouldn't matter that we struggle to create native landscapes, and how grasslands play a role in this evolving concept.

## SHARING SECRETS RESPONSES:

*Do you grow any flowers for cutting?  
If so, which ones & why?*

Yes, I grow some roses for cutting only- 'Perfect Moment,' 'Just Joey' are nice. I also grow *Limonium* (*perezii* and *sinuata*) for cutting as well as *Alstroemerias* - the best of the lot being 'Casa Blanca' with white flowers marked with a hint of pink and yellow on stems that can top 2 ½ feet. Last year, in a fit of nostalgia for my early gardening years, I planted seed of *Coreopsis lanceolata* (not the useless-for-cutting dwarf varieties - but the species) and have been enjoying those this spring. I want to plant *Asparagus retrofractus* this year for greenery in arrangements (and because it doesn't become a pest). I also cut flowers from many of the South African bulbs (*Freesia* and *Albuca* are tops). I plant sunflowers intending to cut and then never can as the bees are enjoying them more than I would...

- Steve Gerischer

I love the dwarf *Alstroemerias*. They look great in the garden and stay compact. They play well with others. And they make great cut flowers. I grow as many colors as I can find; light pink, dark pink, white, yellow, orange, red, burgundy and purple. I just wish they weren't deciduous. But this time of the year they're my favorite cut flower.

- Aprille Curtis

## MAY MEETING RECAP

The speaker for the May meeting of the Southern California Horticultural Society was David King, on the subject of The Why & How of Seeds. King is the Garden Master at the Venice High School Learning Garden, teaches several courses in the UCLA Gardening and Horticulture Extension Program, and is the Founding Chair of the Los Angeles Seed Bank Library. His talk stemmed from the same passion that prompted him to create the seed bank library: preserving genetic diversity.

The easy availability of garden seed is often taken for granted, as we think nothing of purchasing a packet of seed for a favorite variety of vegetable or



flower from our nursery, hardware store or even the supermarket. More adventurous gardeners may order seeds from the numerous catalogs that come in the mail, or from online sources. However, this was not always the way things were done in the gardening world. Most of the heirloom varieties of seeds (mainly vegetable crop seed) were saved from generation to generation, passed down through families or traded between farmers, until enterprising gardeners began to package and sell those seeds.

A hundred years ago there were an astonishing variety of seeds being offered for sale by numerous, local seed sellers and nurseries. King pointed out that as larger commercial interests took over from the local, small purveyor of garden seeds this remarkable diversity of seed material was left behind. A one-size-fits-all approach replaced the husbandry of generations of gardeners and farmers. From there, the mega-corporations began to swallow smaller seed growing outfits and reduce the choices even further. Concerned gardeners and farmers began to take matters into their own hands, and the first seed saver exchanges were born.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

From these grass-roots beginnings has grown a world-wide concern for the future preservation of germ plasm - our heritage of seeds and plants.

King answered audience questions during his presentation and also provided hand-outs about pollination and seed diversity, as well as detailing the processes by which home growers can begin saving seed themselves. He then outlined how local gardeners could go about using the resources of the Los Angeles Seed Library.

Everyone participating with the library program is required to sign a contract agreeing to grow plants from the seeds taken out, and to return a portion of new, fresh seed collected from the plants grown. This ensures a continual, expanding source of fresh seed and helps preserve the rich diversity that we have taken for granted in the past. If Monsanto isn't interested in keeping purple tomatoes and forty pound winter squash around for the next generation, perhaps the rest of us can. We would like to thank King for giving us this look into the future of seed saving.

✿ Steven Gerischer

## SCHS NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONTROLLING COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

Over the course of the last year, the SCHS Board has been discussing the impending necessity for offsetting the increasing cost associated with printing and mailing the newsletter to those members who currently receive it via the USPS. Adding a fee to the annual membership dues of those electing to receive a hard copy of the newsletter is being considered as the most fair option for the general membership, but is still under discussion and will also be addressed at upcoming General Meetings. The fee amount has not yet been determined and would not be implemented until June 2017.

### 2016 HOTY BANQUET SILENT AUCTION

Summer is the perfect time to begin cleaning out your garden shed, garage shelves or gardening library to donate items to the Silent Auction at this year's Horticulturist of the Year Banquet... September is coming up sooner than you think! More details to come in July.

## IN MEMORIAM

### MEL BARTHOLOMEW

*Mel Bartholomew, a construction engineer who popularized what he called "Square Foot Gardening," died on April 28, 2016 in San Diego at the age of 84.*

*Mr. Bartholomew originally turned to gardening after retiring at 42 from his engineering and construction firm and moving to Long Island, New York. There, frustrated with tending rows of vegetables, he applied his engineering expertise to conceive a densely packed, 12 x 12 foot subdivided plot.*

*His vision eventually evolved into a raised, open-bottom bed made up of nine 4 x 4 foot squares, subdivided into 16 separate square foot plots, each planted with a different crop. In two months, it produced 32 carrots, 12 bunches of leaf lettuce, 18 bunches of spinach, 16 radishes, 16 scallions, 9 Japanese turnips, 5 pounds of peas, 4 heads of romaine lettuce, 1 head of cauliflower and 1 of broccoli.*

*He said of his philosophy, "I garden with a salad bowl in mind, not a wheelbarrow."*

*Mr. Bartholomew explained his matrix in a public television series, "Square Foot Gardening," which began in 1982 and ran for six years, and in a book by the same title, published in 1981 by Rodale Press. He and his sister, Althea Mott, also established the Square Foot Gardening Foundation, which started planting programs at nursing homes, schools, community gardens and nutrition education classes in the United States and other countries.*

*Excerpted from the New York Times, May 10, 2016 edition*

### DAVID LANNOM

*Retired Mount San Antonio College Horticulture Professor Dave Lannom, passed away on May 12, 2016, at the age of 70.*

*While at Mt. SAC, he served as Agriculture Department Chair and Horticulture Farm Manager, and taught classes ranging from landscape design, to integrated pest management, to trees and shrubs. After his official retirement, Professor Lannom continued to work part-time and volunteer in the Horticulture Unit at Mt. SAC. He received numerous honors during his career, including the Mt. SAC Faculty Member of the Year award, the Cal Poly Pomona Alumnus of the Year award, and was named the Southern California Horticultural Society's 2013 Horticulturist of the Year. Most recently, he was selected as the Mt. SAC Alumnus of the Year Speaker for their 2015 commencement ceremonies.*

*Professor Lannom will be missed by all who knew and loved him. Services will be held on Saturday, June 11 at 10:00 a.m., at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 600 N. Garey Avenue, Pomona 91767. Immediately following the services will be a Celebration of Life for Dave at the Mt. SAC Horticulture Unit.*

*Forwarded by John Schoustra, courtesy of the Nursery Growers Association*



# GREEN SHEET

## PLANT FORUM SELECTIONS • APRIL 2016

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

### PLANTS SHOWN at APRIL 14, 2016 MEETING

#### ***Centranthus ruber* 'Pretty Betsy' -** Red Valerian (Caprifoliaceae)

Shown by Yoav Paskowitz. *Centranthus* is a European herbaceous perennial grown for its beautiful flowers of pink, cerise or white. The glaucous sea-green foliage has a slight gloss (some listings mention that Sicilians once grew this plant as a salad herb). Long prized for cottage gardens and wild borders, *Centranthus* has garnered a host of common names from spur valerian, kiss-me-quick, fox's brush, and Jupiter's beard to keys-of-heaven. The species can spread fast - but the form listed as 'Pretty



Betsy' (more compact than species and with deep cerise-red flowers) tends to be better behaved, however, it is still advisable to cut off forming seed heads to avoid unwanted distribution.

#### ***Epiphyllum hybrids* (various) -** Orchid Cactus (Hylocereeae)

NOT PICTURED

Shown by Shirley Marneus. *Epiphyllum*, or 'Epis', to fans, are winter/spring blooming tropical and sub-tropical cactus. In nature, they are often found growing on trees or cliff faces, so when growing 'epis' in the garden, a hanging pot can be used to simulate the same conditions. Long, sometimes flat, or triangular succulent stems boast large, showy flowers in bright colors. There are 100s of named varieties of epiphyllum and local collectors have annual show/sale days to buy, show and trade their prized 'epis'.

#### ***Penstemon spectabilis* -**

NOT PICTURED

Showy Penstemon / Beardtongue (Plantaginaceae)

Shown by Sheldon Lisker. Large growing California native beardtongue with strong, upright stems to 3'. Foliage is a glaucous green with serrated, slightly wavy edges. Large tubular, lipped flowers are lavender-violet.

Once established, Showy Penstemon needs little water, will last several years, and may self-sow in a suitable environment. Great nectar source for hummingbirds.

#### ***Verbena hybrid* 'Lanai Twister Purple' (Verbenaceae)**

Shown by Steven Gerischer. 'Lanai Twister Purple' verbena

is one of many new hybrids flooding the nurseries. It has bi-colored flower clusters of purple and lavender with white 'eyes' (many of the new verbenas are bi-colored or striped in exciting new shades and hues). This, and other verbenas are often sold as annuals, though often, hybrid verbenas will live for a number of years in Southern California.



#### ***Phymaspermum acerosum* (*Athanasia acerosa*) -** Coulter bush (Asteraceae)

Shown by unidentified member. From South Africa. *Phymaspermum* has silvery upright growth with thread-



like foliage, creating an attractive "feathery" look in the garden. Flowers occur at the ends of stems and are flat clusters of small daisies - chartreuse in bud and bright golden yellow in flower. This drought-tolerant perennial hails from summer rainfall areas,

so an occasional deep watering will keep it looking best. Hard pruning will keep fresh growth emerging.

#### **Also displayed (BUT NOT PICTURED):**

Wildflower mixed bouquet - by Sheldon Lisker

*Amaryllis hybrid* - by Nancy Bird

Double white flowered form of *Brugmansia x candida*  
- by unknown member



## BALLOT for SCHS BOARD of DIRECTORS

### *Southern California Horticultural Society*

for the term from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020

At the end of each fiscal year, the Southern California Horticultural Society reviews the current roster of active Board Members and submits names for membership approval to serve during the new term. At this time, the Society is seeking to fill six vacancies. Write-in votes for qualified candidates are encouraged.

*Please review the slate of names below and vote for SIX*

- ☐ Carol Aronson
- ☐ Carol Bornstein (incumbent)
- ☐ Aprille Curtis
- ☐ Yoav Paskowitz (incumbent)
- ☐ Pat Steen (incumbent)
- ☐ Sabine Steinmetz (incumbent)
  
- ☐ WRITE-IN : \_\_\_\_\_  
(Must be a current member and willing to serve)



Please complete this form and turn in at the June 9 General Meeting

OR

mail back in an envelope postmarked  
no later than June 30, 2016 to:

SCHS • P.O. Box 94476 • Pasadena, California 91109-4476

# JUNE 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 and Sunday, 6/11 & 12, 10am-4pm. 36th Annual Fuchsia Festival Show and Sale. Featuring plants adapted to our Southern California climate: heat-tolerant, mite-resistant and in a wide array of colors.

Sunday, 6/12, 8-11am, meet in Courtyard and then go on an Audubon Bird Walk with Steve Dexter, Ed Griffin and Manuel Duran of the Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society. Tour the Garden and search for birds. No experience required, but binoculars are recommended. Please be punctual.

Thursday, 6/16, 5-7pm. Summer Solstice Garden Walk. Limited to 35 participants - Members only. (Members may invite one non-member guest.) An after-hours walk celebrates the beauty of the Garden in the magical midsummer light. Dress according to weather, bring water and binoculars if you wish. Registration required for all participants, on a first-come, first-served basis. Call the Guest Services Center at 310-544-1948.

Saturday, 6/25, 9:30am-Noon. Smart Gardening Composting: Beginning Workshop introduces participants to composting, vermicomposting, grass recycling, and water wise gardening to improve soil at home. Discount bins will be available for purchase - cash or checks only in the exact amount will be accepted. Visit [www.smartgardening.com](http://www.smartgardening.com) for more information.

Sunday, 6/26, Noon-2pm, Shop and Learn Continental Series: Orchids of Asia. Join us as we explore the exotic flora of Asia and some of its most stunning examples and their basic care. Orchids will be available to buy after the lecture.

Sunday, 6/26, Noon-2pm. Kids Club - Orchids of Asia. Children and parents will learn about these beautiful plants of Asia while painting an orchid picture. For kids 3 years and older. Adult supervision required. No registration required.



## LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM

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

Saturday, 6/18, 12noon-4pm, Bamboo Room. Organic Fruit & Vegetable Gardening with Jill Morganelli. Part of a 16-hour series that highlights how to build habitat and soil while providing solid horticultural practices for growing organic fruits and vegetables. Tours of the Los Angeles Arboretum Garden for All Seasons and Crescent Farm help to give visual meaning to the concepts taught in class. This summer session rolls in with Integrated Pest Management and disease control leading the lineup to help you create a vibrant habitat that lives harmoniously with food production. \$25 Arboretum members / \$35 non-members per class (includes Arboretum Admission). Call the Education Department at 626-821-4623 or pay at the class.

Saturday, 6/25, 10am, Crescent Farm. Plant Tour with Crescent Farm Staff - Leigh Adams, Yara Herrarte, John Latsko and Horticultural Supervisor Jill Morganelli. The Crescent Farm team presents an arid climate orchard and short-season fruits and vegetables, surrounded by a California native-based landscape of meadow and low water lawn alternatives. These plants are readily available for your own yards from local sources.

Saturday, 6/25; 7:30-10pm, Rotunda & grounds. Garden Night Photography with Frank McDonough. Join us for unique photographic opportunities in this special session. Special emphasis on the 'Painting with Light' technique - so bring your 'big gun' flashlights. \$30 members / \$40 non-members (includes Arboretum Admission). Call the Education Department at 626-821-4623 or pay at the class.



## HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

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

Saturdays and Sundays, 6/11, 12, 18 & 19, 10am-4pm. Bonsai Academy. Bonsai master Ted Matson leads a 4-session gakko, or school, geared to beginners. History of bonsai, basic tree botany and challenges, design concepts, training techniques, and display are covered. Supplies and tools provided, including demo trees for classroom practice. Members: \$120. Non-Members: \$135. Registration: [huntington.org/calendar](http://huntington.org/calendar).

Saturday, 6/11, 2pm, Rothenberg Hall. 2016 Great Rosarians of the World Lecture: Discoveries in Old Chinese Roses. Guoliang Wang, the foremost authority on ancient roses of China, has been identifying and breeding rose species for over 30 years. In this illustrated lecture, he reveals his most treasured finds. \$25 ticket includes an evening reception in the Chinese Garden on Friday, June 10, and complimentary morning admission on Saturday, June 11. Reservations: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2517759>.

Thursday, 6/23, 4:30-5:30pm, Botanical Auditorium, Brody Botanical Center. Botany Bay Series: Plant Science for Gardeners and Citizen Scientists. Join Jim Folsom, the Telleen/Jorgensen Director of the Botanical Gardens at The Huntington, for an informative and engaging discussion-style science lesson followed by an opportunity for lab time with microscopes and plant specimens. Free; no reservations required.

Sunday, 6/26, 2pm, Ahmanson Room, Brody Botanical Center. Southern California Gardener Series: Irrigating your Southern California Garden. Tim Becker, Director of Horticulture at the Theodore Payne Foundation, discusses best practices for irrigating Southern California gardens to maintain optimum plant health while conserving water. He'll outline pros and cons of various systems and offer irrigation recommendations for native, drought-tolerant, and edible plants. General admission.



## RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Saturday, 6/18, 10am-1pm. Medicinal Herb Walk with experienced herbalist William Broen. Bring a hat, walking shoes, water bottle, and snack or sack lunch. \$20 members, \$25 non-members. To register and for more information, go to <http://rsabg.org/community-education/>

Saturday, 6/25, 8am-5pm. Field Trip: San Gabriel Mountains Flora. Orlando Misretta will lead a limited group through the San Gabriels to discover the amazing flora of the area. \$85 members, \$100 non-members. To register and for more information, go to <http://rsabg.org/community-education/>



## THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION

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

Saturday, 6/11, 10am-12noon. Garden-Worthy Native Grasses with Carol Bornstein, Director of the Nature Gardens at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. This class reveals California grasses for garden use as low-care lawn alternatives, as valuable wildlife habitat, or to add movement and texture to the landscape. Class includes an exploration of grasses and grass-like plants in TPF's new demonstration gardens. \$25 members, \$35 non-members.

Saturday, 6/18, 8:30am-12:30pm. Native Plant Garden Maintenance with Lili Singer and Steve Singer. Learn about watering, fertilizing (or not), pruning, grooming, mulching and other aspects of garden maintenance. Learn how to develop good maintenance goals. \$25 members, \$35 non-members

Saturday, 6/18, 1-3:30pm. Irrigation Practices for Native Plant Gardens with Kelley Hanna, co-founder of Water Wise Now. Home gardeners will learn irrigation techniques and equipment best suited for native plant landscapes- with practical examples and time for questions. \$30 members, \$40 non-members.

Saturday, 6/25, 1:30-3:30pm. The Small Native Plant Garden: Creating Cozy Outdoor Spaces with Steve Gerischer. Learn how to create a personal oasis with hardscape, seating, and maybe a fire pit, bird bath or water feature, plus California plants to add color, fragrance, texture and wildlife habitat. \$25 members, \$35 non-members.



## FULLERTON ARBORETUM

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

Saturdays, 6/11, 10-11am, Nature Center. Guided Nature Tour. Explore 26 lush acres with over 4,000 plant species. Free, but donations appreciated.

Saturday, 6/25, 10-11am, Nature Center. Guided Nature Tour of the Arboretum. See description for 6/11 above. Repeats monthly on 2nd and 4th Saturdays.



## COASTKEEPER GARDEN

**1560 E. Santiago Cyn. Rd., Orange 92869  
714.850.1965 coastkeeper.org**




Saturday, 6/11, 9:30-11am. Garden Share. Plant lovers and gardeners are invited to bring garden-related items to trade, such as plants, cuttings, pots, tools, produce, etc. The Garden Share is a great way to obtain new plants and meet like-minded plant people. For more information, see <https://www.facebook.com/groups/OCPlantTrading>. Repeats monthly on 2nd Saturdays.

 Yvonne Savio



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

-  June 9 - Grasslands and Human Nature - Promoting Wildness in Urbanized Areas with Lane Goodkind
-  July 14 - "Hot Plants for Hot Climates" - Diversity of Plants from Arid Regions with Wendy Proud
-  August 11 - Program TBA

## GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH



Steven Gerischer - *President, Pacific Horticulture Board, PR*  
 Laura Bauer - *Treasurer & Finance, Field Trips, Web Liaison*  
 Pat Steen - *Secretary, Membership, Internship Coordinator*  
 Carol Bornstein - *Program Committee*  
 Yoav Paskowitz - *Finance*  
 Yvonne Savio - *Hort Happenings, Coffee in the Garden, PR*  
 John Schoustra - *VP, Finance, Field Trips, Plant Raffle & Sales*  
 Lili Singer - *Nomination & Program Committees, Archives*  
 Jill Vig - *Pacific Horticulture Board, Special Projects*  
 Rachel Young - *Finance*  
 Sabine Steinmetz - *Newsletter*  
 Steven Ormenyi - *Finance, Coffee in the Garden*  
 Marilee Kuhlmann, *Program Committee*

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*Newsletter Editor:* Sabine Steinmetz

Contributors to this issue: Steven Gerischer, Yvonne Savio, John Schoustra

**Next deadline: Friday, June 10** (for July newsletter)  
 Please contribute an article or information of interest.



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 Horticultural Society  
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