



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

August 2016

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, August 11

Witherbee Auditorium
(at the Los Angeles Zoo)
5333 Zoo Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90027



Socializing: 7:00 pm

Meeting begins: 7:30 pm

SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

*No new members joined in July,
but we encourage everyone
to invite friends to check us out
... we're a very friendly group!*

www.socalhort.org



SHARING SECRETS

The SCHS Sharing Secrets question for August is:

Do you have a favorite succulent? Tell us which one and send a picture!

Answer on our website at
socalhort.org
or e-mail your response to:
gardensbyasabine@aol.com
by Friday, August 12

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They're Hot! They're Cool! They're Succulents!

With water conservation in mind, succulents and cacti are more popular than ever. Low maintenance and versatile, they are available everywhere - from specialty websites to supermarkets. But low maintenance is not the same as no maintenance, and some succulents can be as fussy as the most temperamental orchid or fern. This talk provides some basic information to help you know and grow succulents, and hopefully inspire you to further explore this fascinating group of plants.

Our speaker for August, Sandy Masuo, is an editor and writer on a mission to prevent the decline and fall of Western civilization through the scrupulous application of correct apostrophe usage. For the past 13 years she has served as associate editor in the publications division of the Los Angeles Zoo. Prior to that, she was on the editorial staffs for various music magazines, and a regular contributor to the Los Angeles Times Calendar. From 2010 to 2014, she served on the SCHS Board, continues to manage the SCHS Facebook page, and intermittently

contributes to this newsletter. She also co-edits the Association for Zoological Horticulture (AZH) newsletter. Earlier this year, she contributed a foreword for *Unnatural Selection: Lessons of Life and Death on the Paper Trail*, the first novel by her recently discovered long-lost twin, Rosana DuMas.

When not fretting over semantics, Sandy makes use of her Master's degree in Education from Harvard teaching adult education workshops for Glendale Community College. These include fiction and business writing, as well as a perennially popular succulent centerpiece class. An inveterate plant nerd and persistent citizen scientist, gardening is a passion and succulents an obsession - one that Sandy will be enthusiastically sharing with us on August 11 when we meet at the Los Angeles Zoo. Please join us!



"NEW" SCHS WEBSITE

Dear SCHS Members: If you've recently looked at our website: www.socalhort.org, you'll know that it's looking very different. We've finally moved forward with updates to make it more readable across different platforms, including smartphones. We'll be adding fresh content, like an expanded "Hort Happenings" with latest events in your area. And soon you'll be able to access old Newsletters and GreenSheets again. Thank you all for your patience, and we hope you like what you see!

Laura Bauer

SAVE THE DATE!

September 8, 2016

ANNUAL HOTY BANQUET

It's time to mark your calendars for the annual SCHS Horticulturist of the Year Award Banquet! This year we will be honoring Carol Bornstein, respected horticulturist, author, and California native plant specialist. See insert in this issue for details and to reserve your ticket(s).

CALL FOR SILENT AUCTION

In addition to the banquet, the SCHS also holds its annual Silent Auction during this event. A major fund-raiser for the Society, the auction is a great opportunity to either purge or add to your own collections of garden-related paraphernalia! You may bring donations to the August meeting, or contact Steve Gerischer at sglarkspur@aol.com or (323) 257-3629, to coordinate a pick-up. Or, if you give him advance notice, he can prepare a bid card for any items you wish to drop off the evening of the event. Can't wait to see this year's selections... Thank you in advance!

Steve Gerischer

In July, the SCHS welcomed Wendy Proud, California Sales Representative for Mountain States Wholesale Nursery, to speak about "Hot Plants for Hot Climates." With a degree in Ornamental Horticulture and over twenty-five years of experience in the retail and wholesale nursery business, she shared her passion for plants in general, and her excitement about the future of Southwestern landscaping in particular.

Wendy told us about Mountain States' niche as a grower and their focus on drought-tolerant plants from the Southwest and other arid regions. Their plant selections are also based on adaptability to soil, sun, alkalinity and wind conditions. Founded in 1969 by owner Ron Gass, Mountain States has two locations in Arizona. While some of the plants on their 550+ acres are greenhouse grown, the vast majority are field grown to help develop a natural habit, improve overall health and encourage genetic diversity. With many distributors in Southern California, and a focus on customer service, the nursery is also attempting to educate the public about changing landscape realities.

The on-going drought is driving California toward a landscaping evolution, both practically and aesthetically, according to Wendy. She emphasized that she is not advocating that Southern California landscaping should come to resemble Arizona in terms of design and/or plant material choices. Rather, she is promoting this as a time of exciting opportunities to develop a new look that will suit local communities in many individualized ways.

With this in mind, Wendy presented a slide show of plant selections she felt were attractive and well-suited to Southern California, including:

- *Acacia willardiana* is a 25'h x 10'w tree with peeling bark that looks nice when massed, in tight spaces between houses, or used as a substitute for white birch.



- *Caesalpinia cacalaco* 'Smoothie' is an evergreen, multi-trunked 20'h x 20'w hybrid tree patented by Mountain States, featuring smooth bark and yellow flowers.

- *Chilopsis linearis* 'Art's Seedless' is a deciduous multi-trunked 25'h x 25'w tree that blooms from April - October and does not produce pods.

- *Calliandra* x 'Sierra Starr' is a patented 3'-4' h & w selection that attracts hummingbirds. More compact than *C. californica*.

- *Eremophila hygrophana* 'Blue Bells' is a patented 2'-3'h & w plant useful as a smaller, look-alike alternative to *Leucophyllum frutescens*.



- *Russelia* x 'St. Elmo's Fire' has showier blooms and a larger habit (4'h x 6'w) than the species *R. equisetiformis*.

- *Muhlenbergia dubia* is an alternative option to *M. rigens* where a plant half the size is needed, but is otherwise identical to *M. rigens* in all horticultural aspects.

- *Bouteloua gracilis* 'Blonde Ambition' (aka "eyelash" grass) is a 2'-3'h & w selection that looks nice when massed.

- *Hesperaloe* 'Brake Lights' (dwarf with red flowers) & *Hesperaloe* 'Pink Parade' (with a 6'h flower stalk), are versatile plants, and attractive to hummingbirds.

- *Melampodium leucanthemum* is an excellent substitute for Santa Barbara Daisy with self-cleaning blooms appearing from February - November.

Other plants Wendy presented were: *Prosopis* x *Phoenix*, *Leucophyllum langmaniae* 'Lynn's Legacy', *Tecoma* 'Crimson Flare' and *T. 'Solar Flare'*, *Muhlenbergia* 'Pink Flamingo', *Yucca pallida* and *Y. rupicola*, *Bulbine frutescens* 'Tiny Tangerine', *Eremophila glabra* 'Mingenew Gold' and *Mascagnia macroptera*. Everything she described can be found on the Mountain States website (www.mswn.com), and all share the traits of needing little water (infrequent but deep) and little maintenance.

In addition to showcasing many planting options, Wendy also answered questions and donated a choice selection of specimens for the well-received Plant Raffle which followed her presentation.

✂ Sabine Steinmetz

Photo credits: mswn.com

SHARING SECRETS RESPONSES:

What veggies or herbs are you harvesting at home this season?



My biggest harvest right now is *Passiflora edulis* - passion fruit. I grew the vine from seed a few years ago and now it gives me about 200 fruits every July.

We have plenty of fresh basil and a few tomato plants that are doing well. I harvest lemon verbena for summery iced tea. And of course, like many gardeners I am faced by the challenge of too much zucchini.

- Lora Hall

Our peach tree is named 'August Pride', although it typically fruits for us in late June/early July - not once as late as August! True to form it has already expended itself for this year, but I was more vigilant than usual and was able to harvest a few dozen tasty treats for myself instead of simply feeding the squirrels.

Also in the recent past are fading memories of a few Santa Rosa plums, a handful of strawberries and the occasional serendipitously discovered blackberry.

And while it might partially be due to rose-tinted nostalgia, I'm fairly certain I was harvesting more ingredients for my grandmother's *pflaumenkuchen* recipe only a few short years ago. Yet as the drought persists, so does the optimism of the gardener, who at this time is eagerly looking forward to her pumpkin vine's potential yield in a few short months...

- Sabine Steinmetz

And from our most frequent contributor, also known as Anonymous:

I usually try to make a little space for some shishito peppers. I love them and they used to be really hard to find, up until Trader Joe's started carrying them last year. Sadly, this year my crop got overwhelmed by feral sunflowers that were just too gorgeous to remove. Choices!

Tomatoes (even though I can't eat them raw!). The winner this year for production is 'Super Fantastic' (awful name). Flavor winner-so I'm told, is 'Black Cherry'. Prettiest is 'Lucid Gem' - gold and purple blushed pink! Zucchini, yellow crook-neck squash, and walking-stick collards. My green beans were a washout this year. *Tagetes lucida* (Four Seasons Tarragon) for when I make chicken salad. And I got peaches this year! (Squirrels didn't get them all.) 'Eva's Pride' and 'Mid-Pride' ... mmmm.

AUGUST HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

DESCANSO GARDENS

1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada 91011
818.949.7980 descansogardens.org

Tuesday, 8/16, 10-10:40am. Container Gardening. Learn how to combine plants with similar care needs and complementary shapes, colors, and textures for an appealing container garden. Get expert guidance in the fundamentals of good container culture and design in this demonstration by David Bare.



SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN

26300 Crenshaw, PV Peninsula 90274
310.544.1948 southcoastbotanicgarden.org

Sunday, 8/14, 12-12:30pm OR 12:30-1pm (two separate classes), Cornish Courtyard. Gardening With Essential Oils. Join Flin Grant to explore the uses of oils for non-toxic gardening, learn practical applications and recipes for natural solutions for home and garden. For more info, go to: <http://southcoastbotanicgarden.org/event/new-gardening-essential-oils/>

Sunday, 8/28, 12noon-2pm. Cornish Courtyard. Kids Club. Parents can attend Shop & Learn (see below), while kids do a potting activity. Recommended for kids 3 and older. Adult supervision required. For more info, go to: <http://southcoastbotanicgarden.org/event/kids-club-plants-north-america/>

Sunday, 8/28, 12noon-2pm. Cornish Courtyard. Shop and Learn Series - Echeverias of North America, with Jim Gardner. Focus will be on California and Mexico landscapes featuring perfectly adapted Echeverias. Propagation and basic care will be discussed. California native plants will be available for purchase after lecture. For more info, go to: <http://southcoastbotanicgarden.org/event/shop-learn-continental-series-echeverias>.



LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM

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

Wednesday, 8/3, 1:30pm, Palm Room. Plant Info. Class: 7 Landscape Water Features You Can Install Guilt Free. Arboretum Plant Information Consultant Frank McDonough covers current horticultural topics including landscaping, gardening, design, water-saving strategies and more. Frank will also talk about pests and diseases threatening our landscapes. Repeats first Wednesdays.

Saturday, 8/6, 10am-12noon, Tallac Knoll. Growing Plumeria Workshop with Diana Donnellan. An in-depth class and grove tour will focus on Plumeria's diversity and how to grow them at home. \$25 Arboretum members, \$35 non-member (includes Arboretum Admission). Call Education Dept. for reservations, or pay at the door.

Saturday, 8/13, 8-10am, Family Bird Walk with Julia Ray will meet on steps in front of the Rotunda. \$5 non-members, Free for Arboretum and Audubon members, and children 12 and under.



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

Thursday, 8/11, 2:30pm, Ahmanson Classroom, Brody Botanical Center. 2nd Thursday Garden Talk & Sale: 20 South African Plants Every Home Landscaper Should Know with Botanist Frank McDonough of the Los Angeles County Arboretum. Learn about these beautiful plants that can thrive in dry climates using little water. Plant sale follows.

Thursday, 8/25, 4:30-5:30pm, Botanical Auditorium, Brody Botanical Center. Botany Bay Series. Join Jim Folsom, the Telleen/Jorgensen Director of the Botanical Gardens at The Huntington, for an engaging exploration of the wonders of the plant world. Discussion-style lecture is followed by an opportunity for lab time with microscopes and plant specimens.

Sunday, 8/28, 2pm, Ahmanson Room, Brody Botanical Center. Southern California Gardener Series: Soil, the Soul of Our Gardens, with Richard Hayden, head gardener at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. He will discuss how to build better soil - including soil testing, structure and compaction, microorganisms, mulching, plus composting methods and applications.



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

Saturday, 8/6, 9am-12noon. From Bloom to Seed in the Native Garden with Genevieve Arnold, TPF's Seed Program Manager. This class guides you through the process of identifying, gathering, cleaning and saving seed from your own native plant garden. Examples of fruit, seed and seed-processing tools will be shared, and you will leave with seed to start at home. \$35 members, \$45 non-members.

Saturday, 8/6, 10-11am. Coastal Gardening with Native Plants with Susanne Jett. Learn how to create and maintain a thriving seaside garden. Susanne designs Westside landscapes with an emphasis on site-appropriate drought-tolerant plants. \$15 members, \$20 non-members.

Saturday, 8/6, 2-3pm. Irrigation Basics with Kelley Hanna. This talk covers the best ways to water your native garden - how, when and where to irrigate, as well as benefits and drawbacks for overhead, drip and hand-watering equipment. Kelley is the owner of Plant Goddess Landscaping, a designer, and an irrigation specialist. \$15 members, \$20 non-members.

Saturday, 8/13, 9-10am. Introduction to Native Plant Communities, a Walk and Talk with Asher Guzik. Discover the diversity of California plant communities in this outdoor program with an emphasis on those most relevant to Southern California gardeners. \$15 members, \$20 non-members

Saturday, 8/27, 8:30am-12:30pm. California Native Plant Horticulture with Lili Singer, TPF's Director of Special Projects

and Adult Education. Basics of gardening with California flora, including their value, plant communities, planting techniques, irrigation, pruning and maintenance. Recommended for beginners; prerequisite to our Three-Part California Native Plant Garden Design course. \$45 members, \$55 non-members.

Saturday, 8/27, 2-3pm. Celebrating Ceanothus with Steve Gerischer. California lilacs are native plants that bring beautiful form, foliage and spring color to your garden. This designer's overview focuses on garden-worthy species and cultivars for this region, from groundcovers to shrubs. \$15 members, \$20 non-members.



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

Wednesday, 8/10, 11am-1pm. Landscaper Lunch and Learn: Buckwheats. Bring your lunch and learn about this diverse group of native plants, with over 120 species in California. \$5 with garden admission. For info, and to register, go to: <http://rsabg.org/community-education/>

Saturday, 8/13, 10am-12:30pm. Seed Collection and Storage. Learn methods and protocols for collecting, cleaning, and saving seed from your garden for next season. \$30 members, \$35 non-members. Space is limited. Register online at: <http://rsabg.org/community-education/>

Sunday, 8/28, 4-7pm. 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. For info, and to register, go to: <http://rsabg.org/community-education/>



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

Saturday, 8/13, 9:30-11am. Garden Share. Bring garden-related items to trade: plants, cuttings, pots, tools, produce, etc., and meet like-minded plant people. For more info, see: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/OCPlantTrading>. Repeats second Saturdays.

Thursday, 8/25, 5:30-7:30pm. Summer Education at the Garden. Free workshops related to Orange County landscapes cover topics including Design, Organic Landscaping, Native Plants for the OC, Urban Forestry, Composting, Planting Techniques, Irrigation, and Turf Reduction. For details and to RSVP, visit <http://www.coastkeeper.org/calendar>.

 Yvonne Savio

NEW U.C. PUBLICATION




The University of California, Riverside, on July 8, 2016, published a new handout about the **Top 10 Garden & Landscape Pests**. This useful resource can be downloaded at:

<http://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=21492>

 Yvonne Savio

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

Socializing at 7:00 • Meeting at 7:30

-  August 11 - They're Hot! They're Cool! They're Succulents! with Sandy Masuo
VENUE: Witherbee Auditorium at L.A. Zoo
-  September 8 - Horticulturist of the Year Annual Banquet, honoring Carol Bornstein
VENUE: Los Angeles County Arboretum
-  October 13 - Designer's Panel - TBA

GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH



"Ripe vegetables
were magic to me...
the garden bristled
with possibility."

- Michael Pollan

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*
 Carol Aronson
 Aprille Curtis
 Steve Singer

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Newsletter Editor: Sabine Steinmetz

Contributors to this issue: Steve Gerischer, Yvonne Savio

Next deadline: Friday, August 12 (for September newsletter)

Please contribute an article or information of interest.



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

NEWSLETTER August 2016



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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



Carol Bornstein

2016 ANNUAL AWARD BANQUET

honoring Horticulturist of the Year:

Thursday, September 8, 2016 at the Los Angeles County Arboretum

The Southern California Horticultural Society is recognizing Carol Bornstein with the 2016 Horticulturist of the Year award. Her work as a writer and co-author of the award-winning *California Native Plants for the Garden* and *Reimagining the California Lawn: Water-conserving Plants, Practices, and Designs*, has helped shape the future of responsible gardening across California and beyond. Her extensive knowledge of climate-appropriate and California native plants, combined with sound design strategies, is at the heart of her work educating the public in sustainable landscape design.

Currently, Carol is responsible for the daily operations of the 3.5-acre Nature Gardens at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, as well as the oversight of the museum's Live Animal program. These gardens were designed to create habitat for urban wildlife, allow visitors to experience nature in an urban setting, assist museum scientists in documenting biodiversity in the Los Angeles Basin, train citizen scientists, and present a model of sustainable landscaping.

For many years, Carol was a strong directing hand at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, a 78-acre garden devoted to

the study, display and conservation of California's native flora. She led the development of award-winning display areas like the Home Demonstration Garden, Dudleya Exhibit (a North American Plant Collections Consortium collection), and the Japanese Tea House Garden composed of California native plants. She was also responsible for transforming the garden's famous Meadow Display into a representational exhibit of native grassland communities.

As a horticulturist, Carol has introduced many popular selections of California native plants into the nursery trade. Among her favorites are Catalina silverlace, *Constancea* (formerly *Eriophyllum*) *nevinii* 'Canyon Silver'; California aster, *Corethrogyne* (formerly *Lessingia*) *filaginifolia* 'Silver Carpet'; and manzanita, *Arctostaphylos* 'Arroyo Cascade'. Through her efforts, these plants and other introductions uniquely suited to California gardens are widely available to designers and home gardeners alike.

We are pleased to honor Carol Bornstein with this year's award, and invite you to join us in celebrating her many distinguished achievements in the field of horticulture.

You can purchase banquet tickets on-line through the SCHS web-site at: www.socalhort.org or mail in a check with the completed form below. *Please contact Steven Gerischer (323)257-3629 with any questions.*

Thursday, September 8, 2016

Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden · 301 N Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA 91007

Join us at 6pm at the Peacock Cafe for social hour and silent auction. Dinner and presentation begin at 7pm.

(Reminder: We are unable to accept credit card payments at the auction. Cash and checks only please.)

Southern California Horticultural Society 2016 Annual Award Banquet **PLEASE RESPOND BY MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 2016**

Yes, please reserve: _____ Tickets at \$45 each

Total enclosed \$_____ (check only)

Name(s) _____

Street Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone (____) _____ E-mail _____

☐ Please check box if requesting VEGETARIAN meal(s). How many? _____

Make your check payable to SCHS. Mail with form to: PO Box 94476, Pasadena, CA 91109-4476