



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

September 2016

OUR NEXT MEETING

Annual Horticulturist
of the Year Banquet
(and Silent Auction)

September 8

L.A. County Arboretum

See Page 2 for details!



SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

We're excited to welcome:

Indigo Brude
Francesca Corra
Dale L. Harshberger
Heidi Rusina
Andrea Testa-Vought

www.schs.org



SHARING SECRETS

The SCHS Sharing Secrets
question for September is:

*What pests are you dealing
with at summer's end?*

And how are you coping?

Answer on our website at
socalhort.org
or e-mail your response to:
gardensby Sabine@aol.com
by Friday, September 9

IN THIS ISSUE

August Speaker Recap,
Sharing Secrets and
HOTY information 2

Green Sheet (June/July) ... 3 & 4

Horticultural Happenings ... 5

Upcoming Programs and
SCHS Contact info. 6

2016 ANNUAL AWARD BANQUET

Honoring Horticulturist of the Year Carol Bornstein

Thursday, September 8, 2016

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. 



*HOTY Banquet details
on Page 2.*

LAST CALL FOR SILENT AUCTION

If you are attending the HOTY Banquet and are still finding items to donate to the Silent Auction, you may bring them with you, BUT please contact Steve Gerischer at least 2 days in advance so he knows what is coming in and he can prepare a bid card for you. You can reach him at: sglarkspur@aol.com or by phone (323)257-3629.

We're always grateful to receive whatever you're willing to donate, but we do need the advance notice to make sure we can accommodate everything!

Thank you!

 Steve Gerischer

Last month, the SCHS was treated to a delightful and informative presentation on succulents by long-time member Sandy Masuo, Associate Editor for the Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association Publications. Her talk was held in the Witherbee Auditorium at the L.A. Zoo, and was punctuated with entertaining visuals that included images relating to her personal journey as a self-professed "plant nerd", as well as examples from the world of succulents. With a background in journalism and a master's degree in education, Sandy's slide show was well-organized and included anecdotal material as well as horticultural research data.

Relating her childhood exposure to the abundant wonders of an elderly neighbor's subsistence garden as an early inspiration and introduction into the world of plants, Sandy went on to cite Carl Sagan, JRR Tolkien, David Attenborough and others as influences leading her to pursue personal horticultural studies. She posited that we, as the human race, suffer from "plant blindness", even though we depend on them every day for our basic living needs and that they are the basis of every living ecosystem. And while there are over 390,000 plant species on the planet, with 70 species per every mammal, she maintained that everyone could do their part to protect endangered species by fostering native plant communities in their neighborhoods. This general data about the natural world was Sandy's prelude into the very specific realm of succulents.

With section titles such as "Succulents are Cool!", "Succulents are Charismatic!" and "Succulents are Hot!", the horticultural content of her presentation was both amusing as well as satisfying for plant enthusiasts. Since most succulents come from deserts, where plant life is less dense and more fragile than it is for the two-thirds of plant species coming from tropical rainforests, these plants have evolved unique adaptations and survival strategies.

Sandy then shared photographic examples of these characteristics, including cloning (the ability to grow a new plant from a leaf cutting); creeping, a self-propagation method in which plants extend



SHARING SECRETS RESPONSES:

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

There are many weird, wonderful succulents - and some of my own favorites include "Starfish Flowers"; from the *Stapelia* and the *Huernia* genera. And, as a bonus to their otherworldly-looking flowers, they smell like carrion to attract flies as pollinators! (Pictured: *Stapelia grandiflora*)



- Anonymous

self-rooting stems in attempts to colonize new terrain, like *Stapelia*; cryptic coloration, where a plant will "match" the colors of the surrounding environment, like the *Conophytum* genus; hide and seek, wherein a plant will appear to be something else, such as *Lithops*; water storage parts, including *Aloe* (leaves), *Euphorbia* (stems) and caudiciform plants (swollen roots); sunscreen properties, like *Dudleya* (white waxy coating) and *Crassula tecta* (bumpy surface); sunburn protection through changes in chlorophyll based on light exposure; insulation by being covered in fibers (*Senecio haworthii*); or the ability to minimize exposure using contractile roots which pull a plant further underground during the hottest seasons (*Haworthia* genus), exposing only the minimum amount of surface area needed for photosynthesis; minimizing water loss by opening stomata at night to "exhale"; and the development of spines, like the cholla.

It is often these characteristics and the many varied forms of succulents that make them so interesting and appealing to gardeners. Different forms include: trailing, like *Senecio rowleyanus*; rosettes, such as *Echeveria* and *Aeonium*, which can be mat-forming or tree-like; columnar forms like many cactus and *Euphorbia*; and arborescent (ex: *Portulacaria afra*) which can often be confined in a container or planter. The variety of forms, multitude of available colors, and their natural drought-

tolerance, have greatly increased the popularity of succulents in recent years. Sandy then shared a numbers of trends (often horticulturally frowned upon), including confining too many tiny specimens in containers such as wreaths, frames and pumpkins, that do not accommodate the eventual size of the plants.

These examples led her into talking about the proper care of succulents, which typically only require adherence to a few simple rules:

- Light - typically bright, indirect light is best
 - Water- needs are infrequent (more for pots)
 - Soil- all require good drainage (amending with pumice is an option)
 - Temperature - knowing a plant's origins may determine success rates in a home garden
- While succulents are in the category of "low maintenance" plants, they are not "no maintenance" and should not be neglected.

To conclude her talk, Sandy highlighted venues that successfully showcase succulents, including Lotusland in Montecito, Santa Barbara Mission (container displays), Sherman Library and Gardens in Corona Del Mar, and the rock wall display at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. For DIYers, she recommended going to plant shows for research and unusual specimens, searching in thrift shops for interesting containers, or using local resources including: Cactus Ranch nursery in Reseda, the Los Angeles Arboretum and the Huntington Gardens, as well as visiting www.lacactus.com and www.sgvcss.com online.



In summary, Sandy's message to continue educating ourselves as well as encouraging the next generations to learn about (and love) plants was well-received and thought-provoking. The mantra of "conservation, education and imagination", specifically with regard to the horticultural world, was expressed early in the presentation, yet left a lasting impression afterward.

✂ Sabine Steinmetz

Southern California Horticultural Society 2016 Annual Award Banquet Thursday, September 8, 2016

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

Social hour & silent auction at the Peacock Cafe at 6pm. Dinner & presentation at 7pm.

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

STILL NEED A TICKET?

On-line registration is closed, but you may contact Steve Gerischer at (323) 257-3629 to check availability.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

GREEN SHEET

PLANT FORUM SELECTIONS • JUNE 2016

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

PLANTS SHOWN at JUNE 9, 2016 MEETING

Eriogonum arborescens (Polygonaceae)

Santa Cruz Island Buckwheat shown by Theodore Payne Foundation (TPF). This California endemic grows to a 3'-4' x 3'-4' shrub with narrow gray-green foliage and pinkish flower clusters that eventually age to a deep chocolate brown late in the season. Very drought-tolerant when established, this buckwheat is an outstanding addition to the native or low water-use garden. Attracts many native and non-native pollinators.

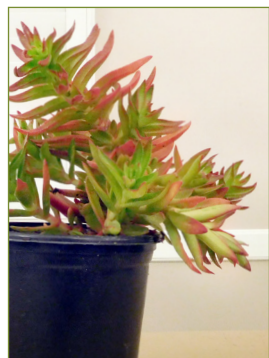


Plectranthus comosus (Lamiaceae)

Shown by Joan Seidel. This towering member of the mint family can easily top 6 feet. The gray-green foliage is thick and almost semi-succulent, covered with tiny hairs giving it a felted appearance. Flower spikes are reminiscent of salvias, with lipped blooms of blue. *Plectranthus comosus* can be grown in full to part sun and is easily started from cuttings.



***Crassula capitella* 'Campfire'** (Crassulaceae)



Pigmyweed shown by Patricia McGrath. This succulent has triangular foliage that starts green and matures bright red. The summer flowers are white and lightly fragrant. The clusters of bloom come at the tips of the stems that are a bit lax. This plant requires part shade in hot summer areas but can take nearly full sun at the coast. This crassula can be grown in containers or as a small-scale groundcover.

Also exhibited:

***Epiphyllum* hybrids 'Grace Ann' & 'Three Oranges'** Shown by Shirley Marneus.



A mixed bouquet (the day's cuttings from a garden in San Marino) shown by Sabine Steinmetz.

Included were:

***Artemisia* 'Oriental Limelight', *Eleagnus pungens* variegata, Scented geranium (*Pelargonium* sp.), *Limonium perezii*, Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), *Leonotis leonurus*, a handful of kumquats and a single rose.**



✂ Compiled by Steven Gerischer

July "Green Sheet" on reverse

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

GREEN SHEET

PLANT FORUM SELECTIONS • JULY 2016

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

PLANTS SHOWN at JULY 14, 2016 MEETING

Grevillea 'Moonlight' (Proteaceae)

Shown by Eric and Ann Brooks. This Australian shrub grows to 12' high and 8' wide but can be shaped to fit into many garden situations. Hardy to 25-30 degrees (for brief periods). The foliage is finely divided, giving a lacy appearance, and the spikes of typical grevillea blossoms with curling stamens are creamy white rather than the more common hot reds and oranges of many of the cultivated grevilleas. Despite the cool color, hummingbirds find it easily and visit often.



Erica discolor (Ericaceae)

Bicolor heather shown by Aprille Curtis. South African small shrub to 3'. Full sun with good drainage and a long, nearly continuous flowering season. This small shrub is covered in short, soft needle-like foliage and sports tubular flowers of orange-red with cream colored tips. Like many of the South African species of Erica, *E. discolor* is easy to grow in Southern California.

A group listing of seven species and hybrids of *Eriogonum* (Polygonaceae) shown by Carol Bornstein. All are California native plants or hybrids from natives.

SEVERAL VARIETIES PICTURED (NOT ALL)

E. arborescens (see 6/9/16 Green Sheet for description)

E. crocatum

Saffron buckwheat is a rare sub-shrub with brilliant greenish-yellow blooms over silver foliage.

E. giganteum

St. Catherine's Lace is a big silvery shrub with large inflorescences of tiny white flowers that change to reddish-brown, then to tan, and finally to a dark brown. Dramatic.



E. parvifolium

Coast buckwheat is the host plant for the endangered El Segundo blue butterfly.

E. cinereum

Ashy-leaved buckwheat has clusters of pinkish flowers over silver foliage.

E. grande var. *rubescens* (hybrids)

Red-flowered buckwheat. Channel Islands endemic.

E. fasciculatum

California buckwheat is one of the most common species and easy to grow. There are many cultivar forms chosen for smaller size and different growing habits.



Also exhibited (not all shown):

Aeonium nobile (Crassulaceae) and *Pedilanthus bracteatus* (Euphorbiaceae) shown by Jim Gardner. (*Aeonium* pictured at left)

Aloe 'Winter Sky' (Asphodelaceae) shown by Matt-Dell Tufenkian.

Nandina 'Murasaki', 'Flirt' Nandina (Berberidaceae) shown by John Schoustra.

Stigmaphyllon littorale (Malpighiaceae) shown by Joan Seidel.

 Compiled by Steven Gerischer

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

Fridays, 9/9, 9/23, 10/7, 10/14, 10/21 & 11/4, 2-4pm. Grow Series with UC Master Gardeners. All levels. 9/9 class: Theory of Garden Design. 9/23 class: Soil Building and Composting. Cost for series of 6: \$65 members, \$80 non-members. Individual classes: \$12 members, \$15 non-members. Registration required - go to: <http://southcoastbotanicgarden.org/event/new-grow-series/2016-09-23/> or call: 310.544.1948.



LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM

301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia 91007

626.821.4623 arboretum.org

Saturday, 9/10, 12noon-4pm. Organic Fruit and Vegetable Gardening with Jill Morganelli, Instructor and Horticultural Supervisor. Focus will be on drought tolerant fruit trees, crops, and herbs to plant in fall. Also: cleaning / sharpening tools. \$25 members / \$35 non-members (incls. admission).

Thursday, 9/15, 9:30am-12noon. What's Happening in Gardening: Jose & Carrie Hernandez of CJ's Organic Farm grow heirloom edibles for Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) baskets, and are at Villa Park Farmers' Market in Pasadena on Tuesdays. \$140 for series of 8 classes or \$25 per class (incls. admission).

Monday-Saturday, 9/19-10/1, 9am-5pm. Permaculture Design Certificate Course, with facilitator Matthew Anthony Stephens. 12-day course on becoming proficient designers of ecologically sound systems that are sustainable, emphasizing regenerative assets / renewable resources. Course Fee: \$625;

Thursday, 9/22, 9:30am-12noon. What's Happening in Gardening: Free Rocks for Your Garden with Nancy Bird. Learn about Bureau of Land Management rules/permitting procedures for collecting free rocks to enhance your garden! \$140 for series of 8 classes or \$25 per class (incls. admission).

Saturday, 9/24, 10am-12noon. Garden Design workshop with Laramie Haynes. Covers design basics and applying principles of color, contrast and form, with a focus on front gardens with little or no lawn. Photos of actual gardens will be used to discuss best design applications. \$25 Arboretum members / \$35 non-members (incls. admission).



DESCANSO GARDENS

1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada 91011

818.949.7980 descansogardens.org

Saturday, 9/17, 9am-3pm. LA Wildlife Symposium. Learn from scientists, conservationists and educators about local fauna, discover why urban biodiversity is important, and find out how you can attract wildlife to your garden. Day's events include activities for children.



ARLINGTON GARDENS

(PACIFIC HORTICULTURE EVENT)

270 Arlington Dr., Pasadena, CA 91105

(626) 399-1721 pacifichorticulture.org

Saturday, 9/17, 10am-12noon. Hypertufa workshop with Steve Gerischer. Learn the basics of making relatively lightweight planters that look like stone, from a special mixture, and shaped in simple molds. Each participant will create a small pot. A selection of finished hypertufa containers (some already planted) will be for sale. Workshop fees benefit Pacific Horticulture Society; proceeds from hypertufa item sales will be shared by Pacific Horticulture and Arlington Gardens. \$40 PHS member / \$45 general public. Cost includes all materials. Dress in grubbies! Register at: <http://membership.pacifichorticulture.org/event-2277453>



HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

1151 Oxford Road, San Marino 91108

626.405.2100 huntington.org

Thursday, 9/8, 2:30pm, Ahmanson Room, Brody Botanical Center. Second Thursday Garden Talk & Sale: Butterflies and Native Plants, with Tim Becker, Director of Horticulture at the Theodore Payne Foundation. Tim will talk about how to attract butterflies with beautiful native plants, including favorites like buckwheat and milkweed. Plant sale will follow.

Sunday, 9/25, 2pm, Ahmanson Room, Brody Botanical Center. Southern California Gardener Series: Backyard Orchards with nurseryman Tom Spellman of Dave Wilson Nursery. Learn about backyard fruit growing. Key concepts include controlling tree size for ease of maintenance and harvest; planting varieties for successive ripening; and approaches to irrigation, fertilization, and pest control.



THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION

10459 Tuxford St., Sun Valley 91352

818.768.1802 theodorepayne.org

Saturday, 9/10, 8:30am-12:30pm. California Native Plant Horticulture with Lili Singer, TPF's Director of Special Projects and Adult Education. Learn basics of gardening with California flora, including planting techniques, establishment, irrigation, pruning and maintenance. Great for beginners; prerequisite to TPF's Three-Part California Native Plant Garden Design course. \$45 TPF members, \$55 non-members.

Saturday, 9/10, 2-3pm. Irrigation Basics with Carol Armour Aronson. This talk covers how, when and where to irrigate, plus benefits/drawbacks for overhead, drip and hand-watering equipment. \$15 TPF members, \$20 non-members.

Fridays, 9/16, 9/30 & 10/14, 11:30am-3:30pm. 3-part California Native Garden Design Course with Laura Bauer. (Prerequisite: TPF's California Native Plant Horticulture class. Must be taken before start of design course.) Course covers design styles/process, sustainability and how to model gardens after patterns in nature. Students will devise a base/plot plan, using knowledge of hardscape, irrigation, soils, and more. They will be asked to complete a questionnaire and exercise before class, and to bring photos and a baggie of the site's soil, on the first day. Laura owns Bauer Fine Gardening, a consultation and design firm in Ventura, and is a longtime TPF instructor and volunteer. \$225 members, \$275 non-members; \$285 member couples, \$335 non-member couples.

Saturdays, 9/17, 10/1 & 10/15, 9am-1pm. 3-part Native California Garden Design Course with Carlos Flores. *See description immediately above.* Carlos is a freelance garden designer and a longtime TPF volunteer who studied horticulture at UCLA Extension and received his landscape architecture degree from Cal Poly Pomona. \$225 members, \$275 non-members; \$285 member couples, \$335 non-member couples.

Saturday, September 17, 2-3:30pm. The Essential Edible Garden: Peek at A New Paradigm with Kyra Saegusa. Ecosystem-based gardening unites ornamental and useful California native plants with non-native food crops, including low-care drought-resistant edibles. \$20 TPF members, \$25 non-members.

Saturday, 9/24, 11:30am-3:30pm. Native Plant Garden Maintenance with Lili Singer and Steve Singer. Includes watering, fertilizing (or not), mulching, pest management and more. Part of class will be outdoors, so bring your hat and water bottle. \$45 TPF members, \$55 non-members.



RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN

1500 N. College Ave., Claremont 91711

909.625.8767 rsabg.org

Wednesday, 9/14, 11am-1pm. Landscaper Lunch and Learn: Propagation. Bring lunch and learn propagation techniques for California native plants from our garden staff. \$5 with garden admission. For more info. and to register, go to: www.rsabg.org/community-education/

Saturday & Sunday, 9/17 & 9/18, 9am-5pm. Fall Asters workshop with Fred Roberts. Learn key elements used to identify members of the largest plant family in California - the Asteraceae (sunflower!). \$125 member, \$150 non-members. Space is limited. For more info. and to register, go to: www.rsabg.org/community-education/



COASTKEEPER GARDEN

1560 E. Santiago Cyn. Rd., Orange 92869

714.850.1965 coastkeeper.org

Thursday, 9/29, 5:30-7:30pm. Summer Education at the Garden. Brown Is Not The New Green. Learn fundamentals of planning your landscape design to incorporate balance, scale, variety and also form, texture and color with Coastkeeper partners: Harvest Landscape. For info. or to register, visit: www.coastkeeper.org/harvest-landscape_summer_education_at_the_garden_20160929



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

909 N. La Cumbre Rd., Santa Barbara 93110

805.684.5725 www.sbchs.org


Saturday, 9/24, 10am-3pm. Annual Plant Sale. Specialty vendors attending and hundreds of member-grown plant varieties and related items - including exotics, natives, bromeliads, succulents, annuals, perennials, grasses, and cacti. Raffle table of specimen plants and other items. All proceeds benefit the SBCHS Scholarship Program. For more info. go to: www.sbchs.org

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

-  September 8 - **Horticulturist of the Year Annual Banquet** honoring Carol Bornstein
VENUE: Los Angeles County Arboretum

Social Hour / Silent Auction begins at 6:00
Dinner / Presentation at 7:00

-  October 13 - Landscape Designers Panel: Favorite Native Plants
Andreas Hessing, Carlos Flores & Amy Nettleton

-  November 10 - Sasha Duerr, author of "Natural Color" and "The Handbook of Natural Plant Dyes"

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*
 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, September 9 (for October newsletter)
 Please contribute an article or information of interest.



Southern California
Horticultural Society
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