



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

November 2016

## OUR NEXT MEETING

**Thursday, November 10**

Friendship Auditorium  
3201 Riverside Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90027



**Socializing: 7:00 pm**

**Meeting begins: 7:30 pm**

## SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

*Membership gains were  
bountiful last month!*

*Please welcome:*

Valarie Barsky    Haejung Kim  
Thomas B. Cox    Linda Laughner  
Alan Duke    Michele McGrath  
Bud Williams

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

## SHARING SECRETS

The SCHS Sharing Secrets question for November is:

*Do you use any botanicals  
for your holiday decorating?  
Which ones & how?*

Answer on our website at  
socalhort.org  
or e-mail your response to:  
gardensbysabine@aol.com  
by Friday, November 11

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## EXPLORING THE SEASONAL COLOR PALETTE:

### Natural Color and the Alchemy of Place

Speaking to us in November will be Sasha Duerr: artist, designer, and advocate for the slow fashion movement who works with organic dyes, alternative fibers, and the creative reuse of materials. She is a professor at the California College of the Arts in Oakland with a joint appointment in textiles and fine arts. Her work has been shown in galleries and museums across the United States and abroad. In



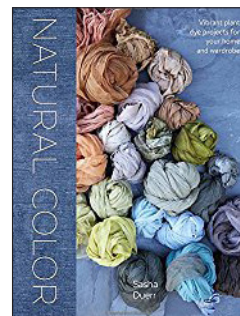
Photo credit: Natalie Mulford

2007 Duerr founded the Permacouture Institute ([www.permacouture.org](http://www.permacouture.org)) to encourage regenerative design practices for fashion and textiles. Her work has been featured in the *New York Times*, *American Craft Magazine*,

*Selvedge*, the *Huffington Post*, and most recently in the August 2016 issue of *Sunset Magazine*.

In addition to her work as an educator and a textile artist, Sasha is the author of *The Handbook of Natural Plant Dyes* (Timber Press/Workman 2011) and *Natural Color* (Watson-Guptill/Random House 2016). She will be talking to us about her work with plant-based dyes and sharing projects from her book, *Natural Color*. Copies of the book, as well as prints of a seasonal color wheel will be available for purchase after the presentation.

Please join us for a unique program that will have us all looking at our gardens from a fresh perspective.

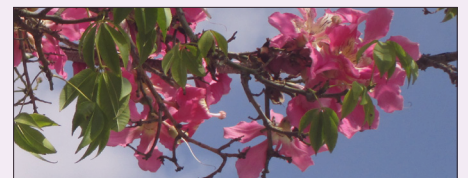


## BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS!

In October, board member Yvonne Savio brought in boxes of donated books, magazines and other publications for members to purchase at tag sale prices... For those of you who missed the opportunity (and for those who took advantage), Yvonne will be bringing in more offerings this month, so you'll have another chance to expand your library or do some early holiday shopping - don't miss out!

## SHARING SECRETS RESPONSES

*What is your favorite botanical sign  
that Autumn has finally arrived?*



Because I work outdoors and can't handle the heat, I'm always looking forward to the end of summer and the beginning of autumn... When Chorisia trees start blooming I know that summer is almost over. And they're so beautiful right now!

- Aprille Curtis

The blooming of *Chorisia speciosa*, Silk Floss Trees, signifies the approach of autumn to me. There's something very L.A. about having our fall color be hot pink.

This fall is a little different as I see ornamental pears (*Pyrus kawakamii* and 'Sierra Blanca'), narcissus and apple trees popping into bloom. Is this a sign that our magnetic north and south poles are reversing?

- John Schoustra



NOTE: Despite being reclassified as *Ceiba speciosa*, a silk floss is a silk floss is a silk floss, and looks just as lovely... and let's not forget about *Ceiba insignis*!

The SCHS ushered in the fall planting season by hosting a panel of local designers for the October program. Amy Nettleton, Carlos Flores and Andreas Hessing all specialize in creating resource-conserving, regionally appropriate gardens, without sacrificing aesthetic appeal. After an introduction by Lili Singer, each landscaper spoke about favorite California native plants, with accompanying slide shows. The SCHS also provided a print-out of the plants being discussed.

Amy Nettleton of South Pasadena is a landscape architect who chose to showcase plants that are readily available in the trade and support wildlife. She shared pictures of various projects, including a succulent wall that elicited an enthusiastic audience response, and she also explained the practical applications of her choices, which included:

- *Lyonothamnus floribundus subsp. asplenifolius* - Santa Cruz ironwood
  - a fast-growing, 20' evergreen tree
  - narrow & upright / can be espaliered
  - attractive foliage, flowers & bark
- Q & A: appreciates some shade inland, but must have good drainage everywhere
- *Cercocarpus betuloides* - mountain mahogany
  - 10'-20' multi-trunked evergreen tree
  - has beautiful feathery, plumed seeds
- *Heteromeles arbutifolia* - toyon
  - widely distributed and available
  - versatile garden plant (clip into formal hedge or leave natural)
  - great food source for wildlife
- *Eriogonum giganteum* - St. Catherine's lace
  - 5'-6' h & w buckwheat, with silver foliage
  - large white umbels turn to rust
  - cut back annually to control size

Note: *var. compactum* is 1/2 size

- *Isomeris arborea* - bladderpod
  - 4' h x 5' w, needs space to grow naturally
  - grown for yellow flowers/chartreuse capsules
- *Aristida purpurea* - purple three-awn
  - has a long-blooming season
  - cut back 2x a year to prevent seeding
  - excellent sub for Mexican feather grass
- *Bouteloua gracilis* - blue grama grass
  - can be mowed as a lawn, or kept tall
  - known for its "eyelash" seed heads
- Q & A: spaced 3' apart, the plants will touch within 2 years for a meadow-effect
- *Dudleya hassei* - Catalina live-forever
  - succulent with gray 1' d rosettes
  - can form a mat for use as a ground-cover

Carlos Flores is a Los Angeles-based landscape architect and garden designer, whose slide show focused on the evolution of a single garden he designed, which is located in the mid-city area. He showed a chronological progression to showcase plant successes and growth rates for the following plants:

- *Dudleya hassei* - Catalina live-forever
    - attracts beneficial insects & hummingbirds
- (for more info. see previous description)



- *Dudleya edulis* - San Diego dudleya
  - 1' h x 2' w with "fingertip" style habit
  - equally nice in containers, as an accent plant or placed with boulders
- *Eriogonum giganteum* - St. Catherine's lace
  - a bee-magnet buckwheat when in flower, and winter food source for birds
  - use for cut flowers or dry arrangements
- (for more info. see previous description)
- *Eriogonum kennedyi* - Kennedy's buckwheat
  - a tiny 5" h x 2' w selection
  - use as a path filler or edging plant
- Q & A: should not be walked on regularly, but will recover / regenerate if damaged
- *Heuchera 'Wendy'* - Wendy coral bells
  - 2' h & w, it will spread to form a mat
  - good in low light, but also adaptable
- *Prunus ilicifolia* - holly-leaved cherry
  - 10'-40' h x 20' w evergreen tree
  - slow-grower, drought-tolerant, adaptable
  - cherries are a food source for birds
- Q & A: took 4 years to establish good roots, after which growth rate finally accelerated
- *Salvia apiana* - white sage
  - 3'-5' h x 4'-6' w with chalky foliage
  - tall flower stalks attract bumblebees
  - cut back annually to maintain form

Andreas Hessing has an MFA in Sculpture and works as a landscape contractor and designer. His home in Altadena is landscaped with 100% Californianative plants, and he chose to focus his presentation on plants selected for their aesthetic attributes, which included:

- *Artemisia californica* - California sagebrush
  - often grown for scent rather than appearance
- *Acalypha californica* - California copperleaf
  - 3' h & w, grown for its "copper" color
  - natural form looks best, but Andreas is experimenting with clipping it as a flat hedge
- *Arctostaphylos glauca* - big-berry manzanita
  - averages 10'-12' h, but can grow to 20'
  - large glaucous leaf & shreddy, red bark
- Q & A: sample shown was planted on a mound in soil amended with DG to improve drainage
- *Eriogonum* - various buckwheats
  - *E. crocatum*, aka saffron buckwheat is grown for its gray foliage & chartreuse flowers. Nice as an accent or massed.
  - *E. kennedyi* / *E. wrightii* are eponymous low mounding species, which self-seed
  - *E. arborescens* is the Santa Cruz Island buckwheat that is adaptable to a variety of garden conditions and will self-seed

- *E. giganteum var. compactum* can be container-grown for sculptural effect (for more info. see previous description)
- *Myrtillocactus cochal* - cereus cochal
  - a Baja cactus that looks beautiful if back-lit
- *Rhus lentii* - pink-flowering sumac
  - a cousin of *R. integrifolia* that requires no summer water & has magenta flowers
- Q & A: available at Tree of Life Nursery and Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden
- *Salvia pachyphylla* - desert mountain sage
  - 3' h & w, with showy purple bracts
  - tolerant of varied light conditions
- *Yucca* - use against a wall for a sculptural effect

Each speaker was allotted time to respond to questions, and after the presentations, audience members were given the opportunity to purchase tickets for the plant raffle which followed. The raffle was composed of selections featured in the program, as well as seed packets donated by the Theodore Payne Foundation, and it provided a fitting conclusion to the evening's program.

✂ Sabine Steinmetz

## SCHS COMMUNITY EVENT

On October 2, the SCHS participated in the annual One Chicken Fest, "a planet-based community festival" that is about making "small, positive changes in our lives and in the community to help the planet and ourselves", according to the mission statement on its website.

Board members Carol Aronson and Pat Steen represented the SCHS at a booth that had hand-outs of Green Sheets and newsletters, as well as displays with photos of field trips, Coffee in the Garden, and other events. They also fielded questions about the SCHS and had membership forms available.

Although the 10 am - 2 pm event was not very well-attended this year, it does represent the type of outreach the SCHS is trying to become more involved with. We would like to increase awareness of our organization as active members of the community, and to help promote the SCHS for current and future generations of gardeners.

We appreciate Carol and Pat giving of their time for the day and thank the other board members who participated behind the scenes in preparing for the event. Read more about the festival at:

[onechickenfest.org](http://onechickenfest.org)

## IS YOUR LAWN HARMING YOUR CAT?

Contributed by: Leigh Marcos

How many gardeners have tried natural, organic steps for growing plants and creating the perfect lawn and wondered, there must be an easier way to do this? Many of us may have looked to fertilizers and pesticides to take an easier route to success.

Unfortunately, I was not aware until too late what effects using chemicals in the pursuit of perfection could have on my cat, Mr. Spot. Eventually, with some advice, we realized they had made him irreversibly ill. I miss Mr. Spot, and he inspired me to write about how, while we work to achieve the perfect landscape, we should not forget the impact on our cats too.

Link to complete article at:

[www.shieldmypet.com/are-your-lawn-care-products-harming-your-cat](http://www.shieldmypet.com/are-your-lawn-care-products-harming-your-cat)



# NOVEMBER HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS & SCHS FUTURE EVENTS

*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.**

**J PAUL GETTY MUSEUM - GETTY CENTER**  
1200 Getty Center Dr., Los Angeles 90049  
**310-440-7300** [www.getty.edu/museum](http://www.getty.edu/museum)

Daily, 11:30am, 12:30pm, 2:30pm, 3:30pm, 45-minute Garden Tours. Meet at bench outside entrance to tour the Central Garden, designed by artist Robert Irwin - an evolving work of art, with tree-lined walkways through extraordinary sights, sounds, and scents.



**J PAUL GETTY MUSEUM - GETTY VILLA**  
17985 Pacific Coast Hwy., Pacific Palisades 90272  
**310-440-7300** [www.getty.edu/museum](http://www.getty.edu/museum)

Thursdays & Saturdays, 10:30am, 11:30am, 12:30pm, 1:30pm, 3:30pm, 40-minute Garden Tours meet outside the entrance. Discover rich mythological and cultural connections of four ancient Roman gardens.



**SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN**  
26300 Crenshaw, PV Peninsula 90274  
**310.544.1948** [southcoastbotanicgarden.org](http://southcoastbotanicgarden.org)

Friday, 11/11, 9:30-11am. Composting 101 with UC Master Gardener Liza Go. Hands-on composting workshop teaches how to ensure a steady flow of nutrient-rich soil year round. \$10 members / \$20 non-members. Registration required. Purchase tickets online or call Guest Services 310.544.1948.

Friday, 11/18, 9:30-11am. Composting 201 with UC Master Gardener Liza Go. Build on knowledge from "Composting 101" to learn advanced techniques and troubleshoot any issues. \$10 members / \$20 non-members. Registration required. Purchase tickets online or call Guest Services 310.544.1948.



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM**  
301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia 91007  
**626.821.4623** [arboretum.org](http://arboretum.org)

Saturday, 11/5, 9am-12noon, Tree I.D. with Dr. Jerry Turney, certified arborist. Covers 20 tree species, includes a lecture and a walk. Learn identification, growth habits, proper care, diseases, pests, and more. \$25 members / \$35 non-members. Register with Education Dept. 626.821.4623 or pay at the class.

Saturday, 11/12, 10am-12noon, Growing Geraniums from Cuttings. Matt-Dell Tufenkian teaches how to start baby plants from seeds and cuttings to grow these easy-care, drought-tolerant plants. \$25 per class (includes admission). Register with Education Dept. 626.821.4623 or pay at the class.



**DESCANSO GARDENS**  
1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada 91011  
**818.949.7980** [descansogardens.org](http://descansogardens.org)

Tuesday, 11/15, 10am. Planting Native Plants. Demonstration by Descanso's horticulturists shows how to plant and care for your native garden, including irrigation and pruning tips.

**HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS**  
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino 91108  
**626.405.2100** [huntington.org](http://huntington.org)

Thursday, 11/10, 2:30pm, Ahmanson Room, Brody Botanical Center. Garden-Worthy Grasses with Carol Bornstein, one of Southern California's leading native plant specialists, will discuss climate-appropriate grasses that attract wildlife, are beautiful, low-maintenance and low-water lawn alternatives. Plant sale follows the program.

Saturdays, 11/5, 11/12 & 11/19 10am-1pm Ranch Open House. Stop by this urban agriculture site (open weekly) and pick up fresh ideas for sustainable gardening.



**THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION**  
10459 Tuxford St., Sun Valley 91352  
**818.768.1802** [theodorepayne.org](http://theodorepayne.org)

Fridays, 11/4, 11/18, & 12/12, 11:30am-3:30pm. 3-part California Native Garden Design with Landscape Designer and SCHS Board President Steve Gerischer. (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 nature. Devise a base/plot plan, using knowledge of hardscape, irrigation, soils, and more. Complete a questionnaire and exercise before class, and bring photos, plus a baggie of the site's soil, on the first day. \$225 members, \$275 non-members; \$285 member couples, \$335 non-member couples.

Saturday, 11/5, 8:30am-12:30pm. California Native Plant Horticulture with Lili Singer, horticulturist and TPF Director of Special Projects and Adult Education. Basics of gardening with California flora. Learn about plant communities, planting techniques, irrigation, pruning and maintenance. Prerequisite to TPF's 3-Part California Native Plant Garden Design course. \$45 members, \$55 non-members.

Saturday, 11/5, 1:30-2:30pm. Looking at Space with Landscape Architect Amy Nettleton. This illustrated talk reveals elements that define landscape space. Learn how their interactions affect physical and emotional qualities of an area - so we can start to shape spaces that emulate powerful landscapes. \$10 members, \$15 non-members.

Saturdays, 11/17, 12/3, & 12/17, 9am-1pm, 3-Part California Native Garden Design with Landscape Architect Carlos Flores. (Prerequisite: TPF's California Native Plant Horticulture class. Must be taken before start of design course.) For details, refer to class description above. \$225 members, \$275 non-members; \$285 member couples, \$335 non-member couples.



**CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY (CNPS)**  
San Gabriel Mtns Chapter / Eaton Canyon Nature Ctr  
1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena 91107  
**818-398-5420** [www.cnps-sgm.org](http://www.cnps-sgm.org)

Saturday, 11/5, 9am-2pm. Native Plant Sale. California native plants and wildflower seeds appropriate for L.A. basin gardens will be available. Free to the public.



**CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY (CNPS)**  
L.A. / Sta Monica Mtns Chapter / Sepulveda Garden Ctr  
16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino 91436  
**818-782-9346** [www.lacnps.org](http://www.lacnps.org)

Tuesday, 11/8, 7:30-9:30pm. Bryophytes (Mosses) 101 with Paul Wilson. Free to the public.



**RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN**  
1500 N. College Ave., Claremont 91711  
**909.625.8767** [rsabg.org](http://rsabg.org)

Saturday, 11/5, 10-11:15am. Planting in Small Places. Thomas Yeary will showcase how he maximized the square footage of a plant community replication in his own yard. Free with admission. RSVP online at: [rsabg.org/community-education/](http://rsabg.org/community-education/)

Saturday, 11/19, 10-11:15am. Soils 101: Understanding Your Dirt. Workshop teaches how to identify different types of soils. Free with admission, but RSVP online at: [rsabg.org/community-education/](http://rsabg.org/community-education/)



**FULLERTON ARBORETUM**  
1900 Associated Rd., Fullerton 92831  
**657-278-3407** [fullertonarboretum.org](http://fullertonarboretum.org)

Saturday & Sunday, 11/5 & 11/6, 10am-4pm. California Native Plant Sale. Learn how to build a native habitat garden to attract butterflies, bees, and birds. Sale open to the public.

Saturday, 11/12, 10am-12pm. Hypertufa with Steve Gerischer. Hypertufa is an light-weight medium made by mixing cement, coir peat and perlite, then molded to resemble tufa or crumbling granite. Make a small item to learn techniques for creating "instant antiquities" for your garden. All materials provided. Wear "dirty" clothes, a hat & bring water. \$44 members, \$49 non-members.

Saturday, 11/19, 10am-12pm. Using Foliage, Form & Texture in the Garden with Steve Gerischer. Learn how to use shape, size, colors and contrast of leaves and blossoms to build garden ornaments and structures. \$35 members, \$40 non-members.

Saturday, 11/19, 10am-12pm. Composting with Worms with Miguel Macias. Learn how to introduce and maintain worms in your home composting system to attain rich "fluffy" soil to enrich your garden. \$7 members, \$10 non-members.



**COASTKEEPER GARDEN**  
1560 E. Santiago Cyn. Rd., Orange 92869  
**714.850.1965** [coastkeeper.org](http://coastkeeper.org)

Saturday, 11/12, 9:30-11am. Garden Share. Bring garden-related items to trade - like plants, cuttings, pots, tools, produce, etc. For more info, visit: [www.facebook.com/groups/OCPlantTrading](http://www.facebook.com/groups/OCPlantTrading).

Yvonne Savio




## SCHS REFRESHMENTS

*Two new SCHS Board members, Steve Singer and Carol Aronson, have volunteered to take over the coffee/refreshments responsibilities at our general meetings. A third volunteer would make things much easier - so if you've wanted to help out but didn't know how - here's a way you can. It would involve taking the coffee urns once every 3 months, bringing them to the next meeting, buying coffee and creamer (SCHS can reimburse the expense), and setting up before the meeting.*

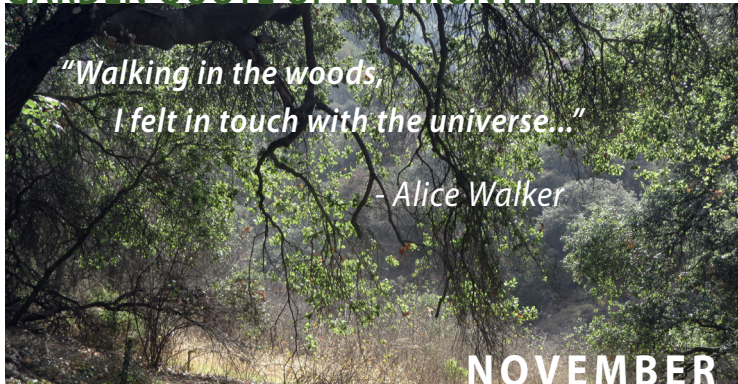
*It takes many people to make our meetings run smoothly and our board is already very busy with multiple tasks and responsibilities. Please consider volunteering - Thank You!* **Steve Gerischer**

We also encourage members to bring cookies or other treats to add to the table.

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

-  November 10 - Sasha Duerr, author of *Natural Color* and *The Handbook of Natural Plant Dyes*
-  December 8 - **Holiday Party** featuring: Madagascar slide show presented by Steve Gerischer & Kathy Musial, members' Cookie Raffle
-  January 12 - Panel Discussion & Presentation on the "Chelsea Flower Show" - Speakers TBA

### GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH



Steven Gerischer - *President, Pacific Horticulture Board, PR*  
 Laura Bauer - *Treasurer & Finance, 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, *Hospitality*  
 Aprille Curtis  
 Steve Singer, *Hospitality*

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*Newsletter Editor:* Sabine Steinmetz

Contributors to this issue: Leigh Marcos, Yvonne Savio, Pat Steen

**Next deadline: Friday, November 11** (for December newsletter)  
 Please contribute an article or information of interest.



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