



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

December 2016

## OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, December 8

Friendship Auditorium  
3201 Riverside Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90027



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

## SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

*We look forward to meeting and celebrating with the following new members:*

Deborah Hartnett  
Jonathan Harnish  
Scott Kleinrock & Kyra Saegusa  
Alicia Peterson  
April Garbat Vaughan  
[www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org)

## SHARING SECRETS

The SCHS Sharing Secrets question for December is:

*What are your gardening resolutions for the coming year?*

Answer on our website at [socalhort.org](http://socalhort.org) or e-mail your response to: [gardensbysabine@aol.com](mailto:gardensbysabine@aol.com) by Friday, December 9

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## SCHS HOLIDAY PROGRAM: Travels to Madagascar

Our December meeting will feature co-presenters, Kathy Musial and Steve Gerischer, talking about the October 2012 trips the Pacific Horticulture Society (PHS) booked to Madagascar. When the first expedition led by Kathy quickly sold out, the PHS immediately added a second tour escorted by Steve. They will be sharing their experiences from both trips to this botanically-rich island nation, accompanied by a slide show.



Photo: Pacific Horticulture Society

Located off the southeast coast of Africa, Madagascar has a remarkable number of endemic plants and animals, living in habitats ranging from a rainforest in the east to an arid spiny forest in the south. After splitting from the Indian peninsula 88 million years ago, Madagascar's flora and fauna developed in relative isolation. This global biodiversity hotspot faces many challenges as the nation struggles to protect and

conserve the sparse natural areas that remain, while dealing with the needs of poverty stricken local inhabitants and destructive influences from within and abroad.

Our presenters will be drawing on their combined trove of botanical knowledge to enhance this special program. Kathy is Curator of Living Collections at the Huntington Library and Gardens, the 2015 recipient of the SCHS Horticulturist of the Year Award, and has served on the boards of both the PHS and the SCHS. Steve is the



current president of both the SCHS and the PHS, owner of Larkspur Garden Design, and lectures locally on a variety of gardening topics.

We look forward to a botanical discovery tour of Madagascar in this special program presented by two of SCHS's own members.

Please join us for this, as well as the other seasonal activities we have planned, to start the holiday season with a memorable evening!

## SCHS HOLIDAY PARTY

In addition to having a holiday program with two wonderful speakers and a slide show, the December meeting will also feature these other seasonal activities...

### SWEETS & TREATS

We invite you to bring a sweet or savory treat to share with those attending the party. Many of our members are not only successful gardeners, but equally skilled in the kitchen, as we have discovered at past events where they have generously contributed tasty food items - yum.

### GIVE-AWAY TABLE

This annual tradition allows members to donate "gently used" treasures of a horticultural nature to be shared with others in a free give-away. Enjoy the charitable spirit of the season by participating in the giving and receiving!

### EARLY-BIRD SHOPPING

Whether you are treating yourself to a new addition for your own garden, or just indulging in some holiday gift shopping, we will have a variety of plants available for purchase. The vendors will no doubt inspire your seasonal decorating and enrich your garden plans for the new year!

Our November speaker, Sasha Duerr, traveled from the San Francisco Bay Area to present us with an intriguing program about the slow fashion movement and the integral part plants have in it. She is an artist, designer and professor who works with organic dyes and alternative fibers, and she advocates for the creative reuse of materials. At the California College of the Arts (CCA) in Oakland, she holds a joint appointment in textiles and fine arts, and is the founder of the Permacouture Institute ([www.permacouture.org](http://www.permacouture.org)), which promotes the use of regenerative design practices for fashion and textiles. Duerr's lovely presentation focused on the making and use of plant-based dyes and was illustrated by slides featuring projects from her book, *Natural Color* (Watson-Guptill/Random House 2016).

Duerr began her program with a brief autobiography, which included growing up in Maine and Hawaii with plenty of exposure to nature. She studied to become a painter at Middlebury College in Vermont, where illnesses from exposure to paints led to her experimentation with natural dyes and pigmentation. She completed her thesis at CCA in Slow Food and Slow Textiles and currently focuses her teaching and studies on what she calls the "alchemy of the landscape", including how it can be applied as seasonal color in the fashion world.



Photo: Katelyn Toth-Fejel

She showed us project ideas using dyes made from ingredients foraged seasonally, including spring color derived from roses, fig leaves, quince branches and avocado fruit; summer hues extracted from fennel, passion vine, aloe and loquat; and winter dyes made from citrus, as well as from cones and branches of redwood, pine and spruce. Her slides featured textiles, clothing, and also tablecloths and napkins, which were shown paired with seasonal foods.

Duerr's interest in natural systems for color and textiles led her to establish the Permacouture Institute in 2007. One idea the organization focuses on is whether products and systems are natural or artificial, and how to begin adjusting our perceptions to include more of the natural. For example: integrating by-products of items we already use for other purposes before discarding the remainder, such as a pomegranate, wherein we use the seeds as a food source, but typically discard the rind, which can be used as a dye color source. This type of creative thinking led to her work with cooks, where she experiments with using their left-over food scraps to dye fabrics.

After hosting a number of popular "Dinners to Dye For", where she culled her "compost colors" from sources such as onion and citrus peels and avocado pits, Duerr teamed up with Kelsie Kerr to collaborate on a Berkeley-based farm-to-table enterprise where they demonstrate the relationship between recipes and biodiversity. This

on-going relationship led to a full year of workshops, wherein Duerr experimented with a large variety of plants in ways that have been lost to us, including medicinal textiles.

Duerr explained how dye colors are dynamic - shifting at different times of day, with seasonality and through their processing. She created a seasonal color wheel for the Bay Area, showing dye color sources for different times of the year. As a teacher, Duerr regulates what students put into their dye pots to avoid toxicity, and is careful to only pass along proven processes, including disposal of the dyes. By using all parts of the plants she finds when foraging locally, she continues to learn about fiber durability, color fastness and the chemical effects of different plant-based ingredient combinations. She is always seeking new uses for plants as color sources beyond dying -- as paints, or to create surface designs.



She finished her presentation by talking about local plants that people interested in learning about natural dyeing could begin experimenting with, such as manzanita, black walnut and assorted fruits. She also shared a color wheel that she created for the Los Angeles area, prints of which were available for purchase, along with copies of her book, *Natural Color*.

✪ Sabine Steinmetz

All photos by Sasha Duerr unless otherwise credited.

## SHARING SECRETS RESPONSES

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



I've used the dried up stalk of the *Hesperoyucca whipplei* "Our Lord's Candle" - (never even considered the aptness of that name for my use), as my Christmas "tree" for the last 3 years. It doesn't go bad, still has a few dried seed pods on it, and spines that make it easy to hang ornaments onto, as well as a string of tiny lights. After removing the ornaments I can wrap a large sheet over it and store it in the attic for another year. The best thing is that it's natural and visually interesting.

- Florence Nishida

I plan to sneak out nearby my house and cut some fresh eucalyptus sprouts for a door wreath and also to use as table decor. I usually use the juvenile foliage in the watersprouts from the base of the big *E. globulus* trunks. I also have a secret spot off a nearby highway where I can access toyon berries, if the birds haven't eaten them all.

- Anonymous

I usually invite my neighbors for a wreath-making night - we've been doing it for probably 30 years. The bulk of the form is leaves from my neighbor's Magnolia 'Little Gem' that I planted in that yard just for this purpose. The owners at the time asked me for a shade tree and I gave them something to make us both happy. After the Magnolia leaves, it is straight "della Robbia" style with nuts, acorns, fruit, dried blooms, rose hips, clusters of oak leaves, toyon berries, etc. from our own property. Whatever I can find to add.

There's also a Tecate cypress whose clippings get made into a single long streamer for the fireplace mantle. A barn owl calls that tree home each winter and I don't want to take too much away.

We put up a Christmas tree outside on the backyard patio that we can view from any of three windows. It's a tepee made from the longest trimmings off the stone fruit trees and whatever else is sturdy, long and narrow in the yard. Just strip the leaves, bind the top with jute twine and then encircle it in lights. I'm trying solar string lights this year. During the day it can look pretty funky but it is always so pretty at nighttime.

As an aside, my juniper berries are very popular for holiday cooking. I have a great recipe for cranberry sauce made with juniper berries and gin.

- Catherine Pannell

## SCHS ANNUAL APPEAL

To our generous membership:

Last month, we published our annual year-end appeal for your tax-deductible donations to help support the Southern California Horticultural Society in its mission to offer educational and inspiring gardening experiences to its membership.

We would like to thank those of you who have already contributed, and encourage any of you considering a donation to please give as you can. Following are some sponsorship objectives we are hoping to achieve:

- **Intern Sponsor:** *Allows deserving students to intern at a local public garden.*
- **Oral-History Sponsor:** *Our goal is to document stories from members who have contributed so much to the horticultural world.*
- **Speaker Sponsor:** *\$500 covers speaker and travel costs, plus you will be invited to dinner with a speaker and the SCHS Board.*
- **Meeting Refreshments Sponsor:** *\$20 covers cost of coffee and related supplies.*

With appreciation,  
Steve Gerischer, President SCHS

Donation form can be found on-line at:  
[socalhort.org](http://socalhort.org)

# DECEMBER HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS & SCHS ANNOUNCEMENT

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.



**CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY (CNPS)**  
L.A./Santa Monica Mtns. Chapter / 1st United Methodist  
1008 11th St., Santa Monica 90403  
818-782-9346 [www.lacnps.org](http://www.lacnps.org)

Tuesday, 12/13, 7:30pm. What Seeds of Local Oak Species Tell Us About Acorn Woodpeckers Foraging Patterns.



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

Saturday, 12/10/16, 12noon-4pm. Organic Fruit & Vegetable-Winter with Horticultural Supervisor Jill Morganelli. This is the first in the series and is all about preparation. Class covers: soil building techniques, composting and vermiculture, cover crops, building raised beds, winter crops and fruit tree pruning. Small-space gardening and vertical structures will also be discussed. \$25 Arboretum members / \$35 non-members per class. Please call 626.821.4623 to register or pay at the door.

Saturday, 12/17/16, 10am. Crescent Farm Series - Water Harvesting. Learn about 9 core water harvesting techniques that can be replicated in any yard, including berms and swales, infiltration basins, terracing, trenching, lasagna mulching, increasing soil absorption, decreasing soil compaction, passive water harvesting through Hugelkultur, and creating permeability in hardscapes. Rain barrels, rain chains and ollas will also be discussed. Free with arboretum admission.



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

Saturday, 12/10, 10am and 2pm; & Sunday, 12/11, 2pm. Wreath making. Make a wreath from natural materials for your winter decorating. Descanso staff will provide instruction to get you going. \$40 includes materials. Early registration by phone is encouraged as class usually sells out.

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

Every Saturday (except 12/24 or 12/31), 10am-1pm. Ranch Open House. Stop by this urban agriculture site (open weekly) and pick up fresh ideas for sustainable gardening.

Thursday, 12/8, 2:30pm, Ahmanson Room, Brody Botanical Center. 2nd Thursday Garden Talk & Book Signing. Learn how to convert a resource-intensive yard to a more natural, low-water-use landscape in this lecture by horticulturist Barbara Eisenstein, author of *Wild Suburbia: Learning to Garden with Native Plants*. Book signing follows the talk.

Saturday, 12/10, 10am-12noon. Evergreen Wreaths with Fresh Flowers. Create a festive wreath using pine, eucalyptus, and more. Embellish with fresh flowers, ornaments and berries. This hands-on workshop is presented by the design team from Flower Duet. Members \$85, non-members \$100. Registration: [www.huntington.org/calendar](http://www.huntington.org/calendar).

Saturday, 12/10, 1-2:30pm. Children's Flower Arranging Workshop: Holiday Wreaths. Kids will learn how to create miniature wreaths for the holidays in this workshop taught by Flower Duet. Ages 7-12. Fee includes one accompanying adult. Members \$25, non-members \$35. Registration: [www.huntington.org/calendar](http://www.huntington.org/calendar).

Thursday, 12/22, 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, to explore the wonders of the plant world. Discussion-style lecture is followed by lab time with microscopes and plant specimens. Attend a single session or participate every month.



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

Saturday, 12/10, 9am-1pm. Propagating California Native Plants with TPF Propagation Manager Jordan Isken. Learn basic skills of vegetative propagation. Various species of native plants will be discussed and started from cuttings or divisions in this hands-on session. You'll leave with a flat of starts for your garden! Limit: 10. \$50 TPF members, \$60 non-members.

Saturday, 12/10, 10-11am. Aromatic Plants for the Garden with TPF Seed Program Manager Genevieve Arnold. Many California native plants are admired for their highly aromatic foliage or flowers. Take an olfactory tour of some of our favorites. Class includes beautiful images, scented samples and a walk and talk on TPF grounds. \$15 TPF members, \$20 non-members.

Saturday, 12/10, 1:30-3:30pm. Your Native Garden's First Year with Lili Singer. This overview of the first 12 months in a newly installed native plant landscape provides practical tips on getting plants established, including what to do and what to expect from your developing garden. \$25 TPF members, \$35 non-members.

Saturday, 12/17, 2-3pm. Do It Yourself Pathways with Southern California Horticultural Society Board President Steve Gerischer. Learn quick and simple techniques for creating unique garden walks and paths, using a range of new and found materials and placing an emphasis on permeability. \$15 TPF members, \$20 non-members.



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

Sunday, 12/11, 10am-1pm. Medicinal Herb Walk with herbalist William Broen. Come on a walking presentation of medicinal plants from the garden. Bring hat, walking shoes, water, and snack or sack lunch. \$20 members, \$25 non-members. For more information or to register, go to: <http://rsabg.org/community-education/>

Saturday, 12/17, 10am-11pm. Grow Native Nursery Workshop: How to Plant & Water Native Plants. This lecture will cover and demonstrate the initial planting techniques and proper irrigation of your new California native plants. For more information or to register, go to: <http://rsabg.org/nursery-calendar>

Through Spring 2017. Locally Grown: A Future for Native Foods. Envision a farmer's market of the future, where California native plants are an integral food source in homes and restaurants, and offer a new paradigm of sustainability, environmental restoration and incredible flavor in future food production. This Container Garden exhibit explores new agricultural models, tasty cultivars, native recipes, and more. Discover over 50 plants that offer visions for California's agricultural future, as well as present-day examples to try at home. For more information go to: <http://rsabg.org/garden-events/1114-locallygrown>



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

Saturday, 12/10, 10am-12noon. The Birders Garden. Steve Gerischer, garden designer and avid birder, will discuss the numerous birds seen in the Los Angeles basin and will give you tips on attracting birds to your home garden. \$40.00



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

Saturday, 12/10, 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

## STILL LOOKING FOR HELP WITH REFRESHMENTS

We're still looking for one more volunteer to help board members Steve Singer and Marilee Kuhlmann with the coffee/refreshment duties at our monthly meetings. If we can put together a rotating committee of three, each person can take turns bringing the urns to meetings, buying coffee and creamer (with SCHS reimbursing for the expense), and setting up before the meeting.

Please consider volunteering, as it takes many people to make our meetings run smoothly -- including having back-up personnel for coffee duty!

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.

- ∞ December 8 - **Holiday Party** featuring: Madagascar slide show presented by Steve Gerischer & Kathy Musial, plus Sweets & Treats, Give-Away Table & Plant Sales
- ∞ January 12 - Impressions of London's Chelsea Flower Show with Shawn Maestretti, Francesca Corra, Yvonne Savio, moderated by Marilee Kuhlmann
- ∞ February 9 - Robin Parer, owner of Geraniaceae Nursery and author of *The Plant Lover's Guide to Hardy Geraniums*

**Steven Gerischer** - President, Oral History Committee, PR, Pacific Horticulture representative, Tech Support for meetings  
**Laura Bauer** - Treasurer, Finance Committee, Website Committee  
**Pat Steen** - Membership Secretary, Recording Secretary, Coffee-in-the-Garden, Greeter  
**Carol Bornstein** - Program Committee  
**Yoav Paskowitz** - Finance Committee, Oral History Committee, Website Committee  
**Yvonne Savio** - Horticultural Happenings, Coffee-in-the-Garden, PR  
**John Schoustra** - Vice President, Field Trips, Finance Committee, Plant Raffle, Plant Sales at meetings  
**Lili Singer** - Book of the Month, Nomination Committee, Program Committee, PR, Archives  
**Jill Vig** - Coffee-in-the-Garden, Oral History Committee, Pacific Horticulture representative, Special Projects  
**Sabine Steinmetz** - Newsletter, Sharing Secrets  
**Steven Ormenyi** - Finance Committee  
**Marilee Kuhlmann** - Hospitality Committee, Program Committee  
**Carol Aronson**  
**Aprille Curtis** - Plant Forum supplies  
**Steve Singer** - Hospitality Committee

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Contributors to this issue: Steve Gerischer, Yvonne Savio

**Next deadline: Friday, December 9** (for January newsletter)  
 Please contribute an article or information of interest.

## GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH



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

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