



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

June 2017

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, June 8

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

*We gained 4 new members
in May - please welcome:*

Shannon Bizzy
Mark Harelik
Douglas Kent
Simon Russin

www.socalhort.org

SHARING SECRETS

This month we're hoping
to unveil some real secrets:

*What is the most rare or unusual
plant that you have grown?*

Share online at socalhort.org
or e-mail to:
gardensbysabine@aol.com

Respond by Monday, June 12

IN THIS ISSUE:

May Program Recap, Garden Tour
Overview and Sharing Secrets . . 2

Green Sheets (March & May) . . 3 & 4

Board Member Ballot INSERT

Horticultural Happenings . . . 5

Upcoming Programs, Board
and Contact Info. 6

PLEASE NOTE - DIFFERENT VENUE for JUNE MEETING & NO PLANT FORUM

THE DIRT ON PLANT SEX

Birds do it. Bees do it. Sponges, English soles, romantic sponges, Lithuanians, chimpanzees, giraffes, royalty, and educated fleas do it. The only plant mentioned in Cole Porter's classic is Boston beans. But it's because plants do it that every other living organism on our planet is able to do it. For our June meeting we welcome back as our

speaker, Sandy Masuo, former SCHS Board member, author, inveterate plant nerd and self-described garden voyeur. In this presentation, she will be presenting her take on the earthy and diverse realm of plant sex.

The natural world is dominated by the need for sexual reproduction. But that's not always possible, so necessity has given rise to some alternatives. As many gardeners know, certain insects such as aphids are able to asexually produce offspring that are female clones of the mother and many plants reproduce asexually by producing offsets and clones. But the advantage of sexual reproduction is the potential for fresh genetic combinations - and

plants have evolved an astonishing array of strategies for sexual reproduction, including threesomes with pollinators (both exclusive and open relationships), and single-sex plants (dioecious) that need partners to reproduce. This talk will dig into the sex lives of plants and reveal some lesser known "dirty secrets."

Sandy's day job for the last 14 years is that of associate editor in the publications division of the Los Angeles Zoo, where she is surrounded by intriguing flora and fauna daily. She also co-edits the Association for Zoological Horticulture (AZH) newsletter and is the author of *Unnatural Selection: Lessons of Life and Death on the Paper Trail*, published last year, which draws on some of her experiences in the zoological world. When not spying on plants, Sandy makes use of her Master's degree in Education from Harvard teaching adult education workshops for Glendale Community College, including fiction and business writing, and a popular succulent centerpiece design class.

Clearly Sandy is obsessed. As a horticultural group, this is something we can all relate to and appreciate. Please join us at our June meeting for a new talk by a passionate gardener and persistent citizen scientist - it's sure to be revealing and entertaining, and you'll never look at flowers the same way again!

Sandy Masuo & Sabine Steinmetz

Photo courtesy of speaker.



COFFEE IN THE GARDEN REMINDER

Saturday, June 17

1:00 - 4:00 pm

COFFEE IN THE GARDEN
at the Arboretum Library

FREE for Members / \$5. for Guests

REGISTER ON-LINE or
at the JUNE MEETING



SAVE THE DATE!

The May SCHS presentation was on the subject of tree health, with an emphasis on the future of our urban forests in Southern California. Speaking on this most timely topic was arborist and horticultural consultant Rebecca Latta, who has been working with trees

Speaker's website photo.



in the greater Los Angeles region for more than 25 years. As an arboricultural and a water management consultant, she spoke to us from a position of seeing first-hand what our local trees' struggle for survival has been in recent years. She talked about factors contributing to the problems facing our urban forests and some of the things we can personally do to keep our trees as healthy as possible.

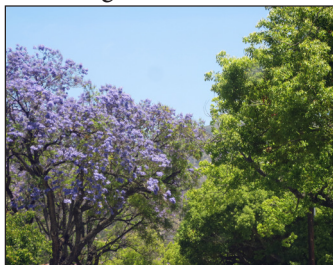
The first point Latta addressed was the current status of the prolonged drought and its impact on our landscapes. She indicated that with ground water levels being low and overall temperatures still rising, on-going conservation efforts continue to be important, both by individuals and municipalities. In home landscapes, she stressed the need to capture as much rainfall as possible to prevent wasteful run-off. The use of cisterns and swales were several options she mentioned to achieve this, as well as the proper use of mulch. Flushing soils to manage the salt, boron and chlorides found in irrigation water was another suggestion she made towards improving soil health, which in turn contributes to the overall health of all plants and trees.

This led Latta to talk about the difference between a plant's drought-tolerance and its heat-tolerance. Drought tolerance refers to the plant's ability to go for extended periods of dryness in the soil or the air, while heat tolerance refers to its ability to withstand increased temperatures without sustaining damage to foliage or tissues. She remarked that typically three days of prolonged heat (without any remediating action being taken) would result in the greatest amount of damage. Additionally, Latta mentioned that plants which require chilling time and don't receive enough are unable to rest, thereby causing them to lose insect and disease resistance.

Latta continued with a discussion of the damage that our drought-stressed

trees have been suffering from. In some cases, stress can cause the release of pheromones which attract beetles, or cause botryosphaeria cankers, or give other pests opportunities to attack vulnerable trees, such as the polyphagous shot hole borer which has caused fatal and widespread damage. She maintains that efficient water management is the key to promoting strong, healthy trees which can withstand some of these problems. Over-watering and saturated soils can also lead to disease, so sufficient watering at proper intervals is crucial. While different species will have varying schedules, Latta did provide some general watering tips such as: keep water away from trunks, avoid misting, try flooding every 7 to 21 days (depending on soil type), and protect the feeder roots. Strategies for the latter include: not planting directly under trees, leaving leaf litter whenever possible (in lieu of rocks piled against trunks), and encouraging, or importing, red worms to help "roto-till" the soil.

Latta concluded her presentation by talking about ways that municipalities are trying to select trees for the new paradigm, as a large percentage of our urban forest will have to be replaced in the near future. Selections will need to be drought, heat and salt tolerant, and



preferably a diversity of species will be chosen. Species which meet these criteria also appear to share some common characteristics, such as having pinnately compound and/or waxy leaves. Latta mentioned a variety of trees that are being considered, ranging from pines to broadleaf shade trees to ornamental selections which meet cities' aesthetic criteria as well.

With such a broad topic to cover, Latta gave attendees much to consider in her overview of the current situation. She was able to answer additional audience questions after her talk, but many questions remain. The preservation of our urban forests will require proactive measures to protect what remains, and careful consideration for selecting new plantings in the future.

✿ Sabine Steinmetz

SCHS VISITS A HILLSIDE GARDEN OF DELIGHTS

On May 7, attending SCHS members and guests were treated to a garden tour of a private and very original garden in the Hollywood Hills. The garden's unique look was created through the joint efforts of the homeowners: landscape designer Johanna Woolcott and her husband Eugene McCarthy.

By artfully combining collected treasures and found objects with carefully chosen plant selections, their garden of drought-tolerant plantings and recycled materials works together to create an eclectic showpiece of landscape possibilities. Glass bottles, mosaic balls, gabion walls, benches, sculptures and containers repurposed from any number of unexpected items provided inspiration and wonder for visitors as they strolled upwards along curved paths. From the top of the garden, the Hollywood sign was visible directly across the canyon, and looking down, the garden could be appreciated in its entirety. The perfect spring weather made the experience even more special for everyone in attendance.

The SCHS would like to thank Johanna and Eugene for generously allowing us into their space, and also for being on hand to walk visitors through and to answer questions. Pictures of this garden as well as Johanna's other designs can be seen on her website at: wildgardensla.com, and on SCHS's Facebook page.

We look forward to returning for a visit in the future and discovering new delights!



Photo by Marilee Kuhlmann

SHARING SECRETS RESPONSES

Which summer annuals & edibles can't you live without?

Now that the exuberance of spring is fading, it's time to look forward to the next season in the garden: summer. My (reseeded) sunflowers are knee-high already, and I'm thinking about what type of tomato to plant in my limited garden area.

- Anonymous

It's hard to choose as I see so many fruits and veggies ripening outside, but I would have to put my peaches and plums at the top of list... They taste all the sweeter as I have to work so diligently to prevent squirrels and birds from getting to my precious (and limited) crop!

- Sabine Steinmetz

GREEN SHEET

PLANT FORUM SELECTIONS • MARCH 2017

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

PLANTS SHOWN at MARCH 9, 2017 MEETING

Paeonia cambessedesii (Paeoneaceae)

Majorcan Peony shown by Laura Bauer. From Spain and the Mediterranean. This herbaceous perennial blooms in spring with fragrant pinkish-purple flowers. Foliage is dark glossy green with reddish tints and distinctive red backed leaves. Needing little winter chill this peony grows well in Southern California, even in clay soils. Occasionally available from Annie's Annuals.



Collection of blooming ***Ceanothus*** (Rhamnaceae)

From the Nature Garden of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. Shown by Carol Bornstein. All are California natives, and all have low water needs.

Ceanothus 'Snow Flurry': with white flowers. Shrub 10-20' h & w.

Ceanothus 'Anchor Bay': shrub or ground cover to 3' x 6' with blue flowers & hard, waxy foliage that is somewhat holly-like.

Ceanothus 'Ray Hartman': large shrub/small tree 10-15' h & w. Large glossy leaves and mid-blue flowers. Fast and easy grower. Nearly white bark shows nicely when grown as a tree.

Ceanothus 'Concha': shrub, 4-8' h & w. Dark green glossy leaves and dark blue flowers.

Ceanothus 'Julia Phelps': shrub 4-6' h & w. Glossy deep green foliage with deep blue/purplish flowers.

Ceanothus 'Blue Jeans': 4-6' h & w. Arching growth with glossy, waxy holly-like foliage and denim blue flowers.

Ceanothus 'Sierra Blue': shrub or small tree 10-15' h & w. Glossy foliage & cobalt blue flowers.

Ceanothus maritimus: shrub/ground cover 3' x 5' with small, glossy holly-like leaves on arching stems. Mid-blue flowers.



Selection of Ceanothus displayed.

Fouquieria columnaris (Fouquieriaceae)

Boojum from Baja California. Shown by Matt-Dell Tufenkian. A tree in the Ocotillo family that can grow to 60' with honey-scented flowers in spring and summer.

Fouquieria
shown at right.



Also exhibited but not pictured:

Dendrobium kingianum (Orchidaceae)

Pink rock orchid, shown by Gloria Leinbach. From Eastern Australia. These orchids can be grown outdoors in Southern California in a shaded spot. They bear fragrant flowers in late winter/early spring. Many hybrids and varieties available.

Sclaranthus unifloru (Caryophyllaceae)

Knawel Cushion, from New Zealand, shown by Matt-Dell Tufenkian. This drought-tolerant hummock plant looks like moss but has stiff tightly-packed foliage in a solid mound.

Agave guiengola (Agavaceae)

From Mexico. Shown by Matt-Dell Tufenkian

Brunfelsia pauciflora

(Solanaceae)

Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow, from the neotropics.

Shown by Yvonne Savio

Ferraria crispa (Iridaceae)

From tropical and Southern Africa. Shown by Yvonne Savio

Salvia Africana-lutea

(Lamiaceae)

From South Africa.

Shown by Yvonne Savio

✂ Compiled by Steven Gerischer

✂ Photos by Sabine Steinmetz

Cont'd. on reverse

GREEN SHEET

PLANT FORUM SELECTIONS • MAY 2017

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

THERE WAS NO PLANT FORUM IN APRIL BECAUSE OF VENUE CHANGE.

PLANTS SHOWN at MAY 11, 2017 MEETING

Albuca clanwilliam-gloria (Asparagaceae)

From South Africa. Shown by Sheldon Lisker. Tall growing bulb to 6' with yellow pendant bell-like flowers.



Puya violacea (Bromeliaceae)

From Chile. Shown by Sheldon Lisker. Dramatic terrestrial bromeliad requiring many years to bloom from initial planting. Violet, near black flowers.

Albuca (R) and *Puya* (L) shown in picture above.

Salvia canariensis (Lamiaceae)



From the Canary Islands. Shown by Aprille Curtis.

Large shrub that can grow 6' - 8' x 4' annually. Tall, profuse flower stalks range purple to magenta. Gray-green leaves are tomentose and triangular.

Salvia canariensis shown here.

Also exhibited but not pictured:

Chlorogalum pomeridianum (Hyacinthaceae)

Soap plant from California. Shown by Sheldon Lisker. This perennial grows from a bulb and is found in the western foothills of the Sierra Nevada, on rock bluffs, in chaparral, grasslands and open woodlands. Wavy-leafed soap plant has white flowers that open in the evening through the night, closing by morning.

Eremophila 'Fire & Ice' (Scrophulariaceae)

Emu Bush, from Australia. Shown by Eric and Ann Brooks. Evergreen drought-tolerant shrub to 4' x 5'. Red-orange flowers and cool gray foliage give this hummingbird-magnet its name.

Eremophila 'Summertime Blue' (Scrophulariaceae)

Emu Bush, from Australia. Shown by Eric and Ann Brooks. Evergreen drought-tolerant shrub to 6' x 6' with light blue flowers.

Euphorbia xanti (Euphorbiaceae)

Baja Spurge, from Baja California. Shown by Eric and Ann Brooks. Shrub to 6' or taller with nearly leafless stems and small pink to white flowers. Drought-tolerant.

✻ Compiled by Steven Gerischer

✻ Photos by Sabine Steinmetz

**THERE WILL BE
NO PLANT FORUM IN JUNE
BECAUSE OF VENUE CHANGE.**



BALLOT for SCHS BOARD of DIRECTORS
Southern California Horticultural Society

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

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

Please review the slate of names below and vote for THREE

- ☐ Carol Bornstein (incumbent)
- ☐ Steve Gerischer (incumbent)
- ☐ John Schoustra (incumbent)
- ☐ WRITE-IN : _____
(Must be a current member and willing to serve)



Please complete this form and turn in at the June 8 General Meeting

OR

mail back in an envelope postmarked
no later than June 30, 2017 to:

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

JUNE HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

Please contact location(s) to confirm listed events, and for a full schedule.

Events are free with admission unless otherwise indicated.

Locations are listed by Zip Code.

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN

26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes 90274
310.544.1948 southcoastbotanicgarden.org

Saturday, 6/18, 12noon-1pm, Gift Shop Patio. Mini Succulent Planter Workshop. Learn basics of planting and caring for succulents while crafting your own masterpiece. Materials fee of \$9 members, \$12 non-members includes pot, soil, succulent cuttings and top dressing. Register on-line or pay on day of at Gift Shop.



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY - L.A. / SANTA MONICA MTNS. CHAPTER

First United Methodist Church
1008 11th St., Santa Monica 90403
818.782.9346 lacnps.org

Tuesday, 6/13, 7:30pm. Shot-Hole Borers are Here! Talk and slide show on drought-weakened trees' resistance to borer invasions, how pests spread, how to identify them, and recent research done in California. For more info. call Snowdy Dodson 818-782-9346, or visit website.



LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM

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

Saturday, 6/17, 10am. Crescent Farm Series: Crescent Farm Horticulture. Learn about low water lawn alternatives, California native ethnobotanic plants, wildflowers and more! Growing tips will be discussed.

Saturday, 6/17, 10am-12noon Plumeria Grafting with Diana Donnellan. Meet in Rotunda and walk to the Plumeria Grove for a hands-on workshop on mechanics of grafting as well as best practices. Demo trees will show both good and bad ideas, each to be discussed in depth. \$25 members, \$35 non-members. Reservations preferred. Call 626-821-4623 or pay at the door.



DESCANSO GARDENS

1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada 91011
818.949.7980 descansogardens.org

Monday thru Friday, 6/19 - 6/26, 9am-3pm. Descanso Discoveries Summer Camp in partnership with the Child Educational Center. Children will tend their own garden plots and investigate the natural world through art and science-based activities. Free extended care available from 7am-6pm. \$511 per week. For info. or to register, call 818-354-3418 or go to <https://cec.campbrainregistration.com>.



HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

1151 Oxford Road, San Marino 91108
626.405.2100 huntington.org

Saturdays, 10am-1pm. Ranch Open House. Get ideas for sustainable gardening at our urban agriculture site. Experts from the University of California L.A. County Master Gardener program will be on hand to answer questions and offer seasonal tips.

Thursday, 6/8, 2:30pm, Ahmanson Room, Brody Botanical Center. Garden Talk & Sale: Moving the Whitelock Cycads. In 2015, The Huntington received a donation of 620 cycads from the estate of Loran Whitelock, a local plantsman. Gary Roberson, head gardener of the cycad collection, will speak about how these plants were transported, documented and transplanted. Plant sale follows the talk.

Friday - Sunday, 6/30 - 7/2, 10am-5pm, Brody Botanical Center. Cactus & Succulent Annual Show hosted by the Cactus & Succulent Society of America. Friday = pre-show sale. Saturday/Sunday = show & sale. Hundreds of intriguing plants will be on view and available to purchase.



GLENDALE COMMUNITY SERVICES & PARKS **GLENDALE NARROWS RIVERWALK**

300 Paula Avenue, Glendale 91201
818.548.3795 glendaleca.gov

Saturday, 6/10, 8am-12noon. Riverwalk Workday. Help maintain landscaped areas along the L.A. River. Wear long pants, sunscreen, sunglasses, and a hat. We provide tools, drinks and snacks! All participants must sign a liability waiver and minors must provide a waiver signed by a parent or guardian.



THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION

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

Saturday, 6/3, 8:30am-12:30pm. California Native Plant Horticulture with Lili Singer. Covers value of natives, 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, 6/3, 1-3:30pm. Irrigation Practices for Native Plant Gardens with Carol Armour Aronson. Learn about principles, techniques and equipment best suited for irrigating native home gardens. Includes practical examples, a demo of TPF's irrigation system, plus Q&A. \$30 members, \$40 non-members.

Three Saturdays, 6/24, 7/8, 8/22, 9am-1pm. Three-Part Native Garden Design with Carol Armour Aronson. This comprehensive course for home gardeners offers a sound foundation in design and process, importance of sustainability and how to model a garden after patterns in nature. Prerequisite: TPF's California Native Plant Horticulture class. \$225 members, \$275 non-members; \$285 member couples, \$335 non-member couples.

RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Sunday, 6/4, 8-9:30am. Beginner's Bird Walk. Walk leisurely through the Garden to spot numerous bird species that migrate through the region. Sponsored by the Pomona Valley Audubon Society. To register, go to <http://www.rsabg.org/bird-walks>.

Saturday, 6/17, 8-9:30am. Family Bird Walk with Chris Verma of Wild Birds Unlimited takes you on a family-friendly bird walk in the Garden. Register at: www.rsabg.org/bird-walks.

Wednesdays, 6/7, 14, 21, 28, 6-8pm. Butterflies & Brews. Enjoy a local brew and music among the butterflies at dusk. Staff will answer any questions about the butterflies during this exclusive access in the Butterfly Pavilion. \$15/public, \$10/members. Ticket includes one beverage of choice; additional available for purchase. Ages 21+ only.



IDYLLWILD NATURE CENTER

25225 Highway 243, Idyllwild 92549
951.659.3850

www.rivcoparks.org/education/idyllwild-nature-center/idyllwild-nature-center/

Saturday & Sunday, 6/24 & 6/25, 10am-4pm. 8th Annual Lemon Lily Festival. Includes: guided nature walks to see blooming lemon lilies in the wild; guest speakers; kid-friendly hands-on demos of gold panning, flint-knapping and leather work; traditional crafts and pony rides; live music; and craft vendors. Lemon lily hybrids are able to grow in lower elevations and different environments, giving low-land lily lovers access to plants that are at least in part, "Lemon Lilies". Genetically variable populations in the wild are important for lemon lilies to persist. For details, go to www.lemonlilyfestival.com.



COASTKEEPER GARDEN

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

Saturday, 6/10, 9:30am. Monthly Garden Share. Attendees bring garden-related items such as plants, cuttings, pots, tools, produce, etc., to trade. This is a great way to obtain new plants and meet like-minded plant lovers. For more information, go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CoastkeeperGardenShare>. Repeats second Saturdays.



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY HORT. SOCIETY

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
909 N. La Cumbre Rd., Santa Barbara 93110
805.684.5725 www.sbchs.org

Wednesday, 6/7, 7pm. Monthly meeting. Gwen Stauffer, Executive Director of Lotusland will talk about plans for the Lotusland Japanese Garden. Free plant exchange prior to meeting, and after the speaker there will be a plant raffle. More info. & details on website.

 Yvonne Savio

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are regularly held at Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles, 90027

OR June 8 - PLEASE NOTE UP-DATED INFORMATION

NO PLANT FORUM

Sandy Masuo, author, editor and teacher, will talk about "The Dirt on Plant Sex"

VENUE: Witherbee Auditorium, Los Angeles Zoo

OR July 13 - Lara Hermanson, Principal & Co-Owner of Farmscape talking about Building Sustainable Urban Farms

OR August 10 - Genevieve Arnold, Seed Program Manager at Theodore Payne, speaking on Collecting, Cleaning & Storing Seeds

GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH



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
 Fleur Nooyan
 818-567-1496 / socalhort.org / Join us on Facebook
 Newsletter Editor: Sabine Steinmetz
 Contributors: Steve Gerischer, Sandy Masuo, Yvonne Savio
 Next deadline: June 12 (for July newsletter)
 Please contribute an article or information of interest.



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

NEWSLETTER June 2017