



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

January 2017

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, January 12

Friendship Auditorium
3201 Riverside Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90027



Socializing: 7:00 pm

Meeting begins: 7:30 pm

SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

*We are happy to announce
the following new members
joined in December 2016:*

Gwenn and Ben Abrams
April Garbat Vaughan
Christiane Holmquist

www.socalhort.org

SHARING SECRETS

The SCHS Sharing Secrets
question for January is:

*Are you capturing or
diverting any water from
recent rains? In what ways?*

Answer on our website at
socalhort.org
or e-mail your response to:
gardensbysabine@aol.com
by Friday, January 13

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIANS' IMPRESSIONS OF LONDON'S CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

What brings four disparate Southern California landscape professionals together to speak at our January meeting? Their recent travels to see the Royal Horticultural Society Chelsea Flower Show, of course! Join us as a panel of local plant lovers presents unique first-hand impressions of the show, accompanied by their slides from this international event.



The moderator for this program will be Marilee Kuhlmann of the Urban Water Group and the G3 Garden Group, a local landscape designer with an extensive background in water conservation. She is currently serving as a landscape consultant for the City of Santa Monica, and sits on various local boards, including the SCHS.

The first of the panelists is Francesca Corra, owner of the award-winning landscape firm Dirt Diva Designs. As a



landscape artist, she seeks to create spaces that are environmentally sustainable as well as beautiful. Francesca is a long-time member of the APLD (Association of Professional Landscape Designers) and is a certified G3 professional.

Also on the panel is Shawn Maestretti, a plantsman, licensed landscape contractor and designer whose company, Shawn Maestretti Landscape Design, creates gardens throughout Los Angeles that strive for aesthetic goals as well as sensible practices based on his extensive horticultural knowledge. He is a graduate of the UCLA Extension Landscape Architecture Program and is a member of the ASLA (American Society of Landscape Architects) and the APLD.



Rounding out the presenters will be Yvonne Savio, who worked for the University of California for 36 years, and is known to many as the force behind the Los Angeles County Master Gardener Program. Upon her retirement in 2015,

Yvonne launched her popular website: www.

GardeningInLA.net, where she blogs weekly and continues to serve the gardening public by posting garden events and job opportunities. In addition to her other activities, Yvonne is also currently serving on the SCHS board.



What plant secrets, insights, varied perspectives and other surprises might this diverse group have to share about the Chelsea Flower Show? Find out by joining us for this fresh presentation at our first meeting of 2017!



NOTE: All photos provided by panelists.



Royal
Horticultural
Society

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2017!

SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY



At our annual Holiday Party and Potluck in December, attendees socialized while enjoying sweet and savory treats brought in by fellow members, perused the Give-Away Table and contemplated early holiday shopping from assorted vendors. Social hour was followed by an entertaining slide show presented by Kathy Musial and Steve Gerischer about the two back-to-back trips the Pacific Horticulture Society (PHS) booked to Madagascar in October 2012, as each of them had escorted one of the tours. Although plants from this botanically-rich island nation featured prominently in their show, it was their personal observations that kept the program on a light note to match the casual mood of the evening.

Kathy is Curator of Living Collections at the Huntington Library and Gardens, has travelled extensively with the PHS, and was able to showcase both her horticultural knowledge as well as her travel expertise in her talk. Steve is currently president of both the SCHS and the PHS, and while he also enjoys seeking out botanical adventures worldwide, his travelogue was enhanced by more anecdotal observations. As Kathy travelled with the first of the tours, she began the evening's presentation.

She gave us a brief history of Madagascar, wherein we learned that after its prehistoric geological split from both the African continent and the Indian peninsula, the island's native plants and animals evolved in relative isolation and 90% are endemic to the island. While this makes Madagascar a global biodiversity hotspot, its increasing population as well as political and socioeconomic factors contribute to ongoing habitat destruction, which continues to increase at a rapid rate. Ecotourism and other diversionary measures are helping to slow the destruction of some ecosystems, but the future of many more is still uncertain.

One of the highlights of Kathy's trip was a visit to the world famous Avenue of the Baobabs, featuring six species found only in Madagascar. They are the remnants of a once-dense forest, and while extremely popular, they are located in a completely unprotected area. From there, the trip continued at

Andasibe-Mantadia National Park, where Kathy saw both *Asplenium nidus* and *Rhipsalis baccifera*. This leg of the tour also included a nighttime walk to more easily spot some of the many indigenous chameleons found on the island.

Kathy explained that with most excursions originating from the capital city of Antananarivo, frequent trips in and out of that city were necessary in order to get to any destination. This was the case for the tour's next stop at Berenty Reserve, which could only be accessed by first flying in, and then driving along a bumpy road. It is home to the world-renowned Spiny Forest although the forest itself is surrounded by a sisal plantation. From there she visited Andohahelo National Park, home of ring-tailed lemurs and plants including *Uncarina decaryi*, 8 foot tall *Kalanchoe beharensis* and *Dypsis decaryi*. The last tour stop for her group was Isalo National Park, where the group hiked to the jurassic rock formation known as Fenetre de L'Isalo while admiring big ladybugs and *Pachypodium rosulatum* along the way.

At this point, Kathy shared how tenuous air travel in and out of the country can be. Upon her group's return trip, during a fuel stop in Marseilles, they experienced a delay of several hours because Air Madagascar had not paid their fuel bill. While they were eventually transferred to another plane, the incident unfortunately impacted Steve's arrival, as the original plane was the one scheduled to bring his group into Madagascar! This created a ripple effect for his group, with late arrival times at every destination that caused much rescheduling.

While Steve's tour eventually made it to the same locations, his group was a lot less happy about travelling in the heat and humidity knowing they would probably get "bumped" at most of their stops. Steve shared photos of many plants, including *Angraecum* orchids, *Catharanthus roseus*, *Ravenala*



Photo: Pacific Horticulture Society

madagascariensis and various *Uncarina*. He talked about the many indigenous animals he saw on the trip, including the crested drongo bird, the Madagascar flycatcher, the leaf-tailed gecko and the Madagascar golden orb spider. He also showed pictures of rice fields found throughout the country (which are used to make bricks when the soil has been over-farmed), the city of Antananarivo seen through a smoke haze created by forests being cut down to make charcoal, and zebu oxen, the working animals that are only eaten when they die. He also showed some of the gardening tools that tour participants purchased and which required explanations for being in their luggage while going through the airports. Fortunately, his group made it back without further incident.

After the presentation, Kathy and Steve answered some audience questions and then members were given a chance to make some last-minute purchases, as well as converge at the ever-popular Give-Away Table. After a signal from Steve Gerischer, members grabbed the prizes they had been eyeing all evening, and the last meeting of 2016 was over.

✿ Sabine Steinmetz

UP-DATED U.C. WARNING HUANGLONGBING aka CITRUS PSYLLID

Posted January 4, 2017

News Release from the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Program

An intensive risk survey in Cerritos, Los Angeles County, resulted in the discovery of Huanglongbing in a single orange tree. California Department of Food and Agriculture staff began the survey after a sample of Asian citrus psyllids from the area was found to be positive for the bacteria that causes HLB.

Link to full story can be found at:

ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=22897

SHARING SECRETS RESPONSES

What are your gardening resolutions for the coming new year?

The same as last year - and the year before that! Don't bring home any more plants that I don't know where they will go in the garden, or have time to plant right away, only to have half of them live and die in nursery cans...

Old habits are hard to break, but new lessons can be learned - I almost never go to nurseries or plant sales alone unless I'm shopping for a client, and if I go "for fun" with

someone else, I try to remember to leave the credit cards at home.

Right now I can (proudly?) say I only have 1 flat and 7 cans left over from 2016 that need to go in the ground and I already know where they are going to live. Now I just need to make the time to plant them - but that's a another resolution.

- Sabine Steinmetz

I plan to spend more leisure time in my garden, rather than just "enjoying" it while I'm working in it!

- Anonymous

A FEW SUGGESTIONS FOR 2017

- install a rain barrel (or several)
- finally start that compost bin / pile
- invite some wildlife into your garden
- don't let those weeds go to seed this year!
- take better care of your tools
- read some of those gardening books you've been hoarding - or donate them -
- make visiting a local public garden part of your monthly schedule - equal parts therapy and inspiration
- make a plan and stick to it - your progress will be your encouragement to keep going

If nothing else, resolve to spend more time appreciating your garden just as it is. ✿

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

GREEN SHEET

PLANT FORUM SELECTIONS • OCTOBER 2016

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

PLANTS SHOWN at OCTOBER 13, 2016 MEETING

Barleria obtusa (Acanthaceae)

Bush Violet shown by Eric and Ann Brooks. This South African shrub grows in forest margin areas where there is sufficient summer rainfall. It has pleasant looking evergreen foliage and is useful as a large scale ground cover. Blue flowers appear in fall and winter. The blooms are 1" wide and have an open, tubular form, clustering at branch ends. The plant is easy to grow and is listed as being 3' x 5' but it acts as a scandent shrub and will grow up into trees or lean across fences and other plants. Self seeds occasionally. Fairly drought-resistant when established.



Malvaviscus arboreus var. mexicanus (Malvaceae)

Turks Cap Mallow shown by Eric and Ann Brooks. *Malvaviscus* is found from the southern United States south through Mexico and Central America. These large shrubs grow in full to part sun and bloom most of the year with intriguing 'closed' flowers of bright red (the upright petals stay semi-furled, and pollinators must work to get down inside the blooms). *Malvaviscus* can easily reach 15' x 15' but can be kept smaller with judicious pruning. Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies.



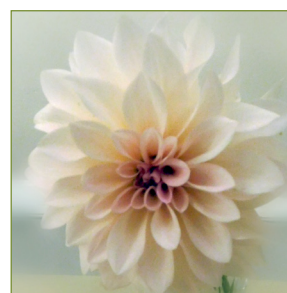
Erythrina humeana 'Raja' (Fabaceae)

Dwarf Coral Tree shown by Eric and Ann Brooks. This hybrid coral tree grows only to 10' and has late summer flowers of dark red. The leaves have a pronounced point at their tip.



Gomphocarpus physocarpus (Asclepiadoideae)

Balloon Plant/Family Jewels - exhibitor not indicated. From South Africa, this tall milkweed can top 6' and has nodding clusters of typical milkweed flowers in white, but its main feature are the inflated seed pods covered with soft hairs, giving rise to the many colorful common names. Easily grown and will seed about - they appreciate full sun and regular watering. Monarch butterflies will lay eggs on these plants and like many exotic milkweeds they are less than ideal host plants for the caterpillars.



Also exhibited:

Dahlia 'Café au Lait'

Shown by Gloria Leinbach

(pictured at left)

Pelargonium transvaalense

Shown by Matt-Dell Tufenkian

Pteris cretica (exhibitor not indicated)

Farfugium japonicum 'Aureomaculata' (exhibitor not indicated)

☞ Compiled by Steven Gerischer

November "Green Sheet" on reverse

*Please note, there were no Plant Forums
in August and September.*

GREEN SHEET

PLANT FORUM SELECTIONS • NOVEMBER 2016

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

PLANTS SHOWN at NOVEMBER 10, 2016 MEETING

***Chrysanthemum* sp. 'Icicles'** (Asteraceae)

Shown by Aprille Curtis. This popular spider mum has long, draping reflexed petals of pure white. Spider mums and other showy large-blossomed chrysanthemums benefit from staking and disbudding to increase the flower size and quality, but good results can be seen with less effort. Great cut flowers.



Euphorbia genoudiana (Euphorbiaceae)



Shown by Matt-Dell Tufenkian. This small, shrubby euphorbia is native to Madagascar and has narrow leaves and stems armed with pale spines. The appearance is similar to *Alluaudia* and *Didierea* (also from Madagascar). Makes a great container subject. Sharp drainage is a must.

***Agave guiengola* 'Creme Brulee'** (Agavaceae)

Shown by Matt-Dell Tufenkian. A cultivar from a species found originally in Mexico, this variegated agave will eventually grow to around 3 to 4 feet high and 4 to 5 feet wide. The glaucous green foliage is marked with cream colored margins sometimes blushed pink.



***Leucospermum* sp. 'High Gold'** (Proteaceae)

Shown by Gary Kamisher. This yellow flowering pincushion shrub is a combination of species originally from South Africa. *L. cordifolium* 'Yellow Bird' was crossed with *L. patersonii*. This hybrid grows from 4 to 5 feet high by 6 to 8 feet wide. It requires excellent drainage and needs summer-dry conditions to thrive. An excellent cut flower. Pincushion blooms are prized in the floral trade for their dramatic look and long vase life. Attracts hummingbirds and occasionally orioles.



Hypoestes aristata (Acanthaceae)



Shown by Aprille Curtis. This South African sub-shrub is evergreen and should be pinched or pruned a couple of times during the growing season to improve overall shape. The violet-purple flowers cover the plant from mid-fall into winter. After flowering, cut it back hard as you would a salvia. Best with part shade inland. Easy and spectacular when blooming. Not a fussy plant.

Also exhibited:

***Pelargonium* sp.** from South Africa (Geraniaceae)

Shown by Matt-Dell Tufenkian

***Catharanthus roseus* 'Soiree Kawaii'** (Apocynaceae)

Shown by Steven Gerischer

JANUARY 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.

J PAUL GETTY MUSEUM - GETTY CENTER
1200 Getty Center Dr., Los Angeles 90049
310-440-7300 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

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.



LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM
301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia 91007
626.821.4623 arboretum.org

Thursday, 1/12, 9:30am-noon. What's Happening In Gardening - Propagating Pelargoniums from Cuttings with Matt-Dell Tufenkian. Learn more about growing these easy-care, great-smelling, and drought-tolerant plants! Matt-Dell teaches how to start baby plants from seeds and cuttings. \$140 for the series (8 Thursdays beginning 1/12/17 or \$25 per class (includes Arboretum admission). Call 626-821-4623 to register or pay at the class; For more info, visit: www.arboretum.org

Thursday, 1/19, 9:30am-noon. What's Happening In Gardening - Hum on In! Gardening with Our Tiniest Birds with Lili Singer. Learn about hummingbirds and the many species that spend all or part of the year in this region. This illustrated lecture discusses how to create, plant and maintain a garden that attracts and supports these birds year round. \$140 for the series (8 Thursdays beginning 1/12/17 or \$25 per class (includes Arboretum admission). Call 626-821-4623 to register or pay at the class; For more info, visit: www.arboretum.org

Saturday, 1/21, 10am-noon. Crescent Farm Series - Lawn Alternatives. Reimagine your lawn with interesting, vibrant alternatives, including cool and warm season grasses, colorful four-season meadow options, evergreen low growing ground covers and shrubs. If you're not interested in the "gravel pit" look, this workshop is a must for you. Free for members, or non-members with paid arboretum admission.

Thursday, 1/26, 9:30am-noon. What's Happening In Gardening - Australian Native Plants with Jo O'Connell. Celebrate Australia Day with the co-owner of Australian Native Plants nursery, whose vision is to provide hardy, drought tolerant, flowering, bird-attracting plants. Jo will share her knowledge and bring samples to show and sell. \$140 for the series (8 Thursdays beginning 1/12/17 or \$25 per class (includes Arboretum admission). Call 626-821-4623 to register or pay at the class; For more info, visit: www.arboretum.org

Saturday, 1/28, 10am-noon. Home Orchard with Steve Hofvendahl. Learn basics of growing fruit trees in Southern California. Includes: best-adapted species / varieties, care and pruning, lay-out considerations. \$25 Arboretum members / \$35 non-members (incl. admission). Call 626-821-4623 to register or pay at the class; For more info, visit: www.arboretum.org



DESCANSO GARDENS

1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada 91011
818.949.7980 descansogardens.org

Saturday, 1/21, 10am. Family Nature Walk. This guided walk will take 6-10 year olds and their families on an expedition to discover how Descanso Gardens is a habitat for many animals in winter. No registration required.



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY (CNPS)
San Gabriel Mtns Chapter / Eaton Canyon Center
1750 No. Altadena Dr., Pasadena 91107
818-398-5420 www.lacnps.org

Thursday, 1/26, 7:30pm. Wild Suburbia: Learning to Garden with Native Plants with Barbara Eisenstein. Referencing her new book Wild Suburbia, Barbara will talk about transforming a high water-use yard into a habitat garden abounding with native plants. She will discuss how attendees might select best gardening practices for their conditions, and ways to improve dissemination of accurate information on sustainable gardening with California native plants.



EATON CANYON NATURE CENTER

1750 No. Altadena Dr., Pasadena 91107
626-398-5420 www.ecnca.org

Saturday, 1/21, 9am-12noon, Nature Patio. Conservation Work Day. Help weed invasive plants to conserve habitat for native species. Gloves, tools and snacks provided. Bring drinking water and wear clothing, footwear and sun screen for outdoor work. Volunteers aged under 18 must be with an adult. RSVP: eatoncanyon.conservation@gmail.com Repeats 3rd Saturdays.



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

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

Thursday, 1/12, 2:30pm, Ahmanson Room, Brody Botanical Center. 2nd Thursday Garden Talk & Sale: Bare-Root Roses. Tom Carruth, The Huntington's E. L. and Ruth B. Shannon Curator of the Rose Collections, shares tips for planting and growing bare-root roses. He'll also review each variety offered in the sale which follows.

Thursday, 1/26, 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.

Sunday, 1/29, 2pm, Rothenberg Hall. Southern California Gardener Series: Exoticum: Desert Plants and the Making of a Fine Press Book. Printmaker and book artist Richard Wagener discusses how plants in The Huntington's Desert Garden inspired his recent wood engravings; reproduced in a limited edition, fine press publication titled Exoticum: Twenty-Five Desert Plants from the Huntington Gardens. A book signing follows the program.

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

Saturdays, 1/14, 2/4 & 2/18, 9am-1pm. Three-Part California Native Garden Design Course with Carol Armour Aronson. Prerequisite: California Native Plant Horticulture class (must be taken before design course). Complete details at theodorepayne.org.

Saturdays, 1/21, 2/11 & 2/25, 9am-1pm. Three-Part California Native Garden Design Course with Andreas Hessing. Prerequisite: California Native Plant Horticulture class (must be taken before design course). Complete details at theodorepayne.org.

Saturday, 1/14, 9am-noon. Propagating California Native Plants with TPF's Propagation Manager, Jordan Isken. Learn basic skills of native plant vegetative propagation and work on cuttings or divisions in this hands-on session, so you'll leave with a flat of starts for your own garden! Limit 10. \$50 members, \$60 non-members.

Saturday, 1/14, 1:30-3:00pm. Gardening for Wildlife with Lisa Novick. Illustrated talk shows how native plants provide essential leaf, nectar, seed, nut and berry foods for local bird and butterfly species, and other wildlife. \$20 members, \$25 non-members.

Saturday, 1/21, 9am-noon. Native Plant Garden Maintenance with Lili Singer and Steve Singer. Includes: watering, fertilizing (or not), mulching, pest management and other aspects of garden maintenance. Discover how native plants respond to pruning cuts, what gardening activities may trigger, and how to develop good maintenance goals. Part of the class will be held outdoors; bring your hat and water bottle. \$40 members, \$50 non-members

Thursday, Friday, & Saturday, 1/26, 27 & 28, 8:30am-4:30pm. Winter Plant Sale. Discounts for all, and expert advice from TPF staff and volunteers. Member discounts all three days = 15% off plants, seeds, and TPF wear all day. Non-member discounts all days = 10% off after 11am. Not a member yet? Join at the door!



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

Saturday, 1/21, 10-11am. Grow Native Nursery Workshop: Creating Seed Bombs. Learn how to seed bombs of beautiful California Native Wildflower seeds. To register and for more information, go to <http://rsabg.org/nursery-calendar>.



FULLERTON ARBORETUM

1900 Associated Rd., Fullerton 92831
657-278-3407 fullertonarboretum.org

Saturday, 1/21, 10am-noon. Rose Pruning. Properly pruned roses are more disease-resistant, require less maintenance, and yield better blooms. Landscape designer Steve Gerischer simplifies this prickly topic on the 'why,' 'when,' and 'how' of proper rose pruning.

Yvonne Savio

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

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*

March 9 - Program TBA

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
 Steve Singer - Hospitality Committee

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Contributors to this issue: Steve Gerischer, Yvonne Savio

Next deadline: Friday, January 13 (for February newsletter)
 Please contribute an article or information of interest.



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

NEWSLETTER January 2017