



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

May 2017

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, May 11

Friendship Auditorium
3201 Riverside Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90027



Socializing: 7:00 pm

Meeting begins: 7:30 pm

SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

*Look for the following friendly
faces who joined us last month:*

Jon Hyland & Heather Kimball

Katherine Niemela

Keith Peabody

www.socalhort.org

SHARING SECRETS

As we ready for the change
of seasons, we're wondering:

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

Tell us about your favorites...

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

Respond by Monday, May 15

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TLC FOR YOUR TREES WITH REBECCA LATTA

Joining us in May to talk about tree health and care is arborist and horticultural consultant, Rebecca Latta. She has been providing arboricultural, horticultural and water management consultation services in the greater Los Angeles area for over 25 years. Rebecca has experience working with clients of all types including large estates, residential homes, cities and utilities. She also presents workshops and training locally, and has spoken on topics as varied as proper pruning techniques and urban forest master planning.

Rebecca originally started her career with plants at a nursery, worked for several years as a water conservation specialist at the Pasadena Water and Power Department and is a member of the American Society of Consulting Arborists (ASCA), whose objective, comprehensive viewpoint ensures the safety, health and preservation of trees.

She has operated Rebecca Latta Consulting since 2002 and offers arboricultural, biological water

management and horticultural services for municipal, utility and residential clients. Her philosophy as a consultant is to be as proactive as possible, since trees respond slowly to change. Her firm offers a comprehensive approach to managing landscape spaces guided by the complex interactions between plants, soil, and the surrounding ecosystem.



Rebecca will be speaking to us about good management techniques for protecting the health of our trees at a time when we have been losing so many, and what we might expect in the future for our urban forest. She may also touch on basic irrigation, horticultural evaluation, as well as give planting, pruning and maintenance recommendations.

The topic of tree care and interest therein are very timely. We look forward to hearing how we can become more proactive in protecting our treasured trees and learning about sound practices we can implement at home.

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COFFEE IN THE GARDEN

SCHS' popular Coffee in the Garden returns on Saturday, June 17, when we have scheduled a visit with Susan Eubank, Head Librarian at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden. Admission is free for members, but reservations are required, so sign up today on-line or by completing the form enclosed in this issue of the newsletter!

NEW CNPS FUND HONORS ELIZABETH SCHWARTZ

Many of you knew our past board president, Elizabeth Schwartz, who was an avid supporter of California native plant conservation and education. Elizabeth passed away in 2015, and named the California Native Plant Society as one of her beneficiaries. They are in the process of setting up The Elizabeth C. Schwartz Fund which will support a staff position at CNPS dedicated to Southern California native plant conservation. If you would like to honor Elizabeth's memory by contributing to this fund, please visit: http://www.cnps.org/cnps/support/schwartz_fund.php or contact Stacey Flowerdew: 916-447-2677 x 204; sflowerdew@cnps.org



Photo courtesy of the Schwartz family

Laura Bauer & Sandy Masuo

SCHS members and guests who attended the April meeting at the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens were treated to a most unique program. Scott Kleinrock, currently the Conservation Programs Manager at the Chino Basin Water Conservation District, was the Landscape Design and Planning Coordinator at the Huntington during the installation of the Brody California Garden, which was the focus of his presentation.

Attendees were met at the entrance by Kleinrock, who guided them through the various areas of the entry garden while simultaneously talking about design concepts, intent, history and the realities involved in creating the 6.5-acre landscape. He explained that mediterranean climate species were selected as the focus because they were not yet well-represented at the Huntington and would be both appropriate and timely choices for a Southern California botanical garden. He spoke about desires and compromises while beginning his walk-through in the picnic area by the bus drop-off, which appeared nearly full-grown despite being installed just two years ago.

The tour continued into the main "California" garden where Kleinrock talked about hardscaping, soil, irrigation and how the gardens are maintained by one full-time gardener and one part-time head gardener. Kleinrock explained how some plant selections were chosen for their short life spans, to serve as "stand-ins" while other plants were maturing. He also said that this landscape was "trying to walk the line between order and chaos", and that in

a garden comprised of plants allowed to grow naturally, it is important for visitors to perceive the intent behind the selections. Interesting potted specimens, cozy nooks to sit in, and vignettes with classic mediterranean fruit trees referencing the agricultural history of the Huntington are all meant to inspire those who stroll through.

The final section, called the "Celebration Garden" serves as a transition landscape to the main grounds. Colorful annual and perennial planters border a simple water feature which is another subtle reminder of the garden's conservation aspect. From there, visitors were led to the Brody Botanical Center, where Kleinrock continued his presentation with a slide show about the chronological development of the garden. He covered topics including soil remediation, working within city requirements, as well as the reasoning behind specific plant selections and acquisitions.

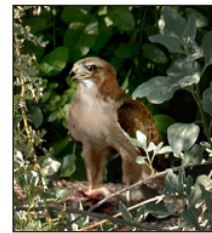


Kleinrock gave his audience much food for thought about garden design in general and at the Huntington in particular, which he felt represented "an old paradigm meeting a new paradigm in a compatible way." Judging from the attendees' applause and an enthusiastic question and answer session, the presentation was educational, enlightening, inspirational and over much too soon.

✿ Sabine Steinmetz

SEEKING OUT URBAN WILDLIFE

Dan Cooper, a biologist, recently started a volunteer project with Friends of Griffith Park to map and monitor nesting raptors in the park and surrounding areas, including east to South Pasadena, downtown/Hollywood area to the 10 Fwy and westward to the 405 Fwy. The northern boundary is where the 118 Fwy intersects the San Fernando Valley. If you're interested in participating and know of any raptor nests within this general area, email Dan at dan@cooperecological.com. To protect these nesting raptors, he will not be publicizing the locations of any known nest sites outside of the volunteer core of people. You can follow his work at the Facebook group "LARaptors". Thanks for sharing this project goes to Scott Logan of Wild Wings Nature Store: www.wildwingsla.com.



✿ Marilee Kuhlmann

L.A. DWP OFFERS FREE LANDSCAPING CLASSES

Beginning this month, and running through the end of 2017, the DWP is offering FREE introductory California Friendly Landscape Training (CFLT) classes to LADWP customers throughout the city. For more information about class content, dates and locations, visit www.ladwp.com/landscapeclasses. Reserve your space by emailing waterconservation@ladwp.com or by calling 1-800-544-4498, extension 5. *California Friendly*, a guide to maintenance is also available as a free download at: www.bewaterwise.com/GMG.shtml

✿ Yvonne Savio

SHARING SECRETS RESPONSES

What wildlife does your garden attract? Intentionally or not...

I have a small garden on a hill near Forest Lawn in Glendale. Due to my bountiful compost heap, skunks, raccoons and squirrels are frequent visitors. On the prettier (and nicer smelling) side of the yard, my salvias attract hummingbirds galore! My cat and I love to watch them dart about from our window. I've seen a coyote at the foot of my steps a couple of times, but he never comes into the yard.

- New Member

Over the years we've increasingly adjusted our garden to accommodate wildlife, such as insects, worms, birds and reptiles. Birds that feed and nest here include Anna's and Costa's hummingbirds, California towhee, pigeons, crows and phoebes. I love watching birds from our office window, particularly the tiny bushtits who descend on shrubs as a fast-moving gang, cleaning all the twigs and branches of bugs and departing within 10 minutes.

We also have Western fence and alligator lizards, and occasionally I'll turn over a rock and see a skink. Alas, we also get rats, possums and raccoons. The latter have visited our fortified raised water tank and tried to make a meal. They've done damage, but our fish and plants survived the trauma.

Returning butterflies include painted ladies, sulphurs, western tiger swallowtails, little skippers, and occasionally monarchs. We also keep wild bees in our roof, and in the keeping of bees, have begun noticing how many wild bee species come into our yard.

So, "intentionally or not": it's all by design and it's all, also, by chance. It's alive, and we'll do what it takes to keep it going.

- Anonymous

I'm happy to welcome all kinds of native (and a few non-native) birds to my garden. However, the band-tailed pigeons are really poor guests - always dumping the feeder, knocking things over and pooping. I don't think training is an option...

- Anonymous

MAY 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.

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF L.A. **900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles 90007** **213.763.3466** nhm.org

Saturday & Sunday, 5/20 & 5/21, 9:30am-5pm. 31st Annual Bug Fair. Visit a variety of exhibitors, watch Bug Chefs whip up snacks, and explore the Nature Gardens to go on bug hunts, get crafty, experience up-close encounters with crawly creatures, and more! For more info and advanced tickets go to: www.nhm.org/bugfair.



SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN **26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes 90274** **310.544.1948** southcoastbotanicgarden.org

Sunday, 5/7, 9am-4pm, Frances Young Hall. South Coast Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale.

Friday & Saturday, 5/20 & 5/21, 9am-4pm, Frances Young Hall. South Bay Geranium Society Show and Sale. Variety of geraniums seldom seen in nurseries.



EL DORADO NATURE CENTER **7550 Spring Street, Long Beach 90815** **562.570.1745**

Saturday, 5/6, 2-4pm. Peculiar Pollinators: Wasps and Other Unusual Pollinators and Beneficial Insects.



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

Saturday, 5/13, 10am-12:30pm. The New California Landscape with Jill Morganelli, the Arboretum's Horticultural Supervisor. Learn about water-maximizing your garden installation and site-specific recommendations for irrigation, with water-wise plants from Australia, South Africa, California natives, and more. Classes meet in Rotunda and are held outdoors in all weather. \$25 Arboretum members/\$35 non-members. Call to register, or pay at the class.

Saturday, 5/27, 10am-12noon. Irrigation for the Home Edible Landscape with Scott Kleinrock. Your irrigation system can be a key factor to the success of your vegetable garden and it can be confusing to select the right system for what you want to grow. Approaches are different for fruit trees, vegetable beds, and integrated edible landscapes. Scott will present field-tested methods, including design and operation concepts, favorite products, assembly basics, and further resources. \$25 Arboretum members/\$35 non-members. Call to register, or pay at the class.



DESCANSO GARDENS **1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada 91011** **818.949.7980** descansogardens.org

Saturday & Sunday, 5/20 & 5/21, 9am-5pm. Rose Festival. Enjoy floral art activities, garden walks, a fun interactive discovery station, and more. Free with admission. Check on-line for more info.

Thursday, 5/25, 6:30 pm. Harvest: Unexpected Uses for Extraordinary Plants with Stefani Bittner and Alethea Haramopolis. Lecture and demo explore uses for petals, leaves, roots, seeds and fruit. Presented in partnership with The Garden Conservancy. \$10 Descanso and Garden Conservancy members, \$15 non-members. Register by phone or online.



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY - **SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS CHAPTER** **1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena 91107 81** **8.398.5420** cnps-sgm.org

Thursday, 5/25, 7:30pm. Conserving Plants On A Changing Planet with Evan Meyer, the Assistant Director at the Mildred E. Mathias Botanical Garden at the University of California, Los Angeles. Loss of habitat can be addressed through preservation of wildlands (in-situ conservation) and ex-situ conservation, which seeks to protect individual species by augmenting populations outside of their natural habitats. Learn how these efforts are being carried out in Southern California.



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 and pick up some fresh ideas for sustainable gardening. Experts from the University of California LA County Master Gardener program will be on hand to answer questions and offer seasonal tips. From the Teaching Greenhouse, follow signs to the site.

Saturday, 5/20, 10:30am-4:30pm, Herb Garden. Fiber Arts Day. Skilled crafts people will demonstrate tools and techniques for carding & combing fibers like cotton and linen, spinning them into yarn or thread, weaving, and making natural dyes from herbs and other plant materials.

Thursday, 5/25, 4:30-5:30pm, Brody Botanical Center. Botany Bay Series: Plant Science for Gardeners and Citizen Scientists. Join Jim Folsom, the Telleen/Jorgensen Director of the Botanical Gardens, for a discussion-style lecture followed by lab time with microscopes and plant specimens.



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

Saturday, 5/6, 8-10am. BirdLA Day Morning Bird Walk with expert local birder Alex Coffey. Walk on TPF grounds - a spot where over 50 species of birds have been sighted.

Bring hat, water and binoculars. Closed-toe shoes and long pants are recommended. No experience necessary; adults and children are both welcome. Enrollment limited to 20. This event is free, but RSVPs are appreciated.

Saturday, 5/6, 2-4pm, Theodore Payne Gallery. The Gottlieb Native Garden: Photos by Susan Gottlieb from her new book *The Gottlieb Native Garden: A California Love Story*. Attend reception and exhibition, followed by an artist talk at 3. Event is free, but RSVPs are appreciated.

Saturday, 5/13, 8:30am-12:30pm. California Native Plant Horticulture with TPF Director of Special Projects and Adult Education, Lili Singer. Learn basics about native plant communities, planting techniques, irrigation, pruning and ongoing maintenance. For beginners; prerequisite to 3-Part California Native Plant Garden Design course. \$45 TPF members, \$55 non-members.

Three Saturdays, 5/13, 5/27, & 6/10, 9am-1pm. 3-Part California Native Garden Design with Carlos Flores. This course offers a foundation in design styles and process, importance of sustainability and how to model a garden after patterns in nature. Course Prerequisite: TPF's California Native Plant Horticulture class. \$225 members, \$275 non-members; \$285 member couples, \$335 non-member couples. NOTE: Last day to register is 5/5.



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

Saturday, 5/13, 10am-3pm. California Butterfly Pavilion Grand Opening. Over 20 native butterfly species and the native plants they depend on will be on display everyday the garden is open until August 6. \$3 per person; members may purchase a season pass for \$25.

Saturday & Sunday, 5/20 & 5/21, 9am-5pm. Adventures in Polemoniaceae (Phlox Family) with J. Mark Porter, PhD., researcher and professor of Botany at Claremont Graduate University. Learn why these plants are challenging and how to know the genera and species. Classroom, lab and field learning. \$150 public, \$125 members. Register on-line at <https://11213.blackbaudhosting.com/11213/Adventures-in-Polemoniaceae>.






IDYLLWILD NATURE CENTER **25225 Highway 243, Idyllwild 92549** **951.659.3850**

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

Saturday & Sunday, 5/27 & 5/28, 10am-4pm. Annual Wildflower Show. Over 100 wildflower specimens collected from all seven of the San Jacinto Mountains' life zones will be on display. Activities include expert speakers, guided walks, music, children's crafts, advice on native plant gardening, plus local artisans will be selling their wares. Entrance fees are \$4 Adults, \$3 Children, \$1 dogs.

 Yvonne Savio

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

-  May 11 - Rebecca Latta, arborist & horticultural consultant, speaking about TLC for Your Trees
-  June 8 - Bart O'Brien, Director of Tilden Regional Parks Botanic Garden speaks on 2016 Salvia Summit
VENUE: Los Angeles Zoo
-  July 13 - Lili Singer, Theodore Payne's Director of Special Projects and Adult Education presents "Good Bugs in the Garden"

GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH



*"I must have flowers -
always, always."*

- Claude Monet

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

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Next deadline: Monday, May 15 (for June newsletter)
 Please contribute an article or information of interest.



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