



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

May 2018

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, May 10

Friendship Auditorium
3201 Riverside Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90027



Socializing: 7:00 pm

Meeting begins: 7:30 pm

SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

*Several new gardening
friends joined us last month -*

**Afrodita Fuentes
Danielle & Michael Romero
Andrew Siskind**

www.socalhort.org

SHARING SECRETS

The SCHS Sharing Secrets
question for May is:

*What horticultural topics
would you like to hear about
from future speakers or as
program presentations?*

Respond by Monday, May 14

Online at socalhort.org OR send
e-mail to gardensbysabine@aol.com

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BULBS: FROM THE OLD WORLD TO YOUR GARDEN

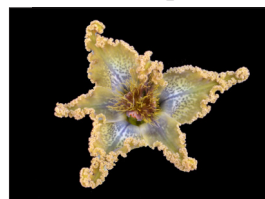
The month of May brings us popular local speaker and succulent expert, Tom Glavich, a long-time grower of bulbs and succulents. He is currently serving as vice president of the Southern California Daylily and Bulb Society (SCHAS) and is also a co-chair of the Inter-City Cactus and Succulent Show, held the second week in August at the Los Angeles Arboretum. Glavich is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) and the author of the *Beginner's Guide to Gasteria, Haworthia, Agave and other Succulent Monocots*, which includes several genera of bulbous plants. Many pictures of the bulbs that will be discussed this evening can be seen on his website: Skyviewsucculents.com.



Photos provided by speaker.

with a concentrated focus on two Mediterranean-climate regions: the Mediterranean basin itself, and the Cape Province of South Africa. A few bulbs from slightly outside these areas that are suitable for local gardens will also be mentioned.

Glavich's pictures are almost all species, most in cultivation, but some in habitat. As a grower, he will provide helpful hints on useful potting mixes, as well as touching on the cultivation and propagation of these bulbs in our Southern California environment. Glavich recommends *Bulbs* by John E. Bryan, and *Color Encyclopedia of Cape Bulbs* by John Manning, Peter Goldblatt and Dee Snijmans, as reading for those interested in learning more on this topic.



Ferraria divaricata

After his presentation, Glavich will answer questions and offer selected plants for sale. With plenty of interesting selections to learn about and possibly take home, don't miss this program!

SCHS ANNOUNCEMENTS

REFRESHMENTS at MEETING

Eric and Ann Brooks, the member volunteers who have been setting up the coffee and refreshment table for our monthly meetings, will not be attendance in May. If anyone can step in for this meeting, please contact Steve Gerischer at sglarkspur@aol.com or (323) 257-3629 to coordinate picking up the Brooks' coffee supplies. It will only be for this one evening and there is no cost involved... Thank you!

GARDEN POTTERY RAFFLE

SCHS' unofficial estate sale shopper, Joan Citron, has amassed another intriguing collection of garden pottery which will be raffled off in May, piece by piece. (Perfect to use with your new plant purchases from the evening...)

2018 HOTY BANQUET

The SCHS is please to announce that John Schoustra is the honoree who has been selected to receive the 2018 Horticulturist of the Year award. Details for the September HOTY Banquet will be appearing soon in upcoming issues of the newsletter and online so you can mark your calendars for this annual event!

The SCHS April meeting took place at the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, and consisted of a private tour of the 10-acre Desert Garden led by John Trager, Curator of the Desert Garden and Desert Collections at the Huntington, followed by a panel discussion on succulents with Laurel Woodley and Steve Gerischer in the Brody Botanical Center.

Guests gathered at the main entrance to the Huntington, and were led down to the California Garden for the start of Trager's walk and talk. He mentioned that some of the aloes planted in-ground in the gardens began as test subjects in pots in the California Garden, like *Aloe striata*.

Following the path near the Orbit Pavilion, he pointed out Ethiopian aloes, *Mangave* 'Macho Mocha', *Agave titanota* and a 'Blue Glow' agave that was in full bloom. Additionally, he spoke about dealing with aloe mites, and suggested the best treatment is to trim off infested leaves and burn them, saving any clean off-sets for future planting.



Photo: Sabine Steinmetz

Walking down the main road surrounding the Cactus Garden, Trager continued pointing out plants of interest, like *Kalanchoe luciae* and a blooming *Agave marmorata*. This brought the group to a large installation of *Echinocactus grusonii*, or golden barrels, artfully interspersed with a variety of "old man" cactus. First brought from Mexico and planted at the Huntington in 1908, the golden barrels are now endangered in the wild.

From there, he walked us through a part of the Cactus Garden that had many more succulents in full flower, including various aloes, Crassulaceae, and cacti, pausing to take questions under a large *Caesalpinia cacalaco*. Trager concluded the tour with some growing tips the Huntington uses for different conditions (i.e.: adding a mixture of compost and silica to new planting beds or using crushed lava rock as an amendment in flat areas to aid with drainage), and then took the group to the Brody Center for the panel presentation by two local designers and succulent experts, Laurel Woodley and Steve Gerischer.

Woodley, a past SCHS Horticulturist of the Year recipient, is a retired biology professor from Los Angeles Harbor College, who has been involved in Southern California horticulture since the mid-1960s, and was past director and president of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, where she currently serves as advisor. She shared slides from her personal collection of gardens she considers to be examples of good design, which integrate other elements with plants to create a harmonious landscape.

She shared pictures of the Patrick Anderson estate in Fallbrook, where the yellow color of his house is used as a unifying background for a variety of plants in colored pots selected for their compatibility with the house. To create additional interest, plants are chosen based on varying shapes, sizes and heights. Sculpture, a pond and the repetition of orange and turquoise accents throughout the garden also tie various areas together visually.

Other slides Woodley showed included Sherman Gardens in Corona del Mar which uses miniature sempervirens to maximum effect, and shots of some favorite plants such as the *Agave lophantha* 'Tricolor', *Euphorbia* 'Snowflake' and a beautiful *Aloe castanea*

in full flower.

Steve Gerischer rounded out the evening's program with slides featuring well-placed succulents in designed



Photo: Sabine Steinmetz

landscapes as well as in their native habitat, to serve as inspirations for home gardens. Gerischer is the current president of the SCHS and owner of Larkspur Garden Design. He has an extensive knowledge of succulents and their myriad uses, which he shared in his presentation. He discussed the need to plan garden spacing for eventual plant growth as well as for plant replacements; shared thoughts on using containers, such as hypertufa, to showcase specimens; and offered design suggestions for mixing different varieties in one location to avoid having sections of the garden look like "plant ghettos." Additionally, Gerischer shared design tips for combining plants with other elements, such as including containers with groups of in-ground plants (Judge Hall Garden in Pasadena), or incorporating personal items among the plants (Woollcott/McCarthy Garden in the Hollywood Hills), to create unique focal points.

He concluded his talk by citing some of his favorites, such as *Agave attenuata* 'Boutin Blue', and also suggested South Coast Botanic Garden, the Cactus and Succulent Society of America's website (cssainc.org), Desert Creations and the Cactus Ranch nurseries in the San Fernando Valley, plus speciality garden club sales as some resources for home gardeners to find the more unusual specimens they might want to try in their own gardens.

✿ Sabine Steinmetz

SHARING SECRETS RESPONSES

Do you know of any venues we could use for our monthly meetings? We are considering rotating locations to improve accessibility to more members.



Members submitted a variety of alternate meeting places, which the SCHS board will be researching for feasibility (room capacity, cost, location, etc.) in the coming months.

We thank you for your many thoughtful suggestions and hope we will be able to implement some of them

in the near future. Check online and in the newsletter for updates, or speak to one of the board members.

We are always happy to receive member participation in our ongoing efforts to improve the SCHS experience for everyone, and encourage you to keep contributing...

Thank you!

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

2nd Saturdays through July. Meet at North Ticket Booth for Saturday Strolls in the Nature Gardens with Carol Bornstein, director of the NHMLA Nature Gardens. Talk about which plants are tough, which are fussy, how much to water, and what plants will attract butterflies, birds, and other wildlife to your home garden.



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.



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

Saturday, 5/12, 10am-4pm. South Coast Rose Society Show & Sale. Rose and clematis enthusiasts are encouraged to enter flowering blooms in our community show between 6:30 am to 10 am. Vases will be provided for blooms, but please bring flower arrangements in personal containers. The SCRS will have roses, tools and our famous rose cocktail for sale.



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

Saturday, 5/19, 10am-12noon. Crescent Farm: Meadow Planting & Care. Learn how easy it is to make meadow magic happen using native and compatible flowers from seed. We'll be making seed balls for everyone to enjoy and launch!

Saturday, 5/26, 10-11am. Greywater 101: Grow Fruit at Home with Your Bath and Laundry Water. Learn how to save water

and grow sub-tropical fruits using greywater from sinks, showers, and washing machines. Learn about common and popular systems, design considerations, costs, regulations, health and safety, soaps and products, and how to choose a system that is a good match for your home and landscape.



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

Saturday, 5/19, 8-10:30am. Community Service Day. Help with hands-on care in the Rose Garden. Instruction will be provided and work supervised by Descanso horticulture staff. All experience levels welcome, ages 16 or older. Wear comfortable clothing, closed-toe shoes and bring gardening gloves, water and a hat. Limited space. RSVP required. Please email volunteer@descansogardens.org by Wednesday, May 16. Additional instructions will be sent with a form to sign in order to participate.



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, 5/24, 7:30 pm. Lessons learned from 12 years of local stewardship in an urban nature park in Southern California, with Barbara Eisenstein. For 12 years, volunteers have been caring for a nature park in the city of South Pasadena to prevent it from reverting to its formerly degraded state. Prior to the creation of the park, the site along the Arroyo Seco Flood Control Channel was used for illegal dumping, homeless encampments and passive recreation including walking and horseback riding. Within six months of the opening in 2004, recently extirpated weeds were making a comeback on the 3-acre parcel. In response, Eisenstein initiated a volunteer park stewardship program, Friends of South Pasadena Nature Park. Over the years, they have developed strategies for replacing noxious weeds with locally appropriate native plants, and conditions are gradually improving. Many of these practices would work in other newly designated urban habitat parks. Eisenstein is a native plant gardener, writer and blogger. Her book, "Wild Suburbia - Learning to Garden with Native Plants", guides new and experienced gardeners on a journey toward sustainable, habitat gardening. She is also a research associate at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and Plant Sale Chair of the CNPS San Gabriel Mountains Chapter.



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, 5/10, 2:30pm. Ahmanson Room. Garden Talk & Sale: Remarkable Lichen: Biodiversity and Ecology in Southern California. Lichens are organisms composed of

a fungus and an alga living in a symbiotic partnership. Join lichenologist Kerry Knudsen, who established the lichen collection at the UC Riverside Herbarium, as he shares tales of his collecting expeditions in search of these fascinating life forms. Plant sale follows the talk.

Thursday, 5/24, 4:30-5:30pm. Brody Botanical Center Auditorium. Botany Bay Series: Plant Science for Gardeners and Citizen Scientists with Jim Folsom, the Telleen/Jorgensen Director of the Botanical Gardens. Explore the plant world through discussion and hands-on lab time in this monthly series.



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

Saturday, May 12 10am-12pm. FREE! BirdLA Day Event: Backyard Birding with Native Plants Workshop with Steve Gerischer, owner of Larkspur Landscape Design and president of the Southern California Horticultural Society. Learn how to attract and support birds in your own backyard, including which native plants provide food, shelter, and nesting sites.

Saturday, May 12 12-2pm. BirdLA Day Event: Bird Origami Folding Workshop presented by www.pincelbox.com. Drop in to fold your own origami birds with experts! All ages welcome. No experience necessary, and all materials provided. The event is free, but RSVPs are appreciated.

Saturday, May 26 1:30-3:30pm. Four Seasons of Color with California Natives with Lili Singer, TPF's Director of Special Projects and Adult Education. Through vivid images and a detailed plant list, this multi-hued program reveals a vibrant array of trees, shrubs, vines, perennials, groundcovers and grasses that will ensure year-round interest and color. \$20 TPF members, \$30 non-members.



SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN
230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas 92024
760-436-3036 sdbgarden.org

Saturday, 5/26, 9am-3pm. Palm, Cycad, Bamboo and Tropical Plant Sale. This one-of-a-kind event features rare and exotic species of palms, cycads and other tropical plants, and is co-hosted by the Palm Society of Southern California and San Diego Botanic Garden. For more info. go to: www.sdbgarden.org/tropical-sale.htm





FULLERTON ARBORETUM
1900 Associated Road, Fullerton 92831
657.278.3407 fullertonarboretum.org

Thursday, 5/10, 9-11am. Oak Hall Classroom. Beginner Bonsai with instructor Jim Pierce, curator of the current bonsai exhibit at the Arboretum. In this class for beginners, you will receive a bonsai tree, basic plastic pot, soil, plus instructions on care and maintenance. Topics include survivability, soil, transplanting, appropriate pots, fertilizers and styles of bonsai.


Saturdays, 5/12 & 5/26 10am. Free Nature Tour. Meet at Nature Center to join with a knowledgeable docent to be guided through the beautiful garden.

Yvonne Savio

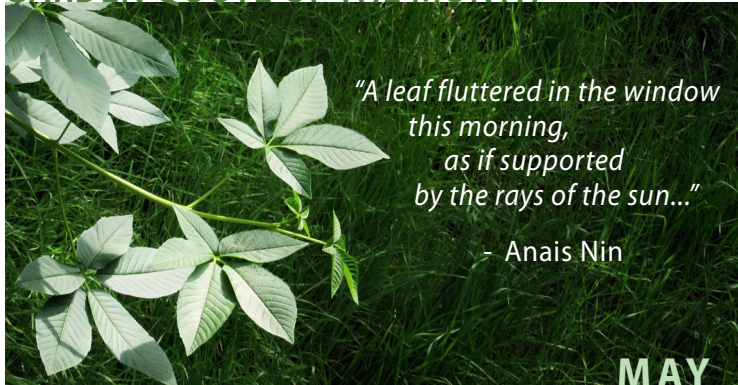
Unless otherwise noted, meetings are regularly held at Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles, 90027

-  May 10 - Tom Glavich, author and lecturer, speaking on South African and Mediterranean bulbs
-  June 14 - Saxon Holt, garden photographer & author, presents a slide program on garden photography

VENUE CHANGE *This event will be held at the L.A. Zoo.*

-  July 12 - Rebecca Burgess, founder of Fibershed, speaking on restoration ecology fiber systems

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, Social Media Committee
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 - Coffee-in-the-Garden
Aprille Curtis - Social Media Committee, Plant Forum supplies
Fleur Nooyen
818-567-1496 / socalhort.org / Join us on Facebook
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Contributors to this issue: Yvonne Savio

Next deadline: Monday, May 14 (for June newsletter)

Please contribute an article or information of interest.



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