



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

November 2018

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, November 8

Friendship Auditorium
3201 Riverside Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90027



Socializing: 7:00 pm

Meeting begins: 7:30 pm

SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Look who joined us last month!

Maria Christensen
John Christofferson
Estrid Gamonal
Danny Hughes
Ilana Korchek
Diane Marcussen
Kalpana Savla

www.socalhort.org

SHARING SECRETS

For November, please tell us:

What botanical gifts from your garden have you shared during the holidays?

Reply at: www.socalhort.org
or e-mail your response to:
gardensbysabine@aol.com

by Monday, November 12

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Horticultural Treasures from the California Islands

The SCHS is pleased to have Betsy Collins, the Director of Horticulture at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, as our speaker for November. She will be talking about the sixteen California Channel Islands and describe the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden's rich history of exploration and selection of plants from the islands for the horticultural trade. The special attributes of island plants that make so many of them exemplary garden plants will also be discussed and shared with an accompanying slide show.

Betsy has an abiding interest in gardening with native plants and a particular fondness for the genus *Dudleya*. One of her great joys working at the botanic garden for the past 28 years has been the opportunity it has given her to engage in the process of bringing new plants into cultivation. She finds all phases of the process - exploration, propagation, testing, and evaluation - to be endlessly



Photo courtesy of speaker.

satisfying. Betsy will also present photos showing how some of these introductions have been integrated into the garden itself.

A recent addition to the botanic garden is the new Conservation Center, which includes a large patio overlooking the meticulously



Photo by Carol Bornstein.

designed Island View Garden and features a stunning overlook of the city of Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz Island. Photos of the beautiful formal garden surrounding the Conservation Center, planted primarily with island species, will be a highlight of Betsy's talk.

We anticipate enjoying a relaxing evening learning about and seeing some of the horticultural treasures our coastal islands have to offer, as presented by an expert in her field. Please join us for this unique presentation.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS & EVENTS

2018 HOLIDAY MEETING
Thursday, December 13

SPECIAL VENUE !!!

Our annual Holiday Party is quickly approaching, and we are planning a fun party at the Canoga Park Women's Club this year... It is a large venue with ample parking, so we hope even more members will attend to enjoy the following:

GUEST SPEAKER Jo O'Connell from Australian Native Plants in Casitas Springs will give a presentation and also bring along plants to kick off your holiday shopping!

GIVE-AWAYS at our perennially popular "Freebie Table" of members' gently used garden-themed treasures will be displayed for a timed grab & go. Give something a new home, or just donate in the spirit of the season - lots of fun!

TREATS to celebrate the season will be offered by members for the group to share. We invite you to bring a sweet or savory appetizer, finger food, dessert or your specialty - we'll provide the tableware and our appetites!

GREEN SHEETS

Unfortunately, we are still gathering photos and descriptions from the missing months' Plant Forums, and are not ready to publish this month. We plan to include this feature in the newsletter again soon - so stay tuned!

Our speakers in October were local landscape designers Shawn Maestretti and Wynne Wilson, who presented insights on blending California's native flora with other culturally similar plants from around the world. They both spoke about design philosophies and concepts, and shared pictures of selected projects and some favorite plants they like to use.

First to present was Shawn Maestretti, who is a designer, certified arborist, educator, and licensed landscape contractor. He has been working in Los Angeles since 2006, and spoke on "how to blend with success" by using his system of matching a plant palette to a space and then properly hydrozoning. He stated that the trees at any given site will dictate the zones as well as everything else that will work there. He typically uses a master plant list and edits down based on site conditions.



Photo courtesy of speaker.

Shawn likes to break down his selections by plant communities and shared some blending examples such as using *Rhamnus*, *Berberis* and ornamental grasses with *Olea* and *Arbutus* trees, or combining *Vitis*, *Salvia* and *Sesleria* 'Greenlee' with *Cercidium* x 'Desert Museum.' He also spoke about



using rain gardens to capture water and keep it on your property, and shared diagrams illustrating these principals before turning the program over to Wynne Wilson.

Wynne is a Southern California native and a garden designer with over 20 years experience. Her work has often involved preserving and restoring habitats through the use of primarily California native plants and sustainable materials. Wynne's talk focused on her own design principles, which she broke down into four categories.

She first spoke about "Space and Form" wherein you assess the space you have to determine how best to fill it, i.e. with plants that act as sculptural forms, or grassy meadows for larger areas, or a single focal point that frames a section of the garden. This was followed by "Light and Shadow" which dealt with using areas of filtered light to create micro-climates for understory plantings, or using light and shadow to provide tonality. Then came "Rhythm and Movement" which mimics a painterly palette by grouping plants by color families and massing for greater impact if the space allows. Her final category was "Texture and Layering" wherein you are combining two or three plants in complementary arrangements, such as *Agave attenuata* with *Eriogonum crocatum*, or inserting *Muhlenbergia rigens* and an olive tree into a *Carex* meadow. Wynne also showed pictures of her home garden where she has employed these principles, and which was the destination for an SCHS Coffee in the Garden on the following weekend. (See summary below.)



Photo: Sabine Steinmetz

Both designers concluded their talks by answering questions from an enthusiastic audience. We were all given plenty of excellent design insights and suggestions to try in our own home gardens - applicable for this planting season and well into the future.

✂ Sabine Steinmetz

SHARING SECRETS RESPONSES

We know autumn is a busy time in So Cal gardens, and suspect that is why we only received a few anonymous and very brief answers to the following question:

Tell us about your favorite garden designers or gardens that you love...



Therefore, we are simply listing the responses below, so you can research them further if they pique your interest!

DESIGNERS

- Marc Peter Keane - Ithaca, New York
- Piet Oudolf - Netherlands
- Dan Pearson - United Kingdom
- Chris Rosmini - Los Angeles

GARDENS

- Butchart Gardens - British Columbia, Canada
- Filoli Gardens - Woodside, CA
- Garden of Cosmic Speculation - Scotland
- Gilroy Gardens "Circus Trees" - Gilroy, CA
- Hortense Miller Garden - Laguna Beach, CA
- Huntington Botanical Gardens - San Marino, CA
- Jardin Majorelle - Marrakech, Morocco
- San Diego Botanic Garden - Encinitas, CA
- Sissinghurst Castle Garden - Kent, England
- Villa d'Este Gardens - Tivoli, Italy

On Sunday, October 14, 2018, the SCHS hosted a Coffee in the Garden event at the Altadena home garden of landscape designer Wynne Wilson and her husband Brian. They have been working on the garden for 20 years and it has been featured on a variety of garden tours, but is not visited often in the autumn.

During the first hour, attendees wandered through the garden taking pictures and enjoying refreshments provided by SCHS board members. This also provided ample opportunity for them to consider a host of questions for the designer about the garden's layout, plants, irrigation and more.

At 11:30, Wynne gave a brief talk about the garden's history from its earliest days in

COFFEE IN THE GARDEN



Photo: Sabine Steinmetz

which there was a lawn and predominantly Mediterranean plantings, through its evolution to its present state. Currently, there is no lawn, the presence of California native plants has significantly increased,

and new oaks have been planted to eventually replace aging trees. She also spoke about the various micro-climates on-site such as the natural stream; the abundance of wildlife that is encouraged; and specific plants that do well, including *Heuchera*, *Mahonia* 'Ken Hartman', *Carex*, *Carpenteria* 'Elizabeth' as well as the show-stopping *Ampelopsis glandulosa* var. *brevipedunculata* (porcelain berry) that everyone was enchanted by.

We would again like to thank Wynne and Brian for opening their beautiful garden to us at this time of year. Much appreciation also goes to the SCHS board for arranging and hosting this special Coffee in the Garden event.

✂ Sabine Steinmetz

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

Daily except 11/22 Thanksgiving, 3:30pm. Guided Nature Gardens Walk. Join us on a walk through to explore the amazing diversity of life that calls L.A. home in the Nature Gardens. Meet just outside the Nature Lab under the bridge.



JPAUL GETTY MUSEUM-GETTY CENTER
1200 Getty Center Dr., Los Angeles 90049
310.440.7300 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 walks through extraordinary sights, sounds, and scents.



JPAUL GETTY MUSEUM - GETTY VILLA
17985 Pacific Coast Hwy., Pacific Palisades 90272
310.440.7300 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.



RANCHO LOS CERRITOS
4600 Virginia Road, Long Beach 90807
562.206.2040 rancholoscerritos.org

Saturdays & Sundays, 1-5pm. Garden One-Hour Tours. Rancho Los Cerritos offers free one-hour garden tours for visitors. For details, visit <http://www.rancholoscerritos.org/things-to-do-hub/tours/>. Repeats every weekend.



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

Saturday & Sunday, 10/13 & 10/14. Japanese Garden Celebration, featuring Japanese art and culture, family-friendly activities, a garden tour, Ikebana displays, taiko drum performances and crafting inspired by the Japanese Garden. Free with admission.

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

Saturday, 11/17, 10am, Crescent Farm. Hands-On Lasagna Mulching Workshop with Crescent Farm staff Leigh Adams and John Latsko. Learn how sheet mulching will bring to life beautiful, low-maintenance, low-cost gardens, by using what you have on hand or sourcing locally. A visual presentation and hands-on activity will teach you hoe to use this method with your own green waste to build productive soil. Bring gloves, hat, water and wear closed toe shoes. Members: free / Non-members: free with arboretum admission.



EATON CANYON NATURE CENTER
1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena 91107
626.398.5420 ecnca.org

Every Wednesday & 2nd Sunday, 10am. Eaton Canyon Gardening Group. Volunteers maintain the garden.

Saturday, 11/17, 9am-12noon, Nature Patio. Conservation Work Day. Help weed out invasive plants to conserve habitat for native species. Gloves, tools and a snack provided. Bring your own drinking water, and wear clothing, footwear and sun protection for outdoor work. Volunteers under age of 18 should bring along an adult. RSVP to eatoncanyon.conservation@gmail.com. Repeats third 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.



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

Saturday 11/17 9:00-11:30am. Native Plant Maintenance Basics: a Walk and Talk with Steve Singer. Subjects covered include watering, fertilizing (or not), grooming, mulching, pest management and other aspects of garden maintenance. You'll also discover how native plants respond to pruning cuts (good and bad), what we trigger with gardening activities, and how to develop good maintenance goals. Part of the class will be held outdoors, so bring your hat and water bottle. \$25 members, \$35 non-members.

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

Friday, 11/23, 9am-4:30pm. Green Friday: Free Day & Plant Sale. Be outdoors and avoid crazy Black Friday lines with free admission to the Garden and great deals on California native plants at our Grow Native Nursery. Unwind after Thanksgiving with a free stroll in the Garden, get some inspiration and grab some beautiful native plants for your yard or patio!



REDLANDS HORTICULTURAL & IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

Church of the Nazarene,
1307 E Citrus Ave, Redlands, CA 92374
909-793-3333 (Frank Herendeen)
redlandsgardenclub.com

Thursday, 11/15, 7pm. University of California Riverside Botanical Gardens and What They Offer, with Professor Emeritus Jodie Holt, UCR faculty member since 1982, and new director of the UCR gardens, a 40-acre playground used as a tool for science outreach. Ms. Holt was a consultant on the botany of the movie "Avatar," helping the filmmakers think through how plants look, act, and communicate through their cells. Free lecture for members and guests, plus door prizes.



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

Sunday, 11/18, 1 pm. Nature Photography. Learn how to use space, light, and time to take more memorable photos. Class includes tips, tricks, and techniques to help advance your photography skills. \$35 members, \$40 non-members.

Sunday, 11/18, 1 pm. Fall & Winter Gardening. Expert gardener Yvonne Savio will discuss tips and techniques for growing edible and ornamental plants in your garden during the cool season. \$20 members, \$25 non-members.

Saturday, 11/24, 10 am. Public Nature Tour. Meet at the Nature Center and join one of our knowledgeable docents as they guide you on a tour through the beautiful garden. Repeats 2nd and 4th Saturdays.





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

Saturday, 11/10, 9:30am. Monthly Garden Share. Bring garden-related items such as plants, cuttings, pots, tools, produce, etc., to trade. For more info., go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CoastkeeperGardenShare>. Repeats 2nd Saturdays.

Yvonne Savio

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

-  November 8 - Betsy Collins, Director of Horticulture at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden giving a presentation on Channel Island Plants
-  December 13 - SCHS Holiday Party, featuring Jo O'Connell of Australian Native Plants in Casitas Springs, speaking about Australian plant selections

VENUE CHANGE This event will be at Canoga Park Women's Club

-  January 10 - Horticultural educator Jennifer Hinostroza Mt. San Antonio College talking about houseplants and balcony gardening

GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH



"There are no gardening mistakes - only experiments"

- Janet Kilburn Phillips

Steven Gerischer - President, Oral History Committee, PR
John Schoustra - Vice President, Field-Trip Committee, Finance Committee, Plant Raffle, Plant Sales at meetings
Laura Bauer - Treasurer, Finance Committee, Website Committee, HOTY Event Committee, Voicemail
Pat Steen - Membership Secretary, Recording Secretary, Field Trip and Coffee-in-the-Garden Committees, Greeter
Carol Aronson - Field Trip & Coffee-in-the-Garden Committees, Program Committee
Carol Bornstein - Program Committee
Aprille Curtis - Social Media Committee, Plant Forum supplies
Fleur Nooyen - Program Committee
Steven Ormenyi - Finance Committee, Program Committee
Yoav Paskowitz - Finance Committee, Oral History Committee, Website Committee, Newsletter Copy Editor
Yvonne Savio - Horticultural Happenings, PR, Field Trip and Coffee-in-the-Garden Committees
Lili Singer - Board Nomination Committee, PR, Archives, Social Media Committee
Sabine Steinmetz - Newsletter Editor, Sharing Secrets
Jill Vig - Coffee-in-the-Garden Committee, Oral History Committee, Special Projects

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Contributors to this issue: Yvonne Savio

Next deadline: Monday, November 12 (for December newsletter)
 Please contribute an article or information of interest.



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