



Southern California Horticultural Society **



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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

December 2018

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, December 13

Canoga Park Women's Club 7401 Jordan Avenue Canoga Park, CA 91303





Socializing: 7:00 pm

Meeting begins: 7:30 pm

SCHS WELCOMES **NEW MEMBERS**

November did not bring us any new members, but we are always happy to see friendly faces – new and old - at our meetings and hope you will invite your friends to check us out!

www.socalhort.org

SHARING SECRETS

For December, please tell us:

What kinds of gardening plans have you made for 2019? (see suggestions on Page 2)

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

by Monday, December 17

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NOTE: VENUE CHANGE IN DECEMBER - MEETING AT CANOGA PARK WOMEN'S CLUB

Australian Native Plants: Survivors & Thrivers

In December, the SCHS welcomes Jo O'Connell, the owner of Australian Native Plants, located in Casitas Springs in the Ojai Valley, as our featured speaker. She is also a survivor of the 2017 Thomas Fire and a portion of her presentation will focus on its impact on the plants surrounding her nursery.

Born and raised in Australia, Jo has a degree in horticulture from the University of Western Sydney. Her background experience is in zoo horticulture and habitat design, revegetation projects, and

and stayed because she fell in love and got married!

With over 35 years' experience growing Australian plants both in Australia and Southern California, Jo will address some of the toughest specimens worth trying in our changing climate, for their flowers, attractive qualities and cold and dry tolerances. She will talk about the nursery and her mail order business that ships plants all over the USA and internationally, as well as bringing along a selection of plants for purchase just ahead of the holidays.



cut flower industry. She founded Australian Native Plants in the early 1990s, after coming to the United States to establish the Australian Garden at the Taft Gardens in Ojai,

We invite you to attend this special program which will be a highlight of our activity-packed annual holiday party. Don't miss out on the festivities!

2018 Holiday Party Thursday, December 13

Special Location!

Our meeting & party will be held at:

CANOGA PARK WOMEN'S CLUB 7401 Jordan Ave, Canoga Park 91303

Come join us for the following:

GUEST SPEAKER Jo O'Connell will give a presentation and also bring along plants for you to gift (or keep for yourself!)

GIVE-AWAYS will be on display on our "Freebie Table" filled with members' donations. Grab something at the announced time (but also be prepared to take any of your own items home if they are not snatched up...)

TASTY TREATS made by members for all to share will be available during the evening. Feel free to bring a sweet or savory dish along – we'll provide the tableware.

VENDORS will be offering up tempting **PLANTS & OTHER ITEMS** for your early holiday shopping - don't miss out on unique gift purchasing opportunities!

> We look forward to celebrating with you in Canoga Park!





NOVEMBER PROGRAM RECAP • SHARING SECRETS • OBITUARY NOTICE

In November, Betsy Collins, Director of Horticulture at Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, presented a program on the "Horticultural Treasures of the Channel Islands" and also gave us a look at the new Conservation Center and Island View Garden recently installed at SBBG. During her 28 years working there, she has been actively involved in the process of bringing new plants into cultivation, from exploration to propagation testing and evaluation, with the ultimate goal of introducing exemplary garden plants into the horticultural trade.

Betsy's slide presentation showcased the 16 Channel Islands from a horticulturist explorer's point of view – searching for plants whose evolutionary tendencies could make them suitable for cultivation. Depending on the extent of man's disturbance of each island, some specimens have grown in undisturbed conditions making them unusual finds, while others are in need of rescuing through propagation to prevent their extinction.

One of the islands that has yielded specimens readily available in the trade is San Miguel, whose topographical features resemble many found on the mainland. Betsy cited Adenostoma fasciculatum, Artemisia Prince', Dendromecon harfordii, and a pinkflowering *Achillea millefolium* as examples of excellent garden plants originating there.

Of the endemic and rare plants not found anywhere else but the Channel Islands, ones such as Quercus tomentella and Lyonothamnus floribundus are not often used in landscaping, even though they are adaptable in cultivation. Other genera such as Eriogonum exhibit high diversity (E. rubescens, E. arborescens, E. giganteum), and are now commonly used garden plants.

Another genus that is a particular favorite of Betsy's - Dudleya - offers a large selection of a question and answer session about the species as well.

On a recent SBBG collection trip to the eight Mexican Channel Islands (all a part of the California Floristic Province), Betsy participated in gathering specimens for study as candidates for propagation, including Xylonagra arborea and Erigonum molle. Wellknown species from these islands include: Ceanothus arborescens, Ribes viburnifolium, Encelia californica, Rhus lentii plus various Dudleya and Mammillaria. She indicated the Mexican government is currently working toward conservation and regeneration of endemic vegetation that for centuries had been ravaged by unchecked goat populations introduced by the Spanish explorers.



Photo by Carol Bornstein

The final images in her slide show were californica, Leymus condensatus 'Canyon of the Conservation Center at SBBG and the surrounding Island View Garden designed by Betsy, which features primarily island species. Betula gracilus, pink Achillea millefolium, and SBBG's "Conservation Collection" including Ceanothus hearstiorum, Berberis pinnata ssp. insularis and Dudleya nesiotica are some of the plants installed there. They are irrigated by three 15,000 gallon tanks installed under the boardwalk and fed by rooftop runoff and a bioswale. Plans for the future include introducing even more island species currently being trialed for cultivation.

Betsy concluded her presentation with testing processes employed before plants are introduced into the trade, including checks and balances for "weediness", as well as some species-specific queries. Sharing the wealth of knowledge she has amassed in her years at SBBG can inform what we choose to grow in our own gardens as we plan for the future.

Sabine Steinmetz

SHARING SECRETS

Last month we asked members:

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

We were hoping to get tips for making seasonal treats or botanical gifts - BUT, we got NO responses!

So, at this time, we will wish you safe and happy holidays, that are restful and give you plenty of time to ponder the following question to begin 2019 -

What kinds of gardening plans have you made for the New Year?

Please tell us about your: grand schemes • clever ideas new plants • tools you're trying

tips & tricks OR real-life gardening "resolutions"?

Members want to know what other members are up to and also to wish one another a

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

REMEMBERING A FRIEND - ON THE PASSING OF DON WOOD

On Friday, November 9, 2018, long-time SCHS member Don Wood passed away. He will be remembered by many as the bearded gentleman who frequently made announcements for the Fern Society, one of his horticultural passions. Of course, he also had other interests, and for a few SCHS members, he is remembered here as a friend and more.

My good friend Don Wood was a plantsman. I would ask him about different kinds of plants and he would tell me about them. I would often bring him to the SCHS meetings, which he loved, and we would talk about the programs on the way home. Don enjoyed growing many kinds of plants, especially ferns.

In the Fern World he was one of the best on his good days. He would help to run the Los Angeles International Fern Society Show each year, do the Green Scene at Fullerton, plus any show or sale we would have! Don

would enter lots of ferns and plants at all of the shows. He also gave talks on mounting staghorn ferns to all the local plant clubs, as well as at the L.A. County Fair each year.

For years he would play Santa Claus, doing 20 to 25 engagements all over L.A. A few years ago in Las Vegas at a Santa Claus Convention he won first ticket for a Custom Santa Claus Suit. He was so happy about this.... sometimes I think that he was the real Santa Claus!

> Your Good Friend, Michael Moody

I remember Don Wood from the Year Around Garden Club (YAGC), Whittier, part of the California Garden Clubs, Inc. He was our Santa for many years, and had given many talks about ferns through the years.

A few years ago, he sold his house and moved in with his sister, Rhonda Wood. When he moved, he gave me a lot of mature Bromeliads, which, of course, I love. He also gave me a Dahlia imperialis tuber and it's blooming now for the 1st time — it gets 12-20' tall! My dad had one that I moved over to my place and one year my garden helpers (??) dug it up and threw it away before I knew it, so I was glad to get another one.

Don paid for my SCHS membership so that I would bring him to the meetings. I hated the drive, but loved going there and always learning so much.

> Nancy Bird President, YAGC

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Many thanks to Michael and Nancy for sharing their remembrances of Don with us. He clearly will be missed in the horticultural world — but will live on in the memories of the many lives he has touched.

DECEMBER 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

Saturdays through December, 11am, Nature Gardens Exploration – outside Nature Lab and under the bridge. Weekly hands-on activity programs.

Sundays through December, 1pm, Nature Gardens Harvest tour, at the Rotunda steps. Find out what we're harvesting in our Edible Garden!

Daily through December (closed for Christmas Day, December 25), 3:30pm, Nature Gardens Walk, just outside Nature Lab and under the bridge. Join us to explore the amazing diversity of life in the gardens that calls L.A. home.

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CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY (CNPS) L.A./Santa Monica Mtns Chapter/1st Utd. Methodist

1008 11th Street, Santa Monica 90403 818-782-9346 lacnps.org

Tuesday, 12/11, 7:30pm. California Wildfires & Climate: Past, Present, Future Impact on Our Native Flora with John Keeley, research scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey and an adjunct professor at UCLA.

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

Saturday, December 8, 10am-2pm. House Plants with Arboretum Plant Information Consultant Frank McDonough. Learn how to select and care for indoor plants. Members \$25, Non-members \$35. Register online and for questions, call the Education Dept.

Saturday, December 29, 11am. A Walking Tour: Aloes Spectacular! with Arboretum Plant Information Consultant Frank McDonough. Learn about these tough, yet beautiful plants. Members free, non-members free with paid admission. No pre-registration required. For questions call 626.821.3222.

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, 12/15, 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 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.

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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.

Wednesday, 12/12, 2:30pm, Rothenberg Hall. Book Talk & Signing for *GardenLust: A Botanical Tour of the World's Best New Gardens*. Author and horticulturist Chris Woods traveled the world seeking out contemporary gardens and celebrates 50 of the best in his new book. Woods describes their most arresting features from locations from New Delhi and Dubai to Chile and Australia. Book signing to follow.

Thursday, 12/13, 2:30pm, Ahmanson Room, Brody Botanical Center. Growing Healthy Soil. Garett Long, research and outreach coordinator at Apricot Lane Farms, will discuss how to build a healthy soil food web to help grow healthier plants. Long is particularly interested in the relationship between farming practices, soil health, and the nutritional quality of food.

Thursday, 12/27, 4:30-5:30pm, Auditorium, Brody Botanical Center. Botany Bay Series: Plant Science for Citizen Scientists. Explore the plant world through discussion and hands-on lab time in this series led by Jim Folsom, the Telleen/Jorgensen Director of the Botanical Gardens.

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

Saturday 12/8 9am-12noon. Propagating California Native Plants with Jordan Isken, TPF's Propagation Manager. Learn the basics of vegetative propagation using various species of native plants. Begin with cuttings in this handson session, and leave with a flat of starts for home! Limit: 10. \$50 members, \$60 non-members.

Saturday 12/8 1pm-3:30pm. Your Native Garden's First Year with Lili Singer, TPF's Director of Special Projects. An overview of the first year in a newly installed native landscape provides tips on establishing plants, plus what to do and expect from your developing landscape. Great class for beginners. \$25 members, \$35 non-members.

Saturday 12/29 1:30pm-3:30pm. Look, Ma, No Lawn! with Lili Singer, TPF's Director of Special Projects. If you're ready to lose the lawn, we'll explain how to take the turf out and offer replacement alternatives – specifically low-care native plants that need no fertilizer and use a fraction of the water required for turf. \$25 members, \$35 non-members.

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FULLERTON ARBORETUM

1900 Associated Road, Fullerton 92831 **657.278.3407** fullertonarboretum.org

Sunday, 12/16, 1 pm. Container Gardening in Southern California. Expert gardener Yvonne Savio will discuss advantages and disadvantages of growing in containers: choosing pots and plants, basic gardening considerations, and many successful techniques. \$20 members; \$25 non-members.

Saturdays, 12/22, 10 am. Public Nature Tour. Meet at the Nature Center and join one of our knowledgeable docents as they guide through the beautiful garden. Repeats 2nd & 4th Saturdays.

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COASTKEEPER GARDEN

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

Saturday, 12/8, 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.

X Yvonne Savio

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY - Thursday, December 13 at 7:00 pm Canoga Park Women's Club • 7401 Jordan Avenue • Canoga Park, CA

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are regularly held at Steven Gerischer - President, Oral History Committee, PR Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles, 90027 John Schoustra - Vice President, Field-Trip Committee, Finance

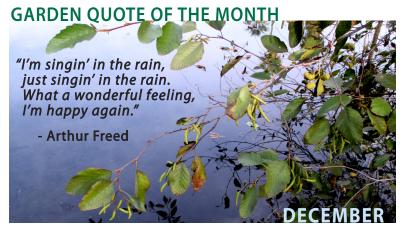
OR December 13 - SCHS Holiday Party, featuring Jo O'Connell of Australian Native Plants in Casitas Springs, speaking about Australian plant selections

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

✓ January 10 - Horticultural educator Jennifer Hinostroza of Mt. San Antonio College will present "Houseplants and Balcony Gardening"

Rebruary 14 - Speaker to be confirmed - stay tuned!

March 14 - Mike Evans from Tree of Life Nursery



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

818-567-1496 / socalhort.org / Join us on Facebook Newsletter Editor: Sabine Steinmetz

Contributors to this issue: Nancy Bird, Michael Moody, Yvonne Savio

Next deadline: Monday, December 17 (for January newsletter) Please contribute an article or information of interest.



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

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