



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

March 2018

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, March 8

Friendship Auditorium
3201 Riverside Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90027



Socializing: 7:00 pm

Meeting begins: 7:30 pm

SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

*We are always glad to see
new faces at meetings,
and encourage you to invite
others to check us out online
or to come with you.*

*Members may use 2 Guest
Passes annually so they can
bring along friends.*

www.socalhort.org

SHARING SECRETS

The SCHS Sharing Secrets
question for March is:

*What critters are you
welcoming (or discouraging)
in your garden as we head
into spring? And how?*

Answer online at: socalhort.org
or e-mail your response to:

gardensbysabine@aol.com
by Monday, March 12

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INVITING CALIFORNIA TO DINNER: BRINGING CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT FOODS INTO YOUR LIFE

Locally grown foods and low-water landscaping are all the rage right now, but any trip to a farmer's market or to a local nursery will showcase almost no California native plants. What if hundreds of natives were found to be not only edible, easy to use and delicious, but extremely low-water as well? Our March program led by native food enthusiast Antonio Sanchez,



Photo courtesy of Laura Maher

will introduce us to the ancient and emerging field of California native foods and their cultivation.

This unique lecture explores how old and new ways can combine to find a place in local gardens and kitchens. Among the dozens of native food plants discussed will be: low-water salad greens and native grains

such as Saltbush (*Atriplex* spp., Chenopodiaceae) and Tepary Beans (*Phaseolus* spp., Fabaceae), fruits such as Native Goji Berries (*Lycium* spp., Solanaceae) and Huckleberries (*Vaccinium ovatum*) plus many others that can be introduced into local diets. The presentation will include tastings of seasonal native food dishes, which may include a native sage pesto made with *Salvia clevelandii* and *Allium unifolium*, cookies made with mesquite powder (*Prosopis glandulosa*) and agave syrup blended with Hummingbird Sage (*Salvia spathacea*) leaves.

Sanchez has been working with California native plants and foods for over a decade, and was one of the lead organizers for the 2015 California Native Food Symposium in Claremont. He co-founded Nopalito Native Plant Nursery in Ventura, and has also worked with various native plant institutions including: Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, The Theodore Payne Foundation for Native Plants, Cal Flora Nursery, and Santa Barbara Botanic Garden.

We're looking forward to a tasty program this evening and hope you will be able to join us.

SCHS ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE IN THE GARDEN

Coming up Sunday, March 25, we will be offering our first Coffee in the Garden event for 2018. As always, attendance is free to members and only \$5 per guest, and there will be refreshments! Check out details on the registration form included in this newsletter or sign up online at www.socalhort.org.

GREEN SHEETS

Beginning with our April issue, we will resume posting photos and descriptions from past months' Plant Forums in our popular Green Sheet feature. Look for selections from members' winter gardens soon!

MEMBERS' INPUT

Last month we asked members to submit nominations for our HOTY award, and received many excellent suggestions. We appreciate your responses and encourage your active participation in the organization. If you have ideas for field trips, guest speakers or programs, or other comments please feel free to speak to a board member or write to us online. Committee members are listed on Page 4 of this newsletter.

February's program was both interesting and entertaining as presented by our guest speaker Jeff Chemnick, owner and operator of Aloes-in-Wonderland, a specialty nursery and garden in Santa Barbara. He is also the founder and operator of Mexico Nature Tours, specializing in botanical (and ornithological) ecotours throughout Mexico and a respected authority on Mexican cycads who has published numerous articles and described several species new to science. The topic for the evening's slide show was "Treasures of the Sierra Madre: Botanizing in Mexico," and we were taken on a lively, colorful and informative tour focusing primarily on the states of Oaxaca and Chiapas.

Chemnick explained that the eastern and western Sierra Madre mountain ranges converge in the Mexican state of Chiapas, in a region known as the Transvolcanic Belt. The area is characterized by snow-capped mountains which drive the botanic speciation but is also home to cloud forests and deserts, with the whole range available for exploration in the Tehuacan Cuicatlan Biosphere Reserve in Oaxaca. There is also an abundance of limestone outcroppings and cliffs throughout southern Mexico, and Chemnick shared photos of some of the varied, but inaccessible, plant life that could be seen growing on these rock walls. It is his contention that this region is home to the best plants because of its unique climate and terrain.

Chemnick's first trips were cycad tours to Chiapas, and he remarked that in addition to the cycads, he found that the agaves and echeverias

were among the plants given the best reviews from his tour participants. His slide show supported his assertions about the diversity and popularity of the plant life, as the audience reacted positively to the many species depicted, including an enormous *Beaucarnia gracilis* and a *Yucca lacandonica*. Other unusual specimens he showed were the red *Hechtias*, the white-flowered *Plumeria rubra*, the very tall *Dasyllirion longissimum*, as well as *Agave montana*, *Pachycereus weberi*, *Platanus mexicana*, and many, many



Photo provided by Jeff Chemnick

mammillarias, echeverias and tillandsias. His pictures gave viewers a great sense of the size and longevity some of these plants can attain when growing undisturbed in their natural habitat. He also included pictures of large dahlias growing wild among the cactus to further illustrate diversity. While many of these specimens cannot be grown locally, over the years Chemnick has collected and successfully bred others, including echeverias, agaves and aloes. Of course, most of the plants seen on his tours are only collected as photographs, as many are threatened, like the local Golden Barrel Cactus which was nearly wiped out when a regional dam was built.

After his presentation Chemnick responded to audience questions and noted that many of these tours can be tailored to a group's preferences, as the areas he travels to offer such a variety of choices for exploration. For more information on his tours, you can visit: www.mexiconaturetours.com; or you can check out his local plant selections from his nursery at www.aloesinwonderland.com.

✂ Sabine Steinmetz

SHARING SECRETS RESPONSES

Who would you like to nominate for consideration to be honored as 2018's Horticulturist of the Year?



The responses we received to last month's question have been compiled and will be reviewed at the next Board Meeting. We will be announcing this year's Horticulturist of the Year (HOTY) honoree in the next few months and appreciate all of your suggestions, and especially your participation.

Thank you!



We will resume printing your responses to the current "Sharing Secrets" question in the April newsletter - but to hold you over, we have a few more holiday horticultural gift responses to share:

When I returned to L.A. after holidays up north, I was greeted by a huge box full of tillandsias — courtesy of a colleague I met at the Association of Zoological Horticulture conference. When she said she would send me a few "tillies" I was thinking a handful of specimens but this was a cornucopia of beauties. It was a lovely way to start the New Year, deploying them in the garden.

Sandy Masuo

I was delighted to receive gift certificates for two of my favorite mail order nurseries from my son and daughter-in-law!

Sherry Heyman

While I was given several lovely gardening books and other garden-related items, the best gift I received was getting my husband's assistance (during his week off at New Year's) to plant all the miscellaneous gallon containers that were wasting away in our driveway. They now have a chance to thrive and I have room for new acquisitions....

Anonymous

MARCH 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

Second Saturday Strolls (February thru July) with Carol Bornstein, director of the NHMLA Nature Gardens. Meet Carol at the North Ticket Booth for a morning walk and learn about which garden plants are tough, which are fussy, how much to water, and what kind of plants will attract butterflies, birds, and other wildlife to your home garden.



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

Saturday, 3/10, 10:30am-4pm. South Coast African Violet Society Show & Sale. Demonstrations from 11:00 am – 4 pm and sales from 11:30 am – 4 pm.

Saturday, 3/24, 9am-4pm. Spring Plant Sale, sponsored by Propagation Workshop, Back 40 and South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation. Vendors include MB Landscaping, Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy, Ricardo's Nursery, Palos Verdes Begonia Society and South Coast Rose Society. Donated plants from Native Sons will also be available for purchase.



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

Thursday, 3/15, 9:30am-12noon. What's Happening In Gardening: The Shakespeare Garden with Rebecca Tufenkian. What does one of the world's best loved playwrights have to tell us about plants and gardening? We will discuss on a talk and walk-through of the Arboretum's Shakespeare Garden. Bring a sun hat! (1.25 APLD CEU Credits) \$25 per class Arboretum members & non-members. Call to register or pay at class.

Thursday, 3/29, 9:30am-12noon. What's Happening In Gardening: Field Trip to the Altadena Community Garden with Yvonne Savio, former head of the UC Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Training Program. We'll check on what's being planted this season, and Yvonne will demo and discuss transplanting, irrigation, and soil-enrichment techniques. Her website is: www.gardeninginla.net. (1.25 APLD CEU Credits) \$25 per class Arboretum members & non-members. Call to register or pay at class.



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

Saturdays & Sundays in March, 11am & 1pm tours. Learn about flowering trees and seasonal favorites on these Spring Blooming Walks. Pre-reservations required at www.descansogardens.org, in person at Descanso Gardens Visitor Center, or by calling 818-949-7980.

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, 3/22, 7:30pm. Rare Plants of the High San Gabriel Mountains with Jane Tirrell. *Oreonana Vestita* (Woolly Mountain Parsley) occurs primarily on ridges and summits within a wide elevation range, from 5200 to 10,060 feet. Studying it and its habitat may yield information on how plants adapt to climate change. Tirrell became interested in native plants upon her retirement in 2010, and she joined both the Lily Spring Area Survey and the California Native Plant Society that same year. Her degrees are in biology and chemistry (BA Wellesley College) and biochemistry (PhD University of Massachusetts at Amherst).



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

Saturday and Sunday, 3/17 & 3/18, 10am-5pm, Brody Botanical Center. 15th Annual Clivia Show & Sale, presented by the So. Cal. Chapter of the North American Clivia Society. Enjoy nearly 250 beautiful specimens on view, prize-winning exhibits and voting for a "People's Choice" award. On Sunday only, learn about clivia at informal talks and demos.

Saturday and Sunday, 3/24 & 3/25, 10am-5pm, 58th Annual Bonsai Show at the Brody Botanical Center. Learn about this ancient horticultural art form as the California Bonsai Society Show presents dozens of specimens created by bonsai masters. Additional examples can be seen in the permanent display in the Japanese Garden's Bonsai Courts.



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

Saturday, 3/10, 9am-12noon. Propagating California Native Plants with Jordan Isken, TPF's Propagation Manager. Learn basic skills of vegetative propagation using various species of native plants. Start cuttings or divisions in this hands-on session, and leave with a flat of starts! Limit: 10 participants. \$50 TPF members, \$60 non-members.

Saturday, 3/17, 1:30-3:30pm. Four Seasons of Color with California Natives with Lili Singer. 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.

Saturday, 3/24, 8:30am-4:30pm. Poppy Day Plant Sale. The region's best selection of California natives. with discounts to all on plants, seed and TPF gear: TPF members, 15% off; non-members, 10% off. Bring your boxes and wagons!

Saturday, 3/31, 1:30-3:30pm. Right Plant, Right Place with Lili Singer. This course discusses local native plant communities and their conditions, as well as how to assess conditions of your garden site. Valuable for beginners and the prerequisite for our Three-Part Native Garden Design Course. \$25 TPF members, \$35 non-members.



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY (CNPS)
L.A. / Sta Monica Mtns Chapter / Sepulveda Garden Ctr
16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino 91436
818-782-9346 www.lacnps.org

Tuesday, 3/13, 7:30pm. Rare Dudleyas: Evolution and Survival. Presentation by Dani Amoroso who recently earned her M.S. in Biology from CSUN. For info, contact Snowdy.Dodson@csun.edu.



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

Saturday, 3/10, 10am-12noon. Organic Art. Artist and naturalist Sama Wareh talks about the work of land artist Andy Goldsworthy, after which you will hike through RSABG to learn how to use natural organic materials for building art pieces, sculptures and designs, how to photograph them and then leave them behind for nature to reclaim. This is the art of creating and the art of letting go, where creativity and healing are infused into one workshop! \$25 public, \$20 members. Register online.

Saturday, 3/17, 10-11am. Grow Native Nursery Workshop: Habitat Gardening. Learn skills you need to successfully establish native plants for birds and other animals, and how to encourage and attract more pollinators and wildlife to your own garden. Register online.

Saturday, 3/31, 9am-12noon. Rules of the Game (of Thorns). Loraine Washburn, PhD, RSABG Lab Manager and Conservation Botanist, will introduce you to ways that plants defend themselves from insects, mammals, fungi, and other plants in this interactive workshop. She will focus on plants in the exhibit, and then lead a walk in the Garden to learn how California native species defend themselves from enemies. \$25 public, \$20 members. Register online.



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

Saturday and Sunday, 3/17 & 3/18, 9am-5pm. Spring Planting Jubilee & Tomato Sale features a wide variety of tomatoes, vegetables and herbs as well as bromeliads, palms, cycads, orchids and garden implements. Speakers and garden experts will be on hand to answer questions and provide helpful advice.







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

Saturdays, 3/10 and 3/24, 10am. Free Nature Tour. Meet at the Nature Center and join one of our knowledgeable docents for a tour through our beautiful garden.

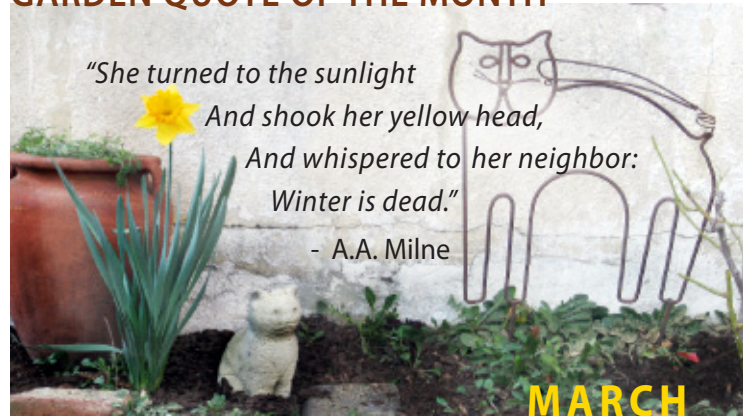
Saturday and Sunday, 3/17 & 3/28, 9am-4pm. Veggiepalooza Monster Tomato & Pepper Sale. Come to the largest plant sale in the region focusing on tomato and pepper plants, offering close to 300 varieties of varietal veggies geared toward the home gardener.

Yvonne Savio

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

-  March 8 - Bringing California Native Plant Foods Into Your Life with Antonio Sanchez
 -  March 25 - Coffee in the Garden in Tarzana - a drive yourself field trip (see Registration Form for details)
 -  April 12 - Succulent Panel & Program with 3 speakers
- VENUE CHANGE** *This event will be held at the Huntington.*
-  May 10 - Nature Gardens of the L.A. County Natural History Museum presented by Carol Bornstein

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 / socalthort.org / Join us on Facebook
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Contributors to this issue: Laura Maher, Yvonne Savio

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



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