



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

January 2019

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, January 10

Friendship Auditorium
3201 Riverside Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90027



Socializing: 7:00 pm

Meeting begins: 7:30 pm

SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

*We have new members
for the new year!*

Jennifer Culp
Fayleen Harmon

www.socalhort.org

SHARING SECRETS

For January, please tell us:

*Tell us about your successes
and struggles with houseplants,
and what your favorites are.*

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

by Monday, January 14

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Houseplants & Balcony Gardening

We begin the new year with a presentation on how to use and care for indoor plants, by horticulture professor Jennifer Hinostroza of Mt. San Antonio College (Mt. SAC). She will be speaking to us about general requirements for houseplants and other container plants, as well as best practices and maintenance.

Jennifer worked in the retail nursery industry for several years while she was a student at Cal Poly Pomona, and was also involved in several different horticulture therapy programs. As part of the completion of her B.S. degree, she took an internship at the Disneyland Resort in the horticulture department,



Photo courtesy of speaker.

which led to a full time work with them that lasted seven years. This provided her the opportunity to gain experience in many different positions, including landscape design and interior landscaping.

In 2006, Jennifer began her current teaching career at Mt. SAC as a Professor of Horticulture. One of the courses she teaches is Interior Landscaping which deals with the design, installation and maintenance of interior plants that are used in residences, offices, hotels, malls, restaurants and other locations.

While her presentation for the SCHS will draw on some of the materials Jennifer presents in her courses, she will primarily focus on light requirements and watering, appropriate plant choices for different light levels, temperature requirements, fertilization, and the benefits of having plants indoors. Additionally, she will provide care tips, recommended reading on the topic, and will be available to answer our questions after the program.

We look forward to welcoming Jennifer and learning more about this interesting topic. At a time of year when many of us spend less time gardening outdoors, we can all benefit from finding new ways to enjoy our plants while staying inside.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS & EVENTS

PHILANTHROPY

In the SCHS's continuing efforts to support local horticultural interests, the board recently voted to donate \$500 to Mountains Restoration Trust in Calabasas. They lost their headquarters to fire in 2016 are still working on rebuilding as they continue their mission to preserve the natural resources of the Santa Monica Mountains through habitat restoration, education, land acquisition and conservation easements.

GREEN SHEETS

They're back!!! We have finally compiled data, located photos and written descriptions for the "missing months" of 2018's Green Sheets. We are pleased to present a record of the specimens members bring in to exhibit at our Plant Forums, and we always appreciate your participation!

2019 MEMBERSHIP

We would like to thank all of you for your membership and look forward to offering you diverse horticultural experiences in 2019 through our monthly programs, Coffee-in-the-Garden events and unique field trip opportunities.

We are also glad when you encourage guests to attend a meeting so they, too, can see what the SCHS is about and may consider becoming members as well.

Thank you for your continued support, and we will see you throughout the year!

Our monthly meeting in December was a celebration of the season as we came together for our Annual Holiday Party, held for the first time at the Canoga Park Women's Club, and attended by members as well as a large number of guests from the west San Fernando Valley.

After people had a chance to mingle and sample the tasty goodies brought in by members, SCHS president Steve Gerischer introduced guest speaker Jo O'Connell, owner of Australian Native Plants in Casitas Springs in the Ojai Valley. As a survivor of the 2017 Thomas Fire, she provided a thought-provoking presentation about Australian plants in general, with a specific focus on planting recommendations for fire prone areas.

Jo's nursery has been in business since the early 1990s, and is open by appointment. She lost her home in the fire, and has been rebuilding it and the business during the last year. Jo spoke about some of her favorite and tough specimens to try in our changing climate - selected for their flowers, attractive qualities, cold and dry tolerances, as well as fire resistance and/or ability to regenerate.

Landscaping with fire resistant trees and plants, coupled with diligent maintenance, were criteria Jo cited to help mitigate potential fire damage to both plants and structures in high risk areas. She defined "fire resistant" plants as those that can absorb more heat from an approaching fire without burning and consequently slow a fire down. Fire resistant trees can also help trap embers and slow down the danger to structures from approaching winds.

Her maintenance recommendations included removing lower branches from trees, keeping any branches off and away from the roofs of structures, pruning and keeping plants well-irrigated ahead of and during the fire season. Suggestions for design elements that could help make home landscapes more fire resistant, were: planting a well-watered hedge on the fire

and noted which ones appeared to be recovering the best. *Cassia brewsteri* was the first to regenerate, and both *Banksia integrifolia* and *Brachychiton acerifolius* came back strong. She also mentioned that *Tristaniopsis laurina* was a great "indicator" tree for knowing when your garden needs watering. Plants that burned to the ground but regenerated were: *Calothamnus* 'Little



Photo courtesy of speaker.

Lion', *Erimophylla decipiens*, *Melaleuca hypericifolia* and the *Lomandras*, which she claims can withstand just about any extreme weather conditions. Jo also shared that many of the plants featured in her presentation would be incorporated in the rebuilding of her

home, which will be set in a dry rainforest landscape with "screens" planted 20' away from all structures. Following a question and answer session with Jo, all in attendance were encouraged to peruse the plants she brought along for sale and to browse the "Give Away" table, which quickly emptied after a countdown by Steve Gerischer. With a great speaker, food, drink, plants and freebies, the evening's program had something to send everyone home to a great start for their holiday season.

Jo then listed many of the "survivors" that made it through the fires or bounced back soon thereafter, as well as others with similar attributes that might be good options to plant for a fire resistant garden. Genera she recommended to use for hedges, foundation shrubs and cut flowers included *Grevillea*, *Eremophilas*, *Xanthorrhoea*, *Scaevola*, and various species within the *Acacia* and *Hakea* families. *A. longifolia*, *A. elata*, *A. visiglia*, *H. hakeoides*, *H. trineura* and *H. denticulosa* 'Stinking Roger' were some Jo considered to be good candidates to survive both fires and drought conditions.

During 2018, Jo observed the regrowth of trees and shrubs on her property

prone side of a structure, replacing lawns with organic mulches, DG or gravel to slow down fires, and using swales to retain moisture. She even suggested we test plants for fire resistance by tossing a handful of their leaves into a barbeque to see how long they take to burn.

✂ Sabine Steinmetz

Downloadable PDF copy of entire presentation can be found at:

https://socalhort.org/resources/Documents/Australian%20Native%20Plants%20for%20Fire%20Resistance%2012_07_18.pdf

SHARING SECRETS

Last month our question was:

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

We received a great selection of replies - some of which came from guests!



Finish my Japanese garden, and plant more natives on my hillside.

- Janet

Turn the garden into a British Tavern/ Nautical theme with plants that reflect the islands and Great Britain.

- Shawn Lochridge

I plan to change out some plants that were seriously damaged in the two heat waves of late spring and early summer. (Probably some of my favorite roses will hit the trash can!) The California natives, Australian plants and some South African plants breezed through the heat showing almost no distress.

Guess I know what to plant.

- Anonymous #1

Stop growing *Lavandulas* (too short-lived); plant more *Aloe* varieties; do more fuel reduction pruning!

- John Schoustra

Plant lots of wildflower seeds!

- Carol A.

Guerrilla Gardening at my job at DCT H₂O Reclamation Plant using natives and Mediterranean plants, plus flowers for the hummingbirds, butterflies and bees!

- Sanitation Fairy

I double-checked with County Ag extension, and our citrus fruit are not under quarantine yet, as the disease itself hasn't been detected here in Burbank. Therefore, as a precaution, I'm making foods with my citrus to give away. I made preserved lemons as Christmas presents for my cooking friends and will do more in January, plus maybe some lemon-ginger preserves.

Also, I'll continue filling in blank spaces in my garden with California natives. Those from the TPF autumn sale are in the ground and loving it thanks to recent rains.

- Anonymous #2

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.

RANCHO LOS CERRITOS

4600 Virginia Road, Long Beach 90807
562.206.2040 rancholoscerritos.org

Saturdays & Sundays, 1-5pm. Garden 1-Hour Tours. Rancho Los Cerritos offers free 1-hour garden tours for visitors. For details about all of our tours: www.rancholoscerritos.org/things-to-do-hub/tours/.



LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM

301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia 91007
626.821.4623 arboretum.org

Saturday & Sunday, 1/12 and 1/13, 9am-5pm. Winter Cactus Show, presented by San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society, featuring exhibits that highlight succulent and cacti splendors rarely seen in summer shows.

Saturday, 1/19, 10am-12noon. Re-Generation of Gardens with instructor Shawn Maestretti, principal of Shawn Maestretti Garden Architecture (SMGA). This presentation weaves together the importance of regenerative garden practices, the beauty of climate appropriate plants, and hands-on tips for those who want to deepen their connection to the soil, nature and their gardens. Free for members and with admission for non-members. For info., call Education Department.



EATON CANYON NATURE CENTER

1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena 91107
626.398.5420 ecnc.org

Saturday, 1/19, 9am-12noon, Nature Patio. Conservation Work Day. Help weed out invasive plants to conserve habitat for native species. Gloves, tools and snack provided. Bring drinking water, wear clothing, footwear and sun protection for outdoors. Volunteers under 18 should bring an adult. RSVP to eatoncanyon.conservation@gmail.com. Repeats 3rd Saturdays.



DESCANSO GARDENS

1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada 91011
818.949.7980 descansogardens.org

Saturday & Sunday, 1/12 & 1/13, 9am to 5pm. Cool Camellia Celebration amidst the largest camellia collection in North America, with music, special walks, crafting and flower arranging demonstrations. Celebrate these winter blossoms! Activities are free with admission. Register online, in person at the Visitor Center, or by calling (818) 949-4200.



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, 1/10, 2:30pm. Rothenberg Hall. Garden Talk with rose hybridizer Tom Carruth, the E. L. & Ruth B. Shannon Curator of the Huntington Rose Collections. He will introduce his newest floribunda, 'Huntington's 100th', to commemorate the upcoming centennial beginning fall of 2019. This rose is pastel yellow with a blush of orchid pink and cream, with a powerful fragrance reminiscent of citrus blossoms and sweet fruit. Available for purchase following talk.

Thursday, 1/24, 4:30-5:30pm, Auditorium, Brody Botanical Center. Botany Bay Series: Plant Science for Citizen Scientists. Discussion and hands-on lab time with Jim Folsom, the Telleen/Jorgensen Director of the Botanical Gardens.



THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION

10459 Tuxford St., Sun Valley 91352
818.768.1802 theodorepayne.org

Friday, 1/11, 9-10am. Native Plant Maintenance Basics: Walk & Talk with TPF horticulturist Steve Singer on TPF grounds, for a quick overview of maintenance practices. Wear comfortable shoes, a hat and bring water bottle. Limit: 15. Members \$15, Non-members \$20. Register online.

Saturday 1/12, 9-10am. Irrigation Basics for Native Gardens: Walk & Talk with Tim Becker, TPF's Director of Horticulture. A focused walk on TPF grounds covers how, when, where to irrigate, plus benefits/drawbacks for overhead, drip and hand-watering equipment. Bring hat and water bottle. Limit: 15. Members \$15, Non-members \$20. Register online.

Saturday, 1/12, 1:30-4pm. Right Plant, Right Place with Lili Singer, TPF's Director of Special Projects. Learn about local plant communities, their conditions, how to assess garden conditions including climate, soil, sunlight and space. For beginners and the prerequisite for TPF's 3-Part California Native Garden Design Course. Members \$25, Non-members \$35. Register online.

Friday, 1/18, 9am-12noon. Propagating California Native Plants with Jordan Isken, TPF's Production Manager. Learn basic vegetative propagation and start several native plant species from cuttings or divisions in this hands-on session. Leave with a flat of starts! Limit: 10. Members \$50, Non-members \$60. Register online.

Saturday, 1/19, 9-10am. Lawn to Garden Design Basics: Walk & Talk with Flora Ito, TPF's Nursery Sales Manager. This focused walk in TPF's gardens will showcase landscape options and explain how to create a basic planting plan for replacing your lawn with a garden. Includes a copy of TPF's "From Lawn to Garden" workbook. Limit: 10. Members \$20, Non-members \$25. Register online.

Saturday, 1/19, 1:30-3pm. Firewise Gardening: Groundcovers with Orchid Black, garden designer, Native Sanctuary. Plant groundcovers now using a designer's palette of low-maintenance species to lower fire risk, enhance defensible space, and reduce erosion. Members \$20, Non-members \$30. Register online.



SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN

230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas 92024
760.436.3036 sdbgarden.org

Saturday, 1/26, 9am-12noon. Living Wall / Vertical Garden with instructor Mary Lou Morgan. Learn the basics as we plant a 10" x 20" wall with a variety of succulents. Living walls can be indoors or outdoors and incorporate a multitude of colors, textures and sizes. Members \$30, non-members \$36. Add'l. \$80 per-student materials fee payable directly to instructor on day of class. Register by January 19.



REDLANDS HORTICULTURAL & IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

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

Thursday, 1/17, 7pm. Overview of the World of Mushrooms with Master Gardener Jerry Poupard. Fungi and their mushrooms have survived and thrived for millions of years. Their survival tactics can provide genetic solutions for mankind - often in a delicious way. Get a broad overview of the quiet fungal space race taking place, with a focus on mushroom nutritional and medicinal benefits, plus cooking and tincture methods to access these benefits. Free to all.



FULLERTON ARBORETUM

1900 Associated Road, Fullerton 92831
657.278.3407 fullertonarboretum.org

Tuesday, 1/8, 1 pm. Container Gardening in Southern California. Expert gardener Yvonne Savio will discuss advantages/disadvantages of growing in containers: choosing pots & plants, basic gardening considerations, tips & techniques. \$20 members; \$25 non-members.

Saturdays - 1/12 & 1/26, 10 am. Public Nature Tour. Meet at Nature Center, where one of our docents will guide you on a tour through the beautiful garden. Monthly: 2nd & 4th Saturdays.







COASTKEEPER GARDEN

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

Saturday, 1/12 9:30am. Monthly Garden Share. Bring garden-related items such as plants, cuttings, pots, tools, produce, etc., to trade. More info. online. Repeats 2nd Saturdays.

Yvonne Savio

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

-  January 10 - Horticultural educator Jennifer Hinostrroza of Mt. San Antonio College will present "Houseplants and Balcony Gardening"
-  February 14 - Jason Dewees, horticulturist, palm expert and author, will talk about "Designing with Palms"
-  March 14 - Mike Evans, owner of Tree of Life Nursery will speak about California native plants
-  April 11 - Speaker Matt Candeias, author of the popular *In Defense of Plants* blog (Presentation topic TBA)

GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"The beginning
is the most important part of work."*

- Plato



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

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

Contributors to this issue: Jennifer Hinostrroza, Yvonne Savio

Next deadline: Monday, January 14 (for February 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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