



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

December 2019

## OUR NEXT MEETING

**Thursday, December 12**

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

*We hope to see our  
newest member*

**Bill Entz**

*at the Holiday Party,  
along with everyone else !*

**www.socalhort.org**

## SHARING SECRETS

Effective this month,  
we are retiring Sharing Secrets  
from the newsletter, but

*Sharing Secrets is now  
available online at  
www.instagram@socalhort*

Look for a new feature  
in this spot premiering  
in January 2020!

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

## The Lore and Legends of Christmas Greens

Joining us to present a lively lecture at our festive December meeting will be Marie Barnidge-McIntyre, Horticulturist at Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site. She will speak about the traditional plants we use to decorate our homes for the Christmas holidays, what cultures influenced these choices, how they evolved and what legends are associated with each species. Regardless of which seasonal holiday you celebrate, hearing about the history of these decorations will no doubt enhance your appreciation for the plants that are an integral part of the winter holidays.

Marie grew up exploring the natural world of foothills and meadows in the San Fernando Valley. Her first job in the field of horticulture was as a nursery consultant, identifying pests and problems as well as designing landscapes. Her next major foray into horticulture was working on an oak mitigation project, where she harvested and propagated acorns, planted the saplings, and then protected them from natural disasters and a variety of wildlife - including out-of-range cattle - while they became established. These experiences served her well when she applied for a position at Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site in Long

Beach in 1992, and was hired as their first horticulturist. (Read more about this important piece of California history at: <https://www.rancholoscerritos.org/about-hub/history-hub/mission-and-focus/>)

Although the original position encompassed research, restoration, and maintenance of the gardens and grounds, Marie's job eventually broadened in scope. She is currently restoring a landscape designed in the 1930s by renowned landscape architect Ralph D. Cornell. It has matured and changed significantly, and Marie's goal is to stay true to Cornell's vision, using materials available at that time in order to ensure historic integrity. Marie is also in charge of harvesting materials from the garden that are used to create unique crafts sold in the Rancho gift shop; recruiting and training volunteers to lead garden tours; and simultaneously training and working alongside interns and students. One of her great joys is sharing the many fascinating stories about the plants at the Rancho and the people associated with them.

We look forward to hearing some of Marie's stories and learning how we might incorporate age-old plant-based traditions into our own contemporary holiday celebrations. Please join us for a fun and entertaining evening!

## 2019 Holiday Party

**Thursday, December 12**

**Special Location!**

**CANOGA PARK WOMEN'S CLUB**  
7401 Jordan Ave, Canoga Park 91303  
*(Ample Parking & Comfortable Venue)*

**GUEST SPEAKER** Marie Barnidge-McIntyre will present a program to inspire our festivities on the topic of decorating with traditional holiday greens.

**FREEBIE TABLE** where members' donations will be "given away". Feel free to bring garden-related items from the back of your shed! **At the announced time** scoop up a new treasure (but be prepared to take your own items home if they're not snatched up...)

**SEASONAL TREATS** made by members will be set out for all to enjoy. Feel free to bring a sweet or savory dish (or snack) to share - we'll provide the tableware.

**VENDORS** will be offering **PLANTS & MORE** for your early holiday shopping - don't miss out on unique gifting opportunities!

*Please come celebrate with us!*

Photo courtesy of speaker.



At the November SCHS meeting, our speaker was Dr. Travis Longcore, who presented a unique and “illuminating” program on ecological effects of nighttime lighting on the plants and animals living in our gardens. He is an Associate Adjunct Professor at the UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, and has been instrumental in the development of the field of study assessing the effects of light pollution on species and habitats.

Dr. Longcore began his slide show with graphs illustrating the principles of Correlated Color Temperature (CCT) in the light spectrum, and the responses to the daily shifts in CCT found in both animals and plants. For instance, nocturnal plants have different photo-receptors than humans, and require darkness to bloom and attract pollinators. Other plants require darkness to go to “sleep” by closing the petals of their flowers, often providing a warm place for insects to rest overnight. These responses to natural patterns of darkness illustrate the importance of dark nights to plants, their pollinators, and even their predators.

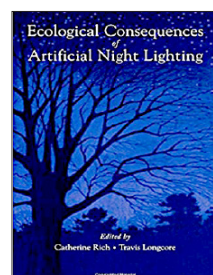
Examples of animals that can experience negative consequences when they “lose the night” include migratory birds which are wildly attracted to bright lights (urban centers, lighthouses) and may come to harm or have their routes disrupted; sea turtles who only lay their eggs in the dark; small mammals that fear light because it makes them vulnerable to predators; and mockingbirds, that are used to singing under a full moon to protect their territory. All of these are susceptible to exhibiting unnatural behaviors when triggered by external light sources at night.

Increases in the use of nocturnal illumination also have unintended impacts on the plant world. Slugs become more active in the light - while some of their predators, like toads, prefer the dark and may decrease their activity; beetles that would normally break down garden debris at night, thereby helping

feed the soil, avoid areas with solar LED lights; and many plants simply cannot bud out if consistently illuminated at night (as in the case of landscape uplights and suburban streetlights).

Dr. Longcore’s recommendations for mitigating these issues and minimizing the adverse affects of unnatural light included: placing lights in the landscape only where they’re needed (to light paths, for safety, etc.); turning lights off when not in use (ex: with motion detectors); directing the light where it is needed and not “flooding” a wider area than necessary, especially onto plants and into the canopies of trees; and use the lowest possible CCT in your lighting (the warmer, the better, preferably in the yellow or orange range). The goal is to use lights in the color spectrum that humans can see, but that do not adversely effect species that are sensitive to higher Kelvin temperatures, which equate to cooler light colors. He then shared some slides illustrating landscape lighting tips from designer Linnea Tillet. Her advice is to go for soft contrasts, where you can distinguish shapes (plants, steps, furniture) without creating glare, and to shield fixtures to prevent light spread. Over-illumination can create very dark shadows, which can lead to other types of problems.

After answering some audience questions, Dr. Longcore indicated that training for landscapers in this area is slight, but that the website of the



International Dark Sky Association ([www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org)) is currently the best resource for learning more on this fascinating subject. Or you may wish to check out his book, *Ecological Consequences of Artificial Night Lighting*, which provides a scientific basis to begin addressing the challenge of conserving the nighttime environment. it is available through his website at [www.travislongcore.net](http://www.travislongcore.net).

✿ Sabine Steinmetz

## SCHS ONLINE

*The SCHS board has been working at bringing awareness of the organization to a larger audience. Our hope for the coming decade is to build interest, promote attendance at meetings and SCHS events, and increase membership.*

*Creating a more visible online presence to increase our reach is one of the tools we have been developing over the past months. With the help of member and marketing consultant Erin Castillo, we are now live-streaming our meetings and also promoting them on our Facebook page*

[www.facebook.com/pg/socalhort/videos/](http://www.facebook.com/pg/socalhort/videos/)

*and on our new YouTube channel*

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCYYBy88Q361IQVnV69qgmGg](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYYBy88Q361IQVnV69qgmGg)

*You can link to these pages directly by clicking on the addresses above, or from the home page on our website at:*

[www.socalhort.com](http://www.socalhort.com)

*Additionally, Erin has set up an Instagram profile for SCHS that features information about upcoming speakers, botanical shares from our monthly Plant Forum, local and seasonal horticultural events and opportunities, plus lots of beautiful images from gardens across So Cal. Check it out, “like” and share your favorites, and tag @socalhort to feature your plants on:*

[www.instagram.com/socalhort](http://www.instagram.com/socalhort)

## SHARING SECRETS

*After not receiving any responses to queries printed in our long-running column for several months, we have decided to retire this feature from the newsletter. (Archived questions and answers can be found on the SCHS website under the sharing Secrets tab.)*

*For those of you who are still interested in “Sharing Secrets” with other members, you can find questions - new and recycled - posted on the SCHS Instagram page (see link above.)*

✿ Sabine Steinmetz

**P.S. Look for a new monthly feature in the newsletter, beginning with the January 2020 issue...**



# 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](http://nhm.org)**

Daily, 3:30pm, Nature Walk. Meet outside the Nature Lab (under the bridge) for a walk in the Nature Gardens to explore the diversity of life that calls L.A. home.

Every Saturday and Sunday, 11am, Nature Gardens Exploration. Meet outside the Nature Lab (under the bridge) for a hands-on activity in our Nature Gardens.



## RANCHO LOS CERRITOS

**4600 Virginia Road, Long Beach 90807  
562.206.2040 [rancholoscerritos.org](http://rancholoscerritos.org)**

Thursday, 12/12, 8-9:30am, meet in lower parking lot for a Bird Walk on the grounds and watch resident birds and seasonal migrants. We'll also listen to calls and songs. Wear closed-toe shoes, a hat and bring binoculars. Rain cancels. More details online at <https://www.rancholoscerritos.org/upcoming-event/bird-walk-october-2019/>



## EATON CANYON NATURE CENTER

**1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena 91107  
626.398.5420 [ecnca.org](http://ecnca.org)**

Saturday, 12/21, 9am-12noon, Nature Patio. Conservation Work Day. Help weed invasive plants to conserve habitat for the native species. Gloves, tools and snack provided. Please bring your own drinking water. Wear clothing, footwear and sun protection for outdoor work. Volunteers under the age of 18 need to bring along an adult. RSVP to [eatoncanyon.conservation@gmail.com](mailto:eatoncanyon.conservation@gmail.com)



## HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

**1151 Oxford Road, San Marino 91108  
626.405.2100 [huntington.org](http://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. Cancelled in event of rain.

Thursday, 12/12, 2:30pm, Ahmanson Classroom, Brody Botanical Center. Garden Talk & Sale: Be Bold! Designing with Native Plants with Mike Evans, founder of Tree of Life Nursery. Learn ways to break away from the simplistic, homogenous style of garden design often seen today and create diverse landscapes with native plants. Plant sale follows talk.

Saturday, 12/14, 10am-12noon. Vintage Floral Design for the Holidays. A hands-on workshop led by Flower Duet and inspired by The Huntington's centennial. Create an arrangement in a vintage style, reminiscent of those that found in homes around 1919. \$85 members, \$100 non-members. Register at [www.huntington.org/calendar](http://www.huntington.org/calendar).

Saturday, 12/14, 10:30am-12:30pm, Herb Garden. Family Drop-In Program Interactive Fun: Garden Party with head gardener Kelly Fernandez. Experiment with plants found in the Herb Garden to make amazing art, and enjoy a reading of The Yummy Alphabet Book (readings at 10:30 and 11:30 a.m.). All ages welcome; no advance registration required.

Saturday, 12/14, 1-2:30pm. Children's Workshop: Holiday Wreaths in this workshop presented by Flower Duet, and inspired by the year of The Huntington's founding: 1919. Children will learn how to make old-fashioned wreaths with magnolia leaves, pine cones, and dried fruit. Ages 7+ \$35 members, \$45 non-members (Incl. 1 child and 1 accompanying adult). Register at [www.huntington.org/calendar](http://www.huntington.org/calendar).



## THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION

**10459 Tuxford St., Sun Valley 91352  
818.768.1802 [theodorepayne.org](http://theodorepayne.org)**

Saturday, 12/14, 9am-12noon. Propagating California Native Plants with Tim Becker, Director of Horticulture. Learn basic skills of vegetative propagation in this hands-on session. Various species of native plants will be started from cuttings, and you'll leave with a flat of starts for your own garden. Be prepared for 3 hours of standing and up to one mile of walking in the sun. Limit 10 students. \$50 members, \$60 non-members. Register online.

Saturday, 12/14, 1:30-4pm. Native Plant Garden Maintenance with Tim Becker, Director of Horticulture. Subjects covered include watering, fertilizing (or not), grooming, mulching, pest management and other aspects of garden maintenance. You'll learn how native plants respond to pruning cuts (good and bad), what is triggered with our gardening activities, and how to develop good maintenance goals. Portion of class will be held outdoors, so bring your hat and water bottle. \$25 members, \$35 non-members. Register online.



## RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN

**1500 N. College Ave., Claremont 91711  
909.625.8767 [rsabg.org](http://rsabg.org)**

Saturday, 12/14, 10am-12noon. Pollinator Gardens: Bees, Butterflies & Hummingbirds. Learn how native plants support pollinators and about selecting plants that are effective at creating food-hubs. Free for members, \$10 non-members. Register at <http://rsabg.org/classes>. Repeats Saturday, 12/28 at same time.



## SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN

**230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas 92024  
760.436.3036 [sdbgarden.org](http://sdbgarden.org)**

12/10-12/15, 12/17-12/23, 12/26-12/30, 5-8:30pm. Botanic Wonderland Holiday Nights in the Garden. Celebrating our brand new Dickinson Family Education Conservatory. A family-friendly festival containing many holiday traditions you've come to know over the years at the Garden and, for the first time ever, select areas of Hamilton Children's Garden and Toni's Treehouse will be lit up and ready to play in during evening hours. For more info. visit: [www.sdbgarden.org/botanicwonderland](http://www.sdbgarden.org/botanicwonderland)

Thursday, 12/19, 9:30-10:30am. Open Air Yoga Experience. Breathe in fresh air while being sheltered by beautiful trees in this unique open air yoga experience. Leave restored and rejuvenated after gently moving your body. Please bring your own mat. \$20 members, \$24 non-members. Register by December 12 at: <https://apm.activecommunities.com/sandiegobotanicgarden/Home>



## FULLERTON ARBORETUM

**1900 Associated Road, Fullerton 92831  
657.278.3407 [fullertonarboretum.org](http://fullertonarboretum.org)**

Saturday, 12/14, 10am. Friends' Guided Tour. Meet at the Nature Center and join one of our knowledgeable docents as they guide you on a tour through the garden. Limit 15 people. \$5 donation. Repeats on Saturday, 12/28 same time.

Friday & Saturday, 12/13 & 12/14, 5-8pm. Holiday Luminaria Stroll. Take an evening stroll through the luminaria-lined pathways of the Arboretum and enjoy live music, warm drinks plus a winter market featuring ceramic and glass artwork made by CSUF students. \$15 members and Titan Card holders, \$20 non-members.

Saturday, 12/21, 8:15am. Forest Bathing Walk. Take the opportunity to slow down, tune in and rediscover the feeling of curiosity for nature around you as you're led through a series of sensory invitations to experience the Arboretum in a new way. \$25 members, \$30 non-members.



## COASTKEEPER GARDEN

**1560 E. Santiago Cyn. Rd., Orange 92869  
714.850.1965 [coastkeeper.org](http://coastkeeper.org)**

Saturday, 12/14, 9:30am. Monthly Garden Share. Attendees bring garden-related items such as plants, cuttings, pots, tools, produce, etc., to trade. This is a great way to obtain new plants and meet like-minded plant lovers. For more information, go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CoastkeeperGardenShare>. Repeats monthly on 2nd Saturdays.

 Yvonne Savio

**SCHS 2019  
Holiday Party!**


**Thursday, December 12**

**SPECIAL VENUE**



**CANOGA PARK WOMEN'S CLUB**  
7401 Jordan Ave, Canoga Park 91303  
(Ample Parking & Comfortable Venue)

*We look forward to  
celebrating with you!*

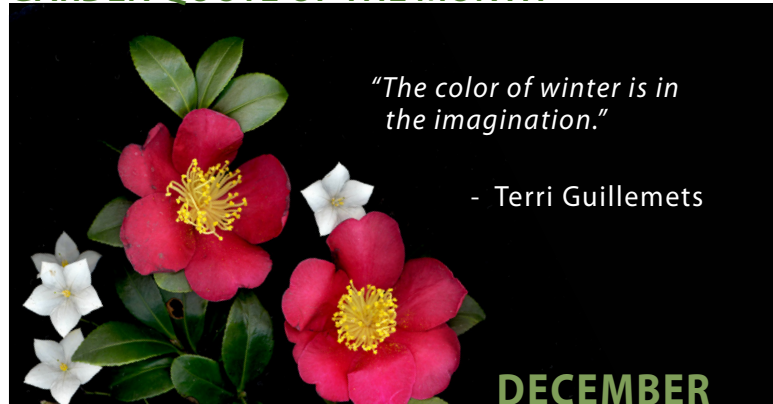
Unless otherwise noted, meetings are regularly held at Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles, 90027

-  Dec. 12 - Marie Barnidge-McIntyre will speak on decorating with holiday greens at our Annual Holiday Party. Enjoy seasonal treats, our Give-Away Table and more!

**NOTE: VENUE CHANGE - Canoga Park Women's Club**

-  Jan. 9 - Nick Araya, arborist and co-owner of TreeCareLA, will speak on tree health and preservation
-  Feb. 13 - Program being confirmed - TBA soon

## GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH



**John Schoustra** - President, Field-Trip Committee, Finance Committee, Plant Raffle, Plant Sales at meetings

**Steven Gerischer** - Vice President, Oral History Committee, PR

**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

**Yoav Paskowitz** - Finance Committee, Oral History Committee, Website Committee, Newsletter Copy Editor

**Yvonne Savio** - Horticultural Happenings, Field Trip and Coffee-in-the-Garden Committees

**Lili Singer** - Board Nomination Committee, PR, Archives, Social Media Committee

**Sabine Steinmetz** - Newsletter Editor, Sharing Secrets, Graphic Design

**Jill Vig** - Coffee-in-the-Garden Committee, Oral History Committee, Special Projects

Connect with us at: 818-567-1496 • [socalhort.org](http://socalhort.org) • [facebook.com/socalhort](https://facebook.com/socalhort) • [instagram.com/socalhort](https://instagram.com/socalhort)

Newsletter Editor: Sabine Steinmetz

Contributors to this issue: Marie Barnidge-McIntyre, Yvonne Savio

**Next deadline: Monday, December 16** (for January newsletter)  
Please contribute an article or information of interest.



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NEWSLETTER December 2019