



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

July 2017

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, July 13

Friendship Auditorium
3201 Riverside Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90027



Socializing: 7:00 pm

Meeting begins: 7:30 pm

SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

*Say hello to our
newest members:*

Eileen Duncan
Michelle Lesse
Sharon Stephens
Malissa Strong

www.socalhort.org

SHARING SECRETS

*Please let us know if we
should keep Sharing Secrets:*

**Answer "Yes" or "No"
or "Post Quarterly"**

Reply online at socalhort.org
or e-mail to:
gardensby Sabine@aol.com

Respond by Monday, July 17

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BUILDING SUSTAINABLE URBAN FARMS

Urban farming has humble roots in victory gardening, but now many major residential developments, restaurants, and corporate campuses are making edibles the focus of their gardens. Our July speaker is Farmscape's Lara Hermanson, who will take us through several of her firm's major projects and share the lessons learned across 700 urban farms.



Photo courtesy of speaker.

Lara Hermanson's lifelong love of urban farming began working with her landscaper mother on the South Side of Chicago. From there, she managed the 7-acre Vital Zuman Farm in Malibu, California. Lara joined Farmscape as a

principal and co-owner in 2010, helping the business grow into the largest urban farming company in America.

Farmscape installs raised-bed vegetable gardens with their own tested organic soil blend and drip irrigation. All the work is custom-designed to meet the needs of each client's site, whether large or small. They also offer weekly management services that include successive plantings, pest and disease control, crop rotation, irrigation maintenance and harvesting. Their mission is to connect city dwellers with fresh, organic produce through a network of urban farms, while creating living wage jobs for the new generation of farmers.

During Lara's time at Farmscape, they have installed farms at the Getty, AT&T Park and Levi's Stadium, as well as projects for local area restaurants n/naka and Providence. Lara is a licensed Landscape Contractor, and has a B.A. from Columbia College and certification in Project Management from UCLA Extension.

Please join us for what promises to be a tasty slide show and presentation. And if it whets your appetite for urban farming, you can learn more about Lara and Farmscape on their website at: www.farmscapedgardens.com.

SAVE THE DATE!

HOTY BANQUET

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

at the L.A. Arboretum

honoring Randy Baldwin

SILENT AUCTION

This is the time of year to go through your collections of books, art, containers, tools or any other garden-related items you might consider donating to our annual Silent Auction!

The auction is held during the Horticulturist of the Year Banquet and is a major source of funds for the SCHS. Donating is the perfect opportunity to purge your stash, and to make room for all the new treasures you could be acquiring at this year's auction....

More details will follow in August!

SHARING SECRETS

Members' participation in "Sharing Secrets" has been decreasing significantly during the last year. Consequently, we are thinking of either dropping this feature, or perhaps making it a quarterly item. Please let us know your opinion by responding to this month's question, posted above.

Thank you.

Sabine Steinmetz, Editor

In June we met at the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens' Witherbee Auditorium, where we were enlightened about "The Dirt on Plant Sex" by popular speaker Sandy Masuo. As a former SCHS Board member Sandy was already known to many attendees as an entertaining presenter, and her reputation did not disappoint. As a self-described inveterate plant nerd and garden voyeur, her enthusiasm only served to enhance her slide show and presentation, which, despite its title, was basically scientific in nature.

Photo courtesy of speaker.



Sandy began her talk at the cellular level, discussing how gametes can be fertilized in the plant world by a variety of means. She described the difference between monoecious (one house) species in which each plant has both male and female flowers, and dioecious (two houses) species wherein some plants have only male reproductive structures and others have only female. Sandy cited *Cannabis* as an example of a dioecious plant where the female will bud furiously and abundantly absent the presence of a male plant, and *Ginkgo biloba*, whose foul-smelling female fruit is the reason most growers produce only male plants via cloning. She also indicated that over 80% of all plants are actually hermaphroditic, producing flowers which have both male (stamen) and female (pistil) reproductive parts. Also known as "perfect" flowers, their biology typically makes fertilization much easier.

While these are the basics of plant sex, Sandy also spoke about other methods of reproduction, including "selfing" in which a self-fertile plant produces clones of the mother plant; vegetative reproduction (ex: rooting via runners or producing off-sets such as bulbils or plantlets); and of course, cloning. She pointed out that while cloning can be useful (as in the case of the *Ginkgo*), the downside to the practice is the lack of genetic diversity. Clones are more susceptible to damage or destruction by pests or disease which could spread and decimate entire plant populations.

This led to Sandy presenting her take on the many and varied methods by which plants engage in the act of pollination, the basis of all botanical sexual reproduction. She ruminated that while wind-borne pollen can result in fertilization, oftentimes other agents are needed to complete the act, resulting in "threesomes" between the male and female reproductive parts of flowers and an outside partner. While we all know that "bees do it", other insects, bats, lizards, rodents, and birds do it too. Despite these promiscuous

tendencies in accepting random pollination partners, certain plants engage in exclusive relationships to assist in their reproduction.

Yuccas depend on the yucca moth flying between plants; figs rely on female wasps to lay eggs within their fruit and transfer pollen attached to newly-hatched, pregnant females who exit one fruit and then enter another to lay new eggs; and still others (including *Rafflesia*, *Hoodia*, *Stapelia* and the well-known *Titan arum*) exude the smell of rotting flesh to attract their pollinators. While these adaptations are all varied and interesting, no genera has evolved quite the elaborate systems that are found in the *Orchidaceae*. According to Sandy, orchids often "play hard to get", as each species must attract a specific animal partner to aid with pollination. In order to lure the desired pollinator, orchids can be very manipulative and may physically resemble female insects, or mimic their scent, to draw the attention of their male counterparts, such as *Ophrys bombyliflora*, which looks like a bee.

In conclusion, Sandy reminded us that all the tricks plants use to attract pollinators purely for the purpose of sexual reproduction have not gone unnoticed by humans either. We have a well-documented history of coveting and collecting unusual botanical specimens for their beauty or rarity (think Tulipmania) and of bringing cut flowers into our homes. Various cultures have long assigned symbolic meanings to plants, and in the 18th century Lady Mary Worthy Montagu introduced "floriography" (the Turkish "Secret Language of Flowers") to the European aristocracy. Artists as well have always found plants to be popular subject matter, often acknowledging their sexual nature, from the paintings of Georgia O'Keeffe to Robert Mapplethorpe's flower photos. While Sandy's presentation unveiled some of the mysteries of plant sex, the intrigue surrounding the real nature about the secret lives of plants persists, enticing us to continue digging deeper and learning more.

✿ Sabine Steinmetz

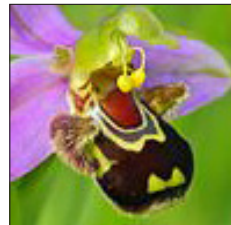


Photo credit: Wikipedia

ARBORETUM LIBRARY EVENT RECAP

On July 17, SCHS members and their guests were invited to attend a special Coffee in the Garden event. Arranged by the SCHS and hosted by Susan Eubank, Head Librarian of the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden, attendees were treated to a behind-the-scenes look at the newly renovated library and its multitude of resources.

Susan explained that the library is a "public-private partnership" that is open to everyone for on-site study purposes, free of charge. Arboretum members are allowed to check out materials from the over 25,000 books, 100 international magazine subscriptions, 200+ nursery catalogs, as well as having access to over 6,500 E-books, CDs, videos, DVDs, slides and historical photographs. The library also houses an impressive rare book collection which can be retrieved for viewing upon request, and from which Susan shared several selections with us, including the library's oldest volume, a physician's herbal reference dating to 1598.

In addition to sharing some of its literary treasures with us, Susan also gave a brief history of the library's evolution from 1948 to the present, special services such as Bookworms Story Time for kids, and its current availability as a venue for rotating exhibits of botanically-themed art.



Photo courtesy of Susan Eubank

While Susan's presentation began at 2:00, the event was held from 1:00 - 4:00, allowing those brave enough to venture outside in the heat to explore the Arboretum grounds. Most people chose to remain inside the air-conditioned library to enjoy snacks provided by the SCHS Board and stroll through the stacks while viewing the current art exhibit on display.

The SCHS would like to thank Susan for her wonderful presentation and the Board for coordinating the event. It is definitely a worthwhile destination the next time you're visiting the Arboretum. More information about the library, its resources, current events, and general information can be found at www.arboretum.org/learn/library/.

✿ Sabine Steinmetz

SCHS WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER

Pursuant to the vote by the general membership, and effective as of this month, we welcome

Fleur Nooyen

to the SCHS Board and look forward to her contributions and to working with her.

JULY 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

Fridays, 7/14 and 7/28, 5-9pm. Summer nights in the Garden. Unwind under the stars with great music, garden-inspired cocktails, hands-on garden and science projects, botanical tours, food trucks, and more! For info. and reservations, go to www.nhm.org/summernights



J PAUL GETTY MUSEUM - GETTY CENTER

1200 Getty Center Dr., Los Angeles 90049
310-440-7300 www.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 walkways through extraordinary sights, sounds, and scents.



J PAUL GETTY MUSEUM - GETTY VILLA

17985 Pacific Coast Hwy., Pacific Palisades 90272
310-440-7300 www.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

Every Saturday & Sunday, 1-5pm. Free Garden Tours. The vibrant gardens on the property today include trees dating to the mid-19th century, as well as landscaping designed in the 1930s by notable landscape architect Ralph Cornell. For details, visit: www.rancholoscerritos.org/things-to-do-hub/tours/



LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM

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

Saturday, 7/15, 10am. Crescent Farm Series. Learn about water conservation and sustainable gardening at our reclaimed landscape, where we explore new and ancient horticulture techniques. Please bring gloves and drinking water, and wear closed-toe shoes and a hat.

Saturday, 7/22, 9am-2pm. Plumeria Day. Tours of the Arboretum's Plumeria Collection, Plant Sale, and Workshops. Wander through our grove of nearly 100 plumeria plants on Tallac Knoll with a knowledgeable

guide and experience their sweet fragrance. Learn plumeria basics at onsite workshops and shop for plants from many vendors. Free shuttle to the grove.

Saturday, 7/29, 10am-12noon. Landscape Lighting with garden designer and landscape contractor Laramee Haynes. Whether from the windows in winter or the patio on a warm summer evening, outdoor lighting is always a beautiful addition in a garden. Laramee and his company, Haynes Landscape Design, have been designing and building gardens in the Pasadena area for over 15 years. \$25 Arboretum members, \$35 non-members (incl. admission). To register, call Education Dept. at 626-821-4623 or pay at the class.



DESCANSO GARDENS

1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada 91011
818.949.7980 descansogardens.org

Wednesdays, 7/19 & 26, 5pm-8pm. Summer Songs at Descanso. The 3rd and 4th Wednesdays of each summer month feature The Flashdance DJs spinning all-vinyl sets. Come relax, enjoy a cold beer for purchase, and wander through the camellia forest and Main Lawn as the sun sets. Advance tickets required. Register on-line: www.descansogardens.org/programs-events/calendar/



EATON CANYON NATURE CENTER

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

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

Saturday, 7/15, 9am-12noon, Nature Patio. Conservation Work Day. Help with weeding invasive plants to conserve habitat for the native species. Gloves, tools and a snack will be provided. Please bring your own drinking water. Wear clothing, footwear and sun protection appropriate for outdoor work. Volunteers under the age of 18 need to bring along an adult. RSVP to eatoncanyon.conservation@gmail.com



HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

1151 Oxford Road, San Marino 91108
626.405.2100 huntington.org

Saturdays, 10am-1pm. Ranch Open House. Get ideas for sustainable gardening at our urban agriculture site. Experts from the University of California L.A. County Master Gardener program will be on hand to answer questions and offer seasonal tips.

Thursday, 7/27, 4:30-5:30pm, Botanical Auditorium, Brody Botanical Center. Botany Bay Series: Plant Science for Gardeners and Citizen Scientists with Jim Folsom, the Telleen/Jorgensen Director of the Botanical Gardens. Explore of the wonders of the plant world through discussion and hands-on lab time.

Saturday, 7/22, 9am, Ranch Garden. Ranch Workshop: Mid-Summer Garden Tune-Up. Learn how to revive

(or start) your home food garden to grow fruits and vegetables into the fall. Roger Gray of the University of California Cooperative Extension Los Angeles County Master Gardener Program will lead a planning workshop and a tour of our Ranch Garden.



GLENDALE COMMUNITY SERVICES & PARKS DEUKMEJIAN WILDERNESS PARK

3429 Markridge Rd., La Crescenta 91214
818-548-3795 glendaleca.gov

Saturday, 7/22, 6:30-8:30pm. Earth, Wind, and Fire campfire program. Learn about the impacts of earthquakes, Santa Ana winds and wildfires in our region. Enjoy songs, skits, roasting marshmallows and making s'mores. RSVP by calling: 818-548-3795.

Saturday, 7/15, 8am-12noon. Wilderness Workday. Join us for a morning of tree-watering and removing invasive species. Wear long pants, bring sunscreen, sunglasses, and a hat. We provide tools, drinks, and snacks. All participants must sign a liability waiver and minors must provide a waiver signed by a parent or guardian.



THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION

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

Saturday, 7/15, 1:30-3:30pm. Hypertufa Container Workshop with Steve Gerischer. A fun, hands-on activity for grown-ups! Using cement, perlite and coir, attendees will make a relatively lightweight container resembling a time-weathered stone trough. Wear old clothes and shoes. All materials provided. \$30 TPF members, \$40 non-members.



RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN

1500 N. College Ave., Claremont 91711
909.625.8767 rsabg.org

Saturday, 7/15, 8-9:30am. Free Family Bird Walk. Join Chris Verma of Wild Birds Unlimited on this walk through the Garden. Register at: www.rsabg.org/bird-walks



SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN

230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas 92024
760-436-3036 sdbgarden.org

Saturday & Sunday, 7/22 & 7/23, 9am-5pm. Insect and Ladybug Festival 2017. Event features 1,000s of creepy-crawlies including insects, lizards, snakes, and "Madagascar hissing cockroaches." Children can practice bug collecting, insect arts and crafts, and taste cooked mealworm larva (in assorted flavors!) Entomologists and other bug experts will be on hand to answer questions, and informational booths will teach and entertain. On Saturday morning from 10-11am, Sam the giant Galapagos Tortoise will make a special guest appearance. Free for members and children 12 and under. Non-members: free with paid admission. Details at: www.sdbgarden.org/insect.htm

 Yvonne Savio

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

- OR July 13 - Lara Hermanson, Principal & Co-Owner of Farmscape talking about Building Sustainable Urban Farms
- OR August 10 - Genevieve Arnold, Seed Program Manager at Theodore Payne, speaking on Collecting, Cleaning & Storing Seeds
- OR Sept. 14 - Horticulturist of the Year Annual Banquet, honoring Randy Baldwin
VENUE: Los Angeles County Arboretum

GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"As the garden grows, so shall the gardener."

- Author unknown



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*
 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
 Aprille Curtis - *Plant Forum supplies*
 Fleur Nooyen
 818-567-1496 / socalhort.org / Join us on Facebook
 Newsletter Editor: Sabine Steinmetz
 Contributors: Yvonne Savio

Next deadline: July 17 (for August newsletter)
 Please contribute an article or information of interest.



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

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