



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

April 2018

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, April 12

Huntington Gardens
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, CA 91108



Tour with Panel: 5:30 pm
Meeting begins: 7:00 pm

SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

"Hello" to the following who have joined our group:

Douglas Hart
Vicky Perez
Amanda Sigafos

www.socalhort.org

SHARING SECRETS

The SCHS Sharing Secrets question for April is:

Do you know of any venues we could use for our monthly meetings? We are considering rotating locations to improve accessibility to more members.

Respond by Monday, April 16

Online at socalhort.org OR send e-mail to gardensbysabine@aol.com

IN THIS ISSUE

April Program Details	1
March Program Recap and Sharing Secrets	2
Green Sheets: Oct. & Dec. 2017, and Feb. 2018	3 & 4
Horticultural Happenings	5
Upcoming Programs and SCHS Contact info.	6

SUCCULENTS IN THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LANDSCAPE

PLEASE NOTE - DIFFERENT VENUE and TIMES for APRIL MEETING !!!

The SCHS April meeting will be held at the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, and features a panel discussion on succulents, as well as a private tour of the Huntington's 10-acre Desert Garden prior to the general meeting. **(Please see side panel for times and details.)**

Leading the tour will be John Trager, Curator of the Desert Garden and Desert Collections at the Huntington. He will be pointing out plants of interest, and also those he feels are deserving of wider cultivation. You will see many succulents in full flower, including aloes, iceplants, Crassulaceae, cacti and more. Increasing water restrictions have upped the demand for these plants more than ever, and with 100+ years of trialing succulents in our climate, the Desert Garden provides a tremendous resource for horticulturists and casual visitors alike.

Trager has been at the Huntington since 1983, and his writings have appeared in the *Cactus and Succulent Journal*, the *Euphorbia Journal* and many other publications. Also known for his photography, over 2,000 of his images have been published. He holds a bachelor's degree in Horticulture from Cal Poly Pomona and has traveled globally in search of plants and insects.

After our private tour, we will head to the Brody Botanical Center for a slide show and discussion on succulents and their many landscape uses, presented jointly by panelists Laurel Woodley and Steve Gerischer.

Laurel Woodley is a retired biology professor from Los Angeles Harbor College who has been involved in Southern California horticulture since the mid 1960s. A past Director and President of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America, she now serves as their Advisor. She has long collected and grown succulents and is an active member of the Sunset Succulent and South Coast Cactus & Succulent societies.

Steve Gerischer is the current president of the SCHS, a landscape designer, and owner of Larkspur Garden Design. He has an extensive knowledge of succulents and their myriad uses, and is a popular speaker on a variety of topics in the local horticultural lecture circuit.

We invite you to attend this special evening and hope you will be able to join us.



Photo credit: Sabine Steinmetz

TIMES, LOCATIONS, and MEETING DETAILS

5:30 - TOUR BEGINS

Sign in at the Entrance & Visitor Center

7:00 - PANEL PRESENTATION and SCHS MEETING

To be held at the Brody Botanical Center in the Ahmanson Classroom.



ENTRY FEES

The Huntington is waiving admission fees for this event, but the SCHS fee of \$5.00 per non-member guest will apply.

FOOD

You may bring your own food to eat **ONLY** in the Brody Center or the Entrance / Visitor Center areas. **Food is not allowed on the Huntington grounds.**

VENDORS & PLANTS

Vendor displays and sales will take place during the meeting, but there will be **NO PLANT FORUM or RAFFLE.**

Mark Your Calendars !!!

NOTE: If you would like to obtain a downloadable PDF of the entire March presentation, go to the “Monthly Meetings / Past Meetings” tab on our website at: www.socalhort.org. ☞

In March we were treated to a program presented by native food expert, educator and enthusiast, Antonio Sanchez, who not only gave us a history of California native edible plants, but also brought along recipes and tasty samples. He has worked 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 also co-founded Nopalito Native Plant Nursery in Ventura.



Photo by: Laura Maher

Sanchez began with an introduction to common food crops historically found throughout Mesoamerica and the Californias, some of which have been lost to us, but many of which are viable options for growing today. Among the reasons he cited to consider growing native foods are to providing a sustainable and available supply, cultural revitalization, commercial development of a regional resource (food security) and water conservation. He strongly advocated against foraging in the wild and suggested growing them

at home or a local community garden instead. Sanchez presented a list of native edibles that can easily be grown, and various foods that can be derived from them. His top growing picks included:

- *Claytonia perfoliata* - Miner’s lettuce (fresh greens, soup, pesto)
- *Salvia clevelandii* and hybrids (seasoning, pesto, beer, ice cream, baked treats, infused in oils)
- *Allium unifolium* - one-leaf onion (use like garlic, shallots, or chives)
- *Vitis* ‘Roger’s Red’ and other grapes
- *Ribes aureum* - golden currant (jams, eaten fresh, cordial, medicinal)

Other plants not typically used in food cultivation but that should be considered for the near future were mentioned, such as various native berries, pinyon nuts, purslane, and the Slim Jim bean.

In addition to “growing our own”, Sanchez also recommended introducing these foods through community and demonstration gardens, local farmer’s markets, and even selling food products derived from these plants online.

To wrap up the evening, Sanchez took audience questions and invited attendees to sample some of the foods he brought with him, all of which were mentioned in the lecture. He left us intellectually and gastronomically satisfied, with much “food for thought” to take home to our own kitchen gardens.

☞ Sabine Steinmetz

On Sunday, March 25, 2018, the SCHS hosted a special Coffee in the Garden at “Baker’s Acres,” a specialty cactus and succulent nursery in Tarzana. Donna Marie Baker, the wife of late founder and plantsman Bill Baker, graciously opened the gates of her one-of-a-kind nursery and garden to us for a few hours. We were able to explore the grounds and enjoy refreshments provided by SCHS board members.

We heard about the history of the nursery in a short presentation given by two of the Bakers’ longtime friends: Royce Wood, botanical illustrator and landscape designer, as well as Tim Thomas, botanist and co-author of *Southern California*

Mountains Wildflowers. They spoke of Bill Baker’s many plant introductions, including: *Pachyphytum* ‘Bill Baker’, numerous *Dyckias*, such as ‘Brittlestar’, ‘California’ and ‘Tarzan’, plus other plants like *Aloe* ‘Hercules.’



Photo by: Sabine Steinmetz

After the presentation, Wood led a garden walk and pointed out many unusual specimens (not all succulents) growing on the grounds, including: *Xanthorrhoea preissii*, *Strelitzia juncea*, *Erythrina flabelliformis*, *Brachychiton rupestris*, and the Buddha’s Hand citron. Following the tour, guests browsed for plants, botanical prints and books that were offered for sale.

Many thanks again to our hosts, and to the SCHS board for arranging this memorable Coffee in the Garden event.

☞ Sabine Steinmetz

Visit our Facebook page to see more photos of this garden!

SHARING SECRETS RESPONSES

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



My critter issue is squirrels. I can’t stop them from visiting, but I force them to share the nectarines and plums with me by protecting the larger fruit clusters with drawstring net bags. I purchase two or three sizes online. Unfortunately, squirrels can gnaw holes through the fabric when motivated, and both the fruit and bags must be monitored occasionally, but it slows them down a lot and allows me to pick a decent harvest. I intend to experiment with other barrier materials this season or next.

Yoav Paskowitz

Spring brings the flush of fresh new growth in our gardens. And sometimes the heartbreak of finding that fresh new growth pulled out or chewed up!

I’m always happy to host the White-Crowned Sparrows over the winter, and am sad to see them go in the spring. But I am glad my pea shoots will have a chance to recover.

Anonymous

Thanks for sharing!

GREEN  SHEET

PLANT FORUM • OCTOBER & DECEMBER 2017

The Plant Forum is a display of plants grown by members & exhibited at our monthly general meeting.

PLANTS SHOWN at OCTOBER 12, 2017 MEETING

Antigonon leptopus (Polygonaceae)

Coral Vine, shown by Aprille Curtis. This rampant vine comes from Mexico. Cordate (heart-shaped) leaves

are dark green and the pendulous stems of coral-red flowers are striking. It does best in warm areas and will sulk if shaded or too cold. In full, hot sun with moderate water it will flower heavily. This vine has a number of common names including 'Rosa de Montana' and "Queen's Wreath" - a testament to its popularity.



Bouquet of cuttings - shown by Gloria Leinbach
(see below photo for plant descriptions)



***Phygelius aequalis* 'Sensation'** (Scrophulariaceae)

Cape fuchsia is a shrubby South African tender perennial. 'Sensation' has pendulous fuchsia pink flowers and glossy foliage. Best in part shade with regular water.

***Aster* 'Bill's Big Blue'** (Asteraceae)

This aster (now called Symphotrichum) is of North American origin and may have derived from *A. oblongifolius*. Selected by the late Bay Area nurseryman, Ed Carmen, this 4 foot tall aster with medium blue flowers blooms late in the season on vigorous, spreading plants. Bees never fail to find these late season sources of nectar.

Bouquet (cont'd) ***Rosa moschata*** (Rosaceae)

Cemetery Musk rose is a shrubby rose that can be grown as a climber and has long been used in cemeteries and church yards. Origins are uncertain, but probably from the western Himalayan region. Blooms for a long period from May to November with small, pale pink flowers.

PLANTS SHOWN at DECEMBER 14, 2017 MEETING

***Salvia madrensis* 'Red Neck Girl'** (Lamiaceae)

Red-stemmed Forsythia sage, shown by Eric Brooks. A shrubby perennial to 8 feet for sun to part shade. Blooms in fall and winter with yellow tubular blossoms that attract hummingbirds. The cultivar name refers to the reddish stems and leaf nodes. Spreads from the roots in most soils.

***Vitis* 'Roger's Red'** (Vitaceae)

Roger's Red Grape, shown by Eric Brooks. A vigorous deciduous vine grown for its red autumn foliage. DNA studies have shown it is most likely a hybrid between *V. californica* and *V. vinifera*. Fruit is attractive to wildlife and the juice is sweet, but the skin is fairly tough and somewhat bitter. Sun to part shade.



Strelitzia juncea (Strelitziaceae)

Leafless Bird of Paradise, shown by Don Wood. From Southern Africa, this 'leafless' form of Bird of Paradise can be quite dramatic. Instead of the paddle-shaped leaves of the common *S. reginae*, the leaf petioles grow 5 feet or more like giant green toothpicks with flower stems rising above them. Clean out old material once or twice a year to keep them looking spectacular. Moderate water needs.

 Compiled by Steven Gerischer
Photos by Sabine Steinmetz

NOTE: No plants exhibited in November 2017
February 2018 "Green Sheet" on reverse

PLANT FORUM SELECTIONS • FEBRUARY 2018

The Plant Forum is a display of plants grown by members & exhibited at our monthly general meeting.

PLANTS SHOWN at FEBRUARY 8, 2018 MEETING

Cantua buxifolia
(Polemonaceae)

Qantu or Sacred Flower of the Incas, shown by Ann Brooks. This evergreen shrub is native to the high valleys of the Andes in western South America, and is the national flower of Peru. It will grow 4' to 8'h x 6' to 8'w and needs a sheltered location. The pendulous flowers appear in spring. The form usually seen in gardens here is a cultivar called 'Hot Pants' and is vivid pink. Ann showed a species form with softer color and more narrow tubular flowers. Plant in sun or part shade.



Cassia artemisoides (Fabaceae)
(now *Senna artemisioides*)

Feathery cassia, shown by Aprille Curtis. This 4'-6' tall and wide evergreen Australian shrub prefers to grow in full sun and little water, and is deer-resistant. It puts



on an abundant display of fragrant yellow blooms starting in late winter into early spring, borne above its pinnate silvery-green leaves. For multi-season interest, the flowers are followed by chartreuse pea-pods that eventually turn to a deep rust. Easily kept to a small, compact size by shearing or selectively pruning, it can be a lovely anchor or focal point in a small garden, or massed for a stunning display if space permits.

Grevillea 'King's Rainbow' (Proteaceae)

Shown by Gary Kamisher. Another new cultivar in this useful group of landscape plants. Shrubby grevilleas are tough, drought-tolerant and will grow on many types of soil (even clay). This cultivar, with flattened needle-like foliage, will reach 5' to 6' x 6' to 8' and blooms over a long season with wands of yellow flowers with red stamens. Hummingbirds will visit the flowers.



Grevillea rhyolitica (Proteaceae)

Grevillea Deua Flame, shown by Ann Brooks. This grevillea has rounded foliage that resembles small olive leaves. Growing 3' to 5' x 3' to 5' this shrub will tolerate some shade (unlike most grevilleas). The flowers are deep red. Blooms over a long season.

Tabebuia chrysostricha
(now *Handroanthus chrysostrichus*) (Bignoniaceae)

Golden trumpet tree, shown by Ann Brooks. This 15'-25' tall briefly deciduous tree is the national tree of Brazil, its country of origin. It is relatively drought-tolerant and in late winter to early spring its broad canopy is covered in bright yellow trumpet-shaped blooms. Grow as a specimen at home or look for groupings in public gardens.



Also exhibited (but not pictured)

Abutilon palmeri (Malvaceae) shown by Gary Kamisher.

Arctostaphylos (possibly 'Centennial') (Ericaceae) shown by Gary Kamisher.

 Compiled by Steven Gerischer & Sabine Steinmetz
Photos by Sabine Steinmetz

APRIL 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.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM

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

Thursday, 4/12, 9:30am-12noon. What's Happening In Gardening with Patrick Craig of the Arboretum. He is in charge of the Herb Garden, which contains medicinal, culinary, beverage, a knot garden, and California native areas in one section. (1.25 APLD CEU Credits), \$25 per class Arboretum members & non-members. Call to register or pay at class.

Friday, 4/13, 4/20, and 4/27, 1:30-4pm. Introduction to Plant Identification with Arboretum Botanist, Frank McDonough. This class looks at more than a dozen major plant families represented by specimens at the Arboretum, and discuss plant classification, how to identify a plant's genus, family and order using both printed and digital plant keys. Learn how to determine the most important plant structures for identifying an unknown plant, strategies for using the internet to help, and other useful tools. 4 sessions: \$60 Arboretum members / \$70 non-members (incls. admission). Call to register or pay at class.

Saturday, 4/14, 10am-12noon. Keep It, Toss It, or Prune It! How To Renovate an Existing Garden with Laramie Haynes. Old gardens often have wonderful, mature plants. Carefully choosing what to keep, what to remove and pruning the rest can result in a beautiful garden for less cost. This workshop will use photos of existing gardens to guide a group discussion about making garden improvements; \$25 Arboretum members / \$35 non-members (incls. admission). Call to register or pay at class.

Thursday, 4/19, 9:30am-12noon. What's Happening In Gardening: Spring Blooming Plants with Joe Brosius, Production Manager at Magic Growers. Brosius will bring a wide array of plants from his nursery for show and tell. (2.5 APLD CEU Credits) \$25 per class Arboretum members & non-members. Call to register or pay at class.

Thursday, 4/26, 9:30am-12noon. What's Happening In Gardening: Madagascar Spiny Forest with Matt-Dell Tufenkian. Matt will lead us on a virtual tour of the Spiny Forest, completed in May 2007, and the brainchild of Arboretum Superintendent Tim Philips. (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

Sunday, 4/22, 8-10:30am. Earth Day: Community Service Day. An Oak Woodland volunteer opportunity with instruction and supervision by Descanso horticulture staff. All experience levels welcome, ages 16 or older. Bring gardening gloves. Space is limited, so RSVP to volunteer@descansogardens.org by Wednesday, April 18.



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, 4/12, 2:30pm, Ahmanson Room, Brody Botanical Center. Garden Talk: Out of Africa: Pelargoniums for California Landscapes with John Schoustra. California-bred pelargonium hybrids derived from tough South African natives are ideal for Southern California's climate. Nurseryman John Schoustra introduces pelargoniums, from ground covers to shrubs, that provide year-round color and fragrance.

Tuesday, 4/17, 7:30pm, Rothenberg Hall. East Asian Garden Lecture Series: Representations of the Garden of Solitary Delight (Dule yuan) with Carol S. Brash. Some representations of gardens in Chinese art are purportedly re-creations of physical gardens whose original form is lost. Such images may or may not depict the site as it actually appeared, but they do reflect the conflation of history, memory, and imagination.



THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION

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

Saturday & Sunday, 4/14 & 4/15, 10am-5pm. Annual Native Plant Garden Tour. A 2-day, self-driven, curated tour features 30 inspiring private and public landscapes. On Saturday, gardens in Los Angeles and the Westside will be open and on Sunday, gardens in the San Fernando Valley and San Gabriel Valley will be featured. Go to: www.nativeplantgardentour.org for photos and descriptions, of all participating gardens. Single tickets = \$25 members and students; \$30 for non-members. Pair of tickets = \$40 members, \$50 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

Saturday, 4/7, 9am-4pm. Native Plant Celebration and Symposium, Wildflower Show, Plant & Book Sale. Symposium features speakers plus sale plants courtesy of the Theodore Payne Foundation. Presentations include "Gottlieb Native Garden: A Closer Look" by Scott Logan, "Design Your Native Garden" by Carol Armour Aronson, and "Kumeyaay Ethnobotany: Shared Heritage of the Californias" by Michael Wilken-Robertson. More info at www.lacnps.org. For details or to volunteer, call Snowdy Dodson at 818-782-9346 or email Snowdy.Dodson@csun.edu.



RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Saturday, 4/14, 10am-1pm. Medicinal Plants of California Herb Walk with herbalist William Broen. Features medicinal and edible plants native to California, and both traditional and modern uses of approx. 30 species, plus relevant folklore. \$30 public | \$25 members. Register on-line or call.

Saturday- Monday, 4/14- 4/16, 10am-4pm. California Wildflower Show. Visit a backyard superbloom and sign up for events at RSABG's longest-running tradition. Monday, April 16, is Senior Monday: ages 65+ receive free admission.

Saturday, 4/21, 10am-12noon. Plant Lover's Intro to Photography. Plants come in such diverse patterns and colors, and it can be a challenge to photograph them. If you are struggling to make the best use of your camera as you explore the natural world, join botanist and photographer Keir Morse for an introduction to digital photography, with an emphasis on plants. After a short talk, Morse will lead a walk through the garden, and you can try out new techniques with the native flora. Don't forget your camera! Register online or call.



SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Saturday, 4/14, 9am-12noon. Living Wall/Vertical Garden with Mary Lou Morgan. Learn the basics of planting a 10"x20" wall with a variety of succulents. \$30 members (code LW14), \$36 non-members. Add'l. \$80 per student materials fee to be paid directly to instructor at class. Register by 4/6/18.

Saturday, 4/14, 9am-12noon. Planting for Pollinators with Marianne Brettell-Vaugh. Class covers topics including: how to attract and support pollinators that visit your garden, creating good soils, plus tips on planning for a healthy garden. \$30 members (code Pollinator14), \$36 non-members. Please register by 4/6/18.

Saturday, 4/28, 10am-12noon. Spring Herb Walk: with Jano Nightingale. Learn about growing and utilizing herbs in your kitchen, and explore the medicinal and aromatic uses of herbs. \$45 members (code Walk28), \$54 non-members. Additional \$10 supply fee per student to be paid directly to the instructor. Please register by 4/20/18.



FULLERTON ARBORETUM

1900 Associated Road, Fullerton 92831
657.278.3407 fullertonarboretum.org

Saturday, 4/14, 10 am. Garden Rocks. Find landscape rocks for free on Bureau of Land Management property. Speaker Nancy Bird will have handouts of rules, maps, and resources. She is Past President of the Year 'Round Garden Club in Whittier. \$20/ members; \$25 non-members.

Saturdays, 4/14 and 4/28, 10am. Free Nature Tour. Meet at Nature Center to join with a knowledgeable docent to be guided through the beautiful garden. Repeats 2nd and 4th Saturdays.

Saturday and Sunday, 4/21 and 4/22, 10am-4pm. 44th Annual Green Scene Plant & Garden Expo. Purchase bulbs, succulents, organic vegetables, varietal plants, garden accessories and garden products. Exhibitors offer a variety of beautiful and exotic plants, unique garden art, home goods and accessories and more. \$8 admission, free for members; children 12 & under free.

Yvonne Savio

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

- R April 12 - Succulent Panel & Program with Laurel Woodley and Steve Gerischer - PLUS tour at 5:30 guided by John Trager, Curator of the Desert Garden

VENUE CHANGE *This event will be held at the Huntington. Check Page 1 of this Newsletter for important times & details.*

- R May 10 - Tom Glavich, author and lecturer, speaking on South African and Mediterranean bulbs
- R June 14 - Saxon Holt, garden photographer & author, presents a slide program on garden photography

VENUE CHANGE *This event will be held at the L.A. Zoo.*

GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH



*"Spring would not be spring
without birdsongs."*

- Francis M. Chapman

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 / socalhort.org / Join us on Facebook
Newsletter Editor: Sabine Steinmetz

Contributors to this issue: Laura Maher, Yvonne Savio

Next deadline: Monday, April 16 (for May newsletter)
 Please contribute an article or information of interest.



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 Pasadena CA 91109-4476

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