



# Southern California Horticultural Society Newsletter

www.SoCalHort.org

December 2009—January 2010



An unnamed *Aeonium* hybrid received at the 2007 Plant Exchange  
Photograph by Paul Martin

OUR NEXT MEETING:  
**Annual Members Night**  
**A Festival of Sharing:**  
**Plant & Cookie Exchange**

Thursday, December 10, 2009 at 7:30 pm  
Announcements 7:45 pm  
Friendship Auditorium  
3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles

*(We meet the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm. Program free to members with the membership card. Non-members pay \$5. Ample on-site free parking is available.)*

For members of the Southern California Horticultural Society, the small town spirit of the season is alive and embracing at our Annual Members Night meeting on Thursday, December 10. This is the perfect meeting for us to share with our gardening friends and to make new friends, too. We welcome you to join us and enjoy our old fashioned holiday cheer that fills our Annual Members Night meeting each year.

#### **PLANT EXCHANGE**

This will be our fourth Members Night Plant Exchange and

*(Continued on page 2)*



## Our January Meeting

**Amy Stewart:**

*Flower Confidential*

Thursday, January 14, 2010 at 7:30 pm  
Announcements 7:45 pm  
Friendship Auditorium  
3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles

*(We meet the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm. Program free to members with the membership card. Non-members pay \$10.00 for this special meeting. Ample on-site free parking is available.)*

Does it matter that a bouquet of roses travels halfway around the world before it arrives at your supermarket or florist? Or that growers force tulips to bloom in December? Are we being tricked when a scientist engineers a lily that doesn't shed pollen?

For over a century, hybridizers, geneticists, farmers, and florists around the world have worked to invent, manufacture, and sell flowers that are bigger, brighter, and sturdier than anything nature could provide. Almost any flower, in any color, is for sale at any time of the year.

Amy Stewart travels the globe to take us inside this dazzling world. She tracks down scientists intent on developing the first genetically modified blue rose; an eccentric horticultural

*(Continued on page 2)*

it has grown every year. **Members only** may bring up to 10 healthy, pest-free, non-invasive plants, seed packets or bulbs to place in the Exchange. You'll receive one ticket for each plant, seed packet and bulb package you contribute.

It is important to **label each item with the plant name**. Bring a Plant Forum description card or other card for each species.

Your plant description card should include:

- Botanical name
- Common name
- Country of origin
- Kind of plant and size
- Flowering or fruiting season
- Culture (water and sun needs)
- Where grown
- Your name and the meeting date

Plants will be expertly described in Plant Forum style.

The Exchange will be conducted in 10 fast-paced rounds. In each round you'll be able to redeem one ticket for one plant, seed packet or bulb package. If you bring in more than 10 plants, please donate the extras to the Sharing Table.



### COOKIE EXCHANGE

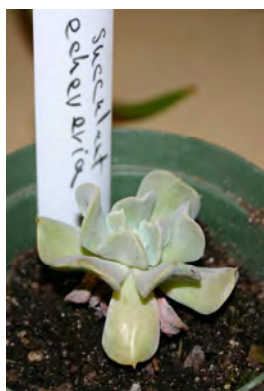
The **refreshments** for this meeting are always tasty because they're brought to the party by all of us who attend and we're a community that knows how to feed our friends even better than we feed our plants.

### PLANT FORUM

Bring plants to show at the Plant Forum, but we won't have an Opportunity Drawing.

### HOLIDAY SHARING TABLE

Part of what makes this meeting such a special part of the season is our Holiday Sharing Table. **All attendees** may contribute items that are no longer wanted, but are still useable. After the Plant Exchange, all attendees may begin to select items they want to take home from the Sharing Table. Contribute



garden ornaments, tools, books, accessories, containers, rocks, bounty (herbs, fruit), dried flowers and grasses, decorative seed pods, holly boughs and trellises. And non-garden items, like kitchen aids, home decorations, games and puzzles. Take a look around your home and you're sure to discover something you'd like to share. Please be discriminating and be prepared to take your unwanted "treasures" back home.

tural legend who created the world's most popular lily (the 'Star Gazer'); a breeder of gerberas of every color imaginable; and an Ecuadorian farmer growing exquisite, high-end organic roses that are the floral equivalent of a Tiffany diamond. She sees firsthand how flowers are grown and harvested on farms in Latin America, California, and Holland. (It isn't always pretty.)

You'll never look at a cut flower the same way again.

Amy Stewart is the award-winning author of four books on the perils and pleasures of the natural world. Her essays and commentaries have appeared in the *New York Times*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Garden Design*, *Organic Gardening*, and elsewhere. She's been featured on NPR, Good Morning America and CBS Sunday Morning. She is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship and a California Horticultural Society Writer's Award.

Stewart lives in Eureka, California, with her husband Scott Brown. They own an antiquarian bookstore called Eureka Books and tend a flock of unruly hens in their backyard.



The January Opportunity Drawing will be a selection of items from the Los Angeles Flower District, pictured at right

### TAKE THE TOUR!

**LOS ANGELES FLOWER DISTRICT**  
Friday, January 15, 2010 at 7AM in the morning

Insider's tour with a local florist  
We will meet at the Flower Market,  
so carpooling is encouraged.

CONTACT JOEL LICHTENWALTER  
TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE

(310) 908-5036 or joel@growoutdoordesign.com

Members \$5.00 & Non-members \$10.00



## December & January Book of the Month

Amy Stewart's *Flower Confidential* will be available for sale at both the December & January meetings so you can read the book before the January talk & tour of the Los Angeles Flower Market.

As always, SCHS members receive a deep discount on book prices. To reserve your copies (limit one per title per person), please write Lili Singer at [lili.singer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lili.singer@sbcglobal.net).

**ARCADIA 91007**

**L.A. COUNTY ARBORETUM & BOTANIC GARDEN**

301 N. Baldwin Ave.

626-821-4623; arboretum.org

Tuesday, Dec. 1, 1:00 - 2:30 pm.

Plant Information. Talk and questions and answers, Frank McDonough. Fee, preregistration.

Wednesday, Dec. 2 & Sunday, Dec. 6, 1:30-3:00 pm.

Around the World in 127 Acres, Frank McDonough. Walking tour. Fee, pre-registration.

Saturday, Dec. 5, 8:30-10:00 am.

Plant Identification, Jill Morganelli. Fee, preregistration.

Saturday, Dec. 5, 12:00 - 3:00 pm.

Organic Fruit and Vegetable Gardening, Jill Morganelli. Class. Fee, preregistration.

Saturday - Sunday, Jan. 16 - 17, 10:00 am - 4:30 pm.

Bonsai Exhibition and Sale. Baiko-En Bonsai Kenkyukai Society. Free with admission.

**CLAREMONT 91711**

**RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN**

1500 N. College Ave.

909-625-8767 x224; rsabg.org

Saturday, Dec. 5, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm.

Bring California Home: Native Plant Clinic. Free with admission.

Sunday, Dec. 6, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm.

Hypertufa Container Workshop, Steve Gerischer. Make your own container. \$30 members, \$33 nonmembers.

Sunday, Dec. 7; Sunday, Dec. 13, 1:00 - 3:00 pm.

Saturday, Dec. 19, Saturday, Jan. 2, 10:00 - 11:00 am.

Late Fall and Winter Garden Walks. Walking tours led by staff members.

Free with admission.

**FULLERTON 92831**

**FULLERTON ARBORETUM**

1900 Associated Rd., at Jamboree

714-278-8347; arboretum.fullerton.edu

Sunday, Dec. 6, 10 am-4 pm.

Winter Cactus & Succulent Sale

Saturday, Jan. 9, 10:00 - 11:30 am.

Worm Composting, Pat McNelly. \$5 members, \$7, nonmembers.

Saturday, Jan. 23, 10:00 - 11:30 am.

Rose Garden Basics. Selection and care. Preregister, \$12 members, \$15 nonmembers.

Saturday, Jan. 23, 1:00 - 4:00 pm.

California-Friendly Landscape Designs, Rick Fisher. Low water requiring gardens. Preregister, \$30 members, \$35 nonmembers.

**LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE 91011**

**DESCANSO GARDENS**

1418 Descanso Dr

818-949-4200; descansogardens.org

Saturday, Dec. 5, 11 am-1 pm

Holiday Wreath Workshop, Rachel Young. \$30 members, \$35 nonmembers.

Saturday & Sunday, Jan. 9-10

Rose Pruning Demonstration

Free with admission.

Thursday, Jan. 14, 6:45 - 8:00 pm

The Newest Roses by Tom Carruth. Talk and a 2011 rose distribution. \$16 members, \$20 nonmembers.

Saturday & Sunday, Jan. 16-17, 9:30 am.

Pacific Camellia Society Show. Free with admission.

Saturday & Sunday, Jan. 30 -31, 9:30 am.

Southern California Camellia Society Show. Free with admission.

**SAN MARINO 91108**

**HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS**

1151 Oxford R.,

626-405-2100; huntington.org

Tuesday, Dec 10 & Jan 14, 2:30 pm.

Garden Talk & Plant Sale. Free

**SUN VALLEY 91352**

**THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION**

10459 Tuxford St.,

818-768-1802; theodorepayne.org

Saturday, Dec. 5, 9-12 am.

Native Plant Garden Maintenance with Sabine Hopper. Watering, fertilizing, pruning, grooming and other maintenance. \$30 members, \$40 nonmembers.

Saturday, Dec. 12, 1:30-3:30 pm.

Waterwise Irrigation for Native Plants by Bob Galbreath. What to use, when and where to water. \$25 members, \$35 nonmembers.

Saturday, Dec. 19, 9:00-11:00 am.

Ethical Tree Pruning & Maintenance, Gary Knowlton, Lecture and demonstration. \$20 members, \$30, nonmembers.

Saturday, Dec. 19, 1:00-4:00 pm.

Horticulture of California Native Plants, Lili Singer. Recommended for beginners. \$35 members, \$45 nonmembers.

**The San Diego Horticultural Society meets Monday, Jan 11, at 6:30 pm.**

Author Amy Stewart will talk about "Wicked Plants". Call 760-275-7089 or go to [sdhort.soc.org](http://sdhort.soc.org) for information.



*The Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden tour "From the Stairway to Heaven to the Gates of Hell: Sacred, Spiritual & Ritual Plants" (in the Around the World in 127 acres series) will highlight this peach-colored form of **Brugmansia versicolor** and other plants in the Arboretum's collection that have spiritual, religious, and ritual significance to the cultures where they are indigenous. Photograph by Frank McDonough*

# Due North and the Borrowed Landscape

By

Jill Morganelli

Photographs by Paul Martin

I have a terrible sense of direction. When we moved here last March, I would get so lost driving to my new job at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden that my 10 minute commute was turning into a 30 minute one-way extravaganza. I needed an easy landmark that would get me pointed in the right direction and, of course, the most obvious was the San Gabriel Mountain Range directly north of Arcadia. I knew that if I could locate the mountains and stay to the right, eventually I'd hit

Baldwin Avenue and land safely at my destination. They are a beautiful range. Purple mountains that do rise majestic over the city and smog to provide a breath-taking backdrop for the surrounding landscape. They remind me of places like Boulder, Colorado, where one day clouds hang low over the peaks and the next their apex jets jagged up into the blue sky. Some 'New Age' enthusiasts believe that places such as these or, 'Inflow Vortices', allow energy to flow into the earth and encourage compassion, introspection and healing.<sup>1</sup> I can't argue with this, even coming from a mellow place like San Diego. I feel amazingly comfortable and at home here.

According to the Los Angeles County Public Library, the range got its name, "from Mission San Gabriel Archangel, one of twenty-one missions established by the Spanish in the late eighteenth century..."<sup>2</sup> The range includes the snow-capped peaks of Mt. Baldy, as well as the antenna farm at Mt. Wilson which provides the necessary communication that keeps all of Los Angeles informed. Impressive, not only for peaks held within but for the communities served below.

During the spring we watched the mountains bloom with wildflowers and ephemerals brought on by rain. Before the summer



View of the San Gabriel Mountains from the L.A. County Arboretum and Botanic Garden, with hybrid *Aloe vryheidensis* in the foreground



View from Talech Knoll at the L.A. County Arboretum. The (mostly leafless) tree in the foreground is *Pseudobombax grandiflorum*.

fog started to haze out the long-view they made a striking statement against the blue horizon. And as summer blazed on we all watched apprehensively as fires threatened to burn the chaparral down to the borders of picturesque Sierra Madre. Now things have quieted down and fall has descended upon us. The other day I was teaching a class about fall-season plants at the Arboretum. As we were walking through the grounds, surrounded by salvias in full bloom and maples turning

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brilliant fall colors, someone toward the back of the class commented, “would you *look* at those beautiful mountains”. And it prompted me to share something that I think about quite often. The Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden is 127 acres of some of the rarest and largest plant collections in California. It gives the onlooker a vertical view up from groundcovers, to midrange perennials and shrubs, to gigantic Melaleuca and Montezuma Cypress. I often wonder if the scope of the landscape would be too much were it not for the mountains behind. The San Gabriel Mountains give the Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden a scale it would not otherwise have, and an intrinsic feeling of unity with its surroundings versus overwhelming its surroundings. It’s one of the great joys of my work, everyday, that I am able to experience amazing, beautiful sights on both micro and macro-scales in sheer abundance. The San Gabriel Mountain Range creates the jaggedly-peaked crown against which a true jewel of Los Angeles can be found.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.arizona-vacation-planner.com/sedona-energy-vortex.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.colapublib.org/history/sangabriel/>

### *A Pacific Horticulture Tour*

## **Explore Cuba!**

February 18 - March 2, 2010

Escorted by Katherine Greenberg,

Past President, Pacific Horticultural Foundation

Join us for a long-awaited study tour of Cuba, where we will visit the highly successful urban gardens of historic Havana, as well as the country’s national parks, important repositories of the island’s native flora. Cuba is the largest, most diverse, and species-rich island in the Caribbean. We’ll also enjoy the country’s cuisine, music, and culture. Meetings with Cubans will highlight the tour. All tour members must qualify to participate.

For more information, contact

***Pacific Horticulture***

510/849-1627 • [office@pacifichorticulture.org](mailto:office@pacifichorticulture.org)





*Amaryllis belladonna* (white and deep pink, left and below) and *Rhodophiala bifida* (red, above right)

## Green Sheet October 2009

### Plant Forum Notes

Compiled by Sula and Jorge Ochoa

Photographs by Paul Martin

Thank you to all who brought plants to the October 2009 meeting! Everyone is encouraged to bring in plants to share with the group. Remember that you do get one free “exhibitor’s ticket” for the plant raffle if you bring in one or more plants for discussion at the forum table!

In addition to the plants discussed below the following plants, described or listed in the Society’s *Selected Plants for Southern California Gardens* (2000) or previously written up for a Green Sheet were shown in October [*taxon* common name (Family)]:

- Amaryllis belladonna* belladonna lily (Amaryllidaceae)
- Bauhinia yunnanensis* (Fabaceae)
- Buddleja crispa* butterfly bush (Loganiaceae)
- Calliandra californica* Baja fairy duster (Fabaceae)
- Coprosma repens* 'Pink Splendor' creeping mirror plant (Rubiaceae)
- Cuphea llavea* bat-face cuphea (Lythraceae)
- Heuchera* 'Peach Melba' Dolce™ coral bells (Saxifragaceae)
- Jasminum sambac* Arabian jasmine (Oleaceae)
- Juanulloa mexicana* gold fingers (Solanaceae)
- Justicia scheidweileri* [syn: *Porphyrocoma pohliana*] carnival plant (Acanthaceae)
- Nigella damascena* love-in-a-mist (Ranunculaceae)
- Rhodophiala bifida* [syn. *Hippeastrum bifidum*], Barbados lily (Amaryllidaceae)
- Tricyrtis hirta* toad lily (Liliaceae)

The exact identity of the following plant could not be completely ascertained: *Jasminum* sp. (Oleaceae)

Information in this compilation was gleaned and condensed from the Plant Forum exhibit cards, numerous sources at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden Library, and a suite of various internet sites.

*Asphodelus aestivus* white asphodel (Liliaceae) Exhibited by Dick

Kohlschreiber.

(photo at right)

This striking white perennial lily from southern Europe has grey-green leaves and a flower spike that can reach three feet in height. The flowers, opening to be more than an inch in diameter with thin brown stripes on the petals, open from the base of the spike upwards, and the inflorescence lasts several weeks.



Growing in full sun or light shade and needing little water, this plant is great as an accent plant and will do well in borders. Dick asks “is this really a weed?” indicating that it must be doing well somewhere! Available from San Marcos Growers.

*Dombeya* ‘Seminole’ tropical rose hydrangea (Malvaceae).

Exhibited by Ann and Eric Brooks.

Shrub 8-10 feet tall, fall flowering with large pink flowers in clusters, often in large numbers. The stamens are petaloid and showy, and the plant takes on an overall appearance similar to hibiscus. To make matters confusing, there are two other *Dombeya* species that are sometimes known as 'Seminole' in the literature! This particular plant will flower for a long period of time and can be readily pruned into shape and maintained as a mass planting. Available from University of California, Riverside.

*Duvernoia adhatodoides* pistol bush (Acanthaceae) Exhibited by Dick Kohlschreiber

This small tree (photograph at right) from tropical Africa can reach more than 10ft in height. Shiny dark foliage makes this plant attractive year-round. White speckled flowers are held above the foliage from February to August and pollinated by carpenter bees. Very decorative and easy to grow from seed or cuttings, perfect for moist coastal gardens. May need to be mulched and watered frequently in drier areas. Available from South Coast Botanic Garden.

**Helianthus salicifolius** willow-leaved sunflower (Asteraceae) exhibited by John Schoustra.

This tall perennial sunflower (photo at right) is native to the central United States and can reach 8 feet tall and three feet wide. The yellow flowers can be used as cut flowers and will bloom from October to around Thanksgiving according to John, who also reports it to be drought tolerant. The long, slender and gracefully drooping leaves are approximately 8 inches long. Stems are narrow and slightly hairy. Available from Greenwood Daylily.



**Polypodium fallax** Betty's poly (Polypodiaceae) Exhibited by Dena Mandt.

This shade-loving South American fern was featured as a new introduction from Milestone Agriculture in Greenhouse Grower magazine in January 2007. It has shiny green glabrous fronds and is notable for its lobed and crested forms. The unusual texture and circular growth form make it a recommended

species for small to medium pots. It will benefit from a rich soil and occasional liquid feed. Available from [www.ferncentral.com](http://www.ferncentral.com)



*Duvernoia adhatodoides*, sometimes called 'pistol bush'

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**For general questions, call: 818-567-1496**

**Website: [www.SoCalHort.org](http://www.SoCalHort.org)**

## ***Please join us in welcoming the following new members:***

Rhett Beavers  
 Dave Keitel  
 Jose A Chavez

Tony Zile  
 Shelley Marks

Southern California Horticultural Society  
PO Box 94476  
Pasadena CA 91109-4476

NEWSLETTER  
December 2009 — January 2010



## **Upcoming Southern California Horticultural Society Programs**

**December 10 — Annual Plant Exchange & Holiday Cheer**

**January 14 — Amy Stewart:** Flower Confidential

**January 15 — Guided tour of the Los Angeles Flower District** (see page 2 for details)

**February 11 — Jim Downer:** What's Bugging Your Garden

**March 11 — John Greenlee:** The American Meadow Garden

**April 8 — Dr. Rachel S. Jabaily :** Up, Down, Wet then Dry: The Quest for *Puya* (Bromeliaceae) in the Andes

**May 13 —Bob Hornback,** The Horticulturist's Alice: A Garden Tour of Wonderland

**June 10 — Marcia Donahue:** Planting Sculpture, Sculpting Plants