



# Southern California Horticultural Society Newsletter

www.SoCalHort.org

July-August 2010



## JULY MEETING

Jim Downer, Ph.D.

*What's bugging your garden?*

Thursday, July 8, 2010 at 7:30 pm

Our July speaker will tell us about garden plant problems, diseases and pests - common, uncommon and 'new'. After a brief talk and slide show, Dr. Downer will

look at samples of diseased plants brought in by the audience to help identify what might be happening in your garden. He will also suggest potential remedies. ***Please do not bring any samples from outside Los Angeles County. Be sure to have your samples in SEALED Ziploc bags!***

Dr. Downer received his B.S. in Botany & Horticulture and his M.S. in Biology & Plant Pathology from California Polytechnic University, Pomona, and his Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from the University of California at Riverside. In addition to private consulting, he has served as farm advisor in Orange County and is now farm advisor in Ventura County. His specialties there are pathology of landscape ornamentals, phytophthora root rot, mulches, potting soils, palm horticulture, arboriculture. He is also the Master Gardener Coordinator.

The Opportunity Drawing will be provided by Magic Growers.

### Meeting Logistics for both July & August

Announcements 7:45 pm

Speaker 8:00 pm

Friendship Auditorium

3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles

*The meeting is 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.*

*Please join us in welcoming the following new member:*

Tanya Shuster



Photograph by Dylan Hannon

## AUGUST MEETING

Dylan Hannon

*Springtime*

*in the Atacama Desert of Chile*

Thursday, August 12, 2010 at 7:30 pm

This program is a rare look at the wildflowers, cacti and natural history of one of the world's driest deserts, the Atacama Desert of northern Chile. This region, in spite of scant rainfall ("good rains" fall only every 4 or 5 years) harbors many endemic plants that are adapted to the coastal zone south of the regional capital, Antofagasta. Coastal hills reach about 3000 feet elevation and canyons harbor many of the more interesting species. This trip, in August 1997, was during an El Nino year and we were fortunate to see annuals, bulbs and a few shrubs in addition to clean and plump specimens of various cacti: *Copiapoa*, *Neochilenia*, etc. Other genera of note include *Tropaeolum*, *Nicotiana*, *Lycopersicon*, *Nolana*, *Oxalis* and *Argylia*.

Dylan Hannon is Curator of Conservatory Collections at The Huntington. Since 2003 his work there has focused on building collections of tropical plants for the Rose Hills Foundation Conservatory for Botanical Science. Former experience includes botanical consulting, research and commercial nursery work. His interests include photography, writing and growing and propagating bulbs and succulents.

The Opportunity Drawing will be provided by Long Beach City College Greenhouse.



## Green Sheet March 2010

### Plant Forum Notes

Compiled by Jorge and Sula Ochoa

Photographs by Paul Martin

Thank you to all who brought plants to the March 2010 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 opportunity drawing 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: [Family names in accordance with the Angiosperm Phylogeny Group II (<http://www.mobot.org/mobot/research/apweb/welcome.html>)] are included for your reference.]

*Abutilon* 'Little Red Reiter' (flowering maple) Malvaceae  
*Babiana stricta* (baboon flower) Iridaceae  
*Bowiea volubilis* (climbing onion) Asparagaceae  
*Cantua buxifolia* (magic flower) Polemoniaceae  
*Ceanothus spinosus* (greenbark ceanothus) Rhamnaceae  
*Cercis* 'Avondale' (redbud) Fabaceae  
*Cercis occidentalis* (western redbud) Fabaceae  
*Cyclamen persicum* (cyclamen) Primulaceae  
*Dombeya ianthotricha* Malvaceae  
*Euphorbia bravoana* (spurge) Euphorbiaceae  
*Grevillea rosmarinifolia* 'Scarlet Sprite' (scarlet sprite grevillea) Proteaceae  
*Helianthemum nummularium* 'Hartswood Ruby' (sunrose) Cistaceae  
*Iris germanica* (bearded iris) Iridaceae  
*Iris unguicularis* (Algerian iris) Iridaceae  
*Kalanchoe uniflora* Crassulaceae  
*Ledebouria socialis* (silver squill) Hyacinthaceae  
*Leucospermum cordifolium* (pincushion plant) Proteaceae  
*Moluccella laevis* (bells of Ireland) Lamiaceae  
*Phacelia tanacetifolia* Boraginaceae  
*Phormium* cv. (New Zealand flax) Hemerocallidaceae  
*Phytolacca americana* (pokeweed) Phytolaccaceae  
*Prunus persica* (peach) Rosaceae

*Ribes speciosum* (fuchsia-flowered gooseberry) Grossulariaceae

*Salvia elegans* (pineapple sage) Lamiaceae

*Salvia gesneraeflora* (mole poblano) Lamiaceae

*Sansevieria parva* (Kenya hyacinth) Dracaenaceae

Plants that could not be fully identified:

*Gomphrena* sp. Amaranthaceae

*Sparaxis* sp. Iridaceae

*Narcissus* mix (daffodil) Amaryllidaceae

*Nicotiana* sp. Solanaceae

Information in this compilation was gleaned and condensed from the Plant Forum exhibit cards, numerous sources in our library, and a suite of various internet sites.

*Bulbinella latifolia*, cat's tail, (Asphodelaceae) Exhibited by Sheldon Lisker

Another interesting geophytic perennial from South Africa. Plant looks very similar to torch lily (*Kniphofia*) with strap-like leaves and a large flower spike which can reach 3-4 feet high. In our climate it requires plenty of water when in active growth, fall and winter, but be careful not to over water. Once summer arrives, dry conditions are necessary to prevent the fleshy tubers from rotting. The flower color can range from yellow to deep orange with a faint, spicy aroma. The plant is fast-growing and extremely drought resistant, as its fleshy leaves store water, making an ideal choice for dry gardens. Sheldon reports growing it in Temecula from seeds obtained from South Africa.

*Carex barbarea*, Santa Barbara sedge, (Cyperaceae)

Exhibited by Bart O'Brien

An attractive native sedge of wide distribution, which served as an important source of material for traditional basket-making. Bright green sharp blades form clumps 1 - 3 ft. tall and spreading to about the same width. Oval-shaped tufts of small reddish-brown flowers on spikes at the tip of the flowering stems. Bart reported that this plant is very adaptable and easy to grow. The exhibited plant is grown in Claremont and Upland.

*Clematis armandii*, evergreen clematis (Ranunculaceae).

Exhibited by Marcia M.

A spectacular fast growing evergreen vine native to China. Vine climbs by using tendrils, twisting and wrapping around twigs of adjacent vegetation. Plants reach a height of 15-20 feet and require some type of support like a trellis. The leaves of the vine are compound with three leaflets. Young leaves start with a bronze color, which turns dark green at maturity. During spring, this vine covers itself in fragrant white flowers that are born in clusters at the end of the branches. The blossoms have 5 petals and prominent stamens and are very fragrant. Marcia reports growing it in a shady spot in Thousand Oaks.

*Cordyline* 'Renegade' (Dracaenaceae) Exhibited by Gary Kamisher

A new plant introduction from a *Cordyline* selection by a New Zealand nurseryman. The plant parentage is thought to have been *Cordyline banksii* x *australis*. A distinct plant forming tight clumps that grows up from swollen underground stems to reach two feet tall. Foliage is arching with dark purple to nearly black leaves that have a glossy lacquered finish. This plant is most notable for its dramatic



foliage but small fragrant pale purple flowers on delicate stems are an added bonus. The exhibitor reports growing it in full sun with well-drained soil. This plant is protected by a plant patent and asexual propagation is prohibited.

*Cyclamen graecum*, cyclamen, (Primulaceae) (photograph above)

Exhibited by Bart O'Brien.

A beautiful Mediterranean species for our gardens. Active growth from the corm occurs during the winter. Leaf color and pattern variations are endless. Plant can reach a height of twelve inches with beautiful color leaf and variable color flowers. This species can be found in its natural range in substrates varying from pine litter to hard conglomerate rock, from sea-level to 1200 M elevation, indicating its hardy and adaptable nature. Grow the plant in partial shade and keep it dry during the summer. Bart reports that it is a very easy plant to grow.

*Dichelostemma* 'Santa Cruz Island Giant', wild hyacinth (Themidaceae). (photograph at right) Exhibited by Bart O'Brien.

A stunning selection of the one of the most common CA native bulbs! Spikes of lavender-purple flowers on top of green onion-like foliage. Grows happily in well-draining soil, but don't forget to keep it dry during the summer. The Santa Cruz Island Giant selection is a form with individual flower heads that are much larger than the usual form. Flower spikes can reach 3 feet in height. Bart reports that the greatest size can be attained when plants are grown by the coast; however, when grown inland the flowers may be smaller.

*Echium vulcanorum*, lingua de vaca, (Boraginaceae).

Exhibited by Bart O'Brien

A rare and endangered plant native to Cape Verde islands of West Africa. This shrubby plant grows to four feet tall and has small blue flowers and broad leaves. Flower spikes will last for weeks. Echiums are reported to be very attractive to termites, and may even draw termites away from your house and into their roots! Bart grows this species in Upland and says it is easy to grow.

*Pseudofumaria lutea*, [syn. *Corydalis lutea*], yellow corydalis, (Ranunculaceae). Exhibited by Marcia M.

According to Flora Europaea 2007, *Corydalis lutea* has been reclassified and renamed *Pseudofumaria*. Yellow corydalis is a short-lived perennial plant native to the southern foothills of the south-western and central Alps. Plants can reach a height of 12–15 inches. The leaves are fern-like, gray-green, and bright yellow flowers are borne in clusters above the foliage. Plant was grown in an area with shade to partial sun and reported to have its flowering season is spring and summer. Marcia reports that the plant is grown in Thousand Oaks and it is very prolific.

*Sonchus canariensis*, tree sonchus (Asteraceae). Exhibited by Eric Brooks.

An unusually tall, woody perennial native to the Canary Islands. The plant features upright light grayish brown stems which can reach 6-8 feet tall. Stems are crowned by showy, dense terminal rosettes of large, very attractive fern-like leaves and showy clusters of bright yellow flowers. Grow the plant in full sun. Blooming period is from spring to summer and plant can tolerate dry conditions.

*Sparaxis metelkampi* (Iridaceae). (photograph far left)

Exhibited by Steve Gerischer

A very pretty South African corm from the Karoo. Delicate trumpet-shaped violet and white flowers attract the long-proboscid fly *Prosoeca peringueyi* (Nemestrinidae) as a pollinator. Plant can reach a height of 6-12 inches. This species grows during the winter and flowers begin to appear in early spring. Steve keeps his plants dry after the leaves fade in Eagle Rock.

*Strobilanthes gossypinus*, Persian shield, (Acanthaceae).

Exhibited by Bart O'Brien.

This plant originates from India, with stunning new growth of dark green, covered with eye catching golden hairs and felted undersides. As the leaves mature the gold hairs turn a silvery gray color. Bart cultivates the plant in winter shade and summer sun in Upland CA. Bart reports that the plant is frost sensitive and requires low water once established. This plant is ideal for adding color, contrast and drama to any garden,



*Dichelostemma* 'Santa Cruz Island Giant'



a *Pacific Horticulture* symposium

## ***Gardening Under Mediterranean Skies VIII: Style & Whimsy in the Sustainable Garden***

**September 23-26, 2010 – Arcadia, California**

Co-sponsored by L. A. County Arboretum & Botanic Garden, APLD Greater L A District, Mediterranean Garden Society

Symposium website: [www.PacificHorticulture.org/programs.php](http://www.PacificHorticulture.org/programs.php)

The Style & Whimsy in the Sustainable Garden symposium will be held in on September 23 - 26, 2010 at the Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden. There is always room for fun and charm and joy in the garden, and this symposium will be focused on the lighthearted side of gardening in harmony with our climate. Join us for one, two or all three days of lectures and bus tours. A fourth day with optional workshops and garden tours will give you a running start. Nine engaging speakers will show you how to increase the fun and style in your garden. Bus tours to nine exceptional private gardens will demonstrate how personal and artistic a garden can be without necessarily breaking the bank and while following sustainable garden practices. Yes – it can be done, and we'll show you how!

### **Thursday, Sept. 23 - Optional Events (some are free)**

Two day-long bus tours (*Architecture & Gardens* includes the famous Gamble House, plus 4 private homes and gardens. *Native Gardens & Art* goes to the Sam & Alfreda Maloof Foundation for Arts & Crafts, the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, plus 3 private gardens). FREE tour of Arlington Garden in Pasadena., Three workshops (Hypertufa Container Making, The Nitty-Gritty of Sustainable Garden Design, and Advanced Broken Concrete Techniques), FREE Roundtable Panel Discussion on *The Science Behind a Sustainable Plant Palette*.

### **Friday, Sept. 24 - Speakers**

Debra Prinzing on *Renew, Refresh, Repurpose: High Concept Design Meets Sustainability*

Keeyla Meadows on *Sustaining Spirit with Color and Whimsy*

Patrick Anderson on *Succulent Gardens: Plants as Art and Architecture*

### **Saturday, Sept. 25 - Speakers**

Steve Brigham on *Sustainable Wildlife Gardening: Attracting Birds & Butterflies to Your Garden & Keeping Them There*

Anthony Exter on *The Modern Garden: Urban Stress Relief and Emotional Sustainability*

Jeffrey Bale on *Beautiful Stonework for a Sustainable Garden*

### **Sunday, Sept. 26 - Speakers**

Steve Gerischer on *Losing the Lawn*

Richie Steffen on *Inspiration in a Responsible Garden*

Marcia Donohue and Brandon Tyson on *Dreamscaping*

### **SYMPOSIUM FEES:** \$135 - \$159 per day;

\$35 discount for attending all 3 days

Thursday bus tours: \$150/person;

workshops: \$30/person

Discounts also available for students

and people under 35.

### **For details & registration send e-mail to:**

[symposium@PacificHorticulture.org](mailto:symposium@PacificHorticulture.org) or call (760) 295-2173



Cooper Garden (left) designed by Steve Gerischer  
Photograph by Steve Gerischer

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

**2010 Annual Award Banquet**  
*Honoring Horticulturist of the Year*  
**Yvonne Savio**

Thursday, September 9, 2010

6:00 p.m. Social Hour 7:00 p.m. Dinner and Presentation

Huntington Botanical Gardens

Botanical Center, 1151 Oxford Road (enter on Allen), San Marino



Yvonne grew up on a 3/4-acre hillside city lot in Pasadena, growing fruits, vegetables, and flowers year-round in manure- and compost-amended gardens. From years of gardening, she knows what “harvested at the perfect moment of ripeness” means and is passionate about enabling others to enjoy the benefits of “growing your own.” Yvonne loves growing just about anything, especially vegetables and fruits, annuals and drought-tolerant perennials, cactus, succulents, bromeliads, ground covers, and roses.

Yvonne earned degrees in journalism, literature, art, photography, and horticulture. After teaching junior high school, Yvonne worked in the Botany and Vegetable Crops Cooperative Extension Departments at the University of California, Davis. Starting in 1984, Yvonne contributed weekly gardening columns, features, and photographs to local northern California and national newspapers, magazines, journals, and newsletters.

In 1994, she moved back to her childhood home in Pasadena and revitalized the Master Gardener Volunteer Training Program for the University of California Cooperative Extension in Los Angeles County. She edited the third edition of *Children’s Gardens: A Guide for Teachers, Parents, and Volunteers*, and became the Common Ground Garden Program Manager. She oversees the Master Gardener Program (seasonal gardening workshops), School Garden Consultants Program (school gardens assistance), Community Gardens Program (community garden assistance, and roster of all active county gardens open to the public), and Senior Housing Gardens Program, all working primarily with low-income county residents. New in April 2010 is the Grow LA Victory Garden Initiative, serving beginning gardeners with class sessions at 10 garden sites throughout LA County. Popular demand has resulted in 3 more class sessions at some sites, including those for Spanish-speakers. The hope is to receive enough donations to continue with Fall and then twice-yearly sessions.

Yvonne was on the board of the American Community Gardening Association for two years and continues to advise community and school gardeners nationwide. She is a member of the University of California Garden-Based Learning Workgroup, the UC Urban Horticulture Workgroup, the California School Garden Network, and the CSGN Los Angeles Chapter.

Yvonne’s monthly gardening tips and many other articles and photographs are found on the University of California Cooperative Extension Los Angeles County website: [http://celosangeles.ucdavis.edu/Common\\_Ground\\_Garden\\_Program](http://celosangeles.ucdavis.edu/Common_Ground_Garden_Program). She has two resource e-lists open to the public (subscribe on the homepage): Community Gardening and Food Security and School Gardening. Yvonne’s biweekly blog on her Pasadena home garden is on the National Gardening Association’s website for Southern California Coastal and Inland Valleys: <http://garden.garden.org/regional/report/current/4>

**Southern California Horticultural Society 2010 Annual Award Banquet**

*PLEASE RESPOND BY WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2010*

Yes, please reserve: \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets at \$35 each                      Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (check only)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Make your check payable to SCHS. Mail to: PO Box 94476, Pasadena, CA 91109-4476

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

NEWSLETTER  
July-August 2010



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

**July 8 — Jim Downer:** What's Bugging Your Garden?

**August 12 — Dylan Hannon:** Springtime in the Atacama Desert  
(Ask the Experts will be rescheduled)

**September 9 — Annual Banquet:** Horticulturist of the Year: Yvonne Savio  
(Banquet sign-up form inside this newsletter)

**October 8 — Robert Perry:** Landscape Plants for California Gardens

**November 11 — Mike Evans,** Tree of Life Nursery

**December 9 — Holiday Greens & Floral Demonstration with Christine Saunders**

**January 13 — Rosalind Creasy:** Edible Landscaping

**February 10 — Sam Watters:** Early Gardens of Los Angeles