Our meetings are free to SCHS members and $5 for non-members without a guest pass. Bringing one or more plants, flowers, seeds or fruits for display and discussion at the Plant Forum and they may be included in our newsletter’s Green Sheet.

We do not have an Opportunity Drawing at our December meeting and do not ask a Sharing Secrets question this month for our newsletter. They will resume in January.

Welcome New Members!

Susan Groesbeck
Donivee Nash

We are asking for your support

As an all volunteer society without paid staff, we rely on you, our members, for your financial support and to work on our activities.

There are a few ways you can help us right now to foster a robust non-profit organization:

- Respond to a year-end appeal letter that is being sent to you.
- Read about volunteers needed on page 3 and contact Steve Gerischer to get more information or sign up (323-257-3629 or sglarkspr@aol.com).
- Give a SCHS membership to a friend or colleague.

Our future depends on the commitment of our members and we are asking you to get involved. Thank you.

The December Meeting

Annual Cookie Night: A Festive Gathering

This year’s Annual Cookie Night meeting will include some usual features and a few new elements to enhance the festivities.

As is our tradition, we ask attendees to bring cookies, savories or other goodies to share. Every year there is a fabulous spread of delectables, both homemade and store bought, thanks to our members.

Also, bring those items you no longer have a use for and think one of our members may want for the Sharing Table. We encourage you to bring plants, bulbs and seeds as part of this informal exchange.

You may browse the items until around 8:15 pm when it will be announced as open for the taking. An item left at the end of the evening must be taken back by its owner.

While you are snacking, perusing and conversing, you will be entertained by the Red Car Trolley starting at 7:30 pm. They are a Los Angeles-based vocal quartet that performs a wide range of music, from Renaissance to jazz and classical to contemporary. They will be performing a variety of songs during their program: Christmas, Chanukah, Flowers and Nature.

You’ll recognize one of the singers as our member, Rebecca Rasmussen Tufenkian, who, with her husband Matt-Dell, often sells plants at our meetings.

Starting around 8:30 pm, we will offer a viewing of No Work Gardening, a video by Ruth Stout (1884–1980). She is attributed with the following quote.

“At the age of 87, I grow vegetables for two people the year-round, doing all the work myself and freezing the surplus. I tend several flower beds, write a column every week, answer an awful lot of mail. I have received thousands of letters, thanking me for making gardening easy for them. Or possible. And I feel that if you really help people you’ve done something worthwhile.”

Approximate Schedule of Events

7:30 pm – Cookie Tables opens
Gift Baskets Silent Auction opens
7:30 - 8:15 pm – Red Car Trolley performs
8:15 pm – Silent Auction closes
8:15 pm – Sharing Table opens
8:30 pm – Ruth Stout, No Work Gardening video viewing
9:15 pm – Plant Forum discussion

Silent Auction Gift Baskets

Homemade Gift Baskets will be sold at the meeting through a Silent Auction. We have twelve in all starting at $25 or more, including tax.

The holiday season is looming ... whether you are contemplating what to give a gardener in your life or want to wow the hosts of a holiday get-together, these unique gift baskets fit the bill! And purchasing one helps support the SCHS.

Each one contains a bottle of wine (red or white) plus a plant or seeds, a home furnishing item or book, a bag of organic sweets and a seasonal decoration.

The baskets themselves are nice wooden basket pails that can be repurposed. They were artfully created by members Sandy Masuo and Lisa Ceazan.

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November Meeting Recap

The November meeting of the Southern California Horticultural Society featured a program by Helen Popper (pictured right), covering her new book, *California Native Gardening: A Month-by-Month Guide*. The authorship of the book is credited to Helen Popper, but she made it clear in her talk that much of the book contains years of careful notes gleaned from meetings of the California Native Plant Society chapter in her area. Information offered on plant care, planting, selections and cultivation was a “collaborative” effort.

The book is calendar based, and is organized to show gardeners accustomed to a summer busy/winter dormant gardening year how they must adapt to the different rhythms of gardening in California.

As well as offering a month-by-month guide to tasks in the garden, the book also demonstrates how California native plants can be used in many different styles of gardening where design comes into play.

While many of us are readily acquainted with the different patterns of temperature and rainfall that make our area unique, it was quite telling to see those differences so elegantly displayed in graphs.

California’s “hourglass” shape on a temperature/rainfall scale by month will stick with me. We welcome the information enabling gardeners to better use and enjoy the riches of the California Floristic Province. Thank you, Helen Popper.

Thank you to everyone who brought plants in for the Plant Forum table. And thank you as well to all of the dedicated people who help set-up, run and clean up after each meeting.

We hope to see you at our Annual Members Night meeting on December 13 at Friendship Auditorium.

- By Steven Gerischer

### Sharing Secrets

In November, we asked you to “Tell us about a novel or non-fiction book involving plants that you recommend reading?” and here are some books you suggested.

As you think of interesting books you’ve read, please continue to send in your book recommendations to the newsletter so we may make this an occasional feature.

I’ve particularly enjoyed:

- *Flower Confidential*, by Amy Stewart.

**Kathy Musial**

- *The Orchid Thief*, by Susan Orlean.
  A bizarre and hilarious trip into the obsessive world of fanatic orchid collectors set in swampy, alligator-filled South Florida.
- *A terrific read and ride! The movie, Adaptation*, with Nicholas Cage and Meryl Streep, was based on this book.

**Ruth Vogel**

- *100 Flowers and How They Got Their Names*, by Diana Wells.

**Libby Simon**

I read about the meaning of landscape to the individual and cultures (I’ve been speaking about these things, too). My recent favorites:

- *Coming Into the Country*, by John McPhee.

**Paula Panich**

Plants are just one part of the complexity of human beings in place.

**Jill Vig**

  Actually, just the last chapter, on the potato. You will never eat a Russet Burbank potato – or fries at McDonald’s – again.

**Daniel Songster**

There is a small series of mysteries written by Rebecca Rothenberg, they start with the *Bullrush Murders*.

She wrote three before she died and a friend finished her fourth for her – fun books with a botanic angle from the Central Valley.

**Lisa Ceazan**

  A series of very short stories weaving historical facts about the plants we grow and the people involved.

I enjoyed reading a couple of books by Barbara Kingsolver:

  It follows her family’s commitment to eat only locally grown or self-raised food for one year while living on their Appalachian farm in Virginia.
  A novel that weaves the stories of three characters residing on small farms in the mountains of southern Appalachia.

**Debra Bushweit Galliani**


**Jan Scow**

**SECRET CONTRIBUTORS**

  Amusing.

Add your response to this question on our Facebook page discussion board or on our Member Lodge website page.

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**Job Opportunity:**

**Theodore Payne Foundation**

Assistant Sales Manager responsible for customer assistance, plant care, supervising sales staff and volunteers, maintaining the sales yard facilities and gardens, updating the weekly inventory and other duties as assigned by the Nursery Manager.

See job listing for complete details at: theodorepayne.org/jobs.html.

To apply, send resume with cover letter to: Madena@theodorepayne.org.

Send horticulturally-related job listings to bushweit@yahoo.com for posting.
DISCOVER CUBA!
A People-to-People Exploration of Cuba
with a Botanical Slant
January 18 – 27, 2013
A Pacific Horticulture Society Tour

Act NOW! Join us for a rich cultural journey to Cuba, January 18-27, 2013. Pacific Horticulture Society has received a license from the US Treasury Department for a People-to-People tour for members and friends, but you must act quickly.

Join us as we explore Havana, several Cuban botanical gardens, Zapata National Park, the Escambray Mountains, and the historic cities of Cienfuegos and Trinidad.

Throughout our journey, there will be a special emphasis on meeting the people of Cuba: botanists, environmentalists, teachers, scientists, students and national park personnel.

The Itinerary will include:

• A visit to the Havana Botanic Garden.
• La Terrazas Reforestation Project and Sierra del Rosario Biosphere Reserve. See the many orchids at the Orquidarium Sorora.
• Zapata National Park.
• Jardín Botanico de Soledad, with vast collections of palms, cactus and rubber trees.
• Sierra del Escambray, a scenic mountainous area.
• Trinidad, a living museum and UNESCO World Heritage Site on the south coast.
• Parc Naturel de Codina, near mountainous Topes de Collantes, explore the Encantos de Codina, with orchids, bamboos and picturesque landscapes.

Some information is posted on the Pacific Horticulture Society website at pacifichorticulture.org/tours/discover-cuba/. For a complete itinerary, registration deadlines and costs, e-mail office@pacifichorticulture.org.

Present a special evening with Author, DEBRA PRINZING and her book, Slow Flowers: Four Seasons of Locally Grown Bouquets from the Garden, Meadow and Farm.

On Wednesday, February 27 at Friendship Auditorium, author Debra Prinzing will discuss her new book, Slow Flowers: Four Seasons of Bouquets from the Garden, Meadow and Farm.

Debra challenged herself to create 52 bouquets, one for each week of the year, strictly from locally grown materials. Using a regional bounty of organically grown cut-flowers, seed pods, greens, twigs and greenhouse materials, Debra fashioned seasonal arrangements with a timeless quality.

Design tips and “recipes” for floral arranging are presented with a region-by-region floral ingredient list so readers can make their own locally sourced, Slow Flower creations. Debra will also demonstrate her own special way of arranging flowers with materials provided by the California Cut Flower Growers Association.

This is a follow up to her popular book, The 50 Mile Bouquet, a sequel that plays off of the revolutionary Slow Food movement.

For more information check on the Garden Conservancy website at gardenconservancy.org or the SCHS website at: socalhort.org.

SCHS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

In the past we have asked for general volunteer assistance and now we have specific needs to fill. Please consider helping out as a full-time or part-time volunteer. If several people volunteer, the same task can be shared among them.

• Handle Refreshments at Meetings
  Make coffee and bring snacks at the start of each meeting.

• Staff the Welcome Desk at Meetings
  Greet attendees, direct them to sign in and make a name tag, collect the entry fee from guests or mark on roster.

• Update the Website and Provide Content
  Send program information to webmaster monthly, along with other updates and relevant content.

• Join the Finance Committee
  Our treasurer, Laura Bauer, heads this committee which needs more members.

• Join the Field Trips Committee
  Help organize field trips for members.

• Become a “Buddy” for Prospective and New Society Members at Meetings
  Familiarize new and prospective members with events at our monthly meetings.

• Solicit Sharing Secrets Responses at Member Meetings
  The Sharing Secrets column is a popular feature in our newsletter and we need help soliciting responses at our meetings.

• Write a Column or Feature Article for the Newsletter
Thank you to all who brought plants to the September 2012 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 Plant 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/) are included for your reference.]

*Amaryllis belladonna*, naked ladies (Asparagaceae), exhibited by Sheldon Lisker, grown in Sun City.

*Brunsvigia littoralis* (Amaryllidaceae), exhibited by Sheldon Lisker, grown in Sun City.

*Podranea ricasoliana*, pink trumpet vine (Bignoniaceae), [very invasive, don’t plant] exhibited by Eric and Ann Brooks, grown in the Baldwin Hills.

*Stenocarpus sinuatus*, fire-wheel tree (Proteaceae), exhibited by Joan Citron, grown in Reseda.


*Thunbergia erecta*, king’s mantle (Acanthaceae), exhibited by Eric and Ann Brooks, grown in the Baldwin Hills.

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

*Albuca spiralis* (Hyacinthaceae), exhibited by Jane Herrington, grown in Los Angeles. This is succulent winter bulb from the Cape Province of South Africa where it normally grows in sandy soils. It is named for its unusual curling and spiraling leaves that give it a unique appearance. It has been rumored that the more sun it receives, the tighter the spirals become. A diminutive plant, the flower spikes generally reach just 6 inches high (although some have grown twice as tall in our region), with pretty pendulous yellow-green flowers. Can be propagated from off-sets, but they are often not prolific, so seed-propagation is common. Reported as fairly easy to grow, but must be kept dry when dormant.

Photographs (left to right): *Stenocarpus sinuatus, Amaryllis belladonna, Thunbergia erecta* (top & bottom), *Podranea ricasoliana* (top), and *Brunsvigia littoralis* (bottom).
Contact individual locations to confirm events and for more details; some may require a facility entry fee. = Registration requested or required.

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**ARCADIA 91007**
**LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM & BOTANIC GARDEN**
301 N. Baldwin Ave.
626-821-4623; arboretum.org

**CLAREMONTE 91711**
**RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN**
1500 N. College Ave.
909-625-8767 x200; rsabg.org

**CORONA DEL MAR 92625**
**SHERMAN LIBRARY & GARDENS**
2647 E. Pacific Coast Hwy.
949-673-2261; shlgardens.org

**FULLERTON 92831**
**FULLERTON ARBORETUM**
1900 Associated Rd. at Jamboree Rd.
657-278-3407
fullertonarboretum.org

**SUN VALLEY 91352**
**THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION FOR WILDFLOWERS & NATIVE PLANTS**
10459 Tuxford St.
818-768-1802; theodorepayne.org

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**LONG BEACH 90807**
**RANCHO LOS CERRITOS HISTORIC SITE**
4600 Virginia Rd.
562-570-1755; rancholoscerritos.org

**LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE 91011**
**DESCANSO GARDENS**
1418 Descanso Dr.
818-949-4200; descansogardens.org

**SAN MARINO 91108**
**HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS**
1151 Oxford Rd.
626-405-2100; huntington.org

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**Bird Walk.** Sponsored by the Pomona Valley Audubon Society. Free.
Sunday, December 2
9:00 am

**Holiday Floral Designs.** Using fresh greens, berries and tulips to create a holiday floral arrangement. Fee.
Saturday, December 15
10:00 am–4:00 pm

**An Old-Fashioned Holiday at the Queen Ann Cottage.** Free with garden admission.
Sunday, December 9
10:00 am–4:00 pm

**Demo Intro to Beekeeping and Honey Harvest**
9:00–11:30 am
Saturday, December 1

**Holiday Basket Class for Children.** Each child will create a holiday floral basket using fresh greens, ribbon, apples and a sweet decorative bird. Fee.
Saturday, December 8
10:00 am–3:00 pm

**Monthly Bird Walk.** Join longtime host from the Audubon Society Karen Johnson for this bird walk for birders of all levels. Free.
Saturday, December 23
8:00–9:00 am

**San Diego Horticultural Society**
meets Monday, December 10, 6:00–8:30 pm, at Del Mar Fairgrounds.

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The **San Diego Horticultural Society** meets Monday, December 10, 6:00–8:30 pm, at Del Mar Fairgrounds.

Activities include a talk, **Follow Your Flowers from Field to Vase**, with Debra Prinzing.
- Compiled by Bettina Gatti

Send noticed to bettina0203@hotmail.com.

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**NEXT SCHS MEETING – SPECIAL EVENT**

**For the Love of Roses: A Talk and Q & A with Tom Carruth, Steve Gerischer and a third panelist, to be confirmed.**
Thursday, January 10, 7:30 p.m.
At Friendship Auditorium.
Free to SCHS members.
$10 admission to non-members.

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A free bareroot rose plant to each attendee!

Bring a friend to this special SCHS event and introduce them to our activities. Admission is free if they join the Society!

Our January 10 meeting kicks off the New Year with a celebration of roses and the pleasures of rose-growing in Southern California's mediterranean climate. The program begins with an illustrated talk by Steve Gerischer, SCHS president and lifelong local rosarian, spotlighting garden roses that thrive in this region.

Next, a panel of experts – including Tom Carruth, curator of rose collections at the Huntington Botanical Gardens; Steve Gerischer and a third panelist, to be confirmed – will field questions on all things rose-related.

Following the Plant Forum, each attendee will receive one free bareroot rose plant.

Our January Opportunity Drawing will feature choice roses and great rose companion plants provided by John Schoustra of Greenwood Daylily Gardens.

- By Lili Singer
UPCOMING SCHS PROGRAMS

At Friendship Auditorium, 3021 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles CA 90039, starting at 7:30 pm, unless otherwise noted.

January 10 – For the Love of Roses: A Talk and Q & A, with Tom Carruth, Steve Gerischer and a third panelist, to be confirmed.

Free to SCHS members; $10 admission to non-members.

Every attendee will receive a free bareroot rose plant!

Our January Opportunity Drawing will feature choice roses and great rose-companion plants provided by John Schoustra of Greenwood Daylily Gardens. (See page 5 for details.)

February 14 – Andrew Bunting, curator of Scott Arboretum at Swarthmore College in Philadelphia since 1993 and president of Magnolia Society International, will speak.

February 27 – A special SCHS program in conjunction with the Garden Conservancy.

Debra Prinzing, will discuss her new book Slow Flowers: Four Seasons of Locally Grown Bouquets from the Garden, Meadow and Farm at Friendship Auditorium.

$30 admission to SCHS & GC members; $35 admission to non-members. (See page 3 for details.)

March 14 – A panel discussion on salvias, with guest speakers joining us from the recent Salvia Summit II held at the Huntington Library and Botanic Gardens.

April 11 – Billy Goodnick, will present Crimes Against Horticulture.

Board of Directors

Steven Gerischer, President, Pacific Horticulture Board, & Programs
Jim Henrich, Vice President & Membership
Bettina Gatti, Secretary & Internship Coordinator
Laura Bauer, Treasurer & Finance
Joel Lichtenwalter, Membership Secretary

Carol Bornstein
Debra Bushweit Galliani, Newsletter & Membership
Lisa Ceazan, Programs & Field Trips
Sandy Masuo, Facebook & Field Trips
Bart O’Brien
Yvonne Savio
John Schoustra, Opportunity Drawings & Plant Sales
Lili Singer, Selected Book Sales & Programs
Sula Vanderplank, Green Sheet
Jill Vig, Pacific Horticulture Board

818-567-1496 / socalthort.org / Join us on Facebook

Contributors to this issue:
Lisa Ceazan, Bettina Gatti, Steven Gerischer, Paul Martin, Sandy Masuo, Lili Singer, Sula Vanderplank and all our Sharing Secrets contributors.

Next deadline: Friday, December 14 (for January newsletter). It is the Friday following our monthly membership meeting. Please contribute an article or information of interest.