Our Next Meeting

Thursday, June 13
7:30 pm
Friendship Auditorium
3201 Riverside Drive
Los Angeles CA 90027

We meet the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm

This meeting is free to SCHS members and is $5 for non-members without a guest pass.

PLANT FORUM
Bring one or more plants, flowers, seeds or fruits for display and discussion at the Plant Forum. We will soon have an improved, downloadable PDF version of the plant information card. Anyone bringing in material for the Plant Forum table should remember to pick up an exhibitor’s ticket for the Plant Raffle, on nights when a raffle is conducted. These plants are also included in our newsletter’s Green Sheet.

Next Sharing Secrets Question
Inspired by this month’s program, the Sharing Secrets question for June is:

“Do you preserve any of the produce you grow, and how?”

You can answer on the cards we’ll supply at our June 13 meeting, on our MemberLodge website or e-mail your response to sglarkspur@aol.com by Friday, June 14.

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Ernest Miller: The Rise, Decline and Rise of Food Preservation (with an Introduction to Fermentation)

Ernest Miller will be the featured speaker for our June meeting, presenting his talk, The Rise, Decline and Rise of Food Preservation (with an Introduction to Fermentation.)

In the 21st century we take food preservation for granted. Fresh food is available to us 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and when we want to preserve our food we simply put it into the refrigerator or freezer. But it wasn’t always thus. Less than 100 years ago food preservation (canning, pickling, fermenting, etc.) was an important part of every household’s tasks. And, if we go back even farther in history we discover that food preservation is the very foundation for civilization. The presentation addresses the rise, decline and rise of food preservation with a short introduction to the fermentation of vegetables.

Chef/Instructeur Ernest Miller has been cooking farmers’ market fresh produce in Southern California for several years, including two-and-a-half years as the Executive Chef for the Farmer’s Kitchen in Hollywood. He revived and is the lead instructor for the Master Food Preserver program of the University of California Cooperative Extension, Los Angeles County. He is also a Master Gardener. He teaches classes throughout Southern California, is a consultant and frequent speaker on topics such as food preservation, history and public policy.

Join us for a look into this fascinating subject, where kitchen and garden meet.

Plant Raffle Returns!

The Plant Raffle returns, and now we are completely legal. Thanks to the efforts of our board member and treasurer, Laura Bauer, our application cleared the morass of byzantine regulations imposed by the Attorney General’s office and we are clear to hold a Plant Raffle once more! (With full financial and record reporting of course.) For our June meeting we are hoping to have interesting or unusual edible plants to raffle off in conjunction with our topic for the meeting.

Personal Items at Meetings

At the May meeting there was an unfortunate incident of theft (the cash was taken from the coffee “kitty”). A man came into the back of the room, greeting everyone and circulating in the crowd before pilfering the cash. He was not a member, but was also not behaving suspiciously. Brenda Kano witnessed the theft and confronted the man outside as he prepared to re-enter the building. He promptly left. We are now calling Brenda “Pitbull” for her fearless act. This is just a reminder to be aware of the location of all valuables at the meetings. Many people have handbags and cameras, etc. and should keep an eye out at all times.
In May, we asked you to answer “What is your favorite succulent?” and here are some of your responses. Read more on our SCHS MemberLodge website, schs.memberlodge.org.

Aeoniums and echiverias. The rosette form of the foliage and the ease of cultivation as well as the amazing array of colors are so striking in the garden or in containers.

- Steven Gerischer

It has to be agave. I have been educated by reading Scott Calhoun that the history of the agave--chockablock with passion, greed, lust, murder and mayhem--is the history of the human being at its worst. But the agave has another history--human nature at its best. The Native peoples of the Cahuilla tribes of Southern California respected, loved, and honored the agave. In spring they harvested the agave “hearts” and roasted them on site, following an ancient and revered ritual. These delicious hearts were a great treat in the annual food cycle of the Cahuilla. At other times, the Cahuilla people tended to their wild gardens of agave--planting the pups in the agave habitat, taking care of their wild crop. This gentle interface--human and crops in the wild--deeply moves me. The gathering during traditional times was carried on by men and boys, accompanied by storytelling and the singing of religious songs associated with agave. Certain agave-gathering areas were associated with specific tribal lineages. The Maki Museum in Banning carries on this tradition. One weekend in April people gather the agave; on another, the agave is roasted in traditional pits in the old way.

-Anonymous

So many are wonderful - how to choose? I think my current favorites are epiphyllum cacti, just because my two plants are covered in outsized flowers right now and I never have to do anything to them to promote this miracle. Later in the summer, I will be thrilled when my stapeliads bloom--yeah for weird, stinky flowers!

-Anonymous

Our May meeting of the Southern California Horticultural Society featured Scott Calhoun presenting his talk, The Graphical Garden: A Bold Approach to Succulent Gardening. Scott took us on a personal journey that charted the development of a garden designer specializing in creating landscapes for an arid climate. He showed us how he has been influenced by the spectacular and sometimes bizarre aspects of the flora and natural landscapes of the high desert.

Scott showed us how many of the plants that have adapted to survival in the high desert regions of the west resemble the whimsical creations of Dr. Seuss. The artwork, cartoons and woodcuts of artists Paul Landacre and George Harriman were also sited as influences on how Scott perceives his surroundings and works his landscape designs to capture the “otherworldly” feeling of the southwest. The desert planet of Tatooine, from Star Wars was wrapped into the discussion, showing us how a fictionalized world can bring the details of our own world into finer focus.

Scott showed us a few select views of gardens he designed with his company, Zona, and a number of gardens designed by people he considers his mentors. It is always fascinating to see the arc of development a skilled designer takes in their chosen field, and Scott’s talk covered that process with humor and passion. He has authored six books on various subjects relating to gardening in the arid southwest (all of which he had brought to the meeting for sale and signing).

We would like to extend our thanks to Scott Calhoun for showing us how a desert gardener comes to be, and how various and unlikely influences can have a lasting impact on the creative endeavor.

John Schoustra and Matt-Dell Tufenkian offered plants for sale. Thanks to everyone who brought plants for the forum table.

Thank you as well to all of the people who helped set up the meeting, sign in our guests, run the AV equipment and help clean up afterward.

Please join us for our next meeting as Amelia Lima presents:

Roberto Burle Marx on July 11 (Note: This meeting will be held at the Los Angeles Zoo).

- Steven Gerischer

Sharon provided many of the delicious baked goods we enjoyed with our coffee in the garden. Both Alvin and Sharon were delightful hosts and welcomed everyone. We would like to extend a hearty “Thank You” to the Milders for opening their lovely garden and hosting our SCHS members.

We are working on Chavez Ravine Arboretum III: The Eucalyptus Collection for October. This would be another session with our tree experts at the beautiful Chavez Ravine Arboretum, followed by a picnic lunch.

When the weather heats up in July/August, we will be planning a trip to coastal Ventura County, home of some wonderful specialty nurseries.

There are also plans to visit a spectacular garden in the Pasadena area in the fall.

Watch your newsletter or the Member Lodge for details.
Thank you to all who brought plants to the March, 2013 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 Plant Forum table (if there is a Plant Raffle that night).

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.]

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

**Billbergia nutans**, queen’s tears (Bromeliaceae), exhibited by Sandy Masuo, grown in Burbank. [SPSC, pg. 56]

**Bulbinella nutans** (Xanthorrhoeaceae), exhibited by Sheldon Lisker, grown in Temecula. [GS Mar. 2007]

**Dodecatheon clevelandii**, padre’s shooting star (Primulaceae), exhibited by James E. Henrich, grown in Azusa. [SPSC pg. 121]

**Ferraria crispa**, spider flower (Iridaceae), exhibited by Sheldon Lisker, grown in Temecula. [SPSC pg. 152]

**Gladiolus tristis**, marsh Afrikaner (Iridaceae), exhibited by James E. Henrich, grown at Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia. [SPSC pg. 166]

**Gladiolus venustus**, purple kalkoentjie (Iridaceae), exhibited by Sheldon Lisker, grown in Temecula. [GS Mar. 2011]

**Pandorea pandorana**, wonga wonga vine (Bignoniaceae), exhibited by Eric Brooks, grown in Baldwin Hills. [SPSC pg 270]

**Salvia africana-caerulea** (Lamiaceae), exhibited by J. Jones, grown in Tujunga. [SPSC pg. 314]

**Salvia ‘Allen Chickering’, Allen Chickering sage (Lamiaceae), exhibited by Dick Kohlschreiber, grown in San Pedro. [SPSC pg. 314]

**Salvia brandegeei x munzii ‘Pacific Blue’, Pacific Blue sage (Lamiaceae), exhibited by Carol Bornstein, grown in Los Angeles. [GS Feb 2006]

**Salvia chiapensis** (Lamiaceae), exhibited by Eric Brooks, grown in Baldwin Hills. [SPSC pg. 316]

**Salvia gesneraeiflora** (Lamiaceae), exhibited by Eric Brooks, grown in Baldwin Hills; also exhibited by J. Jaeger, grown in Santa Monica [SPSC pg. 317]

**Salvia leucophylla**, purple sage (Lamiaceae), exhibited by J. Jones, grown in Tujunga. [SPSC pg. 317]

**Veltheimia bracteata**, forest lily (Asparagaceae), exhibited by E. Lorenz, grown in Los Angeles. [SPSC pg. 358]

**Veltheimia capensis** (Asparagaceae), exhibited by Debra Bushweit Galliani, grown in Redondo Beach. [SPSC pg. 358]

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

**Clivia ‘Ember’PPAF, Ember bush lily (Amaryllidaceae), exhibited by John Schoustra, grown in Bellflower. ‘Ember’ is distinguished by having very dark green foliage to 10 inches, 4-6” diameter umbels to 14” tall bearing 1-2 inch diameter flowers that open clear orange and intensify to a glowing orange red, with potential for fall rebloom. It is the first commercially-available dwarf clivia cultivar. The cross was made more than 25 years ago at Greenwood Daylily Gardens, Inc. After years of selection and clonal propagation by division, this little gem is now available.**

**Dendrobium kingianum**, pink rock orchid (Orchidaceae), exhibited by Gloria Leinbach, grown in Torrance. Australia. This cool-growing orchid produces 1-inch rose, reddish or white flowers striped with violet in late winter to early spring. Spikes contain few to 20 or more flowers. Pseudobulbs are 2-20 inches tall and bear 4-inch leaves. Performs well outdoors with protection from frost.
Clockwise from upper left:

- *Ferraria crispa*
- *Gladiolus equitans*
- *Clivia 'Embers'*
- *Plieone formosana*
- *Dodecatheon clevelandii*
- *Gladiolus venustus*
Gladiolus cunonius, lepelblom (Iridaceae), exhibited by James E. Henrich, grown in Azusa. South Africa, Cape Province. Synonyms include Anomalesia cunonia and Antholyza cunonia. Plants 8-30 inches tall; strongly inclined spikes bear 5-8 bright red flowers that have elongate, spoon-shaped dorsal tepals and lateral tepals that are held erect, like wings. Grows best in sandy, well-drained soil. Flowers are mostly orange with lime green marking on lower tepals. It is similar to *G. alatus* but with short, broad, leathery leaves that have raised margins. It grows on rocky hills. Culture is similar to other winter-growing Gladiolus.

Gladiolus equitans, large red kalkoentjie (Iridaceae), exhibited by James E. Henrich, grown in Azusa. South Africa, Namaquland. One of ten species in the tribe Hebea and section Hebea characterized by having flowers that are orchid-like. Hooded dorsal tepal and lateral tepals are large while the lower three tepals are much smaller. Flowers are mostly orange with lime green marking on lower tepals. It is similar to *G. alatus* but with short, broad, leathery leaves that have raised margins. It grows on rocky hills. Culture is similar to other winter-growing Gladiolus.

Hakea francisciana, grass-leaf hakea (Proteaceae), exhibited by Sheldon Lisker, grown in Temecula. West Australia to South Australia. Species commemorates George W. Francis, the first director of Adelaide Botanic Gardens. It is a tall shrub to small tree from 8 to 18 ft. tall. Tolerates well-drained sandy or clay soils, grows best in full sun and is drought tolerant once established. Flowers are coral pink, appearing in winter and they attract hummingbirds. Leaves are flat and linear 3 to 10 inches long.

Hyacinthus orientalis ‘Festival’ hybrids, Festival hyacinth (Asparagaceae), exhibited by Sheldon Lisker, grown in Temecula. When Greek divine hero Hyacinthus died at the hands of Zephyrus, Apollo claimed his body from Hades and created a flower, the hyacinth, from his spilled blood. This hybrid was released in the early 1950s and is distinguished from other hyacinths by the looser, more open, multiple flower stems produced from each bulb. The Festival series produces blue, pink or white fragrant flowers. Plants are suitable for containers and resistant to deer. All parts of the plant are poisonous if ingested and handling may cause skin irritation or allergic reaction.

Ipomoea murucoides, palo del muerto (Convolvulaceae), exhibited by James E. Henrich, grown at Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia. Michoacán to Oaxaca, Puebla, Mexico, Queréétaro, Guanajuato and Guatemala. It forms a spindly-stemmed large shrub to small tree with a caudiciform base. The creamy white funnel-shaped flowers are up to 3 inches long and ob lanceolate leaves are up to 10 inches long. A decoction of the wood is used locally in baths as a remedy for paralysis; ashes used in Guatemala as laundry soap substitute; fallen flowers are eaten by deer.

Pleione formosana, windowsill orchid (Orchidaceae), exhibited by James E. Henrich, grown in Azusa. Taiwan and China. The species name means from Formosa, the former name of Taiwan. Three-inch diameter Cattleya-like flowers have lilac-lavender tepals and fringed white lip marked with brown spots and yellowish ridges. Spherical pseudobulbs produce flowers in late winter, followed by a single plicate leaf that matures in summer, turns yellow in October and subsequently abscises. Grow in rich, well-drained planting mix; plants perform best in shade; mist new growth daily as it emerges in winter, gradually increasing the water as roots form, ultimately keeping planting mix moist all summer into fall. Apply a dilute balanced fertilizer throughout the growing season. Store pots in the garage after the plants are dormant. Either top off planting mix or repot annually once new growth begins to emerge.

Salvia flocculosa, blue Ecuadorian sage (Lamiaceae), exhibited by Dick Kohlschreiber, grown in San Pedro. Andean Ecuador. It was first collected in 1844, then subsequently five times from disparate locations, most recently in 1978, all from elevations between 8,000 to 9,000 feet. It was first known as *Salvia cruckshankii*, then *S. collina* and *S. spicata*. It is categorized as “Vulnerable” on the IUCN Red List of Threatened SpeciesTM. Population decline is the result of habitat destruction. This species bears dusky blue flowers with white bee lines against silvery foliage on plants that can reach 10 feet tall, taller with heat. Flowers attract bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. The best growth results from applying ample water, but it can also be remarkably drought tolerant. Prune plants back periodically to encourage new growth. It has not proven to be hardy for Ginny Hunt in Watsonville. Salvia ‘Ecuador’ is the name it sometimes has in the trade.

Syringa x hyacinthiflora ‘Excel’, Excel lilac (Oleaceae), exhibited by Sheldon Lisker, grown in Temecula. This variety differs from most lilacs by flowering earlier and being more compact, becoming 10-12 ft. tall and 8-10 ft. wide. The lilac-lavender flowers are single and fragrant. It is tolerant of both heat and cold, performing best in full sun to partial shade, with average to moist soil, but tolerates some drought once established. It has a low chilling requirement making it ideal for southern California. The species is progeny of *S. vulgaris* and *S. oblata*. Flower buds are formed by summer; prune soon after flowering to avoid removing flower buds later in the season.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Fee</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, June 23</td>
<td>4:00-8:00pm</td>
<td>21st Annual Family Music Festival with Chubby Checker and the Wildcats</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pasadenasymphony-pops.org/21st-annual-family-music-festival/">www.pasadenasymphony-pops.org/21st-annual-family-music-festival/</a></td>
<td>Fee</td>
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<td>Saturday, June 1</td>
<td>1:30-3:30pm</td>
<td>California Native Plant Horticulture with Lili Singer</td>
<td><a href="http://www.theodorepayne.org">www.theodorepayne.org</a></td>
<td>Fee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, June 15</td>
<td>10:00am-6:00pm</td>
<td>Claremont Folk Festival. This is a ticketed event; the Garden will not be open for general admission. Discount for members. Fee</td>
<td><a href="http://www.theodorepayne.org">www.theodorepayne.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, June 22</td>
<td>1:30-3:30pm</td>
<td>Lecture: Debra Lee Baldwin Presents Succulents Simplified. Free with garden admission.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.theodorepayne.org">www.theodorepayne.org</a></td>
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<td>Fee</td>
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<td>Thursday, June 6</td>
<td>8:00-10:00am</td>
<td>First Thursday Bird Walk with Ken Gilliland. Free but reservations requested.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sdhort.org">www.sdhort.org</a></td>
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<td>Saturday, June 8</td>
<td>9:00am-1:00pm</td>
<td>California Native Plant Horticulture with Lili Singer. Fee</td>
<td><a href="http://www.theodorepayne.org">www.theodorepayne.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, June 15</td>
<td>9:30-11:00am</td>
<td>Smart Gardening Compost Workshop. Local residents can purchase a backyard or worm composting bins at a discount. Free with garden admission.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sdhort.org">www.sdhort.org</a></td>
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<td>Saturday, June 22</td>
<td>12:00-4:30pm</td>
<td>The San Diego Horticultural Society meets Monday, June 24 at 5:30pm at the Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds. Night at the Fair with Horticulturist of the Year Brad Monroe. Fee for non-members. Information: 619-296-9215, sdhort.org.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.theodorepayne.org">www.theodorepayne.org</a></td>
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UPCOMING 2013 SCHS PROGRAMS

At Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles CA 90027, starting at 7:30 pm, unless otherwise noted.

July 11 – Amelia Lima will present a program about Roberto Burle Marx, Brazilian landscape architect. (Note: This meeting will be at the Los Angeles Zoo—details will be in July newsletter)

August 8 - To be announced.

September 12 - HOTY dinner at Los Angeles Arboretum.

THANK YOU TO OUR BOARD MEMBERS

Five of our board members are either terming off the board or leaving early for various reasons. We would like to offer our thanks for their service to SCHS. They are; Bettina Gatti, who has served as our board secretary and internship coordinator for a number of years; Sula Vanderplank; Lisa Ceazan who helped with Programs and Field Trips; Debra Bushweit Galliani, our newsletter editor for many years; and last but certainly not least, Bart O’Brien, who has worn just about every hat (except treasurer) including president, in his twenty years on the board of SCHS. Thank you for all you have done. We will sorely miss your input and help at our board meetings.

-Steven Gerischer

Board of Directors

Steven Gerischer, President, Pacific Horticulture Board, Programs & Newsletter
James E. Henrich, Vice President, Green Sheet & Membership
Bettina Gatti, Secretary & Internship Coordinator
Laura Bauer, Treasurer & Finance
Joel Lichtenwalter, Membership Secretary

Carol Bornstein Programs
Debra Bushweit Galliani, Membership
Lisa Ceazan, Programs & Field Trips
Sandy Masuo, Facebook & Field Trips & Volunteer Coordinator
Bart O’Brien
Yvonne Savio, Programs & Field Trips
John Schoustra, Plant Raffle & Plant Sales
Lili Singer, Selected Book Sales & Programs
Jill Vig, Pacific Horticulture Board

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Newsletter Editor: Steven Gerischer

Contributors to this issue:
Laura Bauer, Bettina Gatti, Steven Gerischer, James E. Henrich, Paul Martin, and all Sharing Secrets contributors.

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

Southern California
Horticultural Society
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Pasadena CA  91109-4476

NEWSLETTER
May 2013