SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Where passionate gardeners meet to share knowledge and learn from each other.

socalhort.org  August 2013 Newsletter

OUR NEXT MEETING
Thursday, August 8
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.

SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS
Mardi Caruso
Carol Knight
Danielle & Brian Smith

NEXT SHARING SECRETS QUESTION
The Sharing Secrets question for August is: “Do you encourage beneficial insects in your garden, and if so, how?”

You can answer on the cards we’ll supply at our August 8 meeting, on our MemberLodge website or e-mail your response to: sglarkspr@aol.com by Friday, September 13.

IN THIS ISSUE

CALL FOR SILENT AUCTION ITEMS
September, and our Horticulturist of the Year event is the time for our annual silent auction. The silent auction is a major source of funds for our Society and a great way to bid on cool, garden-related items and other useful and fun things. If you have items you would like to donate to our silent auction, please contact Steven Gerischer at: sglarkspr@aol.com or phone (323)257-3629.

While most of us who garden can identify a number of common beneficial insects, some are not so easily recognized. The photos below, provided by our speaker, illustrate one case in point. The mealy bug destroyer is not immediately familiar to many people, but those who understand the life cycle of this voracious beetle and the odd larva it matures from are overjoyed when they spot one in their yard. Come and learn more...

Lili Singer: Beneficial Bugs in the Garden

Healthy productive gardens include a miniature menagerie of tiny animals that keep garden pests in check. This illustrated talk features good bugs you’re likely to find in the landscape, with tips on how to attract and support them. Lili is an award-winning horticulturist, educator and garden writer, and a member of the SCHS Board of Directors. In 1997, she was named Horticulturist of the Year by the Society.

(Note: Daniel Marlos: The Curious World of Bugs was originally announced as our August program. Mr. Marlos had to cancel due to a family matter and our own Board Member, Lili Singer has graciously offered to give a presentation on a similar subject.)

Cryptolaemus montrouzieri, adult and larva, mealybug destroyer.

SPECIAL NOTE ON OUR HORTICULTURIST OF THE YEAR AWARD BANQUET
A number of Dave Lannom’s current and former students, and many of his friends have expressed interest in attending this years award banquet. The venue, at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden, can hold a few more than our previous location-but if you are interested it might be wise to get your tickets early. See the flyer in this newsletter.

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The August Meeting
Amelia Lima gave us a presentation detailing the life and work of the Brazilian artist, garden designer and landscape innovator, Roberto Burle Marx. Her talk began with a short history of Brazil, covering the peculiar Old World agreement between Spain and Portugal that lead to a distinct separation between languages and cultures in South America. Portuguese is spoken in Brazil, and Spanish is the predominant language in the rest of South and Central America. The cultural influences that shaped Brazil are from Portugal.

Amelia’s presentation then detailed the early creative life of Burle Marx, with his interest in music and studies in other artistic fields. Marx suffered as a young man from deteriorating eyesight and traveled to Berlin to seek medical help. She told us how his studies in painting and visual arts led him to the Botanical Garden Berlin Dahlem as he sought subjects for representing on paper and canvas. She explained that it was in Germany, so far from his home, that Burle Marx first saw Brazilian plants. He was immediately struck by their fantastic forms that Burle Marx first saw Brazilian plants. He was immediately struck by their fantastic forms that Burle Marx first saw Brazilian plants. He was immediately struck by their fantastic forms that Burle Marx first saw Brazilian plants. He was immediately struck by their fantastic forms that Burle Marx first saw Brazilian plants. He was immediately struck by their fantastic forms that Burle Marx first saw Brazilian plants.

Amelia detailed the travels of Burle Marx with his family, and his return to Brazil in 1929. He decided to study architecture, but a teacher convinced him to switch back to visual arts. This was a fortunate decision and set Burle Marx on a course that would lead him into designing gardens as he continued with his painting, printmaking, sculpture and other artistic ventures. Burle Marx had made connections with numerous architects, such as Oscar Niemeyer and Lucio Costa, and began to design landscapes for projects headed by them. His designs were influenced by the Bauhaus movement and were conceived to integrate the structures, public and private, into their surroundings. Burle Marx developed his signature style during this period using native plants he had collected and propagated. This was a break from tradition and would continue throughout his working life.

Burle Marx kept a nursery at his private residence that allowed him to use masses of Brazilian plants (many he had collected in the wild) not available in the nursery trade. Burle Marx also began designing mosaics in the Portuguese tradition (usually black and white and sometimes red) incorporating his flair for visual arts.

We would like to thank Amelia Lima for illuminating the life of this incredibly creative man and to show his lasting influence on landscape design.

A big thanks to all who helped set up the meeting and to those who help run things smoothly and helped clean up afterwards. Also we would like to thank Sandy Masuo and the volunteers at the Los Angeles Zoo who helped guide our members and make sure everything went well.

-Steven Gerischer
Thank you to all who brought plants to the May, 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.]

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

*Billbergia chlorosticta* (syn. *B. saundersii*), rainbow plant (Bromeliaceae), by Jim Jaeger, Santa Monica. [SPSC, pg. 55]
*Cotyledon orbiculata*, pig’s ear (Crassulaceae), by Gary Kamisher, Los Angeles. [SPSC, pg. 104]
*Grevillea robusta*, silky oak (Proteaceae), by Sandy Masuo, Los Angeles Zoo, Los Angeles. [SPSC, pg. 170]
*Pelargonium carnosum*, fleshy-stalk pelargonium (Geraniaceae), by James E. Henrich, Azusa. [SPSC, pg. 274]
*Pelargonium gibbosum*, gouty pelargonium (Geraniaceae), by Leslie Walker, Redondo Beach. [SPSC, pg. 275]
*Pelargonium tetragonum*, square-stemmed pelargonium (Geraniaceae), by James E. Henrich, Azusa. [SPSC 278]
*Rhodohyposis baurii*, red star (Hypoxidaceae), by James E. Henrich, Azusa. (SPSC, pg. 307)
*Sisyrinchium palmifolium* var. *fuscoviride* (syn. *S. macrocephalum*), (Iridaceae), by Paul Martin, Pasadena. [SPSC, pg. 331]

Plants that could not be fully identified:
*Carex*, sedge (Cyperaceae), by Mark Infusino, Burbank.

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

*Aechmea ‘Bert’* (Bromeliaceae), by Jim Jaeger, Santa Monica. Brazil. Tropical epiphyte. Hybrid between *Aechmea orlandiana* and *A. fosteriana*. Habit is upright with pale green leaves distinctively marked with maroon bands.

*Aechmea ‘Royal Wine’* (Bromeliaceae), by Jim Jaeger, Santa Monica. Brazil. Performs best in filtered sun to shade. ‘Royal Wine’ is a hybrid between *Aechmea miniata* var. *discolor* and *A. victoriana* var. *discolor* created by Mulford Foster. The 2-inch-wide leaves are green above and cherry maroon beneath forming a graceful open rosette. Semi-pendant inflorescence bears dark blue flowers followed by closely spaced orange fruits.

*Aeonium ‘Martian Heads’* (Crassulaceae), by Bart O’Brien, Upland. Canary Islands. This herbaceous plant is a purported to be a hybrid of *Aeonium spathulatum*, *A. sedgefolium* and *A. findleyi*. Huntington Botanical Gardens received this plant from Janis Noyes (former owner of Squaw Mountain Gardens in Estacada, Oregon in January, 2003. The cultivar name references the summer dormant, stalked rosettes that resemble Brussels sprouts.

*Albuca clanwilliamae-glória*, slime lily (Asparagaceae), by Sheldon Lisker, Temecula. South Africa. Bulbous plant found in the winter rainfall region requiring a dry and dormant summer. It is a monster in the genus grows to 6 feet tall; only recently discovered and named. Flowers are yellow and pendant. Named for Clanwilliam in the Western Cape Province.

*Begonia ruhlandiana*, begonia (Begoniaceae), by James E. Henrich, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia. Brazil. Herbaceous perennial that is a brown pubescent succulent, uncommon in the genus *Begonia*. Panicles of flowers are white with golden stigmas and anthers. Grows equally well grown as a wet tropical or desert plant. Plant collected by nurseryman Fred Meyer in the mid 1990s and distributed by Huntington Botanical Gardens. It is native to the open, rocky, hot and sunny habitat of Morro do Chapeu, Bahia.
Leucocoryne ‘Caravelle’, glory of the sun (Amaryllidaceae), by Bart O’Brien, Upland. Chile. Winter-growing bulb that performs best when grown in full sun to light shade, attaining a height of 15 to 20 inches. Starry flowers are violet with red or reddish centers and fragrant; works well as a cut flower.

Pelargonium campestre, geranium (Geraniaceae), by James E. Henrich, Azusa. South Africa. This succulent perennial grows from a nearly invisible caudex to about 6 inches tall and bears white flowers with narrow dark purple stripes. Provide a well drained planting medium, moderate water and light shade to full sun for best performance. It is native to the Port Elizabeth area.

Pelargonium curviandrum, geranium (Geraniaceae), by James E. Henrich, Azusa. South Africa. This is another succulent perennial that grows from a fleshy caudex. Best growth is achieved when grown in well-drained gritty medium, moderate water and full sun. Plants grow to nearly 6 inches tall. They bear pale cream flowers with red markings.

Uesnelia lateralis (Bromeliaceae), by Jim Jaeger, Santa Monica. Brazil. Herbaceous epiphyte to about 1.5 feet with erect, green leaves above and covered with irregular banding of silver trichomes beneath. Small spines line the leaf margins. Flower stems are covered with crimson sheathing bracts; flowers are bright azure blue.

Salvia macrophylla, Peruvian sage (Lamiaceae), by Bart O’Brien, Upland. Colombia, Peru and Bolivia. Evergreen giant understory perennial to 15 feet! It performs well in partial shade but more sun yields more flowers. Leaves are triangular hastate, green above and violet beneath, bear many glands, and are sticky and aromatic. Flowers are blue with the lower lip shorter than the upper. Flowers are attractive to hummingbirds and plants are deer resistant.
Contact each listing below to confirm the event, for details and for a full schedule. Registration requested or required.

ARCADIA 91007
L.A. COUNTY ARBORETUM & BOTANIC GARDEN
301 N. Baldwin Ave.
626-821-4623; arboretum.org

Saturday, August 10
10:00am-4:00pm
Saturday Botanical Art & Illustration. Cristina Baltayan is the instructor and all levels of experience are welcome. Fee

Saturday & Sunday, August 17 & 18
9:00am-5:00pm
Intericity Cactus Show & Sale. Free with garden admission.

Tuesdays, August 20-December 10
5:00-9:30pm
Horticultural Science Class with instructor Dave Lannom. This for-credit class (3 units) is a course on basic horticulture skills and techniques. Students must register through Mt. SAC before the class begins. For information, call Mt. SAC at 909-594-5611, ext. 4540.

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

Sunday, August 18
5:00-8:00pm
Medicinal Plants of California Herb Walk. Join experienced herbalist William Broen for a Garden walk and presentation featuring medicinal and edible plants native to California. Fee

FULLERTON 92831
FULLERTON ARBORETUM
1900 Associated Rd. at Jamboree
657-278-3407
fullertonarbor lexum.org

Wednesday, August 7
6:00-7:00pm
Wildflowers of Orange County and the Santa Ana Mountains. A book launch and signing event with authors Bob Allen and Fred Roberts. Fee

LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE 91011
DESCANSO GARDENS
1418 Descanso Drive
818-949-7980; descansogardens.org

Saturday, August 17
10:00am
Basic Propagation. Descanso horticulturist Guy Hernandez will demonstrate the basics of plant propagation and the many ways to “clone” your favorite plants. Fee

PALOS VERDES PENINSULA 90274
SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.
(310) 544-1948
southcoastbotanicgarden.org

Saturdays, August 3, 10, 24 & 31
10:00-11:00am
Creating a Fall Edible Garden. This four-week course with instructor Judith Gerber will provide you with all the information you need to grow a cool-season edible garden including fruits, vegetables and herbs. Fee

Sunday, August 4
1:00-2:00pm
Geranium Propagation Workshop. Cuttings will be supplied as well as pot and soil and instructions for planting. Free with garden admission.

Sunday, August 11
1:00-2:30pm
Summer Floral Design Secrets and Demonstration with instructors Kit Wertz and Casey Schwartz of Flower Duet.

SAN MARINO 91108
HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS
1151 Oxford Rd.
626-405-2128; huntington.org

Thursday, August 8
2:30pm
Garden Talk and Plant Sale: Growing Daffodils in Southern California. Harold Koopowitz discusses the challenges of growing daffodils in Southern California, their horticultural classification, and cultivars that do best in this climate, including the new miniature daffodils. Free.

Sunday, August 25
1:30-3:00pm
Tropical Nursery Tour. Explore the botanical nurseries where rare orchids, aroids, and carnivorous plants are grown, tour with Dylan Hannon, curator of tropical collections. Reserve online or call 800-838-3006. Free with garden admission.

SUN VALLEY 91352
THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION
10459 Tuxford Street
(818) 768-1802; theodorepayne.org

Saturday, August 3
9:00am-1:00pm
California Native Plant Horticulture. Learn the basics of gardening with California flora with instructor Lili Singer.

Saturday, August 3
1:30-3:30pm
Pruning Native Trees and Shrubs. Class includes lecture, demonstration and hands-on practice with instructor Rebecca Latta.

Saturday, August 10
9:00-11:00am
Look, Ma, No Lawn! We'll explain how to take it out and offer alternatives for the space—specifically low-care native plants that need no fertilizer and use a fraction of the water required for turf. Instructor Lili Singer. Fee

Saturday, August 17
8:30am-4:30pm
Dog Days of Summer Plant Sale. Members receive 15% off plants and 10% off seed and store items!

Saturday, August 24
1:30-3:30pm
Perfect Partners: Gardening with Natives and All Sorts of Edibles with instructor Lili Singer. This class discusses how best to combine natives and edibles in the home garden, why this partnership is so rewarding for both the gardener/chef and wildlife, and which plants make the best companions. Fee

Saturday, August 31
9:00am-12:00pm
Everything Elderberry. Discover and celebrate the seasonal cycles of our native elderberry in this unique hands-on workshop! Make an elderberry/wansak clapstick and—if berries are ripe and ready to gather—some elderberry syrup! Instructor Kat High is a Native Californian of Hupa descent. Fee

The San Diego Horticultural Society meets Monday, August 12 at 6:00pm at the Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds. Nan Sterman to speak on how drip irrigation saves water, which is one of the main goals of sustainable gardening. Fee for non-members. Information: 619-296-9215, sdhort.org.

- Compiled by Bettina Gatti
Send notices to bettina0203@hotmail.com.
UPCOMING 2013 SCHS PROGRAMS

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

September 12 - Horticulturist of the Year dinner at Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden. Honoring Dave Lannom.
October 10 - Native Plant Growers Panel (Details TBA).
November 14 - Bernard Trainor: Landprints.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

Southern California Horticultural Society would like to welcome our new board members.

Yoav Paskowitz
Tom Carruth
Pat Steen (our new secretary)

We are excited that we have so many new board members to help keep our Society functioning. If you have an interest in serving on the board, or attending a board meeting, please see any one of our board members at the next meeting.

-Steven Gerischer

Board of Directors

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

Carol Bornstein Programs
Tom Carruth
Sandy Masuo, Facebook & Field Trips & Volunteer Coordinator
Yoav Paskowitz
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: Bettina Gatti, Steven Gerischer, James E. Henrich, Paul Martin and all Sharing Secrets contributors

Next deadline: Friday, August 9 (for September newsletter). It is the Friday following our monthly membership meeting. Please contribute an article or information of interest.
Southern California Horticultural Society 2013 Annual Award Banquet

Please respond by Friday, August 30, 2013

Yes, please reserve: ______ Tickets at $45 each [Total enclosed $_______ (check only)] (or register online at: socalthort.org)

Name(s)________________________________________________________________________________________

Address _______________________________________________________________________________________

City __________________________________________ State _________ Zip _______________________

Phone ____________________________ E.mail __________________________________________________

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

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