Southern California Horticultural Society
Where passionate gardeners meet to share knowledge and learn from each other.

socalhort.org

June 2014 Newsletter

Our Next Meeting
Thursday, June 12
Friendship Auditorium
3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles CA 90027
7:00 pm. Social Hour.
Meeting begins at
8:00 pm.

SCHS Welcomes New Members
Pam Aitcheson
Laura Hall

Please welcome our new members when you see them at our meetings.

Sharing Secrets Question

The Sharing Secrets question for June is: "How has the lack of a pronounced winter chill affected your garden?" You can answer on our MemberLodge website or e-mail your response to: sglarkspr@aol.com by Friday, June 13.

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Hartmut Wisch:
Introduction to Native Bees of California
Thursday, June 12, 2014

Hollywood Double Feature
Coffee in the Garden.
Sunday, June 8.

Introduction to Native Bees of California with Hartmut Wisch. Not all bees you see are honeybees! This program celebrates our native bees - some 1600 different species - with superb images of all six recognized families and fascinating commentary on these gentle, diverse and remarkable creatures that co-evolved with our native flora and are our main pollinators. Hartmut discovered a love for macro photography and a fascination with the diversity of our insect fauna after 35 years as a naturalist-guide, taking European visitors through western North America. Native bees are his special interest. He is a contributing editor at bugguide.net. Hartmut, along with his camera and net, travel far and wide throughout California, especially L.A. County, in search of interesting insects that associate with native plants.

(PHOTOS: Rosemary Ecker)

Join us for an up close (very up close!) look at our native bees and the plants and flowers they use for pollen as well as nesting materials, and even places to meet a mate!

Another Book Sale!

A long time member of SCHS, Eileen Fiumara, recently passed away. Her library of gardening books was donated to the society and will be available for sale at the June meeting. All proceeds go to supporting SCHS. All books will be pre-priced and cash and checks only will be accepted.

If there is anyone willing to volunteer to run the sales table during the meeting, please contact me, Steven Gerischer at: sglarkspr@aol.com or call me at (323) 257-3629.

Judy Horton Garden--When landscape designer Judy Horton moved into a 1925 cottage in the Hollywood Hills, the garden consisted of a lawn, a young sycamore tree, a camellia and a ficus hedge. “I needed to make quick and drastic changes,” said Horton, who proceeded to remake her landscape to deliver pleasing views from the house’s windows and doors.
May Meeting Recap

The May meeting of the Southern California Horticultural Society was a presentation by SCHS members, Eric and Ann Brooks, titled: "Gardening is for the Birds." The Brooks showed us how they have translated their love of birding, and all things avian, into a passion for attracting birds to their garden. The photographic (and even video) documentation of the many bird species that regularly visit their garden was impressive. The plants and trees Eric and Ann have cultivated in their landscape were often chosen for their usefulness in feeding, sheltering and in other ways, supporting the birds that call our area home—or are just passing through on their annual migrations.

The dedication Eric and Ann bring to the task of attracting birds was highlighted by the large display of feeders, birdhouses, watering gadgets and other paraphernalia they had on display at the front of the hall. It was remarkable to see how many different strategies there are for helping attract, feed and support the populations of birds that we can see in California. (This state has the largest number of species recorded of all the United States–just the other day a Caracara was spotted on Santa Cruz Island—a species of bird of prey usually found south of our border with Mexico and into Central America)

Feeding wild birds can bring many unusual species into your yard, allowing you to get a closer look—but as Eric and Ann showed us, water is key. Any kind of water birds can get at, from the simplest dish to elaborate offshoots of an irrigation system dripping into a bird bath, water will bring birds out to play, bathe and drink—sometimes in great numbers. There were many valuable points in the presentation for anyone wishing to see more birds in their garden.

We would like to thank Eric and Ann Brooks for showing how to go to the birds! (A special thanks as well to our ever handy AV tech, Al Steen for shepherding the talk through some technical glitches—thanks Al!) Thank you to all who helped set up, run and clean up after, the meeting.

Now that we’ve done the birds, the bees are next. Please join us for the June 12 meeting of SCHS as we welcome Hartmut Wisch and his: 'Introduction to Native Bees of California.'

—Steven Gerischer

SHARING SECRETS
In May, we asked you to answer "Which plants do you grow to attract birds to your garden?" and here are some of your responses. Read more on our SCHS MemberLodge website, schs.memberlodge.org.

I adore Hummingbirds and have planted many different Salvias as well as others for us both to enjoy.

—April Curtis

Anigozanthos, Kangaroo Paws attract lots of hummingbirds. I like to sit and watch them after doing some gardening.

—Irma Arvizu

Prostrate rosemary brings house finches, American goldfinches and warblers in droves. I have also seen the elusive Orchard Orioles around an Iochroma, but maybe on their way to the orange tree? I don’t really know what brings the Orchard Orioles but they are in my yard and are the hot bird right now.

—Jill Vig

I am very fortunate to live right next to the Santa Monica Conservancy, so many bird species have visited my home. I currently have two new families of house finches that have set up house under the eaves of my home. In addition, there are two pairs of red-tail hawks that fly around hunting during the hot weather we’re currently having.

There are many colorful varieties of hummingbirds that reside in the area and are attracted to the following plants in the garden: Salvia greggi ‘Alba’ which blooms most of the year, Galvezia speciosa ‘Bocarosa’ - Island Snapdragon, a very floriferous native small shrub and Leonotis leonurus - Lion’s tail - which blooms in the late spring and summer; and Agapanthus ‘Getty White’ with it’s huge white flowers that are just starting now.

—Magda Krachmalnick

My go-to plant for hummingbirds is Salvia ‘Waverly’, so easy to grow. Iochroma in my garden is a hotbed of aerial dogfights between competing pairs of hummingbirds. The local Mockingbirds are certain I grow blueberries specifically for their benefit (but right now a chance seeding of Occhna serrulata is producing its black berry-like seeds and the Mockingbirds are distracted!

—Steven Gerischer

SCHS INTERN PRESENTATION
The 2013 SCHS intern awardee, Cynthia Robinson gave us a presentation of her work at Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden at the May meeting. Her project to determine which cloud forest plants would be appropriate for the refurbished greenhouse at the Arboretum was fascinating. Cynthia used Google Maps to produce an overlay onto information about botanical specimens and where they were collected to determine if certain plants were from cloud forest regions. This was an innovative use of new technology to further the study and understanding of how these botanically rich areas work.

Thank you Cynthia!

Silent Auction Donations, and Note regarding Horticulturist of the Year Award Dinner.

Our Horticulturist of the Year Award Dinner honoring Don Hodel, will be held on a Saturday (September 13) instead of the usual second Thursday of the month–look for details in the upcoming announcement. In the meantime we are seeking interesting and exciting donations for the silent auction to raise funds for SCHS and the work we do (including funding our speakers and our internship program). If you have favorite shops or service providers who might be willing to donate time, or gift certificates, or even a planted pot from your favorite nursery, ask them if they would be willing to support us. If you have anything to donate or need a question answered please contact Steven Gerischer at: sglarkspur@aol.com. Or call at: (323) 257-3629.

Contact us at: sglarkspur@aol.com, or online at: schs.memberlodge.org.
Thank you to all who brought plants the March, 2014 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 one or more plants for discussion at the Plant Forum table (if there is a Plant Raffle that night).

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

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.

Bletilla striata, Chinese ground orchid (Orchidaceae), by Joan Seidel, Hollywood Hills. [WPSCG, pg. 57]
Ferraria crispa, spider iris (Iridaceae), by Shirley Kost, Long Beach. [SPSCG, pg. 152]
Gladiolus equitans, bergkalkoentjie (Iridaceae), by James E. Henrich, Azusa. [GS, March 2013]
Gladiolus splendens, bergafrikaner (Iridaceae), by Paul Martin, Pasadena & Sheldon Lisker, Sun City. [SPSCG, pg. 166]
Hakea petiolaris, pincushion hakea (Proteaceae), by Joan Citron, Reseda. [SPSCG, pg. 174]
Hippeastrum papilio, butterfly amaryllis (Amaryllidaceae), by Sheldon Lisker, Sun City. [SPSCG, pg. 188]
Ixia viridiflora, green ixia (Iridaceae), by Laura Bauer, Ventura. [SPSCG, pg. 205]
Leucospermum cordifolium, pincushion (Proteaceae), by Gary Kamisher, West Los Angeles. [SPSCG, pg. 223]
Lychnothamnus floribundus, Catalina ironwood (Rosaceae), by Gary Kamisher, West Los Angeles. [SPSCG, pg. 234]
Pelargonium barbeyi (Geraniaceae), by James E. Henrich, Azusa. [SPSCG, pg. 274]
Pelargonium oblongatum (Geraniaceae), by Jay Kapec, Castaic. [SPSCG, pg. 276]
Pleione formosana, windowsill orchid (Orchidaceae), by James E. Henrich, Azusa. [GS, March 2013]
Polypodioides formosana (syn. Polypodium formosum), caterpillar fern (Polypodiaceae), by Jim Jaeger, Santa Monica. [SPSCG, pg. 293]
Sphaeralcea ambigua, desert mallow (Malvaceae), by Ann & Eric Brooks, Baldwin Hills. [SPSCG, pg. 335]
Trichostema lanatum, wooly blue curls (Lamiaceae), by Ann & Eric Brooks, Baldwin Hills. [SPSCG, pg. 354]
Tulipa clusiana, lady tulip (Liliaceae), by Sheldon Lisker, Sun City. [SPSCG, pg. 356]
Tulipa sylvestris, wild tulip (Liliaceae), by Sheldon Lisker, Sun City. [SPSCG, pg. 356]
Veltheimia capensis, forest lily (Asparagaceae), by Debra Bushweit Galliani, Redondo Beach. [SPSCG, pg. 358]

Plants that could not be fully identified:
Gastrolobium (Fabaceae), by Gloria Leinbach, Torrance.
Lachenalia, cape cowslip (Asparagaceae), by Sheldon Lisker, Sun City.
Leucospermum hybrid, pincushion (Proteaceae), by Gary Kamisher, West Los Angeles.
Rhododendron, rhododendron (Ericaceae), by Ann & Eric Brooks, Baldwin Hills.

Begonia acutifolia (syn. Begonia acuminata), holly-leaf begonia (Begoniaceae), by Jim Jaeger, Santa Monica. Jamaica. This fibrous-rooted species grows 12-16 inches tall. Succulent stems are reddish-brown with green streaks. Leaves are 3 inches long by 1.5 inches wide, obliquely ovate with long pointed margins. The large flowers are white; male with 4 petals and female with 5 petals. Ovaries are pubescent with 2 short and 1 very long wing.

Dampiera trigona ‘Purple Wire’, angled-stem dampiera (Goodeniaceae), by Debra Bushweit Galliani, Redondo Beach. Australasia. This perennial grows into a tuft formed from slender stems to 2 feet tall. Flowers are blue-violet with yellow centers. Performs best in full sun and well-drained soil with regular watering. Deadhead after flowering to promote new growth. Reported to be very attractive to gophers, so provide wire cage protection. The genus is named for William Dampier, an English explorer who was one of the first to explore parts of Australia.
**Dendrobium kingianum**, pin rock orchid (Orchidaceae), by Gloria Leinbach, Torrance. New South Wales and Queensland, Australia. This beautiful, small, lithophytic orchid comes from rocky cliffs but performs very well as an epiphyte in pots or on slabs in cultivation. Pseudobulbs grow to 6 inches tall with 4-6 leaves. 1-inch fragrant flowers, borne in winter, are lavender-mauve, shell pink, white and various combinations, with striped lips. Grow in low to medium light and cool to intermediate temperatures.

**Grevillea ‘Winpara Gem’** (Proteaceae), by Ann & Eric Brooks, Baldwin Hills. Australia. Fast-growing shrub from 6-8 feet tall. Bright red, spider-like flowers are produced from winter through summer. Plant in well-drained, light to heavy soil (tolerates alkalinity) in full sun to partial shade where it will become drought tolerant once established. ‘Winpara Gem’ arose as a seedling on a property called “Winpara” at Jervois, South Australia in 1981. It is purported to be a hybrid between *G. thelemanniana* and *G. olivacea*.

**Leucospermum cordifolium** ‘Yellow Bird’, nodding pincushion (Proteaceae), by Gary Kamisher, West Los Angeles. South Africa. Beautiful shrub to 4 feet tall and 7 feet wide bearing gray-green leaves. Yellow flowers are dome shaped, lasting for extended periods in spring. Plant in full sun where it will become drought tolerant once established. It is considered disease resistant.

**Oxalis adenophylla**, Chilean oxalis (Oxalidaceae), by James E. Henrich, Azusa. Chile and Argentina. Terrestrial plants grow to about 12 inches from fibrous corms. Foliage is covered in silver hairs that provide protection from the intense sun at alpine elevations. Grows from late winter through summer. It survives frozen ground in its native winter habitat but will rot in wet winter soils, so keep dry in winter. Partial sunlight intensifies the silver coloration of the leaves.

**Passithea caerulea** (Xanthorrhoeaceae), by Sheldon Lisker, Sun City. Chile. Rhizomatous perennial herb that produces potato-like tubers. Flowers are a beautiful royal blue with filaments of the same color bearing yellow anthers. Performs well in a container or well-drained rock garden, flowering in spring and going dormant for the summer. Provide some water during the summer. Plants grow to about 2.5 feet tall. It was formerly placed in the lily family. The genus was named after the daughter of Dionysus, and was the goddess of relaxation and “acquired sight.”

**Pelargonium moniliforme**, geranium (Geraniaceae), by Jay Kapec, Castaic. Western South Africa. Flowers are white to cream with red blotches at the bases of the petals. It grows from a tuberous root that can grow to 1 inch in diameter with foliage to about 5 inches tall. The species name refers to the small tubers formed along the main and lateral roots. Performs best in sand, clay and quartz soils in full sun; winter growing and summer dormant. Ernst Heinrich Friedrich Meyer named this plant in 1843.

**Swainsona galegifolia**, Darling pea (Fabaceae), by Aprille Curtis, Burbank. New South Wales and Queensland, Australia. Shrubby perennial growing from the crown annually to about 3 feet tall. The pinnate leaves are somewhat grayish providing an attractiveness when not in flower. 1-inch, pea-shaped flowers are produced on about 6 inch flower stems and range in color from white to pink, mauve and crimson. Fruits are legumes that dehisce explosively, spreading seeds far and wide. It is recommended that old flower branches are cut to the plant’s crown at the end of flowering season to encourage strong, new growth.
LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE 91011
DESCANSO GARDENS
1418 Descanso Drive
818-949-7980; descansogardens.org
Saturday, June 7, 11:00 am
Hands on Pruning Demonstration.
Pruning is an essential skill to keep plants trim and healthy. Bring your gloves and pruners for hands-on experience. Beginning gardeners welcome. $15 members, $20 nonmembers. Meets in Birch.
Tuesday, June 17, 2:00 pm.
PALOS VERDES PENINSULA 90274
SOUTHERN COAST BOTANIC GARDEN
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.
(310) 544-1948
southcoastbotanicgarden.org
Saturday, June 7, 2:00 pm–3:00 pm.
Fuchsia Lecture. Peter Olpe will talk about the fuchsia flower history and culture with a slideshow of beautiful photos. Sale follows the presentation.
Saturday, June 14, 10:00 am–4:00 pm.
Annual South Coast Fuchsia Society Show and Sale. Gorgeous, fresh blossoms will be on exhibit, showcasing many varieties. More than 150 varieties of fuchsia plants will be on view in the Ida Drapkin Fuchsia Garden just outside the show hall. Several hundred varieties of fuchsias will be for sale in variety of sizes including hanging baskets, standard trees, patio shrubs, and trellises, as well as in two-inch, four-inch, and gallon-size containers. Supplies will also be for sale. Saturday, June 21, 10:00 am–5:00 pm. South Coast Rose Society Show and Sale. An All American Rose Society (AARS) judged Show. Beautiful blooms will be on display: Floribunda, Hybrid tea, and old garden Roses. Some roses and tools will be for sale. Expert advice from Rose Society members.
SAN MARINO 91108
HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS
1151 Oxford Rd.
626-405-2128; huntington.org
Sunday, June 22, 1:30 pm–3:00 pm. Tropical Nursery Tour. Go behind the scenes with Dylan Hannon, curator of tropical collections, for a botanical nursery tour. Meet at the entrance to The Rose Hills Foundation Conservatory for Botanical Science. $5 besides Huntington admission. Register online or call 800-838-3006.
Friday, June 27, 12:00 pm–4:00 pm; Saturday & Sunday, June 28&29, 10:30 am–4:30 pm. 49th Annual Cactus and Succulent Show & Sale. Hundreds of outstanding and intriguing plants will be on view and for sale. Free with general admission. Brody Botanical Center.
SUN VALLEY 91352
THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION
10459 Tuxford Street
(818) 768-1802; theodorepayne.org
Saturday, June 7, 1:00 pm–3:30 pm.
The Wacky World of Pollination: Native Plants & the Critters Who Love Them with Bob Allen. Pollinators play a critical role in the reproduction of 90% of all flowering plants, including much of our food supply – and native plant gardens attract more pollinators than landscapes filled with exotic flora. This fascinating program includes fabulous photos, fun facts and hands-on examples! Gardeners of all ages are welcome! Bob is an entomologist, botanist, photographer and author. In 2006, he was recognized as Orange County’s Environmental Educator of the Year. He is co-author (with Fred Roberts) of A Field Guide to Wildflowers of Orange County and the Santa Ana Mountains. $25 members, $35 non-members.
Friday, June 13, 10:00 am–12:00 noon.
Hypertufa Container Workshop with Steven Gerischer. A super-fun, hands-on messy activity for grown-ups! Using cement, perlite and coir, each attendee will make a relatively lightweight container that resembles a time-weathered stone trough. Wear old clothes and shoes. All materials provided. Steve creates award-winning landscapes with his company, Larkspur Garden Design, and lectures on a wide variety of topics relating to gardening in this region. He also serves as president of the Southern California Horticultural Society and the Pacific Horticulture Society. $25 members, $35 non-members.
Saturday, June 14, 1:30 pm–3:30 pm.
Perfect Partners: Gardening with Natives and All Sorts of Edibles with Lili Singer. Gardening with natives and growing our own food are two wonderful activities that help us connect with nature and use our land in a positive way. 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. Lili is an award-winning horticulturist, educator and garden writer, and TPF’s director of special projects and adult education. $25 members, $35 non-members.
Saturday, June 21, 9:00 am–11:00 am.
Insects in the Field and Garden with Hartmut Wisch. This fabulously illustrated lecture reveals the diversity and beauty of insects that may be encountered in our local gardens and nearby wildlands. Hartmut discovered a love for macro photography and a fascination with our insect fauna after working for 35 years as a naturalist-guide through western North America. He is a contributing editor at bugguide.net (Iowa State University). $20 members, $30 non-members.
Saturday, June 21, 11:30 am–3:30 pm.
California Native Plant Horticulture with Lili Singer. The basics on gardening with California flora, including why natives are valuable, plant communities, planting techniques, establishment, irrigation, pruning and ongoing maintenance. Recommended for beginners; prerequisite to our Three-part California Native Plant Garden Design course. Lili is an award-winning horticulturist, educator and garden writer, and TPF’s director of special projects and adult education. $40 members, $50 non-members.

- Compiled by Yvonne Savio
Send notices to: yvonesavio@earthlink.net
UPCOMING 2014 SCHS PROGRAMS

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

June 12—Hartmut Wisch: Native Bees.

July 10—Ron Rasmussen: The El Moro Elfin Forest in Los Osos.

August 14—Lucy Tolmach: Restoring the Fruit Orchard in Ojai.
(NOTE! This meeting will take place at the Los Angeles Zoo)

September 13 (NOTE! This is a Saturday!)—Horticulturist of the Year Award Dinner: Honoring Don Hodel. To be held at the Arboretum & Botanic Garden of Los Angeles, in Arcadia.

SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS

It is time to start collecting (or propagating!) items to donate for the silent auction at the Horticulturist of the Year Award Dinner in September. If you are growing really interesting or rare plants, start a cutting or plant up a nice container. Contact Steven Gerischer with any questions/donations: sglarkspur@aol.com.