



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Where passionate gardeners meet to share knowledge and learn from each other.

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

July 2015

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, July 9

Friendship Auditorium
3201 Riverside Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90027



Socializing: 7:30 pm
Meeting begins: 8:00 pm

SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Adriana Garcia
(2015 SCHS intern)
Ana Paludi
Shirley Smale
Judi Woo Sato

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

SHARING SECRETS

The SCHS Sharing Secrets question for July is:

What is your new favorite drought-beating plant or tree?

Answer on our MemberLodge website or e-mail response to:

gardensbysabine@aol.com
by Friday, July 10

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SOUTH OF THE BORDER:

The Fascinating Maritime Succulent Scrub of Baja California

By: Jim Riley and Sula Vanderplank

The Maritime Succulent Scrub [MSS] plant community in Northwest Baja California defines the southern end of the California Floristic Province. In addition to containing many familiar California native plants found around the Los Angeles Basin, the MSS also hosts a number of endemic species. The speakers will take us on a journey through this botanically rich area,



including a look at its geology and fauna, all through the lens of Terra Peninsular's two natural reserves. Copies of their

new book, Plant Guide: Maritime Succulent Scrub Region, Northwest Baja California, Mexico, will be for sale.

Jim Riley is the founder of the San Mateo Creek Conservancy and is acting manager of Reserva Natural Valle Tranquilo, where he has spent the last three years coordinating biodiversity assessments and developing a plant checklist for the Tranquilo region. Jim came to botany after retiring from the world of business and investments and has now dedicated himself to conservation of pristine landscapes in Baja California.



Sula Vanderplank, Ph.D., is a conservation scientist who works as a Biodiversity Explorer for the Botanical Research Institute of Texas, and serves as Science Advisor for Terra Peninsular, AC. She received her Ph.D. from the University of California, Riverside, and

is a research associate at the San Diego Natural History Museum. She has spent the last 10 years studying the flora of NW Baja California, where her favorite habitat is maritime succulent scrub. She wrote her masters thesis on the flora of San Quintin and later authored the regional field guide, Quail-friendly Plants of Baja California.

UP-COMING BAJA RESEARCH EXPEDITION

Feeling adventurous? Why not join a research expedition to Mexico's "little Galapagos" Islands, the Revillagigedo Archipelago - 240 miles southwest of Cabo San Lucas, the southern tip of the Baja California Peninsula. This 16 day trip (with an option to fly back from Cabo San Lucas on day 13) is scheduled for late January 2017. The voyage includes all meals and accommodation on the Shogun, a first class fishing and ecology charter boat, leaving from San Diego. Estimated trip cost is approximately \$5,000 US dollars, based on two people sharing a cabin (individual bunks).

For more information, please contact:
sula.vanderplank@gmail.com

JUNE MEETING RECAP

The June meeting of the Southern California Horticulture Society was an overview of water harvesting from an experienced designer of rainwater capture systems, Marilee Kuhlmann. Marilee, who is an SCHS Board member, and the owner of Comfort Zones Garden Design, talked about what it takes to capture and use rainwater from simple passive designs, such as swales and directed flows from downspouts, to active designs, including storage tanks that can hold up to thousands of gallons.

What became clear was that for the more active collection designs, like storage tanks and cisterns, there is no real monetary gain from a water-savings standpoint - and in fact, the costs could be daunting for the average homeowner. The benefits of a large, intricate system that captures and stores rainwater for later use were more in the nature of a belief that if you can do it, you should do it. This was also a talk aimed at answering the basic questions of "How can I?," "Why should I?" and "How much will it cost?"

Marilee discussed the practical aspects of the simplest passive designs and how they should be a part of any garden, and certainly any new garden. Our relationship with water, especially rainwater, is complex. The old ideas of getting falling rain off the property and into the gutters and storm-drains as quickly and efficiently as possible, should no longer apply in the Southwest. Even if we are not using the rainfall as water for our own properties, we should be helping to recharge the aquifers that lie beneath so much of the developed areas of Southern California. Marilee told us how this is being looked at seriously for future street and sidewalk planning where permeable ribbons will line the sides of our streets allowing rainfall to make its way into the aquifers (particularly in the San Fernando Valley).

It was fascinating to hear about the day-to-day workings of a catchment system, from pumping or gravity feed to how the tanks are cleaned. Gray-water was also discussed, though Marilee does not deal with or design these systems (the water cannot be

stored and must be used directly from the source). The extended drought we are currently suffering through has all made us so much more aware of water, where it comes from, and how we use it - and Marilee's talk underscored the importance of being conscious of the cold fact that we import, pump, filter and clean our water to a high standard of potable use, and then spray it on our lawns and gardens.

Surely a different approach is needed and the changes can come from many directions - drought tolerant landscaping, learning how to use water properly, water-saving techniques, and a willingness to change our habits are just a start. We will in future need to look beyond the easier fixes - perhaps to treated sewage water and split systems serving the urban sprawl. Education will be at the heart of any changes we will be asked to consider as we face the future of water use in California. Talks like Marilee's *Water Harvesting in Dry Times* will help us understand so much more.

We would like to thank Marilee Kuhlmann for her timely and insightful presentation. And let's also thank the Programs Committee and all who help set up the meetings, run the proceedings and stay to clean up after.

☞ Steven Gerischer

MEMBERS NOT "SHARING"

Regretably, the response to last month's "not really a Sharing Secrets question" was underwhelming as we received zero responses. Ironically, we thought the topic of where the Horticulture Society should be headed in the future would pique the interest of many, as we know gardeners frequently have strong opinions on any number of topics! Perhaps the question was too overwhelming and required more thought, but regardless of the reason, the SCHS Board is always open to receiving member in-put concerning what direction(s) the organization could take as we try to keep pace with the rapidly-changing world of gardening and horticulture. So please, consider this an open-ended query, and when you're ready, you can e-mail your thoughts to: gardensbysabine@aol.com, or speak with any Board Member directly when you next see them... Thank you!

Sabine Steinmetz

POSITIVE OUTCOME OF SHARING

As a direct result of members making suggestions and inquiries, the Board was able to plan and put together the June 27 "Secrets of Somis - Revisited" Bus Trip. Members had been asking for an encore ever since the original trip and this gave the Board a very focused goal based on members' in-put. Please remember we are always available to listen.



Look for a re-cap of the trip in next month's newsletter...

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

Please contact location(s) to confirm listed events, and for a full schedule.

Events are free with admission unless otherwise indicated.

ARCADIA 91007
Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden
301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia 91107
626.821.4623 arboretum.org



LACANADA/FLINTRIDGE 91011
Descanso Gardens
1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada 91011
818.949.7980 descansogardens.org



PASADENA 91107
Eaton Canyon Nature Center
1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena 91107
616.398.5420 ecnca.org

Sunday, 7/12, 9am. SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAIN CNPS (California Native Plant Society) plant walks are on 2nd Sunday of each month. cnps-sgm.org

Thursday, 7/23, 7pm. SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAIN CNPS meetings are the 4th Thursday of each month. cnps-sgm.org

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS - cont'd.

SAN MARINO 91108
Huntington Botanical Gardens
 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino 91108
626.405.2100 huntington.org

Thursday, 7/9/15, 2:30pm. Garden Talk - Yvonne Savio on the Master Gardeners. Since 1994, Yvonne Savio has trained more than a thousand Master Gardeners dedicated to helping local residents to garden more sustainably. Savio will discuss this horticultural outreach program and the rewards of being a volunteer. A plant sale follows the talk. No reservations required. Ahmanson Room, Brody Botanical Center.

Saturdays, 7/11-8/23. Weird, Wild & Wonderful: The New York Botanical Garden Second Triennial Exhibition. The eccentric beauty of the plant kingdom is celebrated in this traveling exhibition of 47 contemporary botanical illustrations by artists from Australia, Canada, India, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the U.S.

Sunday, 7/12, 2pm. California Gardener Series-Zoning Out and Zoning In: Knowing the Local Landscape. This series makes its debut exploring sustainable & water-wise gardening practices for So. Cal. James Folsom, the Telleen/Jorgensen Director of the Botanical Gardens, will discuss how local soils, ecosystems, and climate factors such as drought shape how we garden. Auditorium, Brody Botanical Center.



CLAREMONT 91711
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and Grow Native Nursery
 1500 N. College Ave., Claremont 91711
909.625.8767 rsabg.org

Saturday, 7/12/15, 4-7pm. Medicinal Plants of California Herb Walk. Join herbalist William Broen for a presentation featuring native California medicinal and edible plants. Participants will learn traditional and modern uses of approx. 30 species, with an emphasis on how humans have interacted with plants throughout history, how our senses tell us about plants around us, and how a plant's survival adaptations are often related to ways they affect our bodies. Register online. Fee: members \$20, public \$25. Program is limited to 20

participants. Bring a sack lunch or snack and a water bottle. For more info contact RSABG or email registrar@rsabg.org.

Sunday, 7/26/15, 9am-Noon. California Native Plant Propagation: Summer. Production manager Antonio Sanchez will teach primary propagation methods for some of California's most popular native plants; by cuttings, division, and sowing seeds. Take home materials will include plants that participants have begun to propagate! Fee: members \$36, public \$45. Limit: 20 participants. Register online: <https://11213.blackbaudhosting.com/11213/California-Native-Plant-Propagation-Summer>



SUN VALLEY 91352
Theodore Payne Foundation
 10459 Tuxford St., Sun Valley 91352
818.768.1802 theodorepayne.org

Saturday, 7/18, 1:30-3:30pm. Look, Ma, No Lawn! with Lili Singer. Learn how to "lose your lawn" and about alternatives for the space: specifically low-care native plants that need no fertilizer and use a fraction of the water required for turf. \$25 members, \$35 non-members.

Fridays, 7/24, 8/7, 8/21, 11:30am-3:30pm. Three-Part California Native Garden Design with Steve Gerischer. This course for home gardeners covers design styles and process, the importance of sustainability and how to model a garden after patterns in nature. Students will devise a base/plot plan, incl. hardscape, irrigation, soils and more. Prior to class, students will complete a questionnaire and warm-up exercise, and are asked to bring photos of their site and a baggie of their site's soil to the first day of class. COURSE PREREQUISITE: TPF's California Native Plant Horticulture class. Last day to register, 7/17/15. \$225 members, \$275 non-members; \$285 member couples, \$335 non-member couples.

Saturday, 7/25, 9-11am. Container Gardening with Native Plants with Steve Gerischer. Containers filled with native plants provide beauty and color - and also habitat for birds, butterflies and other welcome wildlife. Learn which natives thrive in pots, the potting media they prefer and how to help them succeed. \$25 members; \$35 non-members.

Saturday, 7/25, 1:30-3:30pm. Irrigation Practices for Native Plant Gardens with Tim Becker. This class for home gardeners covers irrigation principles, techniques and equipment best suited for native plant landscapes, including practical examples and with time for questions. \$30 members, \$40 non-members.



PALOS VERDES 90274
South Coast Botanic Garden
 26300 Crenshaw, PV Peninsula 90274
310.544.1948
southcoastbotanicgarden.org

Sunday, 7/26/15, 12-3pm. Plumerias: Creating A Tropical Paradise. David Konishi, former South Coast Plumeria Society Board Member, will speak. No registration required.



SANTA MONICA 90403
ENCINO 91406
Los Angeles/Santa Monica CNPS
 (California Native Plant Society)

First United Methodist Church
 1008 11th Street, Santa Monica 90403

 Sepulveda Garden Center
 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino 91406
818.881.3706 lacnps.org



SAN PEDRO 90731
White Point Nature Education Ctr.
 Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy
 1600 West Paseo del Mar, San Pedro 90731
310.541.7613 pvplc.org

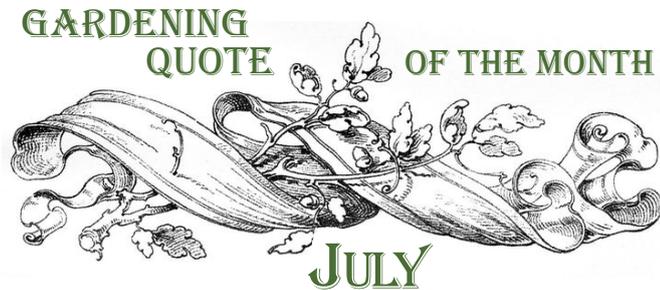
Saturday, 7/25, 12-2pm, Native Plant Sale. Purchase drought-resistant native plants grown in the Conservancy's nursery. 4th Saturday of every month.



FULLERTON 92831
Fullerton Arboretum
 1900 Associated Rd, Fullerton 92831
657.278.3407 fullertonarboretum.org

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

-  July 9 - Jim Riley and Sula Vanderplank:
Plant Communities in Baja California
-  Aug. 13 - Bruce Blavin of California Rare Fruit Growers
-  Sept. 10 - Horticulturist of the Year Annual Banquet, honoring Kathy Musial. L.A. Arboretum



*"Every gardener knows better
than every other gardener."*

- Chinese Proverb

Steven Gerischer, *President, Pacific Horticulture Board*
 Laura Bauer, *Treasurer & Finance*
 Pat Steen, *Secretary, Membership*
 Carol Bornstein, *Programs*
 Yoav Paskowitz, *Finance*
 Yvonne Savio, *Field Trips & Horticultural Happenings*
 John Schoustra, *Plant Raffle & Plant Sales*
 Lili Singer, *Selected Book Sales & Programs*
 Jill Vig, *Pacific Horticulture Board*
 Rachel Young, *Finance*
 Sabine Steinmetz, *Newsletter*
 Steven Ormenyi, *Coffee in the Garden*
 Marilee Kuhlman, *Programs*

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Contributors to this issue: Steven Gerischer & Yvonne Savio

Next deadline: Friday, July 10 (for August newsletter).
It is the Friday following our monthly meeting.

Please contribute an article or information of interest.



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Pasadena CA 91109-4476

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