The April meeting featured a panel of guest speakers from four Southern California nurseries: Laura Bauer, garden designer, who represented Australian Native Plants in Casitas Springs (Ventura County); John Schoustra, grower and owner of Greenwood Daylily Gardens in Sonris; Lili Singer, Director of Special Projects and Adult Education at the Theodore Payne Foundation in Sun Valley; and Bob Sussman, grower and owner of Matilija Nursery in Moorpark. Carol Bonein introduced the panel, and then each speaker talked about the ten "cool" plants they brought along for use in home gardens. The specimens were also donations to the SCHS, and offered as prizes for the raffle which followed the presentation.

The first nurseryman to speak was Bob Sussman, who began by telling us that his Matilija Nursery has been operating for over 21 years, and features a wide selection of plants from the Southwest. His selections included the following:

1. Salvia 'Bon Bon' is a hybrid native sage resulting from a cross between S. Point Sal and S. Aramis. It grows 2½' high by 3' wide in full sun, with a blooming season running from spring through summer.

2. Callirhoe involucrata, aka Winecups, is a perennial with magenta flowers from late spring to fall, and a spawl up to 3'. It grows 12' high in full sun, with a tap root which makes it relatively drought-tolerant.

3. Conoclinium coelestinum, or Blue Mistflower, blooms from spring into winter, and requires weekly watering. It's a valuable source of nectar for butterflies, and grows 2' high & wide in partial shade or full sun.

4. Aconitum jordanis is our evergreen, native, maiden-hair fern. Besides being easy to grow, it is ideally suited for shady areas. It grows to approx. 18' high & wide.

5. Aselepias speciosa is also called the "showy" milkweed for its large pink flower heads and full 3' high x 4' wide form. Attracts Monarchs and other butterflies as well.

6. Berlandiera lyra is an evergreen that grows 2-3' high x 3' wide in full or partial shade, with yellow flowers. It is an excellent bee plant.

7. Lavatera globra, or Island Bush Mallow, will grow into a 9' high x 9' wide shrub, covered with purplish-magenta flowers that attract bees. Plant in full sun, but be aware it can be susceptible to frost damage.

8. Sphaeralcea 'Magenta Bob' is a hybrid desert mallow, introduced by Sussman. Growing 3' high & wide its flowers year round in full sun, and is an excellent bee plant.

9. Iris 'Call Ripley's' is a re-bloomer with peach and burgundy flowers that grows 3' high x 2' wide and may require weekly watering. Plant in well-draining soil either in full sun or filtered shade.

10. Iris 'Pacific Coast' is a native hybrid suited for shade and requiring no summer water. Expect this 2' x 2' beauty to bloom in its second year.

The next panelist to speak was board member Lili Singer, currently of the Theodore Payne Foundation for Native Plants. As she described her selections she also provided her unique horticulturist's perspective on their significance to Southern California gardens.

1. Lewisia rediviva, or Bitter Root, grows 6' high & wide in full sun on slopes, with pink flowers in spring. It has a tap root, needs good drainage and is summer dormant.

2. Calycomities occidentalis (Spice Bush) has burgundy flowers in summer that attract birds and butterflies. It grows 8' high by 10' wide in partial shade, needs regular water, and is winter deciduous.

3. Arctostaphylos aeraulicata 'Knoebcone Point' is a 5' high by 8' wide evergreen shrub that performs well in full sun both inland and on the coast. Its winter to spring flowering season attracts hummingbirds and butterflies.

4. Bahiopsis lactenata (Vigueria lactenata), or San Diego Sunflower, is an endangered evergreen shrub with water needs. Adaptable to many soils, it grows 3' high x 3' wide in full sun to partial shade, with yellow flowers in spring and summer that attract birds and butterflies.

5. Dudaia farinosa is a 6'-12' diameter succulent excellent on slopes or in containers. It grows in full to part sun and its blooms attract hummingbirds and butterflies.

6. Eriogonum fasciculatum 'Theodore Payne', is a 1' high bush-clark whose growth spreads from 3'-6', forming a tight mat excellent for erosion-control. Heat and drought-tolerant, the flowers, leaves and seeds of this fast-growing evergreen are food sources for varied wildlife.

7. Hemerocallis 'Queen of Orange' has orangey/salmon flowers, with a red/orange bloom. Blooms from spring into winter, and requires weekly water, but becomes drought-tolerant over time.

8. Berberis nepitina, is a rare and endangered shrub which grows 6' high x 10' wide in full sun. Heat and drought-tolerant, it is adaptable to many soil types. It is an excellent bee plant.

9. Eriogonum fasciculatum 'Theodore Payne', is a 1' high bush-clark whose growth spreads from 3'-6', forming a tight mat excellent for erosion-control. Heat and drought-tolerant, the flowers, leaves and seeds of this fast-growing evergreen are food sources for varied wildlife.

10. Monardella viminea, is a rare evergreen perennial that grows 1'-2' high & wide in full or part sun. Its purple flowers attract butterflies in spring and summer.

The program concluded with an enthusiastic response from the audience when they expressed their opinions on the plants featured in the presentation.