



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

November 2017

## OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, November 9

Witherbee Auditorium  
(at the Los Angeles Zoo)  
5333 Zoo Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90027



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

## SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

We're pleased to have another new member:

Janeen Apodaca

Encourage your interested friends to check us out:

[www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org)



## SHARING SECRETS

The SCHS Sharing Secrets question for September is:

*What is your favorite So Cal deciduous or "winter" tree and why?*

Answer on our website at [socalhort.org](http://socalhort.org)  
or e-mail your response to: [gardensbysabine@aol.com](mailto:gardensbysabine@aol.com)  
by Monday, November 13

## IN THIS ISSUE

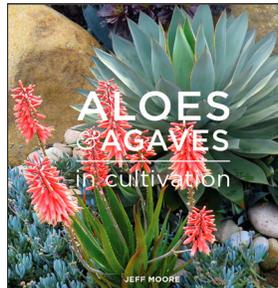
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## ALOES AND AGAVES IN CULTIVATION

Please note change of venue! We will be meeting at the L.A. Zoo.

Jeff Moore has owned and operated Solana Succulents in Solana Beach for 25 years, and was a succulent plant enthusiast for at least ten years prior to that. His small nursery offers both common and colorful as well as rare and unusual succulents. In addition to running the nursery, Jeff has also designed a number of residential succulent landscapes in San Diego, and gained a bit of local notoriety a few years back for his "undersea" succulent gardens, which have been widely copied since. In the past few years

Jeff has authored and self-published two specialty books: *Under the Spell of Succulents* as well as *Aloes and Agaves in Cultivation*, the latter of which will be the basis for his presentation.



*Aloes and Agaves in Cultivation* is about aloes, agaves and their relatives, with an emphasis not on plants in habitat but how they grow here in California, where most of the accompanying slide show images were taken. Jeff will address and take questions on care and growing requirements, but his emphasis will be to show the beauty and the diversity of these plants, both in form and in flower.

In addition to his presentation, Jeff will bring plants for sale and have copies of both his books available for purchase and signing. His latest book, titled *Soft Succulents*, will be available by the end of 2017, and all can be ordered through his website: [www.solanasucculents.com](http://www.solanasucculents.com).

Both photos courtesy of speaker.



## SHARING SECRETS RESPONSES

Thanks to everyone who shared their answers to October's month's question:

*What are your favorite "cool season" vegetables, herbs and annuals?*

Sage and rosemary - I like to use these in my cooking.

- Bryan Foote

My new favorite for fall and spring is kohlrabi. Love its unique appearance; makes me think of Dr. Seuss. The purple variety is really gorgeous. And the crispness beats turnips or broccoli stems, while the flavor is sweeter and much less sulphurous. Great vegetable raw!

- Florence Nishida

Lettuce - I plant 2 raised beds full of different kinds! And also calendula -

- Aprille Curtis

In my coastal garden borage grows year 'round, but is especially pretty in the fall.

- Gloria Leinbach

Broccoli, cilantro and cauliflower.

- D. Hartnett

Sweet peas!! And fava beans. Both are beautiful, one is tasty, and both will add nitrogen to your soil.

- Laura Bauer

*Continued on Page 2*

Our October program featured long-time SCHS board member Lili Singer, speaking on “Beneficial Bugs for the Garden.” Lili is a horticulturist, educator and garden writer, and Director of Special Projects and Adult Education at the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants. A Los Angeles native, Lili admires California flora and fauna, as well as a wide range of other plants and animals. Her illustrated lecture highlighted helpful bugs you’re likely to find in home landscapes, with pictures and tips on how to attract, recognize, and conserve them.

Lili shared how she studied agricultural pest control early on at Pierce College and then later taught horticultural pest control at UCLA Extension, after learning more about Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and beneficial insects. IPM is a series of techniques used to keep insect pests in gardens at tolerable levels, allowing us to maintain a healthy balance between pests and beneficial insects. She explained that insects are on our plants either to breed or to feed, and that pollination is just one of the many by-products of their behavior.

Her slide presentation on “good bugs” began with insects that are classified as predators. In other words, they prey on and eat one insect, then move on to the next. Among the predators that we should look for and encourage in our gardens are green

and brown lacewings, which feed on aphids, mealy bug and scale; damsel bugs, assassin bugs and big-eyed bugs, which can help control spider mite and white fly populations; a good many species of beetle, including the convergent lady beetle which is the most common type found in California and is sold in nurseries; praying mantids; various wasps and thrips; and of course, numerous beneficial spiders.

Moving on to the next group of insects, Lili first explained to us the difference between parasites and parasitoids. Parasites live off of other organisms without killing them, often during just one period of their life cycle, whereas parasitoids live off their host for their entire lives, and do eventually kill them. Some of the parasites she advised that we learn to recognize and encourage in our gardens included: the greenhouse whitefly parasite (widely used in commercial greenhouses); the aphid parasite, which lays its egg into a live adult aphid in between the exoskeleton; the citrus mealy-bug destroyer; and the tachnid fly.

In order to attract and conserve beneficial insects for your garden, Lili recommended following a few simple rules. First - plant a diverse selection of flowering plants for free-living adult insects. Second - avoid using pesticides as much as possible (remember that “bad bugs” are the food source of many “good bugs”) and that the majority of all insects in your garden are likely to be beneficial. Third - provide a source of water for the bugs, and fourth - leave some sunny areas mulch-free for ground-nesting wasps and bees.

Lili wrapped up her talk by sharing some of the (many) plants that are bug-magnets for beneficials, including: *Achillea millefolium*, *Ceanothus* spp., *Helianthus annuus*, *Erigeron* spp., *Solidago californica*, *Salvia* spp., *Thymus* and all manner of native wildflowers. She also provided a hand-out that listed resources for further study, as well as all the insects and plants she discussed in her talk.

Two of Lili’s favorite books were available for sale after the presentation: *Insects of the Los Angeles Basin*, by Charles Hogue, Third Edition revised and edited by James N. Hogue as well as *Natural Enemies Handbook, The Illustrated Guide to Biological Pest Control*, by Mary Louise Flint, et al.. Together, these references can help you recognize both potential pests and “good bugs” in your own garden.

✂ Sabine Steinmetz



Photo courtesy of speaker.

## EDITORIAL CORRECTION

*In our October newsletter we thanked our Silent Auction donors and listed the contributing business donors. While all the companies appeared in the on-line issue, unfortunately the print version went to press with one omission...*

*We would like to apologize and correct our error at this time by acknowledging the generous donation by Asian Ceramics to our event. Their gift, as well as those of all the individual and business donors alike, are to be credited with the success of this and every year’s auction!*

*Thanks again to everyone -  
The SCHS Board*

## SHARING SECRETS - cont'd.

*What are your favorite “cool season” vegetables, herbs and annuals?*

Chard and kale, California poppies and calendula...

- Steven Ormenyi

The only cool season herb that survives in my Burbank yard is mint, which tolerates my extremely minimal watering and seems almost as Lazarus-like as Bermuda grass. Just when I think it’s gone, it pops back up. After a few seasons of trying to grow vegetables, I gave up. They require too much attention from me and attract too much attention from slugs, squirrels, caterpillars, birds, and

aphids. For a few years, I established some wildflowers - California poppy, lupine, clarkia, gillia, nigella - and the only survivors are cobweb thistle (actually a biannual) and lunaria, which I know is a non-native and weedy, but like the mint, the conditions in my yard are harsh enough to keep it under control. Guess I’d better work on my mojitos!

- Sandy Masuo

# NOVEMBER HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

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

Events are free with admission unless otherwise indicated.

Locations are listed by Zip Code.

## J PAUL GETTY MUSEUM - GETTY CENTER

1200 Getty Center Dr., Los Angeles 90049  
310-440-7300 [www.getty.edu/museum](http://www.getty.edu/museum)

Daily, 11:30am, 12:30pm, 2:30pm, 3:30pm, 45-minute Garden Tours. Meet at bench outside entrance to tour the Central Garden, designed by artist Robert Irwin - an evolving work of art, with tree-lined walkways through extraordinary sights, sounds, and scents.



## J PAUL GETTY MUSEUM - GETTY VILLA

17985 Pacific Coast Hwy., Pacific Palisades 90272  
310-440-7300 [www.getty.edu/museum](http://www.getty.edu/museum)

Thursdays & Saturdays, 10:30am, 11:30am, 12:30pm, 1:30pm, 3:30pm, 40-minute Garden Tours meet outside the entrance. Discover rich mythological and cultural connections of four ancient Roman gardens.



## RANCHO LOS CERRITOS

4600 Virginia Road, Long Beach 90807  
562-206-2040 [rancholoscerritos.org](http://rancholoscerritos.org)

Every Saturday & Sunday, 1-5pm. Free One-Hour Garden Tours. See trees dating to the mid-19th century, plus landscaping from the early 1930s by landscape architect Ralph Cornell. For details, visit <http://www.rancholoscerritos.org/things-to-do-hub/tours/>

Saturday, 11/18, 10am-12noon. Hypertufa Workshop. Create one-of-a-kind planters with Steven Gerischer. Hypertufa is a composite material that plants love to live in. It resembles stone pottery but is much less heavy. Participants take home their own hand-made creation. \$35 per person. Register at <https://www.rancholoscerritos.org/upcoming-event/hypertufa-workshop/>



## LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM

301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia 91007  
626.821.4623 [arboretum.org](http://arboretum.org)

Saturday, 11/11, 10am-12noon. Designing Gardens for Children's Play with Laramie Haynes of Haynes Landscape Design. Elements such as climbing, water, and make believe get children into the garden for playtime! \$25 Arboretum members, \$35 non-members (includes admission). Call Education Dept. to pre-register, or pay at the class

Saturday 11/18, 10am-12noon. Crescent Farm Series - Meadow Planning & Planting with staff Leigh Adams, Lynn Fang, John Latsko and Horticultural Supervisor Jill Morganelli. Water conservation and sustainable gardening through hands-on activities will be discussed. Bring gloves, drinking water; wear closed-toe shoes and a hat. Free with admission, but registration required. Please call Education Dept. to pre-register.

## DESCANSO GARDENS

1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada 91011  
818.949.7980 [descansogardens.org](http://descansogardens.org)

Sunday, 11/12, 2-4pm. Fall Centerpiece Workshop with Felisa Funes, floral artist and lead designer at Of the Flowers. Make a beautiful and personalized autumn centerpiece for your holiday table. \$40 members, \$50 non-members. Advance registration required. Register online, in person or by phone.



## EATON CANYON NATURE CENTER

1750 No. Altadena Dr., Pasadena 91107

626-398-5420 [www.ecnca.org](http://www.ecnca.org)  
Saturday, 11/18, 9am-12noon, Nature Patio. Conservation Work Day. Help weed invasive plants to conserve habitat for native species. Gloves, tools and snacks provided. Bring drinking water and wear clothing, footwear and sun screen for outdoor work. Volunteers aged under 18 must be with an adult. RSVP: [eatoncanyon.conservation@gmail.com](mailto:eatoncanyon.conservation@gmail.com). Repeats every 3rd Saturday.



## HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

1151 Oxford Road, San Marino 91108  
626.405.2100 [huntington.org](http://huntington.org)

Every Saturday, 10am-1pm. Ranch Open House. Stop by our urban agriculture site during the weekly open house and pick up some fresh ideas for sustainable gardening. Experts from the University of California Los Angeles County Master Gardener program will be on hand to answer questions and offer seasonal tips.

Sunday, 11/12, 2pm, Rothenberg Hall. The Landscape Designs of Ralph Cornell (1890-1972) Cornell's wide scope of projects included college campus master plans, parks, residential commissions, and sculpture gardens. Architect Brian Tichenor will discuss Cornell's life and examine some of his significant landscape designs. The lecture is presented in collaboration with the California Garden and Landscape History Society.



## THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION

10459 Tuxford St., Sun Valley 91352  
818.768.1802 [theodorepayne.org](http://theodorepayne.org)

Friday, 11/10, last day to register for 3-class Saturday sessions on 11/11, 12/2 and 12/16, all from 9am-1pm. Three-Part California Native Garden Design with Carol Armour Aronson is a comprehensive course for home gardeners. Gain a sound foundation in design and process, sustainability, and modelling a garden after nature. Students will devise a plot plan, learn about hardscape, irrigation, soils and more. They will complete a questionnaire and warm-up exercise for their site prior to class, plus bring photos and a baggie of the site's soil to the first day of class. COURSE PREREQUISITE: TPF's Right Place, Right Plant class, which must be taken before the first session of the design class. Carol is the owner of Seco Verde, Inc.,



a firm specializing in regionally appropriate landscapes. \$225 members, \$275 non-members; \$285 member couples, \$335 non-member couples. Please review Cancellation Policy on-line are call to inquire.

Saturday, 11/18, 1:30-3:30pm. La Tuna Canyon Regeneration: Misunderstanding Wildfire: Why the Public, the Media, and the Politicians Usually Get It Wrong, with Rick Halsey. This lecture examines some of the counterproductive reactions and misunderstandings about California's unique fire environment, and possible solutions to help citizens better adapt to the state's fire-prone climate. Rick is a writer, photographer and director of the California Chaparral Institute, a non-profit research and educational organization. \$15 general public, free for those affected by the La Tuna Fire and those serving that community.



## RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN

1500 N. College Ave., Claremont 91711  
909.625.8767 [rsabg.org](http://rsabg.org)

Sunday, 11/12, 8am-5pm and daily except when garden is closed. Game of Thorns is an epic exhibition focusing on the armaments of botanical warfare. Over the course of millennia, duels between native plants and their predators have given rise to the incredible thorns we see today. The exhibit features these living fortresses and showcase the weaponry of California's great botanical "houses" including: House Agave, House Cactaceae, House Legume, and House Rosa.

Sunday, 11/19, 11am-3pm. Acorn Festival. Acorns were once a major food source for native people of Southern California, and the fall harvest season was a time of celebration. Native American dancers and culture keepers join us in sharing our connections with native plants. Enjoy crafts, children's activities and handcrafted items for sale.

Friday, 11/24, 9am-4:30pm. Green Friday: Free Day & Plant Sale. Find great deals on California native plants and unwind after Thanksgiving with a free stroll through the garden.



## FULLERTON ARBORETUM

1900 Associated Road, Fullerton 92831  
657.278.3407 [fullertonarboretum.org](http://fullertonarboretum.org)

Saturdays, 11/11 & 11/25, 10am. Free Nature Tour. Meet at the Nature Center and join one of our knowledgeable docents as they guide you through the garden. Free Tours are held every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month.



## COASTKEEPER GARDEN

1560 E. Santiago Cyn. Rd., Orange 92869  
714.850.1965 [coastkeeper.org](http://coastkeeper.org)

Saturday, 11/11, 9:30am. Monthly Garden Share. Attendees bring garden-related items such as plants, cuttings, pots, tools, produce, etc., to trade. For more information, go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CoastkeeperGardenShare>. Repeats second Saturdays.

## 4 UPCOMING SCHS PROGRAMS

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are regularly held at Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles, 90027

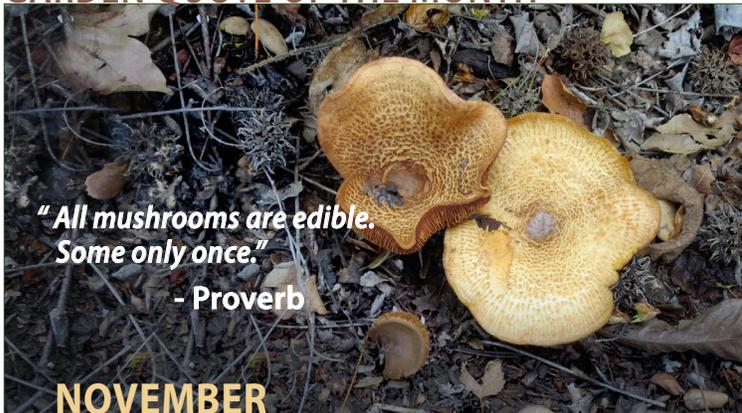
🌀 November 9 - Jeff Moore, owner of Solana Succulents, talks about his book *Aloes & Agaves in Cultivation*

**VENUE: Witherbee Auditorium, Los Angeles Zoo**

🌀 December 14 - SCHS Holiday Party - program details TBA  
**SAVE THE DATE!**

🌀 January 11 - 1st Meeting of the New Year! - program TBA  
Check [socalhort.org](http://socalhort.org) for latest up-dates...

## GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH



*"All mushrooms are edible.  
Some only once."*

- Proverb

**NOVEMBER**

## 🌀 BOARD OF DIRECTORS 🌀

**Steven Gerischer** - *President, Oral History Committee, PR, Pacific Horticulture representative, Tech Support for meetings*  
**Laura Bauer** - *Treasurer, Finance Committee, Website Committee*  
**Pat Steen** - *Membership Secretary, Recording Secretary, Coffee-in-the-Garden, Greeter*  
**Carol Bornstein** - *Program Committee*  
**Yoav Paskowitz** - *Finance Committee, Oral History Committee, Website Committee*  
**Yvonne Savio** - *Horticultural Happenings, Coffee-in-the-Garden, PR*  
**John Schoustra** - *Vice President, Field Trips, Finance Committee, Plant Raffle, Plant Sales at meetings*  
**Lili Singer** - *Book of the Month, Nomination Committee, Program Committee, PR, Archives*  
**Jill Vig** - *Coffee-in-the-Garden, Oral History Committee, Pacific Horticulture representative, Special Projects*  
**Sabine Steinmetz** - *Newsletter, Sharing Secrets*  
**Steven Ormenyi** - *Finance Committee*  
**Marilee Kuhlmann** - *Hospitality Committee, Program Committee*  
**Carol Aronson**  
**Aprille Curtis** - *Plant Forum supplies*  
**Fleur Nooyen**  
**818-567-1496 / [socalhort.org](http://socalhort.org) / Join us on Facebook**  
**Newsletter Editor: Sabine Steinmetz**  
Contributors to this issue: Yvonne Savio

**Next deadline: November 13** (for December newsletter)  
Please contribute an article or information of interest.



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