



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

February 2018

## OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, February 8

Friendship Auditorium  
3201 Riverside Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90027



Socializing: 7:00 pm

Meeting begins: 7:30 pm

## SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Last month ushered in a New Year and two new members:

Cristan Falco

Raquel Zepeda

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

## SHARING SECRETS

The SCHS Sharing Secrets question for February is:

*Who would you like to nominate for consideration to be honored as 2018's Horticulturist of the Year?*

Answer online at: [socalhort.org](http://socalhort.org) or e-mail your response to:

[gardensbysabine@aol.com](mailto:gardensbysabine@aol.com) by Monday, February 12

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## TREASURES OF THE SIERRA MADRES:

AN ARMCHAIR ECOTOUR OF MEXICO'S GREATEST BOTANICAL HITS with JEFF CHEMNICK

Our speaker for February is Jeff Chemnick, owner and operator of Mexico Nature Tours, specializing in botanical (and ornithological) ecotours throughout Mexico, with a focus on the southern states of Oaxaca and Chiapas. Additionally, Jeff is a respected authority on Mexican cycads, and has published numerous articles and described several species new to science. Currently, he is co-authoring a book on the cycads of Mexico, slated for publication in 2019. He is also a member of the IUCN's (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Cycad Specialist Group, which determines the status of endangered cycads worldwide. Jeff is also a popular speaker, and some of his extensive plant knowledge will be shared with us in a visual narrative presentation featuring highlights from his many botanical travels.



Photo provided by Jeff Chemnick

Jeff is also widely known for his considerable horticultural expertise as owner and operator of Aloes-in-Wonderland, a specialty nursery and garden occupying 4.5 acres in Santa Barbara where he has lived since 1981. A past president of the Santa Barbara County Horticultural Society and former chair of the

Society's Annual Plant Sale, he has been involved for years in his local botanical/horticultural community.

At the Ganna Walska Lotusland botanical garden in Santa Barbara, Jeff is a research associate and serves on several committees, including acting as the chair (and auctioneer) of their Exceptional Plants Auction, Sale, and Plant Party. Additionally, he teaches the Lotusland docent training course on cycads.

We encourage you to attend what promises to be an educational, as well as entertaining, presentation. In Jeff's own words, he invites us to "Sit back, relax, and enjoy the parade of remarkable plant diversity as we go hither and yon to visit a variety of habitats and localities to bear witness to the amazing flora (and more) that awaits the traveler willing to venture south of the border down Mexico way!" — from the comfort of the Friendship Auditorium, of course. We look forward to spending the evening with you.

Our first speaker for 2018, Tracey Kahn, provided us with an in-depth talk entitled “Citrus Appeal: Delving Into Citrus Diversity at UC Riverside,” which was not only informative as a presentation, but also provoked an enthusiastic question and answer session afterwards in part due to the timely subject matter she presented. Kahn is the curator and Givaudan Citrus Variety Collection Endowed Chair for the University of California, Riverside Citrus Variety Collection which is one of the world’s most diverse living collections of citrus and citrus relatives.

She began by informing us that within the Citrus genus, the number of species has always been controversial; and at UC Riverside (UCR) the Swingle System of taxonomic classification is the preferred one used for naming species. She then stated that research done since the 1980s has shown that there are four basic biological species within the citrus family: pummelo, mandarine, citron and papeda. There is much diversity within these groups, and the collection at UCR presently contains four specimens each of 1,038 varieties, ranging from pea-sized to the size of a human head, with most being inedible. Kahn explained that the major commercial cultivar groups are hybrids with diversity through mutation, and gave a brief history of the how the genus arrived (and thrived) in Southern California.

Citrus originally radiated out of east Asia in the Miocene or Pliocene period, eventually making its way to Mexico and then California via the missions. “Orange Fever” gripped California in the 1870s, and when the Washington Navel was introduced to Riverside in 1873, it was a great stimulus to the citrus industry. During the 1910s, Herbert J. Webber established a small grove at UCR which eventually grew into the Citrus Variety Collection of today.

Kahn then “toured” us through some of the many varieties of citrus grown

in Riverside, including: the Moro and Sanguinelli blood oranges; the Gold Nugget, Minneola, seedless Kishu and W. Murcott mandarins; the sour Chinotte, Seville and Bergamot oranges (typically used in jams); the Star Ruby, Red Blush and Duncan grapefruits; the popular Valentine pummelo; the virtually inedible citrons such as Diamante, Etrog and Buddha’s Hand; as well as assorted lemons and limes. Beyond these, she went on to show some of the many citrus relatives (which are from different genera), that are also a part of the UCR collection, such as *Poncirus trifoliata*, *Berberis koenigii*, *Severina buxifolia* and *Microcitrus australasica*. The collection is both a resource for research and conservation, as well as an institution that actively seeks to acquire, preserve and broadly distribute citrus varieties.



Photo credit: Elena Zhukova

UCR has been instrumental in the development of many new commercial cultivars currently used throughout the world, with many more potential varieties currently being tested. Most notably, they have had a 12-year collaboration with the Givaudan company, which globally holds the largest market share in the creation of flavors for citrus beverages. In addition to orange, lemon and lime, citrus flavoring is also found in colas, teas and fruit punch. Kahn and Mikeal Roose are the co-principal investigators at UCR on a grant funded by the market board for the citrus growers

in California (California Citrus Research Board), to conduct integrated citrus breeding and evaluation research for California.

In addition to holding a Ph.D. in Botany from UCR, in 2005 Kahn also graduated from the California Agricultural Leadership Program: a two-year development course focused on critical issues facing California agriculture and the leadership skills required to help resolve some of those issues. In the last few years, the threat of Huanglongbing (HLB) or Citrus Greening Disease, has been a major concern and spurred much research. It has been spreading rapidly throughout Southern California for the last few years, and in July of 2017, the first case was discovered in Riverside. Fortunately, UCR started a back-up collection of their trees in 2008, which are routinely tested for HLB, and to date have only tested negative. For the future, the university has a 2 Phase Plan to protect their collection: 1. CUPS (Citrus Under Protective Screens) are structures which will eventually house mature trees of all their cultivars, and 2. ongoing fundraising to continue research into other control measures. To date, there are no biological controls, although work is being done on developing methods for interrupting the reproductive cycle of the psyllid that carries the disease.

Kahn concluded her program by taking questions from the audience ranging from where the public can go to seek out specialty citrus varieties (Four Winds Growers), to taking precautions against HLB (careful, frequent and painstaking inspections), to whether UCR allow tours of their collection (usually limited to small groups, with special permission). Keeping in mind Kahn’s statistic of six out of 10 residential properties in Southern California growing some type of citrus, it was no wonder there were more unanswered questions on this topic than could be covered in one evening.

✿ Sabine Steinmetz

## SHARING SECRETS RESPONSES

*What garden-related gifts were you happy to receive for the New Year?*

Begonia ‘Diane Parr’, Begonia ‘Mary Mauck’ and rose gauntlets!

- Lorraine Kasse

Begonia ‘Bubbles’ - a wonderful gift from a garden friend.

- Gloria Leinbach

My new, lightweight Water Right hose!

- Mary Harrison

Elbow-length garden gloves (leather for rose pruning) and two glass Christmas ornaments: a greenhouse and a bee skep.

- Shirley Marneus

My mother-in-law on the east coast usually sends me a gift certificate for Annie’s Annuals. I get to pick out the little plants in the spring and I send her pictures as they grow.

- Anonymous

*Thanks to everyone who shares with us!*



This month we are hoping to get even more member responses to our Sharing Secrets question about potential Horticulturalist of the Year (HOTY) candidates. The SCHS board will be making a selection in the next few months and welcomes your input.

For a list of past recipients, please check out the SCHS Events tab at [www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org). **Thank you!**

# FEBRUARY 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.**

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia 91007 626.821.4623 arboretum.org

Thursday, 2/8, 9:30am-12noon. What's Happening In Gardening: The Family Geraniaceae, with Manny Rivera, who will cover the history of the Geraniaceae and bring in plants from his personal collection to show. He has been a member of San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society for 23 years and the Show Chairman for the last 13, as well as being a past President of the LA Geranium Society. Hosted by Matt-Dell & Rebecca Tufenkian. Each class begins with an open discussion, and all classes in the series are eligible for Association of Professional Landscape Designers (APLD) and UC Master Gardener Continuing Education units. \$140 for Series (8 Thursdays) or \$25 per class. Reserve ahead or pay at door. Call for info. or to reserve, or email ted.tegart@arboretum.org.

Thursday, 2/15, 9:30-12noon. Gardener Profile: Arboretum Gardener Timothy Moynahan, who is celebrating his 13th anniversary this day. He has cared for Tallac Knoll, the Palm and Bamboo sections, and currently maintains the Prehistoric Forest. This is the first of a new series, where we will visit with Arboretum employees and learn what they do on an annual and quarterly basis. Hosted by Matt-Dell & Rebecca Tufenkian. Each class begins with an open discussion, and all classes in the series are eligible for Association of Professional Landscape Designers (APLD) and UC Master Gardener Continuing Education units. \$140 for Series (8 Thursdays) or \$25 per class. Reserve ahead or pay at door. Call for info. or to reserve, or email ted.tegart@arboretum.org.

Thursday, 2/22, 9:30-12noon. Orchid Curator Julie Norman will lead a tour of the Tropical Greenhouse, as well as an exclusive tour of the Orchid Greenhouse that is not open to the public. She will also share culture tips and practices for working with Orchids. Hosted by Matt-Dell & Rebecca Tufenkian. Each class begins with an open discussion, and all classes in the series are eligible for Association of Professional Landscape Designers (APLD) and UC Master Gardener Continuing Education units. \$140 for Series (8 Thursdays) or \$25 per class. Reserve ahead or pay at door. Call for info. or to reserve, or email ted.tegart@arboretum.org.

Saturday, 2/24, 10am-12noon. Raised Bed Gardening with Matthew Geldin of Farmscape. This workshop will cover picking the right soil, manual and automatic irrigation techniques, garden planning, and seasonal growing tips to help you achieve abundant harvests in your vegetable garden! \$25 members, \$35 non-members. Call Education Dept. to register or pay at class.



## DESCANSO GARDENS 1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada 91011 818.949.7980 descansogardens.org

Saturday, 2/10, 10am. Cycads Demystified - The Who, What, Where, When and Why Revealed! Talk and walk with Jeff Chemnick, a research associate at the Ganna Walska Lotusland botanical garden in Santa

Barbara and an authority on Mexican cycads. Free to members; \$10 non-members. Advance registration required at [www.descansogardens.org](http://www.descansogardens.org).

Saturday & Sunday, 2/14 & 2/15. Celebrating Camellias. The Southern California Camellia Society is partnering with Descanso Gardens to present a weekend of activities celebrating Camellia Month, including walks with James Fitzpatrick (SoCal Camellia Council President) or Dr. Bradford King (SoCal Camellia Society President) and Floral Arranging Demonstrations by George Harrison (Pacific Camellia Society President). All activities free with admission. Check [www.descansogardens.org](http://www.descansogardens.org) for times.



## CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY (CNPS) San Gabriel Mtns Chapter / Eaton Canyon Center 1750 No. Altadena Dr., Pasadena 91107 818-398-5420 www.lacnps.org

Thursday, 2/22, 7:30pm. Talks featuring two members that are recipients of a stipend from our chapter to attend the CNPS Conservation Conference in February 2018. Talk #1. Tamarisk Control in Maritime Succulent Scrub: method refinement for region-wide control with Katie Gallagher. Tamarisk is an invasive tree that grows in North American deserts in maritime succulent scrub habitats, an ecosystem in Baja California dominated by drought deciduous shrubs and succulents. Gallagher is a professional botanist, with a decade of experience. Talk #2. Bush Mallows, the Genus Malacothamnus with Keir Morse. Malacothamnus is a genus of fire-following shrubs native to California, Arizona, and Baja California. Presentation introduces the genus, focusing on characteristics useful for identification and avenues Kier intends to research to resolve issues with the taxonomy as a PhD student at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and Claremont Graduate University. He has 21 years of experience as a professional botanist.



## HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino 91108 626.405.2100 huntington.org

Every Saturday, 10am-1pm. Ranch Open House. Stop by this urban agriculture site (open weekly) and pick up fresh ideas for sustainable gardening.

Saturday & Sunday, 2/10 & 2/11; Sat. 1-5pm, Sun. 10am-5pm; Brody Botanical Center. 46th Annual Camellia Show and Sale, co-sponsored by the Southern California Camellia Society. Hundreds of blooms compete for top honors. View exhibits, shop for plants, and get expert tips on care and cultivation.

Tuesday, 2/20, 7:30pm, Rotherberg Hall. East Asian Gardens Lecture Series: Introduction of Japanese Plants into North America. Peter DelTredici, senior research scientist, emeritus, of the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University, will examine the history behind the early introductions of Japanese plants to the American gardening public in the late 19th century, some of which had a profound impact on both cultivated and wild landscapes across America.

Saturday and Sunday, 2/24 and 2/25, 10am-5pm, Brody Botanical Center. Bonsai-a-Thon with bonsai masters who

will share their passion for the art form in this event that includes exhibits, demos, prize drawings, a "bonsai bazaar," and live auction at 3 p.m. each day. Proceeds support the Golden State Bonsai Collection at The Huntington.



## THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION 10459 Tuxford St., Sun Valley 91352 818.768.1802 theodorepayne.org

Friday, 2/9, 5pm. Last day to register for 3-Part Native Garden Design with Carol Armour Aronson, beginning February 17. This course for home gardeners offers a foundation in 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, implementing knowledge of hardscape materials, irrigation, soils and more. \$225 TPF members, \$275 nonmembers; \$285 member couples, \$335 nonmember couples.

Saturday, 2/10, 9am-noon. Propagating California Native Plants with TPF's Propagation Manager Jordan Isken. Learn basic skills of vegetative propagation using various species of native plants. Learn about cuttings and divisions in this hands-on session, and leave with a flat of starts for your own garden! Limit: 10. \$50 TPF members, \$60 non-members

Saturday, 2/10, 1:30-3:30pm. Right Plant, Right Place with Lili Singer. This course discusses local plant communities as well as how to assess conditions of your garden site. Valuable for beginners and the prerequisite for our Three-Part Native Garden Design Course. \$25 TPF members, \$35 non-members.

Friday, 2/23, 9am-noon. Propagating California Native Plants with Jordan Isken. (See description for February 10, above.)

Saturday, 2/24, 9-10am. Wild Flower Hill: A Guided Hike with Asher Guzik. Explore TPF's Wild Flower Hill to learn about native plant communities, discover local species, and see what's currently in bloom. Participants should wear closed-toe shoes, long pants and sun protection, and bring a refillable water bottle. We'll meet rain or shine. All ages are welcome! \$10 TPF members, \$15 non-members.



## RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN 1500 N. College Ave., Claremont 91711 909.625.8767 rsabg.org

Saturday, 2/17, 10-11am. Grow Native Nursery Workshop: Growing & Eating California Native Plants. Learn how to grow and maintain native plants for use in the kitchen. Tap into the incredible flavors of California in a responsible way. Email [gncclaremont@rsabg.org](mailto:gncclaremont@rsabg.org) to register.

Sunday, 2/18, 10am-3pm. Family Bird Festival. During the year, over 150 different species of birds may visit the Garden. Take the Migration Challenge - make avian art, pose with a live raptor and enjoy many other activities. Sponsored by Wild Birds Unlimited of Claremont and the Pomona Valley Audubon Society.

Saturday, 2/24, 10-11am. Prickles, Spines & Thorns, Oh My! In this pain-free workshop, you'll learn all about the origins, functions and distinct structures of battle-ready plants with Cactaceae expert Mark Porter, PhD. Includes an interactive tour of the Game of Thorns exhibition. \$10 members, \$15 non-members. Register online at: <http://rsabg.org/classes>.

Yvonne Savio

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

-  February 8 - Jeff Chemnick of Aloes in Wonderland presents "Treasures of the Sierra Madres" an armchair ecotour
-  March 8 - Program was not confirmed at press time. Please check website for further updates.
-  April 12 - Succulent Program planned, but speaker(s) were not confirmed at press time. Please check website for latest updates.

**VENUE CHANGE** *This event will be held at the Huntington.*

## GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH



*"In the cherry blossom's shade  
there's no such thing  
as a stranger."*

- Kobayashi Issa

**FEBRUARY**

**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, Social Media Committee*  
**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** - *Coffee-in-the-Garden*  
**Aprille Curtis** - *Social Media Committee, Plant Forum supplies*  
**Fleur Nooyen**  
**818-567-1496 / socalhort.org / Join us on Facebook**  
**Newsletter Editor: Sabine Steinmetz**

Contributors to this issue: Yvonne Savio

**Next deadline: Monday, February 12** (for March newsletter)  
Please contribute an article or information of interest.



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