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NOTE: VENUE CHANGE IN DECEMBER - MEETING AT CANOGA PARK WOMEN’S CLUB

Australian Native Plants: Survivors & Thrivers

In December, the SCHS welcomes Jo O’Connell, the owner of Australian Native Plants, located in Casitas Springs in the Ojai Valley, as our featured speaker. She is also a survivor of the 2017 Thomas Fire and a portion of her presentation will focus on its impact on the plants surrounding her nursery.

Born and raised in Australia, Jo has a degree in horticulture from the University of Western Sydney. Her background experience is in zoo horticulture and habitat design, revegetation projects, and the cut flower industry. She founded Australian Native Plants in the early 1990s, after coming to the United States to establish the Australian Garden at the Taft Gardens in Ojai, and stayed because she fell in love and got married!

With over 35 years’ experience growing Australian plants both in Australia and Southern California, Jo will address some of the toughest specimens worth trying in our changing climate, for their flowers, attractive qualities and cold and dry tolerances. She will talk about the nursery and her mail order business that ships plants all over the USA and internationally, as well as bringing along a selection of plants for purchase just ahead of the holidays.

We invite you to attend this special program which will be a highlight of our activity-packed annual holiday party. Don’t miss out on the festivities!

2018 Holiday Party
Thursday, December 13

Special Location!

Our meeting & party will be held at:

CANOGA PARK WOMEN’S CLUB
7401 Jordan Ave, Canoga Park 91303

Come join us for the following:

GUEST SPEAKER Jo O’Connell will give a presentation and also bring along plants for you to gift (or keep for yourself!)

GIVE-AWAYS will be on display on our “Freebie Table” filled with members’ donations. Grab something at the announced time (but also be prepared to take any of your own items home if they are not snatched up...)

TASTY TREATS made by members for all to share will be available during the evening. Feel free to bring a sweet or savory dish along – we’ll provide the tableware.

VENDORS will be offering up tempting PLANTS & OTHER ITEMS for your early holiday shopping - don’t miss out on unique gift purchasing opportunities!

We look forward to celebrating with you in Canoga Park!
In November, Betsy Collins, Director of Horticulture at Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, presented a program on the “Horticultural Treasures of the Channel Islands” and also gave us a look at the newly opened Conservation Center and Island View Garden recently installed at SBBG. During her 28 years working there, she has been actively involved in the process of bringing new plants into cultivation, from exploration to propagation testing and evaluation, with the ultimate goal of introducing exemplary garden plants into the horticultural trade.

Betsy’s slide presentation showcased the 16 Channel Islands from a horticulturist explorer’s point of view—searching for plants whose evolutionary tendencies could make them suitable for cultivation. Depending on the extent of man’s disturbance of each island, some specimens have grown in undisturbed conditions making them unusual finds, while others are in need of rescuing through propagation to prevent their extinction.

One of the islands that has yielded specimens readily available in the trade is San Miguel, whose topographical features resemble many found on the mainland. Betsy cited Adenosoma fasciculatum, Artemisia californica, Leymus condensatus ‘Canyon Prince’, Dendromecon harfordii, and a pink-flowering Achillea millefolium as examples of excellent garden plants originating there.

Of the endemic and rare plants not found anywhere else but the Channel Islands, ones such as Quercus tomentella and Lycnothamnus floribundus are not often used in landscaping, even though they are adaptable in cultivation. Other genera such as Encelia exhibit high diversity (E. rubescens, E. arborescens, E. giganteum), and are now commonly used garden plants.

Another genus that is a particular favorite of Betsy’s—Dudleya—offers a large selection of species as well. On a recent SBBG collection trip to the eight Mexican Channel Islands (all a part of the California Floristic Province), Betsy participated in gathering specimens for study as candidates for propagation, including Xylonaggra arborea and Erigonum molle. Well-known species from these islands include: Ceanothus arborescens, Ribes viburnifolium, Encelia californica, Rhus lentii plus various Dudleya and Mammillaria. She indicated the Mexican government is currently working toward conservation and regeneration of endemic vegetation that for centuries had been ravaged by unchecked goat populations introduced by the Spanish explorers.

The final images in her slide show were of the Conservation Center at SBBG and the surrounding Island View Garden designed by Betsy, which features primarily island species, Betula gracilis, pink Achillea millefolium, and SBBG’s “Conservation Collection” including Ceanothus hirsutior, Berberis pinnata ssp. insularis and Dudleya nesiota. Some of the plants installed there. They are irrigated by three 15,000 gallon tanks installed under the boardwalk and fed by rooftop runoff and a bioswale. Plans for the future include introducing even more island species currently being trialed for cultivation.

Betsy concluded her presentation with a question and answer session about the testing processes employed before plants are introduced into the trade, including checks and balances for “weediness”, as well as some species-specific queries. Sharing the wealth of knowledge she has amassed in her years at SBBG can inform what we choose to grow in our own gardens as we plan for the future.

Sabine Steinmetz

SBBG’s “Conservation Collection” including Ceanothus hirsutior, Berberis pinnata ssp. insularis and Dudleya nesiota are some of the plants installed there. They are irrigated by three 15,000 gallon tanks installed under the boardwalk and fed by rooftop runoff and a bioswale. Plans for the future include introducing even more island species currently being trialed for cultivation.

SHARING SECRETS

Last month we asked members:

What botanical gifts from your garden have you shared during the holidays?

We were hoping to get tips for making seasonal treats or botanical gifts—but we got NO responses!

So, at this time, we will wish you safe and happy holidays, that are restful and give you plenty of time to ponder the following question to begin 2019 -

What kinds of gardening plans have you made for the New Year?

Please tell us about your:

• grand schemes • clever ideas • new plants • tools you’re trying • tips & tricks OR real-life gardening “resolutions”?

Members want to know what other members are up to—and also to wish one another a

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

REMINDING A FRIEND – ON THE PASSING OF DON WOOD

On Friday, November 9, 2018, long-time SCHS member Don Wood passed away. He will be remembered by many as the bearded gentleman who frequently made announcements for the Fern Society, one of his horticultural passions. Of course, he also had other interests, and for a few SCHS members, he is remembered here as a friend and more.

My good friend Don Wood was a plantsman. I would ask him about different kinds of plants he would tell me about them. I would often bring him to the SCHS meetings, which he loved, and we would talk about the programs on the way home. Don enjoyed growing many kinds of plants, especially ferns.

In the Fern World he was one of the best on his good days. He would help to run the Los Angeles International Fern Society Show each year, do the Green Scene at Fullerton, plus any show or sale we would have! Don would enter lots of ferns and plants at all of the shows. He also gave talks on mounting staghorn ferns to all the local plant clubs, as well as at the L.A. County Fair each year.

For years he would play Santa Claus, doing 20 to 25 engagements all over L.A. A few years ago in Las Vegas at a Santa Claus Convention he won first ticket for a Custom Santa Claus Suit. He was so happy about this... sometimes I think that he was the real Santa Claus!

Your Good Friend,

Michael Moody

I remember Don Wood from the Year Around Garden Club (YAGC), Whittier, part of the California Garden Clubs, Inc. He was our Santa for many years, and had given many talks about ferns through the years. A few years ago, he sold his house and moved in with his sister, Rhonda Wood. When he moved, he gave me a lot of mature Bromeliads, which, of course, I love. He also gave me a Dahlia imperialis tuber and it’s blooming now for the 1st time — it gets 12-20’ tall! My dad had one that I moved over to my place and one year my garden helpers (?) dug it up and threw it away before I knew it, so I was glad to get another one.

Don paid for my SCHS membership so that I would bring him to the meetings. I hated the drive, but loved going there and always learning so much.

Nancy Bird
President, YAGC

Many thanks to Michael and Nancy for sharing their remembrances of Don with us. He clearly will be missed in the horticultural world — but will live on in the memories of the many lives he has touched.
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.

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF L.A.
900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles 90007
213.763.3466

Saturdays through December, 11am, Nature Gardens Exploration – outside Nature Lab and under the bridge. Weekly hands-on activity programs.

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF L.A.
3900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles 90007
213.763.3466

Tour: How to Build a Healthy Soil Food Web with Karen Long, TPF’s Propagation Manager.

Tour: How to Build a Healthy Soil Food Web

Every Wednesday & 2nd Sunday, 10am. Eaton Canyon Gardening Group. Volunteers maintain the garden.


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.

Wednesday, 12/12, 2:30pm, Rothenberg Hall. Book Talk & Signing for GardenLust: A Botanical Tour of the World’s Best New Gardens. Author and horticulturist Chris Woods traveled the world seeking out contemporary gardens and celebrates 50 of the best in his new book. Woods describes their most arresting features from locations from New Delhi and Dubai to Chile and Australia. Book signing to follow.

Thursday, 12/13, 2:30pm, Ahmanson Room, Brody Botanical Center. Growing Healthy Soil. Garett Long, research and outreach coordinator at Apricot Lane Farms, will discuss how to build a healthy soil food web to help grow healthier plants. Long is particularly interested in the relationship between farming practices, soil health, and the nutritional quality of food.

Thursday, 12/27, 4:30-5:30pm, Auditorium, Brody Botanical Center. Botany Bay Series: Plant Science for Citizen Scientists. Explore the plant world through discussion and hands-on lab time in this series led by Jim Folsom, the Telleen/Jorgensen Director of the Botanical Gardens.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY (CNPS)
L.A./Santa Monica Mtns Chapter / 1st Utd. Methodist
1008 11th Street, Santa Monica 90403
818-782-9346 lacnps.org

Tuesday, 12/11, 7:30pm. California Wildfires & Climate: Past, Present, Future on Our Native Flora with John Keeley, research scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey and an adjunct professor at UCLA.

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

Saturday, December 8, 10am-2pm. House Plants with Arboretum Plant Information Consultant Frank McDonough. Learn how to select and care for indoor plants. Members $25, Non-members $35. Register online and for questions, call the Education Dept.

Saturday, December 29, 9am-12noon, Nature Lab. Plant Science for Citizen Scientists. Explore the plant world through discussion and hands-on lab time in this series led by Jim Folsom, the Telleen/Jorgensen Director of the Botanical Gardens.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY - Thursday, December 13 at 7:00 pm
Canoga Park Women’s Club • 7401 Jordan Avenue • Canoga Park, CA

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

Saturday 12/19 9am-12noon. Propagating California Native Plants with Jordan Isken, TPF’s Propagation Manager. Learn the basics of vegetative propagation using various species of native plants. Begin with cuttings in this hands-on session, and leave with a flat of starts for home! Limit: 10. $50 members, $60 non-members.

Saturday 12/19 1pm-3:30pm. Your Native Garden’s First Year with Lili Singer, TPF’s Director of Special Projects. An overview of the first year in a newly installed native landscape provides tips on establishing plants, plus what to do and expect from your developing landscape. Great class for beginners. $25 members, $35 non-members.

Saturday 12/29 1:30pm-3:30pm. Look, Ma, No Lawn! with Lili Singer, TPF’s Director of Special Projects. If you’re ready to lose the lawn, we’ll explain how to take the turf out and offer replacement alternatives – specifically low-care native plants that need no fertilizer and use a fraction of the water required for turf. $25 members, $35 non-members.

FULLERTON ARBORETUM
1900 Associated Road, Fullerton 92831
657.278.3407 fulertonarboretum.org

Sunday, 12/16, 1 pm. Container Gardening in Southern California. Expert gardener Yvonne Savio will discuss advantages and disadvantages of growing in containers: choosing pots and plants, basic gardening considerations, and many successful techniques. $20 members; $25 non-members.

SUNDAY, 12/22, 10 am. Public Nature Tour. Meet at the Nature Center and join one of our knowledgeable docents as they guide through the beautiful garden. Repeats 2nd & 4th Saturdays.

COASTKEEPER GARDEN
1560 E. Santiago Cyn. Rd., Orange 92869
714.850.1965 coastkeeper.org

Saturday, 12/8, 9:30am. Monthly Garden Share. Bring garden-related items such as plants, cuttings, pots, tools, produce, etc., to trade. For more info, go to https://www.facebook.com/groups/CoastkeeperGardenShare. Repeats 2nd Saturdays.

Yvonne Savio
UPCOMING SCHS PROGRAMS

December 13 - SCHS Holiday Party, featuring Jo O’Connell of Australian Native Plants in Casitas Springs, speaking about Australian plant selections

VENUE CHANGE  This event will be at Canoga Park Women’s Club

January 10 - Horticultural educator Jennifer Hinostroza of Mt. San Antonio College will present “Houseplants and Balcony Gardening”

February 14 - Speaker to be confirmed - stay tuned!

March 14 - Mike Evans from Tree of Life Nursery

GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“I’m singin’ in the rain, just singin’ in the rain. What a wonderful feeling, I’m happy again.”

- Arthur Freed

Next deadline: Monday, December 17 (for January newsletter)

Please contribute an article or information of interest.