

Attendees at the May SCHS meeting were treated to an in-depth look at bulbs from the Old World that are suited to Southern California gardens, as presented by local expert, Tom Glavich, a long-time grower of bulbs and succulents. He is currently serving as vice president of the Southern California Daylily and Bulb Society (SCHAS) and is on the Board of Directors of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA). He is the author of the *Beginner's Guide to Gasteria, Haworthia, Agave and other Succulent Monocots*, which includes several genera of bulbous plants. His presentation included many pictures of bulbs he personally grew in his Altadena home, along with information about their cultural needs, growing and propagation tips, and which ones are the best suited for our environment.



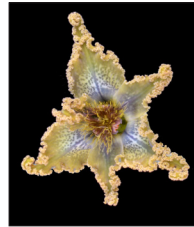
Photos provided by speaker.

Glavich's presentation was a non-stop show filled with beautiful pictures of bulbs ranging from the common and readily available like *Urginea maritima* which can be found at Home Depot and requires little care, to several very rare *Lachenalia* that are only available through mail order from speciality growers, and just about everything in-between. Although he shared pictures of many other bulbs, he concentrated his talk on bulbs known to do well in Southern California gardens, with a focus on those originating in the Cape Province of South Africa and the Mediterranean basin itself. The majority of his pictures were of species, most in cultivation, but some in habitat.

Following is a listing of some of the bulbs he mentioned as being easiest to obtain and cultivate, either potted up or growing in the ground:

- Bellevalia paradoxa*
- Boophane disticha*
- Colchicum graecum*

- Crinum moorei*
- Drimiopsis kirkii*
- Eucomis comosa*
- Ferraria divaricata* (pictured at right)
- Gladiolus carneus*
- Haemanthus albiflos*
- Hyacinthoides orientalis*
- Moraea tripetala* & *M. thomsonii*
- Nerine flexuosa* & *N. gracilis*
- Pancratium maritimum*
- Scadoxus multiflorus*
- Scilla hyacinthoides* & *S. peruviana*



Glavich wrapped up his presentation by providing a recipe for his personal potting mix, as well as a resource list (see below for both), and answering audience questions. Recommendations for reading material include *Bulbs* by John E. Bryan, and *Color Encyclopedia of Cape Bulbs* by John Manning, Peter Goldblatt and Dee Snijmans. Also *Buried Treasures* by Janis Ruksans, and *Steppes* published by the Denver Botanic Garden. Additionally, a visit to Glavich's website: Skyviewsucculents.com will provide even more insights since he posts there both as a grower and a photographer.

The evening's activities concluded with a plant sale from Glavich, an SCHS pottery raffle courtesy of Joan Citron's donations, and a plant forum showcasing members' exhibits. A bit of something for everyone in attendance...

✂ Sabine Steinmetz

POTTING MIX RECIPE

- Screened, washed pumice, no organics
- Pot in very deep pots
- Water with pH controlled to about 6
- Fertilize regularly with "Grow More" or "Miracle Grow" (weekly when in growth)

SOURCES for RARE BULBS

- Pacific Bulb Society - online
- Southern California Daylily & Bulb Society (SCHAS) meets at Arboretum
- San Gabriel Cactus & Succulent Society (2 shows per year @ Arboretum)
- Telos Rare Bulbs (N. California) - online
- Odyssey Bulbs (Massachusetts) - online

SHARING SECRETS RESPONSES

What horticultural topics would you like to hear about from future speakers or as program presentations?



I recommend a program featuring a plant community landscape, as described by Thomas Rainer and Claudia West in "Planting in a Post-Wild World," adapted to SoCal appropriate plants.

- Mary Harrison

How about a talk by an experienced grower of Asian vegetables and plants? Ex: edible ginger, taro, water lily "roots", bitter melon, pickling gourd/melon, okra (beloved by Indians and Asian cooks), yard-long beans, yuzu, colt's foot, various varieties of shiso (Perilla). Info about ease of growing, temperature and moisture requirements, whether they can be grown in containers, etc. would be very useful.

- Florence Nishida

I have a list of things I'd like to hear, many (altered) repeats from years ago that might be interesting to members.

- Fruit trees for a changing climate in L.A. The Dave Wilson guy used to come every year. He was wildly popular.
- Tomatoes and growing suggestions
- Hedges & screens: selecting and maintaining them, planting techniques
- Mike Evans. I have not heard another person speak with his depth, breadth and passion for California native plants. Now in his early 60s, he is fabulous and exposing a new generation to him is not a bad idea.
- What about a build-your-own-garden talk? How to do a proper gravel patio, design a decent irrigation system, etc.
- Apples for Southern California.
- Dan Cooper & Miguel Ordenana follow the flora, fauna and avifauna of Griffith Park, - why don't we invite them in?
- Dan Lewis, the curator of science at the Huntington, might be able to give us a special evening program showcasing his fabulous botanical texts in his library.

- Catherine Pannell

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thanks to all for the suggestions, and especially to Catherine, whose list we edited due to space limitations, but passed on to the Board in its entirety.