



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org	NEWSLETTER	January 2020
OUR NEXT MEETING Thursday, January 10 Friendship Auditorium 3201 Riverside Drive Los Angeles, CA 90027  Socializing: 7:00 pm Meeting begins: 7:30 pm	SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS <i>We look forward to seeing who 2020 will bring to us...</i> Invite your friends to come to a meeting or to check us online! www.socalhort.org	MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE Beginning with this issue, SCHS will be printing a monthly "To Do" list with timely chores & advice.  <i>Sharing Secrets is now online!</i> www.instagram@socalhort
		IN THIS ISSUE January Program and Membership News 1 December Program Recap, Monthly Garden Share 2 Horticultural Happenings ... 3 Upcoming Programs and SCHS Contact info. 4

Tending L.A.'s Trees: Getting it Right from Juveniles to Giants

Joining us in January as the first speaker of the new year, will be arborist Nick Araya, co-owner of TreeCareLA which manages large and old trees in Los Angeles. He will be presenting a program about tree care culture and how the city of Los Angeles has some of the worst tree care habits in the United States and what can be done to protect our urban forest.

Araya has been caring and advocating for trees for 19 years. Originally from Wisconsin, Nick began his career in Chicago as a climbing arborist. It was there that he first saw what proper tree care looked like and how it made for bigger, better trees and a beautiful city. In 2004, Nick moved to Southern California and learned that Los Angeles' tree care culture is unlike that of the Midwest and East Coast - trees are not given the care and respect they deserve, especially given the incredible value they provide to Angelenos.

TreeCareLA was officially launched in 2011 as a way to improve and preserve the trees of Los Angeles. The company manages large and old trees in Los Angeles, and has been forced to master

the art and science of restoring damaged trees. Araya encourages homeowners to understand how to maintain their trees' health, safety, beauty and value - either on their own or with some experienced help.

Araya's presentation will begin with a refresher on why we shouldn't top trees - addressing what happens inside the tree when it is topped and how the tree responds. Using this as a foundation, he will discuss how TreeCareLA goes about managing the city's big trees to restore their health and structural stability. The talk will conclude with information on managing big trees that are already in good condition and how to keep them that way.

As one of only a handful of Board Certified Master Arborists in Southern California, the highest level of certification offered by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), Araya is known internationally in the tree care industry as an advocate for tree preservation, tree climbers, and small business owners. He also carries the ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification.

Please join us for this program on a topic that can shape the future of our city. You can learn more about Araya's company at www.treecarela.com or follow them on Instagram @treecarela.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS & EVENTS

STAYING IN TOUCH

We appreciate all of our members' continued support and look forward to seeing you throughout 2020. We also encourage you to participate in the organization by sharing information, feedback and ideas for the future of the society. Board members are listed on Page 4 along with the committees they serve on, so please reach out if you have something to share!

UPCOMING EVENTS

The SCHS has unique horticultural experiences arranged for members and supporters in 2020, including new garden excursions, plant sharing opportunities at meetings and online, and new activities currently in the planning stages... stay tuned via the newsletter and our social media platforms - all accessible through our website at:

www.socalhort.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

In the coming year, the SCHS is planning to continue growing our online presence to expand our reach and build membership. In addition to our website, you can find us at both of the following:

www.facebook.com/pg/socalhort
www.instagram.com/socalhort

Photo courtesy of speaker.



The program at the December SCHS meeting was about “the Lore and Legend of Christmas Greens” and presented by Marie Barnidge-McIntyre, Horticulturist at the Rancho Los Cerritos Historical Site. The myths and history surrounding plants traditionally associated with the winter season proved to be an entertaining and informative theme to explore as an accompaniment to the evening’s holiday festivities.

In addition to her duties as horticulturist at Rancho Los Cerritos since 1992, Barnidge-McIntyre is also in charge of harvesting materials from the garden to be used in crafting unique items for their gift shop, and sharing stories about the plants at the Rancho with visitors. Her gift for story-telling served her well as she shared her research on a variety of plants traditionally used in holiday celebrations. The history of how mistletoe, holly, ivy, Christmas trees and poinsettias found their way into commonly-practiced customs was fascinating and made their presence in seasonal traditions more meaningful.

While the significance of each plant differed slightly in how they developed into their current usage, the mythology surrounding them all related to their seasonal attributes of offering a symbol of life and hope to people during the bleakest time of the year. Greeks, Romans, Celts, Druids, Norsemen, Aztecs and other early societies often looked to nature to provide answers to the changes they observed seasonally but did not understand. Over time, myths and stories were adjusted according to prevailing religious and secular attitudes, yet continued to reference the earliest associations people had with these plants.

Mistletoe, an evergreen parasitic plant that attaches itself to deciduous trees such as apple, linden, hawthorn, oaks and others, appeared “magical” to the ancients. It held its leaves while living in the bare branches of its host, and produced clusters of white berries in winter. Protection from lightning, holding the soul of its host during dormancy, and other

good luck symbolism were attributed to mistletoe. In a Norse legend, the tears of the goddess Frigg fell upon a deadly mistletoe dart, and resurrected her son. Rejoicing, she declared that anyone standing under the mistletoe must embrace as a gesture of love and peace, giving rise to the tradition of “kissing under the mistletoe.”

Holly, with its bright red winter berries, was also considered to have magical properties. For instance, unpruned hedges were thought to protect homes by hindering witches from crossing them, and shrubs planted near the house guarded against lightning. The wood was believed to tame wild beasts, including horses, and was used to make crops, whips, wheels and carriage frames to protect riders. The Oak Man and the Holly Man in Celtic lore were gods and brothers, presiding over summer and winter, with the latter wearing a holly crown - often interpreted as the first seasonal wreath.

The magic attributes of ivy were typically associated with its growth habit of creeping and attaching itself to other things. This evergreen was worn as a crown by the god Dionysus, who once used the plant to protect himself against pirates when he commanded it to grow over their boat, causing them to jump overboard. Celts believed its binding qualities symbolized endless love and fidelity, and would wrap ivy around the hands of the betrothed couple in wedding ceremonies. Similarly, Tristan and Isolde, lovers who were buried in separate graves, were “reunited” by ivy growing from each grave and combining to form an unbreakable knot. Today, it is commonly used for holiday decor such as garlands and wreaths.

The tradition of placing a Christmas tree in the home derives from pagan rituals of bringing evergreen boughs inside during winter, and was later adapted and modified by early Christians. They melded Jesus’ nativity celebration with pre-existing midwinter festivals, resulting in customs still in practice. The German-born princess Charlotte, wife of England’s King George III, had a potted fir tree brought into their home at Christmas, and decorated it with sweets and small gifts for everyone in the household. This popularized the

tradition further, giving us the aspects of decorating and exchanging gifts associated with Christmas trees today.

The program concluded with a brief history of the poinsettia, tracing its usage from the Aztec emperor Montezuma, through the folk story of Pepita, whose humble offering of roadside “weeds” at the local nativity scene turned into beautiful red flowers, to its introduction in America by Joel Roberts Poinsett, a botanist and the first U.S. Ambassador to Mexico. Finally, through hybridization and skillful marketing, the Ecke family of Encinitas, California has helped turn the poinsettia into the holiday symbol it is recognized as today. During the last century, its popularity has earned it the honor of being the top-selling potted plant in the U.S. for many years, regardless of the occasion.

To learn more, you can reach Barnidge-McIntyre at Rancho Los Cerritos Site at www.rancholoscerritos.org, or plan on visiting the gardens in person. You’re sure to have a memorable experience.

✧ Sabine Steinmetz

Photo courtesy of speaker.



SCHS MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE

We will be posting a list of chores and tips in this space as a reminder of what “to do” in the garden for the current month... as always, we welcome your input and suggestions!

- Prune & feed your roses
- Prune your dormant trees (or have an arborist do it)
- Check irrigation systems
- Sow more wildflower seeds
- Plant winter veggies

Or just sit back and relax!



SHARING SECRETS

“Sharing Secrets” questions - new and recycled - can now be found on the SCHS Instagram page. Members can still share answers by replying to posts, or find archived queries and answers on the SCHS website under the sharing Secrets tab.)

www.instagram.com/socalhort

JANUARY 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.

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

Daily, 3:30pm, Nature Walk. Meet outside the Nature Lab (under the bridge) for a walk in the Nature Gardens to explore the diversity of life that calls L.A. home.

Every Saturday and Sunday, 11am, Nature Gardens Exploration. Meet outside the Nature Lab (under the bridge) for a hands-on activity in our Nature Gardens.



CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS
- SOUTH BAY CHAPTER

South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes 90274
310.765.0570 crfg.org

Saturday, 1/18, 10am-12noon, Room A. Grafting Demo to learn how to graft your favorite fruit onto an existing or a new tree. Typically, a tree will produce fruit about two years from the time it has been grafted. Free if you join the club, annual membership is \$12. For more info., leave a message for Luz Keating at Ldkeating@sbcglobal.net or 310-765-0570.



RANCHO LOS CERRITOS
4600 Virginia Road, Long Beach 90807
562.206.2040 rancholoscerritos.org

Weekends and Weekdays by Prior Arrangement. 1-Hour Garden Tours. Visitors are free to explore the gardens on their own Wednesdays-Sundays, 1-5pm. For details, visit: <http://www.rancholoscerritos.org/things-to-do-hub/tours/>.

Friday, 1/31 (also 2/7, 2/14, 2/28, 3/6), 9am-1pm. 5-Class Garden Docent Training about how to share the Rancho Los Cerritos gardens with the public. After graduation, we ask that you lead at least one tour a month. Must register in advance online at: <https://www.rancholoscerritos.org/upcoming-event/garden-docent-training-begins-2020/>



EATON CANYON NATURE CENTER
1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena 91107
626.398.5420 ecnca.org

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

Saturday, 1/18, 9am-12noon, Nature Patio. Conservation Work Day. Help weed invasive plants to conserve habitat for the native species. Gloves, tools and snack provided. Please bring your own drinking water. Wear clothing, footwear and sun protection for outdoor work.

Volunteers under the age of 18 need to bring along an adult. RSVP to eatoncanyon.conservation@gmail.com



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

Saturday & Sunday, 1/11 & 1/12, 9am-5pm. Cool Camellia Celebration with crafting, walks, demonstrations and the annual show presented by the Pacific Camellia Society.

Sunday, 1/19, 10-11am, Peace Tree Ceremony. The Rotary Club of Little Tokyo will present Descanso with a Peace Tree that grew from the seed of a plant that survived the first atomic bomb in Hiroshima, Japan, in 1945.



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

Saturdays, 1/11, 1/25, 2/8 & 2/22, 8:30am-1pm. 4-Part Regenerative Garden Design Course with Shawn Maestretti, landscape architect, contractor, arborist and climate activist. Learn about regenerative concepts and practices, plus principles and elements of design, how to capture rainwater, nurture living soil, use native and climate-appropriate plants, re-purpose materials to reduce carbon footprint, implement permaculture techniques to reduce green waste, and so much more. \$250 members, \$300 non-members, \$310 member couples, \$360 non-member couples. To register, call the Education Dept. at 626-821-4623.

Saturday, 1/18, 10am-12noon. Lasagna Mulching. This workshop will show you how to use cardboard and mulch with what you have on hand or materials that can be sourced locally, to build fertile, productive soil. Includes a visual presentation and a hands-on activity at our Crescent Farm. Free, but must pre-register online at: www.arboretum.org/calendar. For questions, call the Education Dept. at 626-821-4623.

Saturday, 1/25, 10am-12noon. Tree Identification with Jerry Turney. A 1-hour lecture will cover 20 tree species and be followed by a walk on the grounds to see the trees covered in the lecture. \$20 members, \$30 non-members. Register online at arboretum.org/calendar. For questions, call the Education Dept. at 626.821.4623.



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

Thursday, 1/9, 2:30pm, Rothenberg Hall. Garden Talk & Plant Sale: 'Huntington's 100th' Rose. Tom Carruth, Huntington's rose hybridizer and the E. L. and Ruth B. Shannon Curator of the Rose Collections, will discuss how he developed this pastel yellow, fragrant old-fashioned floribunda named in honor of the institution's Centennial Celebration. 'Huntington's 100th' will be available for purchase after the talk, along with other bareroot varieties.

Saturday, 1/18, 9-10am, Ahmanson Classroom, Brody Botanical Center. Ranch Clinic: Pollinators, People, and Plants., with nature educator Kristy Brauch Clougherty of the UC Master Gardener program. Learn about symbiotic relationships between plants and insects, common things people do that disrupt this cycle and learn ways to participate in "citizen science" to assist with pollinator research.



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

Saturday, 1/17, 9-10am. Irrigation Basics for the Native Garden with Tim Becker, TPF Director of Horticulture. Join a walk & talk on TPF grounds to learn how, when and where to irrigate, as well as benefits and drawbacks for overhead, drip and hand-watering equipment. Bring a hat and water bottle. Limit: 15 students. \$15 members, \$20 non-members. Register online.

Saturday, 1/18, 1:30-3:30pm. Sustainable Slopes with Joshua Link, Ecotone Studios. Learn about the fundamentals of gardening on uneven ground using native plants and light-on-the-land construction methods for stabilization and erosion control. Includes info. for gardeners in fire-prone areas. \$20 members, \$25 non-members. Register online.

Saturday, 1/18, 1:30-3:30pm. Native Seed-Starting Workshop with Tim Becker, Director of Horticulture. Learn the ins & outs of propagating native plants from seed in this hands-on workshop. Basic seed physiology, viability, germination cues and pretreatments, sowing and aftercare are covered. Each student will take home a flat of seeds they've sown! All materials provided. Limit: 10 students. \$50 members, \$65 non-members. Register online.

Saturday, 1/25, 2/8, & 2/29, 8:30am-12:30pm. Three-Part California Native Garden Design with Andreas Hessing, Landscape Designer and Contractor, Scrub Jay Studios. This course for home gardeners offers a foundation in design styles and process, importance of sustainability, and how to model a garden after patterns in nature. Limit: 8 students. Prerequisite: TPF's Right Plant, Right Place class (must be taken before first design class). \$235 members, \$285 non-members. \$295 member couples, \$345 non-member couples. Last day to register online is Friday, January 17.





SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN
230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas 92024
760.436.3036 sdbgarden.org

Sunday, 1/19, 10am-12noon. Orchid Kokedama Workshop with Kodema Forest. Learn about this traditional Japanese living art form where moss is used as a container for a plant, and learn the skills to make your own. Bring an apron and gloves. \$20 members, \$24 non-members; plus \$38 materials fee payable to instructor. Register by 1/12 online.


Saturday, 1/25, 9am-3pm. Open Heart Succulent Wreath Workshop. Use special clippings from our Botanic Garden to make your wreath. Bring small clippers. \$75 members, \$90 non-members; all materials included. Register by 1/18 online.

Yvonne Savio

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

-  January 9 - Nick Araya, arborist & co-owner of TreeCareLA, speaking on "Tending L.A.'s Trees"
 February 13 - Evan Meyer, from UCLA's Mildred E. Mathias Botanical Garden, presents a travelogue on South African flora - **NOTE VENUE CHANGE** -

FEBRUARY VENUE - Los Angeles Zoo & Botanical Garden

-  March 12 - Program being confirmed - TBA soon

GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"Have you ever noticed a tree
 standing naked against the sky,
 How beautiful it is?
 All its branches are outlined,
 and in its nakedness
 There is a poem, there is a song."*

- Krishnamurti

JANUARY

John Schoustra - President, Field-Trip Committee, Finance Committee, Plant Raffle, Plant Sales at meetings
Steven Gerischer - Vice President, Oral History Committee, PR
Laura Bauer - Treasurer, Finance Committee, Website Committee, HOTY Event Committee, Voicemail
Pat Steen - Membership Secretary, Recording Secretary, Field Trip and Coffee-in-the-Garden Committees, Greeter
Carol Aronson - Field Trip & Coffee-in-the-Garden Committees, Program Committee
Carol Bornstein - Program Committee
Aprille Curtis - Social Media Committee, Plant Forum supplies
Fleur Nooyen - Program Committee
Steven Ormenyi - Finance Committee
Yoav Paskowitz - Finance Committee, Oral History Committee, Website Committee, Newsletter Copy Editor
Yvonne Savio - Horticultural Happenings, Field Trip and Coffee-in-the-Garden Committees
Lili Singer - Board Nomination Committee, PR, Archives, Social Media Committee
Sabine Steinmetz - Newsletter Editor, Sharing Secrets, Graphic Design
Jill Vig - Coffee-in-the-Garden Committee, Oral History Committee, Special Projects

Connect with us at: 818-567-1496 • socalhort.org • facebook.com/socalhort • instagram.com/socalhort

Newsletter Editor: Sabine Steinmetz

Contributors to this issue: Nick Araya, Yvonne Savio

Next deadline: Monday, January 13 (for February newsletter)
 Please contribute an article or information of interest.



Southern California
 Horticultural Society
 P.O. Box 94476
 Pasadena CA 91109-4476

NEWSLETTER January 2020