



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org NEWSLETTER February 2023

OUR NEXT HYBRID MEETING

Thursday, February 9
Announcements at 7:10 p.m.
Plant Forum at 7:15 p.m.
Program at 7:30



Visit: www.socalhort.org
for more information

SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

The rains have brought forth a new member -

Katie Tilford



To join SCHS, go to:
www.socalhort.org/join

CONNECT WITH SCHS

Please engage with us online!

YOU CAN FIND US AT:

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



All membership options
are listed on our website.

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Prioritizing California Native Plants for Butterfly and Moth Conservation

This program will be in-person and live-streamed for YouTube. For the safety of our guests (and in keeping with L.A. County Health Dept. guidelines) we strongly recommend that masks be worn indoors and that vaccine boosters are current.

For our February 9 meeting, the SCHS welcomes Chris Cosma, a PhD candidate in Dr. Nicole Rafferty's lab in the Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology Department at UC Riverside. He will be speaking to us about his research, which focuses on how climate change is affecting moths and their interactions with native plants in California.

Cosma will talk about how the migratory Monarch butterfly was recently declared endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and that planting milkweed – the monarch's obligate host plant – is critical to protecting the species from extinction in the face of climate change and other threats. He will also address the greater problem facing hundreds of other declining Western U.S. butterfly species, including moths – which are ten times

more diverse than butterflies – and how each species depends on specific native plant species throughout its life cycle: host plants for caterpillars and nectar plants for adults.

Alongside his research, Cosma has developed a web application called The Butterfly Net that helps people find the best native host and nectar plants for butterflies and moths based on locations within California. This tool also shows "keystone" species of native plants that provide stability to entire insect communities. In his talk, Cosma explains the science behind The Butterfly Net and how to use the tool to help protect butterflies, moths, and the important services they provide.

If you're still trying to decide what new plants to add to your garden, this program might aid you in making your choices. Please join us in-person or online for this fascinating presentation. Registration is open and you can link to register at: www.socalhort.org.



Image provided by speaker



Photo by: S. Steinmetz

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

IN THE WORKS: 2023 RBL S PEAKER

The SCHS Board and the Program Committee are finalizing plans for this year's Ruth Borun Lecture Series event. The program will be scheduled for sometime in spring, and meantime

we are pleased to tell you that our 2023 RBL S speaker will be:

Fergus Garrett

Chief Executive,
Great Dixter Charitable Trust

Look for further details as they become available – on our website, in the newsletter and on social media!



SCHS ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM & ARCHIVES

The SCHS continues striving toward our goal of compiling oral histories of notable horticultural members past and present. We are also in the process of making these available via the Archive page on our website.

Currently, you will be able to find a transcript of the interview we completed in 2022 with Robert Smaus at:

www.socalhort.org

A conversation with Laurel Woodley is currently being worked on and will be posted when complete.

On January 12 the SCHS hosted a free screening of the short 2022 documentary *Saging the World*, a special program that was jointly co-sponsored by the L.A./Santa Monica Mountains and the San Gabriel Mountains chapters of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS), as well as the Theodore Payne Foundation. All of the hosting organizations had representatives on hand who were available to interact with the 170 or so attendees after the screening.

The documentary was created by Rose Ramirez and Deborah Small in partnership with the California Native Plant Society to bring attention to the alarming increase in the poaching of white sage (*Salvia apiana*), and to advocate for its protection. White sage is only native from San Luis Obispo in California to Baja California in Mexico, – a limited range that had already been reduced due to housing developments, when the global trend of “smudging” endangered it further. Demand for the plant has increased greatly during the last ten years, leading to over-harvesting and poaching. The plants are under threat because they are unable to regenerate due to the constant cutting back that is occurring. Stands of sage which once grew to 6’-7’ high are now stunted at a

mere 2’-3’ high and are struggling.

The film included interviews with local indigenous people representing a number of native communities who have traditionally used white sage for spiritual, medicinal and ceremonial purposes, while carefully cultivating the plant to ensure its longevity and ability to reproduce. They spoke about how plants are considered to be “relatives and ancestors” to be respected and maintain our balance with the earth. Cultural appropriation – i.e. smudging – was also addressed in the film as was the need to correction miseducation about the practice and the plant. An example was given that a Google search on smudging will share how to use the sage, but not how it came to market or what its history is. This narrow view as well as an international demand spurred by social media videos and clips on smudging has led to an increased demand for sage. It is estimated that 90% of the sage available online has been poached. The film also shared some suggestions on mitigating the problem (responsible farming, growing your own plants at home, not buying from unknown sources, improved education and legislation), but preventing illegal harvesting was still paramount in protecting the plant for future generations.

The screening was followed by a panel discussion and a Q & A session with the film’s director Rose Ramirez (artist, photographer, filmmaker, writer,

and California Indian basketweaver of Chumash and Yaqui descent) and Rico Ramirez (botanist, Gabrielino-Shoshone Nation), and moderated by Evan Meyer, Executive Director of the Theodore Payne Foundation. They spoke in greater depth about their personal connections to the plant as well as addressed the topics of appropriation, legislation and the need for improved education, including soliciting support to find a wider audience for the film, as it seeks to foster awareness and inspire action for the preservation of this threatened plant.

After the panel discussion, attendees were encouraged to ask questions and check out the various materials – including plants! – that representatives from the hosting organizations had on hand. And as a special treat, live background music was provided by Sage Against the Machine, a musical duo consisting of Meyer and Antonio Sanchez, who were joined for a few numbers by Rico Ramirez. All around, it was a very special evening!

🌀 Sabine Steinmetz

This program was not videotaped, but you can learn more about the film and ways in which to protect white sage by visiting:

cnps.org/sagingtheworld

🌀 SCHS MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE 🌀

February is still winter, and the season dictates our garden chores.

- Finish your winter rose pruning early in the month!
- Monitor your in-ground seedlings and don't let them dry out - unfortunately we can't rely on consistent rain although they were well-watered last month!
- Check other plants that may need to receive supplemental watering – especially on or right after windy days.
- Continue harvesting your citrus fruits and give the trees their first feeding if you haven't already done so.
- Feed your azaleas this month to keep them blooming longer, as well as your deciduous fruit trees which will begin budding out this month.
- If you really want to do some planting add some cool-season annuals and get summer-blooming bulbs into the ground now.
- Pick up spent camellia blossoms soon after they drop – do not let them “compost” underneath the plants – they cause camellia blight.
- Last chance to schedule some serious tree pruning for best results before they come out of winter dormancy. And please, hire a reputable firm to do the work or better yet, an arborist!
- We're not out of the winter yet, so keep monitoring for frost warnings and protect your sensitive plants, including many varieties of succulents.
- And last, but not least, stay on top of your weeding so you don't regret it later. The recent rains have sent up a nice crop of uninvited intruders and this is the best time to go after them before they become semi-permanent residents, or worse, set seed!

Have fun! 🌀 Sabine Steinmetz

Learn more about SCHS and connect with us online at:

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

FEBRUARY HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

Venues open at press time are marked  or  for those that are online only.

Organizations are offering events, both online and in person, but may have updated protocols in place. Please continue to check with your favorites for current info if you are planning a visit.

ARLINGTON GARDEN

275 Arlington Drive, Pasadena 91105
626-578-5434
www.arlingtongardenpasadena.com

CALIFORNIA BOTANIC GARDEN (formerly RANCHO SANTA ANA)

1500 N. College Ave., Claremont 91711
909.625.8767 www.calbg.org

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS CHAPTER

1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena 91107
818.398.5420 www.cnps-sgm.org

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY L.A./Sta Monica Mtns Chapter / Sepulveda Garden Ctr

16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino 91436
818-782-9346 www.lasmmcnps.org

DESCANSO GARDENS

1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada 91011
818.949.7980 www.descansogardens.org

EATON CANYON NATURE CENTER

1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena 91107
626.398.5420 www.ecnca.org

FULLERTON ARBORETUM

1900 Associated Road, Fullerton 92831
657.278.3407 www.fullertonarboretum.org

HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

1151 Oxford Road, San Marino 91108
626.405.2100 www.huntington.org

LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM

301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia 91007
626.821.4623 www.arboretum.org

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF L.A.

900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles 90007
213.763.3466 www.nhm.org

RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS

6400 E. Bixby Hill Rd., Long Beach 90815
562.431.3541 www.rancholosalamitos.org

RANCHO LOS CERRITOS

4600 Virginia Road, Long Beach 90807
562.206.2040 www.rancholoscerritos.org

SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN

230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas 92024
760.436.3036 www.sdbgarden.org

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN

26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes 90274
310.544.1948
www.southcoastbotanicgarden.org

THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION

10459 Tuxford St., Sun Valley 91352
818.768.1802 www.theodorepayne.org

UC RIVERSIDE BOTANIC GARDENS

900 University Ave., Riverside 92521
951-784-6962 www.gardens.ucr.edu

 Yvonne Savio

See more events at: www.gardeninginla.net/submit-your-garden-events.

SCHS RUTH BORUN LECTURE SERIES: 2023 PROGRAM & BACKGROUND

UPCOMING RBLs PROGRAM - SPRING 2023

For 2023, the SCHS is extremely honored to announce that this year's Ruth Borun Lecture Series program will be live and feature world-renowned horticulturist Fergus Garrett, Chief Executive of the Great Dixter Charitable Trust in Great Britain. It is interesting to note that Garrett had a personal connection to Ruth Borun, and that Great Dixter offers a scholarship in her name, funded by the Anna and Harry Borun Foundation.

Specific details about the content of the presentation and the exact scheduling were not available at press time, but will be relayed to our membership as soon as they are known.

BACKGROUND ON RBLs

In 2020, the SCHS received a very generous endowment from the Anna and Harry Borun Foundation to fund a horticultural speaker series in memory of Ruth Borun, a longtime SCHS member. The Ruth Borun Lecture Series (RBLs) was established to enable us to present significant horticulture speakers to current and future SCHS members and to honor Ruth's legacy. (Read more about Ruth below.)

Distinguished speakers the SCHS has featured to date through the RBLs have been Jennifer Jewell in 2021 and Suzanne Simard in 2022 – both virtual presentations due to the pandemic – so we are very pleased to be planning a live program for this year.

CHECK HERE and ONLINE for updates and details about this year's Ruth Borun Lecture Series event with guest speaker FERGUS GARRETT!

A BRIEF HISTORY OF RUTH BORUN'S ACCLAIMED GARDEN



Ruth Borun was a lifelong gardener and passed the gardening gene on to Nancy, one of her daughters. They would spend weekends plant hunting throughout Southern California, and when Ruth could no longer drive to SCHS meetings, Nancy would chauffeur her. Presently, Nancy oversees Ruth's garden and is working on bringing it back to the way it was originally conceived by respected Los Angeles landscape designer Chris Rosmini (SCHS Horticulturist of the Year, 1992).

Ruth's collaboration and friendship with Rosmini lasted for years. They traveled together throughout the world for gardening inspiration and the result was Ruth's highly regarded garden that was featured in various publications, most notably Christopher Lloyd's book *Other People's Gardens* (one of only three American gardens he included.)


The SCHS is very grateful to the Anna and Harry Borun Foundation for allowing us to honor her memory and gardening legacy through the Ruth Borun Lecture Series. 

Photo courtesy of Nancy Borun

In-person monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month in the evening, **unless otherwise noted**. Address for live meetings is:

Friendship Auditorium

3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles CA 90027

NOTE: Meetings are simultaneously live-streamed (unless otherwise noted) for viewing via Zoom with pre-registration.

(Please visit www.socalhort.org for more information.)

SCHS EVENTS CALENDAR

February 9 *IN-PERSON & ONLINE*

Chris Cosma, a PhD candidate from UC Riverside, will give a presentation on "Prioritizing California Native Plants for Butterfly and Moth Conservation."

March 9 *IN-PERSON & ONLINE*

Renee Shepherd, founder of Renee's Garden seed company, will share "Garden to Table from Seed", her program on how to plan and enjoy a seasonal kitchen garden.

April *DATE & SPEAKER BEING CONFIRMED*

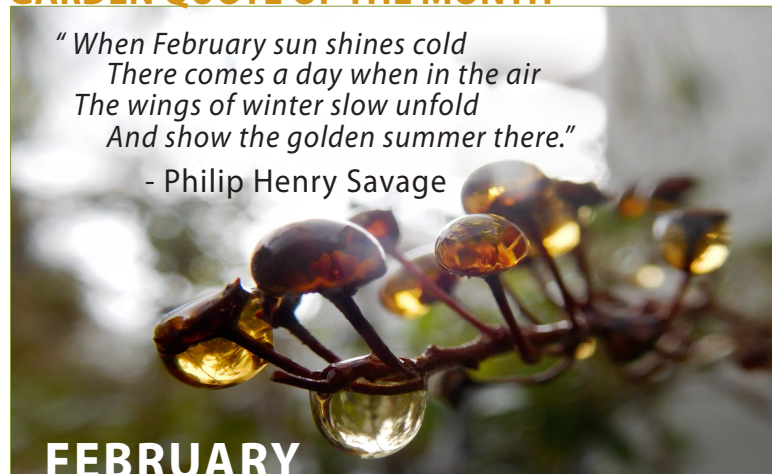
Details of the April meeting are being finalized and will be made available soon, along with details about the program.

May *IN THE PLANNING STAGES*

GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"When February sun shines cold
There comes a day when in the air
The wings of winter slow unfold
And show the golden summer there."

- Philip Henry Savage



SCHS BOARD & COMMITTEES

Laura Bauer - President, Finance Committee (Chair), RBLs Committee, Website Committee (Chair) and Voicemail

Lili Singer - Vice President, HOTY Committee (Chair), PR/Publicity/Marketing Committee, RBLs Committee, Social Media (Chair) and Archives

Yoav Paskowitz - Treasurer, Finance Committee, Newsletter Copy Editor, Oral History Committee and Website Committee

Elizabeth Mendoza - Secretary

Carol Aronson - Coffee-in-the-Garden Committee, Field Trip Committee, HOTY Committee, Program Committee and RBLs Committee

Carol Bornstein - HOTY Committee, RBLs Committee and Program Committee (Chair)

Aprille Curtis - Plant Forum Supplies and Social Media Committee

Steven Gerischer - HOTY Silent Auction Coordinator and Oral History Committee

Terence Huang - Assignments pending

Steven Ormenyi - Finance Committee and Internships

John Schoustra - Field Trip Committee, Finance Committee, Plant Raffle and Plant Sales (at meetings)

Sabine Steinmetz - Garden Share, Graphic Design, Newsletter Editor and Website Committee

Layla Valenzuela - Membership Coordinator

Jill Vig - Coffee-in-the-Garden Committee, Oral History Committee (Chair) and Special Projects



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Contact us via mail, phone or social media:

818-567-1496 • www.socalhort.org • www.facebook.com/socalhort • www.instagram.com/socalhort

SUBMISSIONS TO NEWSLETTER

You may contribute an article of interest or information to be considered for publication in future issues.

Next deadline (for March newsletter): Monday, February 13

Newsletter Editor: Sabine Steinmetz • Contributors to this issue: Yvonne Savio