



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

April 2023

OUR NEXT HYBRID MEETING

Friday, April 28

Witherbee Auditorium
(at the Los Angeles Zoo)
5333 Zoo Drive, L.A. 90027



Doors Open: 7:00 pm
Program begins: 7:30 pm

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

*We look forward to
seeing these new faces:*

Janet Brown
Susanne Dillmann
Michelle Terrazino
R. Waldorf



To join SCHS, visit:
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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2023 RUTH BORUN LECTURE SERIES

Great Dixter: A Garden Richer in Biodiversity than the Surrounding Countryside with Fergus Garrett



On April 28 the SCHS will present its 2023 Ruth Borun Lecture Series with guest speaker Fergus Garrett, CEO and Head



Gardener at Great Dixter Garden in Northiam, East Sussex, UK. Garrett will explore the dynamic nature of Great Dixter and share how integrating native plants with exotics, embracing a chemical-free environment, allowing the countryside to flow into the garden, and other factors have led to greater biodiversity in a cultivated environment.

Great Dixter in East Sussex is one of the world's most charming and dynamic gardens, known for its long season of interest with layers of planting mimicking the wild, as well as its colorful and exuberant displays. A recent biodiversity audit on the garden showed it to be richer than all the countryside around it. This staggering result ranks Great Dixter among the 30 most biodiverse places to be audited in the United Kingdom.

Great Dixter was the home of gardener and garden writer Christopher Lloyd (1921-2006), who spent his whole life, from

childhood on, working in this garden, and writing about it for nearly 50 years. Under Lloyd's mentorship, Garrett was assigned the position of Head Gardener in 1993 and learned to keep the garden constantly changing throughout the seasons as well as to be adventurous in trying out new plants and plant combinations.

In 2003, Lloyd founded The Great Dixter Charitable Trust to secure the legacy of Great Dixter House and Garden, and in 2006, Garrett took over the position of CEO. The Friends of Great Dixter and their support help the Trust to keep Great Dixter House and Garden open to the public, to develop educational programs for all ages, and to make people aware of the richness and importance of the biodiversity of Great Dixter's gardens, meadows, and woodland.

Garrett is a hands-on gardener and plantsman who is interested in ecology and how an ornamental garden and



biodiversity interact. He believes in passing on his knowledge and expertise through programs at Great Dixter and via the many lectures he gives every year. In the RBLs program he will describe and relate examples from Great Dixter, explaining how their techniques can be used to create sanctuaries in our own spaces.

We are very excited to welcome Garrett and to hear what he has to tell us. We are also thankful to our friends at the Los Angeles Zoo for enabling us to present this special event at their wonderful Witherbee Auditorium. Online registration is required and opens April 1 at: www.socalhort.org. Please join us for the evening.

All photos courtesy of speaker.

FREE admission for SCHS Members
\$10 for Non-Members

**Please make a note of
the special date and venue.**

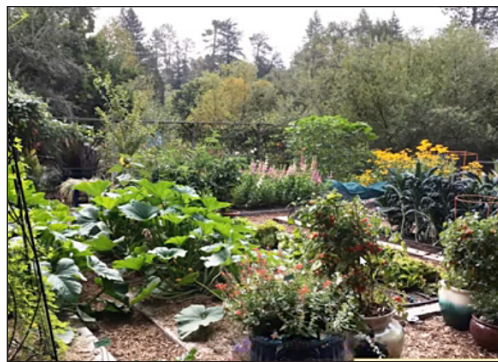
**See Page 3 for
Announcement on upcoming
BORUN GARDEN TOUR**

This program will be in-person and live-streamed on Zoom. 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.

On March 9, the SCHS hosted Renee Shepherd, founder of the popular Renee's Garden website (www.reneesgarden.com), which sells seeds and dispenses invaluable advice on "growing your own" veggies, herbs and ornamentals. For this presentation Shepherd focused largely on seeds for gardeners who want to cook a wide range of fresh, seasonal meals from their own garden, and she generously brought along seed packets for audience members.



Based in Santa Cruz, California, Renee's Garden sells seeds that are sourced internationally but have been trialed in her local test gardens as well as in Vermont, to ensure her offerings can grow successfully in a range of climate zones. She selects seeds for both kitchen and cutting gardens, basing her final choices on factors that are most useful when planting a home garden, including color, size, flavor, longevity and nutritional value. Her company offers heirloom (open-pollinated and over 50 years old) and hybrid (cutivars chosen for specific traits) varieties, and she believes a combination of both is best for home gardeners to provide more variety over a longer growing season.



Shepherd shared pictures of her trial gardens in Felton (near Santa Cruz) and explained that she grows everything in raised beds or in containers. Seed varieties intended for containers are a speciality of hers, as these smaller or more compact varieties enable gardeners with limited space to grow a larger selection of plants. Additionally, she sells seed mixes that are designed to

be grown together, and when harvested at the same time can create a ready-to-eat meal. Selected to provide a mixture of color, texture and taste, they include pre-mixed greens such as her "Farmer's Market Lettuce Blend," "Renee's Stir Fry Mix," and the "Edible Landscape Mix." She also showed varieties of mixed specialty and rainbow vegetables like rattlesnake and purple pole beans, Mascotte bush beans (suitable for containers), edamame, a 5-color beet mix, her "Circus Circus" tri-color carrot mix, various cucumbers, eggplants, kohlrabi, mini pak choi, a large selection of chili and roasting peppers as well as radishes, squash, melons and tomatoes.



In addition to growing her own produce, Shepherd has published three kitchen garden cookbooks: *Recipes from a Kitchen Garden*, *More Recipes From a Kitchen Garden* and *Renee's Garden Cookbook*. In this program, she shared some tips on making tomato sauce, a colorful salad and a watermelon rainbow sherbert, as well as growing culinary herbs and other edibles to season all your favorite recipes. On offer through Renee's Garden are: arugulas, basil, cilantro, oregano, lavender, saffron crocus, alpine strawberries, tea herbs and even edible blossoms such as nasturtiums and pansies.

Afterward, Shepherd answered questions from the live and Zoom audiences which can be seen online along with the archived presentation.

✿ Sabine Steinmetz

All photos courtesy of speaker.

Link to view entire program:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SvCdurFwMZg>



HORT YARD SALE RECAP & UPCOMING EVENT

On March 18, the SCHS held its first Horticultural Yard Sale of 2023 at Baker's Acres in Tarzana with a number of new vendors as well as returning favorites. Despite having been rescheduled due to rain, we had a good turnout, and visitors were able to browse for all manner of garden-related items, ceramics, containers, art and of course, a wonderful selection of plants.

On Saturday, May 13 we will be returning to Baker's for a hands-on kids program with horticultural educator Steve List from Sylmar Charter High School. Details will be announced as soon as they are finalized, but meantime mark your calendars so you don't miss this event!

*We would like to thank
Laurel Jaramillo of Baker's Acres
for letting SCHS use her nursery
as a venue for these events!*

SCHS MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE

"April flowers" and a lot more...

- Continue adding annual color and seasonal veggies that will last into and through the summer.
- Get your tomatoes started now or add a few more – it's that time!
- If you've been thinking of starting a compost pile, maybe do so now. During the coming months of active growth you'll have lots of fresh clippings to build it up with.
- Finish weeding & mulching once the rains are gone before active growing season begins in earnest.
- Don't forget to make time to go on some garden tours or take a stroll in your local public gardens – you deserve it!

✿ Sabine Steinmetz

Learn more about SCHS and connect with us online at:

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

APRIL 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.



COFFEE-IN-THE-GARDEN at the RUTH BORUN GARDEN

*With much appreciation to the Borun family,
the SCHS is delighted to announce a special
CITG event at the Ruth Borun Garden*

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Docent-led tours of the Boruns' private garden will be
for SCHS members only
and online registration will be required**

- Refreshments provided
- Limited street parking

***Details to be distributed to SCHS membership
as soon as they are confirmed.***

Check www.socalhort.org for updates

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

SATURDAY, MAY 13

A special daytime event

Horticultural educator
Steve List from Sylmar High
will lead a program on

Gardening with Kids
at Baker's Acres in Tarzana

DETAILS COMING SOON!



SCHS SEEKS MEMBERS' IDEAS

Do you have any ideas, comments or suggestions as to programs or activities that might be of interest to the general membership? Maybe a special speaker; a new horticultural topic or trend; or a venue for a CITG or other event? Feel free to contact us through the website or catch us at a meeting – all event committees are listed on Page 4.

Thank you!

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

April 28 (last Friday of the month) **IN-PERSON & ONLINE**

2023 Ruth Borun Lecture Series featuring Fergus Garrett, CEO & Head Gardener at Great Dixter in the U.K., sharing photos and speaking about "Great Dixter - A Garden Richer in Biodiversity than the Surrounding Countryside."

Witherbee Auditorium at the L.A. Zoo (Details on Pg. 1)

April 29 **MEMBERS ONLY**

Coffee-In-The-Garden event at Ruth Borun Garden in Brentwood with docent-led tours and refreshments.

Details to be distributed to members via email.

May 11 **IN-PERSON & ONLINE**

Steve List of Sylmar Charter High and Anjali Berger from Theodore Payne Foundation will present "Growing Green Thumbs: Creating a Love for Gardening in Kids and Teens".

May 13 **IN-PERSON**

Daytime event for kids with Steve List at Bakers Acres.

Details TBA soon.

June 8 **IN-PERSON & ONLINE**

Jeff Chemnick will present "Creating a Field Guide to the Plants of Oaxaca." *Details being finalized.*

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

GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH



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

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 May newsletter): Monday, April 17

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