



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

June 2023

OUR NEXT LIVE MEETING

Thursday, June 8

Announcements at 7:10 p.m.

Plant Forum at 7:15 p.m.

Program at 7:30



Visit: www.socalhort.org
for more information

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please say "hello" to:

Caryn Ryan
Helen Yee

*We look forward to
seeing you at our events!*



Find membership options at:
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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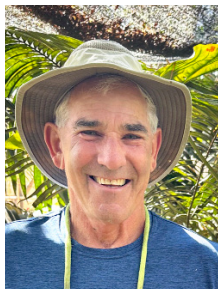
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Creating a Field Guide to the Plants of Oaxaca

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.

On June 8, the SCHS welcomes back Jeff Chemnick, owner and operator of Aloes in Wonderland, a specialty nursery in Santa Barbara. His presentation will describe the work that he and a team of prominent botanists have been doing to produce a field guide for the more commonly encountered and remarkable plants of the state of Oaxaca in Mexico. For many years, Chemnick has led botanical and ornithological ecotours throughout Mexico with a focus on Oaxaca, sparking his desire to create a field guide of its plants that he believes is much-needed.

Photos courtesy of speaker.



In addition to operating Aloes in Wonderland, Chemnick is a research associate at Ganna Walska Lotusland and an authority on Mexican cycads, having published numerous articles and described several species new to science. Besides working on the Oaxaca field guide, he is currently coauthoring a book on the cycads of Mexico and is

also on the IUCN's* Cycad Specialist Group, which determines the status of endangered species.

As a former president of the Santa Barbara County Horticultural Society, Chemnick has been involved for years with the city's botanical/horticultural community and has given numerous presentations on his worldwide botanical travels. This evening's program will give us a snapshot of the in-progress Oaxaca field guide, along with photos of some of the plants that will be included in it as a "teaser" ahead of publication.

He is pictured here in the Cañada de Cuicatlán next to a *Fouquieria purpusii*.

Please join us to hear this enthusiastic and entertaining speaker – either in-person or online. You can drop by or register to livestream at: www.socalhort.org. See you there!

*International Union for Conservation of Nature



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

SCHS BOARD ELECTIONS

A ballot with a proposed slate of names to fill board vacancies is being emailed to members. Please complete and return it as there are several openings and your participation is valued. Write-ins are welcomed as long as the candidate is a current SCHS member. For more information, contact the current board via: socalhort@gmail.com.



Thank you!

SCHS "SUMMER SOCIAL"

Mark your calendars for August 10, as we will be hosting a "Summer Social" for members in lieu of our regular monthly program. Similar to our winter holiday event, there will be food, plants for sale and a few surprise activities so we can chill out with our friends during the height of summer!



SCHS 2023 HOTY BANQUET

Planning for our Horticulturist of the Year award program is under way and details are being finalized. The event will be in October this year, so we all have an extra month to put it on our calendars - date TBA soon!

We encourage you to attend this fun evening as we honor our 2023 HOTY:

Richard Schulhof

CEO of the L.A. County Arboretum
(2009 - 2023)

On May 11 the SCHS welcomed two local educators who spoke to us about how to get the kids in our lives into gardening.



Anjali Berger, a K-12 Education Specialist, who is currently the education manager at the Theodore Payne Foundation, and agriculture teacher Steve List from Sylmar Charter High School shared their approaches to engage meaningfully with children about the environment so that they will develop an appreciation for gardening as an activity to look forward to.



Berger's holistic approach to teaching is to allow children to explore their natural surroundings within a problem-solving framework of "repetition and novelty" that allows for experimentation, as well as success and failure. Various methods she described help develop children's brains through physical learning while building an appreciation and empathy for nature. She advocates for a hands-off approach by the educators that allows them to work side-by-side with the kids (demonstrating and guiding), without hovering or doing the tasks for them.

She showed short videos of kids building garden plots and working cooperatively, and discussed different learning modalities that gardening activities target. She also recommended the Joseph Cornell book "Sharing Nature" as a good starting point for teaching "nature awareness" activities that children of all ages can participate in.

List's approach comes from the perspective of a high school teacher who is introducing gardening to kids for whom this may be their first time tending to plants. Over the past 15 years he has cultivated hundreds of young horticulturists in the school's 2-acre Agriculture Center where students are asked to care for, maintain and harvest the food crops and ornamentals that they plant during the school year. While a large part of his focus is on edible plants, including herbs, List and his students also work in several greenhouses, and have installed plots all around the school campus, including a brand-new rose garden. He explained how important it is for his students to select projects they want to work on so they can be responsible and take ownership of the process – resulting in life lessons that go beyond simply gardening.

Additionally, List teaches his students about recycling, composting, worm farming, and community outreach through sharing what they harvest. Since he began teaching at Sylmar, he and his students have designed, built and given away 500+ raised-bed gardens to families without fresh fruits and veggies in the northeast San Fernando Valley. During the process, students have learned about urban agriculture, nutrition, edible landscaping – and values – things we can all appreciate!

Click on link to view program and Q&A that followed:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x8YutKIyF88>

Ibarra's 16-week internship involved cultivating and studying a variety of plants under the mentorship of his professor, Ms. Savannah Senn. In particular, there was an emphasis on sweet pea seed dormancy as evidently these seeds are susceptible to dormancy which can reduce yields. Ibarra documented various ways of getting the seeds to germinate, and detailed these methods in his slide program.

Ibarra's full presentation can be seen here:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=fa_A0gq9fpg

SCHS MAY DAYS AT BAKER'S ACRES

On consecutive weekends in May the SCHS returned to Baker's Acres in Tarzana for two new events - a first-time-ever kid's program and a Spring Plant Sale!



"babies" they planted, the participants left with all manner of gardening goodies provided by Mr. List to keep them digging in deeper at home!

On Saturday, May 13 horticultural educator Steve List from Sylmar Charter High School brought a hands-on program for the little ones to get planting! In addition to the



On Saturday, May 20 we returned with plant vendors and artisans who offered up a choice variety of specimens and garden-related items for sale. The success of the event has SCHS already planning for a Fall Plant Sale!

Both days were well-attended and we would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped facilitate these events, particularly board member Carol Aronson for coordinating both. And, as always, we appreciate Laura Jaramillo for opening up her nursery as a venue for SCHS to be able to present these types of live programs.

Photos courtesy of Carol Aronson.

SCHS 2023 INTERN

As a non-profit, part of SCHS's mission is to provide educational opportunities to horticulture students through sponsored internships at various institutions.

In May, our first intern of 2023, Fernando Garcia Ibarra, a Pierce College student majoring in Agricultural Plant Science, presented a short program on his internship program. The SCHS grant has helped him further his studies at Pierce with the ultimate goal of transferring to Chico State to pursue a higher degree in Plant Sciences.

MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE

Let's stick to the basics this month:

- **Enjoy June Gloom while it lasts, but begin preparing for summer heat before month's end (esp. adjustments to irrigation).**
- **Protect fruit trees (and all edible crops!) against thieving critters with preventative measures.**
- **Stay on schedule with feeding, weeding and dead-heading.**
- **Continue succession planting of veggies to extend your harvest.**

 Sabine Steinmetz

Learn more about SCHS and connect with us online at:

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

JUNE 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.

UPCOMING EVENT

COMPOSTING WORKSHOP

- FREE (with registration) -

Saturday, June 10 • 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Hungry Gardens

8929 Wheatland Avenue, Los Angeles 91352

Are you interested in composting but don't know where to start? Or are you an aspiring composter but have questions about your compost? Come to this workshop to connect with and learn from other composters.

Ask questions and get hands-on experience to make your garden thrive!

For more details and info,
or to reserve a ticket online, visit:

www.eventbrite.com/e/compost-workshop-tickets-640900369257

2023 RBLS LECTURE

featuring

FERGUS GARRETT

now archived on YouTube!



Our April 28 special presentation is now available to watch on YouTube, so in case you missed the live program – or if you would like to see it again – link here to watch it:

ENJOY!

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

(It's definitely worth seeing more than once.)

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

-  **June 8** **IN-PERSON & ONLINE**
Jeff Chemnick, owner of Aloes in Wonderland Nursery will present "Creating a Field Guide to the Plants of Oaxaca."
-  **July 13** **ONLINE ONLY**
Madena Asbell, Director of Conservation at the Mojave Desert Land Trust will speak about "Desert Plants for L.A. Gardens."
-  **August 10** **IN-PERSON ONLY**
"SCHS Summer Social" with food, plants for sale, activities for guests and a few surprises.
Join us for a relaxing evening to mingle with your hort friends!
-  **September 14** **TBA SOON**
-  **October ---** **TBA SOON**
2023 SCHS Horticulturist of the Year Awards Banquet honoring Richard Schulhof.

GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH



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
- 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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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 July newsletter): Monday, June 12

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