



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

July 2023

OUR NEXT VIRTUAL MEETING

Thursday, July 13

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

*Summer has arrived
along with:*

Jodie Cook
Ricardo Ortiz

We're happy to have you!



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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Desert Plants for L.A. Gardens

On Thursday, July 13 the SCHS is pleased to host Madena Asbell, Director of Conservation at the Mojave Desert Land Trust (MDLT), who will be presenting a webinar

about "Desert Plants for L.A. Gardens." She is passionate about growing and protecting the Mojave Desert's native flora and will be sharing her knowledge and experience with us. Asbell will discuss a suite of native California desert plants that are suitable (and desirable!) for Los Angeles-area gardens, including their preferred soil types, benefits for wildlife, and unique challenges.

Asbell has over 20 years of experience working with California native plants in the Los Angeles and Mojave Desert regions. In her role at the MDLT, she oversees a native plant restoration nursery, conservation seed bank, and the

Mojave Desert Discovery Garden. Prior to joining MDLT she was the Director of Horticulture at the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants.

In addition to learning about which plants we might consider for use in our home gardens (and which ones not to!), Asbell will be providing seed packets from MDLT's nursery as a door prize for the evening – all grown, collected, harvested, and packaged by MDLT staff and volunteers. For those interested in learning more about desert plants, she suggests a visit to the MDLT website at www.mdlt.org.

We are excited to learn about California desert plants from Asbell as we – and our gardens – head into the summer.

Please join us, and bring your questions too, as a Q & A will follow the program. Registration is open at www.socalhort.org.



Justicia californica

Photos courtesy of speaker.



This program will be online only and recorded. The entire presentation will be archived and subsequently made available for viewing on our YouTube channel.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

SCHS BOARD ELECTIONS

Thank you to all the members who voted to help fill vacancies on the SCHS Board. We are still tallying mail-in votes and will announce new board members in our next newsletter.



SCHS AUGUST MEETING CANCELLED

Unfortunately, due to unexpected logistic issues, we will not be meeting at Friendship Hall in August for a casual "Summer Social" get-together as we had hoped to do. However, as an alternative – that will fit anyone's schedule – we suggest watching (or rewatching) some SCHS videos of past programs... A list of suggestions to get you started can be found on Page 2.



SAVE THE DATE Saturday, October 21

SCHS 2023 HOTY BANQUET

honoring

Richard Schulhof

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

Plans for our annual Horticulturist of the Year award program – and Silent Auction – are coming together. Stay tuned for further details so you can make plans to attend this special evening!

On June 8, Jeff Chemnick, owner and operator of Aloes in Wonderland, a specialty nursery in Santa Barbara, spoke to the SCHS about his recent work on creating a field guide to the plants of the state of Oaxaca in Mexico. While leading botanical and ornithological ecotours throughout Mexico since 1984, and developing a focus on Oaxaca, he came to realize the need for such a publication. On this evening, Chemnick introduced us to the team of prominent botanists he has been working with on the field guide, and shared incredible photos of the many remarkable plants they have selected for inclusion.

Chemnick stated that most of the plants would be ones which can be seen from the road when traveling, with preference being given to endemics. Oaxaca has the highest floral diversity in Mexico due to its terrain which ranges from the mountains to the coast and contains rivers, valleys, cloud forests, rainforests and drylands. The team focused primarily on flowering plants from over 9,000 species found in Oaxaca, selecting 800 for the guide. They are currently working on completing the text, which will provide field markers to aid travelers in locating examples, in addition to detailed plant descriptions.

Following is a list of some of the genera and specific plants Chemnick talked about and shared photos of: *Selaginella*, *Ipomoea*, *Lobelia laxiflora*, *Cephalocereus totolapensis*, *Pittocaulon praecox*, *Echinocactus platyacanthus*, *Pachycereus weberi*, *Ferocactus macrodiscus*, *Disocactus martianus*, *Mammillaria*, *Furcraea macdougallii* and *F. longaeva*, *Pseudalcantarea grandis*, *Sabal mexicana*, *Brahea dulcis*, and *B. nitida*, plus a number of tillandsia and agaves including *T. imperialis*, *T. carlos-hankii*, *T. ionatha*, *T. streptophylla*, *A. nizandensis*, *A. marmorata*, *A. macroacantha*, *A. stricta*, *A. guiengola*, *A. salmiana* and *A. atrovirens*. As an internationally-recognized expert in cycads, Chemnick also showed photos of *Dioon califanoides* and *Dioon planifolium*, as well as other common Oaxacan species including: *Nolina longifolia*, *Dasyllirion lucidum*,

Yucca mixtecana, *Beaucarnea stricta* and *B. gracilis*, *Pseudobombax ellipticum*, *Cebia parvifolium* and *C. pentandra*, *Jacaratia mexicana*, *Enterolobium cyclocarpum*, and “El Tule” *Taxodium mucronatum* which is the fattest tree in the world at 41 feet in diameter. He wrapped up his slideshow showing various *Echeveria*: *E. gigantea*, *E. laui*, *E. rosea*, *E. nodulosa*, popular flowering ornamentals like *Salvia mexicana*, *S. purpurea*, *S. cinnabarina*, *Dahlia imperialis*, *Sobralia macrantha*, *Epidendrum radicans* and *Laelia anceps*, plus some prolific non-natives that travelers are likely to encounter with curiosity, which may or may not make it into the final field guide.

While we eagerly await the publication of this comprehensive book, you can learn more at Chemnick's website: www.aloesinwonderland.com, or revisit this incredible presentation on YouTube.

Link to view entire program:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8avEAACqeDQ>

SCHS ON YOUTUBE

Below are a few of the videos (with links) that SCHS has archived on our YouTube channel. In August we will print a more comprehensive list since we're not having a monthly program – in case you want to do some summer binge-watching!

Fergus Garrett's RBLs lecture on biodiversity
Tom Spellman on antioxidants in the garden
Scott Logan sharing a native wildlife oasis
Steve Gerischer on growing roses organically
Greg Starr presenting agaves for landscapes

Click here to discover more videos!

IN MEMORIAM

Joan Seidel



It is with great sadness that we report on the loss of long-time SCHS member and friend, Joan Seidel, who passed away on May 27, surrounded by her loving family.

Joan was born in Pittsburgh, PA, and an aptitude for math and engineering propelled her to become one of the first women to graduate from the prestigious Carnegie Institute of Technology. She accepted a job in aerospace with Lockheed Aircraft Corp. in Burbank, CA, where she met the father of her children, Lisa and Jon. Although they divorced soon after Jon's birth, Joan continued working, and in 1968 bought the home she raised her kids in and where she tirelessly worked on her garden, fulfilling a lifelong passion for horticulture.


She single-handedly landscaped her downslope lot and crafted the beautiful garden it is today, providing a joy for herself and gifting a gem to her neighborhood. Joan affectionately became known as “the Blue Bottle Lady” for the collection displayed in her front garden – a sight admired over the years by all passing by. This lovely space was recently where her family and friends gathered to celebrate her life – overlooking the garden that she loved so much.

We send our heartfelt condolences to Joan's family and thank her daughter Lisa for asking those her attended her remembrance ceremony to consider making a donation to the SCHS in lieu of flowers. Joan was actively involved in the society for many years and served on the Board of Directors as well as volunteering her time in a myriad of ways that provided invaluable support to the organization. Our members will always remember Joan for her spirit and miss her dearly as a friend.

SCHS MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE

Summer is officially in full swing – so we need to be ready for the heat!

- Adjust any automatic irrigation as needed for the higher temps.
- While you're doing supplemental watering try rinsing off foliage too - but do it early in the day!
- Harvest your veggies to keep them producing longer for you.
- Keep adding mulch to beds to help stabilize soil temperatures and curtail emerging weeds.
- Don't do any heavy pruning this month - or anything strenuous in the heat – and stay hydrated!
- Continue dead-heading your annuals and don't forget to collect seeds for next year.

 Sabine Steinmetz

Learn more about SCHS and connect with us online at:

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

JULY 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 LIVE EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

ABCs of HOMESTEADING with Nick Federoff

- FREE Admission to Home Show & Talk -

Saturday, July 8 • 11:00 a.m.

Riverside Convention Center

3637 5th Street, Riverside 92501

Whether you live in a small apartment, a roomy condo, have a house with postage stamp size lot or acres of land, Nick's urban farming techniques can work for you!

He is the host of PBS/KLCS TV's *Things Green*, In the Garden horticulturalist for CBS/KCAL News and syndicated radio show, *Nick Federoff on Gardening*.

For more details and info contact:

Dan Stevens, info@thingsgreen.com

800-405-NICK or visit:

www.homeshowconsultants.com

SMART GARDENING: Advanced In-Person Workshop

- FREE Admission -

Saturday, July 22 • 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Valencia Library

23743 Valencia Blvd., Santa Clarita 91355

Learn the fundamental principles for drought-tolerant landscaping, integrated pest management, and organic gardening. All workshops include time for answering participants' questions.

For details and directions visit:

www.pw.lacounty.gov/epd/sg/wk_scheds.cfm

For more information contact:

Myrna, AllMedia@Go2Zero.net, 877-462-9376, ext. 709

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

 **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** **--- NO MEETING ---**
Due to unplanned circumstances we will not be hosting a meeting this month. We invite you instead to visit our YouTube channel to watch any meetings you've missed - or rewatch your favorites. (See Page 2 for recommendations.)

 **September 14** **DETAILS COMING SOON**

 **October 21** **SPECIAL EVENT - IN PERSON**
2023 SCHS Horticulturist of the Year Awards Banquet honoring Richard Schulhof. Program, dinner, award presentation – and Silent Auction – will be held at the L.A. County Arboretum this year.

GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"To see the Summer Sky
Is Poetry, though never in a Book it lie."*

- Emily Dickinson

JULY

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

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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 August newsletter): Monday, July 17

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