



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

August 2023

NO AUGUST MEETING

- Next Meeting -

**Thursday,
September 14**

Details will be posted online as soon as they're available and appear in next newsletter.



Visit: www.socalhort.org
for more information

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

July brought us:

**Ricardo Ortiz
Dessie Underwood**

*We're glad you've
joined our group!*



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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NO MEETING IN AUGUST - WE'RE ON SUMMER BREAK!

This August, the SCHS is taking a "Summer Break" by opting not to hold a monthly meeting. We hope our members will enjoy a leisurely evening of their own choosing instead – with no commitments other than to relax and beat the heat.

But, if you are looking to spend the time with some plant people, we have compiled a short list of some of

our favorite YouTube presentations in case you missed any of them when they were first presented – or you what to dig deeper for inspiration as you plan ahead for the fall...

We look forward to getting back together in September with a panel of designers who will share some "Hot New Plants for L.A. Gardens." We'll see you then!



Epilobium canum



Agave victoriae-reginae



Ipheion uniflorum



Aeonium 'Zwartkop'

Click on any photo to link to corresponding Plant Forum video – or click on titles below to view some of our favorite archived programs (in alphabetical order by speaker's last name). Enjoy!

Steve Gerischer – *Growing Roses Organically*
Steve List – *Growing Your Best Tomatoes*
Scott Logan – *California Natives Created a Wildlife Oasis*
Florence Nishida – *Growing Asian Veggies in L.A.*
Bart O'Brien – *California Native Cultivars*
Yvonne Savio – *Growing Your Own Veggies*
Kenton Seth – *Modern Crevice Gardening*
Tom Spellman – *Antioxidants from Your Garden*
Greg Starr – *Agaves for the Landscape*
Matt Williams – *A History of Black Landscapers*

Ruth Borun Lecture Series

2023 – Fergus Garrett: *Biodiversity at Great Dixter*

2021 – Jennifer Jewell: *Cultivating Place*



Eriogonum arborescens

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

NEW SCHS BOARD MEMBER

We are pleased to announce that society member Mardi Caruso has joined the SCHS board. We welcome Mardi and look forward to working with her on our latest plans!



2023 HOTY BANQUET and SILENT AUCTION

Our annual Horticulturist of the Year award program will be held at the L.A. Arboretum this year as we honor:

Richard Schulhof

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

SAVE THE DATE Saturday, October 21

As you make plans to attend this special program don't forget it includes our popular Silent Auction too!

**See Page 2 for details
about the Silent Auction!**

JULY PROGRAM RECAP • SCHS MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE

On July 13, Madena Asbell, Director of Conservation at the Mojave Desert Land Trust (MDLT), joined the SCHS via Zoom to present a program on "Desert Plants for L.A. Gardens." The MDLT protects the Mojave and Colorado Desert ecosystems and their natural, cultural and scenic resources. They acquire and conserve land and manage it through routine monitoring and restoration. Asbell is in charge of the MDLT's seed bank, restoration nursery and its discovery garden, and this evening she shared her experience with a number of native California desert plants that are suitable for Los Angeles gardens.

She provided a brief description of the differences among deserts located in California and some of the common characteristics and adaptations shared by desert plants and discussed why some might – or might not – be suitable for L.A. home gardens. Asbell noted that many of

the plants will never look the same as they do in their native desert settings because their growth will always be responsive to differences in environmental conditions. Compared to the desert, much of L.A. will have poorer draining soils, too much winter rain, cooler springtime temperatures and effects associated with our marine layer.

Asbell showed and discussed in detail a number of desert plants that she would recommend for the best chance of growing successfully. She began with trees, including: *Chilopsis linearis*, *Olneya tesota*, *Parkinsonia florida*, *Prosopis glandulosa* and *Prosopis pubescens*. Suggestions for large to medium shrubs included some common as well as lesser known plants: *Asclepias subulata*, *Atriplex* ssp., *Baccharis sarothroides*, *Condea emoryi*, *Fallugia paradoxa*, *Justicia californica*, *Peritoma arborea* and *Simmondsia chinensis*. For smaller shrubs and perennials, she showed: *Abutilon palmeri*, *Calliandra eriophylla*, *Encelia farinosa*, *Epilobium canum*, *Sphaeralcea ambigua* plus both *Penstemon* ssp. and *Salvia* ssp. for which she specified a number of

varieties. She also recommended the following cacti and succulents: *Agave deserti*, *Echinocereus engelmannii*, *Fouquieria splendens*, *Hesperoyucca whipplei*, *Opuntia basilaris*, *Yucca baccata* and *Yucca schidigera*, as well as ornamental grasses such as *Muhlenbergia rigens*, *Sporobolus airoides* and *Stipa speciosa*.

The program wrapped up with some plants infrequently cultivated in garden settings that Asbell felt might be successful locally, including: *Eremogone macradenia*, *Ericameria cuneata*, *Prunus fasciculata*, *Scutellaria mexicana*, and *Ziziphus parryi*. She also provided some information on desert botanical gardens to check out and stayed for an informative Q&A session. To learn more about the MDLT and Asbell's work, please visit their website at: www.mdlt.org.

✂ Sabine Steinmetz

Photos courtesy of speaker.



🌱 MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE ✂

Don't let the August heat overcome you – or your garden! Do the following:

- Monitor irrigation and adjust as needed – or do some extra hand-watering of containers and deep watering of trees.
- Keep harvesting your veggies and summer fruits – those melons should be ripe any day!
- Heavy pruning this month is not advisable – don't risk exposing your shrubs to scalding.
- If you feel the urge to prune: keep dead-heading annuals and start cutting back summer-dormant California natives.
- Check for dying plants and remove asap to control pests.
- Avoid fertilizing this month, except for avid-loving azaleas, camellias, and rhododendrons, which need their final feeding of the year to set spring buds.
- You can still transplant succulent cuttings this month, but hold off on other plantings if possible until the fall.
- Begin planning for fall - check out catalogs and websites for inspiration – and maybe gather donations for our Silent Auction!

✂ Sabine Steinmetz

SILENT AUCTION AT HOTY BANQUET

Now is the time to start gathering garden-related items to donate to SCHS's major fundraiser of the year... our Silent Auction! This is a huge component of our annual HOTY event, and we encourage you to participate by donating an item or two, even if you cannot attend. We are always excited to see what will come up for auction from our members and community supporters!

Of course, we hope as many members as possible will be at the HOTY banquet and participate in the auction – both are a great opportunity to support the SCHS, enjoy a great event with friends, and bid on a diverse assortment of intriguing, unusual and occasionally rare garden-related treasures and plants...

MORE DETAILS COMING NEXT MONTH!

EVENT IS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

Learn more about SCHS and connect with us online at:

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

AUGUST 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

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society hosts
NATURE'S GEOMETRY - SUCCULENTS
with Russel Ray

\$15 Entry to South Coast Botanic OR
FREE to SCCSS members

Monday, August 14 • 1:00 p.m.

South Coast Botanic Garden

26300 Crenshaw Blvd, Palos Verdes Peninsula 90274

Ray uses the Fibonacci sequence to look at the shape of plants, the number of plant ribs, the number of spines in areoles, and will bring along a selection of succulents to demonstrate nature's geometry.

For more details and info contact:

Maria Capaldo-Johnson, minniecap@icloud.com

or visit:

<https://southcoastcss.org/contact-us/>

SUMMER FRUIT TREE PRUNING and
AUTUMN ORCHARD CARE WORKSHOP
with L.A. County
Master Gardener Instructors

- FREE Admission -

Saturday, August 19 • 8:00 a.m. - Noon

The Growing Experience Carmelitos Urban Farm

750 E. Via Carmelitos, Long Beach 90805

A hands-on workshop about summer fruit tree pruning, and preparing them for the autumn. Bring clean, sharp tools (hand pruners, loppers, folding pruning saw) plus water, protective eyewear, gloves, hat, sunscreen and closed-toe shoes.

For more information contact:

Master Gardener Herb Machleder, hmachleder@gmail.com

or visit:

https://celosangeles.ucanr.edu/UC_Master_Gardener_Program/

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: Online meetings are either recorded for YouTube or live-streamed for Zoom viewing (with pre-registration.)

Please visit www.socalhort.org for monthly schedule.

SCHS EVENTS CALENDAR

☞ August --- NO MEETING ---

We are taking a Summer Break and invite you to visit our YouTube channel to watch any meetings you've missed - or rewatch your favorites. *Recommendations on Page 1*

☞ September 14 IN PERSON

Panel discussion on *Cool New Plants for LA Gardens* with Kathy Musial of the Huntington, Nicholas Staddon of Everde Growers, and Tim Becker from Theodore Payne Fdtn. talking about exciting plants as a lead-up to fall planting.

☞ 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.

☞ November 9 --- TBA ---

GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH



SCHS BOARD & COMMITTEES

Laura Bauer - President, HOTY Committee, Finance Committee, 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 (Chair), Newsletter Copy Editor, Oral History Committee and Website Committee

Elizabeth Mendoza - Secretary

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

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

Mardi Caruso - Coffee-in-the-Garden and Field Trip Committees, Event Greeter

Aprille Curtis - Coffee-in-the-Garden Committee, Plant Forum Supplies and Social Media Committee

Steven Gerischer - HOTY Committee and 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), RBLs Committee

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



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 September newsletter): Monday, August 14

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