



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

February 2024

OUR NEXT ZOOM MEETING

Thursday, February 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

2024 arrived along with:

Erin Bergren
Sima Bernstein
Victoria Geaga
Naomi Hirahara
Aaron Hughes
Katie Perez
Mary Swanton



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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Chile: From the Atacama Desert to Patagonia

On February 8, we will be armchair traveling to Chile via Zoom with Paul Mills, the Director of Conservation and Curator of the Living Collections at Lotusland. He has spent much of his lifetime working with and studying plants worldwide, and has made trips to Chile fairly regularly since 1996. Mills is fascinated by the country's dramatic geography and interesting flora, and his presentation will introduce us to several different habitats and vegetation types.

Much of Chile's flora has developed in isolation due to its geographically extreme landscapes that are situated between the Atacama Desert in the north, the Pacific Ocean to the west, the Andes Mountains to the east and Antarctica to the south. This diversity has given rise to many endemic plants, and made the country a popular destination for intrepid plant seekers.

Mills will take us from the Atacama, where some areas have never received any measurable rainfall, through central Chile, which has a Mediterranean climate similar to

California, and down to the southern reaches of the country that receive increased rainfall and feature towering temperate rain forests.

In addition to exploring Chile's plant life, Mills will share insights about how some of its natural landscape has been drastically altered by agriculture and the massive plantations of pine and eucalyptus that are mostly used to make pulp for foreign paper industries. However, he will also touch on the patches of native vegetation and national parks where regional flora can still be found and appreciated.

Registration is required and open at www.socalhort.org to view the live presentation. If you're unable to tune in, you will be able to watch a recording later on our YouTube channel, but either way, this is a program you will not want to miss!



Both photos courtesy of speaker.

The program will be available for online viewing with registration, and will also be recorded and subsequently posted to our YouTube channel video archive.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

2024 RUTH BORUN LECTURE SERIES

The SCHS is pleased to announce that this year's RBLS lecture will be presented by Brian Kemble, the Curator at the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek, CA. While details for this event are being finalized, we know that the program will look at some of the plants cultivated at the Ruth Bancroft Garden and their origins in nature. As curator of a preservation garden, it is Kemble's mission to maintain the look and feel of the garden that resulted from Bancroft's vision, including observing meticulous plant selection.

SAVE THE DATE
FRIDAY, APRIL 12

DETAILS COMING SOON!



Check for updates and all
the latest SCHS news at:

www.socalhort.org

as well as via our
social media channels:

www.facebook.com/socalhort
www.instagram.com/socalhort

JANUARY PROGRAM RECAP • GARDEN SHARE • RBLS EVENT

On January 11 the SCHS welcomed author Naomi Hirahara who spoke to us about Japanese American influences on L.A. gardening history, from the past to the present. Her program drew heavily on her own research and her book: *Green Makers: Japanese American Gardeners in Southern California*.



As early as the late 1800s, immigrant Japanese worked as gardeners in California, living in boarding houses that were gateways to employment. They received training into the profession as more established gardeners needed workers. During the Depression, the League of Southern California Japanese Gardeners was formed to support members trying to sustain their livelihoods. By the mid-1900s, and before World War II, one in three Japanese American men in SoCal were gardeners, a number that dropped to one in ten post-war.

During WWII, while Japanese American families were interned at Manzanar and elsewhere, some of those from the nursery profession used their contacts to solicit plant donations and establish gardens. Several camps created Victory Gardens and other landscaped spaces where detainees could find respite in nature.

After the war, many of those in the gardening profession had to rebuild their lives and found work doing residential landscaping for soldiers settling into new

homes under the GI Bill. As the gardeners' ranks grew, so did support businesses, such as gas stations fueling their trucks, car dealers selling trucks, insurance agents, etc. Opportunities developed for the next generations to enter other professions, and by the 1960s this transitional aspect of employment led to the demise of the Japanese American gardener, creating an opening for new immigrants from Latin American countries and elsewhere. There are still a few family-owned nurseries scattered throughout L.A. today, as well as growers and sellers operating out of the downtown flower market.



Photos courtesy of speaker.

During the peak years of the profession, many of the gardeners were also cultural ambassadors, creating Japanese-style gardens in L.A. communities, and which are still in existence today. Hirahara suggested the James Irvine Japanese Garden in Little Tokyo at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center as an excellent example to visit.

Drawing on her personal history and her father's work as a gardener, Hirahara began writing the Mas Arai mystery books in the early 2000s, which feature an Altadena gardener who solves crimes, and for which she won an Edgar Award.

In addition to sharing her personal story and this significant part of L.A. gardening history, Hirahara answered audience questions and generously donated a number of her mystery books as door prizes for several lucky attendees.

✂ Sabine Steinmetz

Link here to see entire program on our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r8XbHiHzOts>

SCHS MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE

Keep your chore list light now and save some energy for spring!

- Finish winter rose pruning - now.
- Plant cool season veggies and annuals, and don't forget to mulch.
- Start your deciduous fruit trees and citrus on a feeding schedule.
- Take advantage of the winter rains and sow some more wildflowers!
- Keep bird baths and other water features clean and refreshed to hinder mosquito breeding.
- Schedule a check-up for your tools and do any maintenance before spring is upon us in full force!

Slowly ease back into a routine, a bit at a time will get it done.

✂ Sabine Steinmetz

SCHS RUTH BORUN LECTURE SERIES - 2024 PROGRAM



BRIAN KEMBLE
Curator at the Ruth Bancroft Garden

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, April 12, 2024
at the Blinn House, Pasadena



REGISTRATION INFORMATION TO BE POSTED SOON AT WWW.SOCALHORT.ORG

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.

NEW GARDEN LECTURE and A HANDS-ON EVENT

SOWING THE SEEDS OF CHANGE lecture with Andrew Chaves

\$10 per person / FREE to members

Free onsite parking

Thursday, February 22, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Rancho Los Alamitos

6400 E. Bixby Hill Rd., Long Beach, 90815

Chaves will reveal how you can enact positive environmental changes in your home garden. He will delve into the multifaceted benefits of embracing native plants and fostering a deeper connection between individuals and the environment. Learn about cultivating a future where our gardens flourish in harmony with the natural world through the use of sustainable gardening practices!

For tickets & more info visit:

<https://www.rancholosalamitos.com/events.html>

READING THE WEEDS with Nance Klehm

Tiered Pricing

Sunday, February 25, 2:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Arlington Garden

275 Arlington Drive, Pasadena, 91105

Ecological systems designer, landscaper, and horticultural consultant Nance Klehm will teach a hands-on botanical workshop in the study of individual weed species and communities found at Arlington Garden. Learn what they 'say' about the place where they are growing and also which weeds are edible, have medicinal uses or make good compost additives!

Come prepared with a notebook, pen, water, and personal snacks. Herbal tea and a light snack will be provided.

For more info visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/reading-the-weeds-w-nance-klehm-tickets-801831759377>

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

February 8 **ONLINE**

Paul Mills, Curator of Living Collections at Lotusland will present a program on the plants of Chile.

March 14 **IN PERSON**

Architect Robert Rock and nursery manager Katherine Pakradouni will talk about the soon-to-open Wallis Annenberg Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing in Agoura Hills and the associated plantings.

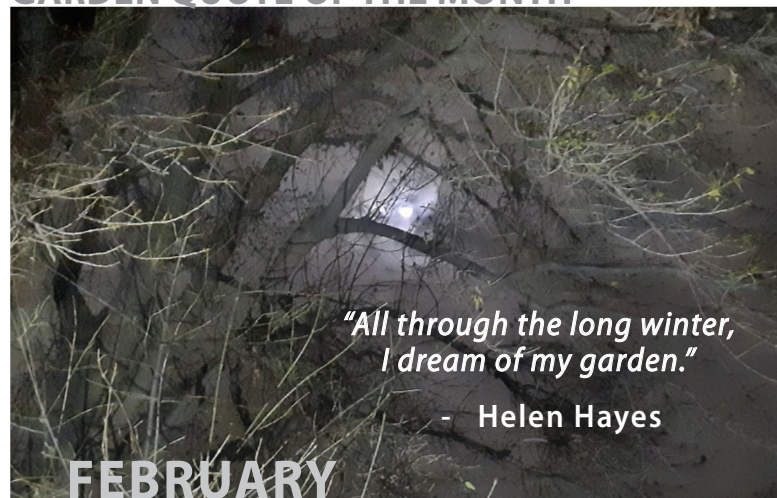
April 12 - Ruth Borun Lecture Series **IN PERSON**

Brian Kemble, curator at the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek, CA will be our featured presenter.

This event will take place on a Friday evening at the Blinn House in Pasadena.

DETAILS TBA SOON!

GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH



*"All through the long winter,
I dream of my garden."*

- Helen Hayes

FEBRUARY

SCHS BOARD & COMMITTEES

Laura Bauer - President, HOTY Committee, Finance Committee, RBLS Committee, Website Committee (Chair), Voicemail and Communications

Lili Singer - Vice President and Secretary, Fundraising Committee, HOTY Committee, Plant Forum Committee, RBLS Committee and Archives

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

Carol Aronson - Fundraising Committee, Program Committee, RBLS Committee and Special Events Committee

Carol Bornstein - RBLS Committee and Program Committee (Chair)

Mardi Caruso - Recording Secretary, Special Events Committee and Event Greeter

Aprille Curtis - Plant Forum Committee, Social Media Committee (Chair), and Special Events Committee

Steven Gerischer - Fundraising Committee, HOTY Committee & Silent Auction Coordinator, Plant Forum Committee and Oral History Committee

Steven Ormenyi - Finance Committee and Internships

John Schoustra - Special Events Committee

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

Layla Valenzuela - Fundraising Committee and Membership Coordinator

Jill Vig - Oral History Committee (Chair) and Special Events Committee



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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 12

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