



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

September 2018

## OUR NEXT MEETING

Annual Horticulturist of the Year Banquet (and Silent Auction)

**Saturday, September 22**

L.A. County Arboretum

See Page 2 for details!



## SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

*We had no new members join in August, but we are looking forward to seeing everyone who has joined since last September at this year's HOTY banquet!*

[www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org)

## SHARING SECRETS

For September, please tell us:

*What are favorite annuals you "must have" to transition your garden into autumn?*

Reply at: [www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org) or e-mail your response to: [gardensbysabine@aol.com](mailto:gardensbysabine@aol.com)

by Monday, September 24

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# SCHS 2018 ANNUAL AWARD BANQUET

## Honoring Horticulturist of the Year John Schoustra

**Saturday, September 22 at L.A. County Arboretum - Details on Page 2**

The Southern California Horticultural Society will be honoring nurseryman John Schoustra with its Horticulturist of the Year award for 2018 in recognition of his accomplishments in the field and continuing service to horticultural organizations. John is the owner of Greenwood Daylily Gardens in Somis, California, and has served as president of the All American Daylily Selection Council, as regional vice president of the American Hemerocallis Society, as well as being a current and long term board member of the Southern California Horticultural Society and the Nursery Growers Association (NGA). Others know him from classes he has taught at the Los Angeles Arboretum and South Coast Botanic Gardens, and from his popular speaking engagements, both local and national.

Upon his graduation from the University of California at Berkeley with a degree in Landscape Architecture, John cofounded a landscape construction company that for 10 years designed, built and maintained projects ranging from small residential to entire campuses for several mental hospitals,



hotels and office parks. This experience led him to found Greenwood Daylily Gardens in 1989, which he owns and operates with his wife Cynthia, and whose mission is to find, breed and grow superior daylilies for California landscape professionals. In recent years, he has also been breeding irises, clivias, pelargoniums and other flowering perennials, as well as continually improving Greenwood's environmental impact. He composts thousands of tons of waste materials into potting soil, provides habitat for wildlife on his property, and has contoured the nursery

grounds to detain, clean and percolate millions of gallons of storm water runoff annually.

John has served the industry as Chief Horticulturist at Rancho Los Alamitos Historic Site and Gardens, where he developed an archival horticulture and arboriculture approach to caring for historic landscapes; presented at the 1997 Sustainable Tree Care Conference at UCLA; negotiated with the State Water Quality Control Board while serving as president of the NGA, resulting in the creation of the Los Angeles Irrigated Lands Group and quadrupling NGA membership; and introduced over 30 cultivars to California horticulture. Notable selections include 'Frankly Scarlett' the 2003 All American Daylily, 'Love Child,' a native sage, and over a dozen pelargoniums.

We are pleased to honor John Schoustra as this year's HOTY recipient and invite you to join us at the Arboretum, where he took plant classes as a child, taught adult education courses, and installed several landscape projects - including the trees that will be shading our dinner tables!

**LAST CALL**  
**FOR SILENT AUCTION**

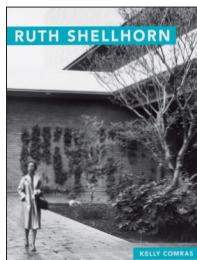


*If you are attending the banquet and would like to bring donations for the Silent Auction with you, we can accept items that evening, BUT please inform Steve Gerischer at least 2 days in advance so he is aware and can prepare a bid card for your item(s).*

You can reach Steve at: [sglarkspur@aol.com](mailto:sglarkspur@aol.com) or by phone (323)257-3629. **Thank you!**

*All donations are appreciated, but we do need the advance notice to make sure we can accommodate everything!*

The August meeting featured author Kelly Comras, a fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects, founding member of the Stewardship Council for The Cultural Landscape Foundation, past-president of the California Garden & Landscape History Society, and author of the book, *Ruth Shellhorn*, who was the subject of Comras' talk as well as a short film she presented.



Esteemed landscape architect Ruth Patricia Shellhorn played an important role in the transition and development of 20th century Southern California landscaping. A documentary short, *Ruth Shellhorn: Midcentury Landscape Design in Southern California*, produced by the Library of American Landscape History (LALH) in association with Florentine Films/Hott Productions, Inc., provided an overview of her life. Comras, who was interviewed in the film, then gave a talk including personal anecdotes from her experience interviewing Shellhorn and detailed information she gathered while writing her definitive biography of Shellhorn. Highlights included photos of and comments about a number of Shellhorn's projects.

Born in 1909, Shellhorn's career coincided with the development of SoCal landscape architecture and the important era between the end of the Great Depression and the rapid development of the Los Angeles area spurred by post-WWII affluence.

Encouraged by her parents to pursue college studies, she first attended Oregon State University and then Cornell University, where her graduate studies in design, engineering, regional planning, and horticulture were cut short by financial circumstances. She withdrew four units short of her degree, returned to California, and embarked on her career during the Great Depression.

Shellhorn's first big break came when she was hired to complete the landscaping for Bullock's department store in Pasadena. Over the course of her career, she worked on nine Bullock's projects as well as pedestrian areas in Disneyland, parks, parking lots, private gardens and trails. She completed nearly 400 projects before retiring in 1996. Her work was characterized by versatility, practicality and innovation. Although she established her career during the "water it and it will grow" era, a time when our Mediterranean

climate was marketed as a sub-tropical climate full of lush exotics, she always maintained what she called "a humble attitude about landscape design". Comras described that as an aversion to the idea of imposing a design onto a space without sensitivity to the land and respect for the client's needs. This attitude led to innovative designs, notably Fashion Square shopping centers—inviting public spaces that welcomed visitors with groups of palms and other features that could be seen from a distance before they even reached the malls. With these public areas, she applied the "California style" notion of incorporating the outdoors as part of the living space. People would visit the mall gardens even when the stores were closed, using them as public parks for recreation and even weddings. She



was also one of the first to incorporate the automobile, making parking lots part of the design.

But Shellhorn was also sensitive to our native California landscape, and when she was hired to work on the UC-Riverside campus, she fought to preserve the natural arroyos and incorporated native and drought-tolerant plants appropriate for the arid location.

Shellhorn was selected as a Woman of the Year by the Los Angeles Times in 1955 and in 1971, was named a fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects. In 2005, more than 70 years after Shellhorn had left Cornell, it was determined that she had in fact completed the requirements for degrees in architecture and landscape architecture and she received both.

Each project Shellhorn completed was individual, elegant and functional—like the designer herself who always wore hats and dresses on site but was not above picking up a shovel and digging in. Ultimately, her passion for landscape design was for employing it as a way to bring other people together. This point was underscored when Comras recalled asking about Shellhorn's personal garden and getting the response that she did not have time for her own landscaping.

Comras' book was available for purchase after the lecture, and the film on Shellhorn can be viewed at <http://lalh.org/films/ruth-shellhorn-midcentury-landscape-design-in-southern-california/>.

🌿 Sandy Masuo

## SHARING SECRETS RESPONSES

*What "survival lessons" have you learned from the recent heat waves? Which plants are doing well and which are suffering?*



My office is in Tustin. So seeing *Raphiolepis indica*, *Pinus canariensis*, *Pinus pinea*, *Pittosporum crassifolium*, *Persea americana* and many others scorched, was truly surprising. Some were well mulched, some not. Some may have had water deficits or root defects or disease, but the large numbers affected seemed to say it was just the heat.

Plants I would have expected to get scorched were not. My *Quercus shumardii*, *Lagerstroemia*, *Harpulia arborea*, *Dypsis lutescens*, *Ptychosperma elegans*, *Coprosma 'Karo Red'*, and *Tupidanthus* were untouched.

Others that burned were not surprising, like *Camellia japonica* or *Kentia* palms in full sun, or *Rhopalstylos baurei* and several *Chamaedorea* species in partial sun, except *Chamaedorea x 'Schippii'*, which was fine.

Of course, common desert trees, like *Jacaranda* and *Schinus molle* were fine. In parts of the San Fernando Valley I understand that even *Quercus agrifolia* were scorched.

Is this a freak occurrence, or something to expect more of? If you have a crystal ball, let me know.

- Greg Applegate

I'm not replacing what didn't make it and getting more of what did! Check out neighbors' yards. A young *Agonis flexuosa* (Peppermint Willow) is doing great.

- Diane Connell

Mulch with pine needles!!! My plants stay cooler and benefit from the acidity.

- Gloria Leinbach

Crape myrtles are doing well in my garden - and all over the San Fernando Valley. So are *Caesalpinia pulcherima* (more widely planted each year) and various *Tecoma stans* (Gold Star, Lydia, Sunrise). Surprisingly, gerber daisies are surviving with watering every 2-3 days depending on maturity and location. Hybrid magnolias are NOT happy and have lost many leaves. Most established plants appear O.K., but younger plants, and most succulents in full sun, have shriveled and/or burned. A more pleasant effect of the heat has been the early appearance of a number of bulbs - leaves and flowers - throughout the garden.

A very unfortunate effect of the heat may be the loss of my 30-year-old cork oak (*Quercus suber*). In trying to keep the plantings below the tree alive, I've been watering 2-3 times a week rather than my usual once a month. This extra water has apparently made the oak susceptible to the ever-present *Phytophthora* fungus. I'm treating the tree with a fungicide, hoping to save this very important garden resident.

- Joan Citron

### SCHS 2018 Annual Award Banquet & Silent Auction Saturday, September 22, 2018

Los Angeles County Arboretum • 301 N Baldwin Ave, Arcadia 91007

*Social hour & silent auction begin at 6 pm. Auction closes at 7 pm,  
followed by dinner and award presentation at 8:15 pm*

**(Reminder: We are now able to accept credit cards at the auction!)**

#### STILL NEED A TICKET?

**Online registration closes Sept. 20, but you may call Laura Bauer  
at (626) 437-9459 to check for availability.**

Please contact location(s) to confirm listed events, and for a full schedule.

Events are free with admission unless otherwise indicated.

Locations are listed by Zip Code.

## NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF L.A.

900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles 90007  
213.763.3466 [nhm.org](http://nhm.org)

Sundays thru 9/30, 3:30pm. Nature Walk. Join us to explore the amazing diversity of life that calls L.A. home. Program meets in the Nature Gardens, just outside Nature Lab and under the bridge.



## JPAUL GETTY MUSEUM-GETTY CENTER

1200 Getty Center Dr., Los Angeles 90049  
310.440.7300 [getty.edu/museum](http://getty.edu/museum)

Daily, 11:30am, 12:30pm, 2:30pm, 3:30pm, 45-minute Garden Tours. Meet at bench outside entrance to tour the Central Garden, designed by artist Robert Irwin - an evolving work of art, with tree-lined walks through extraordinary sights, sounds, and scents.



## J PAUL GETTY MUSEUM - GETTY VILLA

17985 Pacific Coast Hwy., Pacific Palisades 90272  
310.440.7300 [getty.edu/museum](http://getty.edu/museum)

Thursdays & Saturdays, 10:30am, 11:30am, 12:30pm, 1:30pm, 3:30pm, 40-minute Garden Tours meet outside the entrance. Discover rich mythological and cultural connections of four ancient Roman gardens.



## RANCHO LOS CERRITOS

4600 Virginia Road, Long Beach 90807  
562.206.2040 [rancholoscerritos.org](http://rancholoscerritos.org)

Saturday, 9/22, 10am-12noon. Water-Wise Gardening: Creating and Maintaining Rain Gardens. Presented by the Metropolitan Water District. Rain gardens allow precipitation to return to the ground, replenishing the water table, reduce mosquito breeding by eliminating standing water, and filter runoff pollution! \$8 per person. Tickets available at <https://www.rancholoscerritos.org/upcoming-event/water-wise-gardening-rain-gardens/>



## LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM

301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia 91007  
626.821.4623 [arboretum.org](http://arboretum.org)

Thursday, 9/20, 9:30am-12noon. What's Happening in Gardening: Foraging California with author Christopher Nyerges, who explains how he put together his book, *Foraging California*, about the many safe families of plants that can be used for food in our state. \$140 for the 8-week series / \$25 per class (incls. admission), Call Education Dept.

or pay at the class

Friday, 9/21, 10am-12noon. Amaranth Harvest at the Crescent Farm with Guillermo Vasquez, a spiritual leader from Guatemala, who will be at the Arboretum to help lead the harvest. Vasquez works with Qachuu Aloom, a cooperative in Guatemala growing amaranth and other organic produce for local consumption, and teaching others how to provide for others in the same way. Free for members or with paid admission, no preregistration required, call (626) 821-4623 for more information.

Thursday, 9/27, 9:30am-12noon. What's Happening in Gardening: Field Trip to Grand Park with Frank McDonough, who will lead us on a tour of one of Downtown Los Angeles garden treasures and its amazing number of plant species - both common and collectable. \$140 for the 8-week series / \$25 per class (incls. admission), Call Education Dept. or pay at class

Saturday, 9/29, 10am-12noon. Aromatic Plants and Flowers. We know many flowers smell, but so do many leaves, like Parsley, Sage, Rosemary and Thyme, which are joined in harmony with Lavender, Bay, Myrtle, and Breath of Heaven. Go on a smell safari through some of our best and worst aromatic plants. This is a great workshop for kids too. Bring smelly leaves and flowers from home to share. Smelly plants will be offered for sale. and a list provided. \$25 Arboretum members / \$35 non-members (incls. admission), Call Education Dept. or pay at class



## HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

1151 Oxford Road, San Marino 91108  
626.405.2100 [huntington.org](http://huntington.org)

Every Saturday, 10am-1pm. Ranch Open House. Stop by this urban agriculture site (open weekly) and pick up fresh ideas for sustainable gardening.

Thursday, 9/27, 4:30-5:30pm, Auditorium, Brody Botanical Center. Botany Bay Series: Plant Science for Gardeners and Citizen Scientists. Explore the plant world by discussion and hands-on lab time led by Jim Folsom, the Telleen/Jorgensen Director of the Botanical Gardens. Repeats 4th Thursdays.



## THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION

10459 Tuxford St., Sun Valley 91352  
818.768.1802 [theodorepayne.org](http://theodorepayne.org)

Tuesday, 9/18, 11:00am-Noon. The Joys of Native Plant Gardening presented by Lili Singer, TPF's Director of Special Projects during a meeting of the Southern California Garden Club. This talk is open to the public, with free admission and parking. Meeting begins at 9:30am, with talk slated for 11:00am. NOTE: Event takes place at the Sepulveda Gardening Center - 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino 91346.

Saturday 9/22, 1:30-4:00pm. Fall Gathering Workshop with Kat High, a Native Californian of Hupa descent. In this class, learn to forage at home - not in the wild! Find out what plants to harvest in autumn with tips on how to grow, gather and use them. Includes an episode of KCET's "Tending the Wild" show that includes our instructor! \$15 members, \$20 non-members

Saturday, 9/29, 1:30-3:30pm. Sustainable Slopes with Joshua Link, landscape architect and founding principal of Ecotone Studios. Learn the fundamentals of gardening on uneven ground using native plants and construction methods for stabilization and erosion control. Includes info. for gardeners in fire-prone areas.



## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SOUTH COAST RESEARCH & EXTENSION CENTER

7601 Irvine Boulevard, Irvine 92618  
949-653-1810 [screc.ucanr.edu](http://screc.ucanr.edu)

Saturday, 9/29, 9am-2pm. 10th Annual Urban Landscape & Garden Education Expo. Visit with gardening industry exhibitors and water agencies gathering information about various methods to help reduce landscape water use and ultimately save money. Presentations by UC researchers and landscape aficionados, plus demonstrations focusing on topics including beekeeping, composting, irrigation, and more. Taste exotic fruit grown at the South Coast Research and Extension Center in Irvine. Enjoy gardening and water education activities for kids, have your favorite garden hand tool sharpened (1 small garden tool per person), or take home something from the Plant Sale (Cash or checks only please, no credit cards.) For more info. visit: <http://screc.ucanr.edu/?calitem=406049&g=68933>



## FULLERTON ARBORETUM

1900 Associated Road, Fullerton 92831  
657.278.3407 [fullertonarboretum.org](http://fullertonarboretum.org)

Saturdays, 9/8 & 9/22, 10am. Public Nature Tour. Meet at Nature Center where a knowledgeable docent will guide you on a garden tour. Repeats 2nd and 4th Saturdays.

Saturday, 9/29, 10am. Improving Your Composting Skills. Learn how to build and improve your composting system and speed up the process of turning clippings and food scraps into soil in this overview for the beginner. Focus is on answering questions and providing advanced techniques. \$7 members, \$10 non-members.




## SANTA BARBARA COUNTY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
909 N. La Cumbre Rd., Santa Barbara 93110  
805-684-5725 [sbchs.org](http://sbchs.org)

Saturday, 9/22, 10am-3pm. Fall Plant Sale. Choose from offering by specialty vendors and hundreds of member-grown plants. Raffle table of specimen plants and other items. Includes: exotics, California natives, bromeliads, grasses, succulents, cacti, annuals and perennials. Come make a day of it!


Yvonne Savio

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are regularly held at Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles, 90027

 September 22 - SCHS Horticulturist of the Year Award Banquet and Silent Auction, honoring John Schoustra

**VENUE CHANGE** *This event will be at the L.A. Arboretum*

 October 11 - Designers Wynne Wilson & Shawn Maestretti on blending native & Mediterranean plants in gardens

 November 8 - Program TBA pending confirmation

## GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"Everyone must sit and watch the leaves turn."*

- Elizabeth Lawrence



SEPTEMBER

**Steven Gerischer** - *President, Oral History Committee, PR, Pacific Horticulture representative*

**John Schoustra** - *Vice President, Field Trips, Finance Committee, Plant Raffle, Plant Sales at meetings*

**Laura Bauer** - *Treasurer, Finance Committee, Website Committee, HOTY Event Committee*

**Pat Steen** - *Membership Secretary, Recording Secretary, Coffee-in-the-Garden Committee, Greeter*

**Carol Aronson** - *Coffee-in-the-Garden Committee, Field Trips, Voice Mail*

**Carol Bornstein** - *Program Committee*

**Aprille Curtis** - *Social Media Committee, Plant Forum supplies*

**Fleur Nooyen** - *TBD*

**Steven Ormenyi** - *Finance Committee*

**Yoav Paskowitz** - *Finance Committee, Oral History Committee, Website Committee*

**Yvonne Savio** - *Horticultural Happenings, Coffee-in-the-Garden, PR*

**Lili Singer** - *Book-of-the-Month, Nomination Committee, PR, Program Committee, Social Media Committee, Archives*

**Sabine Steinmetz** - *Newsletter Editor, Sharing Secrets*

**Jill Vig** - *Coffee-in-the-Garden Committee, Oral History Committee, Special Projects*

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**Next deadline: Monday, September 24** (for October newsletter)

*Please contribute an article or information of interest.*



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