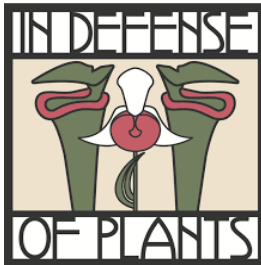


The SCHS ventured outside of California to book our April speaker, Matt Candeias, author of the popular blog and podcast *In Defense of Plants*. Although Matt lives in Illinois, his interest in plants and their preservation resonates with gardeners everywhere. He believes preservation efforts need to occur globally in order to mitigate the rapid changes happening to our environment. His presentation illustrated risks to plant populations and the resulting effects on ecosystems worldwide, and ways that home gardeners can play an important role in providing valuable habitat as surrounding landscapes change.

Matt began his *In Defense of Plants* blog in 2014 with the goal of fostering a love, appreciation and sense of wonder for the botanical world with a focus on plants as organisms rather than as tools at our disposal. He explained that the general population typically just sees the utilitarian aspects of plants, focusing only on how plants benefit them (e.g.: as food or medicine, for their flowers, etc.), without consciously understanding their value to a world facing a future defined by climatic extremes. While many plant species will not be able to survive massive ecosystem upheavals – because their only option is to adapt “in place” or risk extinction – it is Matt’s belief that gardeners are in a unique position to assist in protecting some species that might otherwise be lost.



Matt believes that gardeners can make a real impact because they understand the relationships between plants, soil, water and climate – and can pass this knowledge along directly by teaching, or indirectly by example. Amending less and composting more, planting climate-appropriate landscapes, expanding our palettes to include a greater diversity of plants suitable to our conditions, and not wasting water, are some of the ways we can help “garden for resilience.” Changes we have already made will be felt for 1,000s of years, and by increasing the footprint of urban and suburban green spaces, we can make these areas into centers for biodiversity while it is disappearing in other areas outside of our control. As many gardeners are already in the habit of “sharing the wealth,” either through their expertise or literally by giving away plants, Matt suggested that we encourage this behavior in others to increase the resilience of our landscapes for the future.

Botanical gardens can only do so much to aid with plant conservation, and gardeners have already been keeping many species alive that no longer exist in their native habitats, so Matt offered specific suggestions for things we can do to help offset global habitat destruction. These include: learning how to germinate plants and teaching this knowledge to others; sharing plants and seeds; encouraging others to show and share; documenting personal knowledge, especially successes; and serving as an early warning system for potential plant invaders in the wild.

Matt concluded his presentation by reminding us that connectivity is key to

plants’ survival and our own, and that with more plants in cultivation, wild populations will be under less pressure in the future. For more information and food for thought, visit Matt’s website at:

[www.indefenseofplants.com](http://www.indefenseofplants.com)

✎ Sabine Steinmetz

## SHARING SECRETS

In April we asked you:

*What “Spring Cleaning” garden chores are you looking forward to (or dreading)?*



It is my least favorite spring chore: grass patrol. The weedy kind, not weed. Giant bunches appear seemingly overnight after any amount of rain. On the bright side, the bunchy ones always look worse than they are. When you get down to the roots they are always fewer in number and easier to pull than, say, milk thistle.

- Sandy Masuo

All that rain! All that African Veldt Grass...

- Kathy Musial

I’m happy to report that my front garden has been in full bloom for about 6 weeks (with minimal weeds) – so my biggest chore is weekly dead-heading.

I also have to remember to take lots of pictures and make bouquets!

- Sabine Steinmetz

## SCHS FIELD TRIP: RETURN TO SOMIS - SAVE THE DATE - JUNE 15 !

Due to the popularity of SCHS field trips to Somis in 2009 and 2015, members have requested another visit to the area to see more horticultural gems – and we are happy to be able to accommodate them!

*This year we will travel to these locations:*

**1. Berylwood Tree Farm** - Our visit to this wholesale grower of large specimen trees will be a first-time behind-the-scenes-tour made available exclusively to the SCHS.



Photo credit: John Schous-

**2. Greenwood Daylily Gardens** - A perennial favorite destination to enjoy a catered lunch, learn about selections being bred, and to shop for specialty plants grown for California gardens!

**3. Private Estate Tour** - Our final stop will be to the 40+ acre property of Richard Baron, president of Baron Bros. Nursery, which has been further developed and includes many new “surprises”...

*Trip Registration Form will be emailed to members soon, then be available online as well as included in the June newsletter.*

**RESERVE YOUR TICKETS SOON!**

\$60. for members / \$65. for non-members  
(fee includes tour bus & lunch)