



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

March 2019

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, March 14

Friendship Auditorium
3201 Riverside Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90027



Socializing: 7:00 pm

Meeting begins: 7:30 pm

SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

*As we welcome spring,
we also welcome:*

Emma Choy-Brown
Laura Innes
Anna & Tomasz Pawlowski
Anthony Walker

www.socalhort.org

SHARING SECRETS

For March, please tell us:

*Which of your plants are
enjoying this wet winter and
performing the best for you?*

Reply at: www.socalhort.org
or e-mail your response to:
gardensbysabine@aol.com

by Monday, March 18

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Ugly is Not a Turf Replacement

March, with its transitional nature, is the perfect time to welcome speaker Mike Evans, who will present us with beautiful and practical options for replacing our tired lawns with sustainable planting alternatives. As the founder and president of Tree of Life Nursery in San Juan Capistrano, which has been producing and selling California native plants for over 40 years, Mike has experience in native plant production, design, landscaping and ecological restoration. He also writes extensively for the nursery's website and blog, and recently led two years of horticultural training for the garden staff at Disneyland. Tree of Life promotes a style of authentic horticulture, specifically the concept of appropriate landscaping with native California plants.

Mike was born and raised in Southern California and demonstrated an early love for the outdoors. He worked with retail and wholesale nurseries before establishing Tree of Life in 1976. The 40-acre nursery specializes in native California plants and produces more than 500 species and varieties. In 2007, it was honored to receive two awards: Horticultural

Award from the California Native Plant Society and the California Glory Award from the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. Tree of Life provides plants for landscaping and ecological restoration at the wholesale level, but plants are also available for sale to the general public through Casa 'La Paz'. Their website, www.CaliforniaNativePlants.com, provides information on the use of native plants in the garden.

In this presentation Mike will focus on his advocacy for a present-day California that deserves to look like the true California. He believes that replacing useless turf in our landscapes provides a perfect

opportunity to plant a real garden, with a real purpose... one that is both sustainable and truly beautiful. A well-designed California

natural garden will always pass the test of time, and continually provide valuable habitat for birds, beneficial pollinators, and other friendly wildlife species.



Photo courtesy of speaker.

In addition to his talk, Mike will be bringing plants from Tree of Life for purchase. Just as we move from a wet winter into spring, many of us are looking for new planting options for our own gardens, and this program is sure to give us plenty of inspiration to create something lovely that is meaningful as well.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS & EVENTS

SCHS PHILANTHROPY

The SCHS recently received a thank you note from Mountains Restoration Trust for the \$500 donation we contributed to help rebuild the greenhouse they lost to the Woolsey Fire. SCHS will be named on a plaque when the greenhouse is completed, and MRT also planted a geo-tagged *Heteromeles arbutifolia* in honor of our donation. Follow this link to see its location:

www.Tinyurl.com/mrtdonorplants

If you type [So Cal Horticultural Society](#) into the donor search box and click on "attachments", you can see our toyon!

PLANT FORUM

We look forward to seeing what the rain has brought forth in your gardens. Please bring along something to share in our monthly members' exhibit - we're all eager to see what's blooming!

Our February program, "Designing With Palms for Dry climates," was presented by Jason Dewees, the horticulturist and palm expert at Flora Grubb Gardens in San Francisco, and East West Trees in Fallbrook. He shared that it was his experience that nursery customers often don't know what to do with palms, and he wanted to address



Photo courtesy of speaker.

this lack of information in his recently published book "Designing with Palms." Photos taken for the book by Caitlin Atkinson, of unexpected and creative uses of

palms from visits to over 70 gardens, were included in his slide presentation.

By way of introduction to the *Arecaceae* family, Jason began by telling us that after grasses and legumes, the palms make up the third most useful plant family globally, especially in areas where they are found indigenously. They are also known to be one of the earliest cultivated trees in civilization. While they are typically thought of as a "tropical" plant, he stressed that with over 800 genera and 2,500 species, palms can easily be adapted to more diverse landscaping applications. If selected for color, size, shape and height, they can be successfully integrated into a variety of design styles, as his presentation illustrated.

We were shown beautiful pictures from the Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden in Coral Gables, Florida, where palms are used extensively for dramatic effect. Also in Florida, Jason shared images of the

Brazilian Garden created by landscape designer Raymond Jungles (a student of Roberto Burle Marx), located inside the Naples Botanical Garden. There, palms blended seamlessly with a mixture of native Brazilian plants, for an entirely different effect than at Fairchild. In still another application, landscape architect Steve Martino combined *Washingtonia filifera* with yucca and a variety of succulents for a dramatic desert-themed residential garden in Palm Springs.

Jason went on to explain some basic design principles to consider when using palms, specifically that their habit will change as they go through growth phases while maturing. When they are young, many palms go through a "rosette" phase before developing a trunk, at which time they can tuck nicely into a mixed bed. At

maturity, they are better suited as design elements to anchor a planting scheme, or for dramatic effect. They can also be used as a vertical element to create the illusion of more space in a small area, by drawing the eye upward. He showed a staircase at the Virginia Robinson Gardens in Los Angeles, flanked by palm trunks, and a grouping of potted palms on a small patio in San Francisco as further examples of the versatility of palms. He then went on to give examples of palms used in a variety of design styles which can be found in gardens throughout California.

Trachycarpus fortunei is commonly used in Japanese gardens, including the San Francisco Botanical Garden, while *Jubaea chilensis* can be seen rising

above California native plants at the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek. A *Brahea* is used in combination with grasses to create a savannah-like look at the Huntington Library's entrance in San Marino, while a variety of palms are used in the "Blue Garden" at LotusLand in Santa Barbara, selected primarily for their color. The multi-trunked *Dypsis baronii* (example in photo below) is often used to evoke a coastal or an island feeling.

After the slide show concluded, Jason answered questions from the audience, including which palms are well-suited to Southern California (*Chamaerops humilis*, which can get by on very little irrigation, *Washingtonia robusta*, and *Syagrus romanzoffianum* were a few). He mentioned that Flora Grubb is no longer growing *Phoenix canariensis* because it

is under attack by a disease which can spread to other trees. He also shared that when transferring potted palms into the ground, it is very important to minimize root disturbance and to cover all visible roots with a layer of mulch.

Unfortunately, due to the recent rains which flooded the Fallbrook nursery, Jason was unable to bring any copies of his book for purchase, but it is readily available online through Amazon. We did, however, have plant sales from several vendors going on, and had a good showing of members' plants at our monthly Plant Forum, seemingly indicating everyone's eagerness to get back to gardening as soon as there is a break in the winter rains!

✂ Sabine Steinmetz



Photo credit: Sabine Steinmetz

SHARING SECRETS

Our seasonally-themed gardening question for February was:

Do you have any favorite books or internet resources to recommend for advice on winter tree-pruning?



Whether the rainy weather kept everyone from getting to their pruning, or even thinking about it, we don't know, but we did not get any responses! So we're giving you a few tried and true resources to get you started...

✂ How to Prune Fruit Trees
by R. Sanford Martin

Originally published in 1944, this is still a "must have" in every gardener's library, and is still available in stores and online.

✂ Prune Mature Trees Properly
from UC Davis - link below:

<http://ucce.ucdavis.edu/files/filelibrary/5253/16799.pdf>

Of course, you can find any number of resources online, but it can be difficult to weed out misleading information from sound advice. For the health of your trees and the best care, check with a certified or consulting arborist.

MARCH HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

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.

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN

26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes 90274
310.544.1948 southcoastbotanicgarden.org

Saturday, 3/9, 10:30am-4pm. African Violet Show and Sale. Learn how to put down a leaf, re-pot a mature plant, rejuvenate a plant with a long neck and remove a sucker. Sale will feature many varieties of houseplants, including African Violets.

Saturday, 3/30, 9am-4pm. Spring Plant Sale. Plants from divias to succulents are grown on site and in the open air, and tend to be heartier than those sold at the local hardware stores.



RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS

6400 E. Bixby Hill Rd., Long Beach 90815
562-431-3541 ranchoalosalamitos.org

Saturday, 3/9, 12noon-2:30pm, Rancho Gift Shop. A Curated Tour of Florence Bixby's Gardens guided by Janet Brown Becker. Ms. Becker has a master's degree in Landscape Architecture and oversees the historic interpretation, curatorial documentation and horticultural integrity of the Rancho's gardens. Tour is for adults and interested teens. Visitors will be on their feet for entire tour. Comfortable shoes, preferably with closed toes, a hat and drinking water are advisable. \$10 per person. Advance reservations required on website. Not refundable but may be transferred.



LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM

301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia 91007
626.821.4623 arboretum.org

Friday & Saturday, 3/22 & 3/23, 9am-4:30pm. Tomato Plant Sale. Stop by our popular tomato talk and spring plant sale! You'll also find other vegetables, herbs and plants to add to your garden.

Saturday, 3/23, 10am-noon. Native Shrubs in Your Landscape with Laramie Haynes. Workshop covers designing and caring for native shrub gardens. \$25 members, \$35 non-members. Register online.



DESCANSO GARDENS

1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada 91011
818.949.7980 descansogardens.org

Saturday, 3/16, 5:30-8:30pm. Night Garden: Plant Power. Guided tour with guest speakers who will pique your curiosity about science, nature, people's relationships to plants, and more. Hands-on activities for all ages. \$5 members, \$15 non-members. Register online at www.descansogardens.org or in person at the Descanso Gardens Visitor Center or by phone at 818-949-4200.

Friday thru Sunday, 3/29 - 3/31, 9am-5pm. Tomatomania! Select from 100s of tomato and pepper seedlings including heirlooms, old favorites and unusual offerings. Also, talks, classes, cooking demos, and tomato refreshments.

HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

1151 Oxford Road, San Marino 91108
626.405.2100 huntington.org

Thursday, 3/14, 2:30pm, Ahmanson Room, Brody Botanical Center. Garden Talk & Plant Sale: The Changing California Landscape with nurseryman Nicholas Staddon. Learn about new plant choices from the desert southwest that are ideal for Southern California's climate, require low water, care, and attention. Staddon will also discuss latest trends in the gardening world. Plant sale follows talk. No reservations required.

Saturday, 3/16, 9:30-11am. Family Curator Tour: PlanTastic! Explore The Huntington's Herb Garden in this workshop with curator Kelly Fernandez. Touch, taste, and smell various plants; and learn how to grow them. Ages 5+. Fee includes 1 child and accompanying adult. \$10 members, \$20 non-members. Registration: huntington.org/calendar.

Saturday & Sunday, 3/16 & 3/17, 10am-5pm, Brody Botanical Center. 16th Annual Clivia Show & Sale, presented by the SoCal Chapter of the North American Clivia Society. Enjoy over 200 beautiful plants and floral displays, prize-winning exhibits, browse for unusual varieties to purchase, and cast a "People's Choice" vote. Informative, hour-long talks and demos on: Clivia Care and Repotting (11am Sat. / 2:30pm Sun.), Flower Arranging with Clivia (1pm Sat. / 2:30pm Sunday), and An Introduction to Clivia (1:30pm Sunday).

Tuesday, 3/19, 1-4pm, Ahmanson Room, Brody Botanical Center. Internationally acclaimed landscape designer Nigel Dunnett will speak on Designed Plant Communities for dramatic, long-season, low-input landscapes. Emphasis on climate-adapted planting and practical maintenance techniques, with examples of water-sensitive design. Tickets: \$40-\$75. Reserve online at: www.eventbrite.com.



THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION

10459 Tuxford St., Sun Valley 91352
818.768.1802 theodorepayne.org

Thursday, 3/14, 10-11am. Irrigation Basics for the Native Garden, with Tim Becker, TPF's Director of Horticulture. A focused walk and talk on TPF grounds covers how, when and where to irrigate, plus pros and cons of overhead, drip and hand-watering. Bring your hat and water bottle. Limit: 15. \$15 members, \$20 non-members. Register at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/irrigation-basics-for-the-native-garden-a-walk-and-talk-with-tim-becker-tickets-52965191313

Saturday, 3/23, 8:30am-4:30pm. Poppy Day Spring Plant Sale, showcasing a large selection of local annuals, both popular and unusual. Includes natives that attract birds, butterflies, bees, and other welcome wildlife! TPF members get 15% off plants, seed and TPF gear, non-members get 10% off. Details on website.

Wednesday, 3/27, 3-5pm. Right Plant, Right Place at the Natural History Museum - 900 W. Exposition Blvd, L.A. 90007. Workshop discusses local plant communities, how to assess conditions of your site, such as climate, soil, sunlight, and space. Valuable for beginners and prerequisite for TPF's 3-Part Native Garden Design Course. \$25 TPF or NHM members, \$35 non-members. Register at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/right-plant-right-place-at-the-natural-history-museum-tickets-54771183083

Saturday, 3/30, 1:30-4pm. Right Plant, Right Place with Lili Singer, TPF Director of Special Projects. Course covers local plant communities, how to assess your site, including climate, soil, sunlight and space. Valuable for beginners and prerequisite for TPF's 3-Part California Native Garden Design Course. \$25 members, \$35 non-members. Register at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/right-plant-right-place-with-lili-singer-registration-52067085053



DESERT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF THE COACHELLA VALLEY

75080 Frank Sinatra Dr, Palm Desert, CA 92211
deserthorticulturalsociety.org

Sunday, 3/17, 11:30am-4pm. 14th Annual Desert Garden Tour in Palm Springs. Self-drive to 5 desert-friendly, water-conserving gardens. Free for current members; \$20 non-members, \$5 students. Cash only. Register at deserthorticulturalsociety.org or on day of event at Sagewood, 1943 E. Sandalwood Dr, Palm Springs. Info on website, or Facebook at dhscvgardentour, or Tracy Merrigan at tracymerr@me.com or 310-428-9500.



FULLERTON ARBORETUM

1900 Associated Road, Fullerton 92831
657.278.3407 fullertonarboretum.org

Tuesday, 3/12, 1pm. Spring & Summer Gardening with Yvonne Savio. Learn which edible and ornamental plants to add to your garden and enjoy during our warm season. \$20 members, \$25 non-members.

Saturday & Sunday, 3/16 & 3/17 9am-4pm. Veggiepalooza: Monster Tomato & Pepper Sale. Choose from over 100 varieties of tomato plants on sale. In addition, more than 70 varieties of peppers will be available. All plants carefully propagated and organically grown exclusively in the Arboretum by skilled volunteers.

Yvonne Savio

UNIQUE GARDEN TOUR OPPORTUNITY

**The Glendale Historical Society Presents:
The Secret Gardens of Forest Lawn Glendale**

2-part event exploring the park's landmark gardens

Part 1: Thursday, March 21, 7:00-8:30 pm, is a lecture and slideshow about the memorial park's gardens, conducted by Forest Lawn Glendale Gardening Supervisor Rick Leach, with remarks by Don Snyder of Glendale Historical Society.





Part 2: Saturday, March 23, 1:00-5:00 PM, guests will go on a caravan tour of Forest Lawn's historic grounds, with stops at locked gardens rarely open to the public, as well as the Meditation Garden at Wee Kirk O' the Heather Church. An outdoor wine and cheese reception follows.

Both parts commence at Forest Lawn Glendale's Little Church of the Flowers, 1712 S. Glendale Avenue, Glendale, CA 91205.

Seating and space available on a first come, first served basis. Admission and parking are FREE.

Visit: www.forestlawn.com for more information.

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

-  March 14 - Mike Evans, owner of Tree of Life Nursery presents "Ugly Is Not A Turf Replacement"
-  April 11 - Speaker Matt Candeias, author of the popular *In Defense of Plants* blog (Presentation topic TBA)
-  May 9 - Garden expert and author, Nan Sterman, presents a program based on her landscape design book, *Hot Color, Dry Garden*
-  June 13 - Botany professor & author, Matt Ritter, speaks on "Tree Selection: Keeping Our Urban Forests Healthy"

GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"The air is like a butterfly
with frail blue wings.
The happy earth looks at the sky
and sings."

- Joyce Kilmer

Steven Gerischer - President, Oral History Committee, PR
John Schoustra - Vice President, Field-Trip Committee, Finance Committee, Plant Raffle, Plant Sales at meetings
Laura Bauer - Treasurer, Finance Committee, Website Committee, HOTY Event Committee, Voicemail
Pat Steen - Membership Secretary, Recording Secretary, Field Trip and Coffee-in-the-Garden Committees, Greeter
Carol Aronson - Field Trip & Coffee-in-the-Garden Committees, Program Committee
Carol Bornstein - Program Committee
Aprille Curtis - Social Media Committee, Plant Forum supplies
Fleur Nooyen - Program Committee
Steven Ormenyi - Finance Committee, Program Committee
Yoav Paskowitz - Finance Committee, Oral History Committee, Website Committee, Newsletter Copy Editor
Yvonne Savio - Horticultural Happenings, PR, Field Trip and Coffee-in-the-Garden Committees
Lili Singer - Board Nomination Committee, PR, Archives, Social Media Committee
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, March 18 (for April newsletter)
 Please contribute an article or information of interest.



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