



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

July 2019

## OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, July 11

Friendship Auditorium  
3201 Riverside Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90027



Socializing: 7:00 pm

Meeting begins: 7:30 pm

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Portia Besocke  
Hilda and Mike Evans  
Debby Figoni  
Victoria Gamburg  
Samantha Harris  
Keong Ng  
Wendy Ross  
Pat and Steven Smith  
Sklar Kalok Toy  
Steve Williams

## SHARING SECRETS

For July, let us know:

*What garden get-aways  
do you recommend visiting  
during the summer?*

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

by Monday, July 15

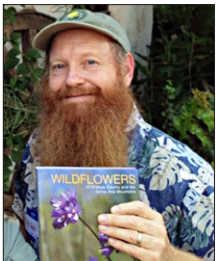
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## Native Plants & the Critters that Love Them

July brings Robert “Bob” Allen to the SCHS to speak on Southern California’s native pollinators and their impact on our ecology. He will discuss and demonstrate pollination mechanisms with photographs, revealing stories and hands-on examples.

Photo courtesy of speaker.



The presentation on pollination derives from Bob’s years of experience as an entomologist, botanist, instructor, nature photographer and author, combined with his personal interests, studies and research. He currently teaches Botany at Orange Coast College, is a Research Associate in Entomology at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, and the author of the field guide *Wildflowers of Orange County and the Santa Ana Mountains* (published 2013).

Bob will discuss how native plants get pollen from one place to another, what our major pollinating insects are, and how a flower’s structure can provide clues to the identity of its pollinators, among other little known facts. Most of California’s

flowering plants rely on animals for pollination, including our estimated 1,600 species of native bees.

Many people are familiar with *Apis mellifera*, the Western honey bee. It is a non-native bee, introduced by colonists to pollinate the crop plants they brought with them, and in fact, cannot physically pollinate many species of native plants. Since it did not evolve with them, it lacks the necessary structures and behaviors needed to do so.

Native bees, on the other hand, are the most effective pollinators of most native plants. For example, a single female native bee in the genus *Habropoda*, over her lifespan may visit 50,000 flowers, leading to the production of over 60,000 fruits responsible for reproduction and used as food by other forms of wildlife. Research suggests that flowers of native plants are up to four times more attractive to native bees than non-native flowers.

Bob encourages people to observe native bees by getting out of manicured

gardens and into the wild. He also recommends a visit to the Pollinator Partnership website before and after the program at: [www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org). His wildflower book is available from the Orange County chapter of the California Native Plant Society at: <https://www.ocnps.org/wildflower-book.html>.

Please join us for an evening we expect to be both educational and entertaining. See you in July!

## MEMBERSHIP EVENTS

### L.A. ZOO BOTANICAL TOUR

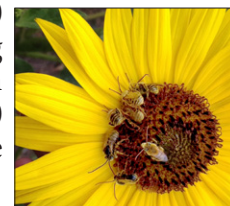
The SCHS tour of the L.A. Zoo and Botanical Gardens on **Saturday, July 13** is completely booked, but we do have a Wait List, in case of cancellations. Visit the events page on our website to sign up.

### SCHS 2019 HOTY BANQUET

This year our annual Horticulturist of the Year Banquet (and Silent Auction), honoring Mike Evans will be held on **Saturday, September 28** at the L.A. County Arboretum’s Peacock Cafe.

Event details and registration info will be posted online soon and appear in the August SCHS newsletter.

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Saturday, September 28**



*Melissodes* bees on a native sunflower at Nature Gardens of L.A.’s Natural History Museum.

Photo by Carol Bornstein.

Botany professor Matt Ritter, of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, spoke to the SCHS in June about Southern California tree selection in an era of climate change and decreasing biodiversity. He spoke about patterns and trends in tree selection and considerations for helping to ensure a healthy urban forest for the future of Southern California cities.



Photo courtesy of speaker.

With climate change becoming more erratic every year, and 150,000,000 of California's trees lost due to drought-related issues since 2009, Matt shared ideas about solutions to increasing tree populations again, particularly in urban areas. He provided statistics about trees' abilities to reduce energy consumption and heat as well as increasing wildlife habitat. He also spoke of studies showing how trees improve our quality of life physically and psychologically.

Citing thoughtful tree selection as a major tool for introducing more trees with more species diversity to urban centers, Matt provided a formula for "Successful Tree Planting". His selection formula includes three things: 1. Human Benefits (for health, aesthetics and well-being); 2. Carbon Sequestration (to aid in climate change mitigation); and 3. Conservation of Biodiversity. Combined with these factors, matching species selection with site

criteria will increase chances for successful tree survival.

To aid with thoughtful tree selection, Matt shared information on the SelecTree website, an interactive program and guide he helped create. It is designed to help people select appropriate trees for particular sites, based on compatible characteristics and is maintained by the Urban Forest Ecosystems Institute at Cal Poly SLO, and can be found at: <https://selectree.calpoly.edu/>.

Other suggestions Matt made include selecting the largest tree (at maturity) suitable for a given location based on its expected longevity, drought tolerance, provenance (native or non-native), size of canopy cover (for wildlife), and resistance to extreme environmental conditions. Because increasing populations displace green spaces in urban areas, he believes we need to be planting trees in urban areas continually, and making careful selections for future benefit.

Following his presentation, Matt took audience questions and signed copies of his book *A Californian's Guide to the Trees Among Us*, which he brought along for purchase.

✎ Sabine Steinmetz

*Related: in attendance this evening was landscape designer Jacky Surber, co-founder of "Angelenos for Trees" a community group seeking to preserve and regenerate the shrinking tree canopies in our neighborhoods. Learn more at: [www.angelenosfortrees.org](http://www.angelenosfortrees.org).*

## SHARING SECRETS

In June we asked you:

*What favorite fruits and vegetables are you currently growing successfully?*



We are having a lot of success with our onions and giant carrots!

- Jim Fletcher

Tomatoes, tomatoes, tomatoes, plus figs, basil and zucchini.

- Suzanna

Apples, tomatoes, apricots, oranges, watermelons, kumquats, cucumbers, guava, and strawberries...

- Karen Peterson

Paprika pepper, "Easypick Gold" zucchini and tangerines.

- Parker K.

We just picked our corn – there are few ears left. They were small, but very tasty!

- Rebecca

Babcock peaches, feijoa, mache, dwarf Meyer lemons, Fuyu persimmons, figs, blood orange, Black Monica grapes, and tomatoes: Cherokee Purple, Brandywine Red, Black Krim and Green Zebra.

- Shirley Marneus

Zucchini, basil and grapes are the only things going for me this summer -

- Aprille Curtis

*Thanks for sharing - yum – wish we could taste your successes too!*

## SCHS "RETURN TO SOMIS" FIELD TRIP RECAP

On Saturday, June 15, the SCHS hosted a chartered bus tour to Somis to visit three horticultural destinations. The all-day event took participants to behind-the-scenes places not usually open to the public.

First up was Berylwood Tree Farm, where Sales Manager Charles Thomas toured guests through rows of enormous trees, including the state's largest *Beaucarnea recurvata* (pictured here) per the California Big Tree Registry. Charles shared stories of how giant trees are transported



Photo credit: Tom Henderson

and transplanted, and showed specimens planted by landscape architect Rolla Wilhite who founded Berylwood in 1969.

Greenwood Daylily Gardens, the nursery of SCHS vice president John Schoustra, was next on the tour. John spoke about nursery operations, including irrigation practices using rain-captured water. He shared new plant introductions and gave visitors a chance to shop before opening his beautiful home gardens for exploration and a catered lunch.

The final destination was to former nurseryman Richard Baron's 60-acre property, which

has been featured on previous tours, and is ever-evolving. In addition to featuring a man-made 5-acre lake with an island, Richard toured guests to sculpted trees, a formal rose garden, koi ponds and more.

Many thanks to the SCHS board for putting together this unique field trip. It was a memorable experience for all, and also brought new members to our organization.

✎ Sabine Steinmetz

*Visit our Facebook page to see more photos of this trip.*



# JULY 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.

## NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF L.A.

900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles 90007  
213.763.3466 nhm.org

Daily, 3:30pm, Nature Walk. Meet outside the Nature Lab (under the bridge) for a walk in the Nature Gardens to explore the diversity of life that calls L.A. home.

Every Saturday and Sunday, 11am, Nature Gardens Exploration. Meet outside the Nature Lab (under the bridge) for a hands-on activity in our Nature Gardens.

Friday, 7/12 and 7/26, 5-9pm. Summer Nights in the Gardens. Enjoy the evening this summer in the enchanting Nature Gardens. Sip a garden-infused cocktail, take part in outdoor experiences, brighten your life with nature-inspired take-home activities, and enjoy live music. For info., go to [nhm.org/summernights](http://nhm.org/summernights)



## CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS

South Bay Chapter / South Coast Botanic Garden  
26300 Crenshaw Blvd, Palos Verdes 90274  
310-765-0570 [crfg.org/south-bay](http://crfg.org/south-bay)

Saturday, 7/20, 10am-12noon. How To Make My Dream Garden with Rick Yessayan, who will be teaching how to grow and propagate fruit trees.



## LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM

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

Saturday, 7/20, 9am-2pm. Plumeria Day. Plumeria plants for sale, expert talks, and tours of our spectacular grove! For more info. and questions, call 626.821.3222.

Saturday, 7/27, 10am-12pm. Composting & Vermiculture with David Karp. Learn methods of this process, from collecting food scraps to vermiculture, what materials can be composted and how worm castings can improve your soil. \$25 for members, \$35 for non-members (includes admission). Register at [arboretum.org/calendar](http://arboretum.org/calendar). For questions, call the Education Dept. at 626.821.4623.



## EATON CANYON NATURE CENTER

1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena 91107  
626.398.5420 [ecna.org](http://ecna.org)

Saturday, 7/20, 9am-12noon, Nature Patio. Conservation Work Day. Help with weeding invasive plants to conserve habitat for the native species. Gloves, tools and a snack will be provided. Please bring your own drinking water. Wear clothing, footwear and sun protection appropriate for outdoor work. Volunteers under the age of 18 need to bring along an adult. RSVP to [eatoncanyon.conservation@gmail.com](mailto:eatoncanyon.conservation@gmail.com)

## 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. Cancelled in event of rain.

Monday, 7/8, 11:30am-3:30pm at 20-minute intervals, Japanese Teahouse Tours. Learn about the history of the Japanese Garden's ceremonial teahouse and the traditions behind its use. Repeats second Mondays.

Thursday, 7/11, 2:30pm, Ahmanson Classroom, Brody Botanical Center. 2nd Thursday Garden Talk & Sale - Australian Ant-Plants. Attila Kapitany, a leading expert on Australian succulents, will give an illustrated talk about ant-plants, which are highly evolved succulents possessing structural adaptations that provide food and shelter for ant colonies. The ants, in turn, aid in pollination and seed dispersal, provide nutrients, and defend the plants against herbivores. Plant sale follows talk.

Thursday, 7/25, 4:30-5:30pm, Auditorium, Brody Botanical Center. Botany Bay Series: Plant Science for Gardeners and Citizen Scientists led by Jim Folsom, the Telleen/Jorgensen Director of the Botanical Gardens. "Citizen scientists" explore the plant world through discussion and hands-on lab time in this monthly series. No reservations required. Repeats fourth Thursdays.



## THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION

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

Friday, 7/12, 9-10am. Irrigation Basics for the Native Garden with Tim Becker, TPF Director of Horticulture. This focused walk and talk on TPF grounds covers how, when and where to irrigate, as well as the benefits and drawbacks of overhead, drip and hand-watering equipment. 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-61948828614>

Saturday, 7/13, 7/27, 8/10, 9am-1pm. California Native Garden Design with Carlos Flores, landscape designer. This course offers a foundation in design, process, sustainability, and how to model a garden after patterns in nature. Limit: 8. Prerequisite: Right Plant, Right Place class (must be taken before first design class). \$225 members, \$275 non-members; \$285 member couples, \$335 non-member couples. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-part-california-native-garden-design-with-carlos-flores-beginning-saturday-july-13-registration-56208406858>

Saturday, 7/13, 1:30-3:30pm. Look, Ma, No Lawn! with Steve Gerischer, owner of Larkspur Garden Design. Learn how to take your lawn out and what alternatives to plant - specifically natives that need no fertilizer and use minimal water. \$25 members, \$35 non-members. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/look-ma-no-lawn-with-steve-gerischer-registration-61597527864>

Saturday, 7/20, 8/3 & 8/17, 9am-1pm. California Native Garden Design with Steve Gerischer, landscape designer, Larkspur Garden Design. (See description above.)

Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-part-california-native-garden-design-with-steve-gerischer-beginning-saturday-july-20-registration-56208757908>

Saturday, 7/20, 9-10am. Native Plant Maintenance Basics, A Walk and Talk with Steve Singer, TPF Horticulturist. A quick overview of maintenance practices for the native garden held outdoors on TPF grounds. Limit: 15. \$15 members, \$20 non-members. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/native-plant-maintenance-basics-a-walk-and-talk-with-steve-singer-tickets-62786154077>

Saturday, 7/27, 8:30-10am. Lawn to Garden Basics: A Walk and Talk with Flora Ito, TPF Nursery Sales Manager. This walk on TPF grounds showcases landscape options and explains how to create a basic planting plan. Students will receive a copy of our new From Lawn to Garden guide. Limit: 10. \$20 members, \$25 non-members. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lawn-to-garden-basics-a-walk-and-talk-with-flora-ito-tickets-60669245346>



## SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN

230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas 92024  
760.436.3036 [sdbgarden.org](http://sdbgarden.org)

Saturday & Sunday, 7/20 & 7/21, 10am-4pm. Insect Festival 2019 features 1,000s of creepy-crawlies including live insects, lizards, snakes, ladybugs and the famous "Madagascar hissing cockroaches." Children can practice bug collecting, hands-on insect arts and crafts, and even taste cooked mealworm. Entomologists and other bug experts will be available for questions from children and adults alike. For info, go to <https://www.sdbgarden.org/insect.htm>

Sunday, 7/27, 9am-12noon. Living Wall/Vertical Garden with Mary Lou Morgan. Plant your own 10" x 20" wall with a variety of succulents, in a multitude of colors, textures and sizes. \$30 members, \$36 non-members. Additional \$80 per student materials fee to be paid directly to the instructor at the class. Please register by July 20 at <https://www.sdbgarden.org/classes.htm>



## U.C. RIVERSIDE BOTANIC GARDEN

900 University Ave., Riverside 92521  
951-784-6962 [gardens.ucr.edu](http://gardens.ucr.edu)

Saturday, 7/13, 6:30-8:30pm. Twilight Tour. Join us for a guided tour during the evening and enjoy light refreshments. \$7 members, \$10 non-members. Tickets available at [www.gardens.ucr.edu](http://www.gardens.ucr.edu). For more information, [ucrbg@ucr.edu](mailto:ucrbg@ucr.edu) or 951-784-6962.






## COASTKEEPER GARDEN

1560 E. Santiago Cyn. Rd., Orange 92869  
714.850.1965 [coastkeeper.org](http://coastkeeper.org)


Saturday, 7/13, 9:30am. Monthly Garden Share. Attendees bring garden-related items such as plants, cuttings, pots, tools, produce, etc., to trade. This is a great way to obtain new plants and meet like-minded plant lovers. For more information, go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CoastkeeperGardenShare>. Repeats second Saturdays.

Yvonne Savio

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

-  July 11 - Presentation by educator Robert Allen, the co-author of *Wildflowers of Orange County and the Santa Ana Mountains*
-  August 8 - Anthropologist Michael Wilken speaking on his book, *Kumeyaay Ethnobotany: Shared Heritage of the Californias*
-  Sept. 28 - SCHS Annual Horticulturist of the Year Award Banquet and Silent Auction, honoring Mike Evans

**VENUE CHANGE - HOTY banquet will be at L.A. Arboretum**

-  Oct. 10 - Program TBA

## GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH



*"All the water that will ever be is, right now."*

- National Geographic

JULY

**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, July 15** (for August newsletter)  
 Please contribute an article or information of interest.



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