



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

September 2019

## OUR NEXT MEETING

Annual Horticulturist  
of the Year Banquet  
(and Silent Auction)

**Saturday, September 28**

L.A. County Arboretum

See Page 2 for details!



## SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

*We're happy to say "hi" to:*

Erin Castillo & Nolan Swaika

Julie Russell

Francesco Sciarrone

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

## SHARING SECRETS

For September we'd like  
to hear about:

*What mulch(es) do you  
prefer using, and why?*

Reply at: [www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org)  
or email your response to:

[gardensbysabine@aol.com](mailto:gardensbysabine@aol.com)

by Monday, September 16

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## SCHS 2019 ANNUAL AWARD BANQUET

*Honoring Horticulturist of the Year Mike Evans*

**Saturday, September 28 at L.A. County Arboretum - Details on Page 2**



In September, the Southern California Horticultural Society is hosting its annual Horticulturist of the Year award banquet, honoring nurseryman Mike Evans, founder of Tree of Life Nursery in San Juan Capistrano.

Born and raised in Southern California, Mike demonstrated an early love for the outdoors camping, surfing, and hiking. From early jobs in nurseries, both retail and wholesale, he fell in love with horticulture. He established Tree of Life Nursery in 1976, specializing in native California plants and promoting an honest approach to California horticulture, specifically authentic garden design using native plants. The 34-acre nursery is the largest producer of California native plants in the state, boasting over 400 species and varieties.

Mike is also affiliated with numerous conservation, horticultural and botanical organizations, both past and present. His current board positions include the San Juan Capistrano Open Space Foundation

as well as The Reserve at Rancho Mission Viejo, a 20,000-acre land conservancy in south Orange County. He is a professor in the horticulture program at Saddleback Community College in Mission Viejo and is also frequently called on to give workshops and training seminars or to speak to groups on native plants and related subjects.

About the SCHS award, Mike says, "I am fortunate to be part of an amazing team at Tree of Life, and to have so much support from family, colleagues and friends in the plant world. As growers, gardeners and plant lovers, we all go about our daily activities with persistent joy; and soon the days turn into seasons, then years, which inevitably constitute a lifetime, and a lifetime with plants is enough of an award for anyone. So for me to also join the prestigious list of SoCal Hort HOTY recipients is beyond my imagination. I am very thankful."

We invite you to this year's banquet for dinner, our popular silent auction, and to celebrate the career of Mike Evans. In addition to receiving this year's HOTY award, we look forward to hearing Mike speak on some of his thoughts regarding

the future of horticulture in Southern California, as he describes briefly below:

*With plants in the mix, people combine art, science, craft, skill, technology, and a little luck to get horticulture... and don't forget sunlight, soil and water. Whether as a career, lifestyle, passion, or hobby, horticulture becomes a reciprocal pursuit; we care for plants and they make us better people, and that's because gardens and plants give us an everyday connection to nature. Everyone needs nature, said John Muir, and he was right. But Southern California's younger generations often find themselves alienated from the natural world by today's technology, and deep down inside they (like everyone else), need it. How can we make "Intro to Horticulture" fit in an iPhone? How can millennials find an invitation into nature, using the same technology that distracts them from it? Key point: Can horticulture survive for future generations without those who count as today's young people?*

We're intrigued, and if you are too, please join us for this festive and entertaining evening. (See registration form enclosed or register online at [socalhort.org](http://socalhort.org).)



**LAST CALL**

**FOR SILENT AUCTION**

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*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!*

**PLEASE REMEMBER: The SCHS Annual Silent Auction is our major fundraiser of the year - and we appreciate all of your participation - from donors & bidders alike!**

Our speaker in August was anthropologist Michael Wilken-Robertson, who presented his cultural explorations of northern Baja California's original peoples and their descendants, whose knowledge of the land has sustained them from ancient times to the present. He currently teaches in the anthropology department at California State University, San Marcos and is the

Photo courtesy of speaker.



author of *Kumeyaay Ethnobotany* which explores the remarkable interdependence between native peoples and native plants of the Californias. His research has focused on the many ways humans have interacted with their environments, from the past up to the present, with a focus on Native Baja Californians.

The indigenous Kumeyaay people can be found in the southwestern part of California in the U.S. and northern Baja in Mexico, where they share a cultural history that does not recognize borders. There are variations within Kumeyaay territory in the way people live, including language, but much ethnobotanical knowledge is common. Up until 200 years ago, their territory was much further-ranging, and they roamed seasonally for food, e.g.: gathering pine nuts during the summer in the mountains and acorns at lower elevations in the fall. After agriculture was introduced to these people, they became more settled and less nomadic.

In present day, much of the population lives in four federally recognized regions, and it is up to the elders to pass cultural traditions, including ethnobotanic knowledge, to younger generations orally. In addition to learning about edible plants (*Manzanita*, *Prunus ilicifolia*, *Chia*), native traditional arts rely on plant materials as well, including the stalks of *Yucca schidigera*, which are used to fire pottery, and *Juncus textilis*, *Muhlenbergia rigens*, and *Rhus trilobata*, commonly used in basketry. Many of the native peoples' cultures claim to harvest plants sustainably, so that they will be available from the same grounds year after year.

After the program, Wilken-Robertson answered questions and stayed for a book signing of *Kumeyaay Ethnobotany* (which features in-depth descriptions of 47 native plants and their uses). It connects an archaeological and historical record with living cultures and native plant specialists who share their knowledge for future generations.

To see the evening's presentation in its entirety, visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/socalhort/](http://www.facebook.com/socalhort/).

✿ Sabine Steinmetz

The SCHS board recently enlisted a new member to help us with marketing and publicity, as well as to live-stream our meetings - including the upcoming HOTY Banquet! She has provided a brief description below of some of the things she will be doing for the SCHS every month, and we're excited to have her!



Photo provided by Erin Castillo.

Hi, I'm Erin Castillo and I am thrilled to be working with the SCHS because I get the honor of making stuff happen - which I do in my training and consultancy business. Every month, you can find me at our meetings - setting up the tripod to record both our presentation and the plant forum, which will then post LIVE to our Facebook page!

Can't make it to a meeting? No problem - just go to the SCHS Facebook page on the day of to watch our live stream at 7:30 pm. Never miss a speaker or plant forum again! Plus, you can access all recorded events by clicking on "Videos" from our Facebook page.

Please come by and introduce yourself the next time you see me - if I haven't already gotten to you first!

## SHARING SECRETS

In August we asked you:

*What seeds are you collecting for next year's garden?*



Always Zinnia and Tithonia.

- Aprille Curtis

I'm growing good, medium-sized tomatoes and will try saving some seeds this year.

- Steve Ormenyi

Aesclepias (orange) for the monarch butterflies, and yellow Clivia.

- Tricia McGrath

Borage and *Verbena bonariensis*.

- Gloria Leinbach

Freesia, Lapeirousia, Sparaxis and other South African bulbs.

- Steve Gerischer

All of them...

- Anonymous

*Good luck with your collections!*

## SCHS 2019 Annual Award Banquet & Silent Auction

*Saturday, September 28, 2018*

Ayres Hall at L.A. County Arboretum ■ 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia 91007 (enter thru side gate)

*Social hour & silent auction begin at 5:30 pm. Auction closes at 7 pm, followed by dinner, & award presentation at 8:15 pm*

(Remember: we accept credit cards at the auction!)

Register online until Sept. 25, or call Laura Bauer at (626) 437-9459 thereafter to check for ticket 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)

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.



**SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN**  
26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes 90274  
310.544.1948 [southcoastbotanicgarden.org](http://southcoastbotanicgarden.org)

Saturday 9/14, 9am-5pm & Sunday 9/15, 9am-4pm visit the South Bay Orchid Society Fall Show and Sale. Vendors and society members will be selling plants, displaying artistic exhibits, and offering "Orchids-R-Easy" demos/classes. An hourly raffle will be held each day.



**DESCANSO GARDENS**  
1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada 91011  
818.949.7980 [descansogardens.org](http://descansogardens.org)

Saturday, 9/14, 10am-1pm. Oak Woodland: 5 Year Celebration. In fall 2014, we transformed an uncultivated behind-the-scenes area into 7 acres of native plantings. Join a 10am Oak Tree Talk with educator and author Emily Han to learn about the iconic trees that dot this landscape; or a 10am-1pm Wildflower Seed Search to make a California wildflower packet to take home for fall planting (map at Info Station will guide you to Seed Stations in the garden); and a 1pm Oak Woodland Highlight Tour and guided walk.



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM**  
301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia 91007  
626.821.4623 [arboretum.org](http://arboretum.org)

Saturday, 9/14, 9:30am-3pm. Association of Professional Landscape Designers' Greater L.A. Designer Plant Fair. Learn pertinent details about the best new landscape plants for 2020 from nursery folks and other landscape professionals during the presentation session with the growers. \$10 for Arboretum and/or APLD members, \$20 for non-members (with admission). Register online at [www.arboretum.org/calendar](http://www.arboretum.org/calendar).

Saturday, 9/21, 10-11am. Australia & Fire Ecology Tour with L.A. County Arboretum Plant Info. Consultant Frank McDonough. Learn which beautiful Australian plants and trees are less likely to be pyromaniacs in Southern California. For questions, call Education Department at 626.821.3222.

Saturday, 9/21, 10am-12noon. Crescent Farm for Beginners. Learn the basics - how topography can capture water and how plant choices can save water AND provide habitat all year. Register online at [www.arboretum.org/calendar](http://www.arboretum.org/calendar) or call Education Dept.



**EATON CANYON NATURE CENTER**  
1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena 91107  
626.398.5420 [ecnc.org](http://ecnc.org)

Saturday, 9/21, 9am-12noon, Nature Patio. Conservation Work Day. Help weed invasive plants to conserve habitat for the native species. Gloves, tools and snack provided. Please bring your own drinking water. Wear clothing, footwear and sun protection 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.

Thursday, 9/26, 4:30-5:30pm, Brody Botanical Center. Botany Bay Series: Plant Science for Gardeners and Citizen Scientists with Jim Folsom, the Telleen/Jorgensen Director of the Botanical Gardens. Explore the plant world through discussion and hands-on lab time in this monthly series. No reservations required. Repeats 4th Thursdays.

Thursday, 9/26, 5:30-7:30pm. Posies & Palates: The Secret Language of Flowers. Join Casey Schwartz and Kit Wertz of Flower Duet and Maite Gomez-Rejón of ArtBites for a workshop exploring the secret language of Victorian herbs and flowers. Participants will prepare themed cocktails and create personal posies to take home. \$85 members, \$100 non-members. Register at [www.huntington.org/calendar](http://www.huntington.org/calendar).

Thursday, 9/26, 7:30pm, Rothenberg Hall. East Asian Garden Lecture Series: Gardens as Ecological Theater with Eugene Wang, professor of art history at Harvard University. He will discuss the Qianlong Garden in China - a whole garden space that was built to be seen as a 5-act play. Free; no reservations required.



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

Saturday, 9/14, 9-10am. Irrigation Basics for the Native Garden with Tim Becker, TPF Director of Horticulture. Join a walk & talk on TPF grounds to learn how, when and where to irrigate, as well as the benefits and drawbacks for overhead, drip and hand-watering equipment. Bring a hat and water bottle. Limit: 15 students. \$15 members, \$20 non-members. Register online through [theodorepayne.org](http://theodorepayne.org).

Saturday, 9/14, 1:30-2:30pm. Wilding: The Return of Nature to a British Farm with author Isabella Tree. Hear about the rewilding of Isabella Tree and Charlie Burrell's 3,500-acre

English farm when conventional methods of farming failed them, and they switched to a radical approach: working with nature. Attendees will receive a signed copy of Tree's 2018 book, *Wilding*. \$25 members, \$35 non-members. Register online through [theodorepayne.org](http://theodorepayne.org).

Friday, 9/20, 9-10am. Native Plant Maintenance Basics, with Tim Becker, TPF Director of Horticulture. Get an overview of maintenance practices for the California native garden during a walk and talk on TPF grounds. Wear comfortable shoes, and bring a hat and water bottle. Limit: 15 students. \$15 members, \$20 non-members. Register online through [theodorepayne.org](http://theodorepayne.org).

Saturday, 9/21, 1:30-3:30pm. Fire-Safe Landscaping with Orchid Black, Landscape Designer, Native Sanctuary. Learn ways to create and maintain a beautiful fire-safe home and landscape. Case studies will illustrate simple principles and best practices, and a palette of native plants that can be used to lower fire risk, control erosion, and enhance defensible space will be shared. \$25 members, \$35 non-members. Register online through [theodorepayne.org](http://theodorepayne.org).

Saturday, 9/28, 1:30-3pm. Succulents of the Golden State with Sandy Masuo, Educator, Author and Conservationist. Discover what California native succulents - from Agave to Dudleya to Yucca - share with succulents from other regions and what sets them apart. \$20 members, \$30 non-members. Register online through [theodorepayne.org](http://theodorepayne.org).



**UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA SOUTH COAST RESEARCH & EXTENSION CENTER**  
7601 Irvine Blvd., Irvine 92618  
949-653-1810 [screc.ucanr.edu](http://screc.ucanr.edu)

Saturday, 9/28, 9am-2pm. Urban Living Education Expo. Visit exhibitors for ways to reduce landscape water use. Discuss solutions for irrigation and pest issues with UC researchers and industry experts. Check out demos on beekeeping, composting, irrigation, and more. Enjoy tasty treats at the 4-H Youth Program concession stand, or partake in our Plant Sale (cash or checks only). Random opportunity drawings for gardening gifts will be held throughout the day.



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

Saturday, 9/28, 10am. Basics of Home Composting. Learn how to build and improve your composting system and speed up the process of turning yard clippings and food scraps into soil. \$7 members, \$10 non-members.


Yvonne Savio

**Southern California Horticultural Society  
Horticulturist of the Year Banquet & Silent Auction**




**Saturday, 9/28, 5:30-10pm  
in Ayres Hall at the L.A. County Arboretum**

*Join us in honoring Mike Evans, owner of Tree of Life Nursery. Tickets are \$50. Register online or download a flyer for mail-in registration at [www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org)*

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

-  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 - Turf Alternatives Panel with Cassy Aoyagi, Ellen Mackey, Joel Lichtenwalter and moderator Wynne Wilson
-  Nov. 14 - Travis Longcore speaking on Nighttime Ecology, Lighting, and Landscape Design
-  Dec. 12 - SCHS Holiday Party - Location TBA

## GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"A seed hidden  
in the heart of an apple  
is an orchard invisible."

- Welsh proverb



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

**Steven Gerischer** - Vice President, Oral History Committee, PR

**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

**Yoav Paskowitz** - Finance Committee, Oral History Committee, Website Committee, Newsletter Copy Editor

**Yvonne Savio** - Horticultural Happenings, Field Trip and Coffee-in-the-Garden Committees

**Lili Singer** - Board Nomination Committee, PR, Archives, Social Media Committee

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

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

**818-567-1496 / socalhort.org / Join us on Facebook**  
Newsletter Editor: Sabine Steinmetz

Contributors to this issue: Michael Wilkens-Robertson, Yvonne Savio

**Next deadline: Monday, September 23** (for October newsletter)  
Please contribute an article or information of interest.



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**NEWSLETTER September 2019**