



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

November 2019

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, November 14

Friendship Auditorium
3201 Riverside Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90027



Socializing: 7:00 pm

Meeting begins: 7:30 pm

SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

We did not gain any new members in October, but we *always* appreciate our existing members and loyal supporters.

*Thanks for being
a part of SCHS!*

www.socalhort.org

SHARING SECRETS

For November, let us know:

Are you foraging in your garden to make seasonal treats and/or crafts?

Reply at: www.socalhort.org
or email your response to:
gardensbysabine@aol.com

by Monday, November 18

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After Sunset: Ecologically Sensitive Lighting and Landscape Design

Have you ever had a sense that bright lights might be disrupting the life in your garden at night? Turns out you were right. The speaker for the SCHS November meeting will be Dr. Travis Longcore, an Associate Adjunct Professor at the UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, who has been instrumental in the development of the field of study assessing the effects of light pollution on species and habitats.

Dr. Longcore will share some of the fascinating responses of plants and animals to natural patterns of darkness and illustrate the importance of dark nights to plants, their pollinators, and even their predators. He will also provide advice for reducing the effects of landscape lighting that can be applied in gardens and beyond.

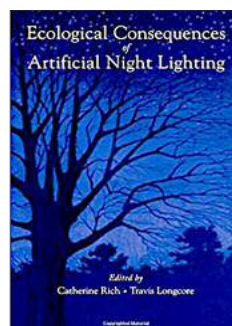
In addition to his work at the UCLA Institute of the Environment

and Sustainability, Dr. Longcore also works as Science Director of The Urban Wildlands Group, an L.A.-based conservation nonprofit, and acts as an independent ecological design and environmental policy consultant. He is co-editor of the book *Ecological Consequences of Artificial Night Lighting*, which provides a scientific basis to begin addressing the challenge of conserving the nighttime environment. You can learn more about Dr.

Longcore's work on his website at www.travislongcore.net.

Please join us for this unique presentation on a topic that is new to the SCHS, but also a relevant and timely one for urban gardeners. We look forward to learning how each of us can reduce the impact of night lighting.

Sabine Steinmetz



MEMBERSHIP NEWS & EVENTS

2019 HOLIDAY MEETING Thursday, December 12

Canoga Park Women's Club

7401 Jordan Ave, Canoga Park, CA 91303

Next month we will hold our annual Holiday Party at the Canoga Park Women's Club again, as it was a popular spot last year and well-attended. It is a large space with plenty of parking, and this year's event will feature the following:

GUEST SPEAKER Marie Barnidge-McIntyre, Horticulturist at Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site will present a program about traditional plants used to decorate our homes for the holidays.

GIVE-AWAYS our "Freebie Table" will again be set up with members' gently used garden-themed treasures, which will be available for the taking during a timed grab & go. Lots of fun!

SWEET & SAVORY TREATS generously shared by members for the group will be set out for everyone to taste. Please consider bringing a dish - we always look forward to sampling what our talented membership will cook up!

SAVE THE DATE!

The SCHS welcomed a panel of local experts in October, who shared their opinions on why and how to use eco-friendly lawn alternatives that thrive in our Mediterranean climate. The panel was composed of Ellen Mackey, senior ecologist with the Metropolitan Water District; Cassy Aoyagi, president of FormLA Landscaping; Joel Lichtenwalter, owner of Grow Outdoor Design; and moderator Wynne Wilson, owner of the landscape firm, Terra Design.

After brief introductions, Ellen Mackey was the first speaker, and she focused her presentation on the ecological issues facing Los Angeles with respect to conventional lawns. In addition to requiring more irrigation, turf lawns also pollute the groundwater and stormwater with chemical runoff from pesticides and fertilizers, as well as contributing to CO₂ emissions and noise pollution from lawn mowers, edgers and blowers. Mackey's solution is to remove the lawn and plant a

Photo by Ellen Mackey



garden instead, which is an ever-evolving ecosystem, as opposed to the monoculture of a lawn which reduces biodiversity. Her own home native plant garden in the urban/wildland interface uses companion planting, composting, and other methods to create a beautiful, productive backyard garden and orchard. It is certified by the National Wildlife Federation's Wildlife Habitat Program, and for five years has been included on the Theodore Payne Foundation's annual garden tour.

The next presenter was Cassy Aoyagi, whose full-service landscaping firm, Form L.A. is dedicated to saving L.A. with its own authentic beauty. She spoke about her experiences with lawn alternatives and offered suggestions for what you might plant once your turf is gone. Red fescue, common yarrow,

dune sedge and "high-heat tolerant" seed blends were some of her choices,

Photos by Cassy Aoyagi



while *Dymondia* was specifically ruled out as being too weed-prone and never quite living up to its promise. Many of these selections use up to 80% less water than grass, benefit the soil and watertable, and are also aesthetically pleasing by providing varied color and texture in the landscape, compared to a monochromatic lawn. Aoyagi concluded with her message about gardening, saying that "Our choices now will shape the future environment, human health and well being."

Aoyagi was followed by L.A.-based landscape designer Joel Lichtenwalter, whose firm, Grow Outdoor Design, is guided by the desire to create inspired, informed, and sustainable outdoor spaces. Joel is a former board member of SCHS as well as the Association of Professional Landscape Designers (APLD). He showed before and after pictures of his projects, which included some lawn substitutes, such as kurapia, and transition zone grasses such as *Carex divulsa* and *Carex sp.* 'Pomona', but emphasized that his preference is to replace lawns with garden spaces, rather than just ground covers that resemble turf. He shared a story about a local city block where he replaced

Photos by Joel Lichtenwalter



the lawn at one home, and then a number of the neighbors eventually followed suit, resulting in a diversity of landscaping that now serves as

an example of landscaping options for other homeowners contemplating lawn removal. Joel believes it is up to us gardeners to change L.A. in urban areas for the benefit of future generations.

After the panel concluded their presentations, moderator Wynne Wilson, whose landscape firm Terra Design promotes restoration, preservation and education, asked the panelists to provide some useful tips. These included: beginning lawn removal gradually by reducing the area with the addition of planting beds, which can be expanded over time; creating a specific (but smaller) area of low-water grasses designated for children and pets; letting your needs dictate what adaptations you make; and not forgetting the parkway strip when re-designing a front yard. Afterward Wilson opened up the Q&A to the audience, and asked the panelists to provide some final comments before concluding the program.

✿ Sabine Steinmetz

NOTE: *Opinions and recommendations made by guest speakers are their own. The SCHS strives to share horticultural knowledge and diverse viewpoints, but does not expressly endorse or support every statement made by any individual presenter.*

SHARING SECRETS

Sadly, we have had no participation in our "Sharing Secrets" column for the last two months. We know it's a busy time of year for gardeners, but have submitted another question for November. If there is no response again, we may ask members whether this feature is no longer relevant, and possibly opt to discontinue it at the beginning of the new year.

You can answer the November question online at www.socalhort.org or respond by email to gardensbysabine@aol.com:

Are you foraging in your garden to make seasonal treats and/or crafts?

Comments about the "Sharing Secrets" column (relevancy, topics, other) would also be welcomed, so we can gauge members' interest and make adjustments accordingly.

Thank you!

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.



RANCHO LOS CERRITOS

4600 Virginia Road, Long Beach 90807
562.206.2040 rancholoscerritos.org

Thursday, 11/14, 8-9:30am, meet in lower parking lot for a Bird Walk on the grounds and watch resident birds and seasonal migrants. We'll also listen to calls and songs. Wear closed-toe shoes, a hat and bring binoculars. Rain cancels. More details online at <https://www.rancholoscerritos.org/upcoming-event/bird-walk-october-2019/>



LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM

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

Saturday, 11/16, 10am-12noon. Intro to Backyard Orchard & Fruit Tree Pruning with Joanna Glovinsky, founder of Fruitstitute. A lecture and demo will delineate differences in practices and approaches between backyard and commercial fruit production. Using the Crescent Farm orchard as her classroom, Joanna will provide step by step instructions on how to plan, manage, and prune a backyard orchard, to have fruit ready for harvest year round! Register online at www.arboretum.org/calendar, or call Education Dept. at 626-821-4623.

Saturday, 11/23, 11am-12noon. Fall & Winter in the Garden For All Seasons. Walking tour with Tom Moure, Arboretum Gardener, who will talk about preparing beds and fall clean up. Learn what he is planting and tips for creating a thriving vegetable garden for the coming winter. For questions, call 626-821-3222.



EATON CANYON NATURE CENTER

1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena 91107
626.398.5420 ecnc.org

Saturday, 11/16, 9am-12noon, Nature Patio. Conservation Work Day. Help weed invasive plants to conserve habitat for the native species. Gloves, tools and snack provided. Bring drinking water. Wear clothing, footwear and sun protection for outdoor work. Volunteers under age of 18 need to bring along an adult. RSVP to eatoncanyon.conservation@gmail.com.

HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

1151 Oxford Road, San Marino 91108
626.405.2100 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, 11/14, 2:30pm, Ahmanson Classroom, Brody Botanical Center. Garden Talk & Plant Sale: Spines, Thorns, Prickles, and Beyond, with Sean Lahmeyer, plant conservation specialist at The Huntington. In this illustrated lecture on spinescence, he will journey through Huntington's living plant collections to spotlight different external defenses that plants use to protect themselves. A plant sale follows the program.

Sunday, 11/17, 2:30pm, Rothenberg Hall. Outstanding American Gardens: What Are They, Where are They, and How Can They Be Saved? James Brayton Hall, president of the Garden Conservancy, will examine what America's gardens say about our culture and how new approaches pioneered by the Conservancy are helping to protect and document these landscapes for the future. Several examples of West Coast gardens will be highlighted, including remarkable successes and one near failure. Presented as part of the California Garden & Landscape History Society Lecture Series.



THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION

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

Friday, 11/15, 9-10am. Native Plant Maintenance Basics, Walk and Talk with Tim Becker, TPF Director of Horticulture. An overview of maintenance practices for the California native garden - held outdoors on TPF grounds. Wear comfortable shoes, a hat and bring a water bottle. Limit 15 students. \$15 members, \$20 non-members. Register online.

Saturday, 11/16, 9-11am. Look, Ma, No Lawn! with Steve Gerischer, owner of Larkspur Garden Design. Are you ready to lose the lawn and apply for a turf removal rebate? We'll explain how to take it out and offer alternatives - specifically low-care native plants that need no fertilizer and use a fraction of the water required for turf. \$25 members, \$35 non-members. Register online.

Saturday, 11/16, 9-10am. Clipper Maintenance: A Must For All Gardeners with Louise Guerin, The Huntington's Manager of Plant Production & Sales. Help ensure plant health by using clean shears and pruners when cutting back, dead-heading and shaping plants. Learn tried-and-true methods to keep your hand tools sharp and clean. Participants will practice on their tools and receive a Sandflex sharpening sponge to take home. Bring clippers! \$12 members, \$18 non-members. Register online.

Saturday, 11/16, 12noon-3pm. Native Plant Dye Workshop with Trudy Barnes of Trudy Barnes Studio. Explore hidden colors in our landscape by learning about native plants and their potential for dyeing. Learn how to forage local plants responsibly and how to broaden your color palette using modifiers. Come away with a selection of botanically-dyed samples as well as a finished textile and instructions on how to repeat the process at home. All materials provided. Limited to 15 students. \$40 members, \$50 non-members. Register online.

RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN

1500 N. College Ave., Claremont 91711
909.625.8767 rsabg.org

Saturday, 11/16, 9:30-11:30am. Saging the World. California Indians have been using white sage for food, medicine and ceremony for 1000s of years. Today, Walmart, Etsy and Amazon all market smudge sticks, sage bundles, and "cleansing" kits, fueling a growing controversy about cultural appropriation. Much of the white sage for the international market is unscrupulously foraged. Learn how to cultivate it in your garden or nurture plants in containers. Learn why and how to Sage the World with authors of the Ethnobotany Project, Rose Ramirez and Deborah Small as well as RSABG staff at this presentation and workshop. \$20 members, \$30 non-members.

Sunday, 11/17. 11am-3pm. Acorn Festival. This family event celebrates our connections to California native plants. Native American tribal leaders and culture keepers will demonstrate and share these connections through ceremonial dance, art and activities. Food available for purchase. There will be a small materials fee associated with certain crafts.

Saturday, 11/23, 10am-12noon. Propagation: Seeds, Cuttings & Divisions. Learn how to grow plants from scratch using multiple methods. See the tools and materials RSABG uses and learn what is practical to do at home. Free to members, \$10 non-members.

Friday, 11/29, Garden Hours: 8 am - 5 pm, Nursery Hours: 9 am - 4:30 pm. Green Friday: Free Day & Plant Sale. Great deals on California native plants at our Grow Native Nursery. Stroll around and get some inspiration, then buy beautiful native plants for your home. Discounts on all nursery inventory: 15% off members, \$10% off non-members.



U.C. SOUTH COAST RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER

7601 Irvine Boulevard, Irvine 92618
949-653-1810 screc.ucanr.edu

Saturday, 11/23, 9am-12noon. Persimmon Harvest Workshop. Learn how to air dry persimmons during our hands-on demonstration, followed by orchard picking of Hachiya and Fuyu type persimmons (while supplies last). \$75. fee includes (1) U-pick basket of fruit and materials. Seating is limited, and pre-registration is required. Register online.





FULLERTON ARBORETUM

1900 Associated Road, Fullerton 92831
657.278.3407 fullertonarboretum.org

Tuesday, 11/12, 5:30pm. Moon Forest Bathing. Come enjoy the Fullerton Arboretum after hours during a special Full Moon Forest Bathing experience. Take the opportunity to slow down, tune in and rediscover the feeling of curiosity for the landscape around you - under the full moon. \$25 members, \$30 non-members.

Yvonne Savio

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

-  Nov. 14 - Travis Longcore speaking on Nighttime Ecology, Lighting, and Landscape Design
-  Dec. 12 - Marie Barnidge-McIntyre will speak on decorating with holiday greens at our Annual Holiday Party. Enjoy seasonal treats, our Give-Away Table and more!

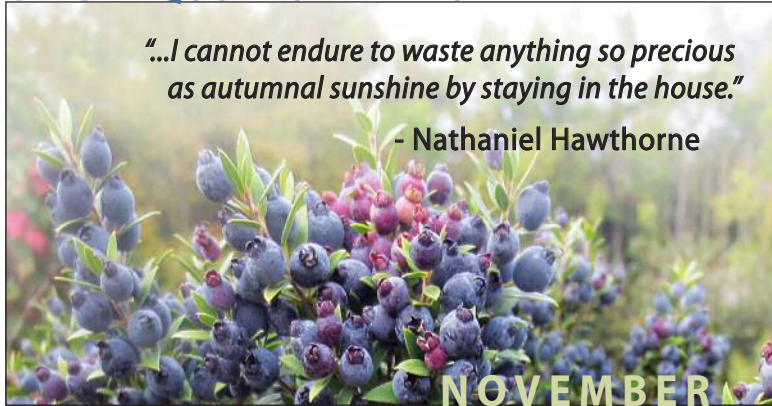
NOTE: VENUE CHANGE - Canoga Park Women's Club

-  January 9 - TBA - Check www.socalhort.org for updates

GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"...I cannot endure to waste anything so precious as autumnal sunshine by staying in the house."

- Nathaniel Hawthorne



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

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Contributors to this issue: Travis Longcore, Yvonne Savio

Next deadline: Monday, November 18 (for December newsletter)

Please contribute an article or information of interest.



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