



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

February 2020

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, February 13

Los Angeles Zoo's
Witherbee Auditorium
5333 Zoo Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90027



Socializing: 7:00 pm

Meeting begins: 7:30 pm

SCHS NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome
the following new members:

*Dody Dorn & Kevin Hughes
Jesse and Rio Martinez
Richard Rachman
Ana Tabuena-Ruddy*

Thanks for joining!

CONNECT WITH SCHS

We offer members a variety of
ways in which they can reach
out, stay informed or engage.



FIND US AT:

www.socalhort.org

www.facebook.com/pg/socalhort

www.instagram.com/socalhort

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PLEASE NOTE: FEBRUARY MEETING WILL BE HELD AT LOS ANGELES ZOO

A Tale of Two Floras

In February, the SCHS will meet at the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens' Witherbee Auditorium, to see a program by Evan Meyer, the newly-appointed Executive Director of the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wildflowers and Native Plants. The evening's presentation will include stories of his travels throughout California, as well as a slide show and talk about his recent expedition to the Western Cape of South Africa. Meyer will discuss the similarities and differences in the landscapes of these botanically diverse Mediterranean-climate regions.

California is globally renowned for its fantastic displays of annual wildflowers, sweeping landscapes of drought-adapted plant species, and charismatic native trees. The flora of Western South Africa is equally famous, containing an incredible diversity of flowering shrubs, succulents and bulbs. In this presentation, Meyer will compare

these two horticulturally rich parts of the world and describe how plants make the journey from wild landscapes into gardens.

Meyer grew up in Massachusetts and held botanical positions at Harvard University and the Native Plant Trust before relocating to Southern California. Before his current appointment at Theodore

Payne, Meyer was most recently the Assistant Director of the UCLA Mildred E. Mathias Botanical Garden, and prior to that managed the Seed Conservation Program at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont,

California.

We are looking forward to seeing and hearing about Meyer's horticultural adventures and expect this program to be both entertaining and informative. We invite you to come to the zoo to share in this experience!

Sabine Steinmetz

Photo courtesy of speaker.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS & EVENTS

CHANGE IN VENUE

We are meeting at the Los Angeles Zoo in February, in the Witherbee Auditorium (see address in Table of Contents, above.)

There will be **no Plant Forum** and **no Plant Sales** due to the change in venue, as socializing will be outdoors and it will be dark when we meet.



MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE

Here are some of the things gardeners might think about doing in their gardens during February:

- **Finish pruning & feeding roses**
- **Work on your winter clean-up, especially weeding**
- **Cut back woody perennial shrubs**
- **Give cool season ornamental grasses a short haircut**
- **Check for (and clean out) any standing water!**

Arborist Nick Araya, co-owner of TreeCareLA, was our first speaker of the new year, and presented a program titled "Tending L.A.'s Trees: Getting it Right from Juveniles to Giants."

Photo courtesy of speaker.



He spoke about tree care culture and how Los Angeles has some of the worst tree care habits in the United States. But he also offered options for protecting our precious urban forest.

Currently a Board Certified Master Arborist, Araya has been caring and advocating for trees for over 20 years, beginning his career in the Midwest and eventually moving to Southern California in 2004. In L.A., he discovered that trees are often not given the care and respect they deserve. He launched TreeCareLA in 2011 as a way to improve and preserve the trees of L.A., including managing large and old trees and restoring damaged trees.

Araya encourages homeowners to understand how to maintain their trees' health, safety, beauty and value - either on their own or with some experienced help. Suggestions for achieving optimum tree health included beginning with the purchase of the smallest tree a homeowner is willing to plant. He noted that within four years, a 5-gallon tree will outpace

a 15-gallon specimen in growth, as well as being healthier and longer-lived. He also advised planting trees a bit "high", either at or above grade level, untangling their roots before planting, and only watering - deeply - once a week (or every two weeks). For more tips, he suggested checking: www.TreesAreGood.org.

The presentation continued with tips on the care of juvenile trees that are beginning to put on some height and developing into their eventual mature shape. Araya remarked that in most young trees, every branch is temporary, so it is important not to over-prune, but rather to encourage lateral growth and a strong canopy. "Foliage is your friend," a quote from the University of Florida's Ed Gilman (an arborist and tree researcher), was the phrase Araya chose to remind homeowners to keep as much of the canopy as possible, to maintain good tree health.

He also pointed out that in L.A., 80% of the trees are medium-sized (15'-30'), and those species that could grow taller are typically "mediumized" through annual pruning. The more frequently trees are pruned, the more quickly they use up their reserve energy to push out new growth. The result of consistently depleting this reserve energy is that the tree slows down its annual growth, and disease can set in, compromising the health and longevity of the tree. He

suggested that a better practice is to thin the trees out (by no more than 30%) every five years.

Araya then shared photos of good and bad pruning practices, and suggested that rather than "mediumizing" potentially large trees, good management practices and proper care would allow the city's urban canopy to continue growing for a healthier future. For more tips and information, or to schedule a consult, visit www.treecarela.com or follow them on Instagram @treecarela.

✿ Sabine Steinmetz

REMEMBERING

Shirley Marneus

It is with sadness that we report that SCHS member Shirley Marneus passed away on January 13, 2020. A few of Shirley's SCHS friends were invited by her family to take some of her beloved plants for preservation.



Many of them, including her *Epiphyllums*, will be donated to local societies for future shows/sales.

The SCHS will miss seeing Shirley's friendly face at meetings and events, and will remember her for her spirit, generosity and positive attitude.

NEWS FROM THE PACIFIC HORTICULTURE SOCIETY

For many years, the Southern California Horticultural Society (SCHS) joined with other regional horticultural societies to support the Pacific Horticulture Society (PHS) and the production of Pacific Horticulture Magazine. The goal of PHS and the magazine was to unite the various regional horticultural societies and serve as a hub for horticulture stories and news throughout the west coast. As a supporting society, SCHS was able to offer a subscription to the magazine as a benefit to our members.

Over the last decade, PHS has struggled to produce the magazine in the face of rising costs and dwindling subscriptions.

In 2018, PHS reorganized its relationship to its supporting societies. SCHS was invited to be an Affiliated Member Organization with reduced common benefits: mainly, SCHS members would receive an electronic copy of the magazine, but not a printed, mailed copy. In order to be eligible for the full benefits offered by Pacific Horticulture Society, individuals had to purchase a separate membership with PHS. In response to this change in mutual benefits, SCHS lowered its annual membership dues.

This year, PHS has decided to completely separate itself from its former supporting organizations. SCHS is no longer affiliated with PHS and we do not share any benefits.

Sadly, PHS has also officially discontinued the quarterly magazine. There will no

longer be a print or online version. Instead, they will continue to collect and publish garden writing on their website. Access to their website (and their extensive catalog of past magazine articles) is not restricted by membership - it is available to anyone.

As they look to the future, PHS is dedicated to promoting horticulture and environmental science. They plan to continue their popular travel programs and run more regional events. They also want to grow partnerships with organizations like the Association of Professional Landscape Designers (APLD) and The Garden Conservancy. SCHS encourages its members to check out their website at www.pacifichorticulture.org and consider supporting PHS.

✿ Laura Bauer

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.



CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS - SOUTH BAY CHAPTER

South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes 90274
310.765.0570 crfg.org

Saturday, 2/15, 10am-noon, Room A. Scion Exchange. Members bring and share scion of fruit trees to be grafted to a young tree or to a branch of an adult tree. Members will get a scion from the collections and graft it on their trees. Become a member at the meeting for \$12.00/annually. For more info., contact Luz Keating, 310-765-0570, Ldkeating@sbcglobal.net



RANCHO LOS CERRITOS

4600 Virginia Road, Long Beach 90807
562.206.2040 rancholoscerritos.org

Saturday, 2/29, 12-12:45pm. Theodore Payne and Ralph Cornell: Champions of California's Native Plants with Marie Barnidge-McIntyre. Friends of Rancho Los Cerritos will take a field trip to the Theodore Payne classroom to learn about the vision and legacy of two pioneers and their partnership in promoting California native plants. \$20 members, \$25 non-members. Register online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/theodore-payne-and-ralph-cornell-champions-of-californias-native-plants-tickets-86743390817>.



EATON CANYON NATURE CENTER

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

Every Wednesday & 2nd Sunday, 10 a.m. Eaton Canyon Gardening Group. Volunteers maintain the garden.

Saturday, 2/15, 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

DESCANSO GARDENS

1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada 91011
818.949.7980 descansogardens.org

Saturday, 2/29, 2pm. Pollinator-Human Plant Forages with Nance Klehm, ecological systems engineer. Go on a walk to learn about flowering plants visited by native bees and the bees' shared history with humans for food and medicine. Concludes with a foraged tea and light snack. \$20 members; \$30 non-members. Advance registration required at <https://68138.blackbaudhosting.com/68138/Foraging-Walk-Pollinator-Human-Plant-Forages-29Feb2020>



LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM

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

Saturday, 2/15, 10am-12noon. Beyond Sustainability: The Future of Regenerative Building in Southern California with Rohan. Learn about pressing issues such as resiliency to extreme weather, clean energy, waste management, and how to live sustainably while having a positive impact on the environment. Free with admission. Register online, or call the Education Dept. with questions.

Saturday, 2/22, 10am-12noon. Tree Identification with Jerry Turney. One-hour lecture covers 20 tree species, followed by a walk to see those same trees on the grounds. \$20 for members, \$30 for non-members. Register online, or call Education Dept. with questions.

Saturday, 2/29, 10am-12noon. Raised Bed Gardening with Farmscape. Workshop covers choosing soil, irrigation, garden planning, and seasonal growing tips. \$20 for members, \$30 for non-members. Register online, or call the Education Dept. with questions.



HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

1151 Oxford Road, San Marino 91108
626.405.2100 huntington.org

Saturday, 2/22, 9am-12noon. Bonsai Workshop. Learn hands-on the art of growing and shaping miniature trees. Receive a tree to grow at home, plus care and maintenance instructions. \$45 for members, \$55 for non-members. Register online.

Saturday, 2/22, 9-11:30am. Bonsai Builders. Hands-on workshop for ages 7+. Work on and take home your own miniature tree! \$35 for members, \$45 for non-members. (Fee includes one child plus one accompanying adult.) Register online.

Saturday & Sunday, 2/22 & 2/23, 11am-5pm, Brody Botanical Center. Annual Bonsai-a-Thon. Bonsai masters share their passion for the art format at this event that includes exhibits, demos, prize drawings, "bonsai bazaar," and live auction at 3 p.m. each day. Free with admission.

Saturday, 2/29, 8:30am-5pm, Rothenberg Hall. "Unscholarly" Gardens: Rethinking the Gardens of China. By exploring spaces such as monastic gardens, merchant gardens, medicinal gardens, and market

gardens, this symposium will challenge common assumptions about what makes a garden in China. \$15 plus admission (Optional lunch can be pre-ordered at additional cost.) Register online: huntington.org/calendar.



THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION

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

Friday, 2/14, 9-10am. Native Plant Maintenance Basics - Walk & Talk with Tim Becker, TPF Director of Horticulture. An overview of maintenance practices for the California native garden - on TPF grounds. Wear comfortable shoes, a hat and bring water bottle. \$15 members, \$20 non-members. Register online.

Saturday, 2/15, 10-11:30am. Propagating Native Plants from Divisions with Tim Becker, TPF Director of Horticulture. From this hands-on session you'll leave with new plants for your garden! Limit: 10 students. \$30 members, \$40 non-members. Register online.

Saturday, 2/15, 10-11am. Native Plant Flashcard Workshop with Lili Singer, TPF Director of Special Projects, and lead author of our new Native Plants for Southern California Gardens flashcards. Learn how to get the most out of your deck. Attendees must bring their own set. (Buy at TPF or online, or on day of class.) Free, but register online in advance to hold your place.

Saturday, 2/29, 12noon-2:45pm. Theodore Payne and Ralph Cornell: Champions of California's Native Plants with Marie Barnidge-McIntyre, Horticulturist, Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site & Diana Sherwood, TPF's K-12 Educator. Register online. (See full description under Rancho Los Cerritos listing.)



FULLERTON ARBORETUM

1900 Associated Road, Fullerton 92831
657.278.3407 fullertonarboretum.org


Saturday, 2/15, 9am. Medicinal & Edible Plants of the Southwest with herbalist William Broen. Walk and explore the Arboretum to learn about the many uses, past and present, of various California native plants. \$25 members, \$30 non-members.

Thursday, 2/20, 9am. Have you ever wanted to have your own bonsai tree but did not know where to start? Sign up for this class and receive a bonsai tree, basic pot, soil, instructions on care and maintenance, and some history on the art of bonsai. In this class designed for beginners. Instructor will cover topics such as variety of trees, survivability, soil, transplanting and timing, appropriate pots, fertilizers and the various styles of bonsai. At the end of class, you will be leaving with your very own bonsai. \$20 members, \$25 non-members.



Saturday, 2/22, 10am. Friends' Guided Tour. Meet at the Nature Center and join one of our knowledgeable docents as they guide you on a tour through the beautiful garden. Limit 15 people. \$5 donation. Repeats on 4th Saturdays.

Yvonne Savio

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

-  February 13 - Evan Meyer, the Executive Director of the Theodore Payne Foundation for Native Plants, will present a travelogue on South African flora

FEBRUARY VENUE - L.A. Zoo & Botanical Gardens

-  March 12 - Jeremy Spath, landscaper and horticulturist, will present program on Baja California plants
-  April 9 - Tom Spellman of Dave Wilson Nursery will speak on fruit trees for the home orchard

GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH



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

Connect with us at: **818-567-1496** • socalhort.org • facebook.com/socalhort • instagram.com/socalhort

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Next deadline: Monday, February 17 (for March newsletter)
Please contribute an article or information of interest.



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