



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

March 2020

## OUR NEXT MEETING

**Thursday, March 12**

Friendship Auditorium  
3201 Riverside Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90027



**Socializing: 7:00 pm**  
**Meeting begins: 7:30 pm**

## SCHS NEW MEMBERS

Please say hello to:

**Ryan Barmore**

**Mark Hammer**  
**and Chiara Atik**

**Did you know that we  
have membership options  
for households as well as  
for individuals?**

## 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](http://www.socalhort.org)  
[www.facebook.com/pg/socalhort](https://www.facebook.com/pg/socalhort)  
[www.instagram.com/socalhort](https://www.instagram.com/socalhort)

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## Growing Asian Vegetables in Los Angeles

In March, we welcome Florence Nishida, M.S., a Research Associate at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, to present a program on growing Asian vegetables in Los Angeles. She will show us how gardeners and lovers of good food can expand their palette of home-grown vegetables beyond “peas and carrots” by growing Asian vegetables, which have a wide range of unusual shapes, textures, scents and colors.



Nishida's horticultural background includes the study of macro fungi, particularly of California, and she currently teaches a monthly class on mushroom identification for the Los Angeles Mycological Society. In 2008, she joined the Master Gardeners of Los Angeles County to help encourage L.A. residents, most notably in under-resourced communities, to become more self-sufficient by growing food at home. Nishida also started the first edible/teaching garden at the Natural History Museum where she has taught Beginning Vegetable Gardening classes. In 2010 she founded the non-profit L.A. Green Grounds ([www.lagreengrounds.org](http://www.lagreengrounds.org)) to further her teaching goals. With

this group, she has created many front-yard, edible gardens to demonstrate that people can improve their diets, health and physical stamina through the home growing of food.

In this evening's presentation, Nishida will discuss a variety of edible Asian vegetables that can be grown locally alongside the more familiar options we might typically elect to plant. She believes that simple deliciousness, as well as an attractive appearance, can make them desirable garden components. She also hopes to awaken our palates by describing their range of intriguing and sophisticated flavors, so we might choose to experiment with growing and eating Asian vegetables, especially as they are easy to grow!

We look forward to this delectable program, which will provide us with a variety of new choices for planting in our kitchen gardens. And, for the more adventurous, these new flavors may even broaden their culinary skills and introduce the use of both common and special seasonings in interesting combinations. Whatever our level of skill in the garden or the kitchen, this evening can only serve to whet our appetites for more out-of-the-ordinary vegetables, and we hope you will be able to attend.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS & EVENTS

### UPCOMING EVENT: COFFEE IN THE GARDEN

We are pleased to be able to invite members and guests to a very special Coffee In The Garden (CITG) event later this month, at the Ruth Borun Garden in Brentwood - see Insert for Details and Registration information.



### PERKS OF MEMBERSHIP

SCHS's basic \$30 per year membership gets you into monthly meetings and exclusive garden events (like the CITG above) for free. Plus you receive 2 Guest Passes to use for meetings; get to share and exhibit what you're growing; be able to purchase unusual plants at events; receive our monthly newsletter with information about our upcoming guest speakers and programs; plus have access to other unique horticultural opportunities during the year that are exclusive to SCHS.

Check us out online (see web links in content bar above), or, if you're already a member, encourage friends to join...

**NOTE: If non-members attend the March CITG event, their \$10 admission fee can be applied that day toward purchasing an SCHS membership!**

In February, the SCHS met at the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens' Witherbee Auditorium, to listen to "A Tale of Two Floras," presented by Evan Meyer, the newly-appointed Executive Director of the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wildflowers and Native Plants.

Originally from Massachusetts, Meyer's east coast background in horticulture includes botanical positions at Harvard University and the Native Plant Trust, before his relocation to Southern

California, where he has managed the Seed Conservation Program at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont and most recently was the Assistant Director of the UCLA Mildred E. Mathias Botanical Garden.



Photo courtesy of speaker.

The evening's program consisted of a slide show and talk about Meyer's recent horticultural exploration of the flora found in the Western Cape of South Africa, which he compared with native plants found in the California floristic province. He discussed the similarities and differences in the landscapes of these two botanically-rich and diverse Mediterranean-climate regions, as well as how plants make the journey from wild landscapes into gardens.

Meyer reminded us that both regions share a similar climate, vegetation structure and ornamental landscape palette, which is why we are able to grow many South African plants here - particularly shrubs, succulents and bulbs. However, there are specific differences, such as the pH and

structure of the soils, and the average annual precipitation, which affect how well plants from each region will grow as exotics in gardens halfway around the globe. By cross-referencing characteristics of the five major habitats of each region (for example California's coastal sage scrub and South Africa's fynbos), Meyer narrowed down which areas would have the most success if planting occurred in environments corresponding to their foreign counterparts.

Both California and South Africa experience occasional "super bloom" displays of wildflowers, and are home to a wide range of ornamental shrubs, as well as rare and unusual bulbs. Specialty growers in California, like San Francisco's Martin Grantham, are known for the popular South African plants they cultivate, although this type of horticultural exchange is less likely to be found in South Africa, where there is little demand for California plants. With over 9,000 species to focus on in South Africa, the interest in growing other plants is limited.

To conclude his program, Meyer shared stories from his horticultural expedition and the botanists he was traveling with. Many were collecting seeds to bring new plants into cultivation, both for scientific study and data-tracking to determine the viability of eventually growing them commercially. One of Meyer's goals is to encourage biodiversity through growing exotic plants, that have a specific and documented geographic lineage, alongside California natives in our gardens.

✂ Sabine Steinmetz

*Click on the link below to see the entire presentation on SCHS's YouTube channel:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yWT1HLT4h50>

## SCHS MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE

Here are some things gardeners might think about working on during March:

- **Finish your winter clean-up, and ADD FRESH MULCH!**
  - **Finish weeding (before mulching)**
- **Continue cutting back woody perennial shrubs**
- **After mid-month, start planting warm season edibles and annuals**
- **Begin feeding your ornamentals on a schedule**
- **Adjust irrigation on fruit trees as necessary**
- **Harvest & enjoy your Citrus and Avocados - yum!**

✂ Sabine Steinmetz



## COFFEE IN THE GARDEN

Sunday, March 22, 2020 from 10 am to 1 pm



Register online at: [www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org) from March 4 - March 20

(See enclosed flyer for more information.)

### DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY

to see a unique Southern California horticultural gem and hear from the landscape designer who helped create this private garden. This is an event that has been made available exclusively to the SCHS.

Ruth Borun was a longtime SCHS member, often driven to our meetings in later years by her daughter, Nancy. The Borun family is inviting us to enjoy the garden this year at its spring peak.

**REGISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!**



# 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.**

## 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.



## RANCHO LOS CERRITOS

**4600 Virginia Road, Long Beach 90807  
562.206.2040 [rancholoscerritos.org](http://rancholoscerritos.org)**

Saturdays & Sundays, 1-5pm, Visitor Center. Historic Garden Tours, our gardens include trees that date back to the mid-19th century, as well as lush landscaping designed in the early 1930s by notable landscape architect Ralph Cornell. For more information, [www.rancholoscerritos.org/visit/](http://www.rancholoscerritos.org/visit/).



## DESCANSO GARDENS

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

Fridays, 1pm, & Saturdays, 11am & 1pm. Spring Bloom Guided Walks. Stroll the gardens and learn about cherry blossoms, flowering trees, and other seasonal favorites!

Friday, 3/27, Saturday, 3/28 & Sunday, 3/29; 9am-5pm. Tomatomania! Plant Sale - 9am-5pm daily. Select from 100s of healthy seedlings, including heirloom varieties, old favorites and unusual offerings. Tomato Talks - 10:30am and 1:30pm daily. Tomato Cooking Demo - Saturday & Sunday at noon with chefs from The Kitchen for Exploring Foods preparing dishes featuring tomatoes, and their Bloody Mary Bar Saturday & Sunday 10am-4pm.



## LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM

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

Saturday, 3/21, 10am-12noon. Decomposition Ecology + Community Well-Being with Lynn Fang. Explore decomposition through microbial ecology, and learn about the role of soil in climate, human, and community well-being. Discover similarities in processes between sheet mulching, hugelkultur, and composting, and learn about the soil-food-web biochemistry. Free, but pre-register online at [www.arboretum.org/calendar](http://www.arboretum.org/calendar). Questions? Call Education Dept.

Saturday, 3/21, 10am-12noon. Tree Identification with Jerry Turney. Lecture during first hour will cover 20 tree species, followed by a walk in the Arboretum to see those trees. \$20 for members, \$30 for non-members. Register online at [www.arboretum.org/calendar](http://www.arboretum.org/calendar). Questions? Call Education Dept.



## 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 our urban agriculture site's weekly open house and pick up some fresh ideas for sustainable gardening. Experts from the University of California Los Angeles County Master Gardener program will be on hand to answer questions and offer seasonal tips.

Saturday & Sunday, 3/21 & 3/22, 10:30am-5pm, Brody Botanical Center. 63rd Annual Bonsai Show presented by the California Bonsai Society. Discover the timeless appeal of an ancient horticultural art form through dozens of beautiful specimens created by bonsai masters.

Saturday & Sunday, 3/14 & 3/15, 10am-5pm, Brody Botanical Center. Clivia Show & Sale by the Southern California Chapter of the North American Clivia Society. View over 200 plants and prize-winning exhibits; watch how-to demos on clivia care, repotting, and flower arranging; shop for unusual varieties to take home; and cast your vote for the "People's Choice" award.



## THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION

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

Saturday, 3/14, 9am-12noon. Propagating Native Plants from Cuttings with Tim Becker, TPF Director of Horticulture. Learn basic skills of vegetative propagation with various species. Start cuttings in this hands-on session, and leave with a flat of starts for your garden! Workshop is held in our propagation shed and gardens, so come prepared for three hours of standing with up to one mile of walking in the sun. Limit: 10. \$50 Members, \$65 Non-members. Register online.

Saturday, 3/14, 1:30-4:00pm. Native Plant Garden Maintenance with Tim Becker, TPF Director of Operations. Subjects include watering, fertilizing, mulching, pest management and other aspects of maintenance. Discover how native plants respond to pruning cuts, what is triggered with gardening activities, and how to develop good goals. Part of class will be held outdoors; bring your hat and water bottle. \$25 Members, \$35 Non-members. Register online.

Saturday & Sunday, 3/28 & 3/29, 10am-5pm. 2020 Theodore Payne Native Plant Garden Tour. This is a two-day, self-guided journey through the L.A. region's most beautiful and inspiring home landscapes. Meet owners, designers, docents and fellow gardeners to learn about native plants, design, and wildlife habitat. More info. at: [www.nativeplantgardentour.org](http://www.nativeplantgardentour.org). Register online at TPF website.

## RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN

**1500 N. College Ave., Claremont 91711  
909.625.8767 [rsabg.org](http://rsabg.org)**

Saturday, 3/14, 9am-12noon. Nature Journaling. This practice combines art, writing, and science to foster a deeper connection with the natural world. Sharpen your observation and awareness skills and improve your imagination and critical thinking. Join us for guided exercises and be prepared to spend the entire time outside, rain or shine. Wear comfortable clothing, hat, sunscreen, and sturdy shoes that you don't mind getting dirty. Ages 13+. Materials list will be sent upon registration. \$45 Public, \$35 RSABG Members. Register online on Rancho Santa Ana website.

Saturday, 3/28, 10am-12noon. Capturing the Photo: A Beginner's Workshop with botanist and photographer Keir Morse. This introduction to digital photography will have a special emphasis on photographing plants. After a talk on the foundational skills of photography, Keir will lead you into the garden to try these techniques with the native flora. Don't forget your camera! \$35 Public, \$25 RSABG Members. Register online on Rancho Santa Ana website.

Saturday, 3/28, 9am-4:30pm. Spring Plant Sale & Free Entry Day. Celebrate spring with great deals on California native plants at Grow Native Nursery and free admission to the Garden. Shop for drought-tolerant all-stars, butterfly magnets, colorful wildflowers and amazing trees. Walk through our 86-acres for free and see a diversity of mature native plants in a variety of landscapes. Check plant availability on our website, updated weekly.



## SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN

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

Sunday, 3/29, 9am-12noon. Succulent Wall Planter. Learn the basics of planting a living wall for display indoors or out. A 10"x20" frame and succulents in a wide variety of colors, textures and sizes will be provided. \$110 Members, \$116 Non-Members. Fee includes materials. Register by March 23, 2020 at [https://apm.activecommunities.com/sandiegobotanicgarden/Activity\\_Search](https://apm.activecommunities.com/sandiegobotanicgarden/Activity_Search).



## FULLERTON ARBORETUM




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

Thursday, 3/21, 9am. Beginning Bonsai. In this class you'll receive a bonsai tree, basic pot, soil, instructions on care and maintenance, and history on the art of bonsai. Topics will cover variety of trees, survivability, soil, transplanting and timing, appropriate pots, fertilizers and various styles of bonsai. At the end of class, you will be walking out with your very own bonsai. \$20/member, \$25/non-members.

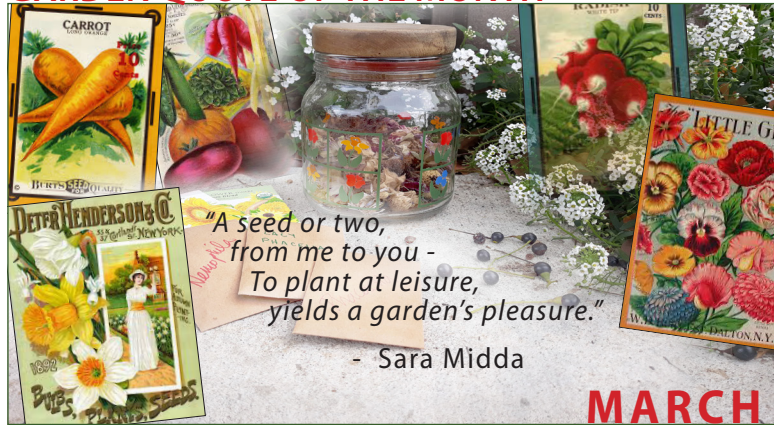
Saturday, 3/28, 10am. Improving Your Home-Composting Skills. Learn how to build and improve your composting system and speed up the process of turning yard clippings and food scraps into soil. \$7/member, \$10/non-members.

Yvonne Savio

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

-  March 12 - Florence Nishida, horticulturist and educator, presents "Growing Asian Vegetables in L.A."
-  April 9 - Tom Spellman of Dave Wilson Nursery will speak on fruit trees for the home orchard
-  May 14 - Program details being finalized - Details TBA (Check online for updates)

## 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

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Newsletter Editor: Sabine Steinmetz

Contributors to this issue: Florence Nishida, Yvonne Savio

**Next deadline: Monday, March 16** (for April newsletter)  
 Please contribute an article or information of interest.



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