



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

June 2020

## OUR NEXT VIRTUAL MEETING

Thursday, June 11  
Webinar begins at 7:30 p.m.



Visit [www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org) for registration info.

## SCHS NEW MEMBERS

We appreciate the ongoing support of our current members and look forward to growing our membership for future generations.

*Membership options are detailed on our website.*

## CONNECT WITH SCHS

We are continuing to increase our online presence to allow members to choose how they would like to engage with us.



### 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)

## IN THIS ISSUE

June Program and Membership News .....	1
May Program Recap, Online Archive and Garden Share ...	2
Horticultural Happenings and SCHS Board Report .....	3
Upcoming Programs and SCHS Contact info. ....	4

*Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the SCHS will be hosting our monthly webinars online in lieu of meeting in person. These presentations will also be archived on YouTube.*

## Using Agaves in Our Landscapes

For our June webinar, the SCHS is pleased to welcome Jeremy Spath, owner of Water's Path, a landscape firm based in the greater San Diego area. He is known for his bold and artistic inclusion of agaves in his gardens, and describes his designs as "lush, drought tolerant, and original". Spath will present a slide show of his designs as well as some of the hybridizing work he does with agaves.

Spath began his plant career at the San Diego Botanic Garden, where a few of his original gardens are still on display. After several years, he moved on to start his landscape contracting business, Water's Path. Additionally, he has worked as the curator for Rancho Soledad Nursery in Rancho Santa Fe, and is an active member of the California Native Plant Society, The Cactus and Succulent Society, and the Cycad Society.

In addition to his work in landscape design-and-build, Spath has also established his own nursery and tissue culture lab, Hidden Agave, in North San Diego County. When not designing and installing gardens he is hybridizing and creating new plants as well as traveling around the world to research the plants he loves that he may better understand them and their habitat, because he believes nature is the best landscaper.

We will be seeing examples of his work during this evening's webinar, including the Cardiff Library and various collections at the San Diego Botanic Garden. To see more of his design and hybridizing work, you can visit his websites: [spathgardens.com](http://spathgardens.com), and [hiddenagave.com](http://hiddenagave.com), as well as checking out his beautiful Instagram page at [hiddenagave](https://www.instagram.com/hiddenagave).

We are looking forward to seeing Spath's presentation and learning how we might be able to use these incredible plants in our own landscapes.

Hope to "see" you there... please invite your friends too!



Photo and text courtesy of speaker.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS & EVENTS

### UPCOMING WEBINARS

For the foreseeable future, we will not be able to host in-person meetings and are scheduling webinars at least through August. The March and April speakers who were cancelled at short notice will be among those considered for upcoming meetings, as well as other notable names in horticulture. All of the online meetings will be available to view on our YouTube channel after they have aired live.



### SCHS ONLINE ACTIVITIES

As we continue to quarantine at home and practice safe social habits, the SCHS has been more active on our social media outlets, inviting participation in various activities. Among other things, we have:

- Hosted several Instagram contests during April in support of the floral industry struggling this spring
- Had a prize giveaway after our May birding webinar - and will have another in June!

We also continue to provide information about local resources and activities currently available to SoCal gardeners.

*Our online media platforms are listed above under "Connect with SCHS".*

After a two month suspension of activities, the SCHS resumed the presentation portion of our monthly meetings in May with an online webinar featuring popular speaker Sandy Masuo talking about “Winging It: Birding Basics for Gardeners.”

Masuo is an editor, educator, author, and conservationist, and holds a BA from Brown University and an Ed. M from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Since 2003, she has been the associate editor in the publications division at the Los Angeles Zoo, and from 2010 to 2014, served on the SCHS board. Masuo also teaches a variety of classes including succulent gardening and birding at local community colleges as well as sharing her knowledge on the lecture circuit. Her full bio and current activities can be found on her website at: [www.sandymasuo.com](http://www.sandymasuo.com).

Masuo began the program by describing the evolution of birds and their anatomy. In short, most of their physical adaptations exist to enable flight, and because flight expends so much energy, birds are always eating to refuel. Their digestive systems are very simple so that they can replenish their fuel for flight without carrying much weight around. And this is where the relationship of gardening to birds comes in.

Gardeners who are looking to attract more bird species can begin by offering appropriate food sources to draw them in, namely plants. Instead of putting out bird feeders which also appeal to rats and squirrels and can breed bacteria, plant life will bring in birds by offering nectar, insect treats and seeds. Also, a varied habitat will encourage more visitors by offering shelter, nesting materials and water in

addition to food. Water sources appeal to all birds, whereas birds are selective about food. However, water must be refreshed every few days to stay clean, bacteria-free and to prevent mosquito infestations.

Masuo then listed garden plants that attract a variety of birds, ranging from sycamores and oaks to grasses. Specifically, she mentioned shrubs and plants such as Toyon, Elderberry, Gasteria, Bulbine, Salvia, Helianthus, Eriogonum and Aloe as being successful at bringing in assorted species. Aloes in particular were mentioned as excellent hummingbird plants. She also encouraged minimizing the use of pesticides because they destroy bugs which birds would otherwise be eating.

Additionally, Masuo spoke about taking measures to avoid window-strikes by birds and how to mitigate light pollution which can confuse, distract and disrupt migrating birds. Resources were also provided for those interested in obtaining gear to pursue bird-watching as a hobby. She mentioned that we currently have increased opportunities to experience birds because our environments are quieter during this time of quarantine and many people are at home more to see their local birds.

Following the presentation, the program offered a live Q & A session for attendees, and featured a virtual prize wheel which awarded one lucky winner the book *Birds of Southern California*, from the Theodore Payne Foundation for Native Plants, plus a bird feeder from Wild Wings LA!

While webinars are not an ideal substitute for in-person meetings, and this was a new experience for many, we were able to register over 100 “attendees”. We are planning to continue the interactive portion of these virtual meetings as we move forward, including offering prize incentives for registrants. We hope to increase viewership and awareness, as well as encourage more people to become active members of the SCHS.

 Sabine Steinmetz

*Click on the link below to see the entire presentation (including plant & resource lists) on SCHS's YouTube channel:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l0fXisGpOiy>

## SCHS MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE

As temperatures begin heating up throughout June, you might want to:

- **Adjust your irrigation by increasing OR decreasing times, depending on the types of plants**
- **Make sure your containers are watered more frequently and your trees get a deep soaking monthly**
- **Finish mulching to help regulate soil temperatures**
- **Continue feeding your ornamentals and edibles on a regular schedule**
- **Harvest your edibles to keep them producing throughout the summer months**
- **Slow down on the chores a bit and enjoy your garden!**

 Sabine Steinmetz

## SCHS Meetings Archived on YouTube

The SCHS is always looking for new ways to reach out to a wider audience to increase awareness of our organization, share knowledge, and encourage more gardeners to consider becoming members.

To this end, we have been steadily increasing our online presence, including growing our YouTube

channel, which has already been active for a year. Videos of monthly meetings and other activities have been archived and can easily be accessed for anyone wishing to view these presentations.

It is our hope that as we grow our library of videos, we will also experience growth as an organization.

Part of our mission is education, which we wish to continue providing for many future generations of Southern California gardeners as we have done since 1937.

You can link to our YouTube channel below, and please encourage your interested friends to check us out too.

*Thank you for your support!*

View SCHS on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYYBy88Q361IQVnV69qgmGg>

## PANDEMIC IMPACT ON LOCAL GARDEN VENUES

Due to the restrictions on social engagement during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a number of our local botanic and public gardens, as well as venues providing resources and education for gardeners, continue to remain closed, or are only offering limited activities.

*NOTE: Those that are beginning to reopen will have various social distancing measures in place, which may differ from one location to another.*

Please support your local favorites, but check with individual venues for up-to-date hours, activities and entry requirements if you are planning a visit.

Below is contact information for organizations we feature regularly in our monthly calendar.

**CALIFORNIA BOTANIC GARDEN**  
(formerly RANCHO SANTA ANA)  
1500 N. College Ave., Claremont 91711  
909.625.8767 [www.calbg.org](http://www.calbg.org)

**CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**  
SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS CHAPTER  
1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena 91107  
818.398.5420 [www.cnps-sgm.org](http://www.cnps-sgm.org)

**CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**  
L.A./Sta Monica Mtns Chapter / Sepulveda Garden Ctr  
16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino 91436  
818-782-9346 [www.lacnps.org](http://www.lacnps.org)

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

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

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

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

**HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS**  
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino 91108  
626.405.2100 [www.huntington.org](http://www.huntington.org)

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

**NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF L.A.**  
900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles 90007  
213.763.3466 [www.nhm.org](http://www.nhm.org)

**RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS**  
6400 E. Bixby Hill Rd., Long Beach 90815  
562.431.3541 [www.rancholosalamitos.org](http://www.rancholosalamitos.org)

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

**SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN**  
230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas 92024  
760.436.3036 [www.sdbgarden.org](http://www.sdbgarden.org)

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

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

**U.C. RIVERSIDE BOTANIC GARDENS**  
900 University Ave., Riverside 92521  
951-784-6962 [www.gardens.ucr.edu](http://www.gardens.ucr.edu)

*Please visit [www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org) for updates on information about venues and events.*

## REPORT TO MEMBERS FROM THE SCHS BOARD

During these unprecedented and challenging times, we, the board members of the Southern California Horticultural Society like everyone else, are trying to adapt to changing circumstances while striving to maintain some normalcy in our lives. This includes supporting the continued operations and activities of the SCHS and planning for our future.

To that end, the board has continued meeting to discuss ongoing issues as

well as working on new challenges that have arisen in recent months.




Among current agenda items directly affecting our members are challenges such as finding ways to make events - like the postponed Ruth Borun garden visit - once again available as soon as possible, even if tours will have to be virtual ones for the time being. We are also drafting an updated mission statement that will be a reflection of the society's evolution

since its inception while giving thought to having greater outreach in the future, and considering other ways we can be of value to our existing members.

Since we are unable at present to report to you at our monthly meetings, we will instead keep you updated via the newsletter, our website and our other social media platforms. Please feel free to also contact us with any questions, concerns or suggestions.

 the SCHS Board

*Until we are able to meet again in person, monthly programs will continue be scheduled as online webinars.*

-  June 11 - Jeremy Spath, owner of Water's Path landscaping, will present a program on agaves for the garden  
 WEBINAR
-  July 9 - Yvonne Savio, UC Master Gardener & author of the Gardening in LA blog, will talk about edible gardening  
 WEBINAR
-  August 13 - Program details being confirmed - TBA soon -  
 Check online at [www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org)

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

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Contributors to this issue: Jeremy Spath

**Next deadline: Monday, June 15** (for July newsletter)  
 Please contribute an article or information of interest.



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 Pasadena CA 91109-4476

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