



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

July 2020

## OUR NEXT VIRTUAL MEETING

**Thursday, July 9**

Webinar begins  
at 7:30 p.m.



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

## SCHS NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome:

*Hannah Fleming  
Kendra Gorlitsky  
Daniel Keatinge  
Kimberly Morgan  
Michelle Murray  
Fran Perez  
Teresa Sanders  
Evelynn Stevens  
Lucy Frances Stone  
Carrie Todesco*

## CONNECT WITH SCHS

We invite members to engage with  
us online until we can meet again.

### 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)



*All membership options  
are also listed on our website.*

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

## Veggies Taste Better When You Grow Your Own!

What's better than spending time outdoors in your own little paradise, watching butterflies, playing mud patties, and nurturing plants that you end up eating? This is heaven for gardeners, and in July, the SCHS is pleased to be able to have board member and Master Gardener Yvonne Savio present a very timely program on growing your own veggies. During this time of quarantine, many of us are spending more time at home, so it's no surprise that there has also been an increased interest in home edible gardening. We are certain that Savio is just the person to tell us how to manage our own vegetable patch!

Savio grew up on a 3/4-acre hillside lot in Pasadena where her family grew fruits,

others to enjoy the benefits of "growing your own." For 36 years, she worked for the University of California, conferring with statewide vegetable, fruit, and ornamentals specialists; then she revitalized the Los Angeles County Master Gardener Volunteer Program. Savio taught 1150 Master Gardeners who in turn served 1.3 million county residents. Since she retired in 2015, she continues to inspire home gardeners through presentations and by providing monthly tips as well as blogging on her [www.GardeningInLA.net](http://www.GardeningInLA.net) website. She also invites everyone to participate by submitting gardening events and job opportunities that are open to the public.

During this presentation, Savio will discuss the distinctions between warm-season and cool-season edibles, techniques of seeding, transplanting, preparing the soil, fertilizing, irrigating, mulching, and the payoff - harvesting. We are also planning on having a Q & A session after her talk, so come prepared to pick Savio's brain as you prepare to plant and pick your very own veggies at home this year.

Since this will be another webinar program, please invite friends to tune in as well, so we can all learn to "grow our own" the right way!

vegetables and flowers year-round using lots of manure and compost and "making do" before it was called recycling or repurposing. She knows what "harvested at the perfect moment of ripeness" means and enjoys enabling

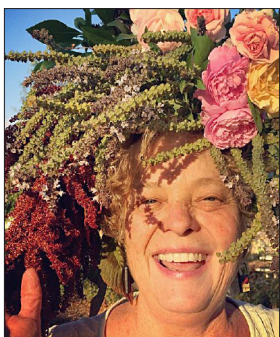


Photo and text courtesy of speaker.

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## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### SCHS MAKES DONATIONS

Throughout the country, events of the last month have generated ongoing dialogues across society, including within the SCHS. In immediate response, and in solidarity with people of color, we have made donations to the Equal Justice Initiative and to the University of California Master Gardener Fund for Los Angeles County.

Further, we have added the following statement to the home page of our website:

*The Southern California Horticultural Society condemns violence and injustice toward any person based on race, identity or belief. We strive to be a safe and welcoming space for all plant lovers that is inclusive and accessible to everyone in the Los Angeles area.*

We are actively working on how to achieve a higher level of accessibility through all of our activities, including future speakers, programs and field trips.



### SCHS ONLINE ACTIVITIES

The SCHS continues to share horticultural knowledge while we stay safely at home. With two well-attended webinars behind us, we are considering options for other online offerings. Our YouTube catalog of videos is growing and serves as both an introduction to the SCHS for the curious, and an archival reference for anyone interested. If you and your friends have not already done so, check us out and...

Please give us feedback too!

*All of our online platforms are  
listed above under "Connect with SCHS"*

Last month the SCHS presented its second webinar, this time on the subject of agaves. While originally scheduled for June 11, the presentation by Jeremy Spath of Water's Path landscaping and Hidden Agave nursery was cancelled last minute due to unforeseen circumstances. However, SCHS's excellent program committee was able to book another agave specialist to give a talk on June 25.



In his presentation "Agaves for the Landscape", nursery owner and author Greg Starr covered the basics about agaves, broken down into fascinating "tidbits" and then shared what he considers to be some of the best species for landscape use in the Southwestern United States. Starr Nursery is a mail order business established in July of 1995 and specializes in cactus and



Photo from speaker's website.

succulents, with a particular emphasis on agaves. Born and raised in Tucson, Arizona, Starr grew to love flora and fauna of the desert, and eventually received a degree in horticulture from the University of Arizona in 1979. His first trip to Baja California was in 1981 with noted Sonoran Desert botanists Dr. Ray Turner and Dr. Tony Burgess, and from there on he was hooked on agaves. He has made many return trips to see these plants in habitat, and many of his slide show images showed them in the wild as well as in landscapes.

Starr began his presentation with an overview of this New World genus, comprised of 250-300 species, by describing their basic differences and

showing pictorial examples of each. For instance, agaves typically have one of two types of inflorescences – spicate and paniculate – and a third, intermediate type (racemose) usually indicative of hybrids. He also described the two basic vegetative forms (solitary and offsetting) and provided multiple photos of each. Further, Starr explained that while agaves usually grow in the full sun in their native habitat, they are not actually desert plants because they are mostly found above the desert proper and at higher elevations. He then presented examples of agave species grouped into five size categories ranging from approx. 12"-60+", and provided suggestions for landscape applications of numerous species. He also spoke about general planting and care guidelines for agaves, as well as the individual culture for many of his examples.

Following the presentation, the SCHS again offered a live Q & A session for attendees with Starr providing useful tips about the growing, propagating and general care of agaves. (All of the Q & A can be found at the end of the archived YouTube video. See link at end of article.) Also, SCHS's social media maven and Zoom host, Erin Castillo, "spun" our virtual prize wheel, awarding the winner a copy of Starr's 2012 book *Agaves: Living Sculptures for Landscapes*. His first book, *Cool Plants for Hot Gardens*, is currently out of print, but he is working on revising it by next year. He was also a coauthor for the *Field Guide to the Cacti and Other Succulents of Arizona* which will be heading into its third edition sometime this year.

For more information about Starr, agaves, and his nursery, please visit: [www.starr-nursery.com](http://www.starr-nursery.com).

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=2PBxLPjiA2I>

## SCHS MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE

During July, we suggest you:

- Continue monitoring your irrigation, especially for containers, annuals and trees
- Harvest your edibles to keep them producing throughout the summer months
- Protect your fruits and veggies from critters by covering plants with mesh bird-netting and consider picking self-ripening fruits before their peak, to store indoors
- Slow down on the big chores - enjoy harvesting, maybe do a little dead-heading - but relax, stay hydrated and try to take it easy in the garden!
- It's never too early to start planning for your fall planting...

Sabine Steinmetz

## Analyzing SCHS Webinar Data & More

The SCHS had good attendance at both our May and June webinars, as well as gaining almost a dozen new members (see list on page 1). We are analyzing data to ascertain to what extent our growing online presence is influencing virtual attendees who may be considering membership. Additionally, feedback from members

(and others) helps us when evaluating what speakers, programs and other events to schedule in the future.

Regardless, our increased presence online has translated into more engagement with the people visiting our various platforms, and that in itself is a positive thing. We cannot operate in a vacuum if we wish to grow and

meet the needs of future generations of Southern California gardeners.

Please support us in this effort to increase our outreach by encouraging friends to check out past events on our YouTube channel (link below). And please, let us hear from you too!

*Thank you for helping us grow!*

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

## COVID-19 UPDATES FOR 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: Organizations below that have reopened as of press time are marked  Those with only an online presence, or holding virtual meetings, are marked *

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.

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

*Many of your favorite nurseries have also reopened and would appreciate your support!*

## REPORT TO MEMBERS FROM THE SCHS BOARD

The Southern California Horticultural Society board has been communicating continually, and have two meetings scheduled in July to work on issues outlined in the June newsletter as well as others. We will keep the membership

apprised of organizational news as we move forward.

Please check online for the most up-to-date information on all our happenings, and reach out if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions. Board members

and committees they serve on are listed on Page 4 of this newsletter.


*Thank you for being  
a part of our organization!*

 the SCHS Board



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

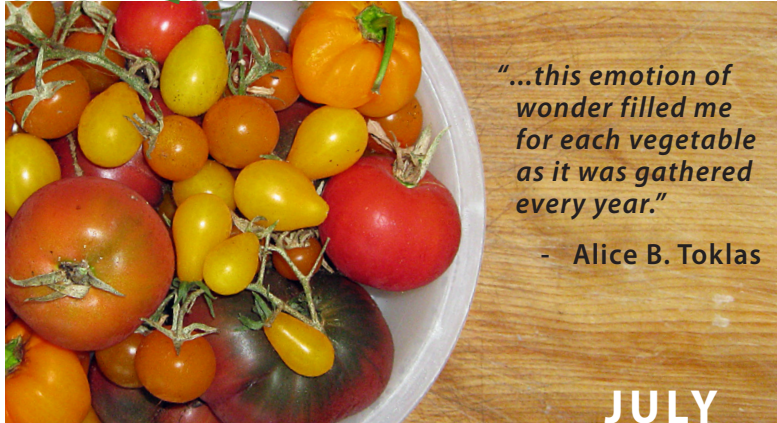
 July 9 - Yvonne Savio, UC Master Gardener & author of the Gardening in LA blog, will talk about edible gardening  
WEBINAR

 August 13 - Program details being confirmed - TBA soon -  
Check online at [www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org)

You can find other SCHS news, program announcements, horticultural trivia and more, by visiting:

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

## GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH



*"...this emotion of wonder filled me for each vegetable as it was gathered every year."*

- Alice B. Toklas

**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)

Newsletter Editor: Sabine Steinmetz

Contributors to this issue: Greg Starr

**Next deadline: Monday, July 13** (for August newsletter)  
Please contribute an article or information of interest.



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