

The SCHS held its first in-person meeting in 18 months on August 12 and live-streamed it simultaneously for those preferring to watch via Zoom. To mark the occasion, we welcomed horticulturist and educator Jill Morganelli to speak about "Gardening Tools of The Trade," most of which she brought along for a show & tell presentation so she could demonstrate their attributes and educate us about their care. The tools she selected were her personal favorites that she has tried and tested over the years and describes as "Arboretum tough" when Morganelli worked for ten years as Horticultural Supervisor at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden. She currently instructs the Gardening Practices and Techniques class in the UCLA Extension Horticulture and Gardening Certificate Program where she is also on the Horticulture Advisory Board. Her hands-on experiences with a broad range of tools provided the basis for her talk which had valuable information for both novice and experienced gardeners.

Morganelli knows that having the right equipment for any job will give you the best chance for success, including proper gear, and began by reviewing several types of gloves she prefers for different tasks. The first tools she shared were her favorite top-quality brands of hand-pruners (bypass, ratchet, loppers) at a range of price points, but all of which can have a long life with proper

maintenance, a topic she covered in the following segment. Morganelli recommended the Speedy Sharp knife sharpener as must-have to keep on hand at all times for quick touch-ups, and also to extend the life of our tools with routine maintenance. She demonstrated the correct technique for holding and angling the tool when sharpening blades and advised using a soy-based lubricant on the blades afterward to keep them loose. Moving on, Morganelli covered numerous tools and their specific uses, including shovels, sickles, folding, hand and reciprocating saws, brooms, rakes, Hori Hori knives, hoes, assorted irrigation tools and even her preferred tool bag, hat, boots and water bottle. During her talk, she reiterated that all of the selections shown were her own recommendations, based on personal experiences and that she was not being compensated to endorse any particular brands or manufacturers.

After concluding her enlightening slide show, Morganelli demonstrated a few tools for video close-ups and then took audience questions. A brief break followed, during which attendees were able to resume checking out the plant forum selections that were on exhibit and/or continue browsing for plants and books that were available for purchase. The evening concluded with an appropriately-themed raffle featuring a range of international hand pruners donated by SCHS vice-president Steve Gerischer from his personal collection, making a number of the people even more glad to have ventured out for a much anticipated return to an in-person event.

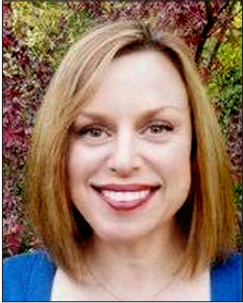
✂ Sabine Steinmetz

NOTE: *all tools - and sources that they are available from - were projected in a slide show that was running as Morganelli spoke, and can be reviewed on our YouTube channel.*

Click on link below to view this presentation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yGq2Ii1RNPg>

Photo supplied by speaker.



SCHS MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE

Hot days are coming during September, but so is the first day of autumn, so let's plan accordingly...

- Maintain your watering regime and plan to give extra ahead of when Santa Ana winds are due.
- Start moving spent veggies into your compost and begin sowing seeds of leafy greens and other cool-season veggies. Don't allow seeds to dry out.
- Fertilize roses once more to give them a final push for fall blooms.
- Divide healthy but crowded perennials and replant (if it's not too hot) or keep divisions shaded and moist for fall planting.
- Begin shopping for bulbs so you can chill them in the fridge for 6-8 weeks before planting.
- Cool off indoors and finalize your plans for planting season which begins next month!

✂ Sabine Steinmetz

SCHS VIDEO ARCHIVES - LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Our growing video archive of Speakers, Plant Forums, Events and more is becoming a valuable horticultural resource covering an increasing variety of topics.

Watch SCHS on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/c/SouthernCaliforniaHorticulturalSociety>

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