



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

January 2021

## OUR NEXT VIRTUAL MEETING

**Thursday, January 14**

Announcements at 7:10 p.m.

Plant Forum at 7:15 p.m.

Webinar at 7:30 p.m.



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

## SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

*Helping us get 2021 off to  
a good start is:*

**Julie Molinare**

*Looking forward to  
a great year in our gardens!*

## 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.*

## IN THIS ISSUE

January Program and  
Membership News ..... 1

December Program Recap  
and Garden Share ..... 2

Horticultural Happenings and  
Borun Speaker Details ..... 3

Upcoming Programs and  
SCHS Contact info. .... 4

*Until we are able to meet again in person, the SCHS continues to host monthly webinars and other virtual events. Presentations are being archived on YouTube for your viewing convenience.*

## Planting California Natives Created a Wildlife Oasis!

The SCHS will be ringing in the new year on January 14 with a unique presentation by Scott Logan, a graphic artist and wildlife photographer who is currently serving as the Gottlieb Native Garden's

Photo courtesy of speaker.



naturalist, where he is documenting its wildlife, coordinating university research projects and monitoring the overall health of the garden. For over five years, he has devoted himself to documenting and photographing the wildlife in the Gottlieb garden, revealing the astonishing range of biodiversity that's capable of thriving in our backyards – or apartment window boxes – when the right plants and habitat are established.

Logan's webinar will focus on the wildlife he has documented in his new book, *The Gottlieb Native Garden: An Intimate Wildlife Journey*. During the 1990s, in an effort to conserve water and provide habitat for wildlife, Susan and Dan Gottlieb began replacing the exotic ornamentals in their Beverly Hills garden with California native plants. The result

was the now-renowned urban oasis that has been a haven for researchers, educators and a broad range of environmental groups. The garden is known for the immense numbers of hummingbirds it attracts and has become a major research site for the UC Davis Hummingbird Health and Conservation Program. Logan is a collaborator with the UC Davis program and is currently working on obtaining his Federal Hummingbird Banding Permit.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Logan has been observing the city's remarkable urban wildlife since childhood, which has influenced his career choices, including being an active wildlife lecturer, bird tour leader and a partner in Wild Wings Ecology. His photographs and graphic designs have been featured in books, magazines and scientific periodicals, and *The Gottlieb Native Garden: An Intimate Wildlife Journey* is available for purchase online from Wild Wings Backyard Nature at [www.wildwingsla.com](http://www.wildwingsla.com).

Whether you have visited the Gottlieb garden previously, or this virtual tour will be your first, this webinar is sure to be an inspiring way to begin your gardening journey in 2021. We look forward to seeing all of you there!

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### INAUGURAL SPEAKER SET FOR BORUN SERIES

The SCHS is very pleased to announce that the first speaker we will be hosting in the newly-established Ruth Borun Lecture Series will be Jennifer Jewell, host of the public radio podcast *Cultivating Place*. Her presentation is titled "How a Garden Culture of Care Strengthens Places and Their People" – a topic that should resonate with our membership and beyond – so tell your friends to tune in!

### SAVE THE DATE

**Thursday, February 11, 2021**

(See page 3 for more details.)



### NEW MEMBERSHIP LEVELS IN 2021

While trying to stay relevant to our existing and loyal members, and also attract a larger base for the future, the SCHS board will be rolling out new membership levels shortly.

### MEMBERSHIP DUES WILL NOT INCREASE

The updated levels of membership will offer tiered benefits to allow for a greater number of people to select a level that fits both their horticultural interests and budgets. We hope you will continue to support the SCHS with a renewed membership in 2021 – and invite your friends to join too!

**HAPPY New Year**

To close out the year, and just in time for “rose pruning season”, on December 10 the SCHS was pleased to have Steve Gerischer present a program on growing roses using organic gardening practices. He focused on the procedures he has personally found to work best in Southern California gardens during the time he has been growing roses without using chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Gerischer began his professional horticultural career at Smith & Hawken, and then worked at Hortus Nursery in Pasadena until it closed. He has also been designing and installing gardens for many years as the owner of Larkspur Garden Design, and is currently the vice president of the Southern California Horticultural Society.

His program was titled “Mission Possible: Growing Roses Organically”, and Gerischer spoke about the many lessons he’s learned through experience, beginning with how he had very little interest in roses to begin with. It was not until he began working at Smith and Hawken that he began to appreciate them. While working at Hortus, Gerischer was charged with ordering bare root roses and he decided to educate himself about rose history, giving him a greater understanding of their biology and how to grow them successfully. He recommended reading Peter Beales’ *Classic Roses* and *The Rose* by David Austin as excellent resources to learn more about rose-growing history.

Historically speaking, wild roses are non-remontant (once-blooming), and it wasn’t until the late 1700s to early 1800s that repeat bloomers from China were introduced to Europe. Gerischer explained that the bloodlines of these re-bloomers run through today’s garden roses, and that by understanding their nature we can learn how to better cultivate them. Remontant roses are most likely to bloom twice (in spring and in fall) if allowed to grow naturally, given only water and without constant fertilizing. They should “rest” during the summer - when less water is available - so they can re-bloom in the fall. Most modern rose cultivars are grafted onto vigorous rootstock, with the scion selected for its desired qualities (color, size, scent, etc.). However, Gerischer also recommended trying “own root” varieties (available online) which can be very long-lived and are generally healthier.

He spoke next about the growth needs of roses, specifically the nutrients required by all breeds, namely nitrogen (N), phosphorous (P) and potassium (K), whose initials can be found on all commercial

packaging in various ratios. Gerischer has used organically certified brands, recognizable by the OMRI designation, for a variety of reasons during the last 27 years. Not only do the organics allow for a more habitat-friendly garden, by allowing insects (pests as well as beneficials) to appear on the plants, which in turn bring in birds to eat them, but they also contribute to plant health and soil fertility. All of these factors encourage seasonal cycles of growth, dormancy, etc. that build a healthier garden over time, although he did indicate that switching to organics is at first, slower, messier and most likely problematic, which will level off after a few seasons.

During the period of adjustment, you will see more problems and pests appear (such as aphids), but once the plants are weaned off inorganic chemicals, they will strengthen, and instances of pest infestations should reduce significantly. Because plants take up the nitrogen in organic food more slowly, they will not send out lots of tender shoots rapidly, which are what attract more aphids. New growth on organically fed roses usually appears within six weeks, and is more vigorous in resisting pests. For the smaller quantities of aphids that do appear, Gerischer recommended hosing them off with water, or rubbing them off by hand. Typical rose foliage problems can also be mitigated through the use of organics, again, because the plants can develop at a slower pace and thereby increase their own resistance over time. However, he noted two exceptions, chilli thrips and rose rosette disease, which may only respond to chemical pesticides. Finally, for problems with cane borers he advised cutting the cane back until there was no sign of any hole, and then “sealing” the top of the cut with chapstick. Routine care advice included watering well (based on soil type), light mulching twice a year, regular inspections to head off problems, and eliminating weak plants that cannot significantly improve no matter how much effort you expend on them.

To wrap up, Gerischer shared his annual rose chores calendar, beginning with November, when he stops dead-heading, allowing rose hips to form, and thereby signaling the plant to start entering dormancy. In late December and continuing through January, it’s time to strip all the foliage off the plants, as well as remove it from the ground, and then dispose of it (do not compost). Then pruning can occur, and Gerischer gave specific tips for different types

of roses. Once pruned, he feeds them with a sulphur, potassium and magnesium mixture, and then top-dresses with alfalfa meal, to feed plants slowly until his seasonal applications of fertilizer begin in March. Gerischer uses compost, chicken manure, compost tea and fish emulsion. Peak bloom typically occurs around April 15, and from then on he cuts flowers (effectively pruning and encouraging further growth), into early summer. He stops fertilizing his roses in late June, early July, and also slows down on his watering. He resumes feeding and watering in mid-September, in anticipation of fall blooms, and then stops fertilizing in October, so the plants can once again slow down, bringing the year to a close.

You can review this presentation and hear all of Gerischer’s tips, including specific roses he recommends growing, and answers to audience questions, by visiting the SCHS archives on our YouTube channel.

✂ Sabine Steinmetz

*To watch this program on YouTube, click the following link:*

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

## SCHS MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE

*Let’s start the year slowly, but get on to the right track...*

- Finish rose pruning & planting (see video link above for tips)
- Cut back grape & berry vines
- Prune fruit trees, including apple, pear & stone fruits
- Rake up/compost deciduous leaves, retaining some leaf mold to protect & feed plant roots
- Continue to reduce irrigation, but deep-water trees if needed
- Clean swales, gutters & drains


✂ Sabine Steinmetz

*Learn more about SCHS and check us out online at:*

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

## JANUARY HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

### COVID-19 UPDATES FOR LOCAL GARDEN VENUES

Organizations below that have reopened as of press time are marked   
Those with only an online presence, or holding virtual meetings, are marked 

Please continue to check with individual venues for updated info if you are planning a visit.

#### FREE WORKSHOP - ANNUAL ROSE PRUNING

*Dominguez Rancho Adobe Museum, Rancho Dominguez*

Saturday, January 30, 2021 & Sunday, January 31 from 10 am to 3 pm

Free rose pruning workshop at Rancho Dominguez, 18127 South Alameda Street, Rancho Dominguez. The Rancho Adobe Museum will implement all Health and Safety protocols associated with COVID-19, including social distancing, wearing a mask, and sanitizing stations.

Workshop participants will receive snacks, refreshments, light lunch, and a succulent to take home! Limited capacity participation, so please RSVP as soon as possible to Esteisi Lagos, [esteisi.lagos@dominguezrancho.org](mailto:esteisi.lagos@dominguezrancho.org). For more information go to: [dominguezrancho.org](http://dominguezrancho.org)

 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.lasmmcnps.org](http://www.lasmmcnps.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)

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

 Yvonne Savio  
[www.gardeninginla.net/blog](http://www.gardeninginla.net/blog)

## SCHS RUTH BORUN LECTURE SERIES INAUGURAL PROGRAM

### CULTIVATING PLACE: HOW A GARDEN CULTURE OF CARE STRENGTHENS PLACES AND THEIR PEOPLE

*Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 7:30 pm*

Presented by Jennifer Jewell, host of the national award-winning weekly public radio program and podcast *Cultivating Place: Conversations on Natural History and the Human Impulse to Garden*

This special program - the first in the SCHS's Ruth Borun Lecture Series - will explore the philosophy of Jewell's *Cultivating Place* podcast that gardens/gardeners are powerful agents and spaces for potentially positive change in our world. Challenges covered range from addressing climate change, to habitat loss, to cultural polarization, to individual as well as communal health and being. Jewell provides examples of important plant-based work being done by women around the world that are profiled in her book *The Earth in Her Hands*, and innovative place-based gardens that celebrate western landscapes in her upcoming book, *Under Western Skies*.

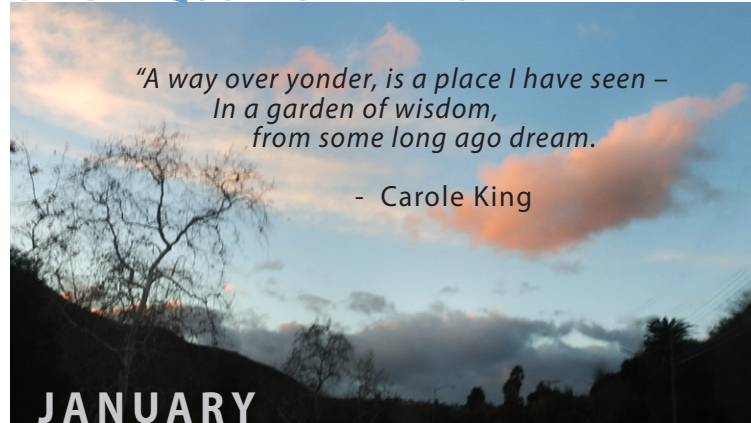
REGISTRATION INFORMATION TO BE POSTED SOON AT [WWW.SOCALHORT.ORG](http://WWW.SOCALHORT.ORG)



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

-  January 14 - Scott Logan, current naturalist at Gottlieb Native Garden, shares "Planting California Natives Created a Wildlife Oasis!"  
WEBINAR
-  February 11 - RUTH BORUN LECTURE SERIES INAUGURAL PROGRAM  
WEBINAR  
Jennifer Jewell, host of *Cultivating Place*, on "How a Garden Culture of Care Strengthens Places & Their People"
-  March 11 - David Brenner, founder of Habitat Horticulture  
WEBINAR  
to present a program about living walls
-  April 8 - Michael Martinez, master gardener and founder of  
WEBINAR  
L.A. Compost will speak about composting

## GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH



*"A way over yonder, is a place I have seen –  
In a garden of wisdom,  
from some long ago dream.*

- Carole King

JANUARY



Southern California  
Horticultural Society  
P.O. Box 94476  
Pasadena CA 91109-4476

NEWSLETTER January 2021

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: Scott Logan, Yvonne Savio

**Next deadline: Monday, January 18** (for February newsletter)  
*Please contribute an article or information of interest.*