



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

February 2021

OUR NEXT VIRTUAL MEETING

Thursday, February 11

*No Announcements or
Plant Forum this month*

Webinar at 7:30 p.m.



Visit: www.socalhort.org
for registration info.

SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Joining us in January were:

Leigh Adams
Aaron Harpold
Wendy Rosenstein

*Thank you for letting us be
a part of your gardening life.*

CONNECT WITH SCHS

Please engage with us online!

FIND US AT:

www.socalhort.org
www.facebook.com/pg/socalhort
www.instagram.com/socalhort



All membership options
are also listed on our website.

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SCHS PRESENTS THE INAUGURAL PROGRAM IN THE RUTH BORUN LECTURE SERIES

Cultivating Place: How a Garden Culture of Care Strengthens Places and Their People

On February 11, the SCHS is pleased to welcome Jennifer Jewell as the first speaker in our newly-established Ruth Borun Lecture Series. Jewell is the host of the national award-winning weekly public radio program and podcast *Cultivating Place*, and her presentation will explore the philosophy of her podcast - that gardeners and gardens are powerful agents and spaces for potentially positive change in our world.

Jewell's greatest passion is elevating the way we think and talk about gardening, the empowerment of gardeners, and the possibility inherent in the intersection between culture and gardens. She believes that gardening can help address challenges as wide-ranging as climate change, habitat loss, cultural polarization, and individual and communal health and well-being. This philosophy is exemplified by the important plant-based work being done by women

around the world as profiled in Jewell's book *The Earth in Her Hands*, and the innovative place-based gardens that celebrate western landscapes in her upcoming book, *Under Western Skies*. Her talk will draw from both books, which are available on her website at: www.cultivatingplace.com.

The SCHS has invited Jewell to present the inaugural program in our Ruth Borun Lecture Series, because her philosophy is in direct alignment with Borun's own gardening legacy. As a long-time SCHS member, Borun cultivated a highly-regarded garden while immersing herself in the people, places and plants of the world of horticulture. It was in honor of her memory that the Borun family has funded the Ruth Borun Lecture Series to present significant horticulture speakers to fellow and future members of the SCHS. (You can find a profile of Ruth Borun on page 3.)

We are looking forward with great anticipation to this program, and hope you will be able to spend the evening with us. Registration is now open at: www.socalhort.org.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

SCHS WEBSITE UPDATES

PLANT FORUM OPEN TO ALL

If you have been enjoying our virtual Plant Forum, please consider sharing what you are growing! All members are eligible to participate, and a link to the submission form can be found in the first paragraph on our website's home page.

Click here to show us your plants!



NEW MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

Whether you have been a longtime SCHS member, or just recently joined, you will now have more membership levels to choose from the next time you renew, plus

MEMBERSHIP DUES REMAIN THE SAME!

Also, we are pleased to now offer an online only option for just \$15 annually. This is a great choice for horticulture students and those being more budget-conscious at this time, or as an introductory level for the curious who have been watching our webinars and would like to support SCHS.

Click to review all of the current membership levels - and their associated benefits - at: www.socalhort.org/join. We believe an SCHS membership has something to offer for all gardeners, in SoCal and beyond.

*Thank you all
for your continued support.*

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.



To begin the new year on a horticultural and ecological high note, the SCHS invited Scott Logan, a graphic artist and wildlife photographer to present a unique program focused on his recent work serving as the Gottlieb Native Garden's naturalist. For over five years, he has been documenting its wildlife, coordinating university research projects and monitoring the overall health of the garden, revealing the astonishing range of biodiversity that's capable of thriving in our backyards when the right plants and habitat are established.

The webinar, titled "Planting California Natives Created A Wildlife Oasis!" drew heavily on the wildlife he documented in his new book, *The Gottlieb Native Garden: An Intimate Wildlife Journey*. The book includes fauna ranging from insects to higher order predators such as raptors. In addition to showing beautiful still photographs featuring some of the 500+ species he has identified in the Gottlieb garden, Logan also showed wildlife videos from cameras he has set up in various locations on the property, which sits above a canyon in Beverly Hills.

During the 1990s, in an effort to conserve water and provide habitat for wildlife, Susan and Dan Gottlieb began converting their one-acre "traditional" garden to one filled 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. Because the garden is known for the immense numbers of hummingbirds it attracts, it 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 also a partner in Wild Wings Ecology, which caters to the needs of wild bird lovers throughout Los Angeles.

As an avid birder, Logan has identified 108 species of birds (including several varieties of hummers) in the garden to date. Some appear only seasonally, others return year after year (or their offspring do), but most are permanent residents. Additionally, he has identified 25 species of mammals, including nine kinds of bats. His presentation highlighted everything from tiny aphids, spiders, wasps, beetles, bees, butterflies and moths, to lizards, frogs, snakes, skunks, raccoons, squirrels, coyote, deer, songbirds, owls, hawks, bobcats and occasionally even a mountain lion.

Logan did note that majority of the species, especially the insects and birds, have a wide-ranging habitat throughout Los Angeles, and home gardeners can attract them by planting California natives in their yards, as well as providing water sources for them. This will not only create a healthy ecosystem, but also help support the over 500 species of

native bees found in Los Angeles county, which have been outpaced in population growth by the European honey bee, currently the dominant species. A few of the native plants Logan recommended to attract a variety of wildlife were toyon, manzanitas, sages and buckwheats.

This inspiring presentation led to a lengthy and informative question and answer session (archived on YouTube following Logan's program), and one lucky listener also received a copy of Logan's book, *The Gottlieb Native Garden: An Intimate Wildlife Journey* during our monthly giveaway. For the rest of us, the book is available for purchase online from Wild Wings Backyard Nature at www.wildwingsla.com and also through the Gottlieb garden website at www.thegottliebnativegarden.com.

✿ Sabine Steinmetz

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

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

SCHS MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE

The days are getting longer as we inch towards spring, so let's

- Start seeds for leafy greens, onions, peas & assorted herbs
- Finish planting California natives by end of the month
- Plant bare-root roses, berries and fruit trees
- Apply first round of fertilizer to citrus trees to get on schedule
- Prune winter-flowering shrubs that are finished blooming
- Begin weeding now to get ahead of the burst coming in spring!

✿ Sabine Steinmetz

IN MEMORIAM

David Verity

Photo by Laurel Woodley



The SCHS is saddened to report on the recent passing of David Verity, a very well-known and highly-respected figure in Southern California horticulture circles.

He was also a leader in the SCHS for many years and was named the Horticulturist of the Year in 1981. He was 90.

Verity is perhaps best known for being the manager of the Mildred E. Mathias Botanical Garden at UCLA for most of the

33 years he worked there, beginning as a nurseryman in 1959. As manager, he assisted Mathias while she was still the director, and together they propagated seeds that she collected in her travels, and expanded the garden's plant collection, which currently numbers over 3,000 specimens.

Additionally, Verity will long be remembered for his plant breeding work and the many hybrids he introduced, including aloes, monkey flowers and cupheas. The varieties named for him are still in popular use, especially in today's drought-tolerant gardens.

Many of us at the SCHS will fondly remember Verity personally, but his greater legacy will live on in the gardens he has influenced well beyond his native Los Angeles.

Learn more about SCHS and check us out online at:

www.facebook.com/pg/socalhort • www.instagram.com/socalhort • www.socalhort.org

FEBRUARY HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

COVID-19 UPDATES FOR LOCAL GARDEN VENUES

Venues open at press time are marked  and  for those that are online only.

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

FREE WEBINARS

February 4 at 10 a.m.

Agaves for the Landscape with Greg Starr


The Burbank Valley Garden Club hosts Greg Starr, author and owner of the Starr Nursery in Arizona, discussing agave species best-suited for use in landscapes and containers as well as ideas for planting and care of agaves. Pre-registration required via email at Noella1b@aol.com, or by phone: 818-954-0933, or online at: www.californiagardenclubs.com/burbank-valley

February 6 from 9:30 - 11 a.m.

UCLA Extension Horticulture Program Info. Session

Interested in turning your passion into a career? This introduction to the UCLA Horticulture & Gardening certificate program covers curriculum, individual courses, schedules and fees. The program director, former students, and an instructor will answer your questions. Register at: www.uclaextension.edu/landscape-architecture-horticulture/horticulture-gardening/course/horticulture-gardening-open-house, or call: 310-825-9586.

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

 **CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**
SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS CHAPTER
1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena 91107
818.398.5420 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

 **COASTKEEPER GARDEN**
1560 E. Santiago Cyn. Rd., Orange 92869
714.850.1965 www.coastkeeper.org

 **DESCANSO GARDENS**
1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada 91011
818.949.7980 www.descansogardens.org

 **EATON CANYON NATURE CENTER**
1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena 91107
626.398.5420 www.ecnca.org

 **FULLERTON ARBORETUM**
1900 Associated Road, Fullerton 92831
657.278.3407 www.fullertonarboretum.org

 **HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS**
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino 91108
626.405.2100 www.huntington.org

 **LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM**
301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia 91007
626.821.4623 www.arboretum.org

 **NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF L.A.**
900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles 90007
213.763.3466 www.nhm.org

 **RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS**
6400 E. Bixby Hill Rd., Long Beach 90815
562.431.3541 www.rancholosalamitos.org

 **RANCHO LOS CERRITOS**
4600 Virginia Road, Long Beach 90807
562.206.2040 www.rancholoscerritos.org

 **SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN**
230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas 92024
760.436.3036 www.sdbgarden.org

 **SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN**
26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes 90274
310.544.1948 www.southcoastbotanicgarden.org

 **THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION**
10459 Tuxford St., Sun Valley 91352
818.768.1802 www.theodorepayne.org

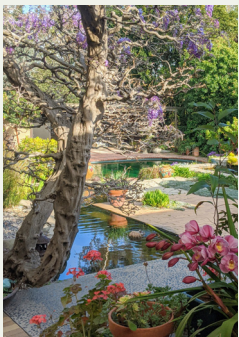
 **UC RIVERSIDE BOTANIC GARDENS**
900 University Ave., Riverside 92521
951-784-6962 www.gardens.ucr.edu

 *Yvonne Savio*

To see more events as they're posted, check: www.gardeninginla.net/submit-your-garden-events.

A INTRODUCTION TO RUTH BORUN & HER EPONYMOUS LECTURE SERIES

During 2020, the Southern California Horticultural Society received a very generous endowment from the Anna and Harry Borun Foundation to fund a horticultural speaker series in memory of Ruth Borun, a longtime SCHS member. The family funded the Ruth Borun Lecture Series to present significant horticulture speakers to fellow and future members of our society and to honor Ruth's legacy.



Ruth Borun inherited the gardening gene from her mother and passed it on to Nancy, one of her daughters. They would spend weekends plant hunting, in Del Mar for proteas, in Carpinteria for orchids, at Nuccio's for Camellias and of course the Theodore Payne Foundation for California natives. When Ruth could no longer drive to So Cal Hort meetings, Nancy became her chauffeur. Nancy still oversees Ruth's garden and is working on bringing it back to way it was originally conceived by landscape designer Chris Rosmini.

Borun's collaboration and friendship with Rosmini (SCHS Horticulturist of the Year, 1992) lasted for years. They traveled together extensively, visiting gardens and gardeners throughout the world. The result was Borun's highly regarded garden that was featured in *Sunset* magazine, the *Los Angeles Times* and in Christopher Lloyd's book, *Other People's Gardens* (one of only three American gardens included in the book.)



SCHS members are grateful for the memories of Ruth and her garden and thankful that her memory will continue to live on through the Ruth Borun Lecture Series.

 *John Schoustra*

Photo credits:
Nancy Borun and John Schoustra

DON'T MISS THE FIRST LECTURE IN THE SERIES! REGISTER AT: WWW.SOCALHORT.ORG

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

-  February 11 WEBINAR - RUTH BORUN LECTURE SERIES INAUGURAL PROGRAM
Jennifer Jewell, host of *Cultivating Place*, on "How a Garden Culture of Care Strengthens Places & Their People"
-  March 11 WEBINAR - David Brenner, founder of Habitat Horticulture to present a program about living walls
-  April 8 WEBINAR - Michael Martinez, master gardener and founder of L.A. Compost will speak about home composting
-  May 13 WEBINAR - Rebecca Burgess, Executive director of Fibershed will speak on "Native Plant Color Palettes from California's Chaparral & Coastal Shrub Ecosystems"

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 • facebook.com/socalhort • instagram.com/socalhort

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Contributors: Jennifer Jewell, Yvonne Savio, John Schoustra

Next deadline: Monday, February 15 (for March newsletter)
 Please contribute an article or information of interest.



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