



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

May 2021

## OUR NEXT VIRTUAL MEETING

**Thursday, May 13**

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

*We're pleased to say "hello"  
to the following:*

**Richard & Marianne Davis**

**Lulu Schwarz**

*Glad you  
have joined us!*

## CONNECT WITH SCHS

Please engage with us online!

### 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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## Native Plant Palettes - Creating Dyes from our Fibershed

Rebecca Burgess, the executive director of Fibershed and chair of the board for Carbon Cycle Institute, will be joining the SCHS on May 13 to present a webinar about creating plant dyes from our fibershed. A fibershed is a geographic region that provides all of the resources to make an article of clothing. Awareness of this bioregional designation engenders appreciation, connectivity, and sensitivity for the life-giving resources within these landscapes.

Burgess has over a decade of experience writing and implementing a hands-on curriculum that focuses on the intersection of restoration ecology and fiber systems. She has taught at Westminster College and Harvard University, as well as created workshops for a range of NGOs and corporations. She is the author of *Fibershed: Growing a Movement of Farmers, Fashion Activists, and Makers for a New Textile Economy*, and also *Harvesting Color*, a bioregional look into the natural dye traditions of North America.

Burgess has facilitated an extensive network of farmers and artisans within the Northern California Fibershed to pilot the regenerative fiber systems model at the community scale. Her work focuses on developing the vision and funding needed for these models to succeed, and she oversees the implementation of Fibershed's programs and special projects.

This evening's presentation will focus on the California ecosystems and specific plant species that offer light and colorfast hues for textiles, and will also explore our region's fibershed through the lens of plants and whole ecosystems – including our working landscapes. There is a major disconnect between what we wear and our knowledge of its impact on land, air, water, labor and health. Burgess will enlighten us about the biological and human cultural context from which our clothing derives and how understanding, engaging and supporting this system is key to solving global crises – including climate disruption and the rampant inequity within global supply chains that make our clothing.

Registration for this webinar is now open at [www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org) – and if you are interested in learning more about this intriguing topic ahead of our May program, you can also visit Burgess' website at [www.fibershed.org](http://www.fibershed.org).



Photo credit: Paige Green.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### MEMBERSHIP IS UP!

The SCHS is growing thanks to renewals and an increase in new members at varying levels, including our new entry-level online-only membership.

We recognize that memberships in organizations – especially now – can be challenging, and we appreciate all of our members at every level. The online option was added to encourage participation by those who perhaps may not be able to commit to another level right now, or do not live in the area, or are just being selective about their social activities, and are pleased that you have made the choice to try us out!



### LIVE ACTIVITIES BEING PLANNED

The SCHS is grateful for your ongoing support as we consider options for offering live activities again in the not-too-distant future. Meanwhile we will continue striving to share valuable content through our virtual programs and activities.

As soon as information about upcoming activities and events – like the 2021 HOTY award(s) – becomes available, we will post time-sensitive updates, details and links online and in the newsletter.

**Please check out SCHS online 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)

**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.**

In April the SCHS hosted Michael Martinez, the founder and executive director of LA Compost, to present a webinar on “Composting for Climate and Community Resiliency.” As stated on his website, they “work cooperatively with a diverse network of partners within Los Angeles County to co-create spaces for local compost access and engagement,



Photo courtesy of speaker.

regenerative practices, and community empowerment.” He also spoke about the significance of composting for both soil and human health, citing LA Compost’s mission “to restore lost connections to the soil and to one another.”

Martinez is a former elementary school teacher and a certified Master Gardener who saw a need and a desire in people to understand the soil food web and to close the loop connecting where their food comes from to what happens to scraps after consumption. He established LA Compost in 2013 and has grown the organization from a group of volunteers collecting organics using bicycles to a paid staff of six full-time and eleven part-time employees. Presently, they oversee a county-wide decentralized network of over 30 compost hubs which are all in partnership with communities, non-profits and other organizations committed to healthy ecosystems and are also inclusive of food access and community engagement.

After briefly describing composting basics, including materials, various methods, and the benefits of the process, Martinez talked about how community-based composting works and what LA Compost does to facilitate sharing the finished product. Donations of compostable materials are received at their hubs via local partnerships – keeping these materials including wood chips, sawdust, newspaper, coffee grounds, eggshells and more out of landfills – along with the typical dry and fresh leaves, grass clippings and food scraps people who compost at home are familiar with. LA Compost uses an aerobic 3-bin composting process that allows microorganisms to break down materials and turn them into a nutrient-rich soil amendment. Piles are “managed under a process done with intention” and turned weekly for eventual distribution to end users at pre-scheduled times.

In addition to providing compost, the organization teaches workshops, picks up scraps from farmers markets, coordinates drop-off times/sites across the city, and fosters the sharing of knowledge, seeds, and food. Currently Martinez is working on growing regional efforts, such as offering co-op members the opportunity to become “compost cultivators” to increase outreach (link here), targeting youth education to engage kids and get them in touch with nature, as well as participating in the “Partner Initiatives” under mayor Garcetti’s environmental plans for Los Angeles.

In conclusion, Martinez summed up his belief in the benefits of

composting for our collective future with the following words, “Compost is an embodiment of resilience, as it contributes to health and wholeness within our living system. In the same way that compost requires balance with its ingredients and overall environmental conditions, we also require this balance... knowing that we are part of a larger human network.”

To become involved or just discover what composting options might work for you, click here to link to an overview of LA Compost’s program.

✂ Sabine Steinmetz

**FOLLOW-UP:** After the program, the SCHS reached out to Martinez with a few questions from members inquiring how compost is distributed and at what scale. He explained that at community hubs, all finished compost stays onsite for local growers who are engaging with the greenspace that is hosting the bin. For regional hubs, the finished compost is split three ways: one third staying onsite for the park/urban farm to use, another third going to local growers throughout the year, and the final portion being distributed for use in special projects close to where the compost was made. Going forward, as the scale and processing capacity of LA Compost’s program increases, so will their ability to distribute more finished material to the public. ✂

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BKKjesW1OZ8>

## SCHS MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE

*During this time of active growth and changing temperatures, let’s:*

- Continue dead-heading our repeat bloomers and annuals
- Begin potting up those succulent pups & cuttings – but don’t forget to harden them off first
- Manage pests and rampant growth in our veggie patches to help us produce the best produce we can
- Monitor for increased water needs – especially for container plants
- Plant squash and melons now
- Cut back on irrigation of summer-dormant California native species
- Keep adding to, watering in, and turning that compost pile!

✂ Sabine Steinmetz

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

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

## MAY HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS


### COVID-19 UPDATES FOR LOCAL GARDEN VENUES

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

With the increase in vaccinations, organizations and venues are working on reopening, but will still have restricted hours, limited capacity and revised policies.

Please continue to check with your favorites for updated info if you are planning a visit.


 **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*

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

## LINKS TO UPCOMING CLASSES & WEBINARS

*Please check with individual organizations for class fees & details*

### California Garden & Landscape History Society

- Upcoming Zoom Events -

<https://cglhs.org/upcoming-events>

### California Native Plant Society (CNPS)

- Upcoming Zoom Events -

<https://www.cnps.org/event/virtual-native-plant-events>

### UC Riverside

*Trees Make A Better World, with James Downer*

<http://ucanr.edu/treecare>

### Waterwise Community Center,

### Chino Basin Water Conservation District

- Upcoming Zoom Classes -

<https://www.cbwcd.org/>

### Theodore Payne Foundation for Native Plants

- Full Class Schedule (Zoom & Live) -

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/theodore-payne-foundation-6606817237>

If you are aware of any upcoming horticultural events you think other members might be interested in, please get in touch at [www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org), so we can try to post the info in the newsletter and on our various social media platforms!



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

-  May 13  
WEBINAR - Rebecca Burgess, exec. director of Fibershed, presents "Native Plant Palettes; Creating Dyes from our Fibershed"
-  June 10  
WEBINAR - Photographer Saxon Holt shares excerpts from his and Nora Harlow's book *Gardening in Summer-Dry Climates*
-  July 8  
WEBINAR - Joanna Glovinsky, founder of Fruitstitute will talk about managing residential "Fruit Tree Ins-and-Outs"
-  August 12 - Jill Morganelli, instructor in the UCLA Extension Horticulture Certificate Program -- Program TBA --

## GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"Hurt no living thing:  
Ladybird, nor butterfly,  
Nor moth with dusty wing..."*

- Christina Georgina Rossetti



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

**NEWSLETTER May 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)

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Contributors: Rebecca Burgess, Yvonne Savio

**Next deadline: Monday, May 17** (for June newsletter)

*Please contribute an article or information of interest.*