

## FEBRUARY MEETING RECAP • SCHS LIVE EVENTS • MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE

On February 10 the SCHS hosted Suzanne Simard, Professor of Forest Ecology at the University of British Columbia and the leader of The Mother Tree Project, as our speaker in this year's installment of the Ruth Borun Lecture Series. The evening's presentation was drawn from the research that led to the publication of her latest book, *Finding the Mother Tree*, which explores the ways in which trees communicate, learn and adapt their behaviors with a sophistication typically ascribed to humans.

Dr. Simard grew up, and currently works in, heavily-forested areas of British Columbia, where her early experiences with standard forestry industry practices set her on the path culminating in her ground-breaking research. Over 30 years ago, she – and others – recognized that clear-cutting sections of forests to plant tree monocultures was destroying biodiversity and creating “holes” in the

environment, inviting in pathogens, destructive insects, weeds, etc. Simard then began to question what might be happening to soil structures as well, leading to her extensive research on mycorrhizal fungi networks.

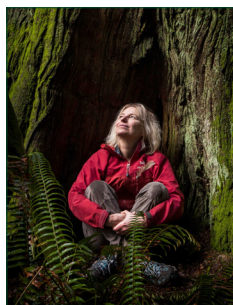
She cited David Reed's lab work in Britain, showing how trees can be linked by mycorrhiza and pass carbon between them, as an early inspiration into her work on tree communication. Despite publishing her research since the 1990s (over 170 scientific articles in journals to date), it wasn't until Dr. Simard began mapping sections of old-growth forests and did DNA testing on the fungal links among roots that her work became more widely recognized and accepted.

Understanding how “mother trees” nurture younger plants by processing the greatest amount of nutrients, sunlight, water, etc. and then distribute these for the communal good via their extensive root systems, has global ecological implications. Wide dissemination of this knowledge can aid, not only in efforts to regenerate (and sustain) forest ecosystems, but also to protect against fires and to sequester carbon.

If you would like to learn more, you can read about Dr. Simard at her website: [www.suzannesimard.com](http://www.suzannesimard.com), or click here for a link to purchase her book.

☞ Sabine Steinmetz

Photo credit: Diana Markosian



### SCHS MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE

*Now is the time to get growing!*

- Begin planting tomatoes and other veggies (Come to our March webinar!)
- Perennials will begin active growth, so watch for and manage pests.
- Put ornamentals, fruit trees and shrubs on your feeding schedule.
- Add mulch to newly planted areas and refresh throughout all beds.
- Watch your wildflowers bloom and visit native gardens for their best seasonal displays!

☞ Sabine Steinmetz

## FIRST SCHS IN-PERSON EVENTS OF 2022! MARCH 26 • CITG AT PIERCE and APRIL 2 • HORT YARD SALE

The SCHS will be hosting a Coffee In The Garden event at Pierce College in Woodland Hills on Saturday, March 26.

Keith Peabody of the Horticulture Dept. has arranged for guided tours of the Arboretum and the Mark Taper Garden, although self-guided tours are also permissible.

**Event runs from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**



### Guided Tours of Arboretum and Mark Taper Garden

First Tour at 11:00 a.m.  
Repeat Tour at 1:00 p.m.

#### PIERCE COLLEGE

6201 Winnetka Ave. • Woodland Hills

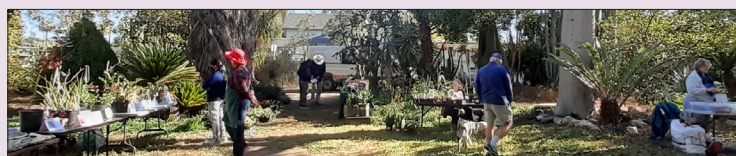
**Admission and parking are free.**

(Registration is requested at [www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org).)

**Refreshments will be provided too!**

Our spring Horticultural Yard Sale will be on Saturday, April 2 with some new vendors and returning favorites.

This FREE event is open to members and non-members alike, and we hope you will stop by to check out all of the garden-related items being offered for sale, including:



- Plants ● Decorative Pots ● Succulents ● Books
- Seedlings ● Botanical Art ● AND MORE PLANTS!

#### BAKER'S ACRES

18552 Erwin Street • Tarzana

Shop 'til you drop from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
- or just drop by for a visit and say “hello” -

**NOTE: Only street parking is available.**

***We are looking forward to seeing everyone again and hope you will be able to attend one or both of these events to usher in spring with us!***

**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](http://www.socalhort.org)**