The Southern California Horticultural Society will be honoring nurseryman John Schoustra with its Horticulturist of the Year award for 2018 in recognition of his accomplishments in the field and continuing service to horticultural organizations. John is the owner of Greenwood Daylily Gardens in Somis, California, and has served as president of the All American Daylily Selection Council, as regional vice president of the American Hemerocallis Society, as well as being a current and long term board member of the Southern California Horticultural Society and the Nursery Growers Association (NGA.) Others know him from classes he has taught at the Los Angeles Arboretum and South Coast Botanic Gardens, and from his popular speaking engagements, both local and national.

Upon his graduation from the University of California at Berkeley with a degree in Landscape Architecture, John cofounded a landscape construction company that for 10 years designed, built and maintained projects ranging from small residential to entire campuses for several mental hospitals, hotels and office parks. This experience led him to found Greenwood Daylily Gardens in 1989, which he owns and operates with his wife Cynthia, and whose mission is to find, breed and grow superior daylilies for California landscape professionals. In recent years, he has also been breeding irises, clivias, pelargoniums and other flowering perennials, as well as continually improving Greenwood’s environmental impact. He composites thousands of tons of waste materials into potting soil, provides habitat for wildlife on his property, and has contoured the nursery grounds to detain, clean and percolate millions of gallons of stormwater runoff annually.

John has served the industry as Chief Horticulturist at Rancho Los Alamitos Historic Site and Gardens, where he developed an archival horticulture and arboriculture approach to caring for historic landscapes, presented at the 1997 Sustainable Tree Care Conference at UCLA; negotiated with the State Water Quality Board while serving as president of the NGA, resulting in the creation of the Los Angeles Irrigated Lands Group and quadrupling NGA membership; and introduced over 30 cultivars to California horticulture. Notable selections include ‘Frankly Scarlett’ the 2003 All American Daylily, ‘Love Child’, a native sage, and over a dozen pelargoniums.

We are pleased to honor John Schoustra as this year’s HOTY recipient, and invite you to join us at the Arboretum, where he took plant classes as a child, taught adult education courses, and installed several landscape projects - including the trees that will be shading our dinner tables!

You can purchase banquet tickets on-line through the SCHS web-site at: www.socalhort.org or mail a check with the completed form below. Please contact Steven Gerischer (323)257-3629 with any questions.