



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org NEWSLETTER April 2024

2024 RBLS LIVE PROGRAM

Friday, April 12
Blinn House, Pasadena

Doors Open at 7:00 p.m.
Program at 7:30



Visit: www.socalhort.org
for more information

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Spring has sprung with:

Kelly De La Peza
Judy Haddy
Lyric Hayduk
Megan Lassen
Michael MacCaskey
Robert Rock
Jesse Torrilhon

Find membership options at:
www.socalhort.org/join

CONNECT WITH SCHS

Please engage with us online.

YOU CAN FIND US AT:

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



All membership options
are listed on our website.

IN THIS ISSUE

April RBLS Program and Registration Link	1
March Recaps, Hort Profile and Garden Share	2
Horticultural Happenings and Current Events	3
Upcoming Programs and SCHS Contact info.	4

2024 RUTH BORUN LECTURE SERIES

All Plants Come from Somewhere! How Plant Origin Clues Make Us Better Gardeners



On April 12 the Southern California Horticultural Society will present the 2024 Ruth Borun Lecture Series with guest speaker Brian Kemble, Curator of the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek, where he has worked since 1980. It is known as a “preservation garden”, and came about as the result of Bancroft’s vision and years of hard work. It is Kemble’s responsibility to maintain its look and feel, guided by her design principles and by the conservation easement overseen by the Garden Conservancy. He and his team know what sort of plants belong in Ruth’s garden – not only which genera she gravitated toward, but also the forms, colors, textures and juxtapositions that appealed to her. Kemble is always on the lookout for plants that can seamlessly be woven into existing compositions, even if the selections had not yet been brought into cultivation when she herself was still accumulating plants.




Kemble has made dozens of trips worldwide seeking out drought tolerant plants and exploring the places where they occur in nature. It brings him joy to see a plant in place in its native habitat – the topography, the rock and soil types, the associated vegetation, the appearance of the place – instilling in him a deep sense of connection to the plant and to the whole web of life from which it springs. He believes it is important to remember that all plants come from somewhere, as even hybrids derive from species that originated in some habitat in some actual place.

He also adheres to the tenet that plants from climates similar to ours are more likely to succeed in our gardens, and that this is a good reason to seek out California native plants, or ones from the world’s Mediterranean climate zones. However, he feels that these should not be the only places to explore, as some plants may have broader adaptability and can succeed



in conditions very different from their home turf. He believes experimentation is needed to learn what each plant’s preferences and limitations are, and that the sharing of experiences and insights between gardeners helps us all achieve greater success.

We look forward to hearing Kemble talk about some of the plants in cultivation at the Bancroft garden and the places where they occur in nature. His meticulous plant selection for the successful integration of any specimen into the garden is based on its physical and aesthetic compatibility with the existing landscape – valuable criteria we might also consider in planning our own home gardens.

Online registration is now open at: www.socalhort.org and we invite you to join us for this special evening. 

All photos courtesy of speaker.

Friday, April 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Blinn House in Pasadena

FREE admission for SCHS Members
\$10 for Non-Members

This program is a part of the Ruth Borun Lecture Series. The SCHS is grateful to the Borun family for their generous support which allows us to bring world-class speakers to our membership.

On March 14 we welcomed landscape architect Robert Rock who gave a presentation on the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing being built across the 101 freeway in Agoura Hills. Joining Rock was Joey Algiers, Restoration Ecologist with the National Parks Service, who is currently managing the on-site nursery growing the plants to be used on the crossing and also to restore some of the surrounding landscape damaged by the 2018 Woolsey Fire.



Photo by: Sabine Steinmetz

Designed by Rock in collaboration with Caltrans, and funded through a public-private partnership, the vegetated crossing at Liberty Canyon will provide a safe place for wildlife to cross the freeway, while enhancing and supporting the ecosystem in the surrounding area. The site was chosen specifically because the area was fragmented a century ago by the road and later the freeway, disrupting the native ecosystems and also natural water channels.

During his career, Rock has focused on integrating infrastructure and ecology through landscape architecture. He told us that in these types of projects the wildlife should be considered the “client” and be the main focus driving the design process. At Liberty Canyon this will include restoring the previously re-routed watersheds, repairing the soil composition damaged by fire, and using a plant palette grown from seed collected within a five mile radius.

Algiers spoke about some of the plants being grown on-site (lupines, milkweed, sages, buckwheats, native grasses) and the stringent sterilization practices used at the nursery to protect plant health and prevent pathogens from being introduced into the surrounding environment. He explained how nursery plants are inoculated through the soil with mycorrhizae to improve survival rates when planted out and how existing plants are fed with mycorrhizal “shakes” to strengthen them.

Both Rock and Algiers talked about how the site also hosts youth and community groups to educate them on indigenous culture, ecology, wildlife and plants. For more information on the crossing, click here to link to the Annenberg website.

✂ Sabine Steinmetz

Video for this program will be posted to our YouTube channel soon.

IN APPRECIATION

WILDLIFE CROSSING ON-SITE TOUR RECAP

On Saturday, March 16, Rock provided an in-person tour to SCHS members at the Liberty Canyon building site. In addition to experiencing the scale of the project and seeing the surrounding natural environment, Rock provided a progress report on the project and answered attendees’ questions.

Currently the Annenberg Wildlife Crossing is in an early phase of construction, with only the concrete supports along the freeway visible. Rock explained that the entire project is expected to be completed in late 2025 or early 2026, and vegetation will start being planted later this year. While the on-site plant nursery was not a part of this tour, Rock explained in-depth how the plants will be phased in, irrigated and maintained to create a seamless flow with the surrounding hillsides and canyon.

The SCHS thanks Rock, and Algiers, for the insights provided on this meaningful landscaping project. It is already serving as an example for similar projects worldwide that are in the planning stages or already under construction.

✂ S.S.

SCHS HORTICULTURAL PROFILE
introducing Lucas Carlow

The SCHS promotes the sharing of horticultural knowledge among our membership, including highlighting the work of up-and-coming horticulturists.

On March 25, SCHS board members Mardi Caruso, Aprille Curtis and Sabine Steinmetz, along with SCHS’s social media administrator, Alexiz Gomez, were given an inspiring tour of Apricot Lane Farm by their Habitat Restoration Lead, Lucas Carlow. Communications Manager Danielle Powell was also on hand to help answer questions.

Photo by: Sabine Steinmetz



Carlow showed us the various food crops being grown on the property, as well as the areas he is in charge of cultivating. These included an embankment covered in California natives and

selected Mediterranean-climate plants, and a new pond he and his team are currently planting with riparian species to attract wildlife and migratory birds.

In addition, Carlow shared behind-the-scenes looks at the farm’s operations and sustainability practices. The on-site nursery used for in-house propagation, a 40’ vermiculture bin and various livestock that produce manure, provide pest control, or otherwise contribute to the farm’s success were just a few of the highlights!

The SCHS appreciates the time Carlow and Powell spent with us. Look for photos, videos, and more in-depth details of our visit on SCHS’s social media channels.

✂

Click here to follow Lucas on Instagram, and learn more about him and Apricot Lane through SCHS’s social media (links below).

SCHS MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE

Whether or not we have April showers, we’ll still have chores!

- Now is the time to start your tomatos! And other warm season veggies... *Check our YouTube channel for some good ideas and recommendations.*
- Continue planting your warm season annuals and add any perennials now before temps start heating up!
- Prune or shape camellias soon after the last flowers are gone and dispose of all fallen blooms to avoid disease.
- If you haven’t done so already, add a fresh 2” layer of mulch to protect your soil and new plantings.
- Stick to your rose fertilizing schedule and enjoy the season’s first bloom!

Don’t forget to stop and smell the flowers - there’ll be plenty!

✂ Sabine Steinmetz

Learn more about SCHS and connect with us online at:

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

APRIL HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

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

Organizations are offering events, both online and in person, but may have updated protocols in place. Please continue to check with your favorites for current info if you are planning a visit.

ARLINGTON GARDEN

275 Arlington Drive, Pasadena 91105
626-578-5434
www.arlingtongardenpasadena.com

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

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

See more events at: www.gardeninginla.net/submit-your-garden-events.

TWO SPRING SALES and ONGOING LECTURE SERIES

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY IRIS SOCIETY

Annual Sale & Show

FREE Admission / Irises \$7 each or 3 for \$20

Saturday, April 6, 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Canoga Park Women's Club

7401 Jordan Avenue, Canoga Park, CA 91305

Iris are beautiful, easy to grow here in SF Valley, and are surprisingly drought tolerant. Come shop and check out the flower arrangements that will be judged.

Questions? Please call:

Marianne Davis (310)529-8871

TOMATOMANIA!

Join Us! Have Fun! Grow Food!

Open daily through April 21

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Tapia Brothers Farm Stand

5251 Havenhurst Avenue, Encino, CA 91436

Come for the tomato plants but don't miss the strawberries!
Your friends at Tapia are famous for them.

Wear your favorite Tomatomania t-shirt and get 10% off your tomato purchases at this location!

For more info & other locations, visit:

<https://tomatomania.com/events/>

SCIENCE JOURNEYS: Caltech Public Events

Presentations by graduate students

APRIL 11 - Soil Microbes Fighting Climate Change

FREE but reservations are required

For more info visit: <https://events.caltech.edu/series/science-journeys>

In-person monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month in the evening, **unless otherwise noted**. Address for live meetings is:

Friendship Auditorium

3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles CA 90027

NOTE: Online meetings are either recorded for YouTube or live-streamed for Zoom viewing (with pre-registration.)

Please visit www.socalhort.org for monthly schedule.

SCHS EVENTS CALENDAR

April 12 - Ruth Borun Lecture Series IN PERSON

Brian Kemble, curator at the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek, CA will be our featured presenter.

Link here to register for this Friday evening event at the Blinn House in Pasadena.

May 4 - COFFEE IN THE GARDEN

This event will be at the garden of SCHA member Alfred Hockenmaier. **DETAILS TBA SOON**

May 9 - IN PERSON

Mike Wood, urban farmer and founder of Huarache Farms, will give a presentation on "Experiments with Different Growing Methods for Fruits and Veggies."

June 13 - ONLINE

Michael Boland, Chief Park Officer at Presidio Trust, will talk to us about the Presidio Tunnel Tops, the 14-acre San Francisco landscaping project completed in 2022.

SCHS BOARD & COMMITTEES

Laura Bauer - President, HOTY Committee, Finance Committee, RBLs Committee, Website Committee (Chair), Voicemail and Communications

Lili Singer - Vice President and Secretary, Fundraising Committee, HOTY Committee, Plant Forum Committee, RBLs Committee and Archives

Yoav Paskowitz - Treasurer, Finance Committee (Chair), Newsletter Copy Editor, Oral History Committee and Website Committee

Carol Aronson - Fundraising Committee, Program Committee, RBLs Committee and Special Events Committee

Carol Bornstein - RBLs Committee and Program Committee (Chair)

Mardi Caruso - Recording Secretary, Special Events Committee and Event Greeter

Aprille Curtis - Plant Forum Committee, Social Media Committee (Chair), and Special Events Committee

Steven Gerischer - Fundraising Committee, HOTY Committee & Silent Auction Coordinator, Plant Forum Committee and Oral History Committee

Steven Ormenyi - Finance Committee and Internships

John Schoustra - Special Events Committee

Sabine Steinmetz - Garden Share, Graphic Design, Newsletter Editor and Website Committee

Layla Valenzuela - Fundraising Committee and Membership Coordinator

Jill Vig - Oral History Committee (Chair) and Special Events Committee

GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH



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

Contact us via mail, phone or social media:

818-567-1496 • www.socalhort.org
www.facebook.com/socalhort
www.instagram.com/socalhort

SUBMISSIONS TO NEWSLETTER

You may contribute an article of interest or information to be considered for publication in future issues.

Next deadline (for May newsletter): Monday, April 15

Newsletter Editor: Sabine Steinmetz • Contributors to this issue: Mardi Caruso, Yvonne Savio