



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

September 2022

## 2022 HOTY BANQUET

**Saturday, September 17**

Doors Open at 5:00 p.m. for  
Socializing & Silent Auction

Auction bidding closes 7:00 p.m.  
and Dinner begins

**Presentation at 8:15 p.m.**



Register at: [www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org)

## SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

*We continue to grow with the  
following new members:*

Libby Carthew  
Julie and David Dillon  
Florence Nishida  
Gale Swartz  
Layla Valenzuela

*Looking forward to seeing you!*

## CONNECT WITH SCHS

Please engage with us online!

### YOU CAN 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 listed on our website.*

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# SCHS 2022 ANNUAL AWARD BANQUET

*Honoring Horticulturist of the Year Dave Fross*

**Saturday, September 17 at Huntington Gardens - Details on Page 3**

**NOTE:** We will be adhering to L.A. County COVID protocols for the safety of all our guests. Proof of vaccination and booster will be required to attend this event, and masks are strongly recommended to be worn indoors.



On September 17, the Southern California Horticultural Society will be honoring Dave Fross, founder and president of Native Sons Nursery in Arroyo Grande, as our Horticulturist of the

Year. The annual award ceremony is back as a live event for the first time since 2019, and we are expecting a big turnout to celebrate and honor Fross.

It was during his time as a graduate student at San Jose State University that Fross made the acquaintance of Cliff Schmidt, Lester Rowntree, Carl Sharsmith, Wayne Roderick, Ken Taylor and Gerda Isenberg. He credits their individual and collective influences for sparking his idea to form a wholesale nursery specializing in plants native to Mediterranean climate regions of the world. The idea became a reality in 1979 when Fross established Native Sons Nursery on a single acre, producing California native plants for the landscape trade and retail nurseries. Since then, the nursery has grown to 14 acres, and its selection has expanded to include plants from other Mediterranean climatic areas.

Over the years, Fross has introduced a number of cultivars that have become common in the California nursery trade,

including *Chondropetalum* 'El Campo', *Ceanothus maritimus* 'Point Sierra', *Arctostaphylos* 'Austin Griffiths', *Sesleria* 'Campo Azul', and *Salvia leucophylla* 'Point Sal'. His expertise with native plants led to the publication of the following books which he co-authored: *California Native Plants for the Garden*, *Reimagining the California Lawn* and *Ceanothus*.

In addition to his work at the nursery, Fross also taught horticulture for 25 years at Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, and with his students developed the California native collection in the Leaning Pine Arboretum on campus. When Fross is not busy with his duties as CEO of Native Sons, he spends time developing a 3.5-acre garden on a sandy hill down the road from the nursery, as well as working in the gardens near his home, continuing to learn from and test plants that Native Sons offers.

On the occasion of the SCHS HOTY banquet, Fross will be sharing some of the breadth and scope of his acquired knowledge as he presents a program titled "Home Ground" wherein he will reflect on 43 years of growing plants for the California landscape. You can register online to join us, or by printing and mailing in the form on the events page (link here). We are looking forward to celebrating Fross' achievements in horticulture with like-minded friends and hope you will be able to join us!

**TICKETS AVAILABLE  
Online or By Mail**

**CLICK HERE to link to  
Reservation Form**

## CALL FOR SILENT AUCTION

This popular annual activity is a perennial favorite with attendees of our HOTY banquet, as well as being the SCHS's major fundraiser of the year... so we encourage you to participate by either donating, bidding or doing both!

The auction is a great opportunity to bid on a diverse assortment of intriguing, unusual and occasionally rare garden-related treasures and plants! We are always excited to see what variety of items will come up for auction from our members and community supporters.

Please contact Steve Gerischer by **September 10** at [sglarkspur@aol.com](mailto:sglarkspur@aol.com) or (323) 257-3629, to coordinate donations. If given advance notice, he can also prepare a bid card for anything you wish to drop off on the evening of the event.

**Thank you all in advance!**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Silent Auction bidding closes at 7:00, BEFORE dinner begins.

In August, the SCHS was pleased to welcome Katherine Pakradouni, a local educator and native plant horticulturist, to give her presentation on urban micro-forests and the work she has been doing in Los Angeles utilizing this afforestation method. As the designer of L.A.'s first micro-forest project within Griffith Park, Pakradouni shared the process she went through in creating it as a case study to help us understand this concept pioneered by Japanese botanist and ecologist Akira Miyawaki.

The Miyawaki Method was developed during the 1970s to facilitate the creation of micro-forests all over the temperate and tropical world in order to address climate change and restore biodiversity. By growing indigenous trees and shrubs from locally-sourced seeds in a dense and very specific planting layout, Miyawaki was able to produce significant afforestation within the first ten years it was utilized in Japan. This led to other countries experimenting with his method, including the Netherlands, India, Australia and eventually the U.S. in Washington state. Based on the documented successes achieved in these varied locales, Pakradouni decided she wanted to attempt a scaled-down afforestation project in L.A., to provide insights into how this international method might be adapted for more widespread use in our drier, Mediterranean climate.

With the approval of the L.A. Department of Recreation and Parks, and a grant from the Hancock Park Garden Club to the Los Angeles Parks Foundation, Pakradouni was allotted a 1,000 square foot section in the Bette Davis Picnic Area of Griffith Park to work on. She customized the Miyawaki Method to the site by adjusting the ratio of trees to shrubs in favor of more shrubs, which would align with the nearby chaparral plant communities from which she sourced her plant palette.

In May of 2021, the area was prepped by clearing the site of weeds – with minimal soil tilling and not adding any compost – and by laying down a decomposed granite path that bisected two large planting beds. In June, using mostly 4-inch and 1-gallon plants, Pakradouni and her crew installed 145 plants within a two-hour period. These were immediately deep-watered to the point of saturation, then watered every 4 days for the first month, followed by once a week and then once a month, which is the current low-water schedule. Other than an additional round of weeding early on, the plants required no maintenance in their first year and grew significantly. Per the Miyawaki Method, new micro-forests should be monitored and maintained for the first two years, and then become “maintenance free.” Pakradouni said she is pleased with the progress of the project to date, including the increase in wildlife that has already found a home there. In a single year, several species of nesting birds, ground squirrels, lizards, toads from the nearby wash, and of course, an increased variety of insects have all been documented as permanent residents in this new ecosystem, despite the small size of the plot.

After her talk, Pakradouni answered audience questions and gave away a number of native plants she propagated. Judging by the response her program received, it's no surprise that interest has been growing to install more micro-forests in different areas throughout L.A. Perhaps in the future, the SCHS can invite Pakradouni back to give an update on the Griffith Park micro-forest and others that may be established by then, or to tell us about her current work with the National Park Service/Santa Monica Mountains Fund as the nursery manager for the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing. Either way, we are sure to learn something new from an experienced educator involved in forward-thinking horticultural pursuits.

✿ Sabine Steinmetz

*Link to view entire program:*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ap0jvT\\_y0H4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ap0jvT_y0H4)

## REMEMBERING June Schmeier

The SCHS recently received the sad news about the passing of long-time member June Schmeier. Her nephew wanted friends and members to know that June was active in the society for many years and always felt the SCHS to be “a meaningful part” of her life.

We extend our condolences to her family and would like to express that June will be missed and remembered fondly as one of our own.

## SCHS MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE

*The heat, plus new watering restrictions, will be with us for at least another month, so let's:*

- Continue planning for fall planting, but postpone any heavy pruning to avoid potential sun-damage to plants.
- Shop for bulbs now – they are easy to keep until it's time to plant.
- Add more mulch **NOW**, even if you'll be doing so as a part of your “big fall clean-up” in October or November.
- Avoid fertilizing this month! Plants don't need to be stimulated to grow during extreme heat – let them conserve energy.
- Deeply water trees – and large shrubs – and irrigate elsewhere as early as you can and hose dust off leaves early too.
- Check with the MWD re: additional water restrictions (such as the Upper Feeder pipeline repairs) by visiting:

<https://www.mwdh2o.com/>

Enter your zip code (under the “Local Water Agency” tab) to find out what current regulations may impact you.

*Good luck to everyone & their gardens - stay safe!*

✿ Sabine Steinmetz

*Learn more about SCHS and connect with us 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)

## SEPTEMBER HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS • 2022 SCHS HOTY

Venues open at press time are marked  and  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](http://www.gardeninginla.net/submit-your-garden-events).

## LINKS TO UPCOMING EVENTS & WEBINARS

Please check with individual organizations for updated class fees & details.

### The Original Busch Gardens, An Illustrated Presentation

**In Person at Pasadena Museum of History**

\$15 Fee (\$10 for PMH Members)

**Friday, September 9 from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.**

Historian Michael Logan will be presenting excerpts from his book about Pasadena's world-famous Busch Gardens, and have copies available to purchase.

**Masks required. For details & tickets visit:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-original-busch-gardens-with-michael-logantickets-393306158307>

### Purple Sage Lane Mosaic Paver Workshop with artist Leigh Adams and Poly/Ana

**In Person - Location TBA with Registration**

\$40 Fee includes materials

**Saturday, September 10 from 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Workshop will cover techniques for working with glass, tile, and found materials and participants will take home a stepping stone they have designed in class.

**Advance reservations required. Visit:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/purple-sage-lane-mosaic-paver-workshop-tickets-381758147897?aff=erelpanelorg>

## 2022 SCHS HOTY BANQUET & SILENT AUCTION DETAILS

Join us in honoring Dave Fross as our 2022 Horticulturist of the Year

**Saturday, September 17, 2022**

at The Huntington Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens

Doors Open at 5:00 p.m.

Silent Auction bidding closes at 7:00 p.m. & Dinner begins

Presentation at 8:15 p.m. • Auction winners announced at 9:15 • Ceremony concludes at 9:45 p.m.




REGISTRATION  
IS NOW OPEN!  
**LINK HERE**

### PLEASE NOTE:

This event will **not** be live-streamed or videotaped.

**We'd love to see everyone at this live event and remember: credit cards are accepted at the auction!**

## SCHS EVENTS CALENDAR

-  **September 17** *IN-PERSON*  
at Huntington Botanical Gardens  
2022 Horticulturist of the Year Banquet & Silent Auction  
honoring Dave Fross of Native Sons Nursery  
**LINK HERE TO REGISTER & PURCHASE TICKETS**  
*This meeting will **not** be live-streamed or videotaped.*
-  **October 6 \*** *IN-PERSON*  
at Huntington Botanical Gardens  
\* **NOTE:** *This meeting will be on the **first Thursday** of the month.*  
Talk and tour with Gary Roberson at the New Cycad Garden.  
*Free for members / \$5 fee for guests / Details TBA*
-  **November 10** *ONLINE*  
"The Modern Crevice Garden: Going West with It" -  
a presentation by garden designer and author Kenton Seth

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:** *General meetings are simultaneously live streamed to view on Zoom with pre-registration, and later archived on YouTube, **unless speaker declines to be videotaped**.*

(Please visit [www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org) for more information.)

## GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH



## SCHS BOARD & COMMITTEES

- Laura Bauer** - President, Finance Committee Chair, Website Committee Chair, RBLs Committee and Voicemail
- Lili Singer** - Vice President, HOTY Committee Chair, Social Media Committee Chair, Board Nominations, Marketing, PR & Publicity Committee, RBLs Committee, Archives
- Yoav Paskowitz** - Treasurer, Finance Committee, Newsletter Copy Editor, Oral History Committee, Website Committee
- Elizabeth Mendoza** - Secretary
- Carol Aronson** - Field Trip and Coffee-in-the-Garden Committees, HOTY Committee, Program Committee, RBLs Committee
- Carol Bornstein** - Program Committee Chair, HOTY Committee, RBLs Committee
- Aprille Curtis** - Social Media Committee, Plant Forum Supplies
- Steven Gerischer** - HOTY Silent Auction Coordinator, Oral History Committee
- Terence Huang** - TBD
- Steven Ormenyi** - Finance Committee, Voice Mail Recording
- John Schoustra** - RBLs Committee Chair, Field Trip Committee, Finance Committee, Plant Raffle, Plant Sales (at meetings)
- Sabine Steinmetz** - Newsletter Editor, Garden Share, Graphic Design, Website Committee
- Layla Valenzuela** - Membership Coordinator
- Jill Vig** - Oral History Committee Chair, Coffee-in-the-Garden Committee, Special Projects

## CONNECT WITH SCHS



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[www.facebook.com/socalhort](https://www.facebook.com/socalhort)  
[www.instagram.com/socalhort](https://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 October newsletter): **Monday, September 12**

Newsletter Editor: Sabine Steinmetz • Copy Editor: Yoav Paskowitz  
Horticultural Happenings contributor: Yvonne Savio • Contributors to this issue: ---