



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

October 2022

## OUR NEXT HYBRID MEETING

**Thursday, October 6**  
at Huntington Botanical Gardens

Announcements at 7:20 p.m.

**Program at 7:30 p.m.**



**Visit: [www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org)  
for registration info.**

## SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

*Autumn is here, along with:*

Puck Erickson Lohnas & Jim Lohnas

Fernando Ibarra

Gretchen Kaufman-Moore

Joan Mead

Amandine Nabarra

Camille Rutkowski

Emily Sluiman

*So glad to welcome you all!*

## 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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## The Whitelock Cycad Collection Takes Root at the Huntington

**PLEASE NOTE:** For the safety of our members and guests, SCHS requests that attendees disclose vaccination status at check-in, and we strongly recommend wearing masks indoors.

Our next monthly meeting and program will be held on the **first Thursday** of the month, October 6, at The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens. This "double feature" begins with a guided tour of the new Loran Whitelock Cycad Garden led by Huntington staff, followed by a lecture. Our speaker, Gary Roberson, serves as the Lead Project Gardener of the cycad garden, and he will describe his experience in relocating the 40-year-old Whitelock collection, starting with the inventorying, labeling and microchipping of the plants in 2014 and taking us through to the present day.

Roberson's love of plants began with his own garden at the age of six, and continued through his involvement with Future Farmers of America, which led to Horticultural Intern positions in both Germany and Australia. Over the years, he has worked in the wholesale and retail nursery industries, and when an opportunity arose to work at The Huntington, he moved from Washington state to Southern California in 1999. He has

cross-trained in the Jungle, Palm, and Desert gardens before assuming his current position.

In July 2015, the Huntington received a large donation of cycads from the estate of Loran Whitelock, a passionate local plantsman known internationally as the leading expert in cycads. Roberson was tasked with the responsibility of spearheading the documenting, labeling, transporting, and transplanting of over 640 cycads from Eagle Rock into The Huntington gardens, nearly tripling their collection. Altogether over 2,800 plants (including clivias, staghorn ferns, orchids, aloes, agaves, palms, begonias, bulbs, etc.) were gathered from Whitlock's extensive garden.

The collection is now a long, diagonal ribbon winding through several themed gardens. The new Cycad Rockery is the most dramatic display of these ancient beauties, which have settled into their new home nicely over the past seven years. We are very much looking forward to both the tour and Roberson's talk on this special evening and would also like to express our thanks to The Huntington for hosting this program.

**Please read information below  
regarding the evening's schedule.**

Photo provided by speaker.



## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### SCHS 2022 UPCOMING EVENTS

As we head into our fall planting season, we know that holidays will be following shortly thereafter - keeping everyone busy from now until the new year - including the SCHS! Here are a few of the things we are planning for our members before we close out 2022:

- A look back at SCHS's history - and a look forward toward what our future may bring - as we celebrate our 85th Anniversary!
- The in person return of our Annual Holiday Meeting in December, with a special program, the ever-popular "Freebie" giveaway table, a raffle, vendors and more! Don't miss it!



### MEET YOUR SCHS BOARD MEMBERS

In July, the SCHS filled several vacancies on the board with new members, who have already been busy working alongside incumbents. In the coming months, we will be profiling one board member in each issue of the newsletter (space permitting).

Our hope is that members will feel free to engage with the board whether they have questions, want to give feedback or would just like to chat about the society.

We are looking forward to speaking with many of you at future meetings and events.

**NOTE:** Online registration for tour was at capacity as the newsletter was going to press. General meeting attendance is still open - either in person, or via Zoom registration.

Tour and meeting that follows are free for SCHS members, and \$5 for non-members. Pre-registration for tour is required, with a cap of 60 attendees. (Pre-registration closes October 4.)

Tour check-in will be from 5:00 - 5:20 p.m. at the circle in front of the Ahmanson Classroom in the Brody Botanical Center. If you will be attending the meeting, but not the tour, check-in will be from 6:45 - 7:00. Note: parking will be in the Huntington main lot - please allow for traffic and walking time. Questions? Please contact: [socalhort@gmail.com](mailto:socalhort@gmail.com)

On September 17, SCHS members and guests gathered to celebrate and honor our 2022 Horticulturist of the Year, Dave Fross, founder and president of Native Sons Nursery in Arroyo Grande. The annual award ceremony was back as a live event for the first time since 2019 and did not disappoint as a much-anticipated occasion.



Photo courtesy of Sandy Masuo

Carol Bornstein presenting 2022 HOTY award to Dave Fross.

The ceremony consisted of a special program by Fross which was preceded by tributes from various of his esteemed friends and associates (in person, via video and by proxy), including Ron Vanderhoff of Roger's Gardens, Randy Baldwin of San Marcos Growers (2017 SCHS HOTY), landscape designer and grass expert John Greenlee, UK horticulturist Neil Lucas of Knoll Gardens, landscape designer Bernard Trainor, author and plantswoman Judith Larner Lowry of Larner Seeds, renowned horticulturist Bart O'Brien currently of Regional Parks Botanic Garden (2005 SCHS HOTY) and rounded out by California native plant expert, horticulturist and author Carol Bornstein (2016 SCHS HOTY), who also currently serves on the SCHS board. Each shared personal thoughts and anecdotes, but all agreed that Fross was not only a highly-regarded native plant expert and grower, but also a gifted educator, mentor and communicator in the world of horticulture.

Fross' slide presentation entitled "Home Ground", reflected on his 43 years in a landscaping business dedicated to growing plants for the California landscape. While a graduate student at San Jose State University, his ultimate career path was heavily inspired by horticultural notables he became acquainted with, including Gerda Isenberg, Wayne Roderick, Cliff Schmidt, Ken Taylor, Carl Sharsmith and Lester Rowntree. He also mentioned the writings of geologist John Wesley Powell (*Report on the Arid Regions of the U.S. 1879*) and hydrologist Luna Leopold as influential. Fross credited them individually and collectively 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 along El Campo Road.

In the following years, Fross saw trends in horticulture come and go (such as the greenroof phase), but continued on his path of producing California native plants and select Mediterranean plants for the landscape trade and retail nurseries. He cited the *Eriogonum* and *Lavandula* families among his personal favorites to grow, as well as a number of grasses, including *Muhlenbergia capillaris*, *Bouteloua* 'Blonde Ambition' and *Sporobolus airoides*. These and other plants he grows have been chosen based on how well they can survive in the specific climatic conditions of California including aridity, drought and fire cycles. Fross has introduced many cultivars into the California nursery trade, and listed *Chondropetalum* 'El Campo', *Ceanothus* 'Antoinetta' and *Sesleria* 'Campo Azul', as some of the best plants grown in his fields. Currently Native Sons employs 37 people working on 14 acres, and in addition to his duties at the nursery, Fross spends time developing the 3.5-acre "Betty's Garden" refuge on a sandy hill down the road from the nursery, as well as working in his home garden.

✂ Sabine Steinmetz

*Our honoree declined to be video-taped, however an audio recording was made and is being archived.*



New SCHS board member Layla Valenzuela framed by the beautiful paper floral display she hand-made for the HOTY event.

*Thanks Layla!*

Photo courtesy of Aprille Curtis.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In addition to celebrating in person, we were also pleased to once again hold our popular Silent Auction – resulting in generous bids by members and guests on a wonderful selection of plants, garden books, tools and many other items! The SCHS appreciates the participation of bidders and donors alike in support of this annual fundraising event for the society.

*We are grateful to everyone and happily thank all who donated to the auction.*

(Donors listed in alphabetical order)

**Businesses:** Baker's Acres Succulents, California Botanic Garden, Descanso Gardens, Gottlieb Native Garden, Growing Works Nursery, Native Sons Growers, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, Somis Succulent Specialties, Theodore Payne Foundation, VermisTerra and Wild Wings Ecology.

**Individuals:** Laura Bauer, Joan Citron, Debby Dunn, Steven Gerischer, Diane Marcussen, Shirley Marneus Estate, Sandy Masuo, Kathy Musial, Tom Spellman, Pat and Al Steen, Layla Valenzuela and Dave Verity Estate.

Many thanks also go to the Huntington staff for providing the venue and for their assistance in coordinating the evening, and to Dearmore Catering for preparing a delicious meal for us. Finally, we wish to express our appreciation to the SCHS board members for their efforts in planning the event, as well as promoting, prepping and putting on an inspiring and entertaining event.

*Thank you all so very much!*

## SCHS MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE

*October is here and with it the start of prime planting season!*

- Give your garden a "fall cleaning" including: pruning back shrubs, removing dead plants, decreasing irrigation and replenishing mulch.
- As soon as the cooler weather stabilizes, you can begin planting!
- Begin planting spring-flowering bulbs, wildflower seeds, CA natives and cool-season vegetables now.
- Pay attention to seasonal weather events such as expected heat days or Santa Ana winds, so you can prep ahead of time & protect your plants.

✂ 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)



# OCTOBER 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](http://www.gardeninginla.net/submit-your-garden-events).

## LINKS TO UPCOMING EVENTS & WEBINARS

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

### Fall Native Plant Garden Maintenance

- \$40 thru Poly/Ana in Pasadena -  
(location will be provided to registrants)

**Saturday, October 8 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

Led by Max Kanter of Saturate Native Landscape Maintenance, attendees will have hands-on instruction about fall garden maintenance in this workshop.

**Link to purchase tickets:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fall-native-plant-garden-maintenance-with-max-kanter-tickets-401397700327>

### Gathering of Community Gardens: A Celebration of Regeneration!

- Admission Fee is Donation-Based -  
at Solano Canyon Community Garden

**Saturday, October 15 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

The L.A. Community Garden Council is hosting this low-waste annual event to celebrate gardens, gardeners, food, soil, and all things regenerative with live music, children's storytelling, refreshments, garden tours, and more.

**For more information, visit:**

<http://lagardencouncil.org/>

### Trees for a Changing Climate, with Janet Hartin from UC Cooperative Extension

- FREE Webinar - **Thursday, October 20 from Noon to 1 p.m.**

Learn about climate-ready trees with a focus on results of statewide research that has identified underplanted heat, drought, and pest resistant trees, and the benefits they provide that include cooling urban heat islands.

**For more information, visit:** <https://ucanr.edu/sites/ucipm-community-webinars/>

**To register, go to:** [https://ucanr.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_-zgXvmSZQRC92uDiSopDaA](https://ucanr.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-zgXvmSZQRC92uDiSopDaA)

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: Meetings are simultaneously live-streamed and can be seen via Zoom with pre-registration.*  
(Please visit [www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org) for more information.)

## SCHS EVENTS CALENDAR

-  **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
-  **November 10** **ONLINE**  
"The Modern Crevice Garden: Going West with It" -  
a presentation by garden designer and author Kenton Seth
-  **December 8** **IN-PERSON**  
ANNUAL HOLIDAY CELEBRATION with refreshments!  
Program & details being finalized. TBA soon...
-  **2023 PROGRAMS ARE IN THE PLANNING STAGES**  
Check back here and at [www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org)  
for latest updates on all events.

## GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH



## SCHS BOARD & COMMITTEES

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



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## SUBMISSIONS TO NEWSLETTER

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

**Next deadline (for November newsletter): Monday, October 17**

Newsletter Editor: Sabine Steinmetz • Contributors to this issue: Aprille Curtis, Sandy Masuo, Yvonne Savio