

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

December 2022

## OUR NEXT IN-PERSON MEETING

Thursday, December 8

Announcements at 7:10 p.m.

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

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

## SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

*The season has gifted us  
with new friends:*

Annabelle Crowley  
Lindsay Pinkham

To join SCHS, go to:  
[www.socalhort.org/join](http://www.socalhort.org/join)

## 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.

## IN THIS ISSUE

December Program and Membership News .....	1
November Program Recap, Giveaway Table Details and Garden Share .....	2
Horticultural Happenings and Special January Presentation ....	3
Upcoming Programs and SCHS Contact info. ....	4

## SCHS Holiday 2022 Program: Crafting Crepe Paper Flowers

*This program will be in-person and videotaped for our YouTube channel. For the safety of our guests (and in keeping with the most recent L.A. County Health Dept. guidelines) we strongly recommend that masks be worn indoors and that vaccine boosters are current.*

For the in-person return of our annual holiday meeting on December 8, the SCHS will be treated to a special demonstration on crafting crepe paper flowers by one of our newest board members, Layla Valenzuela. She has been active in the California native plant community for the last 15 years, and currently works as a horticulturist with Descanso Gardens, where she is in charge of their Natives Garden section.

Valenzeula told us "I have always loved plants but my main reason for getting involved with natives is for their ecological benefits. I embrace any way I can to promote these valuable plants and have channeled my other interests into doing so through cooking, baking, floral arranging and crafting.

"My most recent crafting endeavor has been in making crepe paper flowers. I feel I was drawn to this craft by how realistic these flowers looked and I wanted to challenge my own crafting skills. I began with the California poppy by following a tutorial I found online. It

was a success! A new passion was born and I quickly diverged into creating as many templates for native flowers as I could. By going through books, online tutorials and websites, I have created about 12 native species to date that are as close to scale and nature as I can replicate in crepe paper. I am still looking to add many more to my repertoire and recently ventured into making extra large flowers for use as fun photo backdrops and special event props.

"I currently have the exciting challenge of crafting holiday-themed flowers to share with SCHS members and guests who will be attending our December meeting. Paperwhites are on my very long list of flowers I've been wanting to try, and of course I will be demonstrating the most traditional holiday "flower" of all – the poinsettia! Additionally, I will have finished flower samples on hand for you to examine and which may also be purchased."

Everyone is invited to join in the evening's festivities and we hope to see you all there. Please check out the other activities we have planned – you won't want to miss any of it!



## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

**SCHS HOLIDAY GATHERING**  
at Friendship Auditorium

featuring

### MEMBERS' POTLUCK

In keeping with tradition we look forward to members who may choose to bring tasty treats for sharing... sweet, savory and everything in between! SCHS will provide drinks, paper goods and tableware. **Please note:** To maintain health precautions, we encourage food be presented as individual portions and/or that serving utensils be provided.

### ACTIVITIES FOR ALL

Of course we will have various plant-related activities going on, including:

- Crepe Paper Flower Crafting Demo
- Holiday Items for Sale
- Raffle with Garden Goodies

AND

### "FREE" GIVEAWAY TABLE

SEE DETAILS ON PAGE 2

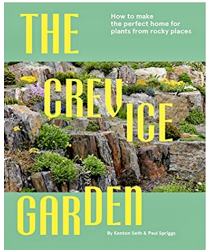
## FIRST MEETING OF 2023

will be a screening of  
**"Saging the World"**

MORE INFO ON PAGE 3

## NOVEMBER PROGRAM RECAP • GIVEAWAY TABLE INFO • GARDEN SHARE

On November 10, the SCHS hosted Kenton J. Seth, a Colorado-based garden designer, to present a webinar on crevice gardening. He has been working in this unusual planting style for the last 12 years, and recently, with coauthor Paul Spriggs, published *"The Modern Crevice Garden"* on this increasingly popular topic. During the

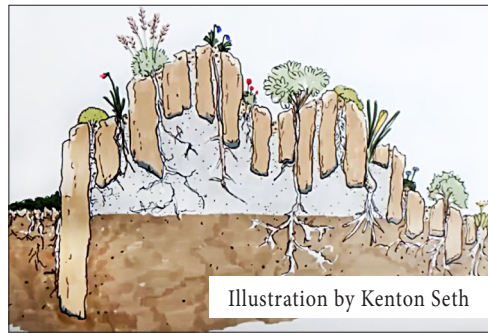


writing of the book, Seth recognized what he calls "the universal quality" of crevice gardening as a planting system, as they can be found worldwide.

As an example, he cited the first such garden that was recently created by Michael Uhler at Tilden Regional Park in Northern California, using mostly alpine plants native to the Sierras.

The origins of the traditional rock garden can be traced to the late 1800s when they were created to showcase small alpine plants adapted to specific conditions. While this type of rockery is still a popular niche gardening category today, Seth traces the beginnings of the modern crevice garden to Prague in the Czech Republic, and two men who wanted to grow local cliff-dwelling plants in their home gardens. Zdenek Zvolanek and Vojtech Holubec were successful in replicating cliff conditions by standing stone slabs upright and only allowing space for vertical root growth in between the sandwiched slabs. As their method became more popular this type of rock stacking became known as the "Czech System," and the style eventually spread internationally, primarily through showcases in botanic gardens. Designers began adopting the system to try out new opportunities for artistic expression and ecological gardening, including saving water.

Seth describes the system as a purpose-built rock garden consisting of mostly buried rocks that are structured to provide open spaces for special types of plants to grow in (see illustration.) The placement of the rocks will only accommodate plants



with deep running roots that can survive in nutrient-deficient soils. He cited examples of plants from different climatic regions worldwide that meet these criteria ranging from mountains to deserts, including ones native to Southern California. Good drainage is also essential, as water needs to be able to move downward deeply and rapidly. To achieve this, the media between the rocks should be primarily loose gravel or other coarse, gritty rock, with only a minimal amount of soil. The foundation rocks can be anything from quarried stone, to on-site materials, or even recycled broken concrete.

Images that Seth shared of crevice gardens established in spaces ranging from large parks to small gardens and containers highlighted the versatility of using this system as a design tool, and how it might be applied in a home garden. It provides opportunities to experiment with growing specialty plants, creating a unique garden feature, or even establishing habitat spaces in areas that might otherwise be overlooked or under-planted.

While crevice gardens still dominate Seth's projects, he also works with natives, dryland gardens, and most recently, meadows. Samples of his work can be seen by visiting PaintbrushGardens.com, or Instagram at plantfortheapocalypse, as well as on selected YouTube videos and on his own blog at [www.kentonjseth.blogspot.com](http://www.kentonjseth.blogspot.com).

✎ Sabine Steinmetz

**Link to view entire program:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmnUIRfwO0g>

### ANNUAL HOLIDAY GIVEAWAY TABLE DETAILS

This annual tradition allows members to donate "gently used" treasures of a horticultural nature to be shared with others in a timed giveaway. In the past, members have donated tools, pots, books, garden art, baskets, etc. which are displayed early in the evening for everyone to peruse.

*An announcement will be made when it is time to snatch up your desired "freebie" items. Please be considerate of those nearby – it can get messy!*

Enjoy the charitable spirit of the season by participating in the giving and receiving, but be prepared to take your donated items back home if no one snaps them up this time...

*Donations are not required to participate - we just want everyone to have fun!*

### SCHS MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE

*Here are a few things you can do in your garden this month - if you have the time to spare!*

- Finish any touch-ups & mulching left over from your fall clean-up.
- Continue any new planting that that needs to get in the ground now, so perennials can set down healthy roots in their dormancy.
- It's not too late to plant bulbs and wildflower seeds for spring, plus more cool-season vegetables.
- Cut back on regular irrigation for established and mature plants - but don't let new plants dry out, especially if they're small.
- At month's end, begin your winter rose pruning (and planting).
- Treat yourself to an outing at a nearby public garden - it's the perfect time of year to get out for an inspiring walk in nature!

✎ 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)**



# DECEMBER 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).

## UPCOMING SCHS PROGRAMS & EVENTS

### SAVE THE DATE: JANUARY 12, 2023



You are invited to join us for a screening of the short documentary:

## "SAGING THE WORLD"

*This event is being co-hosted by Southern California Horticultural Society, the San Gabriel and Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains chapters of the California Native Plant Society and the Theodore Payne Foundation for Native Plants.*

The screening will be followed by a panel discussion of experts and an audience Q & A session.

*Saging the World* spotlights ecological and cultural issues associated with California's native white sage which is being poached at alarming rates. The film gives voice to advocates from indigenous communities who have long protected and cherished white sage, and seeks to foster awareness and inspire action to preserve this at-risk plant.

### YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS SPECIAL PROGRAM!

**PLEASE NOTE:** Seating for this in-person program is limited, and the presentation will **not** be live-streamed or videotaped. Registration details will be emailed to members soon, as well as posted on our website.

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 (unless otherwise noted) for viewing via Zoom with pre-registration.

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

## SCHS EVENTS CALENDAR



**December 8**

**IN-PERSON \***

**ANNUAL HOLIDAY CELEBRATION** featuring: "Crafting Crepe Paper Flowers", a live demonstration by Layla Valenzuela; garden-themed raffle; holiday gift vendors; "freebie" table & refreshments including members' potluck treats.

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!**

\* PLEASE NOTE: This program will be **not** be live-streamed, but it will be videotaped for our YouTube channel.



**January 12**

**IN-PERSON ONLY \*\***

Live screening of the documentary "Saging the World" with a panel of experts who helped make the film, and members from local chapters of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS).

\*\* PLEASE NOTE: This program will be in-person only, and will **not** be live-streamed or videotaped.



**February 9**

**DETAILS TBA SOON**



**March 9**

**DETAILS TBA SOON**

## GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH



## SCHS BOARD & COMMITTEES

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

**Lili Singer** - Vice President, HOTY Committee (Chair), PR/Publicity/Marketing Committee, RBLs Committee, Social Media (Chair) and Archives

**Yoav Paskowitz** - Treasurer, Finance Committee, Newsletter Copy Editor, Oral History Committee and Website Committee

**Elizabeth Mendoza** - Secretary

**Carol Aronson** - Coffee-in-the-Garden Committee, Field Trip Committee, HOTY Committee, Program Committee and RBLs Committee

**Carol Bornstein** - HOTY Committee, RBLs Committee and Program Committee (Chair)

**Aprille Curtis** - Plant Forum Supplies and Social Media Committee

**Steven Gerischer** - HOTY Silent Auction Coordinator and Oral History Committee

**Terence Huang** - Assignments pending

**Steven Ormenyi** - Finance Committee and Internships

**John Schoustra** - Field Trip Committee, Finance Committee, Plant Raffle and Plant Sales (at meetings)

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

**Layla Valenzuela** - Membership Coordinator

**Jill Vig** - Coffee-in-the-Garden Committee, Oral History Committee (Chair) and Special Projects



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](http://www.socalhort.org) • [www.facebook.com/socalhort](http://www.facebook.com/socalhort) • [www.instagram.com/socalhort](http://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 January newsletter): Monday, December 12**

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