



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

March 2023

OUR NEXT HYBRID MEETING

Thursday, March 9

Announcements at 7:10 p.m.
Plant Forum at 7:15 p.m.
Program at 7:30



Visit: www.socalhort.org
for more information

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Joining us this month are:

Irma Arvizu
Amy Garza
Melanie Keeley
Leslie Nielsen
Kim Steele
Julie Weiss



To join SCHS, visit:
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

March Program, In Memoriam
and Membership News 1
February Program Recap, Garden
Share and In Memoriam 2
Horticultural Happenings and
Garden Events 3
Upcoming Programs and
SCHS Contact info. 4

Garden to Table from Seed with Renee Shepherd

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

On March 9, the SCHS is excited to host Renee Shepherd, founder of the well-respected and hugely popular Renee's Garden website (www.reneesgarden.com), which sells seeds and dispenses invaluable advice on "growing your own" veggies, herbs and ornamentals. This program will be oriented especially to those beginning "Foodie" gardeners who want to cook a wide range of fresh, seasonal meals from their own garden.

Shepherd will be sharing how to plan and enjoy a bountiful, colorful and delicious kitchen garden throughout the seasons featuring vegetables and herbs chosen for fabulous flavor, easy growing, productivity, and top nutrition. She will include specific varietal suggestions, information on how and where to find seeds of many cultures and countries, as well as preparation and cooking ideas for using your harvests for satisfying everyday meals.

After receiving a PhD from UC Santa Cruz and teaching in its Environmental

Studies department, Shepherd founded Renee's Garden to offer her selected choices of seeds sourced from seed growers both large and small around the world. In addition to sourcing the seeds she offers for sale, Shepherd also writes the descriptions and growing information for all the company's seed packets, writes gardening articles and creates recipes, and has published three kitchen garden cookbooks: *Recipes from a Kitchen Garden*, *More Recipes From a Kitchen Garden* and her newest: *Renee's Garden Cookbook*.

We are pleased to offer this program featuring Shepherd, a pioneering innovator in her field who lectures widely at national and regional garden shows, just ahead of spring and prime-growing season. In addition to bringing us her expert knowledge, Shepherd will also provide free seed packets as giveaways for the first 75 people to arrive for the live program.

We're sure you won't want to miss the opportunity to hear this popular speaker in-person or online. We hope you will join us for the evening! Registration is now open at: www.socalhort.org.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

SAVE THE DATES!



SATURDAY, MARCH 18

from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

We will be holding our popular
Horticultural Yard Sale
at Baker's Acres in Tarzana

FREE admission & lots of goodies!

DETAILS ON PAGE 3



FRIDAY, APRIL 28 *

2023

Ruth Borun Lecture Series
with guest speaker

Fergus Garrett

Chief Executive,
Great Dixter Charitable Trust

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

DETAILS ON PAGE 3

* Please note this will be in place of our
regular second-Thursday April meeting.

Image courtesy of speaker



In February, the SCHS welcomed Chris Cosma, a PhD candidate in Dr. Nicole Rafferty's lab in the Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology Department at UC Riverside to present a program entitled "Prioritizing California Native Plants for Moth and Butterfly Conservation." The talk focused on the effects of climate change on Lepidoptera and their interactions with native plants in California.

While Cosma's studies focus primarily on moths, he began his program by providing statistics about the monarch butterfly to provide an introduction into his research on conservation. For example: in 2022 monarchs were placed on the endangered list by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), that included decreases in population counts of the Western Monarch, which is the species native to California. He described the monarch as a "poster child" for a problem that is facing a much larger group of insect communities. Another study found that in the U.S. over 48% of butterfly species are in decline, due to loss of habitat and other environmental factors including climate change, introduced species, light pollution, and pesticides among others. The highest losses are in the Southwest and Intermountain West, and with California being home to 240 species of butterflies and over 5,000 species of moths, the environmental impact is significant.

He noted that the conservation of Lepidoptera is critical to supporting food webs as they are the second largest order of insects in North America (after Coleoptera) with over 14,000 species, 95% of which are moths. In their roles as both herbivores and prey in the food web, they transfer more energy from plants to other animals than all other herbivores combined.

Declines in bird and bat populations are directly linked to decreases in Lepidoptera as food sources. Additionally, they are excellent pollinators of wild and agricultural plants, with some being "host plant specialists", making them critical to the existence of certain species – like the Monarch and the Asclepias (milkweed). Specialists are at greater risk because they are easily decoupled from resources compared to generalists who have more food source options. Therefore, making more native plants available for specialists helps support healthier ecosystems.

Cosma explained that of the 2,000 native plant species in California, only 9% are "keystone" species which provide stability to 90% of Lepidoptera and other insect communities. He developed a web app named "The Butterfly Net" (https://ctcosma.shinyapps.io/the_butterfly_net/) to assist people in finding the best local native host and nectar plants for butterflies and moths based on geographic data about species interactions throughout California. Some of the most suitable

plants he cited to consider in SoCal included *Achillea millefolium*, *Asclepias fascicularis*, *Eriogonum fasciculatum*, *Heteromeles arbutifolia* and *Salvia mellifera* among others.

In conclusion, Cosma shared 2021 statistics from the Xerxes Society showing a large increase in Western Monarch populations due to conservation efforts – including those by the general public. Raising awareness and spurring action are crucial to protecting important ecosystems in California and beyond – something we can all think about participating in when we're planting in our home gardens.

✿ Sabine Steinmetz

Link to view entire program:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JYAgux1Qf2g>

IN MEMORIAM Donna Marie Baker



The SCHS is sad to report on the passing of Donna Marie Ernestine Baker (nee Belcher) on January 4, 2023. She was our friend as well as a valued member of the local

horticultural community.

She and her late husband Bill Baker ran California Gardens nursery in Tarzana together – specializing in succulents, bromeliads and unusual plants. Donna Marie was passionate and protective of the natural world; she spent much of her adult life growing, caring for, and designing with plants. She was also dedicated to protecting the local insect and bird populations by ensuring no pesticides or herbicides were used on her plants and properties.

Donna Marie fought a short but valiant fight against cholangiocarcinoma (bile duct cancer) and is survived by daughter Laurel, son-in-law Mario and grandchildren Sophia and Matteo. The family suggests that anyone wishing to do so might make a donation to the Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation in her memory.

Her friends at the SCHS will remember Donna Marie for her kindness and generosity in supporting the society numerous times – by providing a beautiful venue for our plant sales, as well as donating plants for our fundraisers. She will be missed. ✿

SCHS MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE

Spring will wake up our gardens this month – giving us more to do!

- Keep up with your weeding after all the recent rains (and then check back later in the month for more!)
- March is an excellent time to put down a heavy layer of mulch for spring – you'll be protecting the newly weeded ground and regulating soil temps as the weather starts warming up.
- Harvest the last of your waning cool season crops to make planting room for warm season veggies and herbs.
- Plant some annuals for seasonal color, and alongside your veggies to attract pollinators and beneficial insects.
- Add summer-blooming bulbs now for serendipitous surprises later!
- Prune your camellias and azaleas after their final blooms are spent and give them a healthy acidic feeding to get their new growth cycles started.
- Enjoy the budding new life outside – and don't forget to pick a bouquet to bring the spring inside as well!

✿ Sabine Steinmetz

Learn more about SCHS and connect with us online at:

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

MARCH 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.

SAVE THE DATES FOR 2 SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS!



Join us at the 2023

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Horticultural Yard Sale!

with vendors selling
PLANTS, garden items & more...

this FREE EVENT is at
Baker's Acres

home to incredible Bromeliads, Tillandsias, and Gasterias

March 18 • 10 am - 1 pm

18552 Erwin Street, Tarzana 91335

2023 RUTH BORUN LECTURE SERIES featuring Fergus Garrett



The SCHS is pleased to host world-renowned horticulturist Fergus Garrett, Chief Executive of the Great Dixter Charitable Trust in Great Britain, to present a program on biodiversity. Garrett will explore the dynamic nature of Great Dixter and how it integrates natives with exotics in a chemical-free environment, allows the countryside to flow into the garden, plus other factors that encourage greater biodiversity. He will show, describe and relate examples from Dixter to other gardens and public spaces and explain how they can be used to create sanctuaries in our own spaces.

Mark your calendars for the evening of
FRIDAY, APRIL 28

FREE event for SCHS Members / \$10 for Non-Members

Venue and times will be announced shortly. Online registration will be opened soon after our March 9 program concludes and members will also receive an email notification.

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 for more information.)

SCHS EVENTS CALENDAR



March 9

IN-PERSON & ONLINE

Renee Shepherd, founder of Renee's Garden seed company, will share "Garden to Table from Seed", her program on how to plan and enjoy a seasonal kitchen garden.



April 28 (last Friday of the month) **IN-PERSON & ONLINE**

2023 Ruth Borun Lecture Series featuring Fergus Garrett, Chief Executive at Great Dixter Charitable Trust in the U.K., sharing photos and speaking on "Great Dixter - A Garden Richer in Biodiversity Than the Surrounding Countryside"

Venue and program details will be forthcoming soon via email to members, and also posted on our website.



May 11

IN-PERSON & ONLINE

Steve List of Sylmar Charter High and Anjali Berger from Theodore Payne will present a program on "Growing Green Thumbs: Creating a Love for Gardening in Kids and Teens".

GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH



"March days...
when the sun shines hot
and the wind blows cold:
when it is summer in the light,
and winter in the shade."

- Charles Dickens
Great Expectations

MARCH

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



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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 April newsletter): Monday, March 13

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