



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

May 2023

## OUR NEXT HYBRID MEETING

**Thursday, May 11**

Announcements at 7:10 p.m.

Plant Forum at 7:15 p.m.

Program at 7:30



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

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

*April showers brought us:*

Ulysses Aban  
Regina Carter  
Jennifer Chebahtah  
Laura Christianson  
Annie Cipolla  
Jodie Cook  
Kendra Gorlitsky  
Denise Hanisee  
Stephanie Hargrave  
Stephanie Landregan  
David Kim

Jonathan Ladd  
Sarah Lee  
Laura Morton  
Rachel Pierce  
Debra Spinelli  
Rowan Steffey  
Sally Stowers  
Rockelle Stuart  
Donna Villagomez  
Harold Woodley



Find membership options at:  
[www.socalhort.org/join](http://www.socalhort.org/join)

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## Growing Green Thumbs: Creating a Love of Gardening in Kids & Teens

The SCHS is pleased to present a program on May 11 featuring two local educators who will talk to us about how to get the kids in our lives excited about gardening. This presentation by Anjali Berger, a K-12 Education Specialist, and Sylmar High School agriculture teacher Steve List, will share different ways to engage meaningfully with children about the environment – in a garden, on a hike, or anywhere

outdoors – and encourage them to appreciate gardening as an activity to look forward to.

In addition to their presentation and a slide show, the program will feature audience participation plus a Q & A session afterwards. Please join us in person for this unique learning experience or register at [www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org) to view it online.

*Photos courtesy of speakers.*

### Anjali Berger



is an experienced K-12 educator and a teacher-trainer with a background teaching social and environmental justice in New York City public schools and the Dominican Republic.

Raised in Los Angeles, Berger is currently the education manager at the Theodore Payne Foundation. She believes in experiential and joyful learning and is passionate about the beauty and importance of Southern California native ecology.

### Steve List



is the agriculture teacher at Sylmar Charter High School, where over the past 15 years he has cultivated hundreds of young horticulturists in the school's 2-acre Agriculture Center.

He and his students have designed, built and given away 500+ raised-bed gardens to families without fresh fruits and veggies in the northeast San Fernando Valley. During the process, students have learned about urban agriculture, nutrition, edible landscaping – and values.

*This program will be in-person and live-streamed on Zoom. 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.*

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### SCHS 2023 HOTY BANQUET

The SCHS Board is currently planning our annual Horticulturist of the Year program. While the date and venue are still being finalized, we are ready to announce that this year's honoree is:

### Richard Schulhof

Schulhof just retired from his position as CEO of the L.A. County Arboretum and we are pleased to celebrate his many contributions to horticulture at our HOTY award banquet this fall.

**DETAILS COMING SOON!**



### SCHS BOARD ELECTIONS

A ballot with a proposed slate of names to fill board vacancies will be sent to members soon. Voting instructions will be provided, but if you need more information, please contact the current board via: [socalhort@gmail.com](mailto:socalhort@gmail.com).

*Thank you for participating!*



### CONNECT WITH SCHS 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)

## APRIL PROGRAM RECAP • BORUN CITG • GARDEN SHARE

On April 28, at the Los Angeles Zoo's Witherbee Auditorium, the SCHS hosted Fergus Garrett, CEO and Head Gardener



at Great Dixter Garden in the UK as our guest speaker for our 2023 Ruth Borun Lecture Series. His presentation

"Great Dixter: A Garden Richer in Biodiversity than the Surrounding Countryside" was not only filled with timely information applicable to all manner of gardens, but also a visual delight as Garrett punctuated his talk with beautiful photos of the gardens.

Great Dixter was the home of gardener and garden writer Christopher Lloyd (1921-2006), who spent his whole life, from childhood on, working in and writing about, this garden for nearly 50 years. Under Lloyd's mentorship, Garrett became Head Gardener in 1993 and learned to keep the garden constantly changing throughout the seasons and to be adventurous in trying out new plants and plant combinations. In 2003, Lloyd founded The Great Dixter Charitable Trust to secure the estate's legacy and in 2006, Garrett took over as CEO upon Lloyd's passing.

In 2007, Garrett began implementing changes to encourage a more naturalistic approach to gardening, being mindful of Lloyd's vision to allow the countryside surrounding Great Dixter to "flow in" from the outside meadows, and expanding upon this philosophy by phasing out the use of pesticides and inorganic fertilizers. This shift eventually led to the commission of a biodiversity audit conducted from 2017-2019, the results of which showed Great Dixter to be richer in biodiversity than all the countryside around it, and most unexpectedly, that the richest part of the entire estate was the ornamental garden.

While the gardens have always been known for their long season of interest, with layers of planting mimicking the wild, and their colorful and exuberant displays mixing natives plants and exotics, Garrett maintains this legacy while continuing to push further toward becoming a model of naturalistic gardening. Using what he calls the "mosaic system", he encourages the 6 acres of gardens and 25 acres of surrounding woodland to grow through "natural succession", enabling Great Dixter to sustain a greater biodiversity throughout the year. He allows the edges of the garden to blur and billow out, cutting nothing back prematurely thus aiding in sustaining wildlife through the winter. And just as

the dynamic nature of Great Dixter has led to greater biodiversity in a cultivated environment, Garrett believes that the results attained from these methods can be replicated throughout private gardens and even in urban settings, resulting in wide-ranging ecological benefits that extend far beyond the grounds of Great Dixter.

 Sabine Steinmetz



*Photos courtesy of speaker.*

**Program will be posted May 28 on SCHS's YouTube channel.**

<https://www.youtube.com/c/SouthernCaliforniaHorticulturalSociety>

**SCHS GARDEN SHARE**

*is taking a spring break and will return in June.*

## COFFEE-IN-THE-GARDEN EVENT: SCHS VISITS THE BORUN GARDEN

During 2020, the Southern California Horticultural Society received a generous endowment from the Anna and Harry Borun Foundation to fund a horticultural speaker series in memory of Ruth Borun, a longtime SCHS member. The Ruth Borun Lecture Series was established to present significant horticulture speakers to fellow and future members of our society and to honor Ruth's legacy.

SCHS was originally invited to tour the garden in March of 2020, but had to postpone due to the pandemic. This April 29, members were finally able to visit this renowned garden, and the experience was well worth the wait.

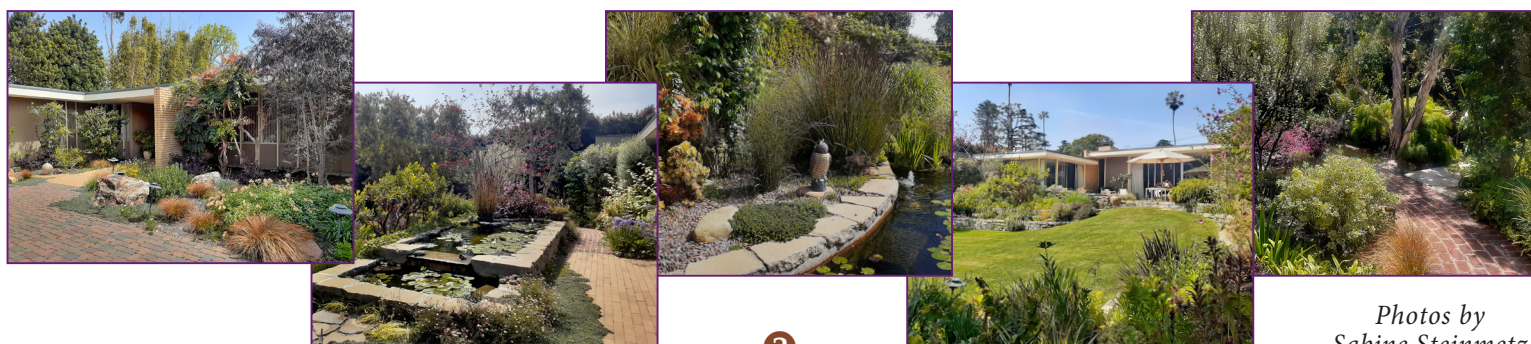
Visitors were led through the garden by SCHS vice president Lili Singer, who provided historical context for the garden's development with the aid of board member Steve Gerischer. They pointed out and identified a large number of the many interesting plants as well as other memorable features of the garden.

The Boruns' mid-century family home was built in 1960, and the

garden layout by landscape architect Garrett Eckbo was designed in a style suited for "California outdoor living." In the ensuing years Ruth tended the garden and expanded the plant palette. In the 1980s, she teamed with landscape designer Chris Rosmini to update the garden, resulting in a collaborative friendship that lasted for years and created the "bones" of the garden seen today. The house and garden were also recently designated a Historic-Cultural Monument by the City of Los Angeles, affording protections against significant alterations to their style.

The SCHS appreciates the graciousness of the Borun family for opening the garden to our members, and would also like to thank the Board – especially the Coffee-In-the-Garden committee – for all the work that went into planning and hosting this event.

***Below are some views of the Borun's spring 2023 garden to hold you over until the next time we're able to visit...***



*Photos by  
Sabine Steinmetz*



# MAY 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).

## WE'RE GOING BACK TO BAKER'S ACRES FOR 2 NEW EVENTS!

### SCHS KIDS EVENT

NEW!

### SCHS PLANT SALE

**Saturday, May 13**  
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

#### GROWING GREEN THUMBS:

#### In Person & Hands On



In this children's event you can get down and dirty in an inspiring outdoor setting with gardening guru and agriculture teacher Steve List from Sylmar High School. He'll guide the kids in hands-on activities and introduce them to the joys of planting... PLUS, participants will go home with their own plant baby!

**\$10 per child / Free for parents**  
(No infants please)

**All materials supplied!**

Registration is required & space is limited to 20 kids. Link here to sign up!

**Saturday, May 20**  
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

#### SPRING PLANT SALE FREE Admission

*Shop for plants, containers, ceramics and more!*

Select from succulents and bromeliads, a large variety of tillandsias, fruits and veggies, as well as other specialty plants offered by multiple vendors.



### BOTH EVENTS WILL BE HELD AT:

#### Baker's Acres

18552 Erwin Street, Tarzana 91335

Street parking only.

*See you there!*

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

-  **May 11** *IN-PERSON & ONLINE*  
Steve List of Sylmar Charter High and Anjali Berger from Theodore Payne Foundation will present "Growing Green Thumbs: Creating a Love for Gardening in Kids and Teens".
-  **May 13** *SPECIAL LIVE KID'S EVENT*  
Teacher Steve List will guide a hands-on planting activity for kids outdoors at Bakers Acres Nursery.  
*Details on Page 3.*
-  **May 20** *SCHS SPRING PLANT SALE*  
Shop 'til you drop with SCHS vendors at Baker's Acres!  
*Details on Page 3.*
-  **June 8** *IN-PERSON & ONLINE*  
Jeff Chemnick, owner of Aloes in Wonderland Nursery will present "Creating a Field Guide to the Plants of Oaxaca."
-  **July 13** *ONLINE ONLY*  
Madena Asbell, Director of Conservation at the Mojave Desert Land Trust will speak about "Desert Plants for L.A. Gardens."

## 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



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**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 June newsletter): Monday, May 15**

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