



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

March 2024

OUR NEXT LIVE MEETING

Thursday, March 14

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

*Refreshing February rains
arrived along with:*

**Frank McDonough
Casey Lovejoy**

We're happy to have you!



Find membership options at:
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.

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Exercise in the Hyper-Local:

**How the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing is
Connecting Critical Habitat & Supporting Biodiversity**

Landscape architect Robert Rock will join us in person on March 14 to present a program on the massive Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing being built across the 101 freeway in Agoura Hills. Designed by Rock in collaboration with Caltrans and funded through a public-private partnership, the vegetated crossing at Liberty Canyon will provide a safe place for wildlife to cross the freeway, while enhancing and supporting the ecosystem in the surrounding area.

Photo courtesy of speaker.



Throughout his career, Rock has focused on the artful integration of infrastructure and ecology as landscape architecture is increasingly called upon to perform essential functions of the built environment. As CEO of Rock Design Associates, his experience has helped make RDA a leader among firms synthesizing natural, social, and infrastructural systems.

The Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing is the largest such project in the world, and since 2019, Rock's work has included the design of, and construction oversight for, the crossing as well as over 13 acres of the adjacent landscape. He will share with us the scope and progress

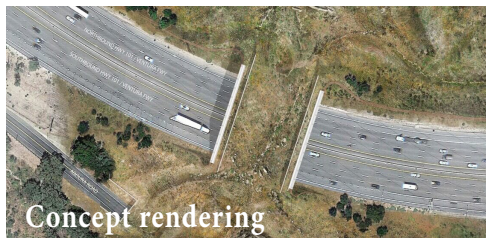


of the project, expected to be completed in 2025.

Native plant seedlings being grown on site.

Photo: L.A. Times

Through RDA's work, and in coordination with the project partners, including Caltrans, National Wildlife Federation, National Park Service, Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains, and Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority, the corridor will restore habitats and an ecosystem to help ensure the survival of many isolated animal and plant species.



Concept rendering

Please join us to learn more about this fascinating and significantly impactful environmental project. For full details go to: www.socalhort.org.

This program will be in-person and recorded for our YouTube archives. While optional, we recommend masks be worn indoors in keeping with current L.A. County Health Dept. guidelines.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

MARCH MEETING: PLANT SALES & DOOR PRIZE

To complement our March program we will have the following local plant vendors on hand:

Artemisia Nursery - CA native plants
Plant Material - CA native plants
Yvonne Savio - master gardener

And, you will have a chance to win a door prize donated by our speaker:

The California Field Atlas
by Obi Kaufmann

Altogether 4 more reasons to attend this evening's special presentation!



SCHS TOUR OF WILDLIFE CROSSING

March program speaker Robert Rock will lead SCHS members on a tour of the Liberty Canyon wildlife crossing site on:

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

Registration required.

**Members will receive
a link by email.**

DETAILS on PAGE 3

On February 8, the SCHS went on a botanical journey via Zoom traversing the length of Chile with Paul Mills, the Director of Conservation and Curator of the Living Collections at Lotusland. He has traveled to Chile fairly regularly since 1996 and described the country as a “biogeographic island” due to its extreme landscapes situated between the Atacama Desert in the north, the Pacific Ocean to the west, the Andes Mountains to the east and Antarctica to the south. Much of its flora has developed in isolation and its many endemic plants have made it a popular destination for plant seekers.

Beginning in the northeast, in San Pedro de Atacama, Mills shared dramatic landscapes of the Atacama and its sparse plant life. At 8,000 feet above sealevel, this desert area is home to *Echinopsis atacamensis* and *Azorella compacta*, as well as volcanos, hot springs and salt flats, which are being environmentally damaged due to lithium mining.



Mills' photo of himself behind an enormous *Cylindropuntia dealbata*.

Plants growing in the Atacama at sealevel are dependent on fog-drip for their survival. Pan de Azucar National Park boasts the endemic *Cylindropuntia* genus, as well as *Eulychnia*, *Euphorbia*, *Alstroemeria* and *Cruckshanksia*, while in coastal Caldera we saw *Skytanthus*

acutus and *Oxalis gigantea*. In Llanos de Challe National Park, Mills showed us *Echinopsis deserticola*, *Nolana rupicola*, *Rhodophiala bagnoldii*, *Cristaria* sp., *Argemone hunnemanii* and more *Cylindropuntia*, all of which would do well in xeriscaped gardens.

Further south, we saw *Miqueliopuntia miquelii* and *Eulychnia chorosensis* in Punto Choros; *Eulychnia acida*, *Tristeris aphyllus* and *Cumulopuntia sphaerica* in Valle del Encanto; and *Aextoxicon punctatum* and *Fuchsia lycioides* in Fray Jorge National Park. La Campana National Park is home to *Echinopsis chilensis* and *Puya coerulea* as well as the world's largest population of *Jubaea chilensis* with over 60,000 specimens.

From there, we traveled through El Chagual Botanic Garden, Pumahuida Nursery, and into central Chile, a biodiversity hotspot with a climate similar to California. The area includes vineyards and matorral vegetation, similar to our native chaparral, and includes *Colliguaja odorifera*, *Quillaja saponaria*, *Lomatia hirsuta*, *Escallonia pulverulenta*, *Kageneckia oblongata*, *Colletia ulicinia* and *Tristerix verticillatus*. We also saw *Echinopsis bolligeriana*, *Eryngium paniculatum*, *Lobelia excelsa*, *Cistanthe grandiflora*, *Alstroemeria angustifolia*, *Eriosyce subgibbosa* and *Oxalis carnosa* at Punta Lobos, before heading down to several temperate rainforest parks.

Parque Nacional Radal Siete Tazas, is home to *Nothofagus glauca*, *Rhodophila* sp., *Lomatia hirsuta*, *Gevunia avellana*, *Calceolaria meyeriana*, *Chlorea* sp., *Gunnera tinctoria* and numerous waterfalls. Other forested areas nearby feature more *Nothofagus*, *Junellia*, *Stachys*, *Alstroemeria*, *Solanum* and *Misodendrum* species, as well as *Mutisia ilicifolia*, *Fabiana*

imbricata, *Tropaeolum tricolor*, *Puya alpestris* ssp. *zoellneri* and *Viola subandina*. *Berberis rotundifolia* and *B. x bidentata* are in Altos de Lircay National Reserve, and *Araucaria araucana*, *Chlorea magellanica*, *Prumnopitys andina* and *Embothrium coccineum* live in Conguillio National Park alongside lakes and active volcanos. Our final destinations were Park Pumalin and Quelulat National Park, located in Chile's lake district. The first is home to *Fascicularia bicolor*, *Fuchsia magellanica*, *Myrceugenia* sp., *Desfontania spinosa*, *Luma chequen*, *Phileosia magellanica*, *Parablechnum cordatum*, *Eucryphia cordifolia*, *Gunnera tinctoria*, and the other is where you will find long-lived big trees like *Fitzroya cupressoides*.

Mills shared insights into how the natural landscape has been drastically altered by agriculture and plantations of pine and eucalyptus used by foreign paper industries, which have displaced native vegetation like the *Eriosyce aspillagae* cactus that is only receiving minimal governmental protection. Increasingly, Chile's flora is becoming more fragmented under threats by mining, forestry, hydroelectric projects and human-caused fires, like the one raging at the Jardín Botánico Nacional de Viña del Mar at time of Mills' talk, and he provided information on how interested parties can help.

✂ Sabine Steinmetz

Link here to see the entire program and learn where you can donate to aid Chile's national botanic park.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YmW8QeLL-yQ>

IN MEMORIAM As many of you may be aware, in late January we lost long-time member Joan Citron. A special SCHS tribute page of photos and memories will be emailed to members as a supplement to the newsletter and will include details to a Celebration of Life on Sunday, March 10.

2024 RUTH BORUN LECTURE SERIES featuring **Brian Kemble**



The SCHS is pleased to welcome Brian Kemble, curator at the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek, whose mission is to maintain both the look and feel of this preservation garden guided by Bancroft's original vision and design principles. Kemble will talk about some of the plants in cultivation at the garden and the places where they occur in nature. His meticulous plant selection for the successful integration of any specimen into the garden is based on its physical and aesthetic compatibility with the existing landscape – valuable criteria we might also consider in planning our own home gardens.

Mark your calendars for the evening of

FRIDAY, APRIL 12
at the Blinn House, Pasadena

FREE for Members / \$10 for Non-Members

Registration is required for this event. Members will be notified by email with full details when online registration opens.

SCHS MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE

It's "March madness" in the garden as we do the following:

- Begin planting warm season annuals and adding to our perennial beds.
- Continue with our fruit tree feeding schedule and begin fertilizing roses.
- Stay on top of the weeding while they're small. Plus, it's easier to pull them after one of our rainy days!
- Once you're finished with weeding, planting, or your "spring cleaning", apply a fresh 2" layer of mulch to protect and nourish your soil.
- Don't forget to visit your local botanic gardens for springtime inspiration!

Pace yourself & enjoy a break on these lovely rainy days!

✂ Sabine Steinmetz

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.

SCHS TOUR OF ANNENBERG WILDLIFE CROSSING

*FREE Members-Only Special Event
Limited to 25 Attendees*

Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing Tour

Led by Robert Rock, landscape architect

As a follow-up to our March program, the SCHS is excited to offer a tour of the wildlife crossing view site at Liberty Canyon in Agoura Hills, led by the project's designer, Robert Rock. Learn about the project's goals and see the progress on-site.

We will be meeting at the MRCA trailhead and hiking to the crossing. Please note: the terrain may be slippery from recent rains. It is steep initially and becomes more gentle for the last leg.

Saturday, March 16, 2024 from 9:00 -10:00 a.m.

Street parking only.

For additional directions click here to link to Google map of MRCA dirt lot.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE AN EMAIL NOTIFICATION WITH A LINK.

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: Online meetings are either recorded for YouTube or live-streamed for Zoom viewing (with pre-registration.)

Please visit www.socalhort.org for monthly schedule.

SCHS EVENTS CALENDAR

🌀 March 14 *IN PERSON*

Landscape architect Robert Rock will talk about the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing at Liberty Canyon in Agoura Hills and the associated plantings.

🌀 April 12 - Ruth Borun Lecture Series *IN PERSON*

Brian Kemble, curator at the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek, CA will be our featured presenter.

This event will take place on a Friday evening at the Blinn House in Pasadena.

🌀 May 9 - TBA - *details being finalized*

🌀 June 13 - *ONLINE*

Michael Boland, Chief Park Officer at Presidio Trust, will talk to us about the Presidio Tunnel Tops, the 14-acre San Francisco landscaping project completed in 2022.

SCHS BOARD & COMMITTEES

Laura Bauer - President, HOTY Committee, Finance Committee, RBLS Committee, Website Committee (Chair), Voicemail and Communications

Lili Singer - Vice President and Secretary, Fundraising Committee, HOTY Committee, Plant Forum Committee, RBLS Committee and Archives

Yoav Paskowitz - Treasurer, Finance Committee (Chair), Newsletter Copy Editor, Oral History Committee and Website Committee

Carol Aronson - Fundraising Committee, Program Committee, RBLS Committee and Special Events Committee

Carol Bornstein - RBLS Committee and Program Committee (Chair)

Mardi Caruso - Recording Secretary, Special Events Committee and Event Greeter

Aprille Curtis - Plant Forum Committee, Social Media Committee (Chair), and Special Events Committee

Steven Gerischer - Fundraising Committee, HOTY Committee & Silent Auction Coordinator, Plant Forum Committee and Oral History Committee

Steven Ormenyi - Finance Committee and Internships

John Schoustra - Special Events Committee

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

Layla Valenzuela - Fundraising Committee and Membership Coordinator

Jill Vig - Oral History Committee (Chair) and Special Events Committee

GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH



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
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 18

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