CELEBRATING SEED SEASON!
HARVESTING AND PROCESSING SEED FROM THE NATIVE GARDEN

What time of year does my plant set seed? How will I know when it is ripe? Is there a technique to collecting the seed? How long will it last in storage? These questions and more will be answered during our August presentation by speaker Genevieve Arnold, Seed Program Manager at the Theodore Payne Foundation for Native Plants. She will guide us through the rewarding experience of gathering, cleaning and saving seed from our native plant gardens.

In addition to her experiences at Theodore Payne, Genevieve has personally been working with California native seeds for more than a decade. She enjoys studying native plants in their habitats in our local natural areas, and appreciates the unique beauty of the native garden in all its phases - including the intricate and fascinating stages of fruit and seed development! In addition to explaining the proper methods for harvesting and processing seeds, Genevieve will have hand-outs for the audience and share examples of fruit, seed and seed-processing tools. She will also be available for a question and answer session after her presentation.

Please join us as we welcome Genevieve at our August meeting!

New-found knowledge gleaned from this presentation could inspire previously hesitant novice seed-sowers (and expert gardeners) to try their hand at “growing from seed.” Just ahead of fall planting season and to get everyone off to a good start - a tempting selection of native annual wild flower seeds from the Theodore Payne Foundation will be offered for sale after the talk.
Interest in urban farming has grown tremendously in recent years, and our July speaker, Lara Hermanson, of Farmscape, shared her experiences as a successful entrepreneur in the field, with examples from home gardens to major residential developments, restaurants, and corporate campuses. Currently the largest urban farming company in America, Farmscape is run by Hermanson and three other principals, with their mission being to connect city dwellers with fresh, organic produce through a network of urban farms, while creating economically viable opportunities for the new generation of farmers. With offices in Oakland and Los Angeles, they presently employ 35 full-time staff and manage over 700 urban farms, with plans for expansion into San Jose and Sacramento.

Hermanson provided a brief overview of Farmscape’s business model consisting of design consultation, site selection, crop guides and farm business plans. She then moved on to talk about their services, which include hands-on soil management, irrigation installation, planting, harvesting and on-going maintenance. Farmscape installs custom-designed, raised-bed vegetable gardens with their own tested organic soil blend and drip irrigation, tailored to meet the needs of each client’s site, whether large or small. This segued into Hermanson’s slide presentation of various installations with their challenges and solutions, including the following.

“The Farm” at L.A.’s Jonathan Club
Installed in 2011 in tubs laid out on the club’s rooftop, early challenges included having to hand-pollinate vegetables until insects found their way to the garden, as well as convincing members that the produce was safe to eat. In 2017, the gardens are attracting natural pollinators and the restaurant downstairs marks their daily menu with selections that are “home grown” on site.

Swagelok industrial park in Fremont
Using the grounds surrounding all four sides of the industrial park, food grown on-site is made available at a weekly “Farmer’s Market” to employees of the park. Typical of larger Farmscape installations, this project also includes a year-round orchard that yields a variety of crops monthly. Hermanson also noted that the business across the street liked the project enough to “mirror” it on their own property.

“Faithful Farm” - Levi’s Stadium in S.F.
At 9 stories high, and containing 6,000 square feet of production space, this corporate project had many unusual parameters. The food and cut flowers are grown on this rooftop in a special soil mix that incorporates BioChar (incinerated plant matter) because it is lightweight and utilizes less soil, water and fertilizers. Everything that is harvested is used by the community in the stadium below (on-site personnel, press box, security and visiting school kids) - all the responsibility of one full-time gardener, who maintains, harvests and does on-going research.

Hermanson showed several other Farmscape projects, but closed with the company’s goals for the future with their “Agrihood” platform for urban farming. The concept involves new and refurbished developments electing to install urban farms in place of traditional landscaping and pools or tennis courts, to be able to offer healthy food to a greater diversity of socio-economic groups. She also offered some solutions for home gardeners and answered a variety of questions from the audience. For more information on Hermanson and Farmscape’s activities, please visit their website at: www.farmscapegardens.com.

Sabine Steinmetz

SCHS 2017 INTERN REPORT

SCHS recently received a written report on the latest horticulture internship we sponsored. Intern Andrey Yun worked at the Virginia Robinson Gardens in Beverly Hills during the spring of 2017. He propagated plants from cuttings and replanted several areas in the garden, and learned proper pruning techniques for roses and camellias.

We are pleased to report that he must have done a great job, because his internship lead to his acquiring a full time gardening position at Virginia Robinson Gardens. Way to go, Andrey!

Laura Bauer

SHARING SECRETS

Last month we asked members whether we should continue with this feature, as participation has dropped significantly during the last year.

Here is what we have learned from your responses, plus our answers:

• Members want to keep this feature, but there is some uncertainty about how, where and when to submit responses, and where to find the question for the month.

• The question is always posted in the monthly newsletter on Page 1, in the contents section below the SCHS banner, both in the print and on-line versions.

• The deadline is posted in the same section, and has been extended to be the Monday following the general meeting.

• Answers of any length may be shared by e-mail at: gardensbysabine@aol.com OR on-line at: www.schs.org, where a drop-down menu at the top includes a Sharing Secrets tab.

• Beginning with the August meeting, we will also pass out 3” x 5” cards with the current question, so members may answer that evening, or take cards home as a reminder if they wish to have time to respond over the following weekend.

We look forward to reading your responses to this month’s question:

What plant do you love or hate more than any other?

Thank you! Sabine Steinmetz
ARBORETUM & GARDEN EVENTS

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF L.A.
900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles 90007
213.763.3466

Every Wednesday & 2nd Sunday, 10am. Eaton Canyon Gardening Group. Volunteers maintain the garden.
Saturday, 8/19, 9am-12noon, Nature Path. Conservation Work Day. Help with weeding invasive plants to conserve habitat for the native species. Gloves, tools and a snack will be provided. Please bring your own drinking water. Wear clothing, footwear and sun protection appropriate for outdoor work. Volunteers under the age of 18 need to bring along an adult. RSVP to eatoncanyon.conservation@gmail.com.

HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino 91108
626.405.2100

Saturday, 10am-1pm. Ranch Open House. Get ideas for sustainable gardening at our urban agriculture site. Experts from the University of California La County Master Gardener program will be on hand to answer questions and offer seasonal tips.
Saturday, 9/2, 9–5 pm, Ahmanson Room, Brody Botanical Center. (Listed in August since preregistration is required). 34th Succulent Plants Symposium. Succulent experts from across the United States will discuss topics ranging from time-lapse photography of cactus blooms to botanizing in South Africa. One of the program’s highlights will be a presentation by famed plant anatomist James Mauseth on some unexpected adaptations in desert plants. $85, preregistration is required – call 626-405-3504.

GLENDALE COMMUNITY SERVICES & PARKS
3429 Markridge Rd., La Crescenta 91214
818-548-3795

Saturday, 8/19, 2–3pm. Family Seed Physiology Workshop with Margaret Boseroy and Diana Sherwood. This family event for adults and children (6 and up) includes an exploration on TPF grounds to observe California native plants and a workshop to paint your favorite in tempera on paper. Learn to look closely at the plant parts, and how to compose your painting and mix colors. Limit: 10 adult/child pairs. $20 member adult/child pair, $25 non-member adult/child pair.

SUNDAY: Free Guided Garden Tours

LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM
301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia 91007
626.821.4623

Saturday, 8/12, 9-10:30am. Family Paint-A-Native Workshop with Margaret Boseroy and Diana Sherwood. This family event for adults and children (6 and up) includes an exploration on TPF grounds to observe California native plants and a workshop to paint your favorite in tempera on paper. Learn to look closely at the plant parts, and how to compose your painting and mix colors. Limit: 10 adult/child pairs. $20 member adult/child pair, $25 non-member adult/child pair.

RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN
1500 N. College Ave., Claremont 91711
909.625.8767

Saturday, 8/12, 9am-12noon. Teacher Open House. Free admission for school teachers, administrators and their immediate family members. Preview school tours and programs and explore outdoor experiences we offer to students. Book a 2017-18 field trip before reservations are opened to all teachers. To reserve your spot at the Open House, please email registrar@rsabg.org.
Saturday, 8/19, 8-10am. Seven Plant Secrets that You’ll Always Remember. Learn about seven plant secrets from Executive Director Lucinda McDade as she leads you through a botanical journey at California’s Native Garden. $20 members, $25 non-members.

COASTKEEPER GARDEN
1560 E. Santiago Cyn. Rd., Orange 92869
714.850.1965

Saturday, 8/12, 9:30am. Monthly Garden Share. Attendees bring garden-related items such as plants, cuttings, pots, tools, produce, etc., to trade. This is a great way to obtain new plants and meet like-minded plant lovers. For more information, go to https://www.facebook.com/groups/CoastkeeperGardenShare. Repeats second Saturdays.

Yvonne Savio
Southern California Horticultural Society
P.O. Box 94476
Pasadena CA 91109-4476

NEWSLETTER August 2017

UPCOMING SCHS PROGRAMS

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are regularly held at Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles, 90027

August 10 - Genevieve Arnold, Theodore Payne's Seed Program Manager on Collecting, Cleaning & Storing Seeds

September 14 - Horticulturist of the Year Annual Banquet, honoring Randy Baldwin
VENUE: Los Angeles County Arboretum

October 12 - Lili Singer, horticulturist and garden consultant speaking about “Good Bugs in the Garden”

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Newsletter Editor: Sabine Steinmetz

Contributors: Laura Bauer, Yvonne Savio

Next deadline: August 14 (for September newsletter)
Please contribute an article or information of interest.

GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“We are stardust, we are golden, and we’ve got to get ourselves back to the Garden...”
-Joni Mitchell, Woodstock

AUGUST