



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

July 2018

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, July 12

Friendship Auditorium
3201 Riverside Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90027



Socializing: 7:00 pm

Meeting begins: 7:30 pm

SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Please say "hello" when you see the following new faces -

Nicole Calhoun
Lesley Nicolucci
Tricia O'Connell

www.socalhort.org

SHARING SECRETS

The SCHS Sharing Secrets question for June is:

*What is your favorite type of mulch and why?
Do you use different mulches for ornamentals & edibles?*

Respond by Monday, July 16

Online at socalhort.org OR send e-mail to gardensbysabine@aol.com

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FROM PROTEAS TO ALOES - EXPLORING THE REMARKABLE CAPE FLORA OF SOUTH AFRICA

In July the SCHS welcomes back popular speaker Philip Rundel, who will present to us a new slide show and talk compiled from his travels to South Africa. Rundel is Distinguished Professor of Biology in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at UCLA, and Director of the Mildred E. Mathias Botanical Garden. He received his undergraduate degree at Pomona College in Claremont, followed by Master's and Ph.D. degrees at Duke University. He joined UCLA in 1983 after serving as Professor of Biology at UC Irvine.



Photos provided by speaker.

Rundel's research as a biology professor at UCLA has centered on the ecology, biodiversity, and conservation of plants and plant communities in the five mediterranean-climate regions of the world. This focus has led to an increasing involvement in collaborative work with both government agencies and non-government organizations

(NGOs) to promote public awareness of the biodiversity significance and conservation of these regions. Following are his comments on the upcoming program:

"Botanists and plant collectors going back more than a century have given almost reverent recognition to the unique and spectacular flora of the Cape Region of South Africa. Not only is this the most diverse flora in the world for its size, but it is remarkable for such botanical wonders as the beautiful proteas and their relatives, succulents from towering aloes to tiny mesembs, hundreds of species of ericas, rare cycads, awesome wildflower shows, and the largest assemblage of bulb plants to be found anywhere in the world. An equal botanical spectacle lies within Namaqualand, the winter rainfall desert region up the west coast from the Cape, which is home to the richest desert flora in the world."

We look forward to an evening of enjoyable armchair traveling with a knowledgeable guide and hope you will be able to join us. See you in July!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS & EVENTS

SCHS NEWSLETTER

As previously reported, due to rising costs, receiving the SCHS newsletter via the USPS will no longer be an option. Effective with the August 2018 issue, we will email a printable electronic version monthly as well as post current and past issues on our website at www.socalhort.org.

2018 HOTY BANQUET REVISED DATE !!!

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, September 22**, to attend our annual Horticulturist of the Year Banquet (and Silent Auction), honoring John Schoustra. The event will take place at the L.A. County Arboretum's Peacock Cafe, with socializing and auction bidding beginning at 6:00, followed by dinner at 7:00 and then the presentation of the HOTY award. Registration form with additional details will be posted online soon.

PAC HORT CHANGES

Last month we touched on some of the changes happening at Pacific Horticulture Society, and their impact on affiliate societies such as ours. Please see Page 2 for a current and more detailed report.

The June meeting brought members and guests to the Los Angeles Zoo's Witherbee Auditorium to listen, look and learn about garden photography from award-winning photographer, Saxon Holt. His photos have been published in over 20 books, and he



serves on the Board of Pacific Horticulture Society (PHS), as well as being a Fellow of the Garden Writers Association. His work as a photojournalist is increasingly focusing on the relationship between gardens and the land, seeking a sustainable aesthetic that can enhance both gardener and the earth. In the evening's presentation, "Think Like A Camera," he provided inspiration, tips and food for thought about the future of our gardens.

Holt's slide show was derived from lessons he has developed and are available for purchase as e-books on his website, photobotanic.com. He theorized that as gardeners, when we share good pictures with others (especially non-gardeners), we are helping communicate what gardening is about and making people understand its value. His "Think Like A Camera" lessons are broken into six components, designed to

aid photographers of every level, regardless whether they are using professional equipment or merely their phone-camera.

Lesson 1 - Framing

Holt talked about the importance of considering the edges of a composition to get viewers to focus on what you want them to look at. By being aware of and using the actual frame of your device, you can eliminate a lot of visual information which may detract from your subject.

Lesson 2 - Focal Points

This can be either the reason you're taking the picture, or literally, the sharpest focus within your frame. He explained that by placing a focal point slightly off-center, the eye will automatically want to go to it (aka: "rule of thirds"), thereby strengthening the impact of the photo.

Lesson 3 - Leading Lines

Allow naturally occurring "lines" (i.e.: paths, hedges, fences, etc.) to enhance your composition and "point" the viewer to what you want them to focus on. And don't forget to turn around - if there are strong lines leading in one direction, they will be strong in the opposite direction also.

Lesson 4 - Point of View

Take opportunities to show original views from perspectives that are unexpected. For example: shooting from the ground-level upwards; shooting into the garden from

a bench, instead of taking a picture of the bench itself; or even cropping your photos selectively to tell a story. This will set your photos apart from others of the same garden.

Lesson 5 - Space and Shape

If there is nothing to provide leading lines, start looking for shapes that repeat within your frame to balance your composition. Use negative space creatively to help showcase your subject.

Lesson 6 - Details and Vignettes

Try to "look for the overlooked." By considering elements that are physically attractive in real gardens, such as textures, details, ornamentation, etc., you increase opportunities for unique photos that tell a more complete story about the garden.

While Holt's beautiful photos were the highlight of his presentation and he made himself available for audience questions, he also spoke briefly about the future of PHS (see article on this page) and its mission to promote and educate California gardeners.

In addition to Holt's program, attendees were able to take home plants that were offered as freebies and for sale, including selections from one of our newest members, Nicole Calhoun, owner of the recently opened Artemisia Nursery. We invite you to check it out in person or online at www.artemisianursery.com.

✂ Sabine Steinmetz

Big Changes Regarding Pacific Horticulture Society

Contributed by Laura Bauer, SCHS Treasurer

SCHS has always supported Pacific Horticulture Society by including a PHS membership, with its Pacific Horticulture magazine, as a benefit to our members. Each year, we have sent part of your SCHS annual membership fee to PHS; the resulting PHS membership is a "special rate" membership that has barely covered the cost of delivering the magazine by mail to each of you, let alone supported PHS' organizational overhead.

PHS is undergoing big organizational changes, and wants to go beyond publishing the magazine to become a more dynamic organization that produces programs, events and workshops throughout the West Coast. As a result, it is restructuring its membership fees and the associated benefits.

For example, PHS has announced a change in the way it delivers the magazine; "special rate" memberships like yours will no longer receive the magazine in the mail. In order to continue receiving the printed magazine in the mail, you will have to become a full-price member of PHS. As a full-price PHS member, you will also receive the benefits of discounted PHS event and travel prices, as well as any other periodicals it produces.

This is a big change. Going forward, SCHS and PHS will enter into an Affiliated Member agreement, which in addition to providing SCHS with some new programming opportunities, will allow SCHS to provide a digital copy of Pacific Horticulture magazine to all of our

members. This agreement also gives SCHS members the opportunity to upgrade their existing "special rate" membership to a full PHS membership at the rate of \$40/year (20% off the regular annual PHS membership price). Annually, SCHS will provide a code to our membership so you can easily make this upgrade.

If SCHS members choose not to upgrade their PHS membership, then they will receive a digital copy of the magazine by email until their current PHS membership expires (which should be the same expiration date as their SCHS membership).

All current SCHS members will receive the Summer 2018 issue of Pacific Horticulture magazine in the mail. The changes mentioned above will be in effect after July 1, 2018 and will affect the Fall 2018 issue. As soon as SCHS receives the upgrade code from PHS, we will let our members know so that they can upgrade their PHS membership if they choose.

If you have questions, please contact Laura Bauer at socalhort@gmail.com.



To learn more about SCHS' long relationship with PHS, read the adjacent excerpt from an article that appeared in the Spring 2018 issue of Pacific Horticulture magazine.

Note: article was edited for space considerations.



Laboring for Love & PHS

By Jennifer Jewell,
PHS Board President

TO WORK IN THE NON-PROFIT SECTOR is a labor of love. It is almost always based on passion and heart along with the belief that we can make a difference in the world. And I like to think we do.

In January 2018, Steve Gerischer stepped down from his role on the board of Pacific Horticulture, where he served for many years, the last 4 of which he served as president—God love him. Steve's humor, his facility with both technical plant and birding knowledge, as well as his ease with a diversity of people and circumstances played out in his role as escort for several PHS overseas tours, chatting birds, botanical names, gardens, and great food. Here at home, when he wasn't presiding over a board meeting, Steve was known for his popular hypertufa classes. And he did it all with an easy smile and warm humor. An avid, lifelong gardener, Steve will continue to invest his time and talent as owner of Larkspur Garden Design. And gardening with and for feathered fauna remains one of his great passions. Steve will be missed but we will keep connected with him as a PHS member and through his involvement with the Southern California Horticultural Society. Happy birding, Steve!

Thank you Jennifer, for acknowledging Steve's dedication to our organizations, as well as his many talents!



Please contact location(s) to confirm listed events, and for a full schedule.

Events are free with admission unless otherwise indicated.

Locations are listed by Zip Code.

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

Saturday, 7/14, 9:30-11am. Meet at North Ticket Booth for Saturday Strolls in the Nature Gardens with Carol Bornstein, director of the NHMLA Nature Gardens. Are you overwhelmed by the incredible variety of plants in local nurseries? Talk about which plants are tough or fussy, how much to water, and what plants will attract wildlife to your home garden.

Fridays, 7/13 & 7/27, 5-9pm. Summer Nights in the Garden. Sip a garden-infused cocktail, check out science and nature experiences, and enjoy nature-inspired take-home activities and live music performances. More at: www.nhm.org/summernights



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

Saturday, 7/21, 10am-12noon. Crescent Farm For Beginners. Learn the basics: how its topography captures water; how wise plant choices can save water AND provide habitat all year. Learn about the educational mission of the project and enjoy first hand conversation with one its principle gardeners.

Saturday, 7/28, 9am-2pm. Plumeria Day. Celebrate the Plumeria Grove of 100+ plumeria plants. Tours offered throughout the day, as well as workshops, and an everything-plumeria sale. For more information, contact Robin Sease at 626-821-3250.



EATON CANYON NATURE CENTER
1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena 91107
626.398.5420 ecnca.org

Every Wednesday & 2nd Sunday, 10am. Eaton Canyon Gardening Group. Volunteers maintain the garden.

Saturday, 7/21, 9am-12noon, Nature Patio. Conservation Work Day. Help with weeding invasive plants to conserve habitat for the native species. Gloves, tools and snack provided. Bring own drinking water and wear clothing, footwear and sun protection appropriate for outdoors. Volunteers under age of 18 need to bring an adult. RSVP to eatoncanyon.conservation@gmail.com



DESCANSO GARDENS
1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada 91011
818.949.7980 descansogardens.org

Saturday, 7/28, 10-11:30am. Do-It-Yourself Workshop: Upcycled Succulent Planters. Descanso will provide a variety of unique upcycled goods for you to choose from in this hands-on workshop where you'll plant your own mini succulent garden. Horticulture staff

will provide guidance on working with succulents and design. \$20 members, \$30 non-members; materials included. Register online at www.descansogardens.org, in person at Visitor Center, or call: 818-949-7980.



HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino 91108
626.405.2100 huntington.org

Every Saturday, 10am-1pm. Ranch Open House. Stop by this urban agriculture site (open weekly) and pick up fresh ideas for sustainable gardening.

Thursday, 7/26, 4:30-5:30pm, Auditorium, Brody Botanical Center. Botany Bay Series: Plant Science for Gardeners and Citizen Scientists. Explore the wonders of the plant world through discussion and hands-on lab time led by Jim Folsom, the Telleen/Jorgensen Director of the Botanical Gardens.



THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION
10459 Tuxford St., Sun Valley 91352
818.768.1802 theodorepayne.org

Saturday, 7/14, 1:30-3:30pm. Look, Ma, No Lawn! with Steve Gerischer. Have you applied for a cash for grass rebate? We'll explain how to take turf out and suggest lawn alternatives, specifically low-care native plants that need no fertilizer and use a fraction of the water. \$25 members, \$35 non-members.

Saturday, 7/21, 1-3:30pm. Irrigation Practices for Native Plant Gardens with Tim Becker. A class for home gardeners on irrigation principles, techniques and equipment for native plant landscapes, plus a demo of TPF's irrigation system and plenty of time for questions. \$30 members, \$40 non-members.

Saturday, 7/28, 1:30-3:30pm. Seeds, Please: Collecting, Processing and Storing Native Plant Seed from Home Gardens with Genevieve Arnold. Learn how to gather, clean and save seed from your own native plant garden. Seed-processing tools will be demonstrated, and you'll leave with seed to start at home. Limit: 10. \$30 members, \$40 non-members.



SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN
230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas 92024
760-436-3036 sdbgarden.org

Saturday & Sunday, 7/21 & 7/22, 9am-5pm. Insect and Ladybug Festival 2018. Check out 1,000s of creepy-crawlies including insects, lizards, snakes, and even "Madagascar hissing cockroaches." Bug collecting, hands-on insect arts and crafts, and tasting cooked mealworm larva for kids and adults alike. Entomologists and other experts will answer questions at the 20+ informational booths that will teach and educate.



FULLERTON ARBORETUM
1900 Associated Road, Fullerton 92831
657.278.3407 fullertonarboretum.org

Saturdays, 7/14 & 7/28, 10am. Public Nature Tour. Meet at Nature Center where a knowledgeable docent will guide you on a garden tour. Repeats 2nd & 4th Saturdays.



Yvonne Savio

SHARING SECRETS RESPONSES

What is your favorite summer blooming plant and why? Do you have any growing tips to share?



My answer is Zinnias! Here are some pictures from my garden...

- Aprille Curtis



Well Horties, I think Spring is over. But even in "climate adapted" gardens (where most of our plants take a nap in the summer) there are still some wonderful things to keep us happy through the hot months. I look forward to our California Buckwheats bursting into bloom and all the fascinating insect life they attract. I think I've counted 10 different species of butterflies, wasps, bees and flies on my Ashy-Leaf Buckwheat at one time!

- Anonymous



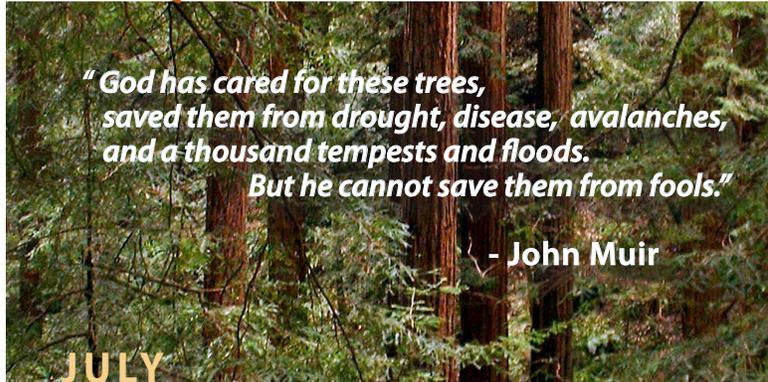
Thanks for sharing!

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

-  July 12 - Philip Rundel, biology professor and director of the Mildred E. Mathias Botanical Garden at UCLA, speaking on the Cape Flora and Namaqualand
-  August 9 - Kelly Comras, landscape architect and author presents a program on Ruth Shellhorn
-  Sept. 22 - SCHS Horticulturist of the Year Award Banquet and Silent Auction, honoring John Schoustra

VENUE CHANGE *This event will be at the L.A. Arboretum*

GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH



Steven Gerischer - *President, Oral History Committee, PR, Pacific Horticulture representative, Tech Support for meetings*
 Laura Bauer - *Treasurer, Finance Committee, Website Committee*
 Pat Steen - *Membership Secretary, Recording Secretary, Coffee-in-the-Garden, Greeter*
 Carol Bornstein - *Program Committee*
 Yoav Paskowitz - *Finance Committee, Oral History Committee, Website Committee*
 Yvonne Savio - *Horticultural Happenings, Coffee-in-the-Garden, PR*
 John Schoustra - *Vice President, Field Trips, Finance Committee, Plant Raffle, Plant Sales at meetings*
 Lili Singer - *Book of the Month, Nomination Committee, Program Committee, PR, Archives, Social Media Committee*
 Jill Vig - *Coffee-in-the-Garden, Oral History Committee, Pacific Horticulture representative, Special Projects*
 Sabine Steinmetz - *Newsletter, Sharing Secrets*
 Steven Ormenyi - *Finance Committee*
 Marilee Kuhlmann - *Hospitality Committee, Program Committee*
 Carol Aronson - *Coffee-in-the-Garden*
 Aprille Curtis - *Social Media Committee, Plant Forum supplies*
 Fleur Nooyen

818-567-1496 / socalhort.org / Join us on Facebook
 Newsletter Editor: Sabine Steinmetz

Contributors to this issue: Aprille Curtis, Laura Bauer, Yvonne Savio

Next deadline: Monday, July 16 (for August newsletter)

Please contribute an article or information of interest.



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

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