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.

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!
The June meeting brought members and guests to the Los Angeles Zoo’s Witherbee Auditorium to listen 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.

---

**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 54% 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 socalthort@gmail.com.

---

**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, while he wasn’t presiding over a board meeting, Steve was known for his popular hortertus 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 Larksprir 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!
from in this hands-on workshop where you’ll plant a variety of unique upcycled goods for you to choose from. Descanso 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.

SUNDAY, JULY 29 

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!

Yvonne Savio
UPCOMING SCHS PROGRAMS

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

"God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches, and a thousand tempests and floods. But he cannot save them from fools."

- John Muir

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 94476
Pasadena CA 91109-4476

NEWSLETTER July 2018