Our speaker in August will be Kelly Comras, a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects and a member of the State Bar of California. Her landscape architectural practice focuses on community-based open space design, as well as research and publication in the field of cultural landscape. She is a founding member of the Stewardship Council for The Cultural Landscape Foundation, Past-President of the California Garden & Landscape History Society, and has served for seven years as Chair of the Editorial Board for the quarterly journal, Eden. She lectures extensively and is also the author of the recently published book, Ruth Shellhorn, which will be the subject of the evening’s program, summarized by Comras as follows:

Landscape architect Ruth Patricia Shellhorn helped define the distinctive mid-century regional aesthetic of Southern California. Most well known for her work on the Bullock’s department stores and Fashion Square shopping centers, projects that redefined the commercial genre as a relaxing and entertaining activity, and for her work with Walt Disney on the original design of Disneyland, Shellhorn also designed a landscape master plan for the University of California at Riverside and other campuses, as well as a number of private gardens and estates for movie stars and the business and financial leaders of the Los Angeles region. She created landscape designs that refined the indoor-outdoor living concept, and developed a palette of plant materials that perfectly expressed the exuberance and optimism of the post-war era, which became known as “the Southern California look.”

Shellhorn placed a high value on how people would use the spaces she designed. Her professional peers considered much of her work to be elegant and timeless, and she collaborated with some of the finest architects of the era, including Welton Becket, A. Quincy Jones, and Wallace Neff. With Becket, in particular, Shellhorn put post-war Los Angeles on the map.

A brief film about Shellhorn will be shown during the presentation. Comras will answer questions and have copies of her book available for purchase after the lecture.

Please join us for this insightful look at one of the pioneers who helped shape our unique Southern California landscape aesthetic and history – it promises to be and enlightening and inspiring evening!
Returning to the SCHS as our guest speaker for July was Philip Rundel, Distinguished Professor of Biology in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at UCLA, and Director of the Mildred E. Mathias Botanical Garden. As a researcher and biology professor whose work has centered on the ecology, biodiversity, and conservation of plants and plant communities in the Mediterranean climate regions of the world, Rundel is considered a leading authority in his field. His comprehensive knowledge was evident from the lecture he presented, entitled “From Proteas to Aloe: Exploring the Remarkable Flora of South Africa,” which featured beautiful slides and informative graphics compiled from decades of travel to the Cape Region and Namaqualand.

Rundel began with an overview of the enormity of this area’s botanical significance to the study of Mediterranean climate flora on a global scale. He explained that the over 9,000 plant species originating from this region have evolved in large part due to its geography, climate and geological age. He listed its five biomes – succulent Karoo,Nama Karoo, savanna, grassland, and fynbos – comparing them to their counterparts in other parts of the world. (Reference SCHS April 2016 newsletter for greater detail about global comparisons.) Rundel then went on to describe the some of the dominant types of vegetation found in the Cape Region, and their varied uses.

Table Mountain National Park, located in Cape Town, is composed of sandstone, limiting what can be grown (or built) on the soil, but it does support the rare endemic fynbos vegetation. The shrubby proteaceae and ericaceae, as well as the grass-like restinoiacea are the dominant genera, and many of their species do well in Southern California’s chaparral landscapes. Proteas in particular have become popular in the floral and nursery trades globally.

Further up the western coast is Namaqualand, an area populated by succulent Karoo and also recognized as a global diversity hot-spot. As well as attracting botanists to see the over 1,700 species of desert flora, it is a major tourist draw for its annual wildflower displays, including many species of colorful ice plants.

Other areas included the Richtersveld (a World Heritage Site), Hantam National Botanical Garden (a motherlode for geophytes), and the eastern Cape region (home to the common Crassula ovata, Portulacaria afra and Strelitzia reginae.)

After wrapping up his program by answering audience questions, Rundel also shared some book recommendations. (Pictured below.) These titles will be useful for those wanting to pursue further research on their own, or just “plan” a South African fantasy vacation.  

Sabine Steinmetz

SHARING SECRETS RESPONSES

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

Living mulch! I use both Sutera (aka Bacopa) and Cotula lineariloba to help feed my soil...

- Kathy Musial

For edibles, I like to use straw mulch. It reflects heat and breaks down by the end of the season.

- Laura Bauer

I use free city mulch for my ornamentals from piles I have sampled previously that I have deemed to be “clean.” I also take along a rake to quickly run over the top of the pile and remove any unwanted matter (ex: eucalyptus leaves that drop from overhead trees at one location). Plus, when the mulch is free I’m also inclined to use it liberally, in deeper layers, and more frequently.

- Sabine Steinmetz

Homemade compost is my fave because I make it all the time, don’t have to buy it, and it is cooler on the plants’ roots than inert types.

- Anonymous

Thank you for the great tips and giving us all more options to think about using in our own gardens!

CALL FOR SILENT AUCTION

SCHS’s annual silent auction of garden-inspired paraphernalia is held annually during our Horticulturist of the Year award banquet, and is a major fund-raiser for the society. The auction is the perfect opportunity to both purify and enhance your personal collections, or maybe do some early holiday shopping! This is always a popular event and we are eagerly anticipating what kind of goodies will come up for auction this year...

Silent Auction bidding closes at 7:00, BEFORE dinner, and pick up is after award presentation.

ORDER ONLINE or by MAIL Reservation Form enclosed
AUGUST HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

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

Friday, 7/13 & 7/27, 5-9pm. Summer Nights in the Garden.  Siop 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

J PAUL GETTY MUSEUM - GETTY CENTER
1200 Getty Center Dr., Los Angeles 90049
310.440.7300
www.getty.edu/museum

J PAUL GETTY MUSEUM - GETTY VILLA
17985 Pacific Coast Hwy, Pacific Palisades 9022
310.440.7300
www.getty.edu/museum

Every Saturday, 11:30am, 12:30pm, 1:30pm, 2:30pm, 3:30pm, 45-minute Garden Tours. Meet at bench outside entrance to tour the Central Garden, designed by artist Robert Irwin - an evolving work of art, with tree-lined walks through extraordinary sights, sounds, and scents.

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN
2630 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes 90274
310.544.1948
scecnca.org

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

EATON CANYON NATURE CENTER
1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena 91107
626.398.5420
ecnc.ca

Saturday, 8/18, 1:30-3:30pm. Look, Ma, No Lawn! with Steve Irwin - an evolving work of art, with tree-lined walks through extraordinary sights, sounds, and scents.

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

Thursday, 8/9, 2:30pm, Plant Sale Nursery.  Garden Talk & Sale: 2nd Annual Plant Sale Nursery Open House. Pick up seasonal tips on propagation, watering techniques, and xeriscape gardening during a series of informal talks in the nursery. Plus, take 20% off all plant purchases! Complimentary refreshments will be served, including freshly squeezed lemonade.

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN
2630 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes 90274
310.544.1948
scecnca.org

Every Saturday, 10am-1pm. Ranch Open House. Stop by this urban agriculture site (open weekly) and pick up fresh, seasonal tips on propagation, watering techniques, and xeriscape gardening during a series of informal talks in the nursery. Plus, take 20% off all plant purchases! Complimentary refreshments will be served, including freshly squeezed lemonade.

J PAUL GETTY MUSEUM - GETTY VILLA
17985 Pacific Coast Hwy, Pacific Palisades 9022
310.440.7300
www.getty.edu/museum

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

Thursdays & Saturdays, 10:30am, 11:30am, 12:30pm, 1:30pm, 3:30pm, 40-minute Garden Tours meet outside the entrance. Discover rich mythological and cultural connections of four ancient Roman gardens.

SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN
230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas 9202
760.436.3036
sdbgarden.org

Sunday, 8/25, 8-11am. Native California Native Natural History Tour. For more information, call 760.436.3036.

FULLERTON ARBORETUM
1900 Associated Road, Fullerton 92831
657.278.3407
fullertonarbo.com

Saturday, 8/25, 9am-12pm. Native California Native Natural History Tour. For more information, call 657.278.3407.

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

Saturday, 11/11, 9-12noon. Monthly Garden Share. Attendees bring garden-related items such as plants, cuttings, pots, tools, produce, etc., to trade. For more information, go to https://www.facebook.com/groups/CoastKeeperGardenShare. Repeats second Saturdays.

Yvonne Savio

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

August 9  -  Kelly Comras, landscape architect & author presents a program on Ruth Shellhorn

September 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

October 11  -  Designers Wynne Wilson & Shawn Maestretti on blending native & Mediterranean plants in gardens

GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Beauty surrounds us, but usually we need to be walking in a garden to know it.”
- Rumi

AUGUST

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

NEWSLETTER  August 2018

Garden Quote of the Month

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

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Contributors to this issue: Yvonne Savio

Next deadline: Monday, August 13 (for September newsletter)

Please contribute an article or information of interest.
The Southern California Horticultural Society will be honoring nurseryman John Schoustra with its Horticulturist of the Year award for 2018 in recognition of his accomplishments in the field and continuing service to horticultural organizations. John is the owner of Greenwood Daylily Gardens in Somis, California, and has served as president of the All American Daylily Selection Council, as regional vice president of the American Hemerocallis Society, as well as being a current and long term board member of the Southern California Horticultural Society and the Nursery Growers Association (NGA.) Others know him from classes he has taught at the Los Angeles Arboretum and South Coast Botanic Gardens, and from his popular speaking engagements, both local and national.

Upon his graduation from the University of California at Berkeley with a degree in Landscape Architecture, John cofounded a landscape construction company that for 10 years designed, built and maintained projects ranging from small residential to entire campuses for several mental hospitals, hotels and office parks. This experience led him to found Greenwood Daylily Gardens in 1989, which he owns and operates with his wife Cynthia, and whose mission is to find, breed and grow superior daylilies for California landscape professionals. In recent years, he has also been breeding irises, clivias, pelargoniums and other flowering perennials, as well as continually improving Greenwood’s environmental impact. He composts thousands of tons of waste materials into potting soil, provides habitat for wildlife on his property, and has contoured the nursery grounds to detain, clean and percolate millions of gallons of stormwater runoff annually.

John has served the industry as Chief Horticulturist at Rancho Los Alamitos Historic Site and Gardens, where he developed an archival horticulture and arboriculture approach to caring for historic landscapes, presented at the 1997 Sustainable Tree Care Conference at UCLA; negotiated with the State Water Quality Board while serving as president of the NGA, resulting in the creation of the Los Angeles Irrigated Lands Group and quadrupling NGA membership; and introduced over 30 cultivars to California horticulture. Notable selections include ‘Frankly Scarlett’ the 2003 All American Daylily, ‘Love Child’, a native sage, and over a dozen pelargoniums.

We are pleased to honor John Schoustra as this year’s HOTY recipient, and invite you to join us at the Arboretum, where he took plant classes as a child, taught adult education courses, and installed several landscape projects - including the trees that will be shading our dinner tables!

You can purchase banquet tickets on-line through the SCHS web-site at: www.socalhort.org or mail a check with the completed form below. Please contact Steven Gerischer (323)257-3629 with any questions.
At the end of each fiscal year, the Southern California Horticultural Society reviews the current roster of active Board Members and submits names for membership approval to serve during the new term. At this time, the Society is seeking to fill two vacancies. Write-in votes for qualified candidates are encouraged.

Please review the slate of names below and vote for TWO

☐ Laura Bauer  (incumbent)
☐ Steven Ormenyi  (incumbent)
☐ Yvonne Savio  (incumbent)
☐ Lili Singer  (incumbent)
☐ Jill Vig  (incumbent)
☐ WRITE-IN : _______________________________
                       (Must be a current SCHS member and willing to serve)

Please complete this form and turn in at the August 9 General Meeting

OR

mail back in an envelope postmarked no later than August 20, 2017 to:

SCHS • P.O. Box 94476 • Pasadena, California  91109-4476

OR

use this link to vote online by August 9, 2018

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8Z5SSWRV