



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

April 2019

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, April 11

Friendship Auditorium
3201 Riverside Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90027



Socializing: 7:00 pm

Meeting begins: 7:30 pm

SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

April showers us with the following new members:

Natalia Polunina

James Schwentker
and Franco Carbone

www.socalhort.org

SHARING SECRETS

For April, please tell us:

What type of "Spring Cleaning" garden chores are you looking forward to (or dreading)?

Reply at: www.socalhort.org
or e-mail your response to:
gardensbysabine@aol.com

by Monday, April 15

IN THIS ISSUE

April Program and SCHS Announcements	1
March Program Recap, plus Sharing Secrets	2
Horticultural Happenings . . .	3
Upcoming Programs and SCHS Contact info.	4
Green Sheet	Supplemental

Gardening in a Changing Climate

As we are all eagerly returning to our gardens after a lovely wet winter, we are also looking for fresh perspectives and inspiration. Our April speaker, Matt Candeias, has been authoring his popular *In Defense of Plants* blog since 2014, and will talk to us about the reality of gardening in a world that is rapidly changing. He believes that home gardeners are situated in a unique position when it comes to our living landscape, and that we stand to play an important role in providing valuable habitat as the surrounding landscapes continue to change.



Photo courtesy of speaker.

Matt was raised in the forests of northeastern North America and is obsessed with botany. He earned a master's degree in community ecology from SUNY Buffalo State and is currently working on a PhD in community ecology with the University of Illinois. He began his *In Defense of Plants* blog with a

simple goal in mind: to foster a love, appreciation and sense of wonder for the botanical world with a focus on plants as organisms rather than as tools at our disposal. After the blog grew in popularity, Matt expanded his online reach by adding an *In Defense of Plants* podcast to his website and creating short documentary films, as well as posting regularly to Facebook and Twitter. When Matt is not reading, writing, or talking about plants, he is usually hiking and photographing them or trying to grow them in and around his home in Champaign, Illinois.

The SCHS is looking forward to hearing Matt's presentation and taking home ideas to breathe new life into our own gardens. We hope you will be able to join us for the evening, and that you bring along something to share for our Plant Forum – we all want to see what our members have been busy growing!



MEMBERSHIP NEWS & EVENTS



SPECIAL PLANT RAFFLE

In April, John Schoustra will be donating a selection of "Hollywood Hibiscus" for our first plant raffle of the year! They are gorgeous selections from a plant breeder in Texas and have fun names like Rico Suave, Trophy Wife, Bombshell, Hot Shot and Drama Queen. Whom will you be lucky enough to bring home?

Check out: www.hollywoodhibiscus.com to discover your hibiscus personality.

RETURN TO SOMIS FIELD TRIP

An SCHS bus trip to visit specialty nurseries and hidden horticultural gems in Somis has been scheduled for June 15. We first travelled there in 2009, then again in 2015 to see *more* places. This year we will be returning to a few favorite locations as well as discovering some new "secrets" - don't miss this trip!

Look for details and a registration form coming soon, both online and in our next newsletter.

The SCHS was fortunate to welcome Mike Evans, the founder and president of Tree of Life Nursery in San Juan Capistrano, as our March speaker. He presented us with beautiful and practical options for replacing our tired lawns with sustainable planting alternatives, as suggested by the program's title "Ugly Is Not A Turf Replacement." It is his belief that a well-designed California natural garden will always pass the test of time, and can continually provide valuable habitat for birds, beneficial pollinators, and other friendly wildlife species.

Tree of Life Nursery has been producing and selling California native plants for over 40 years, and Mike has experience in native plant production, design, landscaping and ecological restoration. He promotes a style of authentic horticulture - specifically the concept of appropriate landscaping with native California plants. In his presentation Mike provided numerous



Photo courtesy of speaker.

examples of good, and also not so good, landscaping choices people have made in their attempts to plant more water-wise gardens. He then offered some basic guidelines to keep in mind so as not to become overwhelmed by over-thinking garden project parameters.

Mike urged us to "tell a story and create a narrative" with our gardens, as well as making them functional, providing opportunities for reciprocal relationships between the gardener and other life forms, and trying to emulate nature as much as possible. The latter is the ultimate goal, and to achieve it, Mike encourages people to get out into nature as often as possible to be

better able to interpret it in their own landscape designs. One way of doing this is to incorporate more California native plants in our garden spaces.

Issues related to landscape water conservation are not new to California, and native plants have always been a part of the solution. Mike advocates for a present-day California that deserves to look like the true California. He believes that replacing useless turf in our landscapes provides a perfect opportunity to plant a real garden, one which will invite us to slow down and make the space experiential, not just visually appealing. He remarked that "nature is complex, but never complicated" and by using native plants, we create garden environments that appear effortless while still supporting a myriad of native wildlife.

Adhering to a "less is more" philosophy, Mike also stressed that accent plants, like succulents, are more effective if they have something to accent. By using them to help tell a larger story, they will be more effective than just throwing them together as a large collection. Details make a garden special, and in a California native garden, many opportunities for varied story-telling abound. Our native plants are among the showiest and most unique in the world, as well as being ecologically friendly, low maintenance and having low water needs. In addition to making sensible plant selections, Mike pleaded for a naturalistic approach to maintenance, one by which plants can grow into the forms and sizes they are meant to be, thereby better representing a true "California style."

Mike showed many slides of gardens that were formal and structured while still being simple (e.g., Japanese style)

as well as others that were awkwardly designed, or utilized plants purely for aesthetic effect, or provided no places for people to experience the garden. He also shared pictures of irrigation dos and don'ts, and referred the audience to the Tree of Life website (see below) where tips on "Watering Native Plants" can be found.

Ultimately, Mike would like to see a new baseline for people's expectations of what newly planted landscapes should look like - one that encourages them to use all their senses, plus their imaginations. It is his belief that gardens



Photo credit: Sabine Steinmetz

modeled after nature tell a very consistent and unified message, as well as inviting people to come in and stay awhile - throughout every season.

Once homeowners consistently see new designs that are naturalistic and properly implemented, they will begin asking for them in the future.

To wrap up his presentation, Mike shared a quote from Frederick Law Olmsted that states "It is a scientific fact that the occasional contemplation of natural scenes of an impressive character, particularly if this contemplation occurs in connection with relief from ordinary cares, change of air and change of habits, is favorable to the health and vigor of men and especially to the health and vigor of their intellect." With this quote, as well as considered answers Mike provided to audience questions, we were left with much inspiration and food for thought - and a hunger for more.

SHARING SECRETS

Our weather-inspired question for March was:

Which of your plants enjoyed our wet winter and are performing the best for you?



I love my native redbud tree, *Cercis occidentalis*, with its cute little pink flowers, and my red *Sparaxis*, a south African bulb, which comes back every year. My *Cassia artemisioides* is covered in bright yellow flowers and my *Pelargonium* 'Shottisham's Pet' just burst into bloom - spring is in full swing in my happy garden!

- Aprille Curtis

All of my salvias have been showing off, including *S. greggii* 'Alba', *S. chamaedryoides*, and *S. flocculosa* (which has been blooming since January). After several dormant springs, a few surprises that came up this year were a batch of *Freesia*, scattered *Claytonia*, and some *Nepeta racemosa* (Catmint), which, of course, the cats discovered before I did.

- Sabine Steinmetz

APRIL 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

Wednesday, 4/24, 3-5pm, Gardening with Native California Plants: Wild Space in a Concrete Place. Theodore Payne Foundation and NHM collaborate on classes about native plants. Workshops begin with a presentation, followed by a walk through NHM's Nature Gardens. \$25 members, \$35 non-members. Advance registration required: www.eventbrite.com/e/wild-space-in-a-concrete-place-at-the-natural-history-museum-tickets-54775097792.



SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN

26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes 90274
310.544.1948 southcoastbotanicgarden.org

Saturday, 4/27, 10am-4pm. Rose and Clematis Show and Sale, hosted by the South Coast Rose Society. Enter your flowering blooms from 6:30 am - 10 am (vases provided). Please bring flower arrangements in personal containers. Chat with consulting Rosarians and SCRS members. Roses, tools and our famous rose cocktail will be available for purchase.



LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM

301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia 91007
626.821.4623 arboretum.org

Saturday & Sunday, 4/13 & 4/14, 9:30am-4:30pm. Spring Iris Show & Sale. Discover tall bearded, small bearded, and aril-bred irises. Call 626.821.3222 for details.

Saturday & Sunday, 4/20 & 4/21, 9am-4pm. Southern California Hemerocallis & Amaryllis Society's Daylily & Bulb Show & Sale is a two-day event featuring educational displays and demonstrations.

Saturday, 4/27, 10am-12noon. Gardening with Oak Trees with Laramee Haynes. Learn how to care for your oak properly. \$25 for members, \$35 for non-members (incl. admission). Register online at arboretum.org/calendar.

Saturday 4/27, 1-4pm and Sunday 4/28, 9am-2pm. Pacific Rose Society Show & Sale – one of our most popular and largest spring flower events!



DESCANSO GARDENS

1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada 91011
818.949.7980 descansogardens.org

Wednesday - Saturday, 4/10 - 4/13, 9am-4pm. Mt. Sac Plant Sale. Students from Mount San Antonio College horticulture program will sell a variety of potted plants.

Saturday, 4/27, 9-11:30am. City Nature Challenge BioBlitz at Descanso will be contributing to the worldwide 2019 City Nature Challenge. Focus is on finding and identifying as many wildlife species as possible in a specific area over a short period of time. Learn how to upload photos to iNaturalist and add your discoveries to a growing map of nature in Los Angeles. People of all ages and skill levels are welcome. Registration required: online, in person at the Descanso Visitor Center, or by phone at 818-949-4200.



HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

1151 Oxford Road, San Marino 91108
626.405.2100 huntington.org

Saturday, 4/13, 11am-3pm. Family Day Celebrating Planet Earth. Get into the spirit for April 22 - Earth Day and learn about plants and pollination, or investigate ecosystems in the gardens that living things inhabit, and enjoy an all-ages concert (at 11 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.).

Thursday, 4/18, 2:30pm, Ahmanson Room, Brody Botanical Center. Garden Talk & Plant Sale: Beyond Cactus: Green Gardens That Don't Break the Water Bank. Jill Vig, curator of the Water Conservation Garden at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden, will share some of her top plant picks and design strategies for creating a lushly beautiful, water-wise landscape.

Friday - Sunday, 4/26 - 4/28, 10am-5pm, Brody Botanical Center. 45th Annual Spring Plant Sale. Inspiring ideas and 1,000s of plants offered, including water-wise Southwestern, native Californian, Australian plants and succulents, plus tomatoes, vegetables, fruit trees, herbs and more! Open to Members only on Friday and on Saturday until 1 p.m.; open to all visitors on Saturday after 1 p.m. and all day on Sunday.



THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION

10459 Tuxford St., Sun Valley 91352
818.768.1802 theodorepayne.org

Saturday, 4/13, 9am-12noon. Propagating California Native Plants with TPF Production Manager Jordan Isken. Learn basic skills of vegetative propagation using a variety of species. Begin from cuttings in this hands-on session, and leave with a flat of starts! Limit: 10. \$50 members, \$60 non-members. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/propagating-california-native-plants-with-jordan-isken-tickets-50454991237>

Wednesday, 4/24, 3-5pm. Collaborative event - **SEE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM LISTING** -

Friday, 4/26, 9-10am. Irrigation Basics for the Native Garden, a Walk and Talk with TPF Director of Horticulture Tim Becker. This focused walk on TPF grounds covers how, when and where to irrigate, as well as the benefits and drawbacks for overhead, drip and hand-watering equipment. Bring your hat and water bottle. Limit: 15. \$15 members, \$20 non-members. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/irrigation-basics-for-the-native-garden-a-walk-and-talk-with-tim-becker-tickets-57039940999>



3

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY (CNPS)

Los Angeles / Santa Monica Mountains Chapter
Sepulveda Garden Center

16633 Magnolia Blvd, Encino 91436
818-782-9346 lacnps.org

Saturday, 9/13, 9am-4pm. Native Plant Celebration and Symposium, Wildflower Show, Plant and Book Sale, featuring speakers throughout the day. Plants for sale from Symposium partner, the Theodore Payne Foundation. California native wildflower cuttings from your home gardens (no wild cuttings) are welcomed and need to be available the morning of Friday, April 12. To contribute flowers email snowdy.dodson@csun.edu or call 818-782-9346. For details on speakers and more info. email: lacnps@lacnps.org.



RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN

1500 N. College Ave., Claremont 91711
909.625.8767 rsabg.org

Saturday & Sunday, 4/13 & 4/14, 10am-5pm. Our Wildflower Show is RSABG's longest running tradition and will feature floral displays, and artwork by regional artists. Check online for more details.



REDLANDS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Church of the Nazarene
1307 E Citrus Ave, Redlands, CA 92374
909-793-3333 (Frank Herendeen)
redlandsgardenclub.com

Saturday & Sunday, 4/27 & 4/28, 10am-4pm. Tour of 6 Redlands Gardens, featuring a farm offering hourly lectures on growing organic vegetables in raised beds. Learn valuable tips and enjoy live music at each garden. \$15 adults, Free for children 13 and under. Pre-purchase tickets at: RedlandsGardenClub.com. For tickets on tour-day, go to Museum of Redlands located in the old Redlands Facts building, 700 W. Brookside Avenue.



SANTA BARBARA BOTANIC GARDEN

1212 Mission Canyon Rd., Santa Barbara 93105
805-682-4726 www.sbbg.org

Daily in April thru 5/5, 9am-6pm. Spring Native Plant Sale. This sale offers the largest selection of native plants on the Central Coast with over 6,000 plants and 400 different varieties. Garden admission is not required to visit the sale. For more info, visit sbbg.org/spring-sale, or contact nursery manager, Patrick Wiley at 805-682-4726 ext. 127.

Saturday, 4/13, 2-5pm. Designing with Water Wise Natives. Learn how professional designers assure finished gardens are beautiful, useful and sustainable. Includes site planning and plant selection. \$30 members, \$45 non-members. Register online or call 805-682-4726, ext. 102.

Sunday, 4/14, 1-3pm. Hands-on Drip Irrigation Workshop. Start from scratch or learn to make repairs or retrofit your drip system in this hands-on workshop including do-it-yourself assembly and maintenance. Free, but please register at sbbg.org or call 805-682-4726, ext. 102.

Yvonne Savio

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

-  April 11 - Matt Candeias, author of the *In Defense of Plants* blog will speak about "Gardening in a Changing Climate"
-  May 9 - Garden expert and author, Nan Sterman, will present a program based on her landscape design book, *Hot Color, Dry Garden*
-  June 13 - Botany professor & author, Matt Ritter, will speak on "Tree Selection: Keeping Our Urban Forests Healthy"
-  July 11 - Presentation by educator Robert Allen, the co-author of *Wildflowers of Orange County and the Santa Ana Mountains*

GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Bees do have a smell,
you know,
and if they don't
they should,
for their feet are dusted
with spices
from a million flowers."

- Ray Bradbury
Dandelion Wine



Steven Gerischer - President, Oral History Committee, PR
John Schoustra - Vice President, Field-Trip Committee, Finance Committee, Plant Raffle, Plant Sales at meetings
Laura Bauer - Treasurer, Finance Committee, Website Committee, HOTY Event Committee, Voicemail
Pat Steen - Membership Secretary, Recording Secretary, Field Trip and Coffee-in-the-Garden Committees, Greeter
Carol Aronson - Field Trip & Coffee-in-the-Garden Committees, Program Committee
Carol Bornstein - Program Committee
Aprille Curtis - Social Media Committee, Plant Forum supplies
Fleur Nooyen - Program Committee
Steven Ormenyi - Finance Committee, Program Committee
Yoav Paskowitz - Finance Committee, Oral History Committee, Website Committee, Newsletter Copy Editor
Yvonne Savio - Horticultural Happenings, PR, Field Trip and Coffee-in-the-Garden Committees
Lili Singer - Board Nomination Committee, PR, Archives, Social Media Committee
Sabine Steinmetz - Newsletter Editor, Sharing Secrets
Jill Vig - Coffee-in-the-Garden Committee, Oral History Committee, Special Projects

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Next deadline: Monday, April 15 (for May newsletter)
 Please contribute an article or information of interest.



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