Southern California Tree Selection:
Factors to Consider in an Era of Global Climate Change, Droughts, and Decreasing Diversity

In June we invite you to join guest speaker Matt Ritter, botany professor and author of A Californian’s Guide to the Trees Among Us, for a tour of native and exotic trees planted in Southern California. Matt will discuss patterns and trends in tree selection and considerations for helping to ensure a healthy urban forest for Southern California cities in a time of climate change and decreasing biodiversity. What should we be thinking about when we choose a tree? Carbon sequestration potential, aesthetics, water use, provenance, and culture all play a role.

Matt is a professor in the Biology Department at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, a noted expert on the genus Eucalyptus, editor-in-chief of Madroño, the quarterly journal of the California Botanical Society, and a scientific author. His publications, including his latest book, California Plants: A Guide to Our Iconic Flora, attempt to foster a sense of appreciation for California’s unique flora and reveal to his readers the natural wonders around us. As a college professor, he helps young people cultivate their curiosity and learn more about the organisms in our world.

Matt will use his beautiful photographs, insight, and humor to share tools for helping us to understand how to choose the right tree for the right place. Copies of both A Californian’s Guide to the Trees Among Us as well as California Plants: A Guide to Our Iconic Flora, will be available to purchase, and a book signing will follow the presentation.

Photo courtesy of speaker.
Our May meeting was an exciting visual exploration of designing with color in the waterwise garden to achieve maximum impact. Our speaker was popular garden expert and author Nan Sterman, who shared examples and tips from her new book *Hot Color, Dry Garden*. She emphasized that with prolonged periods of drought predicted in our future, we need to embrace the dry garden as the appropriate choice for our climate, but can do so without sacrificing beauty and aesthetics.

Nan’s has been well known as a garden expert, designer, author, botanist, and award-winning journalist. She also hosts and co-produces the public TV show, *A Growing Passion*, which connects plants, people, and the planet. She is dedicated to transforming planted landscapes from overly thirsty and resource-intensive to climate appropriate and sustainable. In her program Nan shared ways of introducing color into dry climate gardens – from plants to architecture, and accessories to details. She talked about ways to combine colors, where to find inspiration for palettes, and uncommon combinations that work beautifully in the garden.

Her slide presentation illustrated advice on using design principles including: setting the scene with color by looking at the style and color of the house; being aware of the surroundings and knowing the client’s preferences; gardening with “color schemes” by using contrasting colors, or several bold colors together; or creating a monochromatic tone-on-tone effect with different intensities of the same color; and incorporating accessories to bring in color, such as containers, furniture, painted surfaces, or garden art.

Of course, the most important elements in the garden that determine the color scheme are the plants themselves, and Nan shared some of her drought-tolerant favorites. Among them were: *Agave ‘Blue Flame’*, *Leucadendron ‘Jester’*, various South African bulbs, and *Grevillea juniperina*. She showed photos from garden designers who used plants with low water needs in unexpected combinations with beautiful results. Texture, shape and size were elements that also helped bring the disparate plants together into a cohesive design.

After her presentation, Nan answered audience questions and signed copies of her book which was available to purchase. For information on Nan, and to see more garden design ideas, you can visit her website at: waterwisegardener.com.

**Sabine Steinmetz**

**SHARING SECRETS**

In May we asked you:

*If you had unlimited funds, what feature(s) would you include in your dream garden?*

**A Moroccan garden with a mosaic pool.**

- Karen Fischer

Wandering pathways, a stream and a pond...

- Diane Connell

A Japanese garden designed by Hoichi Kurisu – and all the bonsai trees and staff to care for them!

- Jessica Carlson

A Jeffrey Bale pebble mosaic and anything else he felt like doing for me! Also: a glass bottle sculpture by Randy Lawrence (Randyland, Echo Park); anything I could think to commission Brent “Shrine” Spears to do for me; and a Moroccan tiled fountain by Diana Mausser (Native Tile) like the one she did for that Berkeley garden.

- Kathy Musial

A 10’ high waterfall...

- Anonymous

Oh, to have a nice garden railway, with a live steam train going around mountains (mounds) and California native plants everywhere!

- Anonymous

A simple water fountain or birdbath.

- Anonymous

I've always wanted a koi pond. And the funds to hire someone to take care of it.

- Anonymous

**Everyone has such big dreams, including our secret gardeners**

A giant squirrel- and thrips-proof barrier! It would keep out all sharpshooters and psyllids so I wouldn’t have to lose my grapevines and citrus to disease.

- Anonymous

Thanks for sharing!

Hope your gardening wishes come true for you...

**SCHS “RETURN TO SOMIS” FIELD TRIP - EXTENDED DEADLINE!**

We are pleased to be able to keep the registration window for this trip open a few days longer, for those members and friends who have not had a chance to register for this unique bus-trip to Somis.

**New deadline: Friday, June 7 – CLICK to REGISTER HERE or see enclosed flyer.**
JUNE 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, 6/28, 5-9pm. Summer Nights in the Garden. SIP garden-infused cocktails, check out science and nature experiences, enjoy take-home activities and live music performances. More info on website.

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

Saturday & Sunday, 6/8 & 6/9, 9am-4pm. Los Angeles Int’l Fern Society Show & Sale. The LAIFS presents displays of ferns and other exotic plants, plus informative lectures and “opportunity” drawings throughout each day. For questions, call 626.821.3222.

Sunday, 6/30, 3-5pm. California’s Iconic Flora Walk & Talk with Matt Ritter, botany professor and author, for a visual tour and celebration of California’s iconic native flora. Talk & Book Signing = $10 members, $15 non-members. Walk = $25 members, $35 non-members. Register online or call the Education Dept.

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

Saturday, 6/15, 9am-5pm. Descanso Bonsai Society in Van de Kamp Hall and Birch Room.


CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY (CNPS)
San Gabriel Mtns Chapter / Eaton Canyon Center
1750 No. Altadena Dr., Pasadena 91107
818-398-5420
cnps-sgm.org

Thursday, 6/26, 7:30pm. Rare plants of Orange County, Native and Otherwise, with Ron Vanderhoff. Learn about regionally rare plants, with small populations in this 2-part program. Take a tour beginning with rare native species, emphasizing their rare habitats. Part 2 will highlight some of the newest and most destructive non-native weeds that have recently arrived in Orange County and threaten habitats and our native flora. Orange County CNPS has become a leader in the early detection and Ron is a local native plant expert and a member of the chapter’s Rare Plant Committee.

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

Saturday, 6/15, 9am-12noon, Nature Patio. 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
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.

Sundays & Saturdays, 6/8, 6/9, 6/15, 6/16, 10am-4pm. Bonsai Academy Series with Bonsai master Ted Matson. An intensive 4-session session, go, or school, in the art of bonsai geared to beginners. Explore history of bonsai, basic tree botany, design concepts, training techniques, and display. $120 members, $135 non-members. All supplies and tools provided, including demo trees for classroom practice. Register at huntington.org/calendar.

Monday, 6/10, 11:30am-3:30pm at 20-minute intervals. Japanese Tea House Tours. Learn about the history of the Japanese Garden’s ceremonial teahouse and the traditions behind its use. Repeats second Mondays.


SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN
230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas 92024
760.436.3036
sdbgarden.org

Sunday, 6/16, 9am-12noon. Living Wall/Vertical Garden with Mary Lou Morgan. Learn the basics of vertical gardening by planting your own 10” x 20” wall with a variety of succulents, in various colors, textures and sizes. $30 members, $35 non-members. Additional $80 per student materials fee to be paid directly to the instructor at the class. Register at http://www.sdbgarden.org/classes.htm

SANTA BARBARA HORT. SOCIETY
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
909 N. La Cumbre Road, Santa Barbara 93110
805-687-2885
sbchs.org

Wednesday, 6/5, 7pm. Begonias: Novel Grown and New Introductions from Australia with begonia expert Mike Flaherty. Learn novel ways of growing begonias, see new Australian begonia hybrids that he has introduced to the United States, and other interesting specimens. Mike is currently the President of the Rudolf Ziesenhenne branch of the American Begonia Society of Santa Barbara and the national MC for the American Begonia Society. Mike has three begonias named after him, including ‘O’Flaherty’s Folly’. Call for more information.

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

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

August 8 - Anthropologist Michael Wilken speaking on his book, Kumeyaay Ethnobotany: Shared Heritage of the Californias

Sept. 28 - SCHS Annual Horticulturist of the Year Award Banquet and Silent Auction, honoring Mike Evans

VENUE CHANGE - HOTY banquet will be at L.A. Arboretum

GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“If we could see the miracle of a single flower clearly our whole life would change.”

- Buddha

NEWSLETTER June 2019