July brings Robert “Bob” Allen to the SCHS to speak on Southern California's native pollinators and their impact on our ecology. He will discuss and demonstrate pollination mechanisms with photographs, revealing stories and hands-on examples.

The presentation on pollination derives from Bob's years of experience as an entomologist, botanist, instructor, nature photographer and author, combined with his personal interests, studies and research. He currently teaches Botany at Orange Coast College, is a Research Associate in Entomology at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, and the author of the field guide Wildflowers of Orange County and the Santa Ana Mountains (published 2013).

Bob will discuss how native plants get pollen from one place to another, what our major pollinating insects are, and how a flower's structure can provide clues to the identity of its pollinators, among other little known facts. Most of California's flowering plants rely on animals for pollination, including our estimated 1,600 species of native bees.

Many people are familiar with Apis mellifera, the Western honey bee. It is a non-native bee, introduced by colonists to pollinate the crop plants they brought with them, and in fact, cannot physically pollinate many species of native plants. Since it did not evolve with them, it lacks the necessary structures and behaviors needed to do so.

Native bees, on the other hand, are the most effective pollinators of most native plants. For example, a single female native bee in the genus Habropoda, over her lifespan may visit 50,000 flowers, leading to the production of over 60,000 fruits responsible for reproduction and used as food by other forms of wildlife. Research suggests that flowers of native plants are up to four times more attractive to native bees than non-native flowers.

Bob encourages people to observe native bees by getting out of manicured gardens and into the wild. He also recommends a visit to the Pollinator Partnership website before and after the program at: www.pollinator.org. His wildflower book is available from the Orange County chapter of the California Native Plant Society at: https://www.occnps.org/wildflower-book.html.

Please join us for an evening we expect to be both educational and entertaining. See you in July!
Botany professor Matt Ritter, of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, spoke to the SCHS in June about Southern California tree selection in an era of climate change and decreasing biodiversity. He spoke about patterns and trends in tree selection and considerations for helping to ensure a healthy urban forest for the future of Southern California cities.

With climate change becoming more erratic every year, and 150,000,000 of California's trees lost due to drought-related issues since 2009, Matt shared ideas about solutions to increasing tree populations again, particularly in urban areas. He provided statistics about trees' abilities to reduce energy consumption and heat as well as increasing wildlife habitat. He also spoke of studies showing how trees improve our quality of life physically and psychologically.

Citing thoughtful tree selection as a major tool for introducing more trees with more species diversity to urban centers, Matt provided a formula for “Successful Tree Planting”. His selection formula includes three things: 1. Human Benefits (for health, aesthetics and well-being); 2. Carbon Sequestration (to aid in climate change mitigation); and 3. Conservation of Biodiversity. Combined with these factors, matching species selection with site criteria will increase chances for successful tree survival.

To aid with thoughtful tree selection, Matt shared information on the SelecTree website, an interactive program and guide he helped create. It is designed to help people select appropriate trees for particular sites, based on compatible characteristics and is maintained by the Urban Forest Ecosystems Institute at Cal Poly SLO, and can be found at: https://selectree.calpoly.edu/

Other suggestions Matt made include selecting the largest tree (at maturity) suitable for a given location based on its expected longevity, drought tolerance, provenance (native or non-native), size of canopy cover (for wildlife), and resistance to extreme environmental conditions. Because increasing populations displace green spaces in urban areas, he believes we need to be planting trees in urban areas continually, and making careful selections for future benefit.

Following his presentation, Matt took audience questions and signed copies of his book A Californian’s Guide to the Trees Among Us, which he brought along for purchase.

Sabine Steinmetz

Related: in attendance this evening was landscape designer Jacky Surber, co-founder of “Angelenos for Trees” a community group seeking to preserve and regenerate the shrinking tree canopies in our neighborhoods. Learn more at: www.angelenosfortrees.org.

On Saturday, June 15, the SCHS hosted a chartered bus tour to Somis to visit three horticultural destinations. The all-day event took participants to behind-the-scenes places not usually open to the public.

First up was Berylwood Tree Farm, where Sales Manager Charles Thomas toured guests through rows of enormous trees, including the state's largest Beaucarnea recurvata (pictured here) per the California Big Tree Registry. Charles shared stories of how giant trees are transported and transplanted, and showed specimens planted by landscape architect Rolla Wilhite who founded Berylwood in 1969.

Greenwood Daylily Gardens, the nursery of SCHS vice president John Schoustra, was next on the tour. John spoke about nursery operations, including irrigation practices using rain-captured water. He shared new plant introductions and gave visitors a chance to shop before opening his beautiful home gardens for exploration and a catered lunch.

The final destination was to former nurseryman Richard Baron’s 60-acre property, which has been featured on previous tours, and is ever-evolving. In addition to featuring a man-made 5-acre lake with an island, Richard toured guests to sculpted trees, a formal rose garden, koi ponds and more.

Many thanks to the SCHS board for putting together this unique field trip. It was a memorable experience for all, and also brought new members to our organization.

Sabine Steinmetz

Visit our Facebook page to see more photos of this trip.
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. Cancelled in event of rain.

Monday, 7/8, 11:30am-3:30pm at 20-minute intervals, Japanese Tea House Tours. Learn about the history of the Japanese Garden's ceremonial tea house and the traditions behind its use. Repeats second Mondays.

Thursday, 7/11, 2:30pm, Ahmanson Classroom, Brody Botanical Center. 2nd Thursday Garden Talk & Sale - Australian Ant-Plants. Attila Kapitany, a leading expert on Australian succulents, will give an illustrated talk about ant-plants, which are highly evolved succulents possessing structural adaptations that provide food and shelter for ant colonies. The ants, in turn, aid in pollination and seed dispersal, provide nutrients, and defend the plants against herbivores. Plant sale follows talk.

Thursday, 7/25, 4:30-5:30pm, Auditorium, Brody Botanical Center. Botany Bay Series: Plant Science for Gardeners and Citizen Scientists led by Jim Folsom, the Telleen/Jorgensen Director of the Botanical Gardens. “Citizen scientists” explore the plant world through discussion and hands-on lab time in this monthly series. No reservations required. Repeats fourth Thursdays.

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

Friday, 7/12, 9-10am. Irrigation Basics for the Native Garden with Tim Becker, TPF Director of Horticulture. This focused walk and talk on TPF grounds covers how, when and where to irrigate, as well as the benefits and drawbacks of overhead, drip and hand-waing 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-61948828614

Saturday, 7/13, 7/27, 8/10, 9am-1pm. California Native Garden Design with Carlos Flores, landscape designer. This course offers a foundation in design, process, sustainability, and how to model a garden after patterns in nature. Limit: 8. Prerequisite: Right Plant, Right Place class (must be taken before first design class). $225 members, $275 additional $80 per student materials fee to be paid directly to the instructor at the class. Please register by July 20 at https://www.sdbgarden.org/classes.htm

“The right plant, in the right place, with the right maintenance, can make plants thrive. Learn about ant-plants, which are highly evolved succulents possessing structural adaptations that provide food and shelter for ant colonies. The ants, in turn, aid in pollination and seed dispersal, provide nutrients, and defend the plants against herbivores. Plant sale follows talk.”


Saturday, 7/27, 8:30-10am. Lawn to Garden Basics: A Walk and Talk with Flora Ito, TPF Nursery Sales Manager. This walk on TPF grounds showcases landscape options and explains how to create a basic planting plan. Students will receive a copy of our new From Lawn to Garden guide. Limit: 10. $20 members, $25 non-members. Register at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lawn-to-garden-basics-a-walk-and-talk-with-flora-ito-tickets-60696245346

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

Saturday & Sunday, 7/20 & 7/21, 10am-4pm. Insect Festival 2019 features 1,000s of creepy-crawlies including live insects, lizards, snakes, ladybugs and the famous “Madagascar hissing cockroaches.” Children can practice bug collecting, hands-on insect arts and crafts, and even taste cooked mealworm. Entomologists and other bug experts will be available for questions from children and adults alike. For info., go to https://www.sdbgarden.org/insect.htm

Sunday, 7/27, 9am-12noon. Living Wall/Vertical Garden with Mary Lou Morgan. Plant your own 10” x 20” wall with a variety of succulents, in a multitude of colors, textures and sizes. $30 members, $36 non-members. Additional $80 per student materials fee to be paid directly to the instructor at the class. Please register by July 20 at https://www.sdbgarden.org/classes.htm

U.C. RIVERSIDE BOTANIC GARDEN 900 University Ave., Riverside 92521 951-784-6962 gardens.ucr.edu

Saturday, 7/13, 6:30-8:30pm. Twilight Tour. Join us for a guided tour during the evening and enjoy light refreshments. $7 members, $10 non-members. Tickets available at www.gardens.ucr.edu. For more information, ucrgardens@ucr.edu or 951-784-6962.

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

Saturday, 7/13, 9:30am. Monthly Garden Share. Attendees bring garden-related items such as plants, cuttings, pots, tools, produce, etc., to trade. This is a great way to obtain new plants and meet like-minded plant lovers. For more information, go to https://www.facebook.com/groups/CoastkeeperGardenShare. Repeats second Saturdays.

Yvonne Savio
UPCOMING SCHS PROGRAMS

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

**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**

**Oct. 10** - Program TBA

GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“All the water that will ever be is, right now.”
- National Geographic

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

NEWSLETTER July 2019