# SCHS 2019 Annual Award Banquet

**Honoring Horticulturist of the Year Mike Evans**

Saturday, September 28 at L.A. County Arboretum - Details on Page 2

In September, the Southern California Horticultural Society is hosting its annual Horticulturist of the Year award banquet, honoring nurseryman Mike Evans, founder of Tree of Life Nursery in San Juan Capistrano.

Born and raised in Southern California, Mike demonstrated an early love for the outdoors camping, surfing, and hiking. From early jobs in nurseries, both retail and wholesale, he fell in love with horticulture. He established Tree of Life Nursery in 1976, specializing in native California plants and promoting an honest approach to California horticulture, specifically authentic garden design using native plants. The 34-acre nursery is the largest producer of California native plants in the state, boasting over 400 species and varieties.

Mike is also affiliated with numerous conservation, horticultural and botanical organizations, both past and present. His current board positions include the San Juan Capistrano Open Space Foundation as well as The Reserve at Rancho Mission Viejo, a 20,000-acre land conservancy in south Orange County. He is a professor in the horticulture program at Saddleback Community College in Mission Viejo and is also frequently called on to give workshops and training seminars or to speak to groups on native plants and related subjects.

About the SCHS award, Mike says, “I am fortunate to be part of an amazing team at Tree of Life, and to have so much support from family, colleagues and friends in the plant world. As growers, gardeners and plant lovers, we all go about our daily activities with persistent joy; and soon the days turn into seasons, then years, which inevitably constitute a lifetime, and a lifetime with plants is enough of an award for anyone. So for me to also join the prestigious list of SoCal Hort HOTY recipients is beyond my imagination. I am very thankful.”

We invite you to this year’s banquet for dinner, our popular silent auction, and to celebrate the career of Mike Evans. In addition to receiving this year’s HOTY award, we look forward to hearing Mike speak on some of his thoughts regarding the future of horticulture in Southern California, as he describes briefly below:

> With plants in the mix, people combine art, science, craft, skill, technology, and a little luck to get horticulture... and don’t forget sunlight, soil and water. Whether as a career, lifestyle, passion, or hobby, horticulture becomes a reciprocal pursuit; we care for plants and they make us better people, and that’s because gardens and plants give us an everyday connection to nature. Everyone needs nature, said John Muir, and he was right. But Southern California’s younger generations often find themselves alienated from the natural world by today’s technology, and deep down inside they (like everyone else), need it. How can we make “Intro to Horticulture” fit in an iPhone? How can millennials find an invitation into nature, using the same technology that distracts them from it? Key point: Can horticulture survive for future generations without those who count as today’s young people?

We’re intrigued, and if you are too, please join us for this festive and entertaining evening. (See registration form enclosed or register online at socalhort.org.)

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### Last Call for Silent Auction

If you are attending the banquet and would like to bring donations for the Silent Auction with you, we can accept items that evening, **BUT** please inform Steve Gerischer at least 2 days in advance so he is aware and can prepare a bid card for your item(s).

You can reach Steve at: sglarkspur@aol.com or by phone (323)257-3629. **Thank you!**

All donations are appreciated, but we do need the advance notice to make sure we can accommodate everything!
Our speaker in August was anthropologist Michael Wilken-Robertson, who presented his cultural explorations of northern Baja California’s original peoples and their descendants, whose knowledge of the land has sustained them from ancient times to the present. He currently teaches in the anthropology department at California State University, San Marcos and is the author of *Kumeyaay Ethnobotany* which explores the remarkable interdependence between native peoples and native plants of the Californias. His research has focused on the many ways humans have interacted with their environments, from the past up to the present, with a focus on Native Baja Californians.

The indigenous Kumeyaay people can be found in the southwestern part of California in the U.S. and northern Baja in Mexico, where they share a cultural history that does not recognize borders. There are variations within Kumeyaay territory in the way people live, including language, but much ethnobotanical knowledge is common. Up until 200 years ago, their territory was much further-ranging, and they roamed seasonally for food, e.g.: gathering pine nuts during the summer in the mountains and acorns at lower elevations in the fall. After agriculture was introduced to these people, they became more settled and less nomadic.

In present day, much of the population lives in four federally recognized regions, and it is up to the elders to pass cultural traditions, including ethnobotanic knowledge, to younger generations orally. In addition to learning about edible plants (*Manzanita, Prunus ilicifolia, Chia*), native traditional arts rely on plant materials as well, including the stalks of *Yucca schidigera*, which are used to fire pottery, and *Juncus textilis, Muhlenbergia rigens*, and *Rhus trilobata*, commonly used in basketry. Many of the native peoples’ cultures claim to harvest plants sustainably, so that they will be available from the same grounds year after year.

After the program, Wilken-Robertson answered questions and stayed for a book signing of *Kumeyaay Ethnobotany* (which features in-depth descriptions of 47 native plants and their uses). It connects an archaeological and historical record with living cultures and native plant specialists who share their knowledge for future generations.

To see the evening’s presentation in its entirety, visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/socalhort/

SHARING SECRETS

In August we asked you:

*What seeds are you collecting for next year’s garden?*

- Always Zinnia and Tithonia.
  - Aprille Curtis

- I’m growing good, medium-sized tomatoes and will try saving some seeds this year.
  - Steve Ormenyi

- Good luck with your collections!

SCHS 2019 Annual Award Banquet & Silent Auction

**Saturday, September 28, 2018**

Ayres Hall at L.A. County Arboretum ▪ 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia 91007 (enter thru side gate)

Social hour & silent auction begin at 5:30 pm. Auction closes at 7 pm, followed by dinner, & award presentation at 8:15 pm

( Remember: we accept credit cards at the auction!)

Register online until Sept. 25, or call Laura Bauer at (626) 437-9459 thereafter to check for ticket availability.
SEPTMBER 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
Daily, 3:30pm, Nature Walk. Meet outside the Nature Lab (under the bridge) for a walk in the Nature Gardens to explore the diversity of life that calls L.A. home.
Every Saturday and Sunday, 11am, Nature Gardens Exploration. Meet outside the Nature Lab (under the bridge) for a hands-on activity in our Nature Gardens.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BOTANICAL GARDEN
26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes 90274
310.544.1948 southcoastbotanicgarden.org
Saturday 9/14, 9am-5pm & Sunday 9/15, 9am-4pm visit the South Bay Orchid Society Fall Show and Sale. Vendors and society members will be selling plants, displaying artistic exhibits, and offering “Orchids-R-Easy” demos/classes. An hourly raffle will be held each day.

DESCANSO GARDENS
1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada 91011
818.949.7980 descansogardens.org
Saturday, 9/14, 10am-1pm. Oak Woodland: 5 Year Celebration. In fall 2014, we transformed an uncultivated behind-the-scenes area into 7 acres of native plantings. Join a 10am Oak Tree Talk with educator and author Emily Han to learn about the iconic trees that dot this landscape; or a 1pm Wildflower Seed Search to make a California wildflower packet to take home (map at Info Station will guide you to Seed Stations in the garden); and a 3pm Oak Woodland Highlight Tour and guided walk.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM
301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia 91007
626.821.4623 arboretum.org
Saturday, 9/21, 10am-12noon. Crescent Farm for Beginners. Learn the basics - how topljography can capture water and how plant choices can save water AND provide habitat all year. Register online at www.arboretum.org/calendar or call Education Dept.

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.
Thursday, 9/26, 4:30-5:30pm, Brody Botanical Center. Botany Bay Series: Plant Science for Gardeners and Citizen Scientists with Jim Folsom, the Telleen/Jorgensen Director of the Botanical Gardens. Explore the plant world through discussion and hands-on lab time in this monthly series. No reservations required. Repeats 4th Thursdays.
Thursday, 9/26, 5:30-7:30pm. Posies & Palates: The Secret Language of Flowers. Join Casey Schwartz and Kit Wertz of Flower Duet and Maite Gomez-Rejon of ArtBites for a workshop exploring the secret language of Victorian herbs and flowers. Participants will prepare themed cocktails and create personal posies to take home. $85 members, $100 non-members. Register at www.huntington.org/calendar.
Thursday, 9/26, 7:30pm, Rothenberg Hall. East Asian Garden Lecture Series: Gardens as Ecological Theater with Eugene Wang, professor of art history at Harvard University. He will discuss the Qianlong Garden in the Forbidden City as a 5-act play. Free; no reservations required.

THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION
10459 Tuxford St., Sun Valley 91352
818.768.1802 theodorepayne.org
Saturday, 9/14, 9-10am. Irrigation Basics for the Native Garden with Tim Becker, TPF Director of Horticulture. Join a walk & talk on TPF grounds to learn how, and where to irrigate, as well as the benefits and drawbacks for overhead, drip and hand-watering equipment. Bring a hat and water bottle. Limit: 15 students. $15 members, $20 non-members. Register online through theodorepayne.org.
Saturday, 9/14, 1:30-2:30pm. Wilding: The Return of Nature to a British Farm with author Isabella Tree. Hear about the rewilding of Isabella Tree and Charlie Burrell’s 3,500-acre English farm when conventional methods of farming failed them, and they switched to a radical approach: working with nature. Attendees will receive a signed copy of Tree’s 2018 book, Wilding. $25 members, $35 non-members. Register online through theodorepayne.org.

Friday, 9/20, 9-10am. Native Plant Maintenance Basics, with Tim Becker, TPF Director of Horticulture. Get an overview of maintenance practices for the California native garden during a walk and talk on TPF grounds. Wear comfortable shoes, and bring a hat and water bottle. Limit: 15 students. $15 members, $20 non-members. Register online through theodorepayne.org.
Saturday, 9/21, 1:30-3:30pm. Fire-Safe Landscaping with Orchid Black, Landscape Designer, Native Sanctuary. Learn ways to create and maintain a beautiful fire-safe home and landscape. Case studies will illustrate simple principles and best practices, and a palette of native plants that can be used to lower fire risk, control erosion, and enhance defensible space will be shared. $25 members, $35 non-members. Register online through theodorepayne.org.
Saturday, 9/28, 1:30-3:30pm. Succulents of the Golden State with Sandy Masuo, Educator, Author and Conservatist. Discover what California native succulents – from Agave to Dudleya to Yucca – share with succulents from other regions and what sets them apart. $20 members, $30 non-members. Register online through theodorepayne.org.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SOUTH COAST RESEARCH & EXTENSION CENTER
7601 Irvine Blvd., Irvine 92618
949.653.1810 screc.ucanr.edu
Saturday, 9/28, 9am-2pm. Urban Living Education Expo. Visit exhibitors for ways to reduce landscape water use. Discuss solutions for irrigation and pest issues with UC researchers and industry experts. Check out demos on beekeeping, composting, irrigation, and more. Enjoy tasty treats at the 4-H Youth Program concession stand, or partake in our Plant Sale (cash or checks only.) Random opportunity drawings for gardening gifts will be held throughout the day.

FULLERTON ARBORETUM
1900 Associated Road, Fullerton 92831
657.278.3407 fullertonarboretum.org
Saturday, 9/28, 10am. Basics of Home Composting. Learn how to build and improve your composting system and speed up the process of turning yard clippings and food scraps into soil. $7 members, $10 non-members.

Yvonne Savio
Southern California Horticultural Society Horticulturist of the Year Banquet & Silent Auction
Saturday, 9/28, 5:30-10pm in Ayres Hall at the L.A. County Arboretum
Join us in honoring Mike Evans, owner of Tree of Life Nursery. Tickets are $50. Register online or download a flyer for mail-in registration at www.socalhort.org
UPCOMING SCHS PROGRAMS

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 28</td>
<td>SCHS Annual Horticulturist of the Year Award Banquet and Silent Auction, honoring Mike Evans</td>
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<td><strong>VENUe CHANGE - HOTY banquet will be at L.A. Arboretum</strong></td>
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<td>Oct. 10</td>
<td>Turf Alternatives Panel with Cassy Aoyagi, Ellen Mackey, Joel Lichtenwalter and moderator Wynne Wilson</td>
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<td>Nov. 14</td>
<td>Travis Longcore speaking on Nighttime Ecology, Lighting, and Landscape Design</td>
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<td>Dec. 12</td>
<td>SCHS Holiday Party - Location TBA</td>
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GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“A seed hidden in the heart of an apple is an orchard invisible.”
- Welsh proverb

SEPTEMBER

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

NEWSLETTER September 2019

Please contribute an article or information of interest.