



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

August 2020

## OUR NEXT VIRTUAL MEETING

Thursday, August 13

Webinar begins at 7:30 p.m.



Visit: [www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org) for registration info.

## SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

In July we were joined by:

*Maria Bleyberg*  
*Jocelyn Jacobs*

Tell your friends about SCHS! Now is a great time to join, while everyone is at home thinking about fall planting and looking for expert gardening advice...

## CONNECT WITH SCHS

We invite members to engage with us online until we can meet again.

### FIND US AT:

[www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org)  
[www.facebook.com/pg/socalhort](https://www.facebook.com/pg/socalhort)  
[www.instagram.com/socalhort](https://www.instagram.com/socalhort)



All membership options are also listed on our website.

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**Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the SCHS will be hosting monthly webinars online in lieu of meeting in person. These presentations will also be archived on YouTube.**

## Plant Hormones: Knowing & Managing Them for Better Results

Have you ever wondered why your plant has a sudden burst of growth after transplanting? Or how the plant “knows” to grow new parts when pruned, or how a cutting “knows” to make roots? Maybe you’ve pondered how a banana “knows” to ripen or why leaves suddenly turn yellow when you bring a new plant home. The Southern California Horticultural Society will bring you answers to these questions during our monthly webinar for August, presented by Ernesto Sandoval, Director of the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory.

Sandoval has been wondering and seeking questions to why plants grow and



look the way they do for quite a long time. When he was about 13 he asked his dad why one tree was pruned a particular way and another tree another way, and the answer was simply “because that’s the way you do it.” Ever since then he’s been learning and educating himself about the answer to that pruning question and so many others, first by getting a degree in Botany from UC Davis, and then through working for over 30 years at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory in jobs

beginning with student weeder/waterer, and culminating in his current position of Conservatory Director.

In addition to his job at the conservatory, Sandoval is often explaining and interpreting the world of plants to audiences of all ages and experiences, ranging from K-12 to professionals. He regularly lectures to a variety of western garden clubs throughout the year - and to succulent plant clubs throughout California whenever possible, as desert and drought-tolerant plants are his specific passion within his general passion for plants. Sandoval describes himself as a “Jose of All Plants, Master of None” and thoroughly enjoys helping others, gardeners in particular, to understand why and how plants do what they do.

Please tune in on August 13 to discover why your plants grow as they do during this informative yet not so technical program, as Sandoval guides us in learning the ins and outs of how hormones affect plant growth. By gaining a better understanding of our plants’ physiology we can maximize their healthy growth - and in turn their benefits to us - with much less effort. And don’t forget to think about specific questions you may have for the Q & A session following the program.

Visit [www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org) for registration information and we’ll “see” you in August!

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### SCHS 2020 HORTICULTURIST OF THE YEAR

The SCHS board has decided that despite our inability to gather for our annual Horticulturist of the Year (HOTY) Banquet in person, we will still be hosting the award ceremony via an online presentation.

This year’s award will be conferred posthumously, to a recipient who, while deserving, was not recognized with this honor during their lifetime.

The HOTY honoree and specifics of the program will appear in the September newsletter, and on our social media platforms, as soon as the details are confirmed.

## SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, September 24

We are looking forward to spending an entertaining evening together online!



### SCHS ONLINE ACTIVITIES

The SCHS continues to share horticultural knowledge accessible from the safety of your homes. Through our monthly webinars, via our Facebook and Instagram pages, and with our growing library of YouTube videos, we are keeping members (and the public) apprised of our activities and alerted to upcoming events.

Please check us out - we strive to offer something for every gardener! (All online links can be found in the contents bar above.)

Photo and text courtesy of speaker.

Last month, during another hot July, we were served with a refreshing webinar by SCHS board member and Master Gardener Yvonne Savio, speaking on the topic of growing your own vegetables.

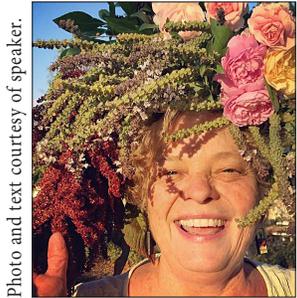


Photo and text courtesy of speaker.

She enjoys enabling others to reap the benefits of “growing your own.”

For 36 years, through the University of California, where she conferred with statewide vegetable, fruit, and ornamentals specialists, and then by revitalizing the Los Angeles County Master Gardener Volunteer Program, where she taught 1150 Master Gardeners who in turn served 1.3 million county residents. Since Savio’s retirement in 2015, she has continued inspiring home gardeners through presentations and by blogging on her [www.GardeningInLA.net](http://www.GardeningInLA.net) website. It’s small wonder that this timely presentation was well-attended, given her reputation and the increased interest in home edible gardening.

Savio began with an overview of fruits and vegetables that are native to the Americas, including beans, blueberries, corn, cucumbers, grapes, potatoes, squash, strawberries, sweet potatoes, and prickly pear fruits. She then moved on to the vegetables that can be grown during either the “warm” or “cool” seasons. For detailed growing

information broken down by month, you can check out Savio’s website.

As we are typically slowing down in our gardens during July and August, Savio spoke about “cool” season vegetables first, which we can begin to plant in a few months. Interestingly, unlike warm season vegetables, the edible parts of the cool season vegetables are typically not their fruits (with the exception of peas). We eat their roots (beets, carrots, parsnips, radishes), stems (asparagus, potatoes), leaves (cabbages, celery, lettuce, onions), and immature flowers (broccoli, artichoke). Best growing conditions are air temperatures of 55 - 75 F, and a minimum 4 to 6 hours of direct sunlight.

By contrast, during the “warm” season, we eat the mature fruits of the plants (melons, squash, tomatoes), as well as the immature fruits (beans, corn, cucumbers, eggplants, peppers, squash). Best growing conditions are air temperatures between 65 - 95 F, with a minimum of 8 hours of direct sunlight. (More sunlight relates directly to increased flavor development.)

Savio suggested that growing variety selections might depend on specific micro-climates, or on whether you want plants that either all ripen at once (good for canning, and preserving), or over a prolonged harvesting season so you can enjoy them fresh for an extended period. She also provided tips on germinating seeds, transplanting shoots, soil preparation, installing raised beds, sowing seeds for succession harvesting, companion planting, proper spacing,

trellising (to take advantage of vertical growing), how to lengthen seasons, irrigation (frequency and methods), mulching, harvesting and saving seeds.

She concluded her program by encouraging us to “eat our yards”, and then stayed online to field questions from viewers, both before and after the prize giveaway. If you missed the presentation you can download a copy of the hand-out she provided to accompany her talk by going to: [www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org) and accessing Past Meetings, or you can watch the entire program via the link below.

🌿 Sabine Steinmetz

*Click on the following link to see the entire presentation on SCHS’s YouTube channel:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZV8ikg1Zc0>

## SCHS MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE

*During August, we recommend protecting your plants from sun-scald on scorching days and continuing to monitor your plants’ water needs, adjusting your irrigation accordingly; otherwise, grab a cool drink and*

**TAKE A BREAK!**

🌿 Sabine Steinmetz

## SCHS Activities and Announcements

The SCHS is proud to announce that our organization has been fortunate to receive a very generous endowment from the Anna and Harry Borun Foundation to fund a horticultural speaker series in memory of Ruth Borun. She was a long-time member and supporter of our organization, and we are pleased to be able to honor her legacy by offering exceptional programs for our members. SCHS president John Schoustra and board member Carol Aronson have been working closely with the Borun estate to establish the parameters of how the endowment will be utilized, and more information will follow. We are grateful for the Boruns’ support, and are looking

forward to sustaining this speaker series for many years to come. The SCHS is also planning on rescheduling the tour of the Borun garden (postponed this last spring) as soon as it is safe to do so.

In addition to working with the Borun estate, the SCHS is continuing to expand the scope of its online outreach. As we are growing our social media presence and engaging with more visitors, we are also looking for ways to enhance content. A recent addition to our website is a virtual “Plant Forum”, exclusive to members, wherein they can submit plant photos to share, ask questions about, or seek advice from fellow members. To access

this feature, members must log into their SCHS account at [www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org), then hover over the 3-bar drop-down menu at the top right of the screen, and click on “Member Only” and then “Plant Forum.”

We, as SCHS members, can all try to make the best of these times by continuing to share our horticultural interests and knowledge with one another. In many ways, this is a great time to reach out because there are more ways than ever to stay in touch with one another, so we say to you:

*Thank you, and please - let us know how we’re doing!*

View SCHS on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYYBy88Q361IQVnV69qgmGg>

## COVID-19 UPDATES FOR LOCAL GARDEN VENUES

Due to the restrictions on social engagement during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a number of our local botanic and public gardens, as well as venues providing resources and education for gardeners, continue to remain closed, or are only offering limited activities.

**NOTE:** Organizations below that have reopened as of press time are marked  Those with only an online presence, or holding virtual meetings, are marked 

Below is contact information for organizations we feature regularly in our monthly calendar.  
For a more extensive list, visit: [www.socalhort.org/Hort-Happenings](http://www.socalhort.org/Hort-Happenings)

 **CALIFORNIA BOTANIC GARDEN**  
(formerly RANCHO SANTA ANA)  
1500 N. College Ave., Claremont 91711  
909.625.8767 [www.calbg.org](http://www.calbg.org)

 **CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**  
SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS CHAPTER  
1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena 91107  
818.398.5420 [www.cnps-sgm.org](http://www.cnps-sgm.org)

 **CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**  
L.A./Sta Monica Mtns Chapter / Sepulveda Garden Ctr  
16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino 91436  
818-782-9346 [www.lacnps.org](http://www.lacnps.org)

 **COASTKEEPER GARDEN**  
1560 E. Santiago Cyn. Rd., Orange 92869  
714.850.1965 [www.coastkeeper.org](http://www.coastkeeper.org)

 **DESCANSO GARDENS**  
1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada 91011  
818.949.7980 [www.descansogardens.org](http://www.descansogardens.org)

 **EATON CANYON NATURE CENTER**  
1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena 91107  
626.398.5420 [www.ecnca.org](http://www.ecnca.org)

 **FULLERTON ARBORETUM**  
1900 Associated Road, Fullerton 92831  
657.278.3407 [www.fullertonarboretum.org](http://www.fullertonarboretum.org)

 **HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS**  
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino 91108  
626.405.2100 [www.huntington.org](http://www.huntington.org)

 **LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM**  
301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia 91007  
626.821.4623 [www.arboretum.org](http://www.arboretum.org)

 **NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF L.A.**  
900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles 90007  
213.763.3466 [www.nhm.org](http://www.nhm.org)

 **RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS**  
6400 E. Bixby Hill Rd., Long Beach 90815  
562.431.3541 [www.rancholosalamitos.org](http://www.rancholosalamitos.org)

 **RANCHO LOS CERRITOS**  
4600 Virginia Road, Long Beach 90807  
562.206.2040 [www.rancholoscerritos.org](http://www.rancholoscerritos.org)

 **SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN**  
230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas 92024  
760.436.3036 [www.sdbgarden.org](http://www.sdbgarden.org)

 **SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN**  
26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes 90274  
310.544.1948 [www.southcoastbotanicgarden.org](http://www.southcoastbotanicgarden.org)

 **THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION**  
10459 Tuxford St., Sun Valley 91352  
818.768.1802 [www.theodorepayne.org](http://www.theodorepayne.org)

 **UC RIVERSIDE BOTANIC GARDENS**  
900 University Ave., Riverside 92521  
951-784-6962 [www.gardens.ucr.edu](http://www.gardens.ucr.edu)

Please visit [www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org) for updates on information about venues and events.

Please support your local favorites, but check with individual venues for up-to-date hours, webinars, activities and entry requirements if you are planning a visit.

Many of your favorite nurseries have also reopened and would appreciate your support!

## REPORT TO MEMBERS FROM THE SCHS BOARD

At the end of our fiscal year, the SCHS usually requests the membership to review a slate of board officers for the coming year and vote to fill any vacancies. Due to the unusual circumstances this year, and as there are no vacancies, the incumbent board members have agreed to continue on in their current positions for the coming year.

The SCHS board met several times over the last few months to ensure

pending business is not curtailed by current events. Some of the ongoing projects include: coordinating our annual HOTY presentation as a virtual event, compiling oral histories of notable SoCal horticulturists, and continuing to offer internship grants to horticulture students - all within the limitations and restrictions we are all experiencing.

Our focus is on having SCHS continue "normal" operations as much as possible, while also looking at new opportunities for growth. The most up-to-date information on all our happenings can be found through our website at [www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org). If you would like to reach out, SCHS board members and committees they serve on are listed on Page 4 of this newsletter.

*Until we are able to meet again in person, monthly programs will continue to be scheduled as online webinars.*

-  August 13 - Talk on plant hormones with Ernesto Sandoval, Director of the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory  
 WEBINAR
-  September 24 - 2020 Horticulturist of the Year Award program (Honoree TBA)  
 ONLINE EVENT
-  October 8 - Florence Nishida on Growing Asian Vegetables in L.A.
-  November 12 - Dennis Mudd, creator of Calscape, speaking about Native Restoration Landscaping

## GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH



**John Schoustra** - President, Field-Trip Committee, Finance Committee, Plant Raffle, Plant Sales at meetings  
**Steven Gerischer** - Vice President, Oral History Committee, PR  
**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  
**Yoav Paskowitz** - Finance Committee, Oral History Committee, Website Committee, Newsletter Copy Editor  
**Yvonne Savio** - Horticultural Happenings, Field Trip and Coffee-in-the-Garden Committees  
**Lili Singer** - Board Nomination Committee, PR, Archives, Social Media Committee  
**Sabine Steinmetz** - Newsletter Editor, Sharing Secrets, Graphic Design  
**Jill Vig** - Coffee-in-the-Garden Committee, Oral History Committee, Special Projects

Connect with us at: 818-567-1496 • [socalhort.org](http://socalhort.org) • [facebook.com/socalhort](https://facebook.com/socalhort) • [instagram.com/socalhort](https://instagram.com/socalhort)

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Contributors to this issue: Ernesto Sandoval

**Next deadline: Monday, August 17** (for September newsletter)  
 Please contribute an article or information of interest.



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