



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

September 2020

**SCHS 2020 HORTICULTURIST OF THE YEAR EVENT**  
Thursday, September 24  
Event begins at 7:00 p.m.  
Presentation at 7:30 p.m.



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

## SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

In August

**Brianna Gorton**

joined us!

We hope to "see" her and all of you at the HOTY Presentation!

## 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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# VIRTUAL SCHS 2020 ANNUAL AWARD EVENT

## Horticulturist of the Year Awards will be Presented Posthumously to 3 Recipients

Thursday, September 24 - Register at: [www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org)

### DARA EMERY

Photo courtesy of SBBG.org.



was the first horticulturist for the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, serving from 1955 until his death in 1992.

He was also their first full-time breeder and is regionally renowned for his work with California native plants. A native Angeleno, Emery's contributions to the advancement of native plant horticulture throughout California are widely recognized.

We are pleased to share with you a look back at some of his many contributions to horticulture during this year's HOTY event.

### DENIS KURUTZ

Photo courtesy of Kurutz family.



was a nationally acclaimed SoCal landscape architect. In his 35-year career, he won two American Society of Landscape Architects

awards and received numerous other accolades before passing in 2003.

Kurutz gained fame during the 1970s for his re-creation of the AD 79 Villa of Papyri at the Getty Museum in Malibu. His talent is evident in photos of the villa's plantings, and his myriad artistic skills will be showcased during this evening's program. We will be sharing images of renderings and drawings he produced for the villa as well as other notable projects.

### BERT & MANNY SINGER

Photo courtesy of Lili Singer.



were avid growers and sellers of rare succulent plants who ran Singer's Growing Things, a San Fernando

Valley-based nursery, from 1972 until 1990. A popular destination for plant collectors, the Singers' nursery specialized in caudiciforms, grew rare and unusual succulents and featured plants new to both science and horticulture.

The Singers were also longtime members of SCHS, and we look forward to revisiting their incredible nursery, as well as recognizing them for their impact on local horticulture and beyond.

*Please join us for this special presentation as we honor and celebrate the lives and contributions to horticulture made by this year's HOTY recipients.*

This presentations will also be archived on our YouTube channel.

In August, the Southern California Horticultural Society invited Ernesto Sandoval, Director of the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory, to speak about plant hormones and how to manage them for better growing results. The program was educational and easy to understand, as Sandoval is accustomed to interpreting the world of plants for audiences ranging from K-12 students to life-long gardeners and horticulture professionals.

Sandoval began his presentation by reviewing some simple botany that is helpful for all gardeners to understand in terms of basic plant growth. He identified the meristems of plants (found at the top of the plant, the tips of the roots, and in the nodes) as groupings of undifferentiated plant cells that will eventually grow into new parts during the life of the plant. Meristematic tissue found within the dormant axillary buds in nodes can be influenced to become new shoots or roots through the application of growth hormones, either naturally occurring or artificially-introduced. The two major types of hormones affecting plant growth are auxins and cytokinins.

Auxins are produced at actively growing shoot meristems and young leaves, and travel through the phloem of the plant's vascular system towards the roots, inhibiting axillary bud growth along the way. Since the roots are unable to photosynthesize, they receive sugars and hormones this way, stimulating their growth. Synthetic examples of auxins include several acids (IBA, NAA, IAA) which trigger the same response in the root system that natural auxins do, and these are commercially available for purchase, like the powder forms found in products such as Rootone or Snip 'n' Dip.

Cytokinins are produced at actively growing root tips, and travel upwards towards shoots and leaves via xylem, the water transport system of plants. In contrast to the auxins, the cytokinins promote axillary bud growth as they move towards the top of the plant. These hormones are available in the form of keiki paste, and can be ordered online.

Sandoval next spoke about the responses plants have to various types of pruning cuts in regard to hormonal activity. When tips of shoots are removed, the production of auxins is interrupted, resulting in higher levels of cytokinins, which then allow the plant to generate new growth at the site of axillary buds. Cuts should be made just above the axillary buds located in the nodes.

Conversely, if root-pruning occurs, the plants will build up a surplus of auxins where the cut was made, which will result in the formation of new roots at that site.

It is the combined knowledge of where to cut and which hormones to apply that allows for successful vegetative propagation to occur. He gave as an example the practice of planting tomatoes "deep" by removing the lowest leaves and burying the stripped stem several inches below the soil level, allowing the plant to form adventitious roots along the stem wherever meristematic tissue exists. This method creates an imbalance of hormones resulting in the production of more cytokinins that will speed up the vegetative growth of soft-stemmed plants like tomatoes, mints, geraniums, etc. If the goal is to "stunt", or slow the growth rate of plants, both shoots and roots need to be pruned in order to remove multiple hormonal control points simultaneously. By comparison, when transplanting, it is best to have active hormone production occurring. Cuttings for propagation should also be taken when the plant is actively growing. The softer the stem cutting, the fewer hormones are needed, which is why succulent cuttings can easily be "over-dosed" with synthetic hormones, and only products with low-level concentrations should be applied, if at all. Further, Sandoval explained that treated cuttings should always be kept vertical to allow gravity to bring auxins down to the bottom of the cutting, otherwise adventitious roots will form along the stem.

Slides showing varying degrees of success in stimulating vegetative growth of fresh stem and root growth provided visual evidence to illustrate the cutting techniques Sandoval described. He also presented a short video clip of how to strip the young leaves off a 4"-5" stem, make a fresh horizontal cut with sterile pruners (just below a node) before dipping it into rooting powder and then "planting" it in a mixture of damp vermiculite/perlite. He suggested creating a bit of humidity, or a greenhouse effect, by placing the container with the cutting(s) into a plastic bag. Conversely, succulent cuttings should be rooted in pumice or gravel and be allowed to grow in the open air. Additionally, he shared slides on the techniques of "air layering" to clonally propagate difficult-to-root woody plants along their stems; "layering" wherein stems are laid horizontally to allow auxins to build up at a specific point; splitting the apical meristem of an aloe (as well as other succulents) with a sterile blade to stimulate branching, and even touched on grafting slow-growing cacti onto other cacti with more vigorous roots to stimulate growth.

To wrap up his presentation, Sandoval briefly described gibberellins and ethylene, which are other hormones produced

throughout plants, not just in meristematic tissue. Gibberellins promote the elongation, or stretching of cells, and are broken down by sunlight. This is why shade plants have greater amounts of gibberellins, resulting in larger (stretched out) leaves. Commercially they are often sprayed on table grapes to plump them up, whereas poinsettias and many house plants are treated with gibberellin-inhibitors to keep them compact. Ethylene is responsible for promoting ripening, cell maturation, leaf senescence and the eventual death of plants.

After the presentation, webinar hostess Erin Castillo awarded a copy of the book *Plant Propagation, 8th Edition* by Hartmann and Kester as a raffle prize to a winner from the audience, followed by a Q & A session with Sandoval to conclude the program.

🐞 Sabine Steinmetz

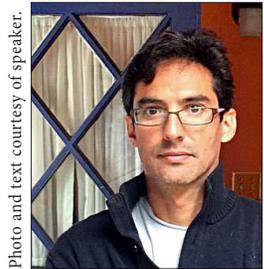


Photo and text courtesy of speaker.

To learn more about the functions of all plant hormones, please visit:

[www.phytohormones.info](http://www.phytohormones.info)

To watch this entire presentation on SCHS's YouTube channel, click on the following link:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SF\\_vsedAYR4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SF_vsedAYR4)

## SCHS MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE

**Protect your plants from the effects of the excessive heat (exacerbated by the wildfires).**

- Provide supplemental water
  - Shade them to protect against sun-scald on foliage
- Hold off on removing "burned" leaves - they will shield others

**And please protect yourselves during these heat waves too!**

- Stay well-hydrated
- Remain indoors or in the shade as much as possible
- Limit physical activity - like gardening!

**PLEASE STAY SAFE!**

🐞 Sabine Steinmetz

**COVID-19 UPDATES FOR LOCAL GARDEN VENUES**

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, local botanic and public gardens, as well as venues providing resources and education for gardeners, continue to offer only 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 *

Please support your local favorites, but check with individual venues for updated info if you are planning a visit. And don't forget, your local nurseries need support too!

 **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)

 **NATURALHISTORYMUSEUMOFLA.**  
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.

**SCHS Activities and Announcements**

We are pleased to be able to host a virtual version of our annual Horticulturist of the Year Award (HOTY) program, posthumously honoring a select group of recipients. (Please see details on Page 1.) We will miss seeing everyone in person and being able to participate in our always-exciting Silent Auction. Since the latter is normally the largest fund-raising event we put on during the year, and the HOTY presentation will be free this year, we

hope you will consider donating any amount you can to assist with this deficit. This money is used to pay speaker fees, as well as other events during the year.

Our efforts to recruit new members and provide internships for the next generation of horticulturists are also ongoing, and part of our annual budget. This includes the expansion of our social media presence, which has become more significant during the pandemic

in furthering our outreach into the So Cal community-at-large. We are currently updating our Membership Levels in an effort to attract more student and "virtual" attendees to meetings. Check the website for all the most current information.

*Thank you for supporting SCHS through your membership and donations.*

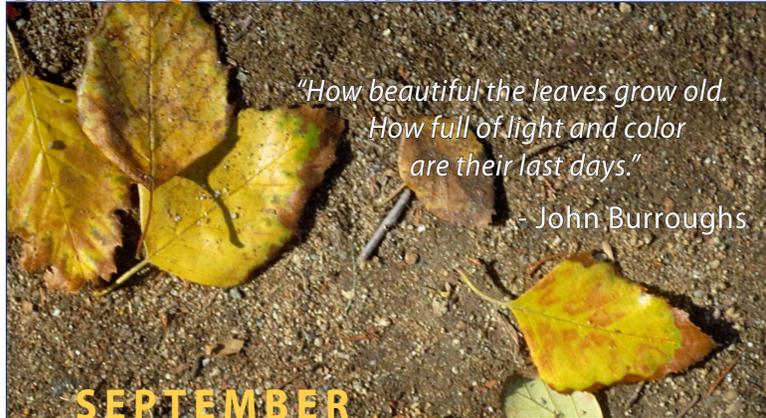
**RESERVE YOUR SPOT FOR 2020 HOTY PROGRAM TODAY!**

Click here to link to registration form: [www.socalhort.org/meetings](http://www.socalhort.org/meetings)

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

-  September 24 - 2020 Horticulturist of the Year Awards honoring:  
ONLINE EVENT Dara Emery, Denis Kurutz, Bert & Manny Singer
-  October 8 - Florence Nishida on Growing Asian Vegetables in L.A.  
WEBINAR
-  November 12 - Dennis Mudd, creator of Calscape, speaking about  
WEBINAR Native Restoration Landscaping
-  December 10 - Program details TBA

## 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)  
 Newsletter Editor: Sabine Steinmetz  
 Contributors to this issue: Carol Bornstein, Steven Ormenyi, Lili Singer  
**Next deadline: Monday, September 28** (for October newsletter)  
*Please contribute an article or information of interest.*



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 Pasadena CA 91109-4476

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