In November, as planting season is in full swing, the SCHS will be hosting a webinar program by Dennis Mudd, a self-taught native plant enthusiast who founded the Calscape website in 2010 with the goal of enabling small-scale nature restoration efforts in California. The site is primarily focused on showing which plants are likely to be native to any location in the state. It allows users to create plant lists, research nurseries and other resources to obtain specific plants, as well as providing information on how to grow them.

This evening’s presentation is meant to give native plant gardeners the information they will need to recreate nature in their gardens through biomimicry plant selection, irrigation, mulching, weed control and pest control practices. It will include photos of native plants and associated wildlife, chosen to represent what can be attained through living surrounded by nature. Mudd believes that nature is the most beautiful and environmentally responsible model for landscaping in California and would like to convince traditional gardeners to give nature restoration landscaping a try. He is hopeful that homeowners restoring nature in their gardens can slow, and one day even reverse, the loss of biodiversity being caused by widespread development in California.

In 2014, Mudd donated Calscape to the California Native Plant Society and led development of the site in partnership with CNPS and the Jepson eFlora group at UC Berkeley until 2019. Calscape is currently the largest California native plant website with over two million unique users. In addition to the website, his favorite recommendations for gardeners are: California Native Plants for the Garden by Carol Bornstein, David Fross and Bart O’Brien; Bringing Nature Home by Douglas W. Tallamy; and the international website www.iNaturalist.org.

Currently, Mudd is the codirector of the Smart Food Foundation, a non-profit that provides healthy food, cooking and nutrition education to low-income communities in San Diego. When not working in his native garden in Poway (which won the San Diego Home and Garden’s Garden of the Year Award in 2012), he might be enjoying nature on his mountain bike, as he is also a member of the UC Cyclery racing team.

We are looking forward to seeing and hearing Mudd’s presentation and getting new ideas to potentially inspire our own nature resoration gardening projects. Please consider tuning in for this timely and fascinating topic.
In October, just ahead of our prime planting season, the SCHS welcomed Florence Nishida, M.S., a Research Associate at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, who presented a remarkable program on growing Asian vegetables in Los Angeles. She not only showed us slides of which Asian vegetables home gardeners can successfully cultivate, but also provided tips on extending the growing season for these edibles. She also shared food prep ideas and simple recipes.

Since joining the Master Gardeners of Los Angeles County in 2008, Nishida has been helping L.A. residents, most notably in under-resourced communities, to become more self-sufficient by growing food at home. She also started the first edible/teaching garden at the Natural History Museum where she has taught Beginning Vegetable Gardening classes, and in 2010 founded the non-profit L.A. Green Grounds (www.lagreengrounds.org) to further her teaching goals. With Green Grounds program, and even offering seeds she has collected to our audience!

Members of the gourd family were shown next (Kabocha pumpkins and melons); then Solanum (Shishito pepper and Japanese eggplant – a perennial), followed by roots and tubers (Daikon radish, Japanese turnip ‘Mikado’, Japanese sweet potato (‘Murasaki’ and ‘Satsuma’ varieties) and Japanese taro, or Sato-imo – another perennial, and finally herbs (lemon grass, Thai basil – a perennial bee-magnet, Shungiku (edible chrysanthemum) and Shiso from the mint family.

For all of her plant categories, Nishida also provided advice on the proper spacing for planting various vegetables, how to build appropriate supports, when and how to harvest the different edible parts of specific veggies, gave suggestions for irrigation and reminded us about the importance of continuously harvesting the edible portions of these plants to prolong their production season. She wrapped up the slide portion by sharing some Asian seasonings that would enhance the flavors of these edibles, including sweet rice wine, soy sauce, sesame oil, oyster sauce, chile oil, Chinese and Japanese allspice combinations and fresh ginger. All of the vegetables and seasonings should be readily available for purchase in the greater Los Angeles area.

The webinar concluded with our monthly give-away and a Q&A session with Nishida, providing those who stayed on with even more information on fertilizing, pest control, the L.A. Green Grounds program, and even offering seeds she has collected to our audience! As we all get ready to refresh our gardens this fall, we now have a whole new palette of edible plants with unusual shapes, textures, scents and colors to choose from for planting. As many of us are spending more time at home these days, we might choose to expand upon what vegetables we grow at home, and become better “farmers” and cooks as we experiment in our gardens and kitchens!

Sabine Steinmetz

To watch this presentation on SCHS’s YouTube channel, click on the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8tco9QCGqCM

Enjoy your gardens this month – whether or not you do any planting!

• Do an overall clean-up
• Leave some of your leaf mold to decompose & feed plants
• Finish pruning perennials
• Refresh your mulch as needed
• BEGIN YOUR PLANTING!
  - cool season vegetables
  - California natives
  - new perennial shrubs
  - seasonal favorites/annuals
• Put in bulbs for the spring and divide older ones

HAVE A SAFE and HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Sabine Steinmetz

Find more on SCHS on the following online outlets:
www.facebook.com/pg/socalhort • www.instagram.com/socalhort • www.socalhort.org
LOS ANGELES BIODIVERSITY SYMPOSIUM 2020

This event is for 5 days from Monday, November 16 through Friday, November 20, 3:00-5:00 pm daily.

The Association of Professional Landscape Designers Greater Los Angeles (APLD) and LA Sanitation & Environment (LASAN) are presenting this deep dive into issues surrounding biodiversity, to which the future of our ecosystem, health, economy and environmental function are all integrally linked. Los Angeles is one of only 36 Biodiversity Hotspots on the planet, however signals of extinctions and loss are building. A diverse group of experts has been assembled for this symposium to inform and educate on this subject. Garden by garden, park by park, steps can be taken to change the narrative of environmental degradation and preserve biodiversity.

For more information, contact Johanna Woollcott, Wild Gardens, 310-592-6120. Tickets range from $10 - $60. To register and purchase tickets, go to: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/apld-and-lasan-biodiversitysymposium-tickets-119025353035.

California Botanic Garden
(formerly Rancho Santa Ana)
1500 N. College Ave., Claremont 91711
909.625.8767  www.calbg.org

California Native Plant Society
San Gabriel Mountains Chapter
1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena 91107
818.398.5420  www.cnps-sgm.org

California Native Plant Society
LA/Sta Monica Mtns Chapter/ Sepulveda Garden Ctr
16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino 91436
818-782-9346  www.lasmcnps.org

Coastkeeper Garden
1560 E. Santiago Cyn. Rd., Orange 92869
714.850.1965  www.coastkeeper.org

Descanso Gardens
1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada 91011
818.949.7980  www.descansogardens.org

Eaton Canyon Nature Center
1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena 91107
626.398.5420  www.ecnca.org

Fullerton Arboretum
1900 Associated Road, Fullerton 92831
657.278.3407  www.fullertonarboretum.org

Huntington Botanical Gardens
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino 91108
626.405.2100  www.huntington.org

Los Angeles County Arboretum
301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia 91007
626.821.4623  www.arboretum.org

Natural History Museums of LA.
900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles 90007
213.763.3466  www.nhm.org

Rancho Los Cerritos
4600 Virginia Road, Long Beach 90807
562.206.2040  www.rancholoscerritos.org

San Diego Botanic Garden
230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas 92024
760.436.3036  www.sdbgarden.org

South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes 90274
310.544.1948  www.southcoastbotanicgarden.org

Theodore Payne Foundation
10459 Tuxford St., Sun Valley 91352
818.768.1802  www.theodorepayne.org

UC Riverside Botanic Gardens
900 University Ave., Riverside 92521
951-784-6962  www.gardens.ucr.edu

Yvonne Savio
www.gardeninginla.net/blog

NOVEMBER HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS • GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

COVID-19 UPDATES FOR LOCAL GARDEN VENUES

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!

StudEnt fellowship/grant opportunity

SCHS is sharing this information with our student members and supporters, as an opportunity to further their careers in horticulture.

The Garden Club of America 2021 Hope Goddard Iselin Fellowship is offered in partnership with the American Public Gardens Association. This fellowship in Public Horticulture awards up to a $5,000 grant to a student enrolled in a graduate-level university program to study public horticulture through experiential learning that takes place at a recognized public garden, botanic garden, arboretum, or other closely aligned public horticulture institution.

Link to: Application/Nomination
Deadline: February 1, 2021
Until we are able to meet again in person, monthly programs will continue to be scheduled as online webinars.

November 12 - Dennis Mudd, creator of Calscape, speaking about Native Restoration Landscaping

December 10 - Steve Gerischer, Owner of Larkspur Garden Design, presents "Mission Possible: Growing Roses Organically"

January 14 - Stay tuned for new programs in the new year!

GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“It’s almost impossible to watch a sunset and not dream.”
– Bern Williams

Connect with us at: 818-567-1496 • socalhort.org • facebook.com/socalhort • instagram.com/socalhort

Newsletter Editor: Sabine Steinmetz

Contributors to this issue: Dennis Mudd, Yvonne Savio

Next deadline: Monday, November 16 (for December newsletter)
Please contribute an article or information of interest.