On June 10 the SCHS welcomes back popular guest speaker Saxon Holt, photojournalist and sole photographer of more than 30 garden books, including his recently-published book *Gardening in Summer-Dry Climates*, coauthored with landscape architect Nora Harlow. He is also the director of the Summer-Dry Project (www.summer-dry.com), a board member of Pacific Horticulture Society and owner of the PhotoBotanic Garden Library.

Holt’s presentation will derive from *Gardening in Summer-Dry Climates* and focus on the authors’ objective of trying to expand the climate conversation to include the entire Pacific Coast, all of which is summer-dry, but all of which cannot be considered Mediterranean. The book is part of the Summer-Dry Project which is also helping Water Use Classification of Landscape Species (WUCOLS) update the database of plant photographs and descriptions. Holt’s commentary about the featured gardens and their climate-appropriate plantings will be accompanied by his beautiful and inspiring photos.

At its core, *Gardening in Summer-Dry Climates* encourages gardeners to understand and work in harmony with their region. As shown in garden settings through Holt’s lens, these plant selections can assist gardeners in choosing naturally-occurring, climate-appropriate plants and creating healthy ecosystems that support wildlife and conserve biodiversity, one backyard at a time. Holt will talk about how working with – rather than against – the summer-dry climate means reducing impact on water supplies and creating spaces that attract and sustain wildlife, often by taking a step back, letting nature assert itself in the garden, and welcoming in the unique wildness of these special regions.

With the continuing drought conditions we’re experiencing, and summer fast approaching, the topic of climate-appropriate planting is highly relevant to gardeners in Southern California and beyond. We look forward to seeing Holt’s photos and hearing about his new book, and encourage you to join us for this webinar at www.socalhort.org. If you would like to learn more about Holt – and see more of his photos – you can visit both www.saxonholt.com and www.photobotanic.com.
In May, the SCHS hosted speaker Rebecca Burgess, the executive director of Fibershed and chair of the board for Carbon Cycle Institute, who presented a program about fibersheds, which are geographic regions that provide all of the resources needed to make an article of clothing, including the production and use of natural plant dyes. Awareness of this bioregional designation engenders appreciation, connectivity, and sensitivity for the life-giving resources within these landscapes, and Burgess provided a look at the extensive network of farmers and artisans within the Northern California Fibershed, while also sharing some of the plants and methods used in creating the natural dyes they use.

Burgess’ 25-year background in textile dying enlightened her to the major disconnect between what we wear and our knowledge of its impact on land, air, water, labor and health. This in turn led to the establishment of Fibershed and her current work in which she is focused on developing the vision and funding needed for regenerative fiber systems models to succeed at the community scale. Her presentation included a bioregional look into the natural dye traditions of North America, how they evolved into today’s textile industry processes. It explored our region’s fibershed through the lens of plants and whole ecosystems with an eye toward the restoring and supporting these systems for the future.

Juxtaposing traditional methods of land use — many of which were consciously regenerative — with modern textile production, Burgess explained how synthetic dyes continually have a negative impact on the global environment. The Fibershed concept was made clear to her through these studies, and her work is currently focused on the intersection of restoration ecology and fiber systems, including dye-making. She gave examples of some of the plants she uses from California ecosystems, including specific species that offer light and colorfast hues for textiles. Using different parts of the plants, Burgess showed how Baccharis pilularis produces a buttery yellow dye, while Mimulus aurantiacus can create a mustard yellow or a light orange, and the stems of Heteromeles arbutifolia yield a red dye. Other color examples she shared were Rhamnus californica (sage green), Genista monspessulana (pale green) and Foeniculum vulgare (dark green). Additionally, the type of fibers used, length of dyeing times and types of binding agents all impact the tones and intensities of the color that can be produced. Recipes for natural plant dyes can be found in Burgess’ book Harvesting Color, and a broader overview of textile production can be found in her book Fibershed: Growing a Movement of Farmers, Fashion Activists, and Makers for a New Textile Economy.

Burgess stressed how conscientious harvesting and land stewardship were integral to supporting the ecosystems these plants come from, and reiterated the Fibershed module that “the goal of this work is to create and model that our textile culture and systems can function hand-in-hand with principles of ecological balance, local economies, and regional agriculture.” Important work to be sure, and thoughtfully presented for our consideration. To learn more, visit Burgess’ website at www.fibershed.org.

To watch this program on YouTube, click the following link:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8wYhhKts0kI

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SCHS INTERN

As a non-profit, part of SCHS’s mission is to provide educational opportunities to horticulture students through sponsored internships at various institutions.

In 2020, Sharon Zarate, currently graduating from Cal Poly Pomona, was our recipient of a 10-week internship at the Theodore Payne Foundation for Native Plants. Her experiences involved bulb sorting last August, followed by propagation in November, and a follow-up of growth assessment in April of this year.

Click here to hear Zarate speak about her full experience:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZdY3Q1rjoY

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SCHS MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE

Expect to do some of the following gardening chores in June:

• Deep water your trees once a month during the summer and monitor/adjust other irrigation.

• Continue succession planting of veggies to extend your harvest.

• Plant pumpkins now for Halloween!

• Keep after pests on actively growing plants - often a foliage washing will refresh plants while also removing pests.

• Protect fruit tree crops against garden thieves with bird-netting.

• Stay on schedule with feeding, weeding and dead-heading.

• Touch up rampaging vines by clipping to keep them in check as their flowering winds downs.

• Slow down as temps heat up and enjoy your beautiful, abundant and well-cared-for garden!

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Sabine Steinmetz

Learn more about SCHS and check us out online at:
www.facebook.com/pg/socalhort  •  www.instagram.com/socalhort  •  www.socalhort.org
COVID-19 UPDATES FOR LOCAL GARDEN VENUES

Venues open at press time are marked ☀️ and ☀️ for those that are online only.

Organizations and venues are offering more events and classes, both online and in person, while maintaining safety protocols, limited attendance and hours.

Please continue to check with your favorites for updated info if you are planning a visit.

LINKS TO UPCOMING EVENTS & WEBINARS

Please check with individual organizations for class fees & details

California Garden & Landscape History Society
Japanese Gardens in California
June 16 at 6:00 p.m.
For details, ticketing info and to register, go to: www.cglhs.org/event-4271556

The Gottlieb Native Garden,
A California Love Story with Susan Gottlieb
June 10 at 10:00 a.m. - FREE Zoom Event
For more info and the Zoom link, contact: Kathy Itomura kkitomura@gmail.com or 818-954-0933

Orange County Fuchsia Society
in-Person Annual Sale - June 26 & 27 - 10:30am-4pm
For details visit: www.sanfernandovalleyirissociety.org

San Fernando Valley Iris Society
in-Person Spring Iris Sale - June 13 - 8am-1pm
For details visit: www.ocfuchsiasociety.com

UCLA Extension Horticulture Program
Online Summer Courses Begin June 21
For info on classes, schedules and fees, visit: www.uclaextension.edu/landscape-architecture-horticulture/horticulture-gardening

Waterwise Community Center,
Chino Basin Water Conservation District
- Upcoming Zoom Classes - www.cbwcd.org/328/Programs-Events
UPCOMING SCHS PROGRAMS

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

- **June 10, WEBINAR** - Photographer Saxon Holt shares excerpts from his and Nora Harlow’s book *Gardening in Summer-Dry Climates*
- **July 8, WEBINAR** - Joanna Glovinsky, founder of Fruitstitute will talk about managing residential “Fruit Tree Ins-and-Outs”
- **July TBA, LIVE EVENT** - Joanna Glovinsky will present a hands-on fruit tree pruning demo at Arlington Gardens - DETAILS TBA -
- **August 12, WEBINAR** - Jill Morganelli, instructor with the UCLA Extension Horticulture Program will speak on gardening tools
- **Sept. 23, WEBINAR** - 2021 Horticulturist of the Year Award Program Please note event date is the 4th Thursday, with no other meetings in September. - EVENT DETAILS TBA -

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GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day?”
- William Shakespeare

JUNE

Southern California Horticultural Society
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NEWSLETTER June 2021

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 • facebook.com/socalhort • instagram.com/socalhort

Newsletter Editor: Sabine Steinmetz
Contributors: Saxon Holt, Yvonne Savio

Next deadline: Monday, June 14 (for July newsletter)
Please contribute an article or information of interest.