



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

May 2022

## OUR NEXT VIRTUAL MEETING

**Thursday, May 12**

Announcements at 7:10 p.m.  
Plant Forum at 7:15 p.m.

**Webinar at 7:30 p.m.**



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

## SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

*The season of new  
beginnings has brought us:*

Deborah James

Bette Tang

Silvia Yoshimizu-Yee

*We're glad to have  
all of you in the group!*

## CONNECT WITH SCHS

Please engage with us online!

### YOU CAN 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 listed on our website.*

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**PLEASE NOTE:** In-person meetings and events are being planned for 2022, in accordance with the most up-to-date L.A. County Health Dept. guidelines.

## Of Cultivars and California Native Plants – and “Nativars”

To present our May webinar, the SCHS is pleased to welcome back Bart O'Brien, Director of the ten-acre Regional Parks Botanic Garden in Berkeley, which is dedicated to horticulture, conservation, and research of California native plants. In this program, he will be talking about cultivars: what they are and what role they play in gardens, in plant conservation, restoration, and more. He will also explain the term “nativar” and how it figures into these situations.

The term cultivar was invented by horticulturist Liberty Hyde Bailey in 1923 in his paper, “*Various Cultigens, and Transfers in Nomenclature*” in *Gentes Herbarum* (link here and go to pg.135). O'Brien will be looking at the history of cultivars and the various pathways that result in selecting and introducing new ones. To that end, he provided some criteria to use as a guide when defining and thinking about cultivars:

- Cultural and historical artifacts that are representative of the interests, fads, and fancies of gardeners and plantspeople over the course of time.
- Selections of species directly from the wild, gardens, and plant breeding programs, as well as hybrid selections from these areas.
- Plants that may be genetically modified, although at this time these are rare.

A fifth generation Californian, O'Brien is an authority on the flora of the state of California and of northwestern Baja California, Mexico, and is also an accomplished collector, grower, photographer, lecturer, and author. Before coming to the RPBG, Bart held a variety of positions (Director of Horticulture, Curator of the Living Collection, Director of Special Projects) at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden (now California Botanic Garden) for 24 years. He is president of the California Horticultural Society, and was recently honored as this year's recipient of the prestigious American Horticultural Society's highest honor, the Liberty Hyde Bailey Award (link here to AHS page). He is currently working on a listing of over 300 named cultivars of manzanitas (*Arctostaphylos*) for an upcoming issue of *The Four Seasons*, RPBG's technical journal.

Are you curious about this intriguing topic? Do you want to know more about the earliest Californian native cultivars, how many there are, and what the future holds for these distinctive plants? Then join us as we delve into the world of California native plant cultivars and get answers from a renowned expert during this unique presentation! Registration is now open at: [www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org).



*Arctostaphylos* cultivar  
‘Arroyo Cascade’

Photo credit: C. Bornstein

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### A.V. HELP NEEDED AT LIVE MEETINGS



With the return of occasional in-person meetings in June, we are seeking a volunteer to take over or share the audiovisual duties, such as handling the sound system and digital projector before and after the meeting.

Our fellow member and friend, Al Steen, who has been performing these duties for many years, is stepping down but will provide training on our equipment. Please consider volunteering to assist with these important tasks and honor Al's past dedicated service.

See page 4 of this newsletter for ways to contact the board and let us know.

*Thank you!*



### BOARD ELECTIONS

Last month we notified members of impending SCHS board elections, as there will be three vacancies to fill this June.

Look for a ballot with further instructions which will be sent out to all members soon. For further information, you may reach out to any of the current board via: [socalhort@gmail.com](mailto:socalhort@gmail.com).

## APRIL WEBINAR RECAP • SCHS INTERN • MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE

In our April 14 program we were provided with a glimpse into life found in our landscapes, as Frédérique Lavoipierre presented a webinar based on her recently published book: *Garden Allies: The Insects, Birds, and Other Animals That Keep Your Garden Beautiful and Thriving*. The book was derived from the ten-year series, *Garden Allies* that Lavoipierre authored for *Pacific Horticulture* magazine. Her program featured incredible photography of insects and garden habitats, as well as many of Craig Latker's detailed pen and ink illustrations from the book.

By way of introducing her mission of trying to get gardeners to establish balanced ecosystems within their landscapes, Lavoipierre began by sharing her thoughts on Integrated Pest Management (IPM). It is her belief that IPM, as it is applied commercially, does not suitably translate to use in the home garden and needs to be modified to emphasize conservation biological pest control. By preserving and enhancing locally resident natural enemy populations, a positive feedback loop is created, which can bring about permanent control. The two major strategies to achieve this are: reducing the use of pesticides and providing resources (plants) that sustain these populations. While the use

of California regionally native plants is an excellent choice to encourage coevolution of native insect and animal species, Lavoipierre emphasized that many other important species have coevolved with our landscapes over time and add functional biodiversity to them. She then introduced us to many of the critters in our gardens that make up the food web (e.g., insects eating plants and each other, birds eating insects, etc.) whose coexistence ultimately results in the long term sustainability of managed landscapes and ecosystems.

Lavoipierre suggested we categorize insects based on their functions in the garden, rather than thinking of them as pests or beneficials, as they are all inter-connected. She began with the microorganisms, bacteria and fungi found in our soil, and quickly moved up the food chain to earth worms and then to insects. Bees, moths, butterflies, wasps and flies are all pollinators in addition to serving other functions in keeping garden life well-balanced. Next up, Lavoipierre spoke about beetles (ladybugs, soldier beetles, predaceous ground beetles, leaf beetles) who play a large part in pest and weed control. She finished with a look at common garden denizens we could all encounter, such as true bugs, dragonflies, grasshoppers, crickets, praying mantids, lacewings, centipedes and spiders. In addition to performing their own specific functions within our landscapes, they are also food sources for higher vertebrates

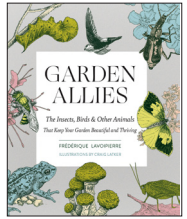
such as birds, amphibians, reptiles (tortoises, snakes, lizards) and others.

To conclude her program, Lavoipierre provided suggestions on how to attract desirable wildlife to our gardens, by incorporating bird feeders, bat houses, native plants, water features and more. She also provided some resources, shared images of botanic gardens and public spaces, and stayed on to answer audience questions. You can link to purchase her book here, which will provide even more answers and insights into these allies.

✂ Sabine Steinmetz

*Click on link to view entire program plus Q&A:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dJtj-H6UAho>



## SCHS MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE

*Stay ahead of the summer heat by finishing these garden chores in May.*

- Keep up with dead-heading to encourage repeat blooming.
- Allow wildflowers to set and drop seed before pulling them out.
- Wrap up pruning on spring flowering vines, or risk removing wood needed for the next bloom.
- Begin cutting back on irrigation for your California native plants.
- Let the spent foliage from spring bulbs go brown before removing.
- Continue with your feeding schedule for roses, fruit trees, veggies and perennials.
- Finish planting any warm season annuals and veggies now, so you can enjoy them all summer long!

✂ Sabine Steinmetz

## SCHS 2021 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 April, our third intern of 2021, Matthew Castner, a Cal Poly Pomona student in Plant and Soil Sciences, presented a short program ahead of our monthly webinar. His internship was at Rancho Los Alamitos, where he researched and updated data on the history of their nearly 100 year old rose garden, designed by the Olmsted brothers.

Castner referred to archival documents of the garden's layout, which included names of the specimens

originally planted. He used a geographic information system (GIS) and drone technology to map the location of every plant and overlaid those data points onto the original site plan. Castner then audited the current garden, identifying, tagging and cross-referencing rose varieties with the goal of ultimately restoring the garden to a condition that is historically as accurate as possible. To date, all 171 plants have been audited, of which 50% are varietal originals, and 87 plants remain to be identified and labeled. Quite the undertaking!

*Castner's full presentation can be seen here:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cQsvafswm1g>

*Learn more about SCHS and check us out online at:*

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

# MAY HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS • SCHS 2022 HOTY

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

Organizations are offering events, both online and in person, but may have updated protocols in place.  
Please continue to check with your favorites for current info if you are planning a visit.

## ARLINGTON GARDEN

275 Arlington Drive, Pasadena 91105  
626-578-5434  
www.arlingtongardenpasadena.com

## 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

L.A. / Sta Monica Mtns Chapter / Sepulveda Garden Ctr  
16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino 91436  
818-782-9346 www.lasmmcnps.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 MUSEUM OF L.A.

900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles 90007  
213.763.3466 www.nhm.org

## RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS

6400 E. Bixby Hill Rd., Long Beach 90815  
562.431.3541 www.rancholosalamitos.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

See more events as they're posted at:  
www.gardeninginla.net/submit-your-garden-events.

## LINKS TO UPCOMING EVENTS & WEBINARS

Please check with individual organizations for class fees & details

### West Floral Park & Fisher Park's Annual In-Person, Open Garden Day, Santa Ana

- LIVE Event -

Saturday, May 7 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

\$20 in advance / \$25. on day

Explore 9 gardens as you stroll through tree-lined neighborhoods with vintage homes in this hidden gem of North Santa Ana. Plus information booths, expert talks, food, entertainment and more along The Promenade.

For more details and info,  
or to purchase tickets online, visit:  
www.opengardenday.com

### Dodger Stadium Botanic Garden NEW VENUE

- Walking Tours -

Select Fridays from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Tickets range from \$15. - \$25.

Walk through the drought-tolerant plantings at the newly accredited Dodger Stadium Botanic Garden!

For more info and to purchase tickets online:  
www.mlb.com/dodgers/ballpark/tours

Link to recent L.A. Times article here:  
www.latimes.com/lifestyle/story/2022-03-03/visit-dodger-stadium-botanic-garden





## SAVE THE DATE FOR 2022 SCHS HOTY LIVE EVENT!

The 2022 SCHS Horticulturist of the Year awards event is back, live and in-person! Make plans to join us on the evening of: **Saturday, September 17**

Details on honoree, banquet, program AND our Silent Auction will be announced soon in the newsletter and across our social media, so **SAVE THE DATE!**



Meetings are online unless otherwise noted. Live meetings are held at: Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles CA 90027. (Hybrids will be shown simultaneously online via Zoom and Facebook Live.)

-  May 12 WEBINAR - Bart O'Brien, director of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden presents "Of Cultivars and California Native Plants - and 'Nativars'"
-  June 9 IN-PERSON - Fruit growing expert Tom Spellman of Dave Wilson Nursery presents "Antioxidants From Your Garden"
-  July & August Programs being finalized - details coming soon!
-  Sept. 17 LIVE EVENT - 2022 Horticulturist of the Year Banquet and Silent Auction at Huntington Botanic Gardens

## GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH



*"The world's favorite season is the spring.  
All things seem possible in May."*

- Edwin Way Teale

**John Schoustra** - President, Field-Trip and Finance Committees, Plant Raffle, Plant Sales (at meetings) and RBLS Chair  
**Steven Gerischer** - Vice President, Oral History Committee, Marketing, PR & Publicity and Silent Auction  
**Laura Bauer** - Treasurer, Finance Committee, Website Chair, HOTY Event Committee, Voicemail and RBLS Committee  
**Pat Steen** - Membership Secretary, Recording Secretary, Coffee-in-the-Garden Committee, Greeter  
**Carol Aronson** - Field Trip, Coffee-in-the-Garden, Program, HOTY and RBLS Committees  
**Carol Bornstein** - Program, HOTY and RBLS Committees  
**Aprille Curtis** - Social Media Committee, Plant Forum supplies  
**Fleur Nooyen** - Program and RBLS Committee  
**Steven Ormenyi** - Finance Committee, Voice Mail Recording  
**Yoav Paskowitz** - Finance, Oral History and Website Committees, Newsletter Copy Editor  
**Yvonne Savio** - Coffee-in-the-Garden Committee, Horticultural Happenings Events Contributor (Newsletter)  
**Lili Singer** - HOTY and Social Media Chair, Marketing, Board Nomination, PR & Publicity and RBLS Committees, Archives  
**Sabine Steinmetz** - Newsletter Editor, Garden Share, Graphic Design  
**Jill Vig** - Oral History Committee Chair, Coffee-in-the-Garden 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: Bart O'Brien, Yvonne Savio

Next deadline: Monday, May 16 (for June newsletter)

Please contribute an article or information of interest.



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