

The June meeting brought members and guests to the Los Angeles Zoo's Witherbee Auditorium to listen, look and learn about garden photography from award-winning photographer, Saxon Holt. His photos have been published in over 20 books, and he



serves on the Board of Pacific Horticulture Society (PHS), as well as being a Fellow of the Garden Writers Association. His work as a photojournalist is increasingly focusing on the relationship between gardens and the land, seeking a sustainable aesthetic that can enhance both gardener and the earth. In the evening's presentation, "Think Like A Camera," he provided inspiration, tips and food for thought about the future of our gardens.

Holt's slide show was derived from lessons he has developed and are available for purchase as e-books on his website, photobotanic.com. He theorized that as gardeners, when we share good pictures with others (especially non-gardeners), we are helping communicate what gardening is about and making people understand its value. His "Think Like A Camera" lessons are broken into six components, designed to

aid photographers of every level, regardless whether they are using professional equipment or merely their phone-camera.

## Lesson 1 - Framing

Holt talked about the importance of considering the edges of a composition to get viewers to focus on what you want them to look at. By being aware of and using the actual frame of your device, you can eliminate a lot of visual information which may detract from your subject.

## Lesson 2 - Focal Points

This can be either the reason you're taking the picture, or literally, the sharpest focus within your frame. He explained that by placing a focal point slightly off-center, the eye will automatically want to go to it (aka: "rule of thirds"), thereby strengthening the impact of the photo.

## Lesson 3 - Leading Lines

Allow naturally occurring "lines" (i.e.: paths, hedges, fences, etc.) to enhance your composition and "point" the viewer to what you want them to focus on. And don't forget to turn around - if there are strong lines leading in one direction, they will be strong in the opposite direction also.

## Lesson 4 - Point of View

Take opportunities to show original views from perspectives that are unexpected. For example: shooting from the ground-level upwards; shooting into the garden from

a bench, instead of taking a picture of the bench itself; or even cropping your photos selectively to tell a story. This will set your photos apart from others of the same garden.

## Lesson 5 - Space and Shape

If there is nothing to provide leading lines, start looking for shapes that repeat within your frame to balance your composition. Use negative space creatively to help showcase your subject.

## Lesson 6 - Details and Vignettes

Try to "look for the overlooked." By considering elements that are physically attractive in real gardens, such as textures, details, ornamentation, etc., you increase opportunities for unique photos that tell a more complete story about the garden.

While Holt's beautiful photos were the highlight of his presentation and he made himself available for audience questions, he also spoke briefly about the future of PHS (see article on this page) and its mission to promote and educate California gardeners.

In addition to Holt's program, attendees were able to take home plants that were offered as freebies and for sale, including selections from one of our newest members, Nicole Calhoun, owner of the recently opened Artemisia Nursery. We invite you to check it out in person or online at [www.artemisianursery.com](http://www.artemisianursery.com).

✂ Sabine Steinmetz

## Big Changes Regarding Pacific Horticulture Society

Contributed by Laura Bauer, SCHS Treasurer

SCHS has always supported Pacific Horticulture Society by including a PHS membership, with its Pacific Horticulture magazine, as a benefit to our members. Each year, we have sent part of your SCHS annual membership fee to PHS; the resulting PHS membership is a "special rate" membership that has barely covered the cost of delivering the magazine by mail to each of you, let alone supported PHS' organizational overhead.

PHS is undergoing big organizational changes, and wants to go beyond publishing the magazine to become a more dynamic organization that produces programs, events and workshops throughout the West Coast. As a result, it is restructuring its membership fees and the associated benefits.

For example, PHS has announced a change in the way it delivers the magazine; "special rate" memberships like yours will no longer receive the magazine in the mail. In order to continue receiving the printed magazine in the mail, you will have to become a full-price member of PHS. As a full-price PHS member, you will also receive the benefits of discounted PHS event and travel prices, as well as any other periodicals it produces.

This is a big change. Going forward, SCHS and PHS will enter into an Affiliated Member agreement, which in addition to providing SCHS with some new programming opportunities, will allow SCHS to provide a digital copy of Pacific Horticulture magazine to all of our

members. This agreement also gives SCHS members the opportunity to upgrade their existing "special rate" membership to a full PHS membership at the rate of \$40/year (20% off the regular annual PHS membership price). Annually, SCHS will provide a code to our membership so you can easily make this upgrade.

If SCHS members choose not to upgrade their PHS membership, then they will receive a digital copy of the magazine by email until their current PHS membership expires (which should be the same expiration date as their SCHS membership).

All current SCHS members will receive the Summer 2018 issue of Pacific Horticulture magazine in the mail. The changes mentioned above will be in effect after July 1, 2018 and will affect the Fall 2018 issue. As soon as SCHS receives the upgrade code from PHS, we will let our members know so that they can upgrade their PHS membership if they choose.

If you have questions, please contact Laura Bauer at [socalhort@gmail.com](mailto:socalhort@gmail.com).



To learn more about SCHS' long relationship with PHS, read the adjacent excerpt from an article that appeared in the Spring 2018 issue of Pacific Horticulture magazine.

Note: article was edited for space considerations.



## Laboring for Love & PHS

By Jennifer Jewell,  
PHS Board President

TO WORK IN THE NON-PROFIT SECTOR is a labor of love. It is almost always based on passion and heart along with the belief that we can make a difference in the world. And I like to think we do.

In January 2018, Steve Gerischer stepped down from his role on the board of Pacific Horticulture, where he served for many years, the last 4 of which he served as president—God love him. Steve's humor, his facility with both technical plant and birding knowledge, as well as his ease with a diversity of people and circumstances played out in his role as escort for several PHS overseas tours, chatting birds, botanical names, gardens, and great food. Here at home, when he wasn't presiding over a board meeting, Steve was known for his popular hypertufa classes. And he did it all with an easy smile and warm humor. An avid, lifelong gardener, Steve will continue to invest his time and talent as owner of Larkspur Garden Design. And gardening with and for feathered fauna remains one of his great passions. Steve will be missed but we will keep connected with him as a PHS member and through his involvement with the Southern California Horticultural Society. Happy birding, Steve!

Thank you Jennifer, for acknowledging Steve's dedication to our organizations, as well as his many talents!

