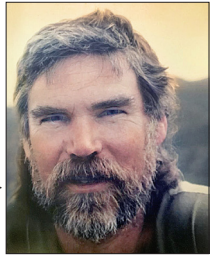


On September 23, the SCHS presented its annual Horticulturist of the Year Award Program as a virtual event for the second year in a row, due to the pandemic. We once again elected to use this as an opportunity to present the HOTY award posthumously to three recipients that influenced horticulture throughout Southern California during their lifetimes. Following is a summary of the program honoring these deserving HOTY recipients.

Photo by: Donna Marie Baker.



Current SCHS board member and former HOTY recipient Lili Singer spoke about honoree Bill Baker. He was well-known in Southern California horticultural circles and beyond – as a nurseryman, plant hybridizer and landscape designer.

As a young man, Baker worked at West Valley Nursery in Tarzana, and eventually opened California Gardens Nursery on land he acquired in 1972. According to his catalog, the nursery specialized in “bulbs, bromeliads, epiphytic cactus and succulents”, but Baker’s plant interests were much more diversified. He travelled and explored Baja California and mainland Mexico, as well as Central and South America, hunting and collecting unusual flora.

Baker was an active member of the San Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society and was well-known for his many hybrids, including *Dyckia* ‘Brittle Star’ and *D.* ‘Tarzana.’ His plants were featured at Huntington plant sales and offered through their International Succulent Introductions program, and his *Dyckia* ‘Ruby Snow’ was offered in this year’s ISI catalog.

A number of plants have been named for him, including *Echeveria bakeri*, *Pachyphytum* ‘Bill Baker’ and *Pachyveria* ‘Bill Baker.’ He is missed, and his contributions to horticulture continue to be recognized worldwide.

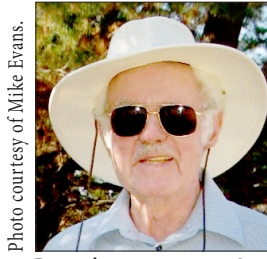


Photo courtesy of Mike Evans.

Presenting on our second honoree, John Dourley, was 2019 HOTY recipient Mike Evans, the owner of Tree of Life Nursery in San Juan Capistrano.

Dourley came to America from Scotland in 1952, and by 1967 he had settled in Claremont and began working at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden with almost no prior knowledge of California native plants. He soon became a recognized expert, making new horticultural contributions at RSABG where he served as the Director of Horticulture until 1987.

During his tenure at RSABG – and continuing after his retirement – he was active in Claremont and the surrounding communities, often as a horticultural consultant – particularly regarding trees. In 1981 he coauthored the book *California Native Trees and Shrubs*, with Dr. Lee Lenz. Dourley was an influence on many California native plant experts including Carol Bornstein and Bart O’Brien, as well as Evans. He cited Dourley as a mentor when Tree of Life nursery was being established.

In honor of his many personal horticultural contributions, Tree of Life introduced the *Arctostaphylos* cultivar ‘John Dourley’ in 1990, and it remains one of the most reliable and popular mid-sized manzanitas for California native gardens to this day.

Photo courtesy of Paul Mills.



Our final honoree, Virginia Hayes, was Curator of the Living Collection at Lotusland garden in Montecito for 25 years until her retirement in 2017. The current curator, Paul Mills, spoke about

her impact on the gardens there and on the greater horticultural community.

Early on, Hayes worked for Santa Barbara Water Gardens, eventually buying its maintenance division. During this time, she became a world-renowned expert on *Nelumbo nucifera* and was a founding member of the International Lotus Society. In 1982 she began working for Lotusland and was soon promoted to Curator of Living Collections. Her accomplishments included expanding the plant collections, cataloging the library, photos, and Ganna Walska’s personal documents, and updating the plant records database. She trained the docents and mentored many others, including Mills. Hayes’ extensive work did much to bring Lotusland into the national and international limelight.

A prolific writer, Hayes wrote columns for the *Santa Barbara Independent* newspaper and authored the book *The Gourmet Gardener*. She served on the board of the American Public Garden Association, was a reviewer for their Plant Collections Network, and cofounded the Horticulture Consortium of Santa Barbara. Her influence and contributions are felt daily at Lotusland as well as far beyond its borders.

✂ Sabine Steinmetz

✂ SCHS MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE ✂

Fall has finally arrived and with it the following chores:

- Begin annual “fall clean-up”...
 - Prune perennials and shrubs
 - Clear fallen fruit and other debris from the ground
 - Harvest and spread compost, then begin refilling bin with fall garden trimmings
 - Replenish mulch all around
- Continue (or start!) dividing perennials and replant.
- Keep dead-heading roses to get blooms through November.
- Plant, plant, plant!
 - California natives
 - Cool season veggies
 - Seasonal annuals & bulbs
 - Wildflower seeds
 and almost anything else!
- Once cool weather stabilizes, cut back on irrigation, but stay aware of weather events.

✂ Sabine Steinmetz

Click on link to view program:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQvQ_V6qxb0

SCHS 2021 INTERN

On October 14, in conjunction with our monthly webinar, the SCHS will hear a short presentation by Bridget Lee, our 2021 horticultural internship recipient.

Lee will be scheduled ahead of the evening’s scheduled program and speak briefly about her recent time interning at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens.

Learn more about SCHS and check us out online at:
www.facebook.com/pg/socalhort • www.instagram.com/socalhort • www.socalhort.org