

## 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

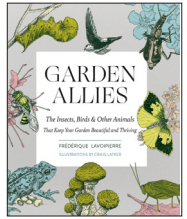
such as birds, amphibians, reptiles (tortoises, snakes, lizards) and others.

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.

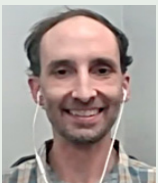
In April, our third intern of 2021, Matthew Castner, a Cal Poly Pomona student in Plant and Soil Sciences, presented a short program ahead of our monthly webinar. His internship was at Rancho Los Alamitos, where he researched and updated data on the history of their nearly 100 year old rose garden, designed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



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