

Garden Event

4-12-24, 7:30pm, In Person and Livestream Zoom, All Plants Come From Somewhere- How Plant Origin Clues Make Us Better Gardeners with Brian Kemble, Pasadena 91101

Description = The Southern California Horticultural Society will present the 2024 Ruth Borun Lecture Series with guest speaker Brian Kemble, Curator of the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek, where he has worked since 1980. It is known as a “preservation garden”, and came about as the result of Bancroft’s vision and years of hard work. It is Kemble’s responsibility to maintain its look and feel, guided by her design principles and by the conservation easement overseen by the Garden Conservancy. He and his team know what sort of plants belong in Ruth’s garden – not only which genera she gravitated toward, but also the forms, colors, textures and juxtapositions that appealed to her. Kemble is always on the lookout for plants that can seamlessly be woven into existing compositions, even if the selections had not yet been brought into cultivation when she herself was still accumulating plants. Kemble has traveled extensively, seeking new drought-adapted plants and exploring the places where they occur in nature. It brings him joy to see a plant in its native habitat – the topography, the rock and soil types, the associated vegetation, the appearance of the place – instilling in him a deep sense of connection to the plant and to the whole web of life from which it springs. He believes it is important to remember that all plants come from somewhere, as even hybrids derive from species that originated in a specific habitat of an actual place. He also adheres to the tenet that plants from climates similar to ours are more likely to succeed in our gardens, and that this is a good reason to seek out California native plants, or ones from the world’s Mediterranean climate zones. However, he feels that these should not be the only places to explore, as some plants may have broader adaptability and can succeed in conditions very different from their home turf. He believes experimentation is needed to learn what each plant’s preferences and limitations are, and that the sharing of experiences and insights between gardeners helps us all achieve greater success. We look forward to hearing Kemble share fascinating stories about specific plants in cultivation at the Bancroft garden and about their origins. His meticulous plant selection for the successful integration of any specimen into the garden is based on its physical and aesthetic compatibility with the existing landscape – valuable criteria we might also consider in planning our own home gardens.

Cost = Free for SCHS Members, \$10 for Non-Members (including Guests of Members)

Location = Blinn House, 160 N Oakland, Pasadena 91101. This event will be in-person and live-streamed via Zoom.

For more information = <https://www.socalhort.org/ruth-borun>

Registration Link = <https://socalhort.org/event-5626951>