

February Meeting Recap

The February meeting of the Southern California Horticultural Society was a presentation by Joe Clements on designing landscapes using succulents and other drought-tolerant plants. Joe showed us gardens from up and down the state of California, ranging from Point Loma, up to the Huntington Library and Botanic Gardens and out to Claremont and beyond.

Many of the images showed either before and after views of projects, or even more interesting, start to finish shots of the gardens from their layout prior to ground breaking, all the way through the construction and planting phases. A number of the montages were of the gardens that Joe helped install at Pitzer College in Claremont. (I think gardening would be a whole lot easier for all of us with the "student helpers" Joe showed us!) The progression of images as large rocks and boulders were placed was enlightening—and many a landscape designer could benefit from seeing those images.

Thanks to Joe for sharing this illustrated talk on how to build drought-tolerant gardens using succulents and other plants that need less of our precious water.

Thanks to James E. Henrich and the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden for supplying the raffle table. Thanks to all who helped set up and run the meeting as well as those who stayed after and helped clean up!

See you on March 13, for a program presented by Randy Baldwin, of San Marco Growers, on: *New Australian Plants for California Gardens*. Come and learn which Aussies will work well in your garden.

-Steven Gerischer

SHARING SECRETS

In January, we asked you to answer "*How is the on-going drought affecting/changing your garden?*" and here are some of your responses. Read more on our SCHS MemberLodge website, schs.memberlodge.org.

Quite honestly the combination of drought and the trebling of our water bill sent us scrambling over the past two years. Normally we used very little water over 8 months of the years. We began decreasing our usage by turning off our two automatic irrigation clocks. We put small mechanical

timers on every hose spigot and hand operated nozzles on all hoses. In selected planters we decided to see what no watering would do. And, we began grouping plants by their ability to withstand drought or their requirement for regular water (a cherished *Azalea*, three old *Brunsfelsia*). We took out a pretty but aging perennial bed and replanted it with natives until the drought breaks. We also started an experiment with watering bags to keep newly planted trees alive and thriving and went from there to using them to keep favorite struggling vines alive. We plan to experiment with using gray water from the washer to fill the bags if the need arises. We are still experimenting with the best way to water our small orchard and fruit espaliers. The older citrus really, really suffered last summer and the eldest of them have failed to recover. We have run off channels on our roof and we are using garbage cans, under those where there is no planter, to catch water from what little rain we've had.

-Catherine Pannell

MARCH MEETING BOOK SALE TO BENEFIT SCHS

We will be having a sale of used books at the March meeting of SCHS. Books are garden/nature related. All books will be priced with post-it labels and sales are cash or check. All proceeds will go to SCHS to help us keep bringing you fascinating speakers and interesting opportunities for "Coffee in the Garden" or field trips.

If you are bringing books to donate, please indicate who is donating and any pricing ideas for more unusual or beautiful books. (Not that we're judging them by their covers!)

Remember your reusable bags if you plan to shop!

If you would like to volunteer to help sell books, please contact Steven Gerischer at: sglarkspur@aol.com.

SCHS INTERN PRESENTATION

The 2013 SCHS intern awardee, **Cynthia Robinson** was scheduled to give a presentation of her work at Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden at the February meeting, but was ill and could not attend. The intern presentation will be rescheduled for a later date (perhaps April or May). We hope Cynthia is feeling better!

HORT HAPPENING EXTRAS!

THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF LOS ANGELES INVITES YOU TO GO FOR A HIKE



"HORT HIKE"

Out of the Wild & Into the Garden

A Horticultural Excursion In Griffith Park

Sunday, March 16

9:00 am—12:00 pm

Whether you are an experienced California native plant gardener or considering planting natives for the first time, this casual hike is for you. Join Head Gardener Richard Hayden and Director of the Nature Gardens Carol Bornstein for a close-up look at our local plant communities including chaparral, oak woodland, and riparian woodland. Discover which species work well in the designed landscape and how to use them in your own garden as we visit this beautiful and botanically diverse canyon right in Hollywood's backyard.

Fee is \$20 for Members / \$25 non-Member

Register online:

nhm.org/fieldtrips

or call: (213) 763-3499

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

The CNPS Los Angeles / Santa Monica next monthly meeting takes place on Tuesday, March 11 from 7:30pm-9:30pm at the Sepulveda Garden Center. Cristina Walsh will present a program on *The Wondrous Natural Environment of the Simi Hills*. Non members are welcome and encouraged to attend. More details at www.lacnps.org.