

October Meeting Recap

The October meeting of the Southern California Horticultural Society was a talk by Matt Ritter, covering the *Natural History of California*. Matt showed us some of his favorite places in the California floristic province and how these diverse locations have given rise to a remarkable number of unique habitats and plant communities. With trees being his specialty, Matt's talk focused on the trees that are such a recognizable part of these places. From the towering redwoods to the almost iconic oak trees that dot our rolling hills (and even identify Southern California when it is trying to stand in as some far-flung location in so many of our movies and television shows.)

When the term "biodiversity hotspot" is used—a place where unique and endemic biological organisms are under pressure from habitat loss and development etc.—California may not pop immediately to mind. Matt showed us how so many of our natural wonders are under increasing pressure from housing, agriculture and loss of contiguous habitat. He touched on the problems of invasive species being introduced into the state as well as over use of beloved parks and reserves, pollution and degradation of habitat. Some of his slides were taken years apart and allowed us to see these processes at work. The entire talk was a valuable reminder of what an amazing state we live in and that wherever you go in California there is something there that can be found nowhere else.

We would like to thank professor Matt Ritter for this thoughtful and inspiring talk on the *Natural History of California*. The many treasures our state has to offer cannot be taken for granted.

Thanks as well to all of the members who help set up and run the meetings as well as those who stay after and clean up the auditorium. Join us in November for our *Geophyte Panel Discussion*—with Sheldon Lisker, Dylan

Hannon and Fred M. Roberts, Jr.

—Steven Gerischer

SHARING SECRETS

In October, we asked you to answer "What is your favorite place/destination to experience nature in California?" and here are some of your responses. Read more on our SCHS MemberLodge website, schs.memberlodge.org.

(Apparently the Sharing Secrets question never made it online so there were no answers.)

Note: I did ask our speaker, Dr. Matt Ritter what his favorite place in California was. He replied that: "it was not a fair question as the answer changed constantly. But Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve in San Diego County was up somewhere near the top for its amazing diversity and beauty".

James E. Henrich Relocating to Bay Area

James E. Henrich has been named as the new director of the Conservatory of Flowers and the San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum in Golden Gate Park.

Jim, as we know him, is leaving his position as curator of living collections at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Gardens. He had also been serving for a number of years on our SCHS board and was our vice president for the last two years. We will miss his many contributions to SCHS (including his editing the Greensheet section of the newsletter) as well as his contributions to the local horticultural scene. We wish him great luck and good fortune as he embarks on this exciting opportunity.

—Steven Gerischer

The Greensheet will be back in the newsletter as soon as possible.

DRAGONFLY PROJECT

Want to help dragonfly populations? The Migratory Dragonfly Project is a citizen science project you can participate in. All you need is a pond or wetland to visit and a computer.

<http://www.migratorydragonflypartnership.org/index/welcome>

Participants monitor the timing, duration, and direction of travel of migrating dragonflies, and note any additional behaviors in a directed migratory flight such as feeding or mating. Photos or videos are strongly encouraged to aid in identification. When gathered across a wide geographic range and throughout a span of years, these data will provide answers to questions about which species are regular migrants; the frequency and timing of migration in different species; sources, routes, and destinations of migrants; and patterns of reproduction, emergence, and movement among migratory dragonflies along their flight paths.

