

On July 14, the SCHS hosted local architect Brian Tichenor, who educated and inspired us with his program on renowned 20th century Southern California landscape architect Ralph Cornell. His talk, presented with archival images, documented a small portion of the voluminous body of Cornell's work and its impact on Southern California landscapes from the 1920s into the 1960s. In addition to being the most prolific and influential of the first generation of professional SoCal landscape architects, Cornell was also a persuasive public voice for the promotion of native landscapes and dry gardening, and Tichenor stressed that this influenced the changing dynamics of regional attitudes about landscape and water usage.

Tichenor began by noting that today, out of necessity, gardens and public spaces need to be designed giving consideration to their ability to survive with low-water usage. He then shared an article Cornell wrote in 1912, proposing that parks be planted "for maximum results, using a minimum of expenditure" using California native plants. Tichenor noted that this type of thinking led to Cornell becoming a pioneer in creating a specific regional look in SoCal that was distinct from East Coast landscaping standards.

Upon Cornell's graduation from Pomona College and Harvard, he began to question the established "rules" of landscape architecture. After turning down a position with the Olmsted brothers, Cornell instead established a business in partnership with Theodore Payne. Together they worked on the grounds of Pomona College, numerous parks throughout Pasadena, and ultimately, Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve in La Jolla. The latter was the first project of its kind built around the existing environment, and included instructions on how to deal with future expansion to accommodate greater populations. After he and Payne parted ways, Cornell expanded his oeuvre to include city planning (Beverly Park in Beverly Hills), civic projects (La Brea Tar Pits, UCLA grounds), restoration landscaping (Los Cerritos Ranch House in Long Beach), consulting on Griffith and Elysian Parks, as well as some residential jobs.

In addition to his landscaping career, Cornell was an author, a radio talk show host, and most notably, an accomplished photographer. Not only did he meticulously document his own projects, but the



aesthetic qualities of his landscape photos can also be found (often uncredited) in the books of horticultural contemporaries such as Victoria Padilla's *Southern California Gardens: An Illustrated History* and Mildred Mathias' *Flowering Plants in the Landscape*.

Tichenor concluded by summarizing Cornell's career as one that evolved during an incredibly expansive time of growth for California and its landscapes. Staying on pace with the changing times, Cornell was always growing and learning, yet still adhering to his unique design principles, including the critical placement of trees to anchor large spaces and recognizing the significance of water usage.

A recording of Tichenor's program and his follow-up Q & A can be found on our YouTube channel.  Sabine Steinmetz

Link to view entire program:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZxAflJjU1-U>

RETURN OF SCHS RAFFLE

In addition to enjoying Tichenor's program, those who attended the live meeting in July were once again able to purchase raffle tickets

for a chance to win pots from a large and colorful selection donated by long-time member Joan Citron. In addition to being a bit of fun, the raffle provided a sneak peek at the types of items that might be found at our upcoming Silent Auction - an event Citron is known for heavily contributing to! **Thanks Joan!**

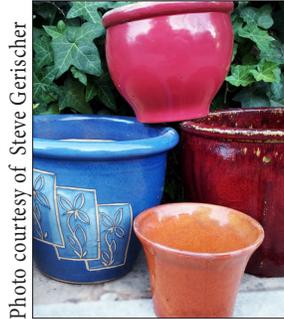


Photo courtesy of Steve Gerischer

EDITORIAL CORRECTION

In the June newsletter's recap of Bart O'Brien's program, the term "nativar" was incorrectly defined. O'Brien himself has since provided us with the following description for clarification:

A nativar is simply a cultivar of a native plant, not limited to those that are the result of a breeding program or are hybrids. The term applies to plants selected from the wild as well.

We apologize for any confusion and appreciate O'Brien for providing us with the correct definition.  Editor



Photo provided by speaker.

On July 10, the SCHS partnered with Arlington Garden in Pasadena to host Debby Dunn, the water conservation administrator for the City of Beverly Hills, in presenting a workshop on how to use water responsibly during our ongoing drought.

Dunn's common-sense tips included:

- Cut back on number of days you irrigate and water more deeply when you do.
- Consider swapping sprinkler heads for more efficient, less wasteful options.
- Always check for leaks (indoors & out) and make necessary adjustments.
- Stay informed! Visit water-wise gardens, speak to experts, take classes or check out the following websites:

BeWaterWise.com • SoCalWaterSmart.com
SaveOurWater.com

You may also contact Dunn directly at:
GardenGalDeb@Gmail.com

The SCHS appreciates Dunn for speaking to us - and Arlington's liaison, Heather, for her coordination of the event - as well as for giving attendees a short garden tour afterward. It was a morning well spent in good company.

Many thanks!

SCHS MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE

August is going to get hot - so protect yourself & your plants!

- Do any supplemental watering as early and deeply as possible.
- Avoid planting, heavy pruning and most fertilizing this month - your plants (and you) need a rest.
- Continue dead-heading, weeding and mulching if you need to, but limit your activities & stay hydrated!
- Start planning for fall planting and chores - preferably from indoors!

 Sabine Steinmetz