

July Meeting Recap

The July meeting of the Southern California Horticultural Society was a presentation by Ron Rasmussen: *The El Moro Elfin Forest of Los Osos*. This remarkable landscape, just south of Moro Rock, was nearly lost to destructive land use and coastal development. Mr. Rasmussen's talk detailed the convoluted history of the formation of what is now a state park, preserving this land for the enjoyment of future generations. The efforts of private citizens and the non-profit S.W.A.P. (Small Wilderness Area Preserves, Inc.) completed their purchase of the land and transfer to the state and county parks system, just prior to the deadline for sale of these coastal dunes. This unique habitat featuring stunted oak trees, native flora and even a wetlands/marsh was nearly lost to yet another tract home development.

Ron showed us the progression of reclamation of the dunes through eradication of invasive, exotic plants and weeds—mostly accomplished by dedicated volunteers. A number of large format photo posters were displayed on tables at the back of the hall (along with tee shirts and other items sold to raise funds for the park) showing aerial views of "before and after" shots of this restoration.

Of special interest was learning about the state-funded experts who must be hired at great expense to guard the resident population of native snails.

The installation of a boardwalk through the park has now made the area accessible to visitors without the worry over damage done by people straying from the pathways. Some of the dwarfed oak trees were nearly lost to soil compaction from over use. This was an interesting history of a fascinating area now part of our State Park system due to the efforts of so many dedicated folks who care very deeply about the environment.

We would like to thank Ron Rasmussen for his thoroughly enjoyable presentation on the Elfin Forest. Thanks as well to the program committee and to Rebecca Rasmussen Tufenkian for working to make this talk happen. Thanks to those who help set up and run the meeting as well as those who helped clean up afterwards.

Join us on August 14 at the Witherbee Auditorium of the Los Angeles Zoo for our presentation by Lucy Tolmach: *The Ojai Vinyard Farm—New Venture in Modern Farming*.

—Steven Gerischer

SHARING SECRETS

In July, we asked you to answer "What is your top 'Bucket List' garden (need to see it before you turn to compost)?" and here are some of your responses. Read more on our SCHS MemberLodge website, schs.memberlodge.org.

Beatrix Potter's Hill Top Farm & Garden in the Lake District of England (as part of a walking tour of the area).

—Brenda Kano

Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens, South Africa, is my dream, but I have grave doubts I'll ever get there. It's too far to bicycle!

—Tim Evans

Butchart Gardens. I'm sure everyone else has been. But I haven't. Every time I take a trip I think I'll see amazing flowers that we can't grow here. Not that I've been many places. Tokyo was all green. The Peonies were done in Chicago. But when I come home I realize we have the most amazing flowers here in SoCal!!! Of course I haven't been to Singapore nor Malaysia. I bet they have incredible flowers!!

—Aprille Curtis

It would have to be Versailles - pictures are one thing, but the size and scope in person have to be pretty amazing...

—Magda Krachmalnik

Butchart Gardens. It holds the story of the indomitable human spirit to create beauty in whatever circumstances we find ourselves in: even in a cement pit can be made into a beautiful garden.

—Lydia Plunk

I was lucky enough to cross one off in June -- the International Garden Festival at Chaumont-sur-Loire. (Anyone want to hear about it? The theme this year: the Deadly Sins.)

Chanticleer comes to mind; also the gardens of Morocco.

—Paula Panich

Jardin Majorelle, Morocco
The Garden of Cosmic Speculation, Scotland
And after hearing Eric Haskell's lecture two weeks ago, Vaux le Vicomte, France.

—Kathy Musial

PLANT FORUM IMAGES.

Photos by Paul Martin. See Page 3 for descriptions.



Calochortus hybrids



Albuca clanwilliamae-gloria



Ornithogolum 'Namib Gold'



Uncarina grandidieri