

(Conservation continued from page 1)

The plant list is not static, instead it evolves as plants are tested for how well they adapt to water conservation practices. Agapanthus and coral bells grow here as well as the floss silk tree and succulents that would be expected in a dry garden.

State of the art irrigation equipment includes drip emitters and timers that can be manually overridden. Water is applied until it penetrates to a depth of 18 inches. The objective is to determine how

long the garden can go between waterings with the goal of stretching the interval to 30 days during the hot season rather than regular weekly application.

To encourage gardeners to act on the inspiration and ideas they see in the garden, the Arboretum offers free publications on water conservation in the Visitors Center. Brochures from organizations such as Sunset Magazine, Metropolitan Water District and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power will guide gardeners in adapting their own landscapes to prepare for water shortages in the future.

FRANCIS CHING HONORED FOR LIFETIME OF HORTICULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Francis Ching, Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens, was recently named the 1989 recipient of the Arthur Hoyt Scott Garden and Horticulture Award. Established in 1929 at Swarthmore College, the award each year honors an individual who has made outstanding national contributions to the science and art of gardening. Mr. Ching's selection for this prestigious honor was based on his many contributions and achievements during the 19 years he has served as Director of this four-garden department in Los Angeles County.

Southern Californians have benefited most from his successes in expanding the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum's original mission of introducing new plants into the Southern California landscape. Under his direction, 54 new plants have been introduced from among the thousands field tested at the Arboretum. Several introductions have become familiar fixtures along California freeways, landscapes and private gardens. Caltrans has planted a variation of the white *Osteospermum fruticosum*, now simply called the "freeway daisy," as well as hundreds of named cultivars of floss silk trees (*Chorisia speciosa*) and other introductions along Southland freeways where they punctuate the fall landscape with flowing masses of color.

Each year, 700 to 1,000 schools participate in the Arboretum's Arbor Day Program, planting a tree supplied by the Department. Through the program, started 10 years ago, hundreds of thousands of children have learned about the value of trees in their environment through resource information supplied by the Department as a part of the Arbor Day program. This has also been an effective means of introducing new Arboretum plant

introductions to the landscape and as a community outreach program.

Mr. Ching's contributions to the gardening profession are numerous and varied. While serving as president of the American Association of Botanic Gardens and Arboreta (AABGA), he was instrumental in establishing a certification



David Fraser, (left) Swarthmore College President, congratulates Francis Ching, Claremont, after presenting him with the Arthur Hoyt Scott Garden and Horticulture Award. Mr. Ching, Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens, is the first Californian to win the award in its 60 year history.

program for professional gardeners. He was active on the AABGA's Plant Collections Committee, which published the *Preliminary Directory of Living Plant Collections in North America*, a widely used resource by botanists and scientists. Other publications under his direction include numerous gardening brochures, as well as two widely received books, *Color in the Landscape* and *Exceptional Trees of Los Angeles*, published with the support of the California Arboretum Foundation.

In 1980, aided by a grant from the Institute

of Museum Services, Mr. Ching established a summer Horticultural Intern Program at the Arboretum which has since been expanded to include the other three public gardens under his management. Under this program, each year as many as 24 horticultural students from countries worldwide benefit from practical training in these public gardens.

In 1981 Mr. Ching was instrumental in reviving the tradition of a major Southern California gardening exposition, dormant since the late 1960s, when he launched the first Los Angeles Garden Show at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum. Now, eight years later, this has become a highly popular fall event enthusiastically supported by the area's horticultural and landscape industry. More recently two new horticultural displays of great interest have been added to the others at the Arboretum. The first is a display of the effects of air pollution on plants. The second is the development of a Water Conservation Garden which emphasizes that a colorful and green garden can be accomplished all year through water conserving programs.

Beginning his association with the Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens in 1956, Mr. Ching held a variety of positions, including grounds maintenance, Research Assistant, Chief Horticulturist and Superintendent of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum prior to

his appointment as Director in 1970. The Department, an agency of Los Angeles County government, operates four separate public gardens, including the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum in Arcadia, Descanso Gardens in La Canada Flintridge, South Coast Botanic Garden on the Palos Verdes Peninsula and the Virginia Robinson Gardens in Beverly Hills.

Throughout his career Mr. Ching has been an active participant in the American Association of Botanic Gardens and Arboreta, having served on the Board of Directors and on various committees of the Association as well as holding the offices of vice-president and president. In recognition of his many years of service and leadership to that organization he was awarded an Honorary Life Membership in 1986. Additionally, he serves on review boards for Museum Accreditation and the Museum Assessment Program of the American Association of Museums. He has also served, or now serves, on various other boards including the American Horticultural Society, Sunset Magazine, Longwood Gardens, the United States National Arboretum in Washington, D.C., Los Angeles Beautiful and the San Diego Zoo.

On May 21, Mr. Ching was keynote speaker at the annual meeting of the Associates of the Scott Arboretum in Swarthmore, PA, where he accepted the Arthur Hoyt Scott Garden and Horticulture Award.

COUNTY ARTS AND HUMANITIES AWARDED TO JOAN SELWYN

Joan (Mrs. Paul) Selwyn has been named top 1989 volunteer for Los Angeles County in the category of arts and humanities. She was nominated for the award after being named Volunteer of the Year by the Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens.

Mrs. Selwyn's work on behalf of the Virginia Robinson Gardens in Beverly Hills operated by the Department exemplifies the the spirit of volunteerism at its best.

"...volunteering for the County has been an integral part of my life...I love where I live and anything I can do to help preserve the integrity and beauty of this community is a privilege and a pleasure," she says.

In six years of volunteer efforts at the Virginia Robinson Gardens, Mrs. Selwyn worked more than 3,000 hours and raised more than \$370,000 to help with the upkeep and restoration of the estate. *(Volunteer continued on page 4)*



Joan Selwyn and Francis Ching attend the Los Angeles County Volunteer of the Year luncheon.



1989. "Francis Ching honored for lifetime of horticultural contributions."
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