

mittee of Longwood Gardens and the National Arboretum Advisory Council in Washington, D.C. He also served on the board of directors of the American Horticultural Society and the Botanical Collections Committee of the Zoological Society of San Diego. A reviewer and panelist for SUNSET magazine for over 25 years, he also served as a reviewer for the

Institute of Museum Services and for the Museum Assessment Program and Accreditation programs for the American Association of Museums.

On the popular front, Mr. Ching has judged floats for the Tournament of Roses, towering floral headdresses at the Las Floristas Ball and the Easter Parade at Disneyland.

Fiesta de Flores features colorful shrubs, trees, flowers

Whether your garden lacks a butterfly-alluring bush or a flowering fruit tree, your best resource is the annual Fiesta de Flores plant sale May 19 - 20 at South Coast Botanic Garden. The annual sale features a wide range of plants, mostly trees, shrubs, and drought-tolerant varieties, for home and garden. But be forewarned. If past sales are any indication, you had better arrive early (the sale runs from 9 am to 4 pm) to get the best of the selection.

Pink floss silk trees, golden trumpet trees and vivid orange coral trees all make for a colorful array of tempting buys. River wattle trees, with their graceful weeping leaves and paired yellow puffs, and deciduous fruit trees -- peach, apricot, plum and cherry -- also top the list of trees for sale.

On a smaller scale, flowering favorites include *Buddleia* (commonly called the butterfly bush), lantana and flowering quince. Arboretum introductions of lilies of the Nile (*Agapanthus*) will color the sale in various shades of blue through purple while hybrid day-lilies bloom in a wide array of colors and bicolors. Dwarf as well as full-sized bougainvillea, azaleas, lilacs, roses, gardenias, fuchsias and ferns will also be available.

And before heading home with your prized purchases, take a break to enjoy on-going cultural demonstrations, food and entertainment.

South Coast Botanic Foundation members and guests can do their Fiesta shopping early at the Preview Party May 18 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Shoppers may also enjoy entertainment, beverages and hors d'oeuvres. Tickets are \$10 per person.



Chameadorea palms will tempt Fiesta shoppers.

Director to speak at annual meeting

Francis Ching will share his adventures along the New Zealand Coast during the annual Arboretum Foundation meeting June 13 at 7 p.m. The meeting begins with an open house from 3 to 5 p.m. followed by dinner.

From the volcanoes in Tongariro National Park, 170 foot trees in the Waipoua Kauri Forest, to rock formations resembling great grey pancakes piled by the thousands at the Punaikaiki marine reserve will be featured in his talk and slide presentation called "Plants, People and Places".

During his 20 day trip, he visited botanical gardens, including the Government Gardens in Rotorua, stopping to collect new cultivars for the Department. Mr. Ching's prized materials included tea trees (*Leptospermum*), bottle-brushes (*Callistemon*), *Metrosideros*, and *Pittosporum*.



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