

*Education is a progressive discovery of our own ignorance. - Will Durant*

## FERN CANYON HIKE - ELIZABETH JONES



Mid-march brought blue skies and mild temperatures; perfect for SLA, along with clients and friends, to hike fern canyon one of the many trails in Red Rock Canyon. This was the first hike we have done as a group and it was a great opportunity to reconnect with nature and test our knowledge of the native plant species. The hike starts on a plateau of grasses and yucca. Working your way into the canyon the vegetation changes to black brush and Ponderosa pines. A narrow path leads you into the canyon with the first sprouts of wildflowers starting to bloom out of the crusty red clay. Scrambling over boulders and through thick masses of shrubs you end up along the creek where we took a break on cool slabs of sandstone. The creeks cold water creates the perfect

microclimate for ferns and mosses. This is where our group headed back, but you can explore further into the canyon. With the temperate weather Red Rock was bustling with rock climbers, bicyclists and a Vespa club with hundreds of riders on orange and sea foam green bikes in addition to our group of hikers. If you haven't been out exploring our beautiful desert this is the perfect time of year to get out. Make sure to send in some of your great photographs. We always appreciate a new view and perspective.

It was a great way to spend the afternoon. Thanks to everyone who came out and enjoyed the hike with us!

## SOUTHWICK LA NEWS

The 2009 NASLA golf tournament will be held at the beautiful Silverstone Golf Club on May 15th. The tournament is usually held in June, so being that it is in May this year, the weather should be spectacular. In response to the current economic condition, fees for this event have been reduced. This looks to be one of the best tournaments in recent years! The Silverstone golf club presents such great opportunities for sponsors and participants. They have 10.5" GPS screens on each golf cart, sponsors logos will be on the flags of the hole they sponsor, and the 34,000 square foot Mediterranean-style clubhouse has won the honor "Best Clubhouse, voted by Vegas Golfer Magazine." Players will have opportunities to win great prizes including a \$15,000 hole-in-one prize, Taylor Made golf clubs, raffle prizes, and so much more. There will also be awards for first, second and third place teams. The money raised from this event supports NASLA in its endeavors. Students from UNLV will be present to not only help with the tournament, but to advertise for the national LABASH conference which they will be hosting here in Las Vegas. This will be a great way to get away from the office for a day!



If you are interested in participating or becoming a sponsor, please contact Helen Stone at [Helen@nvasla.com](mailto:Helen@nvasla.com)

## FAVORITE FLORA:

### BERLANDIERA LYRATA - CHOCOLATE FLOWER - BY: MATT DURHAM



What is better than enjoying a landscape in bloom? Enjoying a landscape in bloom that smells like chocolate of course! Engaging all the senses is an important aspect when designing a landscape and a well thought out plant palette can really add to the experience. Whether it's the rustling leaves of a Fremont Poplar (*Poplar fremontii*) or the soft touch to the Lambs Ear (*Stachys byzantina*), there are many plants that work well in connecting a person to a landscape. One of my personal favorites is the Chocolate Flower (*Berlandiera lyrata*).

Native to areas of Texas and southeastern Arizona, this perennial enjoys full sun locations in the Las Vegas Valley. The Chocolate Flower grows to about

1.5 to 3 ft. tall and wide and blooms in the spring, summer and some years into the fall. After the yellow flowers form seed heads, the seeds can be collected and distributed back into the landscape for added blooms and more fragrance next year. This plant is great to use around a doorway, window or patio area where its best qualities can be enjoyed.

We hope you have enjoyed our employee's favorite plants. Over the next few months we will continue our plant articles with other great plants that can be used in your Las Vegas landscapes. If you have a favorite plant you would like featured, please email us at [sla@southwickla.com](mailto:sla@southwickla.com).

## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



BLUE + RED  
SPRINGS PRESERVE, NV  
MATT DURHAM