

# SKETCHING AND PLANT IDENTIFICATION

UCLA EXTENSION

SPRING 2022

INSTRUCTOR: DAVID W SQUIRES

Student:

Course Description:

Students participate in four (4) all day site visits to observe and sketch 4 - 5 plant species from those locations. The spring quarter students visited:

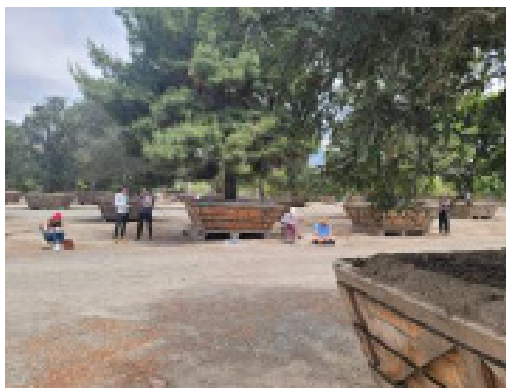
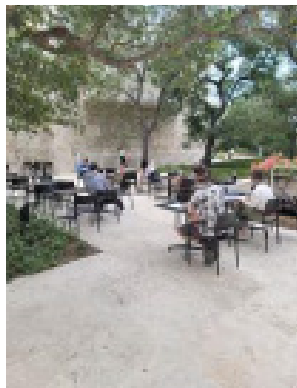
Meeting 1: Via Zoom: Nursery Stock, small plant containers

Meeting 2: Getty Center: Trees

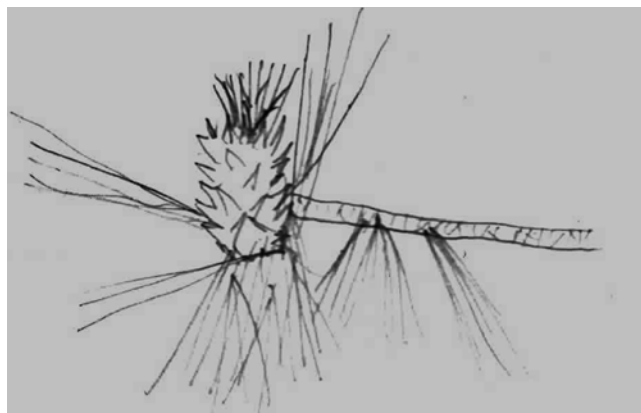
Meeting 3: Devil Mountain Specimen Yard: Trees

Meeting 4: Instructors Project Location: Trees and under story composition

Students learn sketching technique with pencil. The instructor guides observation of form, detail, texture, scale and proportion; with the emphasis on observation and seeing. While the students are developing their sketches, the instructor leads conversation centered around the subject plant species. The conversation ranges from planting design, growing conditions, plant specifications, acquisitions, costs, construction site management and equipment needed to plant.



Include part of a sketch here. *Pinus pinea*, immature cone



## REFLECTIONS

Write your reflections about the course here - as short or as long as you would like!

If there is space, include a sketch on this page.

For pages 3 onwards, include sketches you like. As few or as many as you want.

This was my first drawing class. I liked to draw trees as a child, but knew no techniques for giving them realistic depth. Nor did I understand the explanation of "foreshortening" in the course materials. But David was able to show it in a way I understood in a couple of minutes. I also learned to attempt to show depth with line weights.

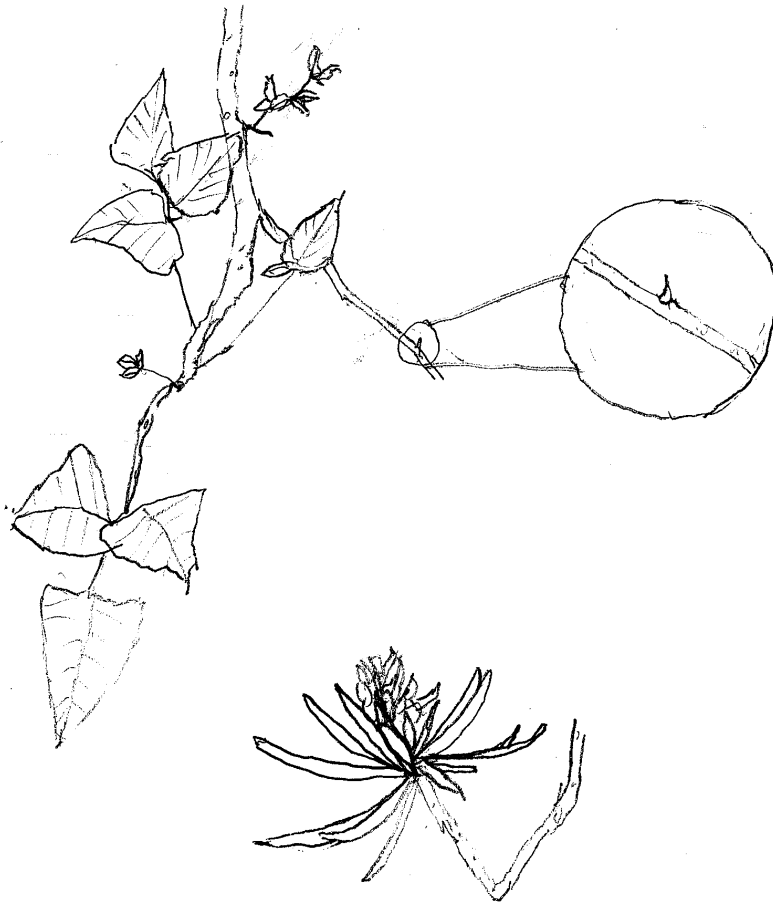
The field trips were all excellent learning opportunities. I had been to the Getty before, but not with a sketch pad, David's comments on plants and architecture, and my enthusiastic and inquisitive classmates to add richness and energy to the experience. The specimen yard that we visited was a type of nursery I had never heard of before. In addition to being a great place to sketch a variety of trees, it was a valuable education in a part of the industry that I hadn't explored. Finally, the trip to David's project in Bel Air flowed naturally from the one to the specimen yard to learn further practical and aesthetic considerations on a working site.



*Sequoia sempervirens*



*Erythrina collaroides* is a deciduous tree native to Mexico and Guatamala. This one is approximately 12 feet tall and 15 feet wide. In early May its is fully in bloom but not yet fully in leaf.

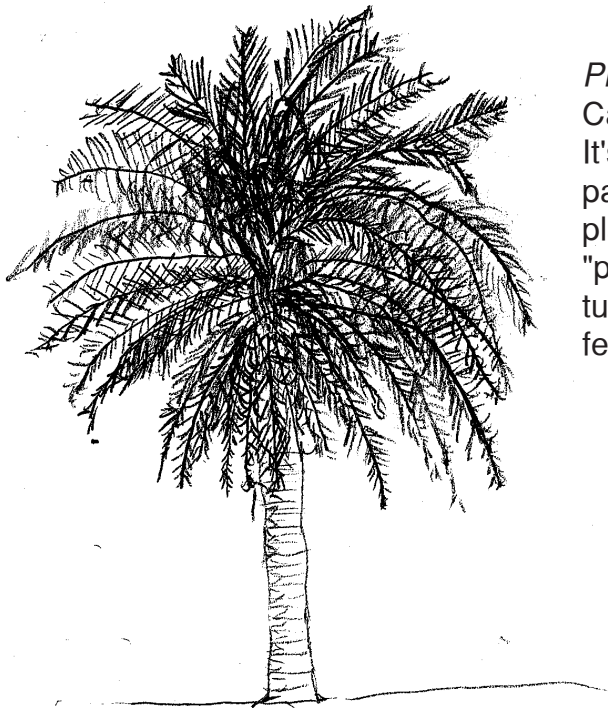




*Taxodium mucronatum* is native to Mexico and Central America. It is a large evergreen or semi-evergreen tree that grows up to 130 feet tall. This specimen on the grounds of the Getty Center is about 45 feet tall and 20 feet wide. Its placement next to a water feature reflects its native environment as a riparian tree.

The tree has short, soft, feather-like needles. They are bright green as long as the tree is warm and well-watered, but turn brown from drought stress and cold temperatures. The cones are globe shaped and mature seven to nine months after pollination.





*Phoenix canariensis* is a native of the Canary Islands. It's called a false date palm. It's actually closely related to the true date palm, *Phoenix dactylifera*. As a landscape plant, it is valued for its crown and the "pineapple" beneath the crown (not pictured). This tree is about 25 feet tall and 18 feet wide.

The pattern on the trunk of the tree forms when old fronds die as the tree grows and are replaced by new ones.

