





ARBORETUM MEMBERS' MAGAZINE Issue 8, December 2006 - February 2007

UF I OS AND

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

G. Arnold Mulder, M.D. President

Just as the developers and landowners ignored the drain they placed on our water supply, so they ignored the need for parks. We have open spaces and hiking trails and wild things to be sure, but only a few large "garden spaces". Luckily for us, the best ones are close-by. Ispeak particularly of the Huntington Gardens, Descanso Gardens, Rancho Santa Ana Botanica Garden and of course, The Arboretum.

These wonderful public garden spaces were not created by developers, but by wise and generous people who loved the world of plants. The gardens are supported by large numbers of volunteers who give what they can of time and wealth to maintain these spaces for us all. They all have plans for long-term growth and improvements, and they have to work hard to bring in enough money to support their programs. They are also close to each other and must go to the same "well" of individuals for support.

We can choose which place to support but we must remember that this is all we have and we are not getting any more park-like spaces; at least not of this size and extent of plant material and research capability. So all of us need to treat them like the treasures they are. All of them need our help and we don't want to lose any of them.

For me, The Arboretum is where I put my efforts and I love it. I am proud to show people around its old trees, its lovely spaces and its historic sites. It really is worth frequent visits and it really is worth giving some of our money to. I hope you will all give this some thought.

poretum

e Angelenos are certainly not the only city people to have park-like spaces to enjoy, but for a city of this size, we have among the fewest.

The Arboretum's mission is to cultivate our natural, horticultural and historic resources for learning, enjoyment and inspiration.

LOS ANGELES ARBORETUM FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board Officers

President, G. Arnold Mulder, M.D. 1st Vice President, Peg Rahn 2nd Vice President, Jane R. Herrmann Treasurer, Alan R. Tekerlek

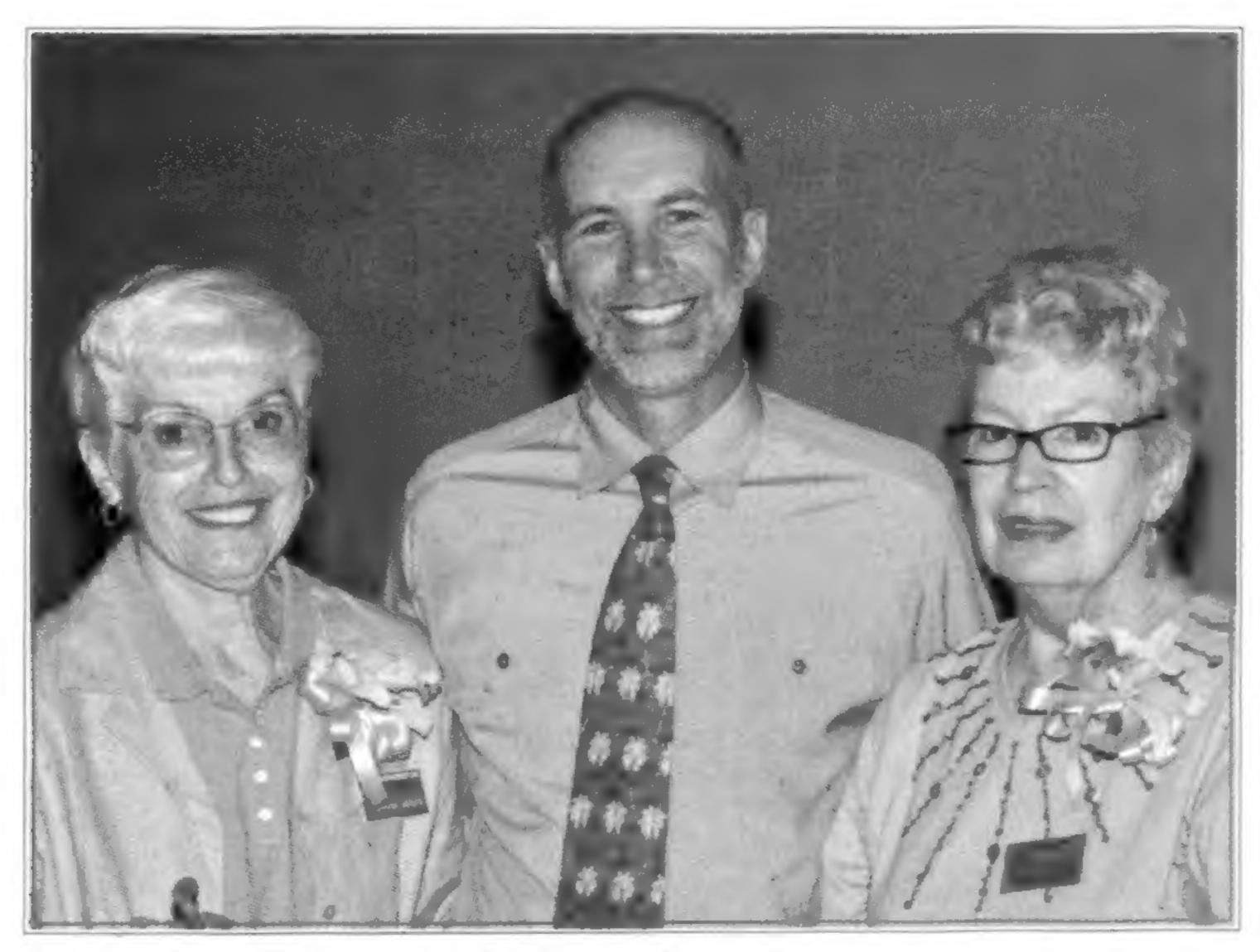
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Chief Executive Officer Mark K. Wourms, Ph.D.

DEAR ARBORETUM MEMBERS Volunteers – An Invaluable Resource

Mark K. Wourms, Ph.D., CEO



Dr. Wourms with new Los Voluntarios Presiden, Lauragene Swenson and outgoing President, Carol Cuthbertson

he Arboretum is a "public" garden in every sense of the word. A major demonstration of our public nature is our robust volunteer program. Volunteers assist staff and fulfill roles that simply cannot be undertaken by our talented, but extremely limited number of staff. Many programs and activities, that are sometimes taken for granted by the general public, such as: school group tours, plant labeling, children's programs, specialty plant shows, historic section tours and even sales help at the Garden & Gift Shop, are made possible through the efforts of dedicated volunteers. Additionally, a huge amount of work occurs "behind the scenes" by volunteers including, weeding, repotting, scheduling school tours, crafts development, informational talks and flower arranging. Arboretum's mission, and of course, the thank you given by that child who suddenly experiences the magic

Volunteers typically ask for little recognition. Often the reward comes from the joy of helping deliver The in the beauty of a flower.

Volunteers deserve all the recognition and thanks possible--be they a member of Los Voluntarios who give us thousands of hours each year, one of the Junior Volunteers who gain community service hours required by their schools, a Trustee of the Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation who helps co-manage operations and fundraising to support programming and garden improvements, or one of our Special Event volunteers involved with the LA Garden Show, the Great Egg Hunt and other numerous events--we thank them.

This entire Members' Magazine is dedicated to tell the stories, sing the praises, show the pictures and describe the breadth of volunteer activities that are possible at The Arboretum. We of course, also want everyone not currently volunteering at The Arboretum, to come out and get involved as a volunteer.

A special thanks from me to all the volunteers who currently make The Arboretum a true community jewel and resource. And thank you in advance, to all of you who will step forward to volunteer for the first time at The Arboretum. You are invaluable.

See you in the garden!





PLANTS & PEOPLE Jim Bauml, Ph.D., Senior Biologist

Mapping The Arboretum

eeping track of all the plants at The Arboretum is a big job, one that never ends. Unlike "objects" in a typical museum, the plant collections are everchanging, with some plants passing on and others joining the collections or being relocated. Weekly three-hour surveys help keep our inventory and plant labeling current. Such an effort is crucial to maintaining our leadership role as a scientific institution and world-wide botanical resource.

This assignment requires a sense of adventure, great dedication, and the willingness to work under potentially difficult conditions.

The volunteer mapping crew, under the direction of mapping group leader Tom Conrow and Senior Biologist Jim Bauml, has accepted this daunting task with enthusiasm and determination. The group also includes long-time mapper and record-keeping assistant Lew Pearce, as well as Carol Carriere, and Robert Hall. Numerous other volunteers have served on the crew, some for years at a time. This assignment requires a sense of adventure, great dedication, and the willingness to work under potentially difficult conditions. One may find himself covered with ants, chased by ground-dwelling hornets, snagged on a spiny branch, sliding down a slippery slope, stabbed by spines, or covered with dirt from crawling under a dense shrub. Aside from the satisfaction of knowing they are contributing to something important, mappers always enjoy a mid-session break with strong coffee and delicious donuts.

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Mapping began in earnest in 1984. The crew laid tapes from monument to monument in our grid system, and mapped each plant to the nearest foot, literally crawling over and under vegetation. Since 2002, with cutting-edge mapping hardware and software obtained through a grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust, mapping is done with a laser transit accurate to within 0.01

From nature, we learn the virtue of patience. In a world constantly rushing from place to place, there remains a delicate peace outside our windows.

foot. It is possible to survey any plant visible within a 1000-foot radius. Data are collected on a palmtop computer attached to the transit, and the plants placed on the digitized base map. Each day's mapping data are uploaded to an embossing machine, purchased with another grant, to create a fresh set of aluminum identification tags.

Although it is time-consuming and challenging, mapping puts the "botany" into The Arboretum collections. Each session builds on information collected over the years by many people through much time and effort. By devoting so many resources to mapping, we maintain our role as a leading botanical garden with valuable collections that contribute to conservation efforts worldwide and make our Arboretum scientifically valuable, more accessible, and interesting to our visitors. The mapping volunteers continue to make a real difference in the speed and accuracy at every step in the process.

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BLOOM

Frank McDonough, Plant Information Specialist

December / January Aloe spectabilis

The Arboretums collection of over 120 different types of aloe comes into full bloom in the winter months. Aloes are very useful medicinally, the most recognizable being Aloe vera, the gelatinous tissue, which is rubbed over burns and wounds to promote healing. Last year we opened up our 'Aloe Walk,' a sinuous trail that allows visitors a close-up look at our collection of over 300 aloe plants and other South African plants and succulents.

February Pseudobombax ellipticum

The Arboretum

Also known as the "Shaving brush tree", it is native to southern Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. It is a highly useful tree; its wood is used as firewood and to make handicrafts, its seeds are toasted and eaten, and the flowers are used in a healing tea that is rumored to alleviate stomach aches. Like many trees in the Bombax family the fibers from the fruit of the tree have been used to stuff pillows and insulate refrigerators.

Contact the plant information line 626 821.3239 or plant into @arboretum.org to learn more about what sin bloom.



Aloe spectabilis



MAKE A DATE Ongoing Activities

ARBORETUM LIBRARY Tuesday-Friday; 8am-5.15pm Every other Saturday; 8.30am-5pm

SANTA ANITA DEPOT Tuesday & Wednesday; 10am-4pm Sundays; 1-4pm

FAMILY BIRD WALK 1st Saturday of the month; 8am

FAMILY PICNIC SUNDAYS 3rd Sunday of the month

ARBORETUM BOOKWORMS (storytime and activity ages 3-8) 3rd Sunday of the month; 2-3pm

FREE ADMISSION DAY 3rd Tuesday of the month

WALKING TOURS Daily (call ahead for schedule)

GARDENS OF CALIFORNIA TELEVISION PROGRAM Every Sunday; 2-3pm Check your local cable channel.

Events, exhibitions and programs are FREE with Arboretum admission, unless otherwise noted. - To register for a program call 626.821.4623.

Steve Fennell of Sanford Winery- Creating Burgundian Magic in the Santa Rita Hills Why Pinot Noir and Chardonnay Thrive in Santa Barbara; February 21; 3pm Talk; Wine tasting to follow in the Garden & Gift Shop; \$10/\$15 non-members



OLD FASHIONED WREATH WORKSHOP

December 13; 10am-12pm Cost: \$25 members / \$30 non-members Pre-registration is required.

Heather Lenkin-How To Create the Garden of your Dreams! January 17; 3pm Talk with reception following; \$10/\$15 non-members

CALENDAR.

PLANT AHEAD **Events and Exhibitions**

QUEEN ANNE COTTAGE OPEN HOUSE December 10; 10am-4pm

BONSAL SHOW December 20 & 21

PLANTS & PEOPLE LECTURE

ORCHID SHOW & SALE February 3 & 4; 10am to 5pm

MUSHROOM FAIR February 11; 9am to 5pm

PLANTS & PEOPLE LECTURE:



December

January

February

Ikebana with Reiko Kawamura;

The second second second

9:30-11:30am; \$49/\$60 non-members with \$18 materials fee to instructor

Family Adventures: Holiday Hike and Wreath making; 2-4pm; \$15/family; \$20/family non-members

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Don't forget to buy a membership for friends and family.

Botanical Watercolor Workshop;

9:30-11:30; \$35/\$42 non-members; Self-directed workshop; no instructor

Park Management

a Mt. San Antonio College Course; 6-9:10pm

6 WED

7 THU

Ikebana with Reiko Kawamura;

9:30-11:30am; \$49/\$60 non-members with \$18 materials fee to instructor

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Queen Anne Cottage Holiday Open 10 sun, House; 10am-4pm; Free with Arboretum Admission

MON New Year's Day

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Seminars with Lili Singer: Step into the New Year with Brian Sullivan; 9:30-Noon; \$20 per class; pay at the door

Compulsive Gardeners: Class is Full

Ikebana with Reiko Kawamura;

9:30-11:30am; \$65/\$80 non-members with \$24 materials fee to instructor

Garden Sprouts:

Saturday Kids Gardening Club, 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month; 9-11am; \$10/class members \$12/class non-members;

Family Adventures:

"Winter Vegetable Garden"; 2-4pm; \$15/ family; \$20 non-members

7 SUN

Tai Chi;

6:30-7:30am; \$48/\$52 non-members

Botanical Watercolor Workshop; 9:30-11:30; \$35/\$42 non-members; Self-directed workshop; no instructor

Botanical Illustration: Watercolor/Color Pencil; 4 Wed. Jan.10-31; 9:30am-1:30pm; \$160/\$176 non-members

Seminars with Lili Singer:

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Behind the scenes at The Arboretum Library with Susan Eubank; 9:30-Noon; \$20 per class; pay at the door

Ikebana with Reiko Kawamura;

9:30-11:30am; \$65/\$80 non-members with \$24 materials fee to instructor

Compulsive Gardeners: class is full

Orchid Show & Sale; 10 am to 5 pm Garden Sprouts: Saturday Kids Gardening Club, 9-11am; \$10/class members \$12/class non-members

Family Adventures: Homemade Paper Valentines! 2-4pm; \$15/family; \$20/family non-members

KidsArt; 12:00-1:00pm; 1:15-2:15pm; For Registration Call (818) 248-2764

Orchid Show & Sale; 10 am to 5 pm

Botanical Watercolor Workshop;

9:30-11:30; \$35/\$42 non-members; Selfdirected workshop; no instructor

Tai Chi; 6:30-7:30am; \$48/\$52 non-members

Plant Studies in Graphite, 4 Wednesdays Feb 7-28; 9:30am-1:30pm; Olga Eysymontt; \$160/\$176 non-members

Botanical Watercolor Workshop;

9:30-11:30; \$35/\$42 non-members; Self-directed workshop; no instructor

Park Management

a Mt. San Antonio College Course; 6-9:10pm

Old Fashioned Wreath Workshop;

13 10am-Noon; \$25/\$30 non-members; reservations required; Bring clippers & gloves

14 THU 15 FRI 16 SAT Hannukah

Arboretum Bookworms: "Send a Letter; Share a Life"; storytelling & craft; Ages 3-8; 2-3pm; FREE with Arboretum admission

Family Picnic Sunday

Fresh Cooking Class: Chef Colin Crowley, Executive Chef Sanford Winery; 3-5pm; \$35/\$40 non-members

Seminars with Lili Singer:

Irrigation Design for the Home Gardener with Anna Armstrong & Richard Walker; 9: 30-Noon; \$20 per class; pay at the door

Compulsive Gardeners

Ikebana with Reiko Kawamura; 9:30-11:30am; \$65/\$80 non-members with \$24 materials fee to instructorr

Landscaping for the Homeowner with Steve Gerischer: 3 Saturdays: 1/13,

1/20, 1/27; 1-3pm; \$45/\$52 non-members

14 SUN

Tai Chi; 6:30-7:30am; \$48/\$52 non-members

Botanical Watercolor Workshop; 9:30-11:30; \$35/\$42 non-members; Self-directed workshop; no instructor

Plants & People Lecture Series

with Heather Lenkin, renowned Garden Designer; 'How To Create the Garden of your Dreams!'; 3pm Talk with Reception following; \$10/\$15 non-members; Pay at the door

Botanical Illustration: Watercolor/Color Pencil; 4 Wed. Jan.10-31; 9:30am-1:30pm; \$160/\$176 non-members **Fresh-Celebrating the Table;** Cooking class with Steven Mary from the Ritz Carlton: A Romantic Dinner; 3-5pm; \$35/\$40 members; reservations required

Seminars with Lili Singer: Citrus & Avocado Pests and Remedies with Phil A. Phillips; 9:30-Noon; \$20 per class; pay at the door

Ikebana with Reiko Kawamura; 9:30-11:30am; \$65/\$80 non-members with \$24 materials fee to instructor

Compulsive Gardeners: class is full

KidsArt; 12:00-1:00pm; 1:15-2:15pm; For Registration Call (818) 248-2764

Mushroom Fair ; 9 am to 5 pm

Gardening 101: More bulbs? Starting seeds and cuttings; 5 Great plants; 2-4pm; Steve Gerischer; \$18/\$20 non-members

Botanical Watercolor Workshop; 9:30-11:30; \$35/\$42 non-members; Self-directed workshop; no instructor

Tai Chi; 6:30-7:30am; \$48/\$52 non-members

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Valentine's Day

Plant Studies in Graphite, 4 Wednesdays Feb 7-28; 9:30am-1:30pm; Olga Eysymontt; \$160/\$176 non-members

18 MON Shop at the Garden & Gift Shop for the holidays

19 TUE Shop at the Garden & Gift Shop for the holidays

Shop at the Garden & Gift Shop 20 WED for the holidays

Bonsai Show; 10am-4pm

21 THU for the holidays

Bonsai Show; 10am-4pm



25 MON Christmas Day: The Arboretum is closed

Seminars with Lili Singer:

Borrowing from the Past with Mark Bartos; 9:30-Noon; \$20 per class; pay at the door

Compulsive Gardeners: Class is Full

Ikebana with Reiko Kawamura; 9:30-11:30am; \$65/\$80 non-members with \$24 materials fee to instructor

Garden Sprouts: Saturday Kids Gardening Club, 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month; 9-11am; \$12/class non-members \$10/class;

20 SAT KidsArt; 12:00-1:00pm; 1:15-2:15pm; For Registration Call (818) 248-2764

Landscaping for the Homeowner with Steve Gerischer: 3 Saturdays: 1/13, 1/20, 1/27; 1-3pm; \$45/\$52 non-members

Arboretum Bookworms: "Blooming Winter"; storytelling & craft; Ages 3-8; 2-3pm; FREE with Arboretum admission

Gardening 101 with Steve Gerischer; How to Prune Roses; 2-4pm; \$18/\$20 non-members

Family Picnic Sunday

Botanical Watercolor Workshop; 9:30-11:30; \$35/\$42 non-members; Selfdirected workshop; no instructor

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Seminars with Lili Singer: A Tree Gypsy's Garden Safari with Paul Comstock, retired Director of Landscape Design for Walt Disney Imagineering; 9:30-Noon; \$20 per class; pay at the door

Ikebana with Reiko Kawamura; 9:30-11:30am; \$65/\$80 non-members with \$24 materials fee to instructor

Compulsive Gardeners: class is full

Garden Sprouts: Saturday Kids Gardening Club, 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month; 9-11am; \$10/class members \$12/class nonmembers

KidsArt; 12:00-1:00pm; 1:15-2:15pm; For Registration Call (818) 248-2764

Arboretum Bookworms: "The Kinship of Plants and Animals"; storytelling & craft; Ages 3-8; 2-3pm

Family Picnic Sunday

Botanical Watercolor Workshop; 9:30-11:30; \$35/\$42 non-members; Selfdirected workshop; no instructor

Tai Chi; 6:30-7:30am; \$48/\$52 non-members

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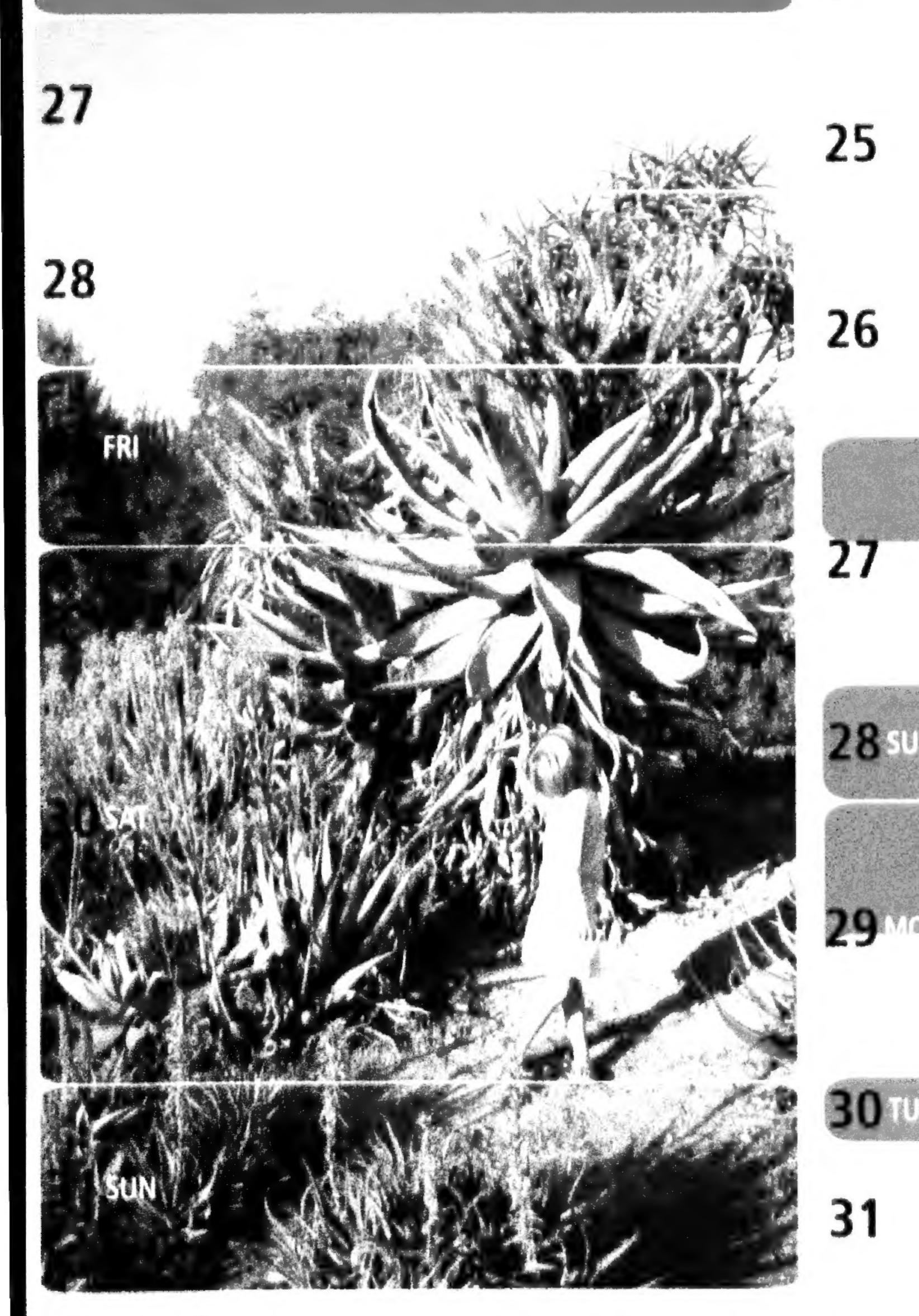
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Plants & People Lecture Series:

"Creating Burgundian Magic in the Santa Rita Hills: Why Pinot Noir and Chardonnay Thrive in Santa Barbara" with Steve Fennell – 3 pm;





Botanical Illustration: Watercolor/Color Pencil; 4 Wed. Jan.10-31; 9:30am-1:30pm; \$160/\$176 non-members

Seminars with Lili Singer:

Field Trips to Gardens Designed by Mark Bartos with Mark Bartos; 9:30-Noon; \$20 per class; pay at the door

Compulsive Gardeners: Class is Full

Ikebana with Reiko Kawamura; 9:30-11:30am; \$65/\$80 non-members with \$24 materials fee to instructor

KidsArt: 12:00-1:00pm; 1:15-2:15pm; For Registration Call (818) 248-2764

Landscaping for the Homeowner with Steve Gerischer: 3 Saturdays: 1/13, 1/20, 1/27; 1-3pm; \$45/\$52 non-members

Pruning Fruit Trees with Rick Wheeler; 1-3:30pm; FREE with Arboretum admission

Tai Chi;

6.30-7:30am; \$48/\$52 non-members

Botanical Watercolor Workshop; 9:30-11:30; \$35/\$42 non-members; Selfdirected workshop; no instructor

Botanical Illustration: Watercolor/Color Pencil; 4 Wed. Jan.10-31; 9:30am-1:30pm; \$160/\$176 non-members Wine tasting to follow in the Garden & Gift Shop; \$10/\$15 non-members

Plant Studies in Graphite, 4 Wednesdays Feb 7-28; 9:30am-1:30pm; Olga Eysymontt; \$160/\$176 non-members

Seminars with Lili Singer: Fragrant Plants: Common & Uncommon Scents with Lili Singer; 9:30-Noon; \$20 per class; pay at the door

Ikebana with Reiko Kawamura;

9:30-11:30am; \$65/\$80 non-members with \$24 materials fee to instructor

Compulsive Gardeners: class is full



KidsArt; 12:00-1:00pm; 1:15-2:15pm; For Registration Call (818) 248-2764

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Botanical Watercolor Workshop; 9:30-11:30; \$35/\$42 non-members; Selfdirected workshop; no instructor

Park Facilities, a Mt. SAC class; Mondays, Feb. 26-June 19; 6-9:10pm

Tai Chi; 6:30-7:30am; \$48/\$52 non-members

27 TUE

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Plant Studies in Graphite, 4 Wednesdays Feb 7-28; 9:30am-1:30pm; Olga Eysymontt; \$160/\$176 non-members



For detailed information on these events and classes go to www.arboretum.org and click on calendar.

To register for a class or series, please call the class information line 626.821.4623, Pre-registration is required for most classes., For membership information call 626.821.3233

KIDS IN NATURE

Tiffany Carr, Youth Program Manager

Sit, Listen, See. Observe

he Arboretum serves as a home to many birds, many of whom are migrating. As you visit The Arboretum this winter, keep your eyes open and discover your neighbors, the birds, surrounding you. For an activity, draw a picture of the birds you see and bring the drawings into The Arboretum Library to identify the birds. How many different bird species can you find?

Birds you may see this winter: Great Blue Heron Black-Crowned Night-Heron American Coot Phamopepla Great Eqret Green Heron California Quail





Song Sparrow White-Crowned Sparrow Golden-Crowned Sparrow Anna's Hummingbird Allen's Hummingbird

"When the bird and the book disagree, always believe the bird."

~Birdwatchers Proverb

To observe birds close, you can make a sound that attracts many small birds, like nuthatches, sparrows, warblers, and wrens. Simply repeat the sound "pssh" several times, in sets of 4:

Pssh....pssh....pssh....pssh

Repeat 3 to 5 sets of this bird call, and then wait to see what happens. For the call to work, of course, there must be birds in the area. When you hear or see some birds in a tree, sit or stand near the branches of the tree before you begin to call. Use the call periodically to keep them around you.

Visit the Queen Anne Cottage for the Holidays, December 10; 10am-4pm

C mall groups, led by an Arboretum docent, will tour the cottage and enjoy delightful decorations Ocreated by members of the history/preservation committee of The Arboretum's volunteer organization, Los Voluntarios. Uniquely decorated Christmas trees will be featured in the parlor, music room, and bedroom of the cottage. A mini-history lesson about the illustrious Elias J. "Lucky" Baldwin also is included.

The holiday opening of the Queen Anne Cottage is an Arboretum tradition, started in the late 1970s. It's a labor of love for over 50 volunteers who team up to decorate and staff the historical cottage.

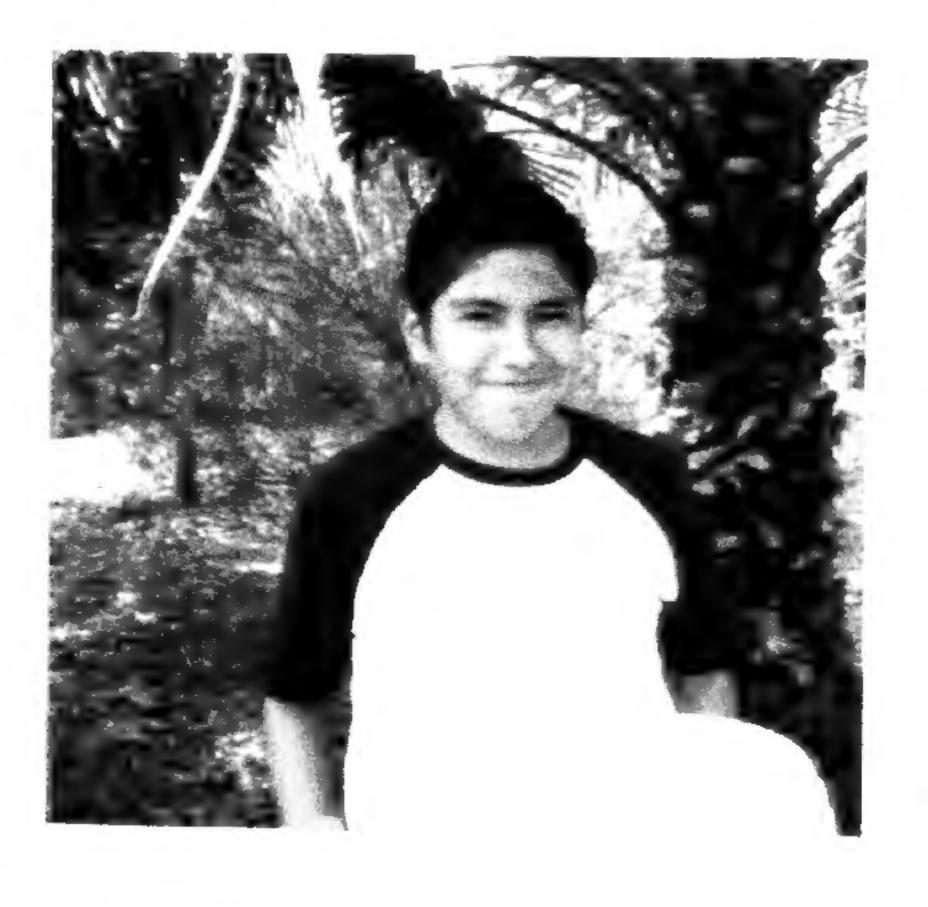
Following a tour of the Queen Anne Cottage, don't miss a visit to The Arboretum's historic Santa Anita Depot, reminiscent of the time when railroads ruled the land. Tours are free with Arboretum admission.

VOLUNTEERING Giving Back

olunteering strengthens communities and improves the lives of those who serve. By giving your time and talent to The Arboretum, you are giving back to this natural resource and supporting the issues that are important to you. Individuals have even reported increased health and vigor, greater financial security, and satisfaction with the direction of their lives. You'll find many opportunities for volunteering at The Arboretum. The following is a list of our current greatest needs: Garden & Gift Shop Santa Anita Train Depot Tour Guide Tour Guide Docents Arboretum Library Tropical Greenhouse Guides Event Hospitality Gardening

For these opportunities and many more call Lisa Beach, Volunteer Manager, 626.821.5897, or email at lisa.beach@arboretum.org.





eet Jose Velez, a member of The Arboretum's Junior Volunteer Program who has gone above and beyond the call of duty. Jose is a senior at John Marshall High School in Los Feliz, CA, and will be graduating in June of 2007. He is enrolled in the Humanitas Program, which is a global studies program. His favorite class right now is advanced placement statistics. Jose plans to attend college next fall and wants to major in Business Administration. His goal is to own his own retail business someday.

John Marshall High School is a year-round high school, which allows their students two breaks per year, March through April and September through October. While many students might choose to take time off, Jose has chosen to spend his breaks volunteering every day at The Arboretum. The staff is always so grateful to see Jose return. His dependability, work ethic, and pleasant personality is appreciated by all who work with him.

Jose joined our Junior Volunteer program in June of 2005. Starting out in the Tropical Greenhouse on Saturdays, he spent countless hours cleaning and watering the plants, making the greenhouse beautiful for visitors. On his next break, he chose to switch positions and asked to work in the Marketing & Communications Department so he could gain business and marketing experience. Since October of 2005, he has spent his breaks working everyday writing and sending press releases, which he learned to do "on-the-job", and assisting with countless office projects such as the 2006 Annual Giving Campaign and research among many other tasks. His favorite volunteer work has been assisting the event staff in preparation for our many special events.

Jose's goal as a Junior Volunteer is to achieve more responsibility within himself. "My experience here has been so different than other places I have been because of the trust I have gained from the staff and other volunteers. They have all been so welcoming and open, it helps me do my work better. They always show so much appreciation." Jose has learned that nature and the environment should be appreciated. Jose has given 342.75 hours of service as of September 2006, and we thank him sincerely.

If you know a high school student who loves the outdoors, likes to work with friendly people, wants to work to fulfill service learning hours, or is looking to learn a special skill, tell them about The Arboretum's Junior Volunteer Program. We are always looking for dedicated volunteers. Contact Lisa Beach, Volunteer Manager, at

We are always looking for dedicated volunteers. Contact Lisa Beach, Volunteer Manager, at 626.821.5897 or lisa.beach@arboretum.org

GRAPEVINE

We extend a warm welcome to Barbara West Catering and her management team Greg and Mathew Semancik. Barbara and her team started managing the catering at The Arboretum and food service at the Peacock Café in October. Come by and say hello--they will greet you with a smile!





A special thanks goes to Maria T. Robertson who managed the Peacock Café and catered the many weddings, bridal showers, birthday parties, corporate and special events at The Arboretum throughout 2005/2006. We thank Maria for her exquisite food and presentation. She will be missed.

Visit Sanford Winery & Vineyards

Did you know you can participate to win a trip for 2 to visit the Sanford Winery & Vineyards in Buellton, California? Just attend any FRESH cooking class or the Plants & People lecture by Steve Fennell (Winemaker & General Manager of Sanford Winery) on February 21. Call 626.821.4623 to pre-register.

A Warm Welcome

A Special Thanks





DISCOVERY TRAILS In The Land Of Giants

Susan Eubank, Arboretum Librarian

e sure to visit the Aloe Trail this winter. It blooms from now until early March. K It's a display that is unworldly and incredibly beautiful. Most aloes come from Africa with a few spreading to the islands surrounding the continent and the Arabian peninsula. We can grow many of them very easily at The Arboretum and the Aloe Trail is a great testament to that.

incredibly beautiful.

As a child I lived in Big Bend National Park, Texas. That's where I fell in love with agaves and yuccas. The agaves (Agave scabra) were dispersed up the hills behind our house and due to a drought during the time a bloom was considered an event to be celebrated and visited with awe. That's when I first was drawn to the radial symmetry, thick fibrous leaves and the beautiful, perfect shape of the plants. Big Bend National Park is also a spectacular habitat for Spanish Dagger (Yucca faxoniana) along the Dagger Flat Auto Trail. These single-stemmed yuccas can grow up to 40 ft. tall, ten ft. wide, with a seven ft. bloom stalk. Now there's an impressive plant for a five year old.

Imagine my surprise when, I first saw the giant aloes along a mud trail in our South African section. The very large Aloe marlothii drew my attention and I was so pleased when the new concrete path through the garden let me get close to these plants. They look, sort of, like a combination between an agave and a Spanish dagger yucca. How could I not be impressed now! A. marlothii or UmHlaba in Zulu has a fairly large range in South Africa from KwaZulu-Natal to Botswana, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Its common name that's appearing in the nursery trade here in the U.S., "Flat-flowered Aloe" describes what distinguishes it from other single-stemmed, tree-like aloes. Instead of upright flower stalks, like most aloes, these take a turn and splay out almost horizontally (almost like dinner-plate agaves, you might say). When they are blooming in February and March, that's how you can easily distinguish them in our garden.



It's a display that is unworldly and

The leaves are large and our "little" one right at the start of the trail shows off its distinctive leaf spines and prickles; on the edges, on the top and on the bottom. These aren't present on all plants, but when they are, they greatly add to its beauty. The large specimens further along the trail were grown from seed that was collected in South Africa in November 1961. The seeds were planted here the following February and twenty four were planted out in the garden in 1963. Those are our giants now, easily 10 feet tall.

the plant is used medicinally for round-worm infections, for stomach troubles, helping children wean, scraping hides and when the leaves are burnt the ash is used for snuff.

In their native habitat, the plant is used medicinally for round-worm infections, for stomach troubles, helping children wean, scraping hides and when the leaves are burnt the ash is used for snuff. The plants are distinctive natural landscape features, because they are plentiful and they are also used as hedges and even possibly corrals when planted in a circle.

Come visit our giants. They are beautiful! can no longer give my heart only to agaves.



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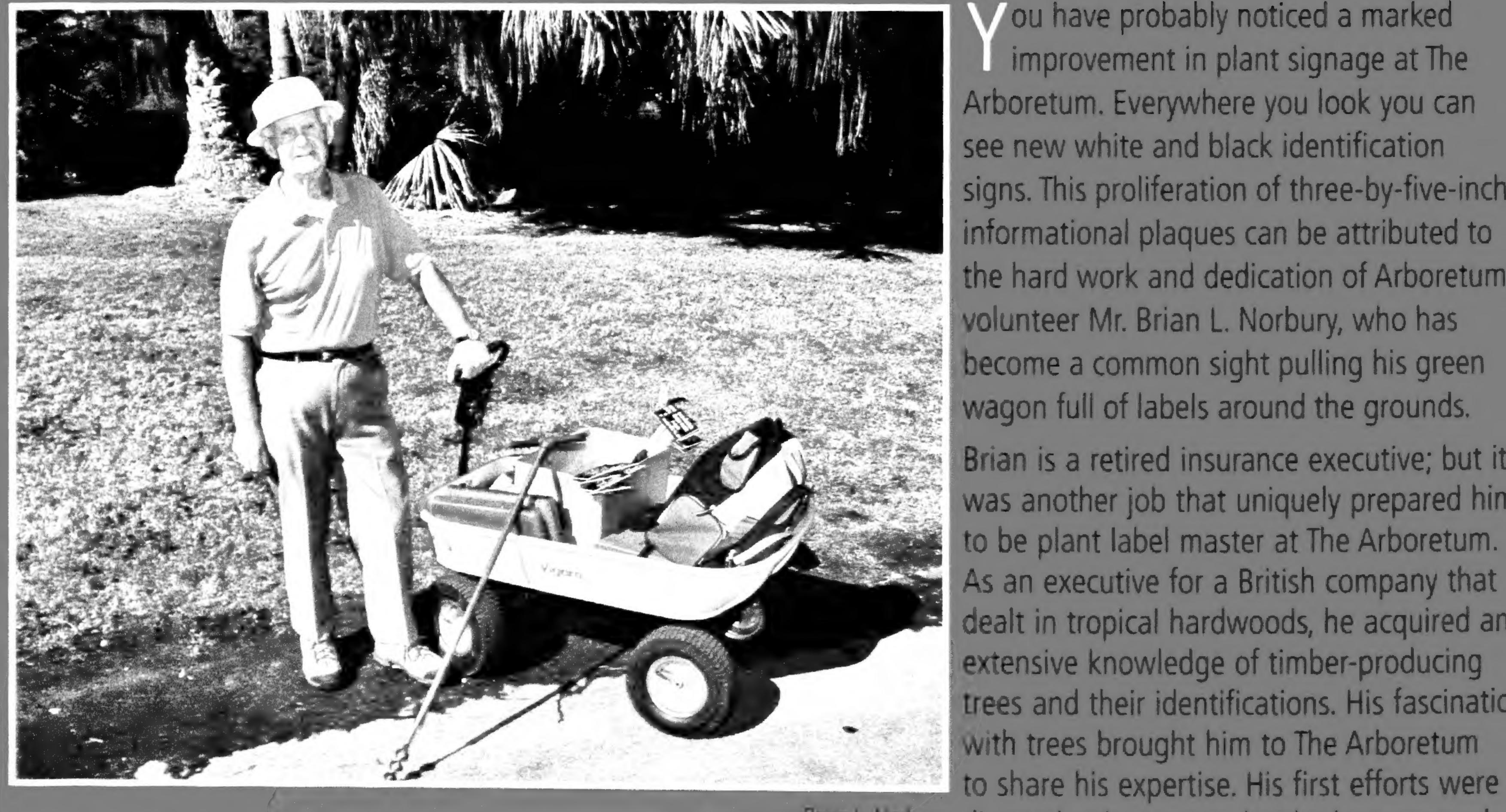
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MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Brian L. Norbury, Sign Volunteer Extraordinaire Frank McDonough, Botanical Information Specialist



his range to cover shrubs as well.

Brian begins each phase of work by visiting an area on the grounds to note plants that need signs. Then he provides the list to staff member Cody Cantly, who engraves each sign with the plant's scientific and common names, family name, and native range. Once the signs are made (and mounted on aluminum stakes, if necessary) they are given to Brian who places them on the correct plant.

Recently, Brian passed a major landmark. His count is currently at 5,000 signs which represents 1,532 hours of volunteer time, during which time he was able to place 50 signs, or even up to 80 signs, during each day of work!

Brian has demonstrated what one dedicated person can do to really make a difference. He has made The Arboretum's plant collections more interesting and educational to staff and visitors alike. A big "thank you" and congratulations to Brian for a job well done.

Vou have probably noticed a marked improvement in plant signage at The Arboretum. Everywhere you look you can see new white and black identification signs. This proliferation of three-by-five-inch informational plaques can be attributed to the hard work and dedication of Arboretum volunteer Mr. Brian L. Norbury, who has become a common sight pulling his green wagon full of labels around the grounds. Brian is a retired insurance executive; but it was another job that uniquely prepared him to be plant label master at The Arboretum. As an executive for a British company that dealt in tropical hardwoods, he acquired an extensive knowledge of timber-producing trees and their identifications. His fascination with trees brought him to The Arboretum Bhan L. Norbury directed only at trees, but he later expanded

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