

ARBORETUM MEMBERS' MAGAZINE

Issue 6, 2006; May, June, July

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

G. Arnold Mulder, M.D.

t's the nature of gardens to be diverse. I mean all lilacs? Well, maybe that would be ok, but what we really want is something more carefully considered and contrived than the

natural swamp or grassland or forest. However, we do like the idea of those beautiful places so we include hints and pieces of them in a garden. It is possible to specialize in plants happiest in a particular climate niche, but even then we move things around and add, subtract and modify to suit our artistic vision. Nature will do its best to return our work to its own vision; which explains weeding.

The Arboretum is especially advantaged in its climate niche, a spot like Camelot where almost anything grows and most plants, very well. So in Southern California plant diversity is something we have to be careful about. We can get too interested in specimens and lose the grace and flow of nature. To help us resist the call of this temptation we have created a master plan and

many sub-plans to keep the wonderful changes that are happening at The Arboretum from losing our horticultural vision.

And speaking of garden diversity, brings me to "cultural diversity," and how we can

showcase it in our garden. A
plan that we have been working
on for some years is the creation
of a garden space and structure
that would be typical of Korea.
Already, a lot of thought and
discussion has gone into this. It
would be important for the Koreans
who have chosen to live in Los
Angeles, not only recognize their
great contribution to our diverse

population, but because Korean gardens are very beautiful and all of us would benefit if we could build it. We have the site. We have a good idea of how it should look. We all want it. So now, we need to start the process, keeping all our stakeholders involved and enthusiastic.

I know it can happen.

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

The Arboretum

LOS ANGELES ARBORETUM FOUNDATION

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DEAR ARBORETUM MEMBERS

Diversity At The Arboretum

Mark K. Wourms, Ph.D.,

his issue of The Arboretum's Member's Magazine is focused on the theme of "The Botany of Diversity in the Garden". Diversity, like many words can be interpreted on many levels. I am overwhelmed by the diverse colors, textures and forms of hundreds of plant species I see every day at The Arboretum.

On a recent visit to Costa Rica, I stood in a cloud forest and

counted over 100 different species of trees, simply by turning around in a circle. Where I grew up in mid-western United States, that count in the woods was 5-10 different tree species. Plant diversity is critical in garden design and in our ecological systems.

As the CEO of The Arboretum I deal with diversity in many other ways each day. Let me describe a few:

Visitors and Members - The

Arboretum is an important community resource to over 250,000 visitors annually. And the ethnic, racial, economic, religious, gender, and age distribution of our visitors probably reflects this community fairly well. We really do not know, as a true demographic study of our visitors has not occurred in many many years. We need this demographic information, so we can find under-served populations, so we can respond better to the needs and interests of our diverse Southern California communities.

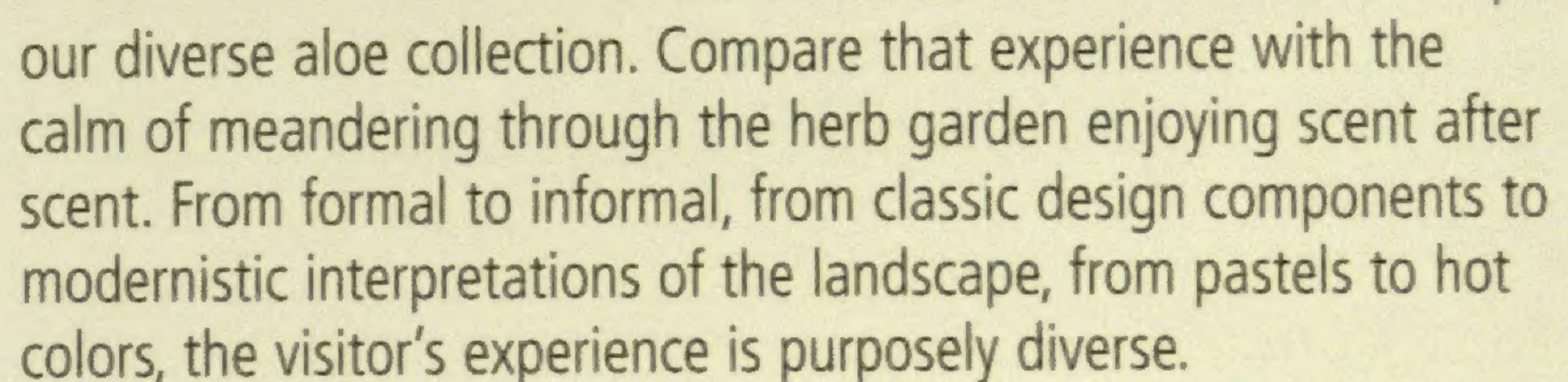
We look at your visit to The Arboretum a bit like a Broadway Play.

Workforce - Our workforce should act as a model for anyone interested in gardening, science and working in nature. To do this, our workforce must be diverse enough so every child regardless

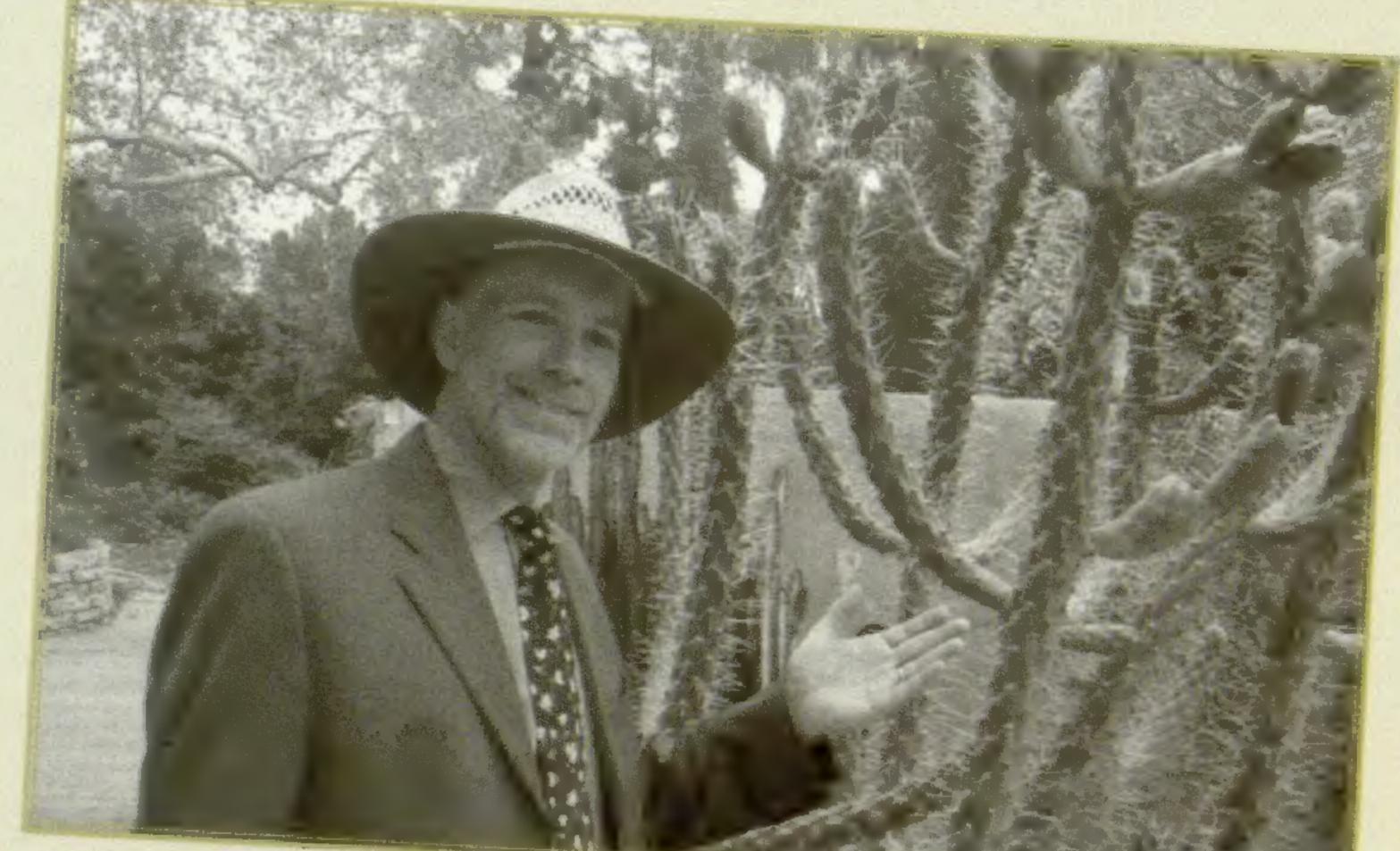
of their heritage feels welcome. Additionally, our workforce must possess skills ranging from great communications in several languages, through horticultural expertise and research. Not every person poses each of these skills, so a diverse workforce helps us conduct business at The Arboretum much more effectively.

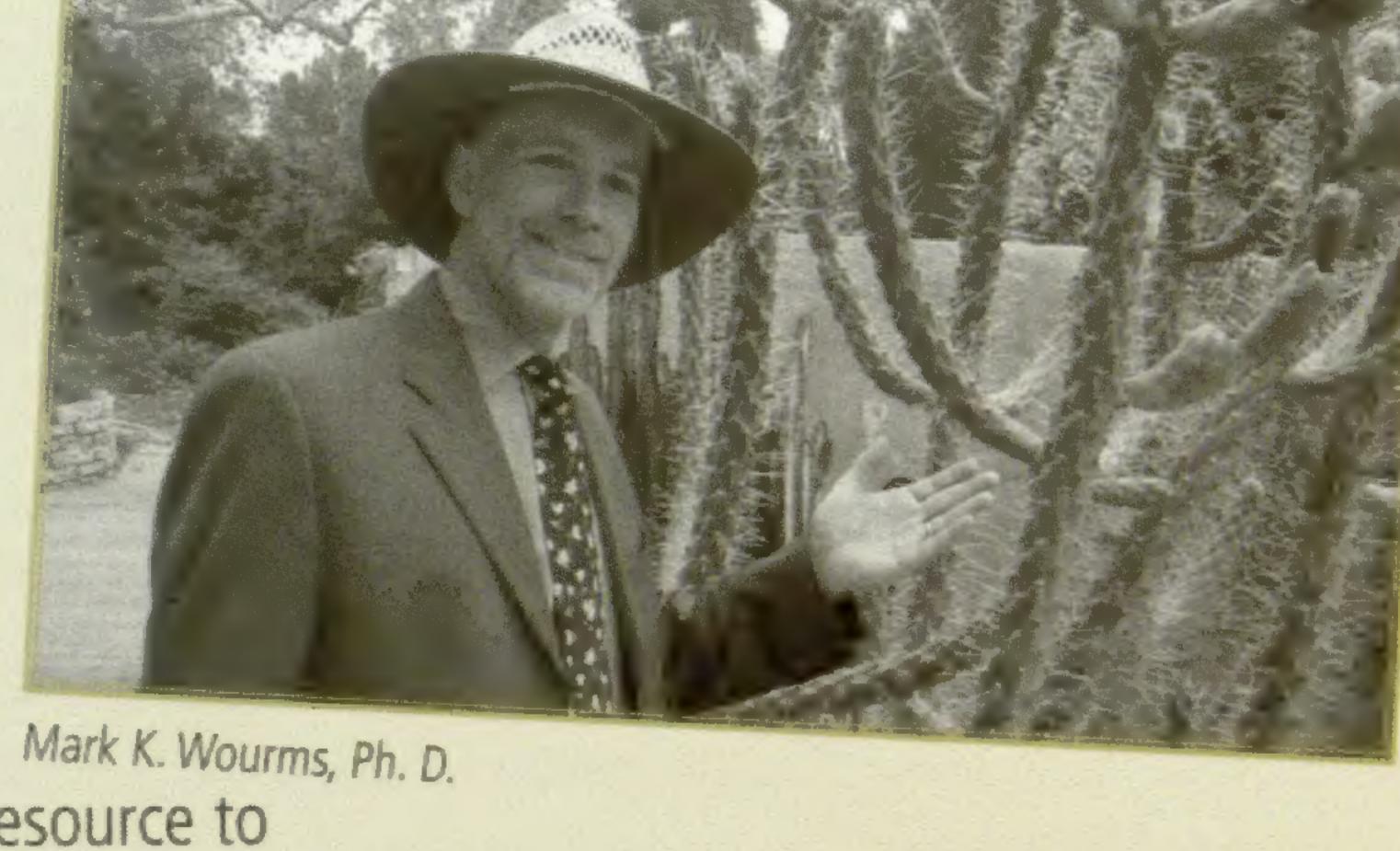
Perhaps one area where the concept of diversity may catch you by surprise is our visitor's experience. We look at your visit to

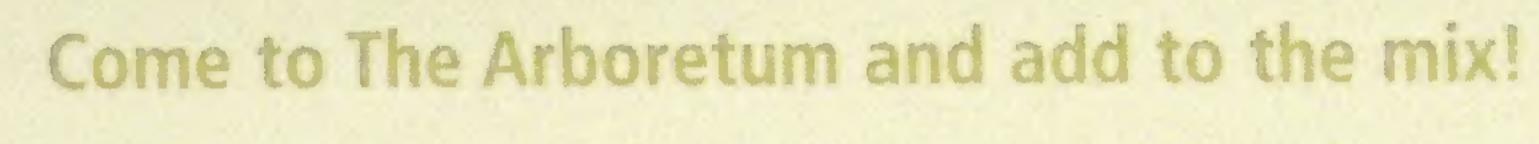
The Arboretum a bit like a Broadway Play. We provide diverse experiences that act like a story line for your visit. Although much looser since a visit to The Arboretum is generally self-guided, these components provide tranquil moments, they build in mystery, draw you into the garden and even provide surprises or climaxes. Turning some of the corners on the new Aloe Trial can be climatic, as the power and beauty of the San Gabriel mountains backdrop



From our collection, to our visitors, staff and visitors' experiences, diversity is important.









PLANTS & PEOPLE

The Changing Role of The Arboretum

Timothy Phillips, Superintendent

hen I began my journey on the road of Public Garden Management, I based the value and worth of botanical gardens and arboreta, to those that I either visited in person, read about, or created in my head, on the diversity of their living acquisitions. Of course, I would have been correct if my career began a hundred years ago. Back then, Public Gardens strived to build outstanding collections, seeking botanical treasures that pleased garden visitors and enhanced their botanical and research oriented missions. In some cases, public gardens, through their collection development, significantly contributed to the overseas development and economies of their host countries.

Times have dramatically changed - The Los Angeles County Arboretum has an outstanding botanical collection, with acquisitions representing some 5,500 divergent types of plants, some of which were planted in the 1880's by Lucky Baldwin. However, today, collections alone cannot be used as the sole indicator of our institutional value. True success can only be met through diversification of programs, well-managed collections, development of new meaningful exhibits and with increased visitation from the many communities and cultures that call the greater Los Angeles area their home. With the above in mind, many changes have been and will continue to occur.

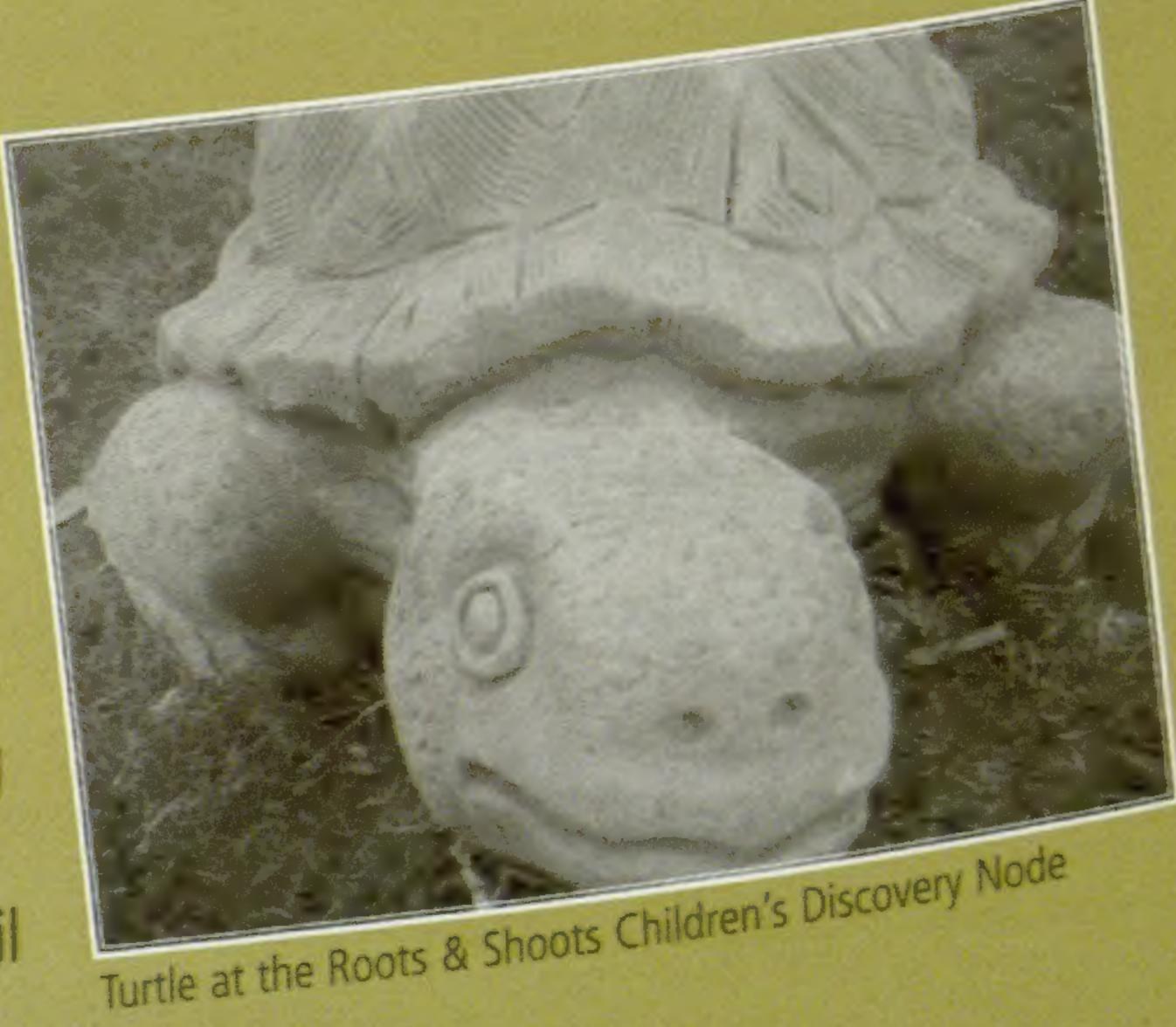
Diversity is the key to our future - In this day of fast food, and fast culture The Arboretum plays an ever-increasing role in the lives of Angelinos as well as those visiting from afar. Following in the "correct path" of other public gardens around the globe, we are charged with the responsibility of: building an environmentally responsible bridge to the natural world; providing a place of refuge, a place for community gathering, a place for environmental education, and a place for quality family oriented fun for all. Understanding the cultural fabric

of the greater Los Angeles area and the needs of our communities will aid in guiding our future.

Pushing sustainability - Over the past five years we have seen many changes in the way we care for our living collections. No longer are the resource wasting practices of "old school horticulture" being utilized. We know sustainability is something our visitors have come to expect. With this in mind The Arboretum is making diligent strides to clean up its management practices. Our green waste is now recycled (returned to the garden in the way of mulch) thus reducing our dependency on the use of fertilizers, and weed abatement chemicals. A recent survey of the use of Round Up shows a 99.9% reduction during the past four (4) years due to the use of mulch in the garden and better over all management of garden resources. Additionally, funding for the care of our trees has been encumbered and is currently being utilized to rejuvenate The Arboretum's significant collection of woody species.

Collection enhancement and exhibit development - In 2005 we developed a new Children's Discovery Node, which promotes and encourages interaction between children, the garden and the surrounding environment. Several more Discovery areas are planned in the coming years, the next of which will be and focus on the habitats of Australia. The Arboretum maintains one of the finest collections of Australian plants in North America.

Recently in February of 2006 we unveiled the new Aloe Trail. This exhibit features significant California friendly plants from the drier regions of continental Africa, Arabian Peninsula and the Island of Madagascar. Since the opening of the Aloe Trail, literally thousands of visitors have wandered the trail's meandering path, an area that up until



recently, went unnoticed by the visiting public.

More exhibits are currently being created and planned. Some of these include the Rare Fruit Garden, the very first Korean Garden in the United States and the Australian Children's Discovery Node. The next exhibit, one of a prickly nature, will be unveiled at the LA Garden Show on Saturday, May 6.

Through our efforts of improving and expanding our program offerings, enhancements of existing collections and development of new exhibits we have seen a steady increase in Arboretum membership.

Arboretum membership on the rise – Through our efforts of improving and expanding our program offerings, enhancements of existing collections and development of new exhibits, we have seen a steady increase in Arboretum membership. In 2005 we sustained 4,632 members (households) and now, in 2006 we have over 6,200 members (households) that belong to The Arboretum family.

One only has to spend time at The Arboretum entrance on weekends to know that visitation form a broad spectrum of the Great Los Angeles area is on the rise. We credit this fact to our improvements

Visit soon!



Angela Briggs at the Gourd Arts Festival



Visitors on the Aloe Trail



BLOOM

Frank McDonough, Plant Information Specialist

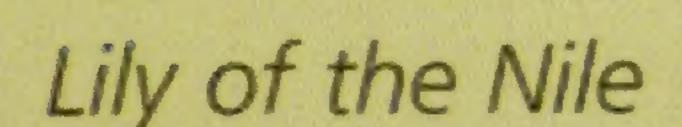
The Gift from Argentina

Perhaps the most spectacular flowering tree display here in Los Angeles is put on by the Jacaranda tree.

Jacaranda mimosifolia probably came with the 49'ers who brought the seeds from Buenos Aires, a common stopover for the clipper ships that were racing to the goldfields. In that South American city Jacarandas line the streets and parks and provide a fantastic display. Here in Southern California the Jacaranda's floral display can be even more intense than in its native habitat, owing to differing temperatures and weather conditions.

Perhaps one of the most aesthetically pleasing aspects of the tree is the blue "shadow" of fallen flower carollas that litter the ground below the tree like a carnet of layender. The Arboretum has introduced a white formula that litter the ground below the tree like a carnet of layender. The Arboretum has introduced a white formula that litter the ground below the tree like a carnet of layender. The Arboretum has introduced a white formula that litter the ground below the tree like a carnet of layender. The Arboretum has introduced a white formula that litter the ground below the tree like a carnet of layender.

corollas that litter the ground below the tree like a carpet of lavender. The Arboretum has introduced a white flowering variety of Jacaranda into the horticulture trade here, although the noticeable browning that can occur on the petals does make it less attractive than the lavender variety.

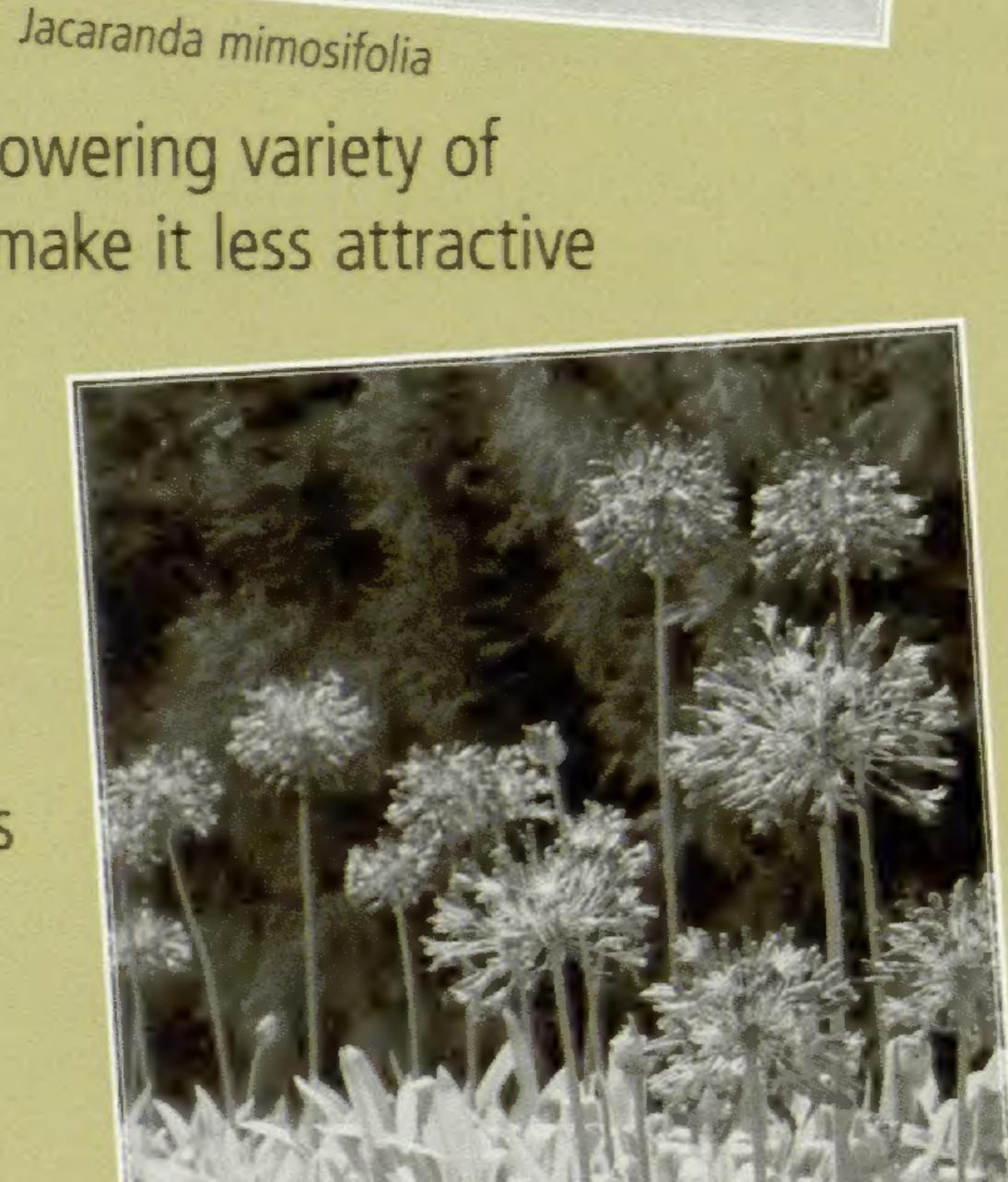


This hardy South African member of the Lily family, Agapanthus x (Agapanthus crosses) is a fixture of Southern Californian landscape architecture. It produces hardy clusters of light to dark blue blooms for several months in the summertime beginning around June. In its native South Africa it has been used as a heart medicine. Agapanthus has become hugely popular here due to its hardiness and reliable bloom. It is prone to burning, so locations in full sun next to walks or walls should be avoided. The Arboretum has introduced several new varieties of Agapanthus into the horticultural trade including the dark blue "Queen Anne."

Moreton Bay Chestnut

The Moreton bay chestnut, Castanospermum australe, is named that because its seeds were once used by native
Australians as food. Although in their raw form, the seeds are poisonous, the aborigines were able to render them edible through a
laborious process of washing and roasting. Native to the rainforests of Queensland, the gorgeous clusters of orange-red flowers
of this tree would make it hugely popular if it wasn't for the fact that they are mostly hidden under its large, sprawling
canopy. Messy nature makes it a poor choice for any, but the most remote and secluded areas of large estates. Many rue

the day they planted this 'miracle.' But almost as if to apologize for its heavy litter and drooping, ugly branches, this tree puts on an April display of lavender trumpet shaped blooms that has no equal.



Agapanthus X



Castanospermum australe



MAKE A DATE

ARBORETUM LIBRARY Monday-Friday; 9am-5pm
Saturday & Sunday; 10am-1pm
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 3rd Sunday of the month; 2-3pm
(storytime and activity ages 3-8)

Events and Exhibitions

BOTANICAL ART EXHIBITION April 29-May 7; 9 am to 4:30 pm
LA GARDEN SHOW May 6 & 7; 9 am to 4:30 pm
EPIPHYLLUM SHOW AND SALE May 13 & 14; 9am-4pm
QUEEN ANNE COTTAGE OPEN HOUSE May 14; 10am-4pm
THE GREAT PUMPKIN WORKSHOP Saturday, May 20; 2 pm
SANTA ANITA BONSAI SHOW May 27 - 28; 9:30am-5pm
DAYLILY SHOW & PLANT SALE June 3; 9 am-4pm
CHECKER CAR CLUB SHOW July 30; 10am-3pm

PLANT AHEAD

THE GREAT TOMATO TASTING
August 13; 11am-1pm

CALIFORNIA PHILHARMONIC FESTIVAL ON THE GREEN
July 1-September 9; 7:30pm-10pm. Call 888.cal.phil for tickets.

All events are free, unless otherwise specified.

Go to www.arboretum.org for more information.



MO	Botanical Art Show & sale	THU	Visit the Garden & Gift Shop		Family Bird Walk; 8am	
2 TUE	Botanical Art Show & sale	FRI	Ikebana: 9:30-11:00 am		Spring Iris Show & Sale: 9am-4: 30pm Gardon Sprouts: Saturday Kids Gar	
WED	Botanical Art Show & sale		Family Bird Walk; 8am		Garden Sprouts: Saturday Kids Gardening Club, 1st Saturday of the month	
4 THU	Botanical Art Show & sale		Daylily Show & Plant Sale; 9am-4pm	1 SAT	9-11am members: \$25/quarter or \$10 per class; non-members: \$30 /quarter or \$12	
	Botanical Art Show & sale		Garden Sprouts: Saturday Kids Gardening Club, 1st Saturday of the month 9-11am		per class.	
5 FRI	Compulsive Gardeners: Field Trip	3 SAT	members: \$25/quarter or \$10 per class;		Family Adventures: Make a Patriotic Garden: 2-4pm; members: \$15/family;	
	Ikebana 9:30-11:30am		non-members: \$30 /quarter or \$12 per class.		non-members: \$20/family	
	LA Garden Show (Baldwin Bonanza 2006) 9am-4: 30pm		Family Adventures: Painted Fish & Fish Painting: 2-4pm: members: \$15/family: per-		California Philharmonic: Festival on the Green; 7:30-10pm	
	Saturday Night Gala 6-10m; \$150/		Painting: 2-4pm; members: \$15/family; non-members: \$20/family	CLIN	Santa Anita Depot Tours:	
6 SAT	person RSVP only Family Bird Walk; 8am		Kids Art Spring Session,		10am-4pm	
	Botanical Art Show & sale		Santa Anita Donot Tours: 10am-4pm		Explore new ideas in The Arboretum Library	
	Kids Art; 12-2:30pm	ALSUN	Santa Anita Depot Tours: 10am-4pm		Watercolor Workshop:	
	LA Garden Show (Baldwin Bonanza) 2006 9am-4: 30pm	5 MON	Watercolor Workshop 9:30-11:30	A TUE	9:30-11:30am Independence Day	
7 SUN	2006 9am-4: 30pm Botanical Art Show & sale	6 TUE	Explore new ideas in The Arboretum Library	WED		
	Santa Anita Depot Tours; 10am-4pm	T WED				
8 MON	Watercolor Workshop: 9:30-11:30am;	8 THU		b		
TILE	\$35 members / \$42 non-members Santa Anita Denot: 10am-4pm	OFRI	Ikebana: 9:30-11:00 am	FRI	Ikebana: 9:30-11:30am	
	Santa Anita Depot; 10am-4pm Explore new ideas in	10 SAT	Kids Art	8 SAT		
10 WED	The Arboretum Library			9 SUN	Santa Anita Depot Tours: 10am-4pm	
11 THU			Santa Anita Depot Tours: 10am-4pm		Watercolor Workshop:	
12 FRI	Compulsive Gardeners: Field Trip	12 MON		10 MON	9:30-11:30am	
	Epiphyllum Show and Sale; 9am-4pm	13 TUE	Explore new ideas in The Arboretum Library		Nature Nuts Summer Camp	
	Garden Sprouts: Saturday Kids Garden- ing Club, 1st Saturday of the month 9-11am	14 WED		11 TUE	Nature Nuts Summer Camp	
	members: \$25/quarter or \$10 per class;	15 THU		12 WED	Nature Nuts Summer Camp	
SAT	non-members: \$30 /quarter or \$12 per class.	politicon succellos aprova.	Ikebana: 9:30-11:00 am	13 THU	Nature Nuts Summer Camp	
	Family Adventures: Mother's Day Hike and Tea: 2-4pm; members: \$15/family; pon-			14 FRI	Nature Nuts Summer Camp	
	and Tea: 2-4pm; members: \$15/family; non- members: \$20/family		Kids Art; 12-2:30pm Eather's Day: Spond the day with Dad	15 SAT	California Philharmonic: Eastival on the Green: 7:30-10nm	
	Kids Art; 12-2:30pm		Father's Day: Spend the day with Dad		Festival on the Green; 7:30-10pm Family Picnic Sundays	
	Epiphyllum Show and Sale; 9am-4pm	18 SUN	Family Picnic Sundays Arboretum Bookworms: Storytelling/	16 SUN	Family Picnic Sundays Arboretum Bookworms:	
4 A CLIN	Mother's Day: Spend the day with Mom Ouean Anna Cottage Open House:		Activity; 2-3pm		Storytelling/Activity; 2-3pm	
	Queen Anne Cottage Open House; 10am-4pm		Santa Anita Depot Tours: 10am-4pm		Santa Anita Depot Tours; 10am-4pm	
	Santa Anita Depot Tours; 10am-4pm	19 MON	Watercolor Workshop: 9:30-11:30am	17 WON	BERTONERING THE SEAL OF A POST OF A PROTECT OF A PROPERTY OF THE SEAL OF THE SEAL OF THE SEAL OF THE SEAL OF T	
	NWatercolor Workshop 9:30-11:30am		Explore new ideas in		Watercolor Workshop: 9:30-11:30am	
	Council on Botanical & Horticultural	WE	The Arboretum Library Visit the Garden & Gift Shop	18 TUE	Nature Nuts Summer Camp	
16 TUE	Librarians' Conference	THU	VISIT THE Garden & Girt Shop	19 WED	Nature Nuts Summer Camp	
7 WE	Fresh-Celebrating the Table: Jeannie Thiel Kelly of Bon Appetit; 3-5pm;			20 THU	Nature Nuts Summer Camp	
	\$35 members / \$40 non-members		Ikebana: 9:30-11:00 am	21	Nature Nuts Summer Camp	
OTHI	CBHL Conference CRHL Conference			TOTAL	Santa Anita Depot Tours: 10am-4pm	
	CBHL Conference CBHL Conference			22	Santa Anna Depot Tours.	
	The Great Burnelsin Workshop Would	FRI				
and the second	The Great Pumpkin Workshop: How to grow a 500 -pound pumpkin; 2pm		Summer Begins	23		
	KidsArt; 12-2:30pm				Watercolor Workshop:	
	Family Picnic Sundays			24 MON	9:30-11:30am Explore new ideas in	
	Arboretum Bookworms: Storytelling/Activity; 2-3pm				Explore new ideas in The Arboretum Library	
21 SUN	Gardening 101: Steve Gerischer - The	24 SAT	Botanical Art Exhibit	TILE		
	Garden in Bloom (and a walk to Kallam Perennial Garden); 2-4pm; \$18 members /		Kids Art; 12-2:30pm			
	\$20 non-members		Botanical Art Exhibit Gardening 101: Steve Gerischer-Shade			
ACCOUNT NAMED IN	Santa Anita Depot Tours; 10am-4pm	THE RESERVE OF THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN 1	Gardening / Summerizing Your Garden; z-	26 WED	Explore new ideas in The Arboretum Library	
22 MOI	Watercolor Workshop 9:30-11:30am		4pm; \$18 members / \$20 non-members Santa Anita Depot Tours: 10am-4pm			
23 TUE	Invite a friend for lunch at The Arboretum	MO		THU		
24 WEE			Watercolor workshop 5.50 m.50 m.			
25 THU	Visit the Garden & Gift Shop					
26 FRI		TUE		28		
27 SAT	Bonsai Show; 9:30am-5pm			SAT		
	Kids Art; 12-2:30pm	28 WED				
	Bonsai Show; 9:30am-5pm					
285UN	Santa Anita Depot Tours: 10am-4pm	THI			Checker Car Club Show; 10am-3pm	
79MC	Memorial Day			30 SUN	Santa Anita Depot Tours: 10am-4pm	
	Watercolor Workshop: 9:30-11:30am					
30 TUE					Watercolor Workshop:	
31 WE	Visit the Garden & Gift Shop	30 FRI	Ikebana: 9:30-11:00 am	FRI	9:30-11:30am	
The Arboretum						

June

May

KIDS IN NATURE

Arboretum Nature Nuts

Two Week Summer Camp, July 10-21; 8:30am-4:30pm

Half Days: \$200 members / \$250 non-members

Full Days: \$400 members / \$450 non-members

Extended care is provided for an additional fee.

Morning: \$40 members/\$50 for non-members

Afternoon: \$40 members/\$50 for non-members

Ages 8-12 (Campers must bring a sack lunch)

Peacock Corner

Come have fun with nature. Find out about strange and wonderful plants and water features, play nature games and go on nature expeditions. Learn to cook from the garden. Make cool natural crafts and beautiful garden art. Plant your very own seedlings: flowers, veggies, herbs, and much more.



CONNECT

Giant Pumpkins

Did you know that giant pumpkins can gain as much as 40 pounds and experience 1-2 feet of vine growth daily? A giant pumpkin seed will be planted in the Organic Vegetable Garden. Watch its progress each time you visit The Arboretum.

Want to learn how?

The Great Pumpkin Workshop: How To Grow A 500-Pound Pumpkin Saturday, May 20; 2pm

Stuart Shim, Giant Pumpkin Kahuna & UCCE Master Gardener Free with Arboretum admission

VOLUNTEERING

"We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give."—Winston Churchill

Lisa Beach, Volunteer Manager

If you like gardening and want more experience, come join one of our crews that work with our staff gardeners. If you love meeting friendly people and prefer working indoors, try the Garden & Gift Shop or Visitor Services. Or maybe you want to put your artistic flair to good use, try working with our craft volunteers or creative plant designers. Call and find out about the many opportunities available. Any way you see yourself fitting in here — we want to see you here too.

Within our volunteer program, there are many levels at which you can give:

Los Voluntarios

adult volunteers committing

to 50+ hours / year.

adult volunteers

Volunteers

Group Volunteers

Junior Volunteers

One-Time Volunteers

corporate, community, or

student groups coming on

a one-time basis

Student (College) Volunteers college student volunteers

high school volunteers

volunteers that want to work one day (event, special

program, etc.)

If you are interested in becoming a part of our growing volunteer family, call Lisa Beach, Volunteer & Events Manager at 626.821.5897.





MEET AND GREET

Meet Hose and Percival

The Arboretum Library has names for its two new residents. Hose, our gopher snake and Percival, our western toad, have taken up residence in the Library. We had a naming contest during the first few months of their residence and two Arboretum members won and got their

Ava C suggestions used to name our new friends.

Catherine Hogan named Percival and Ava

Chamberlin named Hose.

Come visit the Library to see them and also to check up on the other changes happening here. We are purchasing new books and audiovisual materials. They are moved to the front of the library, so even though we don't have our online catalog yet, you are welcome to browse them and find inspiration. The children's collection is growing and Hose and Percival like to hear stories about plants, so please do come in to read to them. We also now have the ability to do interlibrary loan, so if the Library doesn't own the book, we are happy to order it from another library.

The Arboretum Library hours and Hose and Percival visiting hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Also check-out the Library webpage also at www.arboretum.org and look for Library on the left side of the homepage. There are lists of recent magazine articles of interest, other information about the Library and, of course, there is a wishlist of possible book donations.



Ava Chamberlin

GRAPEVINE

Not just an easter egg hunt

We thank The Arboretum Volunteers for putting on a great event. The 2nd annual all-volunteer-run Great Easter Egg Hunt was a fun-filled day for hundreds of families on Saturday, April 15. The nature related activities not only brought smiles to the faces of hundreds of children, but also proved to be an educational experience. The nature crafts, egg hunt, eco-games really make this event much more than just an easter egg hunt. The Arboretum Bunny gave every participating child carrot seeds to grow.

A wild view



California Poppies

What does 52 pounds of seed look like? A spectacular view of California native wildflowers, of coarse. Spread amongst the Engleman Oak grove, you can see sprinkles of blue, orange, yellow and purple. Come and see the mix of Nemophila maculata (Spotted baby blue-eyes), Nemophila menziesii, Layia platyglossa (Tidy tips), Clarkia amoena (Farewell-to-spring) and Eschscholzia californica (California poppy) this spring.

For many days to come

The Southern California Hemerocallis and Amaryllis Society (SCHAS) has donated and planted some 230 different named daylily cultivars (varieties) in patches of like colors amongst the magnolias. Some of them have even started to grow and produce buds. These clumping perennials will add much color and interest after the last of the winter and spring-blooming magnolias are done. We thank SCHAS for their generous donation.

Arbor Day the Arcadia Rotary way

The Arcadia Rotary planted a *Magnolia x brooklynesis* 'Yellow Bird' tree for Arbor day at The Arboretum. See it grow big and strong in the coming years. We thank the Rotarians for this new addition to our collection.



Rotarians on Arbor Day



DISCOVERY TRAILS

UMkomba, the Pondoland Palm

Susan Eubank, Arboretum Librarian

just finished a survey on diversity. It asked the question of what do I think of when I hear that word. I think the survey was really asking about personnel interactions. The word "diversity" doesn't often make me think of that unless I'm participating in "office" training, because I work in an Arboretum where "diversity" is busting out all the time with all its possible variations and most often its beauty.

In our new Aloe Trail, we don't just have aloes (although the diversity of aloes there is amazing), we have examples of other South African plants that most uproariously show off the diversity of the plant world. That same day I also heard a radio program on our struggling California Condor. The Arboretum also shows how diversity allows for plants to flourish or become threatened in their environment and how we can try to help them continue to flourish as is the case with the California Condor.

Pondoland Palm or Dwarf Coconut Palm or as Xhosa-speaking AmaMpondo call it, uMkomba, is an example of both of my musings on diversity. A small specimen of that wonderful palm was just moved to our new Aloe Trail. Look for a scruffy, little palm at the northernmost end of the new pathway off to the west on a mound. That scruffy plant is the offspring of a vulnerable palm in its native habitat, but like the Condor, it is now beloved by those who know it. This helps spread the palm to other places like Southern California, but doesn't necessarily protect it in its native habitat.

If you would like a little more adventure in The Arboretum, try
looking for the larger, Jubaeopsis caffra which resides behind a
grove of saw palmettos (Serenoa repens) directly south of the road,
south of the Adobe.

and is foodstuff for the AmaMpondo as well as local animal populations. It even contains 'coconut milk'.

Yes, when I think of diversity, the first thing that comes to my mind is how plants have broadened my thinking and yes, that

Its native habitat is just two river deltas (5 1/2 to 8 miles apart) on the eastern coast of South Africa, in the district of Lusikisiki.

One of the river areas is now in the Mkambati Nature Reserve

which was a former leper colony until 1950's. The palm grows right along the river on steep sandstone cliffs all the way to the ocean. Because the leper colony did not impact the landscape, the palms have continued to flourish in this limited area.

I work in an Arboretum where "diversity" is busting out all the time with all its possible variations and most often its beauty.

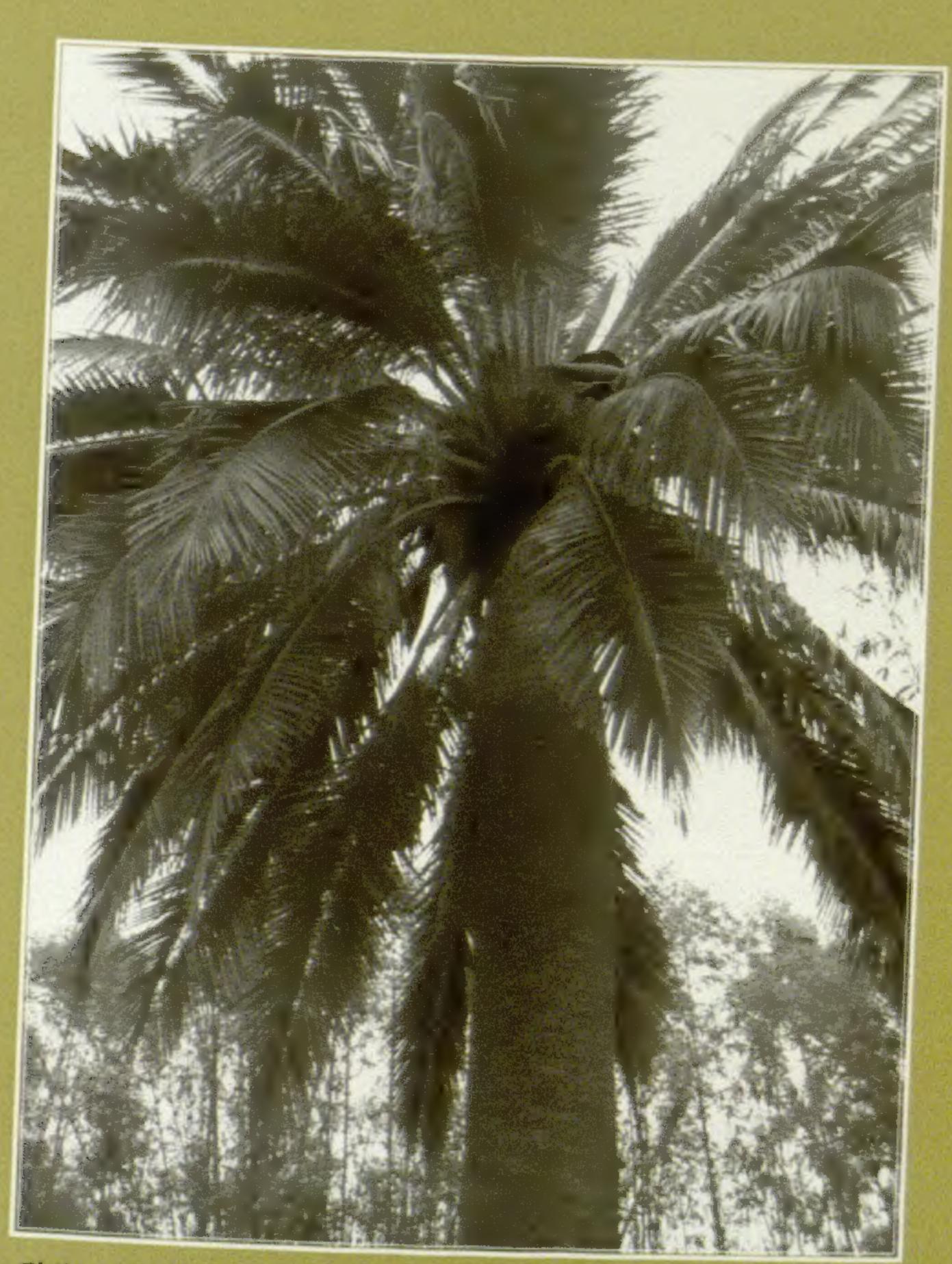
are the Chilean Wine Palm (Jubea chilensis, also here at The Arboretum with beautiful specimens) and the Forest Coconut (Voanioala gerardii). These other two palms are also monotypic genera (a kind of plant that doesn't have any other close relatives) and from very limited habitats like uMkomba. The Chilean Wine Palm is from Chile and the other is from the coast of northeastern Madagascar. Imagine what the Earth's landforms looked like when these palms grew 'near' each other. That certainly stretches our image of 'diversity'. These palms are also considered a close relative of the Coconut palm (Coco nucifera), whose place of nativity is highly disputed, but currently is thought to have originated in the Gondwanaland that split and created the Pacific and Indian Oceans and left the Malaysian Peninsula behind. That would again place it in the vicinity of the others. The uMkomba fruit does look like a dwarf coconut and is foodstuff for the AmaMpondo as well as local animal populations. It even contains 'coconut milk'.

Yes, when I think of diversity, the first thing that comes to my mind is how plants have broadened my thinking and yes, that does apply to personnel interactions and makes me realize how wonderful human diversity is too.





UMkombo Palm



Chilean Wine Palm

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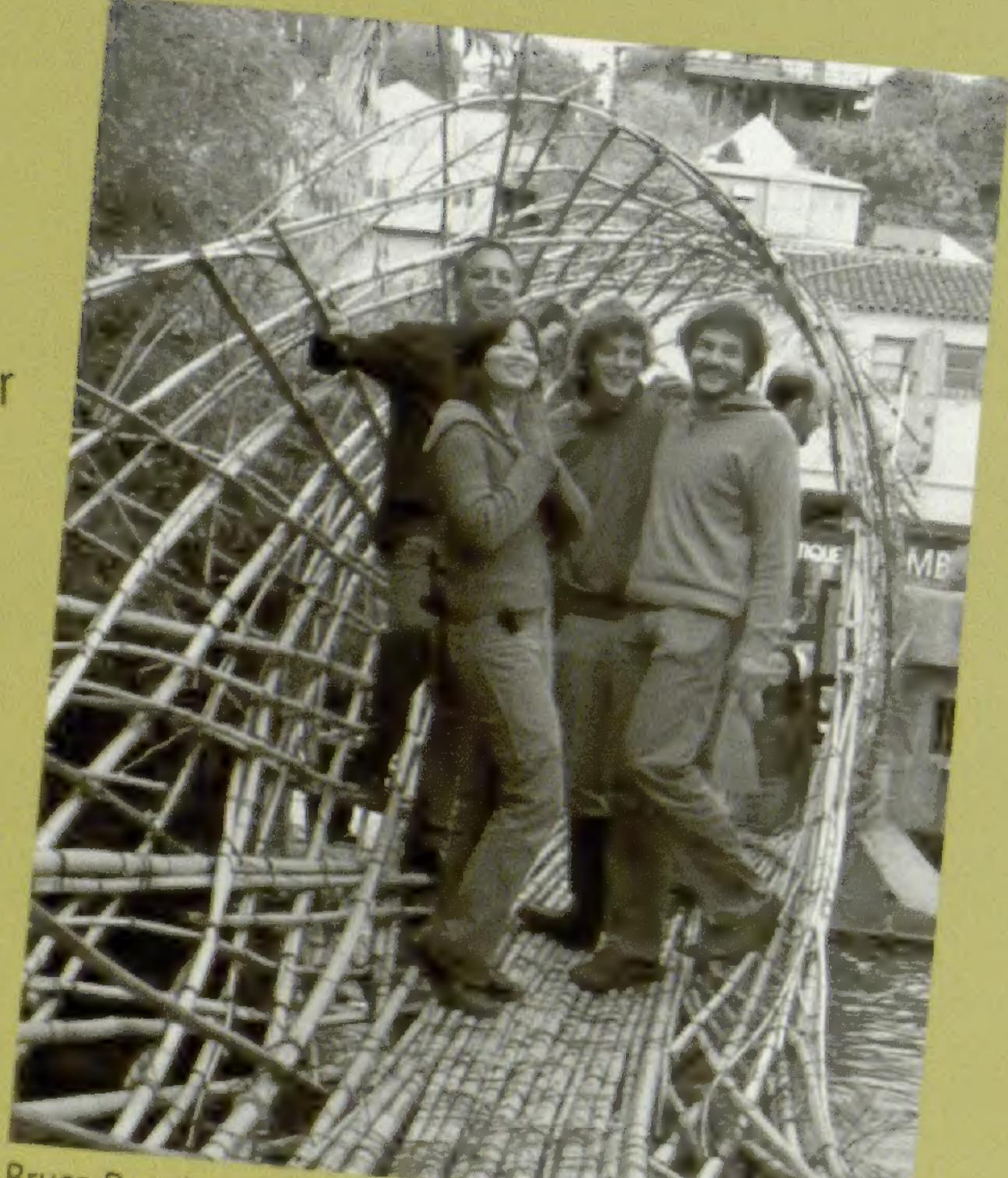
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GIGABYTE GARDENING

workshop LEVITAS is an international design collaboration between structural engineer Bruce Danziger of Arup (USA), and emerging architects Shu-Chi Hsu (Taiwan), and Moritz Freund (Germany). LEVITAS stands for lightness. In contrast to conventional architecture based on gravity, this design team wants to manifest precisely the essence of the physical world, which are light, chaos and ephemera. The collaboration explores innovative structures and spatial design, which makes the heaviest material float and exposes the most solid properties of the weakest.

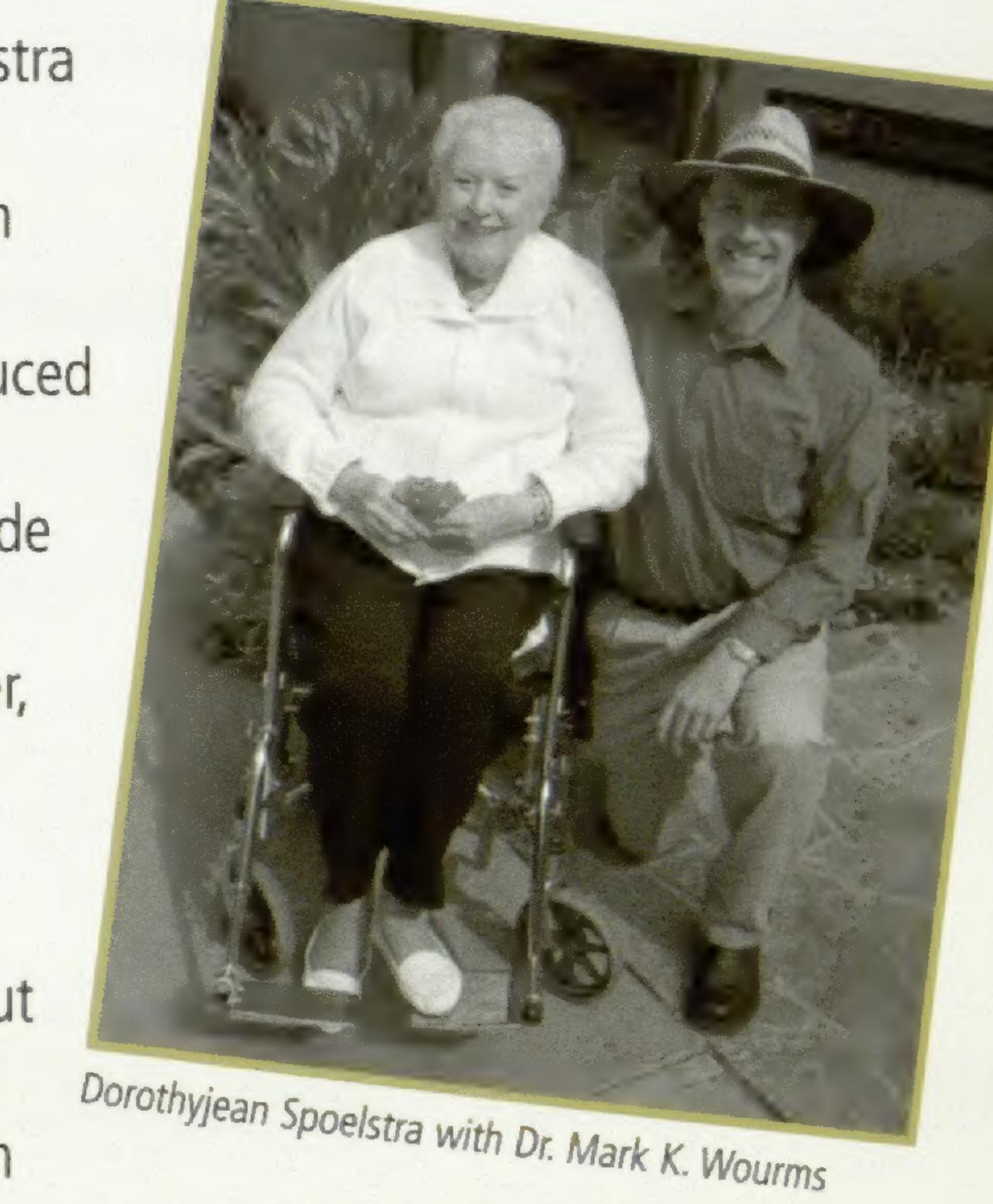


Recently LEVITAS were invited by Jenna Didier and Oliver Hess of Infranatural to design a foot-bridge for the Here there be Monsters exhibition. The bridge began with a simple structural diagram drawn by Bruce Danziger, resembling a propped cantilever. With the help of Moritz Freund and Shuchi Hsu, LEVITAS further developed the diagram to create a curved and partially cut-away tube to function as the primary stage from which visitors can interact with the water and its creatures. After careful evaluation of the bridge during continual structural analysis, 150 individually cut pieces of bamboo were harvested from The Arboretum. Every piece of bamboo used was freshly-cut, green and untreated, allowing for natural wear and decay over the lifetime of the bridge. To further simplify the process, cable zip ties were selected as the primary connective material, as opposed to traditional rope ties. Unlike the conventional design/construction process, the shape of the bridge adapts to the nature of the bamboo culms and is liberated from the templates built by the Computer Assisted Drawing (CAD) model. The construction of the bridge took only 20 days to complete. During the span of its lifetime, the woven bridge will remain in a constant state of flux, in both form and color, due to the inherent natural drying process of bamboo and its exposure to environmental forces.

Here there be Monsters can be seen at M&A in Silverlake or on the web at www.emanate.org through June 30, 2006.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE The Orchid Lady

rs. Dorothyjean Spoelstra V has been making a difference at The Arboretum for a long time. Like many others, she was first introduced to The Arboretum by a friend...and she quickly made an impression as a lover of flowers, dedicated volunteer, and financial supporter. Dorothyjean sold flowers at the Garden & Gift Shop, cared for flowers throughout The Arboretum, and taught flower arranging classes. An



expert in orchids, Dorothyjean spent many hours at The Arboretum cultivating orchids in the orchid greenhouse and even donated her personal orchid collection worth over \$6,000 to The Arboretum in 1998.

Dorothyjean continues to give back to The Arboretum. Her step may have slowed a little, but she still exhibits youthful exuberance whenever she is around her beloved orchids. Her spirit remains strong and her smile lights up the room. Dorothyjean sees The Arboretum as a living place that lives up to its mission: to cultivate our natural, horticultural and historic resources for learning, enjoyment and inspiration. She sees this mission practiced daily for the benefit of many generations of Arboretum lovers.

After a recent tour of The Arboretum with CEO Dr. Mark K. Wourms and Development Manager Kathy M. Kwan, Dorothyjean once again demonstrated her love of The Arboretum and flowers by making a significant financial contribution. The ways to give are limitless, and Dorothyjean Spoelstra is a wonderful example of a truly generous person who has given much time, money, and love to The Arboretum.



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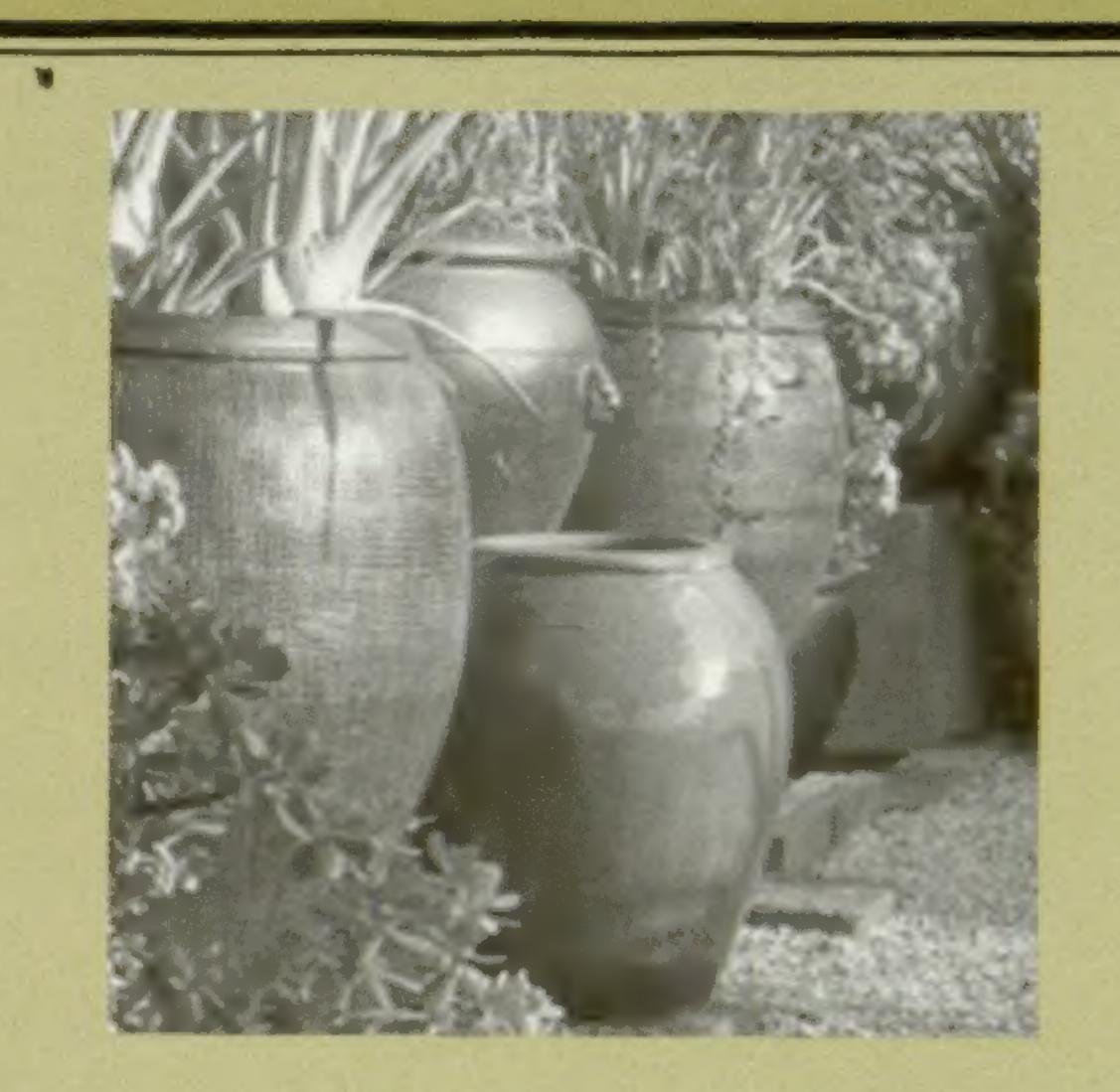
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