

ARBORETUM MEMBERS' MAGAZINE Issue 6, 2006; May, June, July

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.

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Mark K. Wourms, Ph.D.



DEAR ARBORETUM MEMBERS

Diversity At The Arboretum

Mark K. Wourms, Ph.D.,

This 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.

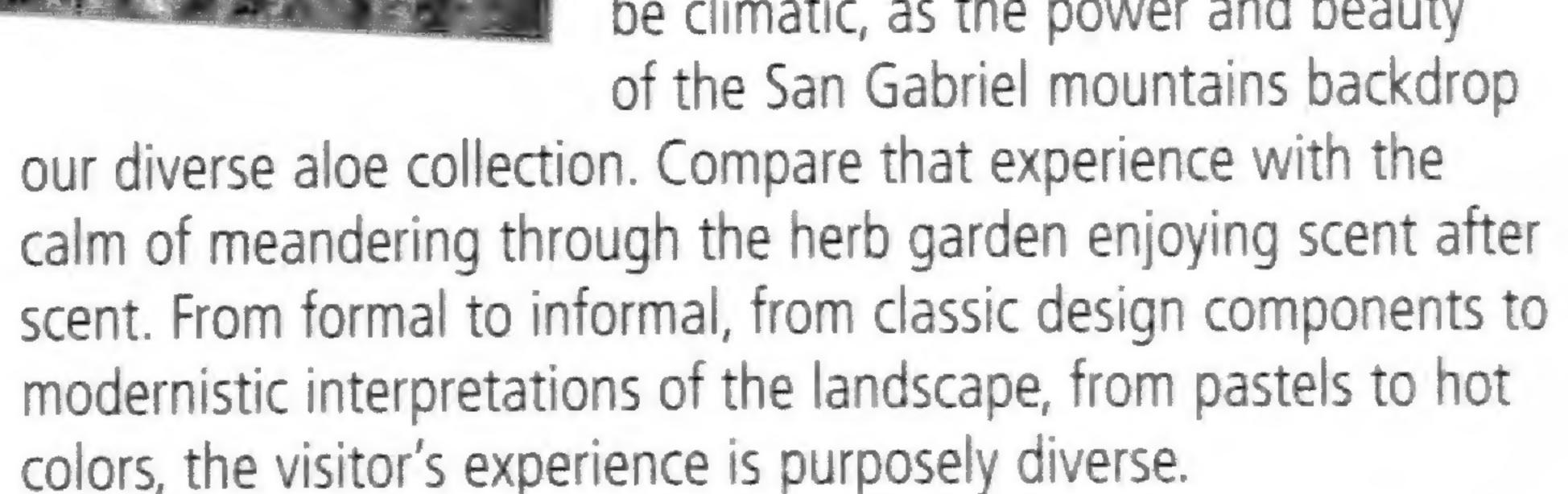
We look at your visit to The Arboretum a bit like a Broadway Play.

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.

Come to The Arboretum and add to the mix!







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 Timothy Philips 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 of energy and 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



Moitnes on the Aloe Trail

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



Jacaranda mimosifolia

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.

Lily of the Nile

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."

puts on an April display of lavender trumpet shaped blooms that has no equal.

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



Agapanthus X



Castanospermum australe

Monday-Friday; 9am-5pm Saturday & Sunday; 10am-1pm

Tuesday & Wednesday; 10am-4pm Sundays; 1-4pm
1st Saturday of the month; 8am
3rd Sunday of the month
3rd Sunday of the month; 2-3pm
(storytime and activity ages 3-8)

Events and Exhibitions

April 29-May 7; 9 am to 4:30 pm

May 6 & 7; 9 am to 4:30 pm

May 13 & 14; 9am-4pm

May 14; 10am-4pm

Saturday, May 20; 2 pm

May 27 - 28; 9:30am-5pm

June 3; 9 am-4pm

July 30; 10am-3pm

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.



| | iviay | | June | | July |
|--------------|---|---|--|------------------|---|
| | Botanical Art Show & sale | | Visit the Garden & Gift Shop | | Family Bird Walk; 8am |
| | Botanical Art Show & sale | 2 | Ikebana: 9:30-11:00 am | | Spring Iris Show & Sale: 9am-4: 30pm |
| 3 | Botanical Art Show & sale | | Family Bird Walk; 8am | | Garden Sprouts: Saturday Kids Gardening Club, 1st Saturday of the month |
| | Botanical Art Show & sale Botanical Art Show & sale | | Daylily Show & Plant Sale; 9am-4pm Garden Sprouts: Saturday Kids Gardening | 1 | 9-11am members: \$25/quarter or \$10 per class; non-members: \$30 /quarter or \$12 per class. |
| 5 | Compulsive Gardeners: Field Trip | | Club, 1st Saturday of the month 9-11am members: \$25/quarter or \$10 per class; | | Family Adventures: Make a Patriotic Garden: 2-4pm; members: \$15/family; |
| | Ikebana 9:30-11:30am LA Garden Show (Baldwin Bonanza | | non-members: \$30 /quarter or \$12 per class. | | non-members: \$20/family California Philharmonic: Festival on |
| | 2006) 9am-4: 30pm Saturday Night Gala 6-10m; \$150/ | | Family Adventures: Painted Fish & Fish Painting: 2-4pm; members: \$15/family; non-members: \$20/family | | the Green; 7:30-10pm Santa Anita Depot Tours: |
| 6 | person RSVP only Family Bird Walk; 8am | | Kids Art Spring Session, | 2 | 10am-4pm |
| | Botanical Art Show & sale | 4 | Saturdays April 22 – June 24; 12-2:30pm Santa Anita Depot Tours: 10am-4pm | 3 | Explore new ideas in The Arboretum Library |
| | Kids Art; 12-2:30pm | 5 | Watercolor Workshop 9:30-11:30 | | Watercolor Workshop: 9:30-11:30am |
| | LA Garden Show (Baldwin Bonanza) 2006 9am-4: 30pm | 6 | Explore new ideas in | 4 | Independence Day |
| | Botanical Art Show & sale | | The Arboretum Library | 5 | |
| | Santa Anita Depot Tours; 10am-4pm Watercolor Workshop: 9:30-11:30am; | 8 | | 6 | |
| | \$35 members / \$42 non-members | 9 | Ikebana: 9:30-11:00 am | 7 | Ikebana: 9:30-11:30am |
| | Santa Anita Depot; 10am-4pm Explore new ideas in | 10 | Kids Art | 8 | |
| 10 | The Arboretum Library | 11 | Santa Anita Depot Tours: 10am-4pm | 9 | Santa Anita Depot Tours: 10am-4pm |
| 11 | | 12 | Watercolor Workshop: 9:30-11:30am | | Watercolor Workshop: 9:30-11:30am |
| 12 | Compulsive Gardeners: Field Trip Epiphyllum Show and Sale: 9am-4pm | 13 | Explore new ideas in | 10 | Nature Nuts Summer Camp |
| | Garden Sprouts: Saturday Kids Garden- | 14 | The Arboretum Library | 11 | Nature Nuts Summer Camp |
| | ing Club, 1st Saturday of the month 9-11am members: \$25/quarter or \$10 per class; | 15 | | 12 | Nature Nuts Summer Camp |
| 13 | non-members: \$30 /quarter or \$12 per class. | 16 | Ikebana: 9:30-11:00 am | 13 | Nature Nuts Summer Camp |
| | Family Adventures: Mother's Day Hike and Tea: 2-4pm; members: \$15/family; non- | 17 | Kids Art; 12-2:30pm | 14 | Nature Nuts Summer Camp |
| | members: \$20/family Kids Art; 12-2:30pm | | Father's Day: Spend the day with Dad | 15 | California Philharmonic: Festival on the Green; 7:30-10pm |
| | Epiphyllum Show and Sale; 9am-4pm | 18 | Family Picnic Sundays | | Family Picnic Sundays |
| 1/1 | Mother's Day: Spend the day with Mom | | Arboretum Bookworms: Storytelling/ Activity; 2-3pm | 16 | Arboretum Bookworms: Storytelling/Activity; 2-3pm |
| | Queen Anne Cottage Open House; 10am-4pm | 2 中 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | Santa Anita Depot Tours: 10am-4pm | | Santa Anita Depot Tours; 10am-4pm |
| | Santa Anita Depot Tours; 10am-4pm | 19 | Watercolor Workshop: 9:30-11:30am | 17 | Nature Nuts Summer Camp Watercolor Workshop: 9:30-11:30am |
| 15 | Watercolor Workshop 9:30-11:30am | 20 | Explore new ideas in The Arboretum Library | 18 | Watercolor Workshop: 9:30-11:30am Nature Nuts Summer Camp |
| 16 | Council on Botanical & Horticultural Librarians' Conference | 21 | Visit the Garden & Gift Shop | 19 | Nature Nuts Summer Camp |
| | Fresh-Celebrating the Table: Jeannie Thiel Kelly of Bon Appetit; 3-5pm; | 22 | | 20 | Nature Nuts Summer Camp |
| 17 W | \$35 members / \$40 non-members CBHL Conference | | Ikebana: 9:30-11:00 am | 21 | Nature Nuts Summer Camp |
| 18 | CBHL Conference | | | 22 | Santa Anita Depot Tours: 10am-4pm |
| 19 | CBHL Conference | FR | | | |
| 20 | The Great Pumpkin Workshop: How to grow a 500 -pound pumpkin; 2pm KidsArt; 12-2:30pm | | Summer Begins | 23 | Watercolor Workshop: |
| | Family Picnic Sundays | | | 24 | 9:30-11:30am Explore new ideas in |
| | Arboretum Bookworms: Storytelling/Activity; 2-3pm | | Botanical Art Exhibit | | The Arboretum Library |
| 21 su | Gardening 101: Steve Gerischer - The Garden in Bloom (and a walk to Kallam | 24 | Kids Art; 12-2:30pm | TUE | |
| | Perennial Garden); 2-4pm; \$18 members / \$20 non-members | | Botanical Art Exhibit | | |
| | Santa Anita Depot Tours: 10am-4pm | 25 | Gardening 101: Steve Gerischer-Shade Gardening / Summerizing Your Garden; 2- | 26 | Explore new ideas in The Arboretum Library |
| 22 | Watercolor Workshop 9:30-11:30am Invite a friend for lunch | | 4pm; \$18 members / \$20 non-members Santa Anita Depot Tours: 10am-4pm | | |
| | at The Arboretum | 26 | Watercolor Workshop 9:30-11:30 am | THL | |
| 24 | | | | | |
| 25 | Visit the Garden & Gift Shop | | JE | 28 | |
| | | | | | |
| 27 | Bonsai Show; 9:30am-5pm Kids Art; 12-2:30pm | | | 2 5 5 A 1 | |
| | | 28 | | | |
| 28 | Bonsal Show; 9:30am-5pm Santa Anita Depot Tours: 10am-4pm | | | | |
| | Memorial Day | | | 30 | Checker Car Club Show; 10am-3pm Santa Anita Depot Tours: 10am-4pm |
| | Watercolor Workshop: 9:30-11:30am | | | | |
| 30 | | 20 | Ikahana: 0:20 11:00 | 3 4 | Watercolor Workshop: |
| 31 | ED Visit the Garden & Gift Shop | 30 | Ikebana: 9:30-11:00 am | 31 | 9:30-11:30am |
| | | | | | |
| | | | he Arboretum | | |

June

July

May

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



"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.

Volunteers

Group Volunteers

adult volunteers

corporate, community, or student groups coming on

a one-time basis

Student (College) Volunteers

Junior Volunteers

One-Time 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 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

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 Chambarli-

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.



California Poppies

A wild view

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



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. This palm is also interesting, because its closest palm relatives 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 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

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.

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 ul/komba. 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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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.



Bruce Danziger, Shu-Chi Hsu, Mecky Reuss, Moritz Freund

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.

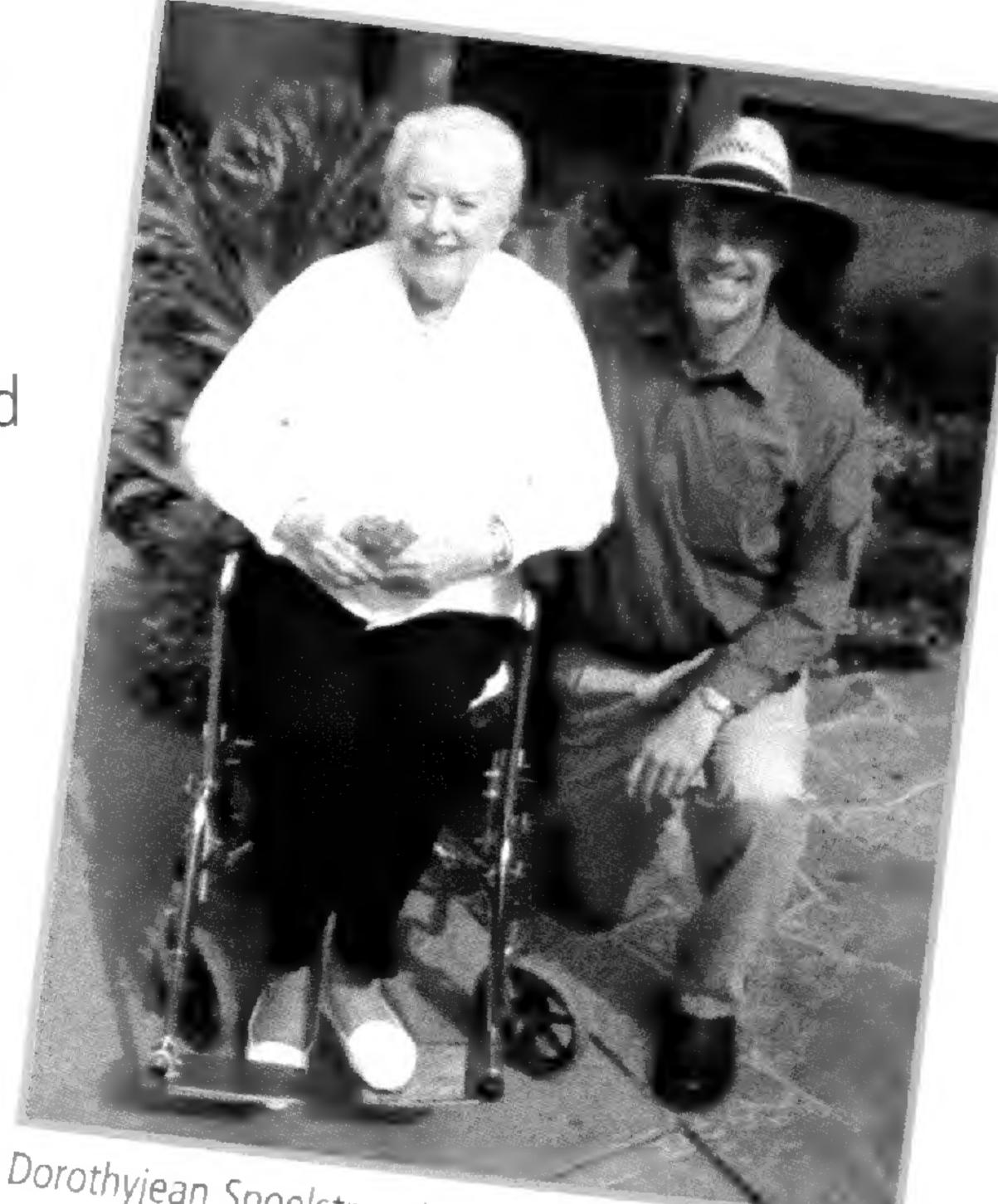
Here there be Monsters can be seen at M&A in Silverlake or on the web at www.emanate.org through June 30, 2006.

MAKINGADIFFERENCE

The Orchid Lady

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



Dorothyjean Spoelstra with Dr. Mark K. Wourms

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.

Thank you for your early support. The campaign continues...

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admission closes at 4:30 pm.

Free parking.

Free admission every 3rd Tuesday of each month. Picnic area is available outside of the main entrance.

626.821.3222 www.arboretum.org



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