

*Our Most Precious Resources*



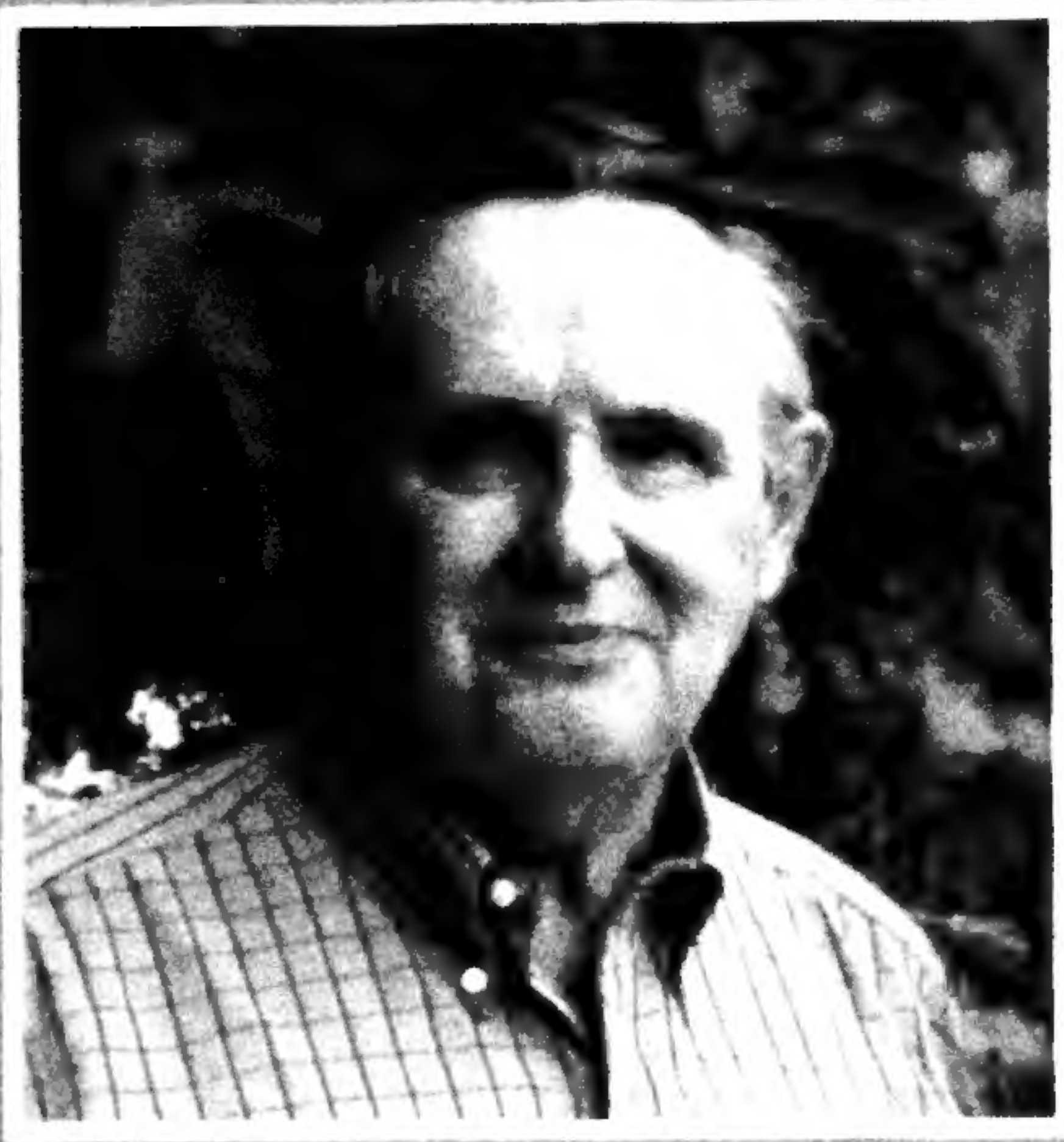
**The Arboretum**

LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM & BOTANIC GARDEN

ARBORETUM MEMBERS' MAGAZINE

Issue 13, August, September 2008

G. Arnold Mulder, M.D., President



**O**n behalf of the board of trustees of the Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation, I want to thank our patrons, designers, attendees, and the many staff and volunteers that made the 2008 LA Garden Show a huge success May 2-4. In that back of this magazine you can see the names of those people who became partners and patrons of this year's LA Garden Show and contributed to its continued success.

The attendees of the Designer Preview Reception, on May 1, celebrated the artistry of design and the theme for this year's show "A Vision for Sustainability" with our partners Monrovia Growers, Armstrong Garden Centers, Smith & Hawken, and Garden Design Magazine. We thank them all as well.

Over the last 2 years, Jane Herrmann, Trustee and Chairperson for the 2007 and 2008 LA Garden Show has worked with an all volunteer committee to make this show a significant regional show for Southern California.

We hope you will attend the 2009 LA Garden Show May 1-3, 2009.



Jane Herrmann and Mark Reynolds at the 2008 LA Garden Show

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*The Arboretum's mission is to cultivate our natural, horticultural and historic resources for learning, enjoyment and inspiration.  
Our vision is to be one of the world's truly great arboretums and botanic gardens—the garden which best reflects Southern California's  
distinct climate, community and openness to new ideas.*

# DEAR ARBORETUM MEMBERS

*Fairwell and Best Wishes to All*

Mark K. Wourms, Ph.D.

The Arboretum is an important resource in Southern California. The footprint of The Arboretum is only 127 acres, but its significance to the greater Los Angeles area and around the world is much greater. For 60 years, The Arboretum has provided outstanding learning opportunities, acted as an oasis in the urbanization that has occurred, and enriched lives with the beauty and wonder of nature. For the last four years, I have had the pleasure to help guide and assist the fine staff and volunteers who make The Arboretum work on a day-to-day basis. It has been an honor to facilitate change that has led to improvements in the operations and collections in many areas.



Forrest 10, Logan 7, Patty, Mark

For a number of personal and professional reasons, I accepted the position of the Executive Director of the Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest outside of Louisville, Kentucky. By the time you read this, I will be on my way to a new adventure in nature.

There were several trends started during my tenure as Chief Executive Officer of The Arboretum. The thinning and cleaning of the plant collections, both in display areas and behind the scenes. This yielded better visibility of significant plants and improved the overall appearance of the grounds. More clean-up will continue.

New specialty displays and collections were added including the Desert Display Garden, the Madagascar Spiny Forest exhibit, the Carnivorous Plant Greenhouse and the Garden for All Seasons

redevelopment. These display the power of biodiversity and the sometimes bizarre beauty of plants. The future will bring new displays including an Epiphyllum collection and a Rare Fruit Garden and Orchard. As the conceptual plan is completed, even more ideas related to water and energy conservation in gardens will come to life.

Children and Families have enjoyed added education programs, activities and gardens. Easter, Halloween and the TerraByte events all spark the imagination and provide great social opportunities for families. The Roots and Shoots Children's Discovery Node and the Australian Children's Discovery Node both offer imaginative, botanical activity zones for children and families. Our goal is to get kids excited about being outdoors, surrounded by the magic and sense of friendship and knowledge plants can bring.

The Korean Garden Project is perhaps the most significant project underway at The Arboretum and will be hugely significant as it comes into fruition in 5-8 years. The schematic design is just about complete. Once designs are in hand, The Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation and the Steering Committee of the Korean-American community will kick-off a major fundraising campaign. It will take everyone's advocacy and financial support to develop the first major Korean Garden in a public garden in the United States. It will be a culturally authentic beauty which everyone can enjoy.

To all the members, visitors, volunteers, staff, sponsors and community partners, I thank you for your support and efforts on behalf of The Arboretum. The Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation and Los Angeles County are both committed to making this one of the best public gardens in the United States. With your help, that goal can be achieved.

**Best wishes to all!**

## PLANTS & PEOPLE

### *The "Lagoon" in the Prehistoric Forest*

Susan C. Eubank, Arboretum Librarian



When I go for my daily walk in The Arboretum, I'm always entranced by the lagoon. Now I know that body of water near the Queen Anne Cottage goes by various names, but it will always be the "lagoon" to me, because that's the name it had 40 years ago when I first started coming here. What astonishes me is the fact that here in the arid west with an average precipitation of 15 inches per year we are privileged to have one of the few remaining permanent water sites in the Raymond Basin area – well, mostly permanent, except for those dry years. How does the water show up here? How long has there been a lagoon here?

Our little lagoon is a remnant of pre-historical times. The Raymond Basin is a geologic feature bordered by the Sierra Madre Fault moving east-west along the San Gabriel Mountains, the Linda Vista fault traveling south through the Linda Vista area of Pasadena and the Raymond Fault heading in a northeasterly direction from South Fair Oaks Boulevard meeting back with the Sierra Madre fault in Monrovia. It is famous as the first adjudicated water management area in California. The uplift of the Raymond Fault created a barrier to the water careening out of the San Gabriel Mountains and that accumulated water is the groundwater that built the communities we know today.

The Basin, through the Raymond Basin Management Board, still provides much of our water. We aren't sitting on top of a lake, but the Raymond Fault lifted the ancient sea floor of the larger Los Angeles Basin so high in this area that it created a bowl. Along with the groundwater, that bowl contains gravel, very coarse aggregate and also those beautifully rounded granite pieces that Pasadena craftsman bungalows are famous for. This has all shed off the rapidly growing San Gabriel Mountains and is plummeted into the basin by roaring streams. In the earlier Ice Age the climate was such that coastal redwoods grew in the San Gabriels. Imagine the volume of water churning that aggregate and rounded granite rocks into the basin. Even now our intermittent water flows out of the mountains and needs to be controlled to manage the volume.

Specifically, our sag pond (the lagoon) is the depression left behind when the Raymond fault split and forced ancient compressed seafloor up through the split to create Tallac Knoll. Anecdotally, it is referred to as a "melon seed" feature, because it is squeezed up out of the floor like a melon seed would squeeze through your hand under pressure and the resulting outcrop resembles a melon seed shape. The depression resting up against the raised fault held water. That is typical of a sag

pond, because the fault seals the bottom of the pond. There were two other sag ponds along the fault at the Huntington estate and old Wilson Lake which is now Lacy Park. These have both been filled in. In pre-European settlement times Eaton Creek's path used to head more in our direction, so it is likely that our lagoon had plenty of water.

Currently the lagoon is included in the storm drain system of Arcadia, so during storm events it fills with water and, unfortunately, whatever is in the storm drain also passes through and settles in the lakes. This is an example of how careful we all need to be about discarding liquids or trash into the storm drains.

When persistent drought dries up the lagoon, there is an area near the west end that stays damp. This could be a spring that also contributes to the water. During Baldwin's time there were several areas that had springs. Another interesting contribution to the lake water is our own irrigation. When we water the lawns "uphill" from the lagoon, the soil is so porous, it seeps through to the lowest point and is retained in the lagoon. And, lastly, we could turn on a faucet and fill the lake with municipal water.

Now you can see why I don't always spend too much of my time on my walk around the lagoon thinking about the plant materials. The geology and hydrology transport me to another time and I always imagine those Columbia mammoths, American mastodons, sabertoothed cats and dire wolves that are depicted so realistically at the La Brea Tar Pits stopping by for a cool

drink at our lagoon and not suffering the severe consequences of the asphalt. All the geologic action that we see in the basin happened after the dinosaurs (less than 65.5 million years ago). It also reinforces for me how careful we all need to be with our water, both in terms of use and keeping it unpolluted. What we waste, by transferring to our sewer system, becomes water that never reenters into our groundwater. In this interesting area called the Raymond Basin what we water our lawns with today slowly sinks back into our groundwater table and will be the drinking water of future generations.

**HSBC North America supported the Baldwin Lake Study, through a generous grant of \$50,000.**

Sources used for this article:

Buwalda, John P., "*Geology of the Raymond Basin*." [Report to the Pasadena Water Department], 1940. QE 90 L8 B989g

Price, Morton, "*Results of the Baldwin Lake Study*." (Master's Thesis, California State University, Los Angeles, 2007)

"*Chronology of the Raymond Basin*"

<http://raymondbasin.org/about-us/RBMB-Complete-Timeline.pdf>



# BLOOM

## Cool Plants For Summer

### August

Naked Lady hybrids  
*Amarygias*

*Amaryllis belladonna* (the name in Latin means literally the beautiful lady amaryllis) is more commonly known as the 'Naked lady' because it blooms in the late summer sans its strap-like leaves which come up after the blooms appear. Hobbyists have been crossing *Amaryllis* with the closely related *Brunsvigia* genus and referring to the results as 'Amarygias,' a contraction of the parent genus names *Amary*(llis) and (*Brunsvi*)gia. The many varieties of *Amarygias* are the result of this crossing going on since the first *Amarygias* were developed in 1947. Here a significant planting of *Amarygias* can be found adjacent to the Northwest corner of the Baur Lawn.



### September

Soft Leaf Yucca  
*Yucca recurvifolia*

This *Yucca* is native to the gulf coastal plains of the Southeast U.S., including the coasts of Georgia and Alabama. Considering it's a beachgrewer, it's kind of picky about its soil; preferring well drained loam. Still it's worth trying because making sure the soil is right is a small price to pay for *Yucca recurvifolia*'s reward; gorgeous creamy chandelier-like blooms that appear in late summer to early fall.



For more information about plants in bloom at The Arboretum and around the world visit The Arboretum Library or call the plant information hotline 626.821.3239.

## KIDS IN NATURE

### Trees are Cool

Everyday is earth day at The Arboretum we have thousands of reasons to show you why trees are cool.

Here are a few:

They provide oxygen.

They provide shade which cools us, our homes, and our city.

They provide homes and food for many mammals, birds, and insects.

They supply reusable, recyclable materials including wood and fiber for paper.



2008

August - September

# The Art Found in Nature



301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, CA 91007 | [www.arboretum.org](http://www.arboretum.org)

*Catawampus sculpture*

## Art-in-the-Garden: Patrick Dougherty

### *Catawampus*

Ongoing through 2010

This giant woven willow sculpture was titled "Catawampus" askew, awry, crooked by environmental artist Patrick Dougherty.

Come see it for yourself and walk inside this amazing multi-chambered environment. It is awe inspiring and illustrates the beauty in nature.

Art-in-the-Garden brings artist to the garden to create works of art that immerse the visitor into the natural world.

Free with Arboretum admission.

Members always enter Free.

## TERRA-BYTE 3.0

September 14, 5:30-9:00 P.M.

Bring a picnic basket and a blanket and enjoy an evening under the stars. Launch into the garden on this Sunday evening with multi-media exhibitions, electronic music, garden tours, and an infrared camera demonstration by the Nasa Spitzer Science Center – all celebrating the natural world. (no outside alcohol is permitted).

All proceeds from this event support The Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation's Conservation Fund.

Admission: \$10.00 donation. For more information call 626.821.3208 or go to [www.arboretum.org](http://www.arboretum.org)



TERRA-BYTE 2006

# Kids and Family

## Family Adventures

FREE WITH ADMISSION

Join your adventure guide, Colleen Biles, on the 1st Saturday of each month as we explore The Arboretum. Each Saturday is new and exciting, and will have a different theme relating to nature or the environment. Meet by the fountain in front of the Oak Room. Time: 10am-12noon. Come early as space is limited to 25. Children of all ages welcome!

September 6th: Exploring Tallac Knoll

## Family Fun

Unless otherwise noted, the following fees apply to all Family Fun classes. Family Fees: Individuals: Members: \$5/\$6 nonmembers.

Family Fee: \$15 per family for members; \$20 per family for non-members. All class fees include admission into the Arboretum!

For more information or to register call 626.821.4623 or email [colleen.biles@arboretum.org](mailto:colleen.biles@arboretum.org)

## Under the Stars-July 19th

Lets go Stargazing! Can you locate the Big Dipper? How about the North Star? Did you know you can see other galaxies? Get your bearings so these patterns will become your roadmap to the stars. We will make a star clock, and take a close-up look at the full moon, visible summer constellations, planets, and near-by galaxies. 7pm-11pm.

## Make a Drought Resistant Garden - August 23rd

We all care about water conservation! Come and hike through desert gardens at The Arboretum. Learn about the interesting and beautiful plants that require minimal watering and then create your own pot to take home!

10am -12noon.

## Herbal Cures for What Ails You- September 20

Visit the Herb Garden and learn about many curious, historic herbal remedies. Did you know that it was once believed that the yellow flowers of a Celandine Poppy would cure jaundice (yellowing skin)? Make and take home a beautiful bar of soap containing your favorite fragrant scent. 10am-12noon

## Arboretum Bookworms

A FREE storytelling program.

Come explore The Arboretum Library and our great story trees!

Enjoy plant & nature stories and a take home craft.

Aug: 17 & 20: Australia

September: 17 & 21: Native Americans

Times: Sunday Programs @ 2pm & Weekday Programs @ 10 am

This program will go rain or shine. It is an indoor/ outdoor program; please dress appropriately.

Meet your storytime guide in the Arboretum Main Entrance

## KidsArt at the Arboretum

Help develop attention, ability, and self-confidence. KidsArt teaches drawing so that students have the opportunity to learn fundamental skills. Students learn how to "see" in a new way. KidsArt teaches students how to measure with the eye, how to break something into its parts and put it back together again to make a whole picture. Students are shown that what may look difficult to draw at first glance, is really simple once they learn to see it piece by piece.

July 29-August 28. Tuesday and Thursday: 9.30-10.30 September 13-November 22. Saturdays 12:00-1:00

Cost per session: \$145.00. For more information or to register, please call 818.248.2764.



# August events — Please call 626.821.4623 for class reservations and information

02 SAT **No Family Adventure**

04 MON **Botanical Watercolor Workshop**

05 TUE **KidsArt**

07 THU **KidsArt**

**Cal Phil's Festival on the Green:**

09 SAT "Movie Magic"  
Call 626.300.8200 for tickets

**The Great Tomato Tasting with Steve**

10 SUN **Goto**  
10am-12noon



Free with admission. This is your chance to taste-test many different varieties of heirloom tomatoes and rate your favorites. This is always a popular event so come early as we do run out!

11 MON **Botanical Watercolor Workshop**

12 TUE **KidsArt**

13 WED **Arboretum closes at 7pm tonight**

14 THU **KidsArt**

**Arboretum Bookworms**

17 SUN 2:00pm  
A FREE storytelling program. Come explore The Arboretum Library and our great story trees! Enjoy plant & nature stories and a take home craft. This month's theme is: Australia. Meet your storytime guide in the Rotunda. It is an indoor/outdoor program; please dress appropriately.

18 MON **Botanical Watercolor Workshop**

8 Mondays, Aug. 18-Oct. 6; 9.30-11.30 am  
This is a self-directed workshop (no official instructor) that provides an encouraging and supportive environment for those wishing to concentrate on their painting. \$35 members/ \$42 non-members



19 TUE **KidsArt**

**Arboretum Bookworms.**

20 WED 10:00am. A FREE storytelling program. Come explore The Arboretum Library and our great story trees! Enjoy plant & nature stories and a take home craft. This month's theme is: Australia. Meet your storytime guide in the Rotunda. It is an indoor/ outdoor program; please dress appropriately.

21 THU **KidsArt**  
9.30-10.30

**Evening Hikes at The Arboretum**

Thursdays, July 17, August 21, September 18  
5 - 7pm; Meet by the Main Entrance. Leader: Arboretum Tour Guides Eric Foemmel or Eric Doyle. Fee: \$5 members/\$7 non-members per hike; maximum 15 people. Come for a fun and informative trek around The Arboretum. Each evening will focus on a different section of the grounds. Wear sturdy shoes, a hat and bring water. Pre-registration requested but not required.

**Make a Drought Resistant Garden**

23 SAT 10am -12noon  
We all care about water conservation! Come and hike through desert gardens at The Arboretum. Learn about the interesting and beautiful plants that require minimal watering and then create your own pot to take home! Family Fun fees apply. For more information or to register, please call 626.821.4623 or email colleen.biles@arboretum.org

**Cal Phil's Festival on the Green:**

"Beethoven, Bernstein & Bolero"  
Call 626.300.8200 for tickets

25 MON **Park Management**

A Mt. San Antonio College class  
Mondays, August 25 - December 8, 2008  
6-9:10pm; Instructor: Ana Quintanilla  
In this course, you will learn about the management and operation of municipal park departments, including the development of budgets, purchasing, park policies, planning and scheduling. This is a for-credit class offered through Mt. San Antonio College. Students must attend the first class session. Call 909.594.5611, x4540 for information.

**KidsArt**

26 TUE

**Arboretum closes at 7pm tonight**

27 WED

**KidsArt**

28 THU



**Botanical Watercolor Workshop**

# September events — Please call 626.821.4623 for class reservations and information

**01 MON Botanical Watercolor Workshop**

**06 SAT Family Adventures: Exploring Tallac Knoll**  
10-12noon



(Free with Admission) Join your Adventure guide by the fountain in front of the Oak Room. Come early as space is limited to 25. Children of all ages welcome!

**Festival on the Green:**

"Gotta Dance"  
Call 626.300.8200 for tickets

**08 MON Extreme Boot Camp**

Sept. 8-Oct. 17  
6-week course/5 days a week (2 days a week held at The Arboretum)  
5.30-6.30am; Extreme Boot Camp-Monrovia is a highly motivating, confidence, and camaraderie-building fitness and nutritional program. Please call instructor Joe Stone at 626.755.1884 for further information.

**Botanical Watercolor Workshop  
Park Management**

**Ikebana**

8 Fridays, Sept. 12-Nov. 7 (no class on 10/3)  
9.30-11.30am Advanced; 11.30am-1.30pm Basic  
Reiko Kawamura & Yumiko Kikkawa, Instructors  
Learn about Japanese cultural traditions while practicing the techniques of Moribana, Heika and landscape arrangements. \$65 members/\$80 non-members; \$32 materials fee payable directly to instructor. Reservations required: call 626.821.4623

12 FRI

**13 SAT KidsArt**

Saturdays, Sept. 13 – Nov. 22  
9.30-10.30am  
Help develop attention, ability, and self-confidence. KidsArt teaches drawing so that students have the opportunity to learn fundamental skills, learning how to "see" in a new way. KidsArt teaches students how to measure with the eye, how to break something into its parts and put it back together again to make a whole picture. Cost: \$145. Call 818.248.2764 to register.

**15 MON Botanical Watercolor Workshop  
Park Management**

**17 WED Arboretum Bookworms.**

10:00am. A FREE storytelling program. Come explore The Arboretum Library and our great story trees! Enjoy plant & nature stories and a take home craft. This month's theme is: Native Americans. Meet your storytime guide in the Rotunda. It is an indoor/outdoor program; please dress appropriately.

**18 THU Botanical Watercolor Workshop**

8 Mondays, Aug. 18-Oct. 6, 9.30-11.30 am  
This is a self-directed workshop (no official instructor) that provides an encouraging and supportive environment for those wishing to concentrate on their painting. \$35 members/\$42 non-members

**19 FRI Ikebana**

**20 SAT Herbal Cures for What Ails You**

10am-12noon  
Visit the Herb Garden and learn about many curious, historic herbal remedies. Did you know that it was once believed that the yellow flowers of a Celandine Poppy would cure jaundice (yellowing skin)? Make and take home a beautiful bar of soap containing your favorite fragrant scent. For more information or to register, please call 626.821.4623 or email colleen.biles@arboretum.org. Family Fun fees apply.

**21 SUN Arboretum Bookworms.**

2:00pm. A FREE storytelling program. Come explore The Arboretum Library and our great story trees! Enjoy plant & nature stories and a take home craft. This month's theme is: Native Americans. Meet your storytime guide in the Rotunda. It is an indoor/outdoor program; please dress appropriately.

**22 MON Botanical Watercolor Workshop  
Park Management**

**25 THU Garden Talks with Lili Singer**

Fall Series: Sept. 25-Nov. 13  
9.30 am-Noon  
Converting to a Native Garden with Barbara Eisenstein, Outreach Coordinator, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden; \$100 for series, or \$20 per class payable at the door.

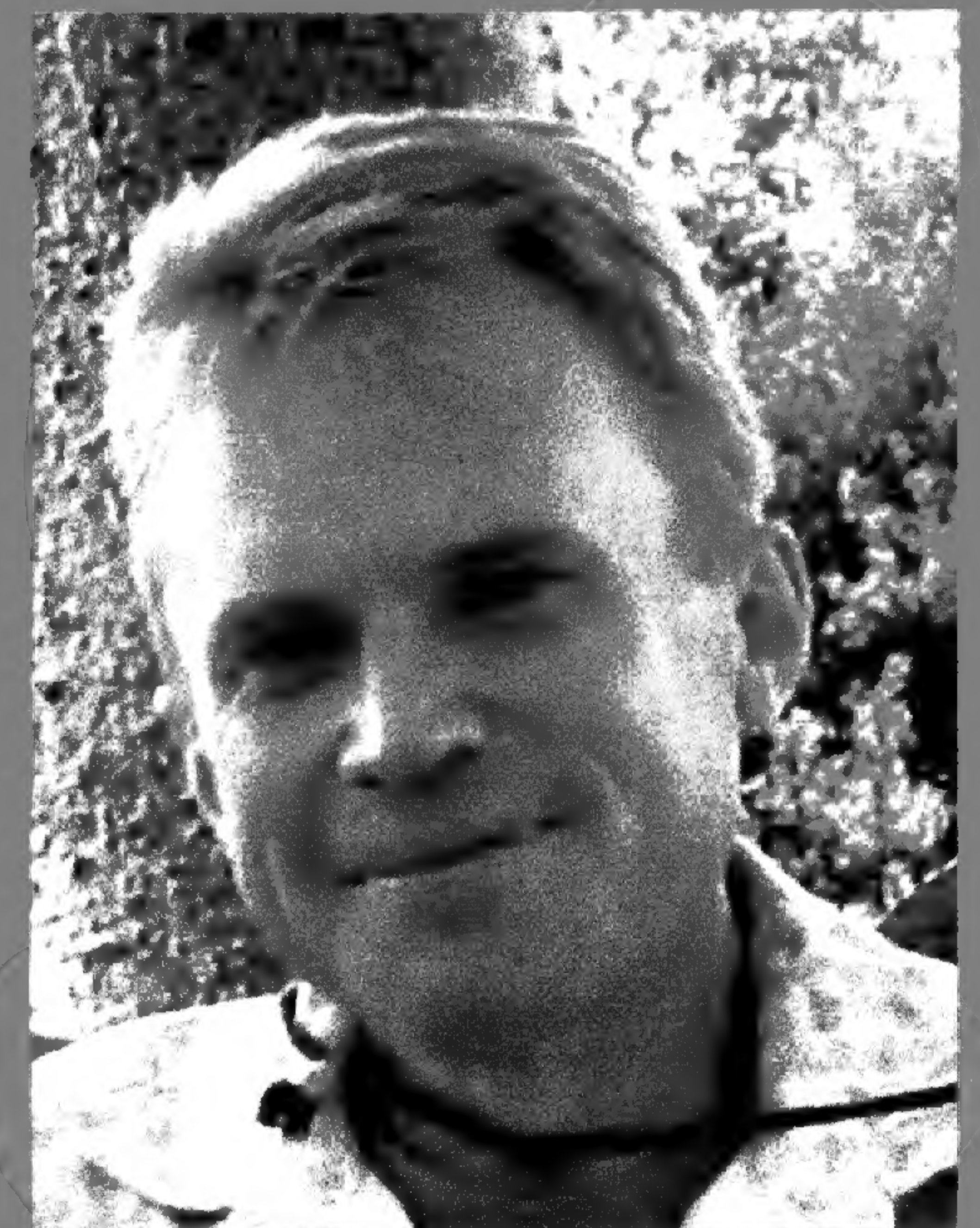
**26 FRI Compulsive Gardeners**

Sept. 26-Nov. 14  
**Class is full**

**Ikebana**

**27 SAT The Seasonal Gardener with Steve Gerischer-Fall**

1.30-4.30pm



"Fall back" into the garden—a combination of temps and daylight make this the perfect planting season; Want to harvest veggies right through winter? Learn what to plant in the cool season vegetable garden; Which bulbs should you buy? Learn which bulbs will come back year after year in your landscape. (And who has the best deals!); Time to do an evaluation of your yard—what really needs to go! (That azalea is looking pretty shabby!); Reliable Fall color in Southern California (one of the best is edible!); Time to take a closer look at your soil. Is it all it should be? How to plant a plant. Sounds too easy but you might just say, 'why didn't anyone ever tell me that?'; \$22 members/\$25 non-members

**29 MON Botanical Watercolor Workshop  
Park Management**

# Events

August 9

Call Phil's Personalized Planting  
"Movie Magic"

August 10

Free Annual Tomato Planting  
10am to 12noon

August 16 & 17

Indoor Plant Care and Maintenance  
9am to 5 pm

August 23

Call Phil's Personalized Planting  
"Beethoven, Bernstein & Bolero"

September 6

Call Phil's Personalized Planting  
"Gotta Dance"

September 14

Call Phil's Personalized Planting  
5:30pm-9pm

September 22

Call Phil's Personalized Planting  
5pm to 9pm

October 4 & 5

Call Phil's Personalized Planting  
9am to 5pm

October 11

Call Phil's Personalized Planting  
RSVP 626.821.3208

## EDUCATION

THE GARDENING WORKSHOPS WITH JILL VIG

1.30-4.30pm, \$22 members/\$25 non-members

Please call 626.821.4623 to register

Come learn the essentials of gardening in tune with the seasons. In each of these four workshops, the highpoints of major tasks and projects best suited to the specific time of year will be covered. Gardening in Southern California requires a bit of finesse and know-how in anticipation of the upcoming season, and these workshops will help you to fine tune your horticultural calendar.

Feb - Tuesday, November 27

Winter - Saturday, January 10

Spring - Sunday, March 26

Summer - Sunday, June 01

### WORKSHOPS

Saturday, October 18

10 am - Noon

Instructor: Jill Vig

Cost: \$20 members /\$22 non-members

Woodsman, spare that tree! Too many homeowners, with the best intentions in the world, often end up doing more harm than good when they take saws in hand. Los Angeles Arboretum Curator Jill Vig, a Certified Arborist and avowed Tree Hugger (in a class open only to those who love their trees!) will be teaching when, how, and even IF to prune. She will also discuss the significant differences between pruning landscape trees versus fruit trees. Finally, she will provide information so those averse to pruning themselves will be able to hire the right professional to maintain their "urban forest."

# 2008 Fall Program

## **Thursday Garden Talks with Lili Singer** Informative gatherings with horticultural specialists – for passionate home gardeners and landscape professionals

Fall 2008: 8 Thursdays, September 25–November 13  
9.30 am–Noon

\$100 for the series, \$20 per class / Payable at the door; Information and registration: 626.821.4623 or [jill.berry@arboretum.org](mailto:jill.berry@arboretum.org)

### **Sept. 25 Converting Your Garden into a Native Paradise with Barbara Eisenstein**

Learn how to start a native garden from scratch, working area by area by area, or by gradually adding native plants to an existing landscape. Discover effective strategies for gardening with natives, hear about unusual species and leave class excited and ready for fall plant sales and planting! Barbara is Horticulture Outreach Coordinator at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont

### **Oct. 2 Where Architecture and Horticulture Intersect: Designing the Built and Planted Garden Environments with Debra Prinzing**

This stunning illustrated lecture explains how to create the destination of your dreams, from a fanciful backyard shed to an evocative and abundantly planted landscape. Debra is the author of *Stylish Sheds and Elegant Hideaways* and *The Abundant Garden*. She will share design tips for achieving a garden where architecture and horticulture happily coexist. The morning ends with a book-signing.

### **Oct. 9 Field Trip: A Landscaper's Favorite Plants with Laramie Haynes, 10am-12.30pm**

The best landscape professionals are also plant nuts, and this one likes "fun tough stuff." Explore two private installations by our host for examples of unusual, long-lived plants. Then visit his Pasadena home display gardens and nursery. The morning ends with a plant sale. Laramie is the owner of Haynes Landscape Design ([www.hayneslandscapedesign.com](http://www.hayneslandscapedesign.com)), which integrates science, engineering and art to craft beautiful and useful gardens.

### **Oct. 16 The Art of Composting, Vermiculture and Great Garden Soil with John Lyons**

Productive gardens start with great soil. This jam-packed class covers various methods of composting, how to set up a year-round outdoor worm bin, what to do with your compost and worm castings, plus mulches, cover crops, soil microbiology and more! John is a designer of kitchen and native plant gardens and the owner of The Woven Garden ([www.wovengarden.com](http://www.wovengarden.com)).

### **Oct. 23 Field Trip: A Visit to Pitzer Arboretum, Claremont, 10:00am-12.30pm**

An exciting trip for arid-climate gardeners! Pitzer Arboretum, on the campus of Pitzer College in Claremont, includes 15 separate gardens showcasing California natives, other mediterranean-climate plants, and succulents from around the world – in groupings that range from wild to almost formal. Our private tour includes a talk by Joe Clements, the arboretum's director (and former curator of the Huntington's Desert Garden).

### **Oct. 30 Behind Closed Doors: Trends, New Plants and Sustainability with Nicholas Staddon**

Monrovia Nursery's erudite ambassador returns to the Thursday class! This session offers an overview of what gardeners want, the global move toward sustainability –and how wholesale growers are responding to both with environmentally sound growing practices and the introduction of beautiful, resilient landscape plants. Nicholas is Director of New Plant Introductions for Monrovia Nursery.

### **Nov. 6 Weaving with Willow: A Hands-On Workshop with Leigh Adams**

Using pliable willow twigs, create plantable, moss-wrapped balls using a simple weave and plenty of laughs! No experience needed. Have fun and go home with a beautiful handmade sphere! Leigh Adams is an "elderly child!" and brilliant artist who revels in alternative gardening, many artistic media and colorful installation work.

### **Nov. 13 Spring-flowering Bulbs for Southern California Gardens with Lili Singer**

Fall is bulb-planting time! This class presents spring-blooming bulbs, corms, tubers and rhizomes from California and South Africa – colorful survivors that thrive in this climate, and regrow and reflower each spring, without replanting. Along with selection and care, we'll discuss companion plants, container culture, bulbs for cutting and bulb sources.

## GET INVOLVED

### *San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society*

The San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society is one of the oldest horticultural societies meeting at the Arboretum. The Society was formed in the old board room in 1967. The Society meets twice each month in the Arboretum Palm room. The main meeting is held on the second Thursday at 7:30; it is our 'formal' meeting with a brief discussion of club business, a slide presentation on plants or habitat or other demonstration, a 'mini competition' of a selected succulent and cactus genus as described in the club's monthly newsletter, plant raffles and door prizes. There is also lots of time to look at and discuss plants and cultivation. The club's other monthly meeting, 'Study Group', is held on the third Wednesday of each month. This meeting is a workshop where an advanced grower will discuss a topic and members are encouraged to ask questions or give their experience. Popular study groups include succulent plant photography, seed growing and vegetative propagation. Field trips to local deserts, rare plant nurseries and other succulent plant gardens are held each year.

The SGVCSS hosts two Cactus and Succulent Shows every year. The third weekend of August is the Annual Inter-City Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale, where close to two thousand of the best cacti and succulents in Southern California can be seen. This is the best and largest cactus and succulent show in the world, with entrants coming from San Francisco to San Diego and as

far east as Phoenix and Tucson. The sales area at this show has everything from rare plants seen nowhere else to inexpensive beginner's plants. The show features informal talks on potting and plant care, and tours by knowledgeable guides of the Arboretum's three great cacti and succulent gardens. The show grows in size and popularity every year, and has been filmed twice by PBS. The show is August 16-17 this year, and shouldn't be missed.

The SGVCSS also holds a 'Winter Show' the second weekend in November. Many of the most interesting plants grow in winter rain regions much like Southern California. These are dormant in the summer, but are looking there best with new growth starting in October or November.

Cactus and Succulent growers rarely take themselves too seriously. (No one else does either.) This is a very friendly group, welcoming everyone from the casual admirer, to the back yard gardener, to the serious collector. Beginning growers, and enthusiasts are especially welcome. We have members that are in their teens and members in their 90s, and cover every age group in between. Please come and join us at our next meeting.

## GRAPEVINE

### *Leigh Adams – An Extraordinary Artist*

Leigh Adams' love of art, nature, and children combined with her commitment to public art have resulted in a variety of educational activities and art installations at The Arboretum as our Artist in Residence.

Although much of Leigh's work can be seen in the Pasadena area, she has been invited to Mexico, China and Central America for special commissions and teaching assignments.

Whether teaching arts, language or life skills, Leigh believes that cooperative learning, achieving consensus and building new skills which can result in public acknowledgement are some of the greatest gifts we can give our children and our society.

As arts become less available in our schools, Leigh believes it is incumbent upon us to make opportunities for hands-on learning available to our young people.

Public installations are an excellent way to elevate children's belief in themselves, their self-worth and the value of their efforts.



Leigh is currently installing a 1,000' mosaicked Serpent Trail in The Arboretum's Australian Children's Discovery Node using tiles glazed by children. The final Serpent Trail will lead visitors through an Australian habitat of wonderful discoveries.

The Serpent Trail is part of the Australian Children's Discovery Node and Amphitheatre and is made possible with support of the Michael J. O'Connell Foundation and the Georgina Frederick children's Foundation.

## DISCOVERY TRAILS

### *Bodacious Brachychitons: The Bottle-trees of Australia*

Marcela L. Singleton, Grace Kallam Perennial Garden Curator

Of the Mediterranean regions represented at The Arboretum, the Australian section is perhaps the least manicured and fussed over. It is a rugged section. Lacking the overt appeal of more floriferous gardens but seductive in the boldness and openness of its terrain. Its smell is the spicy pungency of Eucalyptus, evocative of many an Angelino's year-round outdoor childhood.

Unfortunately, many visitors to The Arboretum never venture into The Outback. It is the long loop around the Northern border of these 127 acres. Remote and peaceful; Australia is home to the Brachychitons. Strange and sculptural, beautiful in bloom and out, the genus Brachychiton includes 31 trees and large shrubs. All are native to Australia save one species, Brachychiton carruthersii, which hails from New Guinea.

Evocative of its common name of "bottle-tree" is the bulbous-based, voluptuous trunk which shows its characteristic shape in specimens as young as five years old. Another common name is "Kurrajong", which is the Aboriginal word for "fibre-yielding-plant". The fibrous inner bark of Brachychiton was used for weaving fishing nets, rope and basketry. The root, seeds (which resemble little kernels of corn), bark, gum and stems are all edible and have historically been a food source for both animals and people.

Brachychiton is actually a member of the same family as chocolate, the Sterculiaceae or Cacao family.

The Arboretum is home to seven species of the genus: Brachychiton acerifolius, Brachychiton australis, Brachychiton lidwillii, Brachychiton discolor, Brachychiton gregorii, Brachychiton populneus, and Brachychiton rupestris.

The species Brachychiton rupestris, "Queensland bottle-tree", is perhaps the best representative of the dramatic bottle-shaped base. Its delicate, lanceolate leaves create a wonderful contrast to its heavy elephantine trunk. There is a younger specimen of this species in the new Australian Children's Discovery Node Amphitheatre area, along with some very young Brachychiton australis.

To view more mature specimens of Brachychiton, continue north along the tram road from the Amphitheatre. On the left, about 50 yards from the Amphitheatre, is a stand of mature Brachychiton discolor, or "Queensland facebark" trees. Virtually unnoticed much of the year, in the summer these majestic trees tower above the tram road and snower passersby with a rain of fuzzy golden pinkness. Covered with felt-like, magenta-pink, bell-shaped blooms, ochre buds and large velvety boat-shaped pods simultaneously, this species is entrancing to behold. B.

discolor is also striking out of bloom. The odd solitary eye shapes that appear to be carved deep into the bark seem to peer curiously out at visitors strolling past.

These "eyes" are characteristic of Brachychitons as are the distinctive canoe-shaped seed pods, which vary in size and fuzziness according to species. Pods begin with a golden pubescent fuzz or glabrous sheen and mellow with age to a deep, leathery brown. These pods often hang like pagan yuletide ornaments decorating Brachychiton for months. Size, bloom-color, leaf and trunk shape and coloration all vary according to species.

Just behind this stand of lookers, just steps off the tram road, is a little thicket of mature representatives of the species B. populneus, "Kurrajong", B. acerifolius, "Flame Kurrajong", which blooms a brilliant fiery red on bare branches and B. rupestris, the aforementioned living sculpture, "Queensland bottle-tree". Dried, fallen, munched-upon little boats lie upon a sea of thick spongy duff.

Drought tolerant, distinctive bark, striking blooms, architectural form, interesting pods and related to chocolate. What better reason to go walkabout in the bush?

Visit the Australian section this summer and see the 1000' mosaic Serpent Trail installed by artist Leigh Adams.



# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

## Corporations Making A Difference At The Arboretum

Many non-profits rely on corporations and foundations for their contributions in the philanthropic arena, The Arboretum is grateful and thanks the following corporations and foundations for their continued support and contributions:

### LA Garden Show



**Monrovia Growers** has partnered with The Arboretum since the beginning of the rebranding of the LA Garden Show. As the Presenting Partner, Monrovia has contributed monetary and in-kind contributions of plants surpassing \$125,000 in the last three years alone. The Monrovia team contributes too many hours of sweat equity to even put a monetary dollar amount. Monrovia is committed to enhancing the beauty and value of the North American landscape – one garden at a time and has chosen to deliver their distinctively better plants to all LA Garden Show customers.



**Armstrong Garden Centers** have been involved with the LA Garden Show, even before there was a LA Garden Show. As a Supporting Partner of the 2008 LA Garden Show, Armstrong has contributed monetary and in-kind contributions of plants surpassing \$25,000. The team at Armstrong Garden Centers are committed to their customers' gardening success by providing the highest quality and finest selection of new and different plants.



**Garden Design Magazine** has contributed to the LA Garden Show for three years running. For the past two years, they have been a Designing Partner contributing over \$10,000 in media coverage. This year, Garden Design has stepped up as a Supporting Partner; they have contributed over \$25,000 in media coverage. Garden Design is the champion of the exterior design movement, covering the best and most important in design of outdoor spaces.



**Smith & Hawken** has been involved with the LA Garden Show for the last two years. As a Designing Partner, they have contributed over \$10,000 in monetary and in-kind contributions. The team at Smith & Hawken was also a vendor bringing authenticity, style, and above all, craftsmanship of their finest quality products to the garden shoppers of the LA Garden Show.

## JUST FOR MEMBERS

*Enjoy your summer days at The Arboretum sunrise to sunset*

### Sunrise

Early admission for members begins at 7am during August

### Sunset

Late evenings open until 7pm

Wednesday, August 13 & 27

Doors close at 7 pm, but members may stay until 7:30. Valid for members only.

This offer is only valid for members. Paid admission will not be accepted. Annual memberships are available for sale at the door.

www.arboretum.org

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Cover image:

*Iris siberica 'Caesar's Brother' at Baldwin Lake*



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