

NEWSLETTER



ARBORETA & BOTANIC GARDENS

prepared by the public services division

August 10, 1972

RESEARCH DIVISION

Our congratulations to Jack McCaskill who was recently elected Vice President of the California Historical Societies at the annual conference held in Riverside this year. Over 200 Historical Societies belong to this group, and Jack represented three local historical societies.

The most infamous underground character of the Southern California area is Armillaria mellea, the oak root - rot fungus. Like all shady creatures, it carries on its trade best in dark corners. Light inhibits its growth to a great extent. James Doty is currently studying the light inhibition phenomenon of Armillaria in culture. However, Armillaria is self - luminescent. If you take an Armillaria infested wood or pure culture plate into a dark room, after a few minutes of slight adjustment you can see it glowing. Photographs can be taken of its luminescence without using any light. Using a plus X film with a camera distance of 3 feet and exposed for 5 minutes, you will obtain a picture of Armillaria. By studying the phenomenon of light inhibition, we might be able to understand more about the physiology, especially their nutrient relationship and pathogenicity of Armillaria.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

As August and September are AID redesignation months, please be sure to obtain the necessary form from Charleen Bastion, Arboretum Aid Chairman, so that you may redesignate your AID contribution. If you do not have a specific organization to which you wish to donate, your AID deduction will be distributed to all the organizations

Wages for some craft positions will go into effect September 1, 1972.

Should you have any payroll problems from this point on, you may contact Janice Kohler who is

now assisting Charleen in payroll. (She will probably refer you to Charleen, but please give her a chance.)

SOUTH COAST DIVISION

We are pleased to welcome two new GMM's to our staff: Mike Schary, who joined us in early July; and Tom Peters, starting here August 1.

Joe Mendoza (AA) is recuperating at home following surgery on his left knee. He is now able to get around a little with the aid of crutches, but it will probably be several weeks before he can return to his duties here. We wish Joe a speedy and complete recovery.

South Bay Bromeliad Society named Henry Noerdlinger an Honorary Life Member at their Annual meeting on July 2.

The annual Fiesta de Flores (July 7 - 9) was attended by over 5,000 visitors. SCBG staff had a display booth and individual staff members competed in many of the classes. The cactus and succulent display entitled "A Potpourri of Favorites" won the Special Blue Award.

In the Information Center there is an interesting exhibit on diatomaceous earth, courtesy of Johns-Manville Corporation and their representative Mr Lee Clemens.

Birders reported sighting rufous hummingbirds, ash-throated flycatchers, black phoebes, rough-winged sparrows, barn sparrows, cliff sparrows, robins, hooded orioles, Bullock's orioles, and American goldfinches. The most unusual species spotted this summer was the phainopepla. The flock observed was the first recorded at SCBG.

The State Department of Fish and Game restocked our lake with Mohave chubs. Sorry, no fishing, the chubs are an endangered species.

EDUCATION DIVISION

Welcome to Patricia (Pat) Robison, the Division's new secretary as of August 3. Pat really belongs! Her grandfather was the winemaker and butcher for Lucky Baldwin's Rancho Santa Anita. She is also a long time friend of John Valdez who became a member of the grandfather's family after the Rancho Days!

Welcome back to George Spalding and Patty Warren who have returned from long sick leaves, and many thanks to all those who kept their shows on the road during their absences.

Hats off to the SCBG Foundation for financing the enclosure of the Youth Education shelter. A special thanks to the children and teachers there who endured the 115 degree inside temperatures for lack of air conditioning. That will be different next summer after power is brought to the building!

The Education Division office with 53 hours of Las Voluntarias help, processed 7,376 fall schedule brochures for distribution and mailing to let the world know that the 20 Adult courses are ready to roll as is the new series of 6 Mini Courses sponsored by the California Arboretum Foundation. John Provine, Don Fitch, Earl Ross, Bob Vargas, and Frank Simerly are the instructors for these new concentrated workshops.

Library purchasing will be somewhat accelerated during the next 6 months. Anyone wanting to make a recommendation of a special book or periodical of worth to a Plant Science Library should get the request in with sound justification without delay.

DESCANSO GARDENS IN THE SUMMER:

When the Santa Ana is not blowing in, and there is no smog, the sun shines brightly on Descanso from early morning until late afternoon. These days it scorches the chapparal, causing the black sage and the California Bay trees to give off a pungent odor.

It sucks up the water from the roses, and the camellias; but the live oaks stand fast, with their rugged trunks and excurrent branches. They offer a retreat for the hikers and the tourist as well.

The painters come daily to spend long hours. They are an interesting group as they pull their homemade carts to haul easels and canvas. They hurry to get a more coveted spot by the stream that rushes down out of Hall Beckley canyon from high up in the Angeles Crest Forest.

The annual flower beds of impatiens, periwinkles, ageratum, marigolds, and the multicoloured amaranthas are in full bloom; the red, ochre, yellow, white and blue colors can be found here among them.

The sun, the flowers, the artists and the serenity of Descanso are an unforgettable combination.

PEOPLE:

Bill Boor has recovered from a broken elbow and returned to work last Tuesday.

Nat Jackson just returned from a week's vacation in San Diego where he attended the grand chapter of the Masonic convention. Nat is a 32^o Mason and the grand worshipful master of his lodge.

Don Graf and family are back after a month of vacationing and camping in British Columbia.

PUBLIC SERVICES DIVISION

The division reports a busier-than-ever July at the Arboretum and South Coast, with record attendance for the month recorded this year (70,745 and 10,052 respectively.) At Descanso, 11 days of 100^o F. plus weather kept crowds to 38,020, a loss of 2,945 from 1971. Henry Noerdlinger also reports that the number of tram tours given at South Coast has increased even more dramatically than attendance. 102 were given this July, as opposed to 32 in 1971.

In response to an inquiry or two, we will start printing the Poisonous Plant brochure next week. After the printing, 90,000 sheets of paper will be returned to Central Duplicating for collating, trimming, and stitching, resulting in 10m copies of a 36-page brochure. When? Say about 3 - 5 weeks.

We would also like to say a final farewell to Ray Robinson, who left August 9 for two years in Egypt.