

Arboretum Library
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Arboretum News

Spring 1998

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE CALIFORNIA ARBORETUM FOUNDATION

50 Years of Plants and People - California Arboretum Foundation 1948-1998

We are Unified!

We are unified! The Arboretum will now be jointly run and managed by the California Arboretum

Foundation and the County of Los Angeles. The Operating Agreement between both parties has been signed and approved by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

The Supervisors made the decision to abolish the Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens in 1993, and incorporate the administration of The Arboretum under the Department of Parks and Recreation. During this time programming has expanded, problems of deferred maintenance have been addressed, and exciting new events have been instituted. What has been lacking however, was a unified approach to serving our constituency - the residents of Los Angeles County, surrounding communities and the many other visitors.

Although those of us who are closely associated with The Arboretum - CAF Trustees, employees, and the many volunteers - are familiar with The Arboretum Mission Statement, I would ask our Foundation members to read the following in order to recall who we are and why we are:

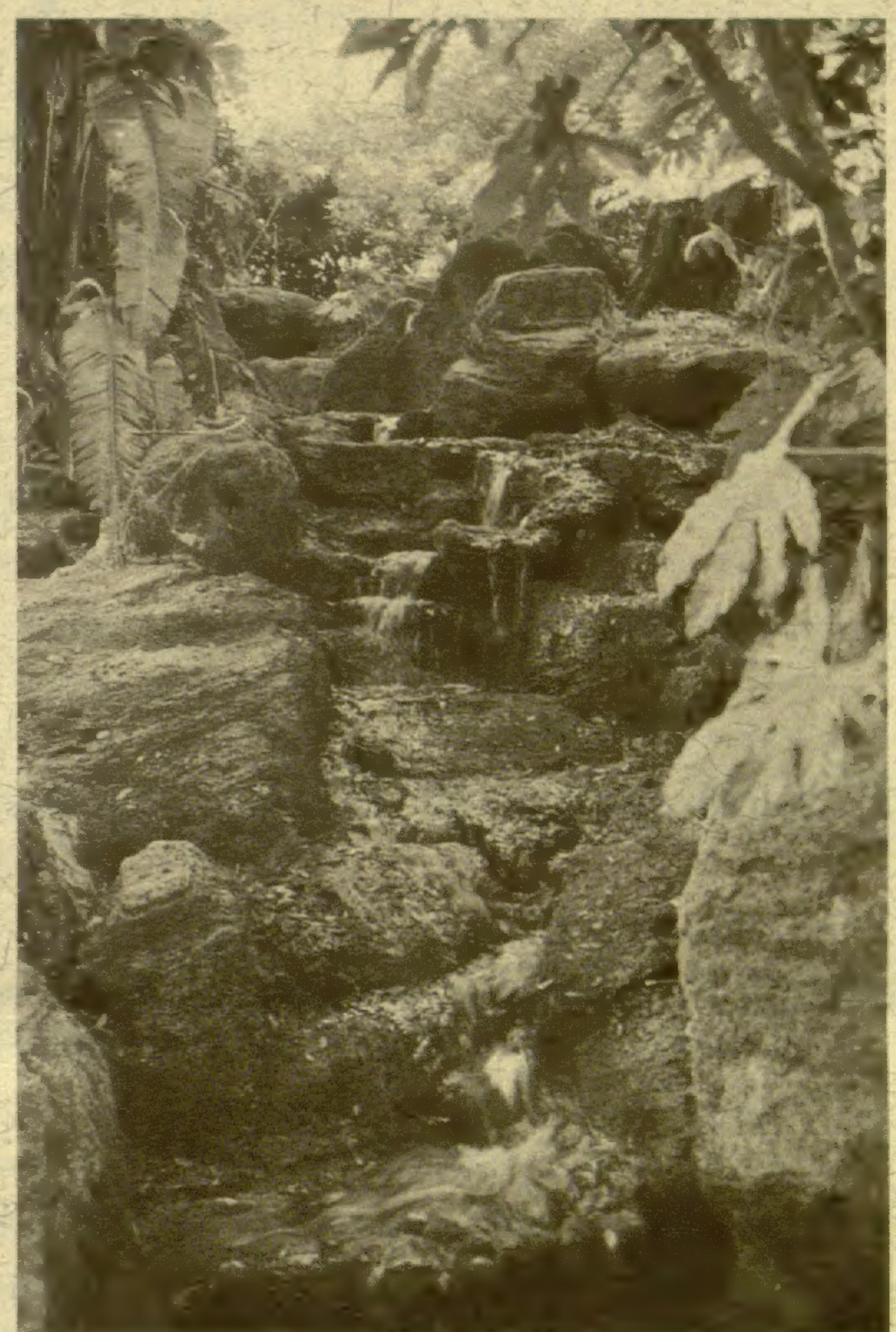
MISSION STATEMENT

The Arboretum of Los Angeles County is a botanic garden and historical site comprised of 127 acres that is supported through the cooperative efforts of the public and private sectors. Its mission is to enhance the quality of life in Southern California through botanic research and education, fostering horticultural development in the region and preserving and displaying items

of early California history associated with the site. The Arboretum accomplishes its mission by:

- maintaining a living collection of plants under scientific management
- introducing, testing and improving plants adaptable to Southern California
- presenting educational programs concerning the propagation, and value of plants in daily life
- providing a center for gardening and horticulture that displays unique and attractive plant life for planting in Southern California
- serving as an oasis and site of historical interest for the enjoyment of the public
- maintaining a horticultural library and herbarium
- publishing bulletins, books and pamphlets of horticultural, botanical and historical interest
- preserving and displaying early California buildings and historical gardens
- serving as a bird sanctuary

This statement is an integral part of the new Operating Agreement. The contract spells out the organization and procedures that the CAF and the County of Los Angeles will follow to accomplish this mission. Anyone who would like to read the Agreement is welcome to come by the Foundation office and read it in full, but the salient points are as follows:



- The functions of the CAF and Los Angeles County shall be integrated in the management and operation of The Arboretum.
- They will be directed by a Chief Executive Officer of The Arboretum. This is a new position funded by both the County and the CAF.
- This CEO will report to the Joint Executive Committee comprised of the Director of Parks and Recreation and the President, CAF Board of Trustees.
- The Arbiter, if needed, will be the County of Los Angeles Chief Administrative Officer.
- The County will commit resources at the 1996-97 fiscal year levels (\$1,060,000) subject to the County's annual budget process.

Continued on page 2

Continued from front page

- The CAF will commit resources to the extent feasible to operate programs at a first class level, to increase attendance revenues and private support for The Arboretum.
- The term of this Operating Agreement is to be for 20 years.

Now that the Operating Agreement has been completed we are preparing to look to the future with a mutual sense of relief and anticipation. At all times both parties to the contract have had the best interests of The Arboretum at heart. We are now able to enjoy a synergy which will allow us to continue our existing operations more efficiently and make future planning more effective.

Our first task is to hire the new CEO. A joint committee of three representatives of the CAF and three from the County is charged with this task and has already held their first meeting. We are proceeding with all due speed on this front.

Concurrently, we are reviewing development plans, and other studies in our recent archives, in order to assess their relevance to our current Mission Statement. As soon as we have completed the review, we will prioritize these concepts. Although our new CEO will certainly be the driving force in any implementation, in order to attract a person of the highest caliber for this position we need to re-establish our focus.

This year as we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the CAF we are reminiscing about the history of The Arboretum and those outstanding individuals who had the vision and dedication to found this 127-acre botanical institution. We will be celebrating the beginning of our second half-century and entering the next millennium. Our faces will be the ones in photographs studied in 2048. Let's be worthy successors to our founders! •

Donivee Nash
President, Board of Trustees
California Arboretum Foundation

Linearity vs Systems Thinking

by Becca Hanson

There is no such thing as "before" or "after" - there is only "while at the same time."

The question has been posed: *Should physical master planning occur before or after strategic planning?* The following thoughts should help set the story straight.

It is very comforting for us to think that we can accomplish one task, the conclusion of which inevitable leads to the accomplishment of the subsequent task, and so forth, ad infinitum. The reality of the situation is quite different, whether the situation involves planning for our institutions or planning for our family's vacation. Rarely are individual tasks and results arranged in linear, continuously reinforcing sequences - much as our logical minds might cry out for such a scenario. So rather than try to create processes that depend linearity, why not take a step aback and see if we can't set up systems that invite serendipity, continuous communication, and the cross-fertilization of ideas?

I have strong opinions about whether or not physical master planning should precede strategic planning. I believe that not only should the former not precede the latter, but that a third element, interpretive planning should be added to the equation.

Physical Master Planning deals with the reality of the bricks and mortar, the utility infrastructure and waste stream, the plants and pathways, and the need to get people (staff, deliveries, and visitors) to flow seamlessly through our facilities, delighted, and comfortable. It opens up the possibilities of special design elements and programming options.

Strategic Planning involves answering the question: What will it take to make this plan and this institution successful? It deals with issues of timing and organizational framework, funding

sources and fund-raising tactics. It opens up the possibilities of partnerships and communications planning.

Interpretive Planning is about identifying what your visitors know and what they need to know, determining the crucial areas of information for the future, and inventorying the collections and the institution to develop approaches to information exchange that provide thoughtful and stimulating communication. It opens up the possibilities of special design elements and communications planning.

Each of these incremental pieces of the planning continuum encompasses pieces that influence each of the others. •

Becca Hanson is a Principal with The Portico Group. Reprinted by permission from AABGA (American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta) from Public Gardens, October 1997.

Interpretive Planning: Why we are UNIQUE ...

The Arboretum of Los Angeles County is a beautiful, out of doors natural learning center about the inter-relatedness of plants, animals, and humans from pre-Columbian times. The garden as a whole is a living laboratory, green oasis for visitors, and microcosms of wildlife. It is an environmental museum. It has an institutional mandate to acquaint visitors with the role of plants in the urban environment and over time. No other garden in Southern California boasts the natural features and history of land use like The Arboretum, nor the planned layout by geography and taxonomy of plant collections chosen from around the world for their adaptability to our semi-arid climate.

Judith Morse
Executive Director
California Arboretum Foundation

The Role of Garden Blenders and Weavers

by Jan Smithen, a regular contributor
to the Arboretum News



Do you ever look at your flower borders and see holes and gaps where the bare earth shows through? Do you wish for something to skirt the bare legs of a shrub rose to anchor it into neighboring shrubs and perennials? Do you hope that when June comes along, the border will overflow with the feeling of abundance? Will flowers and foliage ever lap out over the edges of lawns and walks, then trail up through background shrubs and around the edges of perennials?

This is the role of the blenders and weavers of the garden. These are annuals and perennials that reach out to wind and twine, billow out, or fill gaps, then retreat or die back at season's end. Now is the time to find and plant them so they'll fill in and show off by June.

In my garden, the cranesbill geraniums are some of the best for this supporting role. Their flowers are small and quiet; their foliage is soft. Many of them bloom on long arms that reach out as they grow. *Geranium oxonianum* 'A.T. Johnson' is an example. In winter, it is just a clump of shining apple-green foliage. When weather warms, branching wands of dime-size pink flowers begin to extend. These continue to grow and bloom throughout the spring and summer filling in ugly gaps. They also stretch back up into any adjacent shrub or

rose. I can trim back these "arms" where not needed at any time and new ones will grow, blooming all the way. *Geranium wallichianum* 'Buxton's Blue' will do the same for a shade garden. A loose wanderer, it blooms all summer with pale blue cup shaped flowers weaving together Japanese anemone foliage, ferns and the dark straps of liriopse.

I like *Geranium* x 'Stanhoe' at the foot of any pink rose. Its round and scalloped leaves are the color of cafe au lait. Its small pale pink flowering strands will reach up into the rose, winking out magically between the rose blooms. Give 'Stanhoe' rich moist soil, and these basal leaves can be five inches across, lapping out over path and lawn edges. The new *Geranium* x 'Ann Folkard' has even more of a wandering habit. Its golden foliage becomes lime green in light shade. The lengthening arms will weave four or five feet through dark leafed companions during summer, then return to base at the end of the season. 'Ann Folkard' has deep magenta blooms with dark eyes, sexy for bees!

Many violas can stretch and climb if they have a supporting neighbor. They will continue to bloom into summer if given light shade and regular water. Two bred from the perennial *Viola cornuta* are 'Maggie Mott', a soft lavender, and 'Etain', pale lemon with violet edges. Vigorous and long blooming, try either under the north side of a shrub rose. Give them the idea and little help up into it. You'll be surprised with their weaving abilities. My favorite, the species itself, *Viola cornuta* will do the same but is

harder to find. A true perennial, it often lives over the summer if given enough moisture. Its blooms are pure white with very narrow petals, giving them a "startled jackrabbit" look. But poking up among your shady ground covers, *Viola cornuta* will bloom and grow out two to three feet. If they start looking tired, I just cut them back to the base, fertilize and soak. Back they come and bloom all the way.

A weaver and blender I have found useful in my Mediterranean garden is *Convolvulus mauritanicus*. Its dark green rounded foliage is a good background for its two-inch lavender-blue morning glory shaped flowers. Often called "Ground Morning Glory", this low spreading plant blooms heavily in spring, then less in summer. It also reaches out with blooming arms that encircle my lavenders, salvias and cistus. Climbing up inside a small clipped Arizona cypress, it pokes its blue glories out until they are shaved off. It now is hoisting itself up into the base of the pale yellow climbing rose, Maréchal Niel. Never a nuisance, it serves me well as the plant that ties the garden together. *Convolvulus mauritanicus* thrives in hot sun as well as part shade and is moderately drought resistant, once established.

Another one of my favorite gap fillers for sun or light shade is one of the trailing varieties of nasturtium, *Tropaeolum majus*. Its lily-pad leaves look good swirling around the base of any shrub, post or wall. Try a few scrambling around under your birdbath. Just poke five or six seeds into the soil during one of our spring rains and see how fast they fill in. The variegated leaf nasturtium lights up a shady corner so well, you'll not care whether it blooms or not. Nasturtiums die out with the heat and dryness of summer, but always leave behind self-sown seeds to volunteer with next winter's rain.

These are all easy and happy companion plants. They fill in the garden and make it comfortable. 🌱

Baldwin Bonanza XXVIII

Festival of Plants



Chapter Twenty-Eight, in the entertaining and ever successful saga of Baldwin Bonanza Weekend, a tradition at The Arboretum since 1970, is titled *Festival of Plants*. *Festival of Plants* continues the Baldwin Bonanza tradition with unique garden exhibits and special attention to plant selection. 1998 salutes collections, with such captivating commodities as the Bonanza Salvia Collection, Bonanza Lavender Collection, Bonanza Herb Collection, the Baldwin Penstemon Collection and much more to entice the *Festival of Plants* guest. Theme gardens such as the Moonlight Garden, Sunset Garden, Shade Garden and Butterfly and Hummingbird Garden will be on hand along with plants that are considered "off the beaten path." Also new this year is

the Baldwin Bonanza XXVIII Pavilion featuring garden accessories to enhance your garden design.

A partial list of plant societies joining the *Festival of Plants* celebration by providing plants for the sale are the Southern Clematis Society and the California Rare Fruit Growers Society.

Carolyn Otto, a member of the CAF Board of Trustees is Chair of the Baldwin Bonanza Guild for Baldwin Bonanza XXVIII.

Members of Los Voluntarios and the California Arboretum Foundation make up the various committees for the annual plant sale and *Festival of Plants* Preview Party.

What else? *Festival of Plants* Preview Party is Friday, May 1, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. For those who have enjoyed the Preview Party in the past, and for those who haven't, come sample the al fresco dining. This, combined with the privilege of being first to view and purchase from the Collections, and bid on new and traditional favorites at the Baldwin Bonanza XXVIII auction, creates an evening to remember. Invitations in the mail by March 13, but make your reservation at \$35 per person by calling 626/447-8207. The CAF Members Only Sale is Saturday, May 2, from 7 to 9 a.m., membership cards are required!

Festival of Plants opens to the public on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Arboretum admission fees apply. 🌿

Members and friends have the opportunity to make a tax deductible donation of garden accessories for the Baldwin Bonanza XXVIII Pavilion. Some ideas might be planters, decorative items, statuary, stepping stones, ornaments and trellises. Bring your donations to the CAF office.





BALDWIN BONANZA XXVIII Festival of Plants

FRIDAY, MAY 1

Baldwin Bonanza Preview Party

4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

\$35 per person

SATURDAY, MAY 2

CAF Members Only Sale

(enter at Ayres Hall gate)

7 - 9 a.m.

CAF Membership Cards Required

Public Sale

9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Arboretum Fees Apply

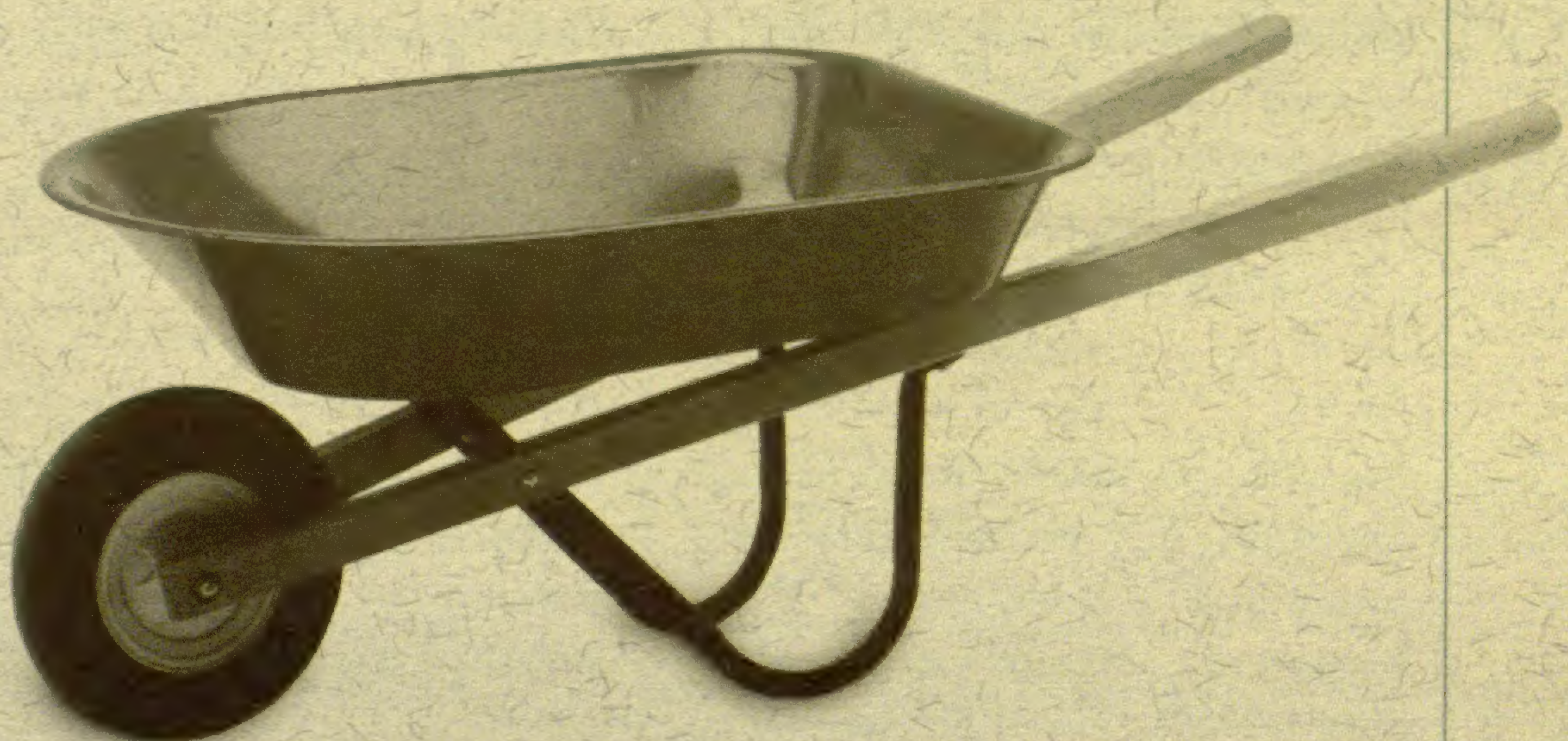
1998 Baldwin Bonanza XXVIII Festival of Plants

Steering Committee

CHAIR Carolyn Otto

Jim Anderson	Whilma Holcombe
Marcia Bent	Kathleen Liu
Marilyn Brumder	Timothy McCarthy
Don Christensen	Carol McVay
Bill Crosson	Barbara Moorehead
Carol Cupp	Margo (Niki) Nikoloric
Donald Deise	Peg Rahn
Suzanne Deise	Billie Reynolds
Jane Dick	Fred Schoellkopf
John Foley	Elena Shoch
Suzanne Haller	Laney Techentin
Pris Hoecker	

*Remember to bring your
wheelbarrows and wagons
for easy plant shopping!*



1998 Los Angeles Garden Show: Gardens of the Silver Screen, October 8-11



GARDENS • FLOWERS
LECTURES • MARKETPLACE

“Gardens of the Silver Screen,” has been announced as the theme of the fourth annual Los Angeles Garden Show by Donivee Nash, President of the California Arboretum Foundation.

The dates of the Show, Thursday, October 8, through Sunday, October 11, are earlier this year to allow for a longer day at the Show. Extended hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. The date change also provides more and easier parking at Santa Anita Park for Garden Show guests.

“Gardens of the Silver Screen” is reflected in the Style Garden designs for large and small areas. Other traditional

favorites taking their ideas from cinemaland are the Robinsons•May Floral Pavilion and the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) Tablescares.

Look for the Lectures and Demonstrations, the Los Angeles Times Cooking Pavilion, the PlantMarket, and the MarketPlace to feature some surprises from the best days of the silver screen.

New features include Children’s Garden Playhouses, a Garden Birdhouse Display and a Flower Festival.

Tickets are \$6.50 for group presale of ten or more, \$8 general admission and \$6 for California Arboretum Foundation members. Children 11 and under are free. ☛

Summer Concert Season Returns

Foundation members have a special opportunity for this summer’s California Philharmonic Orchestra concert series at The Arboretum. Members are offered a 20% discount *off the face value* of an individual ticket. To place your order, please phone 626-844-6600, mention that you are a Foundation member and enjoy this benefit. This summer’s season includes seven Saturday performances starting at 7:30 p.m. under the baton of Victor Vener.

Summer Season Performances:

July 4	“All American”
July 18	“Very Viennese”
August 1	“Movie Magic”
August 15	“Obviously Opera”
August 29	“Mostly Mozart”
September 12	“Basically Broadway”
September 26	“Totally Tchaikovsky”

Join Us and Say Thanks to Earl Ross

Earl Ross is retiring after a long and dedicated career as curator of the Orchid Collection at The Arboretum. In celebration of his remarkable contribution, we are hosting an informal gathering on Friday, March 20th, in the newly refurbished Lecture Hall from 2 to 4 p.m. If Earl has touched your own interest in orchids either directly or indirectly, please join us on March 20th and RSVP to the CAF office at 626-447-8207. We are also putting together a Memory Book for him and would welcome your own written note for inclusion. If you are unable to attend the gathering, you may still send your note to the CAF office prior to March 20th. ☛



Spring is the season to become a Member of The California Arboretum Foundation

- Benefactor Member** (\$1,000/year)
- Affiliate Member** (\$500/year)
- Sponsor Member** (\$250/year)
- Sustainer Member** (\$100/year)
- Garden Member** (\$55/year)
- Individual Member** (\$40/year)
- Golden Garden Member** (\$35/year)

\$ _____ Membership
 \$ _____ I have enclosed a donation to benefit The Arboretum
 \$ _____ Total Payment Enclosed



Mr. and Mrs./ Ms./Miss/Mr./Mrs.

Address

City, State and Zip

() ()

Phone: Home Office

- Check enclosed payable to CAF
- Mastercard Visa
- American Express

Card #

Expiration Date

Signature

Date

Mail to: Membership Manager
 California Arboretum Foundation
 301 N. Baldwin Avenue
 Arcadia, CA 91007-2697

Thank you to the following members who donated financial support from October 15, 1997 through January 26, 1998

- Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Ames, Jr.
- Mr. and Mrs. Hancock Banning III
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- Mr. and Mrs. J.L. Beauchamp
- Mr. and Mrs. William Bedford
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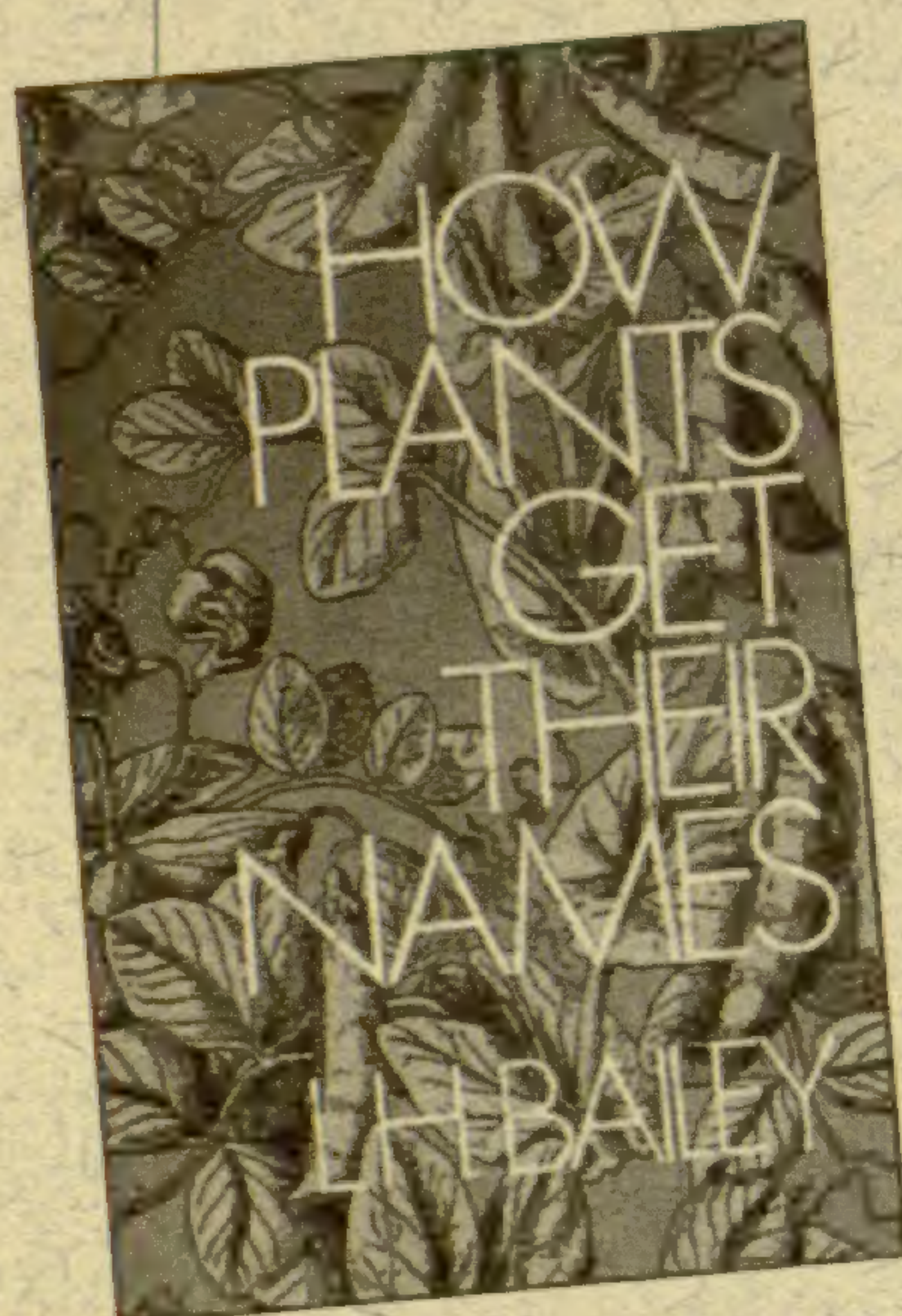
MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS BLOSSOM IN YOUR GARDEN

JUST IN TIME FOR SPRING PLANTING ... all members of the Foundation also receive a 10% discount at the following nurseries:

- ALTADENA NURSERY**
1968 N. Lake Avenue, Altadena
- BURKHARD NURSERIES, INC.**
390 N. Orange Grove, Pasadena
- DESERT TO JUNGLE NURSERY**
3211 W. Beverly Blvd, Montebello
- FOUR SEASON ORCHID**
823 S. San Gabriel, San Gabriel
- GARDEN VIEW NURSERY**
12901 Lower Azusa Road, Irwindale
- LAS TUNAS NURSERY**
1155 E. Las Tunas Drive, San Gabriel
- PLANT SYSTEM**
2552 Hyperion Avenue, Silverlake

- PRESENT PERFECT**
140 S. Kinneloa Avenue, Pasadena
- ROGER'S GARDENS**
2301 San Joaquin Hills, Corona del Mar
- SAN GABRIEL NURSERY**
632 S. San Gabriel Blvd, San Gabriel
- SMITH & HAWKEN**
519 S. Lake, Pasadena
- SOUTH PASADENA NURSERY**
1507 El Centro, South Pasadena
- STEWART ORCHIDS**
3838 Sepulveda Blvd, Culver City
- 3376 Foothill Blvd, Carpentaria

Having Trouble Pronouncing Those Plant Names? The Gift Shop can help with new garden titles!



How Plants Get Their Names

L.H. Bailey

A basic introduction to botanical nomenclature which shows the fun and advantages of a sound, scientific approach. This book introduces the reader to the rules of nomenclature with easy explanations of Latin roots plus plant identification. Paperback, \$5.95.



Gardener's Latin

Bill Neal

A beautifully illustrated book representing a "glossary" of botanical names and the lore acquired down through the centuries. A book of special importance to the gardener for its listings of species, genus, and horticultural variety. Hardcover only, \$14.95.

New Pronouncing Dictionary of Plant Names

A handy reference booklet to aid the average reader in gaining a fuller understanding of the pronunciation and spelling of plant names. Paperback, \$3.50.



Visit the CAF Website at www.arboretum.org



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Gift Shop: (626) 447-8751 Open to the public 10-5pm

Arboretum Information: (626) 821-3222

Plant Advice: (626) 821-3239

CAF information line: (626) 294-2059

CAF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Judith S. Morse, Executive Director

Have you received your February, March
Calendar of Events? If not, call us!

Look for your next calendar toward the end of March.



Dated Material