ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW TO DISCOVER
MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

G. Arnold Mulder, M.D, President

This issue of The Arboretum Members Magazine has a piece by Andrew Ma of Arcadia High School, which I hope you will read.

In our last issue, we talked about garden diversity and how amazing it is that our local climate can allow us so many plant choices. It is our access to water that gives us this freedom, but we know that we live on the edge of the desert, actually and metaphorically. The grace and flow of nature happens because of this water, but its charm is fragile and inconstant. It's nice to read a student's take on the subject of the value of the natural world.

Young people discover this world in thousands of ways and their reaction to it is equally diverse. But, in learning that an acorn becomes an oak, that the desert blooms, that we cannot live without chlorophyll, that nucleic acids are the basis of all life and that we are only a blink in nature's eye, inquiring young minds are lead to value our surroundings.

These considerations are what arboreta are all about and we hope our mission of education and inspiration will bring our future scientists and political leaders to a love of the world of plants. Plants, more than beachfront property, will be our early warning system as our climate warms. Like glaciers, they will make the visible argument that the bad dream is real. The 20th century has been a disaster for Earth and we need to reverse many frightening trends.

So, I find Andrew's plea to parents to bring your children early to a love of nature compelling and important. I hope you do too.

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

Discovery At The Arboretum

Mark K. Wourms, Ph.D., CEO

Human beings are curious creatures. By nature we are simultaneously enthralled by and fear new items and experiences. These conflicting tendencies explain why some of us become world explorers and others rarely venture beyond our familiar neighborhood and paths. Exploration, of course, does not always involve long travel and hazards. Exploration can include the detailed examination of a flower, the quick following of a bird, or peering behind a rock or shrub. The Arboretum’s 127 acres has abundant opportunities for exploration.

Wandering beyond the big shrubs, rocks, and massive tree trunks, I found a Costa’s hummingbird nest a few weeks ago (future Korean Garden site). My weekly check-ups allowed me to enjoy the young hummingbird’s rapid growth. I also found a gold mine or red squill or sea onion (*Uginea martima*) bulbs, hunkered down on the ground (*Aloe Trial*). And, of course, discovering an amazing clump of metallic-blue flowering Puya from Chile is an experience that cannot be beat. The flowers of this tough bromeliad are just not-to-be-believed (*Tallac Knoll*).

When one explores, near or far, discoveries follow. The Arboretum is proud to be home to natural, horticultural, and historic resources to be explored. The discoveries made at The Arboretum can provide learning, enjoyment, and inspiration for you. To maximize these benefits, I invite you to step off that familiar path. Go to the turtle pond, via a new route. Find a new place to sit, a new flower to smell.

I play this game with my children in the garden, and even sometimes when I’m alone. Walk 50 paces, stop and look around – up, down, sideways – and really pay attention to the plants, soil textures, insects, and feel the sun and wind. Go another 50 paces and repeat. By the third and fourth stop you have honed your observational skills. The ground looks different. The air smells different. The blooms below your knees are suddenly beautiful and the fruit above your head suddenly appears. Insects and birds are part of your world, or you a part of theirs. This is your garden--explore it fully, but gently. Discover the world of plants and you may also discover your place in nature. I’ll be looking for you in the garden. Start counting.
Finding Our Roots
Andrew Ma, Junior Intern

Nature has withered slowly out of our lives. A scampering squirrel, a vivacious hummingbird: these are the thrills of local nature that once mesmerized us since we first indulged our infant curiosities with the surrounding world. As we began trying the limits of our newfound freedom on two feet, our attentions looked outward and upward, across the vast fields of spring grass and into the branches of oak trees. We had no cares, no worries, no concerns: our spirits roamed free on the vast expanses around us.

Yet a new generation is upon us. We pride ourselves in the rapid expansion of electronic technology, forgetting the simpler treasures that once enthralled us. The domestic household, now busier than ever, finds itself suffering from inconvenience. There is no longer time to accompany children to play in the park; it’s simply easier to sit them in front of a television or place a video game in their hands. From there, these kids become mentally engineered to accept this form of recreation, and as a result, few ever really see the outside world beyond the trips to school or the nearby mall.

Yet a new generation is upon us. We pride ourselves in the rapid expansion of electronic technology, forgetting the simpler treasures that once enthralled us.

Sadly, I have seen the vast majority of my friends succumb to this new philosophy of insensitivity. They are no longer in touch with nature around them. Our lives have become fast-paced, consumed by homework, school stress, and friendship woes. Many of us believe that there will be plenty of time to enjoy nature after retirement, starting into our senior years, when we’ve finally exited the social rat race. The time for nature, however, should be lifelong.

I rediscovered nature and its beauty while exploring my love of photography. I wanted to capture the essence of art, and I found it in my surroundings. A single delicate rose emanated a brilliance
that could only be described by intangible feelings. That is the power of nature: to reach out to us, to captivate us, to take us out of our busy lifestyles and remind us of a simpler, purer time.

From nature, we learn the virtue of patience. In a world constantly rushing from place to place, there remains a delicate peace outside our windows.

From nature, we learn the virtue of patience. In a world constantly rushing from place to place, there remains a delicate peace outside our windows. Embracing the outdoors and its fruits establishes an everlasting connection to our beautiful home. Wandering through a botanical garden or even just a community park unifies us with a greater existence on this planet, and our love for nature will grow to a greater respect for the environment. So take some time, wander out beyond the confines of our comfortable houses. New discoveries await, and this love of nature's wonders will implant and blossom for generations to come.

Andrew Ma is 17 years old and a senior at Arcadia High School. Andrew joined the Junior Volunteer Program at The Arboretum in September, 2004. He is now a Junior-Intern in the Marketing & Communications department. Andrew enjoys reading classics, taking natural photographs, and playing the cello. He is currently the president of SIGN Club at Arcadia High and hopes to pursue a career in medicinal practice.
**August**

*Combretum fruticosum* Orange flame vine

With brilliant orange flowers shaped like a hairbrush on a twining vine, it deserves its common name “orange flame vine.” *Combretum fruticosum* is also known as the chameleon flower because the blooms go from green to yellow and finally to its hallmark flaming orange. It is native to Central and South America where it grows in forest canopies. According to recent studies, the nectar produced by the flowers is used by at least half a dozen small mammals as a food source, and the plant relies on these mammals for pollination. The vine does well here as an ornamental, but can be deciduous.

**September**

*Gardenia thunbergia*

This shrubby South African gardenia has trumpet shaped jasmine scented blooms. The trumpet shape of the blooms is due to the fact that it is pollinated by hawk moths with tongues over five inches long. The plant has been used in its native Africa to treat skin lesions, leprosy, and syphilis. Its seeds are eaten by kudus and Cape buffalo. It is an excellent plant for a large sunny area, but remember it does not need frequent watering once it’s established. There is a large *Gardenia thunbergia* at the base of the stairs next to the Meyberg Waterfall.

**October**

*Urginea maritima*

The leafless flowering stalks of *Urginea maritima* seem to crowd each other out in the Aloe trail area of The Arboretum just across from the Peacock Café. Known as “Sea Squill,” the bulb of this Mediterranean native is poisonous, although it has been used medically as a potent diuretic and to treat severe bronchial coughs.

Contact the plant information line 626.821.3239 or plantinfo@arboretum.org to learn more about what's in bloom.
PLANT AHEAD
Events and Exhibitions

THE GREAT TOMATO TASTING August 13; 11 am to 1 pm
Taste-test a hundred different varieties of tomatoes grown by Steve Goto.

CACTUS SHOW AND SALE August 19 & 20; 9 am to 5 pm
Exotic cacti and succulents typically found in deserts, jungles and mountain
highlands, and some that are rare and endangered in their native habitat.
Seminars on plant care will be available.

CALIFORNIA PHILHARMONIC’S FAMILY NIGHT August 25; 5:30 pm to 8 pm
The Arboretum mixes the magic of nature with the discovery of great music.
This combination dramatically teaches the families who attend, leaving a
lasting appreciation for the arts and nature.

FERN AND EXOTIC PLANT SHOW AND SALE Sept. 2 & 3; 9 am to 4:30 pm
The show will display more than 60 varieties of ferns plus over 70 varieties
of exotic plants, rare species and collectibles. A series of free workshops and
lectures will be held each day.

TASTE AROUND ARCADIA September 18; 5:30 pm to 8 pm
Arcadia will dish up fare from some 27 restaurants for a good cause. The
fund-raising event will include a no-host bar, a raffle drawing and live music.
Call (626) 447-2159 for tickets.

INSECT & REPTILE FAIR September 23 & 24; 9 am to 5 pm
Local and exotic insects, spiders, scorpions, educational displays, equipment,
books and supplies, bug shirts and toys. Open on Friday for special
Education Insect Fair. Fun for the entire family.

KOREAN STONE EXHIBIT October 7 & 8; 9 am to 4 pm
This exhibit consists of water-polished and wind-blasted stones from rivers,
beaches and deserts in North America and Korea. In each stone, the viewer
will discover a peaceful place.

WINTER CACTUS SHOW AND SALE October 14 & 15; 9 am to 4 pm
Splendors of the fall and winter growing succulents and cacti rarely seen
in summer shows.

MAKE A DATE
Ongoing Activities

FREE with Arboretum Admission, unless otherwise noted

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

SANTA ANITA DEPOT
Tuesday & Wednesday; 10 am to 4 pm
Sundays; 1 to 4 pm

FAMILY BIRD WALK
1st Saturday of the month; 8 am

FAMILY PICNIC SUNDAYS
3rd Sunday of the month, 11 am to 3 pm

ARBORETUM BOOKWORMS (storytime and activity ages 3-8)
3rd Sunday of the month; 2 to 3 pm

FREE ADMISSION DAY
3rd Tuesday of the month

TRAM TOURS
Daily $3 per person
(call ahead for schedule of the day – call Rotunda 626.821.3238)

CALANDAR
KIDS IN NATURE

Tifanny Carr, Youth Program Manager

Arboretum Bookworms

Make & Take Crafts

Come to storytelling.

Explore The Arboretum Library and our great story trees! Enjoy plant & nature tales, as well as make & take crafts.

Upcoming Themes:
August: An Australian Tale
September: Flying Flowers
October: Pumpkins, Pumpkins, Pumpkins!

Dates: 3rd Sunday of the month
Time: 2-3pm
Fee: FREE with Arboretum Admission
Age Group: Kids (appropriate for ages 3-8)

Receive a Bookworms Passport during your first visit and a stamp for every Bookworms program you attend, and one for every plant or nature related book or activity that you do between programs! When you have 10 stamps on your passport, you will receive a Bookworms Plant from the Garden & Gift Shop to take home and plant in your own garden!

CONNECT

Fall Fun at The Halloween Family Festival
Saturday and Sunday, October 28 & 29, 10am-2pm

Spend a fun-filled day celebrating fall and nature, and of course, Halloween. Activities include a treasure hunt, bean-bag-toss, nature crafts, art, family photos, costume parade and much, much more. Costume Parade begins at 12pm. No pre-registration is required.

Regular Arboretum admission fees apply for non-members, plus $10 per child to participate in the event. The cost for members is only $5 per child.

Visit www.arboretum.org for more information.

VOLUNTEERING

Lisa Beach, Volunteer Manager

Twice the fun

Halloween is right around the corner and we need all the help we can get – twice as much as last year. It’s a two-day event this year with twice the fun. Help with event set-up and take-down, decorations, crafts, cashiering, membership sales, story-telling, pumpkin carving - and much more.

National Public Lands Day

The nation’s largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance public lands comes to The Arboretum on September 30. In 2005, nearly 90,000 volunteers built trails and bridges, planted trees and plants, and removed trash and invasive plants. Join us for the 13th annual National Public Lands Day and help us care for our land. The first 200 volunteers will receive a free poster as a gift for their participation. National Public Lands Day is sponsored by Toyota. For more information go to www.npld.com

To volunteer for these events contact Lisa Beach, Volunteer Manager at lisa.beach@arboretum.org or 626.821.5897.

THE GARDEN CONSERVANCY PRESENTS

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MEET AND GREET

Meet Jacklyn Robleto

Meet Jacklyn Robleto, The Arboretum’s 2006 J. Paul Getty Multicultural Intern. Jacklyn is going into her senior year at Cal Poly Pomona and is working towards her Bachelor of Science degree in Botany with minors in Plant Pathology, Chemistry, and Dance.

The Arboretum Library is gearing up for major changes in the near future the Arboretum is planning a complete overhaul and redesign of the existing website. It is Jacklyn’s mission to manage the site’s content, to make it more “user friendly,” and to document the code so that past information is retained yet leaves space and opportunity for more information. Jacklyn has become the unofficial Webmaster of The Arboretum’s web presence. Experience with home computers and amateur web design has helped Jacklyn add new features to the website. Among these new features are the addition of “Library Potpourri” (an online “Blog” which is an online journal of recent articles,) book lists, and websites of interest; these lists are created by Susan and formatted for the public to access.

Among her many other improvements to the website, Jacklyn has brought to life “KIDS CORNER,” that provides various facts, jokes and poems that are meant to spark a botanical interest in children who visit the site. Having a young daughter of her own, Jacklyn knew immediately that having a section dedicated to interested children would prove most beneficial to both parents and The Arboretum.

Jacklyn is a very talented and motivated young woman and loves meeting new guests at The Arboretum.

The J. Paul Getty Multicultural Internship is available to undergrad students to increase diversity in professions related to museums and the visual arts. The Arboretum falls under this category by being a living museum and historic site with over 3,500 different varieties of plants in collection. There is no greater art than that of nature.

GRAPESVINE

The Arboretum Receives New Garden Carts

Thanks to County Parks & Recreation, The Arboretum Gardeners now enjoy the use of three new garden utility carts in caring for the grounds and collections. Being of great help to the garden staff, these carts make a lot of hard work just a little bit easier.

“They allow me to drive right down my garden paths to get to the location where I can do my work”, says John Van Mater, gardener in the Tropical Forest Section. “...and they have a great carrying capacity”, he says.

“They’re much better than a wheelbarrow, and they’re great on gas too!” says Hank Hawkins, The Arboretum Gardener.

Another example of how Los Angeles County and The Arboretum Foundation’s partnership is improving The Arboretum.

By the Numbers

What would we do without our amazing volunteers?! A total of 205 adult volunteers gave 28,480.5 hours this past fiscal year. The Jr. Volunteer program provided us with a total of about 100 volunteers who gave 4,498.75 hours. That’s a total of 305 volunteers donating 32,979.25 hour of service! Thank you to all who give their time and support. It is truly appreciated. We are always looking for more people to volunteer their talents at The Arboretum.
Our “Oldest” Trees
Susan Eubank, Arboretum Librarian

I admit I was drawn in by the glamour of the whole thing. Lucky Baldwin and Tarzan had me perusing through reams of old photos and looking for when palms and eucalyptus came to Lucky’s ranch. Lucky’s blue gum eucalyptus (Eucalyptus globulus) in front of the Queen Anne Cottage can be traced through many of the pictures that feature a square-on shot of the front of the cottage. It’s so big, however, there are never any good pictures of the tree as a whole, just the trunk getting larger and larger as the years go by. Nobody considered the tree an essential part of the cottage; just something that got in the way of a good photograph. By the time Lucky owned the property the Wolfskils (both William and his son Louis) had probably planted eucalyptus here.

Tarzan also seduced me, because I saw a very “Hollywood”-like picture of what I thought was “Boy” leaning on our Canary Island Date Palm (Phoenix canariensis). Turns out it was “Boy” all grown up and turned into Bomba the Jungle Boy. I never have found the picture again, so it’s hazy whether he was leaning against the Date Palm (Phoenix dactylifera) that used to clearly go out over the lagoon on the Adobe side of the lake or whether it was our current Canary Island Date Palm (Phoenix canariensis) that juts out into the lagoon on the north side.

This picture from “Congo Crossing” is evocative of the era and its seductions. Either way the palms around the lagoon do pre-date many other Southern California palms which started showing up in quantities in the late nineteenth century. By the time Baldwin owned the property many of the palms were already tall.

Lucky Baldwin and Tarzan had me perusing through reams of old photos

But when I came back down out of my pursuit of riches and fame, I realized I was ignoring our “oldest” trees. The Engleman or Pasadena Oaks (as they used to be called in this piece of the woods) (Quercus engelmannii) have been here much longer than either the eucalyptus or the palms. Our grove is located on the road to Tallac Knoll and this spring was underplanted with wildflower seeds. They occur in this area in the fossil record as they did over much of what is now California, Arizona, and Baja California before there were Mojave and Sonoran Deserts. They really are closely related to tropical oaks, but deserts intervened and isolated their populations. The acorns are 1” in size and are edible. The local native peoples used them for food. Our population is one of a few remnants this far north. There are also a few in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains. The least developed site of Engleman Oaks is the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve near Riverside. This area still looks like the earlier pictures of our own grove. Come visit our “oldest” trees and our Historic Section so full of fame and fortune.
Items in The Arboretum Library used for this article:


http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/calbkbib:@field(NUMBER+@band(calbk+023)):


Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve www.santarosaplateau.org


http://employees.oxy.edu/jerry/arbor.htm “Movie making exterior locations.” [A homegrown site that has a picture of Bomba (Johnny Sheffield) and our date palm.]
GIGABYTE GARDENING

Terra-byte at The Arboretum

There was the threat of rain and a brief contest between the peacocks and the sub-woofers, but in the end the sky cleared, feathered shrieks gave way to some of the best experimental electronic DJ's from LA and San Francisco and Terra-byte at the The Arboretum became an evening with an energy and beauty of our natural world.

The backdrop of the botanical gardens framed an amazing bamboo structure installation created by Workshop Levitas, and the entire central lawn pulsed thanks to over 1,600 Angelenos like yourself who made the trek to enjoy an extraordinary series of music sets from the likes of Dewey DB, EEZIR, Testshot Starfish and Tycho. Karl Fornander's and Testshot Starfish's choreographed visuals took the experience to a whole new level as twilight turned to darkness and projections exploded onto the bamboo installation.

We are very grateful to everyone at NASA's Spitzer Science Center, Faketown, Subtractive, SesO and The Arboretum who helped make this Terra-byte a possibility. And special thanks go out to all the impassioned artists and volunteers who made the event come alive.

The photos and videos of the event capture the day beautifully. View and share photos at http://www.terrabyte.la

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Community Partnerships

Kathy M. Kwan, Development Manager

Community partners are crucial to the sustainability of The Arboretum, a community resource where visitors can learn, enjoy and be inspired. Thanks to Edison International's Corporate Contributions Program, whose mission is to enhance the quality of life for those who live and work in the communities they serve, The Arboretum will be implementing the Discovery Cart Program. Tiffany Carr, Youth Education Program Manager, will head the Discovery Cart Program. Jade Nyugen, Getty's Multicultural Undergraduate Summer Intern 2005, researched and developed the information for the Discovery Cart activities.

These mobile carts will be placed in different areas of the garden and have hands-on and make & take activities led by Arboretum volunteers. Some of these activities include learning about the Tongva people, pond ecology, herbs, and prehistoric plants (to name a few). This program will enrich a child's experience in their exploration through nature.

Edison International is just one of many community partners that chose The Arboretum to maintain or improve the quality of life in the community.
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The Arboretum's mission is to cultivate our natural, horticultural and historic resources for learning, enjoyment and inspiration. We appreciate your year round support.
Listed above are donations received between April 7, 2006 and June 30, 2006. Please call 626-821-3237 and let us know if we inadvertently misspelled or omitted your name.
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626.821.3222
www.arboretum.org

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