

## Plant Sales at the New Teaching Nursery Begin with a Bang

Suzanne Ullensvang, Resource Development Manager



Carmia Feldman

Superintendent Warren Roberts (left) greets shoppers at the inaugural plant sale at the new Arboretum Teaching Nursery on October 4. Shoppers appreciated the spacious aisles and smooth-running check-out area.

Over 1,400 people helped celebrate the opening of the new Arboretum Teaching Nursery at the October 4 Plant Faire! It was a truly grand event with many customers sharing appreciative comments about the beautiful sales area, wider paths, large selection of plants and smoother check-out system.

We're pleased to report the fall Plant Faire generated the most income of any Arboretum plant sale to date. This couldn't have come at a better time. As the University portion of the Arboretum budget is squeezed, volunteers and staff must redouble

efforts to garner community support to sustain Arboretum gardens and programs and continue planning for the future. The plant sales are one critical piece of the puzzle.

Plans are well underway for a full schedule of spring sales at the new Teaching Nursery. We'll kick off the season with our traditional Member Appreciation Sale on Saturday, March 14. This is a special opportunity for members to get the first look at the plants and purchase the cream of the crop for their gardens. Complimentary refreshments, music and children's activities add to the festive atmosphere. All members will receive a free plant.

We'll also add some new twists to our spring sales, including a special introduction of the newly expanded 100 Arboretum All-Stars and a Gardeners Fair in April. Plus you'll continue to see additional improvements in the interior of the nursery such as demonstration beds, customer seating, and tables to raise plants off the grounds for easier selection. Many of these projects are underway thanks to funds being raised by the Friends of the UC Davis Arboretum through their ongoing Teaching Nursery campaign. If you'd like to join the campaign, please contact the Arboretum. We look forward to seeing you this spring at the Teaching Nursery!

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### Save the Dates! Spring Plant Sales

Saturday, March 14, 9am-1pm  
**Member Appreciation Sale**  
 Join or renew at the door  
 Members receive a free plant

Saturday, April 4, 9am-3pm  
**Arboretum All-Stars  
 Centennial Celebration & Sale**

Saturday, April 25, 9am-1pm  
**Gardeners Fair & Sale**

Saturday, May 16, 9am-noon  
**End of Season Clearance Sale**

## NEW WAYS TO LEARN ABOUT ARBORETUM ALL-STARS

Betsy Faber, Education Outreach Manager

The Arboretum horticulture and education teams have completed work on a two-year grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to expand education and outreach for our Arboretum All-Stars program.

### In the Garden

Our team researched best practices for growing the All-Stars plants at home and created a variety of new educational tools to help home gardeners. Over 45 new permanent exhibits and hundreds of plant labels will be installed this winter throughout the Arboretum collections. Brightly-colored signs identify the All-Stars, show each plant in bloom, list its outstanding features, and provide information about how to grow it. Each exhibit will be next to a mature, labeled All-Star plant so that you can clearly identify the plant and imagine it full grown in your own garden.

When you visit the Ruth Risdon Storer Garden, look for signs featuring our new cell phone audio tours. By dialing the number on the sign, you can get the insider's scoop from Arboretum experts on All-Star plants, sustainable horticulture practices, and how to attract beneficial wildlife to the garden.

### At Plant Sales

Arboretum nursery staff are working hard to have as many of these selected plants as possible available for local gardeners at our spring plant sales. When you visit the nearby Arboretum Teaching Nursery this spring, look for colorful, laminated signs identifying the Arboretum All-Stars for sale.

### On the Web: [arboretum.ucdavis.edu](http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu)

If you prefer to pick your plants from the comfort of home, then try out the exciting new resources on the Arboretum website. Our newly designed website has an extensive Arboretum All-Stars section with an improved searchable database, downloadable articles, and a 24-page downloadable booklet that features all 100 All-Stars in an easy-to-use reference guide. You can also pick up a copy of the booklet at the plant sales or the Arboretum Headquarters and take it with you into the garden or the nursery. We received partial funding to design and print the booklet from the UC Davis Campus Sustainability Grants Program and the City of Davis Public Works Department.

Also online, we feature some amazing new digital learning tools. We hope you will enjoy our new Arboretum vidcast (a video delivered online). The video tells the story of the Arboretum's history, community, philosophy, and future vision, all while highlighting the most beautiful aspects of our collections and the Arboretum All-Stars. We also are trying a new podcast feature in the form of an Arboretum All-Stars slideshow. You can watch the slideshow on your home computer and let our expert horticulturist, Ellen Zagory, guide you through the many Arboretum All-Star choices.

## SOME OF OUR FAVORITE ALL-STARS

Ellen Zagory, Director of Horticulture  
Beth Gale, Nursery Manager

### *Ceratostigma plumbaginoides* **DWARF PLUMBAGO**

An attractive, low perennial with true blue flowers that can be used as a groundcover. Deciduous in fall, the leaves turn an attractive red, providing color to the autumn garden. This plant is excellent to combine with winter-growing bulbs like grape hyacinth and dwarf narcissus.



Holly Crosson

### *Jasminum nudiflorum* **WINTER JASMINE**

A vigorous, green-stemmed plant, this small shrub can be used as a groundcover. Its arching stems can be used to cover slopes and will spread slowly over time. Its main value is its toughness and adaptability, with the added benefit of bright yellow blooms in winter.

### *Kniphofia 'Christmas Cheer'* **CHRISTMAS CHEER POKER PLANT**

What better present than to look into the garden on Christmas morning and be greeted by the gorgeous tall yellow and orange spikes of poker plants glowing in the mist. A large perennial, this plant needs full sun but tolerates infrequent irrigation. Wintering Ana's hummingbirds will thank you for supplementing their nectar supply.

### *Ceanothus × pallidus 'Marie Simon'* **MARIE SIMON CEANOTHUS**

This tough shrub is semi-evergreen in warmer winters, with attractive mahogany stems and spring clouds of soft pink flowers. It seems to prefer full sun, infrequent irrigation, and well-drained soils.



Ellen Zagory

### *Hardenbergia violacea* **LILAC VINE**

This evergreen, twining vine is vigorous without being weedy and can be used to create a screen or to cover an unsightly fence or wall with its shiny dark green leaves. In spring the plant produces masses of beautiful dark-purple flowers, sure to attract attention.

### *Bulbine frutescens* **CAPE BALSAM**

A curious plant with cylindrical, fleshy, apple-green leaves, *Bulbine* is a medium-sized perennial that has flowers nearly year-round. The tiny, star-shaped flowers have a puff of stamens in the center and are produced on long spikes of yellow or orange, depending on the variety. Tolerant of hot sun, it does well with infrequent (every two weeks) irrigation and can be used as a groundcover.

*Bletilla striata*  
**CHINESE GROUND ORCHID**

Long collected by plant fanciers, orchids are famous for their beautiful and complex flowers and exotic feel. This orchid will grow in your Valley garden in average soil with average irrigation and little care. In spring the plant produces pale green pleated leaves and prolific orchid-purple flowers. In fall the leaves turn bright yellow before dropping.



Ellen Zagory

*Sprekelia formosissima*  
**AZTEC LILY**

Bulbs have a special use in the garden, often producing large, showy flowers in season. The Aztec lily will brighten your summer garden when it produces its large, open, exotic red flowers above strap-shaped apple-green leaves. Able to tolerate infrequent irrigation, it likes to grow in full sun.



*Sedum palmeri*  
**PALMER'S SEDUM**

This low-growing gray-green succulent has attractive rounded leaves that produce golden yellow star-shaped flowers in spring. A handy plant for dry areas with light shade, it is easy to root and spread around the garden as needed.

Ellen Zagory

*Sternbergia lutea*  
**YELLOW AUTUMN CROCUS**

A small bulb only 4-5 inches tall, *Sternbergia* is an amazingly tough, easy to grow and prolific plant. It is deciduous during the hot days of summer; when autumn approaches its beautiful golden crocus-like flowers spring from the earth. Place them between winter-deciduous perennials for an added show.

*Aster 'Purple Dome'*  
**PURPLE DOME MICHAELMAS DAISY**

Michaelmas daisies are great for summer and autumn color in the perennial border, with the added benefit of providing nectar and pollen for visiting butterflies and other beneficial insects. Purple Dome is a compact variety that will not flop as others do. It makes a solid dark-purple mound in bloom.

*Nepeta x faassenii*  
**CATMINT**

This silvery-green perennial does double duty as a groundcover excellent for hot, sunny areas. Over a long period in spring and summer and into fall, it produces short spikes of pale violet-blue flowers attractive to pollinators. Mow or cut back in winter to remove old growth and freshen the plants.

## MANY WAYS TO GIVE

### Suzanne Ullensvang, Resource Development Manager

While the University provides some funding for the Arboretum each year, over 50% of the annual budget must come from other sources such as individual donations, grants, and other gifts. The Arboretum already operates on a very lean budget and given the belt-tightening at the University, community support is even more critical now to sustain Arboretum activities into the future.

Here is an overview of several ways you, as a community member, can support the Arboretum.

### Annual Appeal

You should have received your annual appeal letter in late November. We encourage anyone who is already a Friends member to consider an annual gift, above and beyond their membership dues. This is also an invitation for other community members to show their support for the Arboretum. Annual appeal contributions help fund the Arboretum in all areas of operations, from maintaining and enhancing the gardens to public education programs for children and adults.

### Teaching Nursery Campaign

The Friends of the UC Davis Arboretum have launched a special campaign to fund enhancements to the new Teaching Nursery. While the University paid for the infrastructure costs, the Friends are working to raise over \$100,000 to develop the nursery as an educational hub for public and volunteer activities. The campaign will fund demonstration gardens, a potting bench and growing benches to support the plant sales, and many other features. Sponsors at the \$2,500 level will be acknowledged with a personalized plaque in the nursery. All campaign donors who contribute \$500 or more will be listed on a permanent sign in the nursery. The Friends thank the 125+ donors who have already contributed over \$30,000 toward the \$100,000 goal!

### Tribute and Memorial Gifts

You can make a gift with lasting value to the Arboretum to honor a loved one. Tribute and memorial gift options currently available include a bookplate in a volume in the Arboretum library (\$100), an engraved plaque in the Redwood Grove (\$1,000), and a bench with engraved plaque in the Acacia Grove (\$6,000). In addition to honoring a special occasion or person in a lasting way, these gifts help us maintain beloved areas of the Arboretum.

We realize these challenging economic times require often difficult decisions about what's most important in your life. We know you value the Arboretum as an important piece of your life and your community, and we hope you'll consider giving to help sustain the Arboretum as a jewel in our region.

To everyone who has recently made a gift, we extend our sincere thanks for your support. If you have questions about the annual appeal, nursery campaign, tribute gift options or would like to make a gift, the Arboretum staff would be happy to assist you. Please contact Suzanne Ullensvang at (530) 752-8324 or [sullensvang@ucdavis.edu](mailto:sullensvang@ucdavis.edu).

## AUSTRALIAN COLLECTION IMPROVEMENTS

Ryan Deering, GATEways Horticulturist

Thanks to generous funding from Dr. George Mason and the Slosson Endowment for Ornamental Horticulture, renovations to the Arboretum's Australian Collection began last spring. Located at the very east end of the Arboretum, the Australian Collection features a eucalyptus grove, collections of grevilleas, hakeas, and bottlebrushes, and understory plantings of Australian shrubs planted around the Arboretum waterway.

After a new irrigation system was installed by the campus in 2006, Arboretum staff began designing plans for new plantings, pathways, and interpretive signs. We researched new Australian plants that would be ideal in Central Valley conditions and tolerant of occasional heavy frosts. By comparing our temperatures with those on the Australian continent, we determined that regions of northern Victoria province were likely to have plants adapted to Davis conditions. Curator Mia Ingolia then located an Australian seedbank in this area and arranged for seeds of horticulturally-promising Australian species to be shared. While the seeds were making their way to California,



East End volunteer gardeners celebrate completion of the new path in the Australian Collection: (l to r) Ryan Deering, Bruce Watros, Ann Denvir, Doris Yano, Dorothy Brandon, Irene Fecht, Melanie Pope, Pat Greene, Kend Linderholm, and Mary Gibson. Not pictured: Bill Shi, Carolyn Hinshaw and Peter London.

GATEways horticulturist Ryan Deering located Australian plants in California nurseries and botanic gardens to test in the Arboretum. Bare areas along the banks of the waterway were planted last spring and most of the test plants have thrived so far. We have begun propagating the seeds from Australia and hope to have more plants in the ground in the fall of 2009.

Last month, we completed work on a new decomposed granite path (see photo) on the southern side of the waterway to allow visitors to get closer to the plants and to provide places for new interpretive exhibits and benches. The new path is the proud accomplishment of the East End Gardening Volunteers, who excavated almost 500 feet of pathway soil and moved over 40 tons (that's 80,000 pounds!) of stony road base, decomposed granite, and steel edging to build the path. The path was designed, built, and graded to comply with ADA regulations to make it wheelchair accessible so that it can be enjoyed by all. Great job, volunteers!

## Staff News

We are pleased to welcome two new staff members. They both bring outstanding skills and experience and are already proving to be wonderful assets to the Arboretum.

**Suzanne Ullenzwang** is the new Resource



Development Manager. In that position, she oversees the volunteer, community fundraising, and plant sales programs. Suzanne was director of Explorit Science Center in Davis for ten years, during which time she led a capital campaign, long-range planning, and major building expansion. She is looking forward to expanding the plant sales and developing

new sources of earned income that will help sustain the Arboretum during economic fluctuations and make it possible to look ahead to the future with confidence.

**Deborah Rice** is the new Director of Major Gifts



for the Arboretum and the GATEways Initiative. Deborah has extensive experience in philanthropy, particularly in planned giving and directing endowments. Most recently, she served as Director of Planned Giving for California State University, Sacramento, and previously held positions as the Foundation Officer for the Hawaii Community

Foundation and Communications Officer for the Humboldt Area Foundation.

**Judy Hayes** has been promoted to Administrative and Gifts Manager. In that position, she manages purchasing, accounts payable, accounts receivable, ledger accounting and reconciliation, payroll, benefits administration, gifts processing, cash collections, and the office facility. Less formally, Judy is known as the nerve center of the office—she is the one everyone turns to first with questions. Congratulations on this well-deserved promotion!

**Holly Crosson**, who was Interpretation Coordinator at the Arboretum, has left her position to move to southwest Oregon. She will be telecommuting to work part-time at UC Davis with the Department of Environmental Science and Policy and UC Cooperative Extension with the Sea Grant Program. We wish her all the best as she embarks on these exciting new ventures.

# UC DAVIS ARBORETUM

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### WINTER 2009

#### GUIDED TOURS

*No charge, no reservation required*

#### WALK WITH WARREN

Wednesday, January 14, 12:00 p.m.  
Gazebo

#### SIMPLE SECRETS FOR GREAT CONTAINER GARDENING

Saturday, January 31, 11:00 a.m.  
Arboretum Terrace Garden

#### FINDING BEAUTY IN THE DEAD OF WINTER

Saturday, February 7, 11:00 a.m.  
Buehler Alumni & Visitors Center

#### WALK WITH WARREN

Wednesday, February 11, 12:00 p.m.  
Arboretum Terrace Garden

#### WINTER COLOR IN THE STORER GARDEN

Saturday, February 14, 11:00 a.m.  
Gazebo

#### BIRDING IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD

Sunday, February 22, 2:00 p.m.  
Arboretum Headquarters

#### BEAT THE WINTER BLAHS IN THE GARDEN

Saturday, February 28, 11:00 a.m.  
Gazebo

#### WHAT'S IN BLOOM?

Saturday, March 7, 11:00 a.m., Gazebo

#### WALK WITH WARREN

Wednesday, March 11, 12:00 p.m.  
Arboretum Headquarters

#### SPRING IN THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT GARDEN

Saturday, March 14, 11:00 a.m.  
Buehler Alumni & Visitors Center

#### ALL ABOUT OAKS

Sunday, March 22, 2:00 p.m., Gazebo

#### LIVING UNDER THE REDWOODS

Sunday, March 29, 2:00 p.m.  
Buehler Alumni & Visitors Center

**Information: (530) 752-4880**  
**arboretum.ucdavis.edu**

#### FOLK MUSIC JAM SESSIONS

Fridays, January 9, 23, February 6, 20, March 6, 20  
12:00 p.m., Wyatt Deck (next to Redwood Grove)

Pull out your fiddles, guitars, mandolins, banjos (you name it) for an acoustic jam session. Campus and community folk musicians play together over the lunch hour. All skill levels welcome. Listeners welcome!

#### THE CONSILIENCE OF ART & SCIENCE

A lecture series sponsored by the UC Davis Art/Science Fusion Program

Wednesday, January 7, 6:30 p.m., Wyatt Theater, UC Davis

Catherine Chalmers, a New York-based artist whose work includes photographic studies of the complex relationships between human beings and insects.

Thursday, March 5, 6:30 p.m., Location TBA, UC Davis

Eduardo Kac, a Brazilian-born, Chicago-based multimedia artist, whose work combines robotics and networking, interactive net installations, and biological art.

#### VALENTINE'S DAY SONNET WALK

Saturday, February 14—Please check our website for times and locations

The Arboretum will partner with the Mondavi Center and the UC Davis Department of Theatre & Dance to present a special event featuring Shakespeare's poetry read by local residents. Theatre & Dance professor Peter Lichtenfels directs the performance, inviting participants to different locations in the Arboretum and Davis where they will hear recitations as they walk from site to site. The daytime event is free of charge.



#### NATIVE CALIFORNIAN ELDERBERRY FLUTE-MAKING WORKSHOP

Sunday, February 22, 1:00-3:00 p.m.  
Room 146 Environmental Horticulture

In this free two-hour workshop you will learn how to make a Native Californian elderberry flute from East Bay Regional Parks docent Antonio Flores (left). Antonio will talk about the culture of flute-making and also about the endangered elderberry beetle. He will also teach us how to play our flutes. All materials will be supplied. Please bring a sharpened pocket knife. All ages are invited. Adults will need to supervise their young children.

#### MEMBER APPRECIATION PLANT SALE

Saturday, March 14, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m., Arboretum Teaching Nursery  
Members only—join or renew at the door. Members receive a free plant.

Get first choice of our spring sale plants! Enjoy music, refreshments, and children's activities. Expert garden advice available. 10% member discount. Join at the door and receive a free plant. Free parking in Visitor Lot 55.

#### SAN FRANCISCO FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW

Wednesday, March 18, 7:45 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Fee: \$55 / \$45 members

This year's theme is "Sustainable Spaces, Beautiful Places." Enjoy thousands of flowers and plants with all their rich colors, fragrances and textures, acres of inspiring gardens, and free seminars. Learn more at [www.gardenshow.com/sf](http://www.gardenshow.com/sf). Fee includes transportation and admission. Wear comfortable shoes. Bring a bag lunch or eat at the cafe. Advance registration required—call (530) 752-4880 for information.

## BECOME AN ARBORETUM VOLUNTEER— TRAINING STARTS IN JANUARY

Suzanne Ullensvang, Resource Development Manager

Do you enjoy meeting new people? Would you like to learn new skills? Are you looking for a way to fulfill a new year's resolution to give back to the community? Consider volunteering at the Arboretum! It's a rewarding place to spend your time with lots of fun, food and camaraderie. The Arboretum is currently recruiting for the following five teams. Training starts in January, so sign up soon!

### The Engaging Naturalist Team

Volunteer naturalists help with environmental education programs for visiting elementary school classes. They guide small groups of children on nature walks in the Arboretum and lead hands-on activities. Naturalists should enjoy working with elementary-aged students and be available to work at least one Tuesday or Thursday morning per week during the spring and fall seasons. An appreciation for nature, wildlife, gardens, and education is required. An enthusiastic attitude and willingness to motivate children is essential. **Training: Tuesdays, January 13-March 3, 9 a.m.-noon.**

### The Fabulous Fix-It Crew (new!)

The Fix-It Crew will work with the Arboretum Steward to maintain the equipment, teaching nursery facility, and public amenities of the Arboretum. Fix-it team members must complete a basic orientation session plus specialized training then will participate in regular workdays on Tuesday or Thursday mornings. Fix-it crew members should enjoy working outdoors, have a basic level of physical fitness and be able to use hand tools and mechanical equipment safely and confidently. If you enjoy tinkering and working with your hands and find it rewarding to fix and restore things, this is the team for you. **Orientation: Wednesday, January 14, 9 a.m.-noon; additional training TBD.**

### The Gregarious Gardeners

Volunteer gardeners work in partnership with the Arboretum horticultural staff to maintain and develop Arboretum gardens and collections. The groups share an interest in gardening and a sense of camaraderie from working together for a common purpose. Activities include prun-

ing, mulching, weeding, planting, raking, building paths, and assisting with garden development projects. Team members must complete a six week training course and then will participate in a regular weekly shift. In addition to learning more about environmentally responsible gardening and gaining experience identifying plants, gardener volunteers help make a difference in the appearance of the Arboretum every week. **Training: Wednesdays, January 14-February 18, 9 a.m.-noon.**

### The Nursery Records Group (new!)

Nursery records volunteers will partner with the Arboretum Nursery Manager to help with plant inventories, enter propagation results in the computer, maintain a nursery inventory, and update database information. After completing training, team members will participate in regular workdays on Wednesday mornings. Nursery Records Volunteers should enjoy detail-oriented work that involves critical thinking. Computer literacy is required but careful attention to accuracy is more important than speed. The work is quiet and independent and well suited to the well-organized person. If you enjoy puzzles or untangling a ball of yarn, this job is for you! **Training: Wednesdays, January 14-February 18, 9 a.m.-noon.**

### The Outstanding Office Team (new!)

Office team members will work with the Administrative Manager to keep the front office running smoothly. Volunteers should enjoy working in an office setting greeting visitors, answering phones, preparing mailings, entering information in the computer and assisting staff with office support. After a half-day orientation and introduction to the office, new volunteers will be asked to sign up for a three-hour weekly shift. **Orientation: Wednesday, January 14, 9 a.m.-noon; additional training TBD.**

There will be a fee of \$10 for training materials. For more information or to sign up for one of the upcoming team training sessions, please contact Suzanne Ullensvang at (530) 752-8324 or [sullensvang@ucdavis.edu](mailto:sullensvang@ucdavis.edu).

## Donations

### NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

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# From the Director



Dear Friends,

Exciting things are happening in the Arboretum! We continue to explore new ways to fulfill our mission to connect people with the beauty and value of plants. Visit our newly-redesigned website ([arboretum.ucdavis.edu](http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu)) for an expanded section on Valley-Wise Gardening—eco-friendly gardening for California's Central Valley. The website also features a beautiful new video about the Arboretum created by Cody Sheehy of Autonomy Productions and the Arboretum education team.

You can learn about sustainable gardening techniques with our new cell phone tour in the Storer Garden (see page 2). Just bring your cell phone to the garden and look for signs with instructions on how to dial up and listen to recorded information about Arboretum All-Stars plants, sustainable materials and water-saving techniques in the garden, and the new Arboretum Teaching Nursery.

Be sure to take a look at the beautiful new ceramic mosaic mural on the south side of the restroom/utility building near Shields Oak Grove and the Gazebo. On the theme "Oak Family Tree," it was created by students in the Art/Science Fusion Program at UC Davis, and celebrates the diversity of oaks in the Arboretum's nationally-recognized collection. It was dedicated in honor of Dr. John Tucker, and is a reminder of the value of the oak collection for research and teaching. We continue to strive to protect the oaks, and will be launching a new conservation effort this spring. Look for more information on our website and in the local media.

In this challenging economic climate, I am profoundly grateful to our members, volunteers, and donors. Your support has never been more critical. Our funding from the State of California has been cut, and we expect more cuts shortly. We are working hard to economize and develop more sources of funds so that we can continue to move forward with our important work. I especially want to thank those who have responded to our annual appeal with a donation.

You can also help the Arboretum with gift of your time. If you have always wanted to become an Arboretum volunteer, now is your chance. We will offer a series of special training courses for several of our volunteer programs starting in January (see page 6).

Be sure to join us for some of our outstanding public programs (see page 5), and don't miss the Member Appreciation Plant Sale on March 14. I look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,

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