

Oak Discovery Trail Now Open

Emily Griswold, Assistant Director of Horticulture

The first loop of a new Shields Oak Grove trail system is now in place. Built with funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Oak Discovery Trail explores the large deciduous

oaks on the east side of Shields Oak Grove. Completed in March, the trail provides a more structured way for visitors to experience some of the grove's most magnificent trees, complete with their beautiful ceramic identification plaques.

The trail starts in a grove of Persian oaks (*Quercus castaneifolia*) that have grown to an astounding 95 feet tall since they were planted in 1964. Two new curved seating walls under the cathedral-like trees

can serve as an assembly area for tours, an outdoor classroom, or the perfect setting for a picnic. The concrete surface of the walls covers a hidden core of rice straw bales that give the walls their rounded, organic form. The bales were wrapped in rebar and stucco netting to provide permanent reinforcement, even if the straw decomposes over time. The Arboretum staff plans to work with the UC Davis Art-Science Fusion Program to create ceramic mosaic embellishment for the walls.

Understory plantings have been a major element of the Oak Discovery Trail project. What was once a bare expanse of wood chip mulch under the trees will soon be a thriving series of native grass meadows. Over 20,000 native grass and wildflower plugs were planted by Arboretum volunteers, interns, and UC Davis student volunteers this winter and spring. The plugs were generously provided at deep discount by Hedgerow Farms, a local grower of native grassland seeds and plants. Additional understory plants were funded by a grant from the Stuart Foundation.

We celebrated the opening of the new trail on May 2 with Oak Discovery Day. This special event included oak tours, talks by oak experts, demonstrations of traditional Native American uses of acorns, an Arbor Day ceremony, hands-on oak-related family activities, and exhibits of animals and insects associated with oaks (see photos, page 4).

More improvements are still in the works for the Oak Discovery Trail. Coming this fall, look for new interpretive signs, a cell phone tour, and a new map brochure for the oaks. We hope to install more benches, and we plan to offer donor bench dedication options for these. As the Oak Discovery Trail project nears completion, we have started to seek funding for the next phase of Shields Oak Grove improvements with an Oak Diversity Trail that will explore the heart of the grove. If you're interested in supporting the oak grove with a donation, please contact Development Director Martha Ozonoff at (530) 848-9042 or mjozonoff@ucdavis.edu.



Emily Griswold

Straw bale seating walls at the entrance of the new Oak Discovery Trail were built by contractor Steve Stompler, an Arboretum alumnus who helped construct the Storer Garden in 1980. Steve hand-dug the footing for the walls to minimize root damage to the trees nearby. Assistant Director of Horticulture Emily Griswold and her husband Nik Joshi generously funded the construction of the seating walls.

IN THIS ISSUE

Online maps	2
Arboretum as living laboratory.....	3
Spring events	4
Staff news.....	5
Willows Eco Garden.....	5
Nature's Gallery	5
Pinkerton Prize	5
Calendar of events	6
Donations this quarter.....	7
Director's letter	8

WHERE HAVE THE HERONS GONE?

Up until 2008 a major heron breeding colony formed in Shields Oak Grove every spring. As the colony grew to over 800 nests, the birds were causing serious damage to the trees from defoliation, twig removal, and salt accumulation in the soil. In 2009, the Arboretum worked with the UC Davis Museum of Wildlife and Fish Biology to discourage nesting in Shields Oak Grove with teams of wildlife interns using recorded distress calls, bright laser lights, and noise-making fireworks to dissuade prospecting birds from landing in the trees. No nests were formed in 2009, but we expected some birds to attempt to return in the 2010 breeding season. We have been very surprised that no birds have returned to the grove to attempt nesting in 2010.

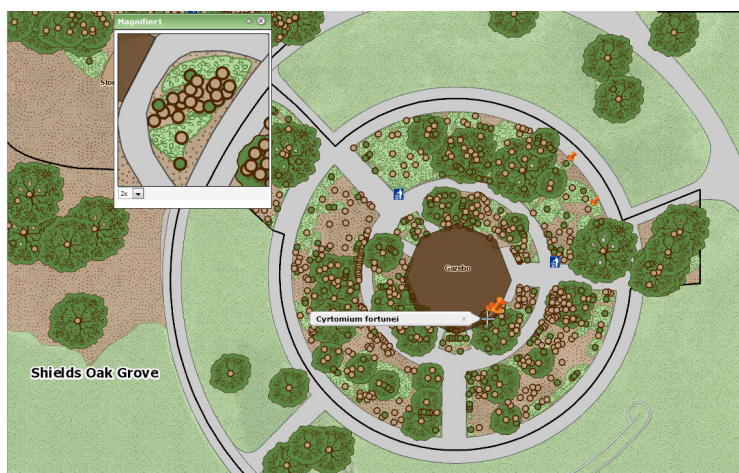
Meanwhile, a new breeding colony has formed this spring in the wildlife habitat area of Northstar Park in North Davis. Black-crowned night-herons, snowy egrets, and cattle egrets have started nesting in the trees near Partansky Pond. We have not tracked birds individually, so we can't tell for sure, but it appears likely that the Shields Oak Grove heronry has relocated to this Davis city park.

INTERACTIVE ONLINE PLANT COLLECTION MAPS

Brian Morgan, Arboretum GIS Manager

The Arboretum recently debuted an interactive mapping application that allows visitors, students, and researchers to explore the more than 30,000 plants in the Arboretum's plant collections using their web browsers. This first-of-its-kind application for living botanical collections provides users with the ability to identify individual plants by location, search for plants by name, find plant images, print custom maps, and more. The application is part of a five-year project to create a geographic information system, or GIS, for the Arboretum that contains information on every plant and landscape feature in our 100 acres of gardens, and gives our audience a way to access this information.

This project is part of a larger body of work led by UC Davis Arboretum staff that is funded by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services and the UC Davis Undergraduate Instructional Improvement Program. It is a collaboration of more than 75 zoos and botanical gardens worldwide working under the name Alliance for Public Gardens GIS. Major partners include the San Diego Zoo, the Missouri Botanical Garden, and the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. The application will be distributed to botanical gardens internationally in an effort to help improve access to living collections, increase the use and value of botanical collections, and support their role in plant conservation and education worldwide.



New online plant collections maps allow users to search for plants by name, identify plants by location, find plant images, print custom maps, and more. To access the maps, visit the Arboretum's website at arboretum.ucdavis.edu and click on the Plant Maps Online button on the left.

Emily Griswold



Assistant Director Carmia Feldman and her daughter Leila dropped in on a weekend work day to help plant hummingbird sage in Shields Oak Grove.



Mia Ingolia

Water from the Arboretum waterway circulates through four basins in sequence in an experimental filtration system that mimics a natural wetland. The project is part of the graduate research of student Amelia Holmes, working with Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering Jeannie Darby (see Constructed Wetland, opposite).

The Arboretum as Living Laboratory

Diane Cary, Communications Director

One of the most important aspects of our role as a campus arboretum is our connection with teaching and research at UC Davis. The Arboretum plant collections, the soil, the waterway, and the wildlife that feed or nest here are a rich resource for study and allow student researchers to work in the “real world” outside the classroom. Arboretum visitors are frequently treated to the sight of groups of undergraduate students on their knees with magnifying glasses, peering up into the trees through binoculars, leaning over the waterway with nets and sample jars in hand, or building some kind of experimental device.

As part of the Arboretum GATEways project (Gardens, Arts, and The Environment), Arboretum staff work actively to support these connections. We work with faculty to develop hands-on, experiential learning opportunities that supplement and enrich regular classroom instruction. At the same time, we enlist students and faculty as collaborators in community outreach and education. We invite researchers to help develop signs explaining their research and to participate in education programs for Arboretum visitors, to share the riches of UC Davis with the broader community. Following are several fascinating examples of student work in the Arboretum in spring 2010.

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

Students in Dr. Peter Hartsough’s course Environmental and Resource Science 108: Environmental Monitoring learned to use standard instruments and methods for environmental and ecological monitoring with the Arboretum as their research site. Students learned about the uses of GPS coordinates in the garden and practiced using GPS units to locate plants. They also conducted phenological observations of plants and insects in the demonstration planting beds at the Arboretum Teaching Nursery, recording data on bloom times and pollinator activity. The data will be contributed to a national database used to monitor the effects of climate change. Curator Mia Ingolia worked with Dr. Hartsough to design and oversee the labs as part of a conservation assessment project funded by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Several students in Professor Heidi Ballard’s course, Introduction to Environmental Education, had a chance to apply their classroom studies as interns in our elementary school tour program. These environmental education interns worked side by side with the Arboretum naturalists, helping to lead hands-on activities with visiting second and fourth grade classes. The student interns tested the educational theory they were learning in Dr. Ballard’s course by developing new learning activities and environmental games for the school program.



Students in a wildlife ecology course measure a mallard’s foot in the Arboretum as part of a long-term study of the health of migratory waterfowl populations.

WATERFOWL HEALTH

Undergraduate students in Professor John Eadie’s course, Wildlife, Fish and Conservation Biology 136: Ecology of Waterfowl and Game Birds, worked with researchers from the Wildlife Health Center in the School of Veterinary Medicine to examine the health of the mallard ducks in the Arboretum, as part of a long-term study of waterfowl and ecosystem health.

The researchers used grain to lure the ducks into traps or under nets, then put the birds in waterfowl carriers and took them a short distance away for the examinations. Researchers took blood and fecal samples, weighed and measured the birds, assessed their general health, and attached leg bands from the U.S. Geological Survey’s Bird Banding Laboratory.

The research, funded largely by the National Institutes of Health, is intended to help human and wildlife health specialists better understand the flow of disease-causing organisms through wild and urban ecosystems. This understanding should help improve the health of the ducks, other wild and domestic animals, and people. Veterinarian Walter Boyce, co-director of the UC Davis Wildlife Health Center, leads the study. He is an expert on animal pathogens, particularly those carried by wildlife that can cause diseases in domestic animals and people.

CONSTRUCTED WETLAND

Graduate student Amelia Holmes, working with professor Jeannie Darby of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, is investigating ways to improve water quality using a “constructed wetland,” an experimental water filtering system that mimics a natural wetland. The prototype system can be seen on the north bank of the Arboretum waterway, just east of California Avenue in the Redbud Collection (photo, opposite). In the prototype, water is pumped up from the waterway and flows through four basins in sequence, where different media remove suspended solids such as algae, phosphates, and nitrates. Cattail plants absorb nutrients from the water that would otherwise encourage algae growth.

Spring in the Arboretum

Elaine Fingerett



Members of the student theater troupe Studio 301 brought the heady days of the 1960s to life at the Arboretum Gazebo in their smash production of *Hair: The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical*.

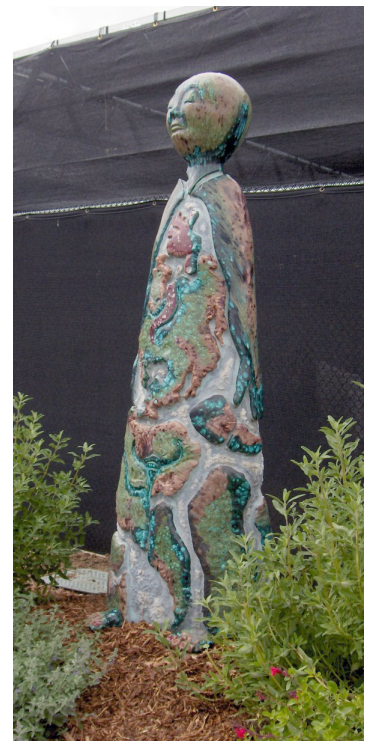


The Arboretum's entry in the annual Picnic Day parade at UC Davis included a decorated tractor pulling a trailer, a quadricycle (left), bikes with trailers, a rickshaw, kids in ladybug costumes, and loads of flowering plants.

OAK DISCOVERY DAY



Allen Jones



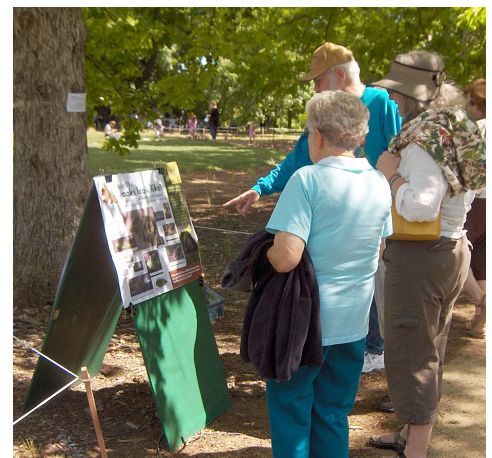
The ceramic sculpture **MOTHER EARTH** by Donna Billick was installed in April as a focal point of the Arboretum Teaching Nursery. The sculpture was generously donated to the Arboretum by Paul and Barbara Schneeman.

Alan Hastings



Above left: Singer/song-writer Dave Nachmanoff led a dynamic song-writing workshop where the group composed a song about oaks. The workshop was made possible by Professor Wendy Silk who generously donated her Chancellor's Achievement Award for Diversity and Community. Right: Oak Discovery Day participants helped review draft educational signs for the Oak Grove. Left: Participants created ceramic oak leaves and acorns for a future Art-Science Fusion mosaic mural.

Karen Swift



Rachel Hartsough

STAFF NEWS

We are delighted to announce that **Martha Ozonoff** has joined the Arboretum as development director. Many of you know Martha from her long service on the Friends of the UC Davis Arboretum board. She started as a member at large in 1999, moving to vice president in 2003. Most recently, Martha served as president for the last year. Martha briefly worked for the Arboretum about ten years ago in a volunteer management and education role and then continued her career in environmentally-focused non-profits. Martha was executive director of TREE Davis from 1993 to 2000 and of California ReLeaf from 2000 to 2010. In both of these roles, Martha worked to educate people about the importance of urban forests and fundraise for this important cause. Recently, Martha was responsible for securing \$6 million of federal stimulus money to support 17 community-based urban forestry projects throughout the state.



Martha Ozonoff

We are thrilled that Resource Development Manager **Suzanne Ullensvang** and her husband Ken Naganuma will soon welcome a baby daughter, Brooke. Suzanne will be out on maternity leave starting June 1. She plans to return part time in the fall.

WILLOWS ECO GARDEN FEATURES ARBORETUM ALL-STARS

The Willows Shopping Center in Concord, California has created the Willows Eco Garden using UC Davis Arboretum All-Stars plants, smart irrigation controllers, and organic techniques to showcase sustainable garden practices. Partners in the Willows Eco Garden project are the UC Davis Arboretum, California Center for Urban Horticulture at UC Davis, Willows Shopping Center, Colliers International Inc., and Cagwin & Dorward Landscape Contractors. The Willows Shopping Center is located at 1975 Diamond Blvd. (at Willow Pass Road) in Concord.

NATURE'S GALLERY TILES GOING FAST!

The Nature's Gallery mosaic mural, composed of over 140 hand-crafted ceramic tiles depicting plants and insects of the Storer Garden, will soon be the centerpiece of a beautiful courtyard, welcoming visitors to the Arboretum's west entry. Individual tiles within Nature's Gallery are still available for sponsorship. Donors have already dedicated tiles to honor a grandchild, memorialize a loved one, recognize a graduating student, commemorate a special occasion, or simply to support the Arboretum. To see photos of the tiles, visit dedications.ucdavis.edu and click on "Dedicate a Tile." For more information, please contact Development Director Martha Ozonoff at (530) 848-9042 or mjzonoff@ucdavis.edu.



Rose Swift



Shannon Harney

Elaine Fingerett

PINKERTON PRIZE AWARDED TO SHANNON HARNEY & ROSE SWIFT

Elaine Fingerett, Academic Coordinator

We are pleased to announce that **Shannon Harney** and **Rose Swift** have been awarded the 2010 Pinkerton Prize for Outstanding Student Contributions to the Arboretum. The Pinkerton Prize was established by Deborah Pinkerton, a former student employee in environmental education at the Arboretum, and her husband, Bret Hewitt, to support students who make significant contributions to the mission of the UC Davis Arboretum. Our two co-recipients this year are both exceptional leaders.

Shannon Harney, our outdoor education coordinator, skillfully organized and facilitated this year's very successful elementary school tour program in the Arboretum, reaching hundreds of school children. Shannon recruited, trained, and mentored our largest cadre of naturalists ever. A talented improvisation artist, Shannon coached the naturalists in using "improv" techniques. Shannon was selected to give the commencement address at her June graduation from the College of Biological Sciences.

Rose Swift, Ambassador student coordinator, conscientiously piloted our environmental leadership program, the Arboretum Ambassadors. Rose enabled the student group to become more fully integrated into the Arboretum, encouraging interns to work closely with staff members to organize and deliver new programs. Rose spearheaded the organization of our highly successful Oak Discovery Day event celebrating Shields Oak Grove. A talented young scientist, Rose gave an excellent presentation on her senior thesis research—Global Climate Change and the Phenology of Arctic Birds—at UC Davis' Spring Undergraduate Research Conference.

SAVE THE DATES: FALL PLANT SALES

Arboretum Teaching Nursery, Garrod Drive

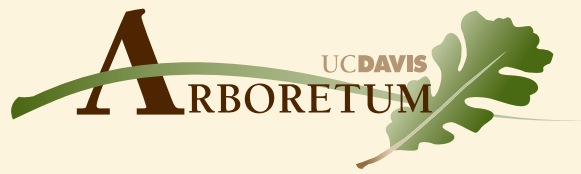
October 2: **FOCUS ON CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS**

9–11 a.m. Members only; 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Public sale

October 16: **FALL IS FOR PLANTING**

9 a.m.–1 p.m. Public sale

Join at the door for 10% member discount and a free plant!



Calendar of Events Summer 2010

UC Davis Arboretum &
Davis Shakespeare Ensemble present

ROMEO AND JULIET

by William Shakespeare
Directed by Rob Salas
Thursday–Sunday, Sept. 16–19 and 23–26
8:00 p.m., Arboretum Gazebo

Enjoy the classic tale performed in the round in a gorgeous garden setting. The newly-formed Davis Shakespeare Ensemble includes some of the best actors in the region, and the director's credits include Harvard University, South Coast Repertory, UC Irvine, and the Utah Shakespeare Festival. Check the Arboretum website for ticket information or e-mail davis.shakespeare@gmail.com.

FOLK MUSIC JAM SESSIONS

Alternate Fridays: July 9, 23; August 6, 20; Sept. 3, 17
12:00 p.m., Wyatt Deck, Old Davis Road

Pull out your fiddles, guitars, mandolins, penny whistles, pipes, flutes, squeezeboxes (you name it) and join your fellow musicians for a little bluegrass, old-time, blues, Celtic, klezmer, and world music over the lunch hour. All skill levels welcome. Listeners welcome!

GUIDED TOURS

No charge, no reservation required

MEET THE MIGHTY OAKS

Saturday, July 24, 10 a.m., Gazebo

AN OAK OASIS IN AUGUST

Saturday, August 14, 10 a.m., Gazebo

DISCOVER PLANTS FROM DOWN UNDER

Saturday, September 11, 10 a.m., Wyatt Deck

SHADE OR SUN? THE PERFECT SPOT FOR YOUR PLANT

Sunday, September 12, 10 a.m., Gazebo

TOUR THE TERRACE GARDEN

Saturday, September 18, 10 a.m., Terrace

OUTSTANDING OAKS!

Saturday, September 25, 10 a.m., Gazebo

PERENNIALS IN THE GARDEN

Sunday, September 26, 10 a.m., Gazebo

arboretum.ucdavis.edu (530) 752-4880

Donations February–April

We extend our sincere gratitude to these donors

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

Beth Abalos	Warren Caldwell	Nancy Duyar
Nancy Abplanalp	Karen Campbell	Patrick Dyer
Sharon Adams	Jeanie Campbell	Kenneth Ealy
Jeff Adams	Debra Carey	Barb Eastburn
Carol Addy	Maria Carpenter	Fred Deneke & Jim Eastman
Elisabeth Adler-Lund	Diane & Keith Cary	Bob & Denise Eckart
Larry Aiken	Bonnie Caster	Ann Edmondson
Connie Alvarez	Bonnie Caster	Lani Eklund
Margot Anderson	Rick Castro	Clyde Elmore
Kat Anderson	Griselda Castro	Pat Elms
Jennifer L Anderson	Mindy Cecchetti	Ingrid Elsel
Scott Anderson	Kim Chacon	Sandy Enders
JoAnne Anglin	Anne Charles	Pamela Englund
Mary Aulman	Krishna Chaturvedula	Jeanne & Reed Enos
Rose Bacchini	Juliann Cheney	Sandi Erba
Pat Bailey	Kim Chevalier	Mikos Fabersunne
Mary Ann Baker	Kim Chevalier	Fred Fabre
Jonathan Banda	JoAnn Chevrette	Christine Facciotti
Ann Barbarow	Dorothy Chikasawa	Margie Fagan
Melinda Barbera	Don Christiansen	Michelle Famula
Amy Barden	Susan Christiansen	George Farmer
Philipa Barnes	Sam Citron	Lorna Farrell
Elaine Barrios	Beverly Clairfield	Kirsten Fasching
Sean Barry	Ellen Clark	Audrey Fasching
Lisa & John Baxter	Cindy Clayton	Harold Feinberg
Charles W. Beadle	Christine Cocanou	Catherine Fieffer
Bruce Behrens	Glenn Cole & Carol Souza Cole	Al Figone
Patricia Below	Susan Collins	JoAnne Fillatti
Sue Bennett	Linda Conrad	Arek Firman
Henry & Linda Bennett	Larry Corbett family	Katie Flaherty
Stacy & Jeanette Berrong	Ron Cotterel	Lili M. Floyd
Karen Beverlin	Christina Craig-Veit	Doris Fodge
Katy Bill	Candace Cross-Drew	Kimberlee Foerster
Linda Bisson	Tim Crowley	Phoebe Ford
Dan Blake	Yolanda Cuesta	James H. Fowler II
Linda Blake	Jeannie Darby	Jenelle Fraser-Wheeler
J. Ernie Blevins	Matthew Davey	Jerry Friis
Linda Boehm	Candy Davidson	Leigh Needleman & Andrew Frishman
Gayle BonDurant	Elizabeth Ann Davis	Naomi Williams & Dan Fuchs
Cherry Bourumand	Beverly Dawkins	Olivera Garasanic
Ray Borton	Howard Day	Martha Gegan
Daniel Bosch	AnnMaria De Grassi	Kathleen Giel
Barbara Bower	Jim & Mary De Vay	Delbert & Vona Giese
Janice Bower	Katharine Bronwen and Stan Dean	Marnelle Gleason
Michael Bowling	Ryan Deering	Tammy Glines
Toni Bowman	Elvira Delgado	Rose Gong
Michael Bowman	Wes Dempsey	Nina Gordon
Madeline Brattesani	Angela Dennie	Kathy Grace
Alice Breen	Kathy DeRiemer	Anne P. Gray
Stuart Bresnick	Dan Devarenes	Mary L. Greenberg
John Bricher	Kathryn Devon	Patricia S. Greene
Kip Bridges	Surjit Dhillon	Sheryl Greenspan
Marisa Brooks	Alan Dibble	Pauline Grenbeaux
Peg Brush	Lee Dickinson	Dice Groves
Mary Buckpitt	Martha Dickman	Nathan Gushwa Gussman Family
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Frances Burke	J. Faye Dixon	William Hagen
John Burmeister	Audrey Doehne	Deborah Hager
Joe Burns	Barbara Donnelly	Andrea Haleva
Meredith Burns	Stephanie Myers & Garry Douglas	Kelly Hamby
Julie Burns	Susan U. Doyle	Julie Hamilton
Ellen Burriss	Sue Drake	Kenneth Hamm
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David Byrnes	Veronica Dunn	
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Spitze
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Karen & Marc Irish
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Betty Karl
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Danyal Kasapligil
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Kevin Lee
Kelly Long &
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Karen Leyse
Mark Lieb
Becky Linvill
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Pamela McCabe
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Kathryn Medley
Maggie Melnick
Gina Melville
Marleen Merchant
Danielle Michel

Georgia Bihr and
Laird Miers
Verline Miguel
Jeff Miller
Jill Miller
Erin Mintline
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Karl Murray
Deanna Myhre
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David de la Pena
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Justine Pitts
Mindy Plass
Jeanette Pleasure
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Raphael
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Thompson
Patricia B. Thompson
Julie Thompson
David Thompson
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Anne Todgham
Anne Tracy
Elizabeth Tremaine
Charles and Pamela
Tulley
Alicera Vaewsorn
Marjorie Van Ochten
Jean Vaughan
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Jon Watterson
Scott Webb
Lexie Webster
Beth Wells
Doug West
John Wheat
Michael Barbour &
Valerie Whitworth
Elizabeth Wilbanks
Ruth Wildman
Mary Beth Wilkins
Kathryn Radke &
John Williams
John Williams
Leslie Williams
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From the Director



Dear Friends,

When Dr. John Tucker started an endowment to support the Shields Oak Grove in 2001, one of his main goals was to make the Arboretum's outstanding oak collection more accessible to visitors, both physically and conceptually. We made great progress toward this goal this spring with the opening of the new Oak Discovery Trail (see article, page 1, and photos, page 4). Be sure to visit the grove to see the new pathway, understory plantings, mosaic plant labels, and graceful curving seat walls. Later this year you will be able to enjoy some beautiful new interpretive signs, a map brochure, and a cell phone tour of the grove. Stay tuned!

We've been busy working with our academic partners, supporting teaching and research at UC Davis (see page 3). As part of the Arboretum GATEways Project (Gardens, Arts, and The Environment), we collaborated on a constructed wetland experiment with Civil and Environmental Engineering, waterfowl health research with Wildlife, Fish and Conservation Biology and the Wildlife Health Center, environmental monitoring with Land, Air and Water Resources, and environmental education with the School of Education.

Spring has been full of fabulous, fun, and informative events (see page 4). Oak Discovery Day was a celebration of our oak collection and the new Oak Discovery Trail, organized largely by the Arboretum Ambassadors, our environmental leadership interns. The Ambassadors also created our fabulous entry in the Picnic Day parade and hands-on activities for children at the Arboretum booth. Among other great programs, we hosted a successful run of the iconic 1960s musical Hair, put on by the student theater group Studio 301, and a series of readings by local writers.

We are thrilled to welcome Martha Ozonoff to the Arboretum staff as our new development director (see page 5). Martha is a long-time supporter of the Arboretum and a highly capable non-profit manager. She has lots of experience with fundraising to draw on as we face the additional budget cuts anticipated in the coming fiscal year. One of our high-priority fundraising efforts, the Nature's Gallery campaign, is going strong. Hand-made ceramic mosaic tiles are still available for dedication (see page 5). Consider honoring a loved one or commemorating a milestone by dedicating a tile; you'll be supporting the Arboretum and helping build a beautiful new garden feature.

This year's cool, wet spring means that the bloom season is extended—be sure to visit the Arboretum to enjoy the unusually lush display of flowers. I look forward to seeing you out in the garden.

Best regards,
Kathleen