

thereview

UC DAVIS ARBORETUM AND PUBLIC GARDEN

Photo by Tiffany Wright

Spring PLANT SALES

9 AM - 1 PM
Arboretum Teaching
Nursery
Garrod Drive, UC Davis
arboretum.ucdavis.edu

MEMBER APPRECIATION SALE (MEMBERS ONLY)

Saturday, March 11

- 10% off purchase
- \$10 off thank you gift
- free refreshments

*Not a member?
Join at the door!*

PUBLIC SALES

Saturday, April 8

Saturday, April 29

UCDAVIS



**ARBORETUM AND
PUBLIC GARDEN**

LIFE AFTER LAWN:

BALANCING GARDEN ETHICS WITH AESTHETICS

Ellen Zagory, Director of Public Horticulture and Katie Hetrick, Communications Director

It's 2017, and as we begin another trip around the sun, we want to remind you of the role you play in supporting our environment as a member of the Friends of the UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden. Many of you probably chose to join this organization because you enjoy benefits at our plant sales from early admission to discounts and gifts. What we also hope you realize is that by landscaping with the plants we offer, you play an important role in enhancing and healing the environment not just in your garden, but well beyond its borders. Thank you!

By gardening with regionally-appropriate, low-water, habitat-enhancing, low-input plants (plants that perform well without the use of pesticides or fossil fuel inputs like fertilizers), you practice what many refer to as ethical/sustainable gardening (pat yourself on the back!). Your choices help feed pollinators, reduce natural resource consumption, aid in the restoration of habitats for all kinds of creatures and support the sequestration of ozone-depleting carbon from our atmosphere.

But is it also aesthetically pleasing? If it weren't, you might not be willing to make a change like giving up your lawn! But, sustainable gardening can be gorgeous year round, and that's why a large part of our programming involves making ethically- and aesthetically-inspired plant choices available to the public. It is also why we feel educating our students and the public about the importance of proper plant choices beyond

ornamental aesthetics is critical.

In the past, plants that provided water savings or supported pollinators may not have met what we once considered ideal garden beauty. Now, as gardeners in water-scarce areas with a changing climate, we make different plant selections because we understand the impact our choices have on the environment. Embracing this change will alter the look of your garden, but in doing so you are leading a landscape revolution, which, with a little planning, will also lead to the creation of both an ethically- and aesthetically-inspiring place.

Balancing these two ideals is how we help select plants for our campus landscapes and also, in large part, how we decide what inventory to offer at our plant sales. Some choices require tradeoffs, but we search for a sweet spot that makes us happy. Our shifting aesthetic often involves knowledge, understanding and appreciating a plant's ecology, as well as its role in the environment. This allows gardeners and visitors alike the ability to find beauty where once they saw disarray. For example:

- You may plant the vitally important California pipevine (*Aristolochia californica*) and be shocked when all its leaves disappear...but not when you know that its leaves were eaten by hungry pipevine swallowtail caterpillars soon to evolve into pipevine swallowtail butterflies;

See page 3

ENVIRONMENT UPGRADE

Lauren Riebs, Communications Intern and Katie Hetrick, Communications Director

Through their work propagating plants for the public, restoring regional amenity Putah Creek Riparian Reserve, and showcasing ethical and sustainable landscape choices across campus, our Learning by Leading Program participants—from students to community volunteers—implement tangible environmental changes on campus and beyond for everyone to learn from and enjoy. We hope you enjoy discovering more about the work they do below.

This important program is the focus of our Friends Annual Appeal fundraising effort this year. If you have already given as a result of the mailing we sent in December, thank you! Your gift will help us expand these opportunities for student and community member participation. If you still would like to support this program, we've included an envelope in the center of this newsletter.

Again, we thank you! As members, your support is already helping our organization become synonymous with sustainable horticulture. Through this Annual Appeal we ask for your additional support as we cultivate leaders whose passion and knowledge will help broaden our impact and protect the natural resources upon which the quality of our life depends.

IMPROVING HOME GARDENS

Perhaps the most popular Arboretum-hosted events of the year, the seasonal plant sales attract a growing crowd of community members passionate about supporting the environment. In both the fall and spring, you can find tens of thousands of plants, a diverse selection of drought-resistant, California native or other climate-appropriate species that support the environment while looking beautiful in your home landscape. The vast majority of these plants are grown by community volunteers and UC Davis students. Their work provides a multitude of regionally-appropriate plants for home gardeners that save maintenance time and water, as well as support biodiversity by attracting and supporting local pollinators. By using these plants, gardeners across our region are improving the environment from their homes.

"All of our plants are grown, nurtured and maintained in Davis," said Taylor Lewis, Nursery Manager. "They have spent their whole life acclimating to our Central Valley climate, cared for by our volunteers and student interns. Plants that are already adapted to this environment have a much better chance of thriving after being transplanted because it's almost as if they never left!"

With over forty volunteers, the nursery team is one of the biggest in the Arboretum. In addition, UC Davis students, Jacob Seigler and Connal Hart, are the co-coordinators for the Nursery's Learning by Leading Program. Each week, Seigler and Hart work with a group of student interns, teaching them how to take cuttings and propagate plants a variety of plants. "I like being able to teach and empower my peers," Seigler enthused, "The Arboretum really puts the responsibility in the hands of students."

In fact, student interns and volunteers propagate over half of the plants sold at the Arboretum plant sales and grow almost all the rest from liners (small plants purchased from other nurseries). From the initial cutting and rooting of the plant, it takes about a year for it to be ready for purchase.

Hart shares, "A lot of people don't realize that you can make a plant out of another plant. They think it's magic, but we show them it's not a trick, it's horticulture!"

RESTORING THE RESERVE

A somewhat hidden gem in the UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden, located in the southern and western areas of our campus, is a beautiful, natural landscape called the UC Davis Putah Creek Riparian Reserve. This area is carefully managed to provide a place where environmental research, wildlife, and public recreation can co-exist. Here community volunteers and Learning by Leading students apply best practices in the restoration and management of a natural riparian system that is also utilized for research and as a regional amenity.

Over 200 years ago, this area was once booming with diverse native plant and animal species. As a result of human activity however, the area has been degraded significantly, with wildlife pushed out of their homes and cut off from access to open land and water. Now these teams of volunteers and students focus on restoring the area for wildlife, as well as helping to ensure its future protection.

"It's part of a much larger vision," says Andrew Fulks, "Every year that we continue this program, the more habitat we create, the more the campus becomes a refuge for wildlife."

Specifically, Ecological Restoration Student Co-Coordinator, Hunter Stapp and Katie Pierce, lead a group of Learning by Leading student interns every week who work on erosion control, planting native species, and converting degraded areas back to natural habitats.

"Plants are a more cost effective, long lasting and natural solution to soil erosion," Stapp explains, "In this program we are learning to work with nature in order to preserve nature."

The team is also working on creating hedgerows, rows of plants that provide refuge, habitat and food sources for a wide range of species, along agricultural fields in west campus. This is a practice that is carried out at many farms around the world to ensure farms are wildlife friendly while simultaneously benefitting the farm's production by protecting its crops against pollution, eliminating erosion and preventing flooding.

"These projects would not have been possible without student and community involvement," Fulks adds, "They are literally transforming the place."



Katie Hetrick

PLANT PROPAGATION



Katie Hetrick

EROSION CONTROL



Katie Hetrick

LAWN CONVERSION

SHOWCASING SUSTAINABLE HORTICULTURE

In response to the current drought conditions and in anticipation of the future climate changes in California, teams of community volunteers and Learning by Leading student interns are implementing sustainable horticulture practices in the Arboretum and across campus. When students replace low-use campus lawns with drought-tolerant, easy-care plants, they help our campus address major environmental issues like global climate change, natural resource conservation and habitat degradation. As they convert these landscapes, we invite visitors to venture outside the Arboretum boundaries to gain inspiration and ideas for their own homes.

While over six teams of weekly community volunteers tend to the Arboretum's gardens and collections, the Learning by Leading Sustainable Horticulture student interns are expanding those sustainable techniques to on-campus landscapes as well. Sustainable Horticulture Student Co-Coordinator Nguyen Nguyen, Kathy Geurtze and Terence Wu lead a team of Learning by Leading student interns in design, planning, construction, and maintenance of sustainable drought-tolerant gardens. Some of the implemented projects include the lawn conversions on the south side of Shields Library and outside Everson Hall.

"Landscape irrigation uses the largest amount of our water in urban landscapes," said Nguyen, "The mission of our program is to convert many of our campus's underutilized lawns into something more sustainable, drought-tolerant, and ecologically functional."

Not only are the landscapes sustainable and water-efficient, the new plants provide attractive, pollinator-friendly gardens and, in many cases, improve stormwater quality across campus. Currently, Nguyen, Geurtze and Wu are working with the Student Leadership for Green Infrastructure Club to establish a turf conversion project by the Social Sciences building, affectionately known as the "Death Star." This large cement building will soon be home to a student-created rain garden — a planter that absorbs rainwater runoff from buildings, rooftops and walkways.

By providing positive ecological landscape changes, the better adapted and prepared the campus will be in upcoming years to come. "The current environmental crisis is telling us to wake up," said Geurtze, "and we can start by reducing our use of Earth's precious resources, as well as supporting our diverse plant and animal life in California."

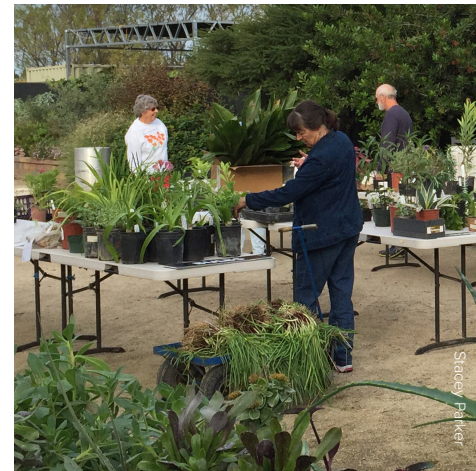
BALANCING GARDEN ETHICS WITH AESTHETICS

Continued from page 1

- Letting the blossoms of perennials like buckwheat (*Erigonium* spp.) or Cascade Creek goldenrod (*Solidago californica* 'Cascade Creek') turn chocolatey brown in early fall and not cutting them back until winter may be outside your comfort zone...but not when you find beauty in knowing these dried seeds provide winter forage for birds;
- You may have a difficult time appreciating the seasonal beauty of native grass ecosystems...but not when you realize their role as habitat to 90% of California's rare and endangered species (and so much more).

As gardeners, educators and interpreters of the natural world we seek to share with our community the materials and practices for creating both ethically and aesthetically-pleasing landscapes. We utilize our outdoor spaces as a living laboratory for our students and volunteers to work with one another, develop leadership skills and build a portfolio of knowledge necessary to be able to share these practical gardening philosophies with other communities beyond our borders.

As a member, your role in supporting our organization, understanding our larger vision, and committing to sustainable horticulture's best practices is building momentum and demonstrating how working together, we really can improve our environment.



SNAPSHOTS FROM FALL

Katie Hetrick, Communications Director

1. Interns and students gathered for a networking event and work day sponsored by landscape contractors Cagwin & Dorward in the Hunt Hall courtyard — headquarters of the UC Davis Landscape Architecture + Environmental Design program and location of our newest campus GATEway garden.
2. Our Arboretum Teaching Nursery is home to one of avian veterinarian Dr. Lisa Tell's hummingbird research stations. Here Dr. Tell assists community member Donald Stoye in releasing a hummingbird after its health exam.
3. This could be the first night planting in Learning by Leading history! Crunched for time and determined to ensure their veggies would be ready to harvest and donate to the Student Food Pantry in the new year, students in our Edible Landscaping program planted the Good Life Garden at night.
4. To kick off fall quarter, students from our Arboretum Ambassador program led an informal walking tour at which students and community members alike could discover more about the Arboretum's gardens and collections.
5. Trees will eventually grow to engulf their ID tags (note the location of the old tag under the branch). That's why trees in our oak collection were treated to new ID tags by students and volunteers in an effort led by Angelica Saucedo, plant records specialist, and Denise Castro, curatorial intern.
6. Our second annual "Volunteer Plant Swap" took place in November. It's a fun opportunity for volunteers to share plants they propagate and "talk shop."
7. Community service participants from Bayer Corporation dedicated a day to helping us establish over 2,000 California natives in our new hummingbird garden. Here Haven Kiers, special projects manager, instructs a team of volunteers on proper planting techniques.
8. Carve n' Compost, an event led by Arboretum Ambassadors, not only provided community members an opportunity to prepare DIY décor for Halloween, they learned the benefits and basics of composting from students at Project Compost.
9. This year we hosted our first Learning by Leading Orientation for over 60 student interns enrolled in the program. Here they learn more about plant propagation at the Arboretum Teaching Nursery.



LIFE AFTER LAWN: GARDEN GEMS

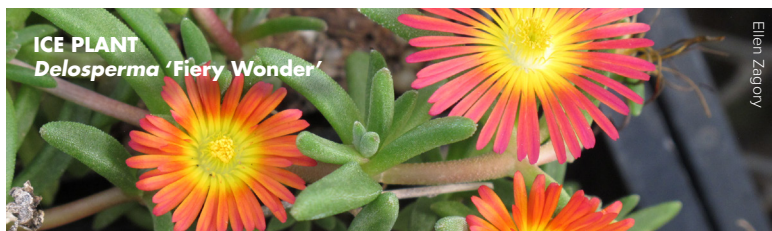
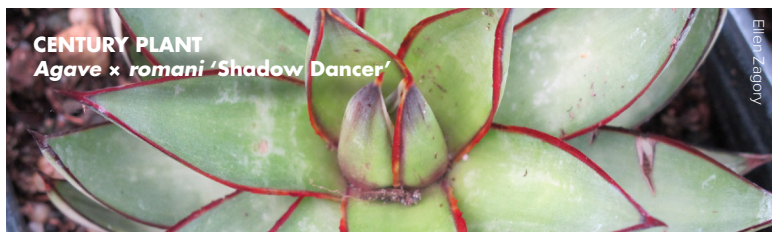
Ellen Zagory, Director of Public Horticulture

We present the next installment of Life After Lawn plants: Garden Gems—beautiful, unique and fascinating plants to delight your senses and complete your drought-tolerant landscape.

Perhaps you have given up your lawn, planted less-thirsty perennials or incorporated plants that support beneficial wildlife. Now you are seeking other options to provide unexpected interest without wreaking havoc on your water bill.

Thanks to moderate Central Valley climate conditions giving this region the ability to grow a large assortment of plants from around the world, gardeners and do-it-yourself landscapers can also look to this list of California-compatible plants for unexpected colors, textures, and forms.

Look for the complete list via weekly features in the Sacramento Bee or in “The Leaflet,” our electronic newsletter.



VOLUNTEER POSITIONS NOW OPEN

APPLICATIONS DUE JANUARY 20

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPEND MORE TIME OUTDOORS? Would you like to learn more about the environment? Are you looking for a way to fulfill a New Year's resolution to give back to the community? Consider volunteering with the UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden! It's a rewarding place to spend your time while learning new skills and meeting new people.

We are seeking new volunteers to join our gardening and habitat restoration teams. Training will be offered this winter and include a combination of expert instruction and hands-on projects. There will be a \$20 materials fee due at your team's first scheduled training date.

GARDENING VOLUNTEERS work in teams on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday mornings to help maintain and beautify Arboretum and Public Garden landscapes. Each team focuses on a different area; volunteers work in collaboration with horticultural staff. **Training dates: Thursdays, Feb. 2-Mar. 9, 9 am–12 pm.**

HABITAT RESTORATION VOLUNTEERS work in teams on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday mornings to help maintain and beautify Arboretum and Public Garden lands along Putah Creek and the rural parts of campus. This work can be more strenuous than other volunteer opportunities. Each team focuses on a different area; volunteers work in collaboration with natural resources staff. **Training dates: Thursdays, Feb. 2-Mar. 9, 9 am–12 pm.**

APPLY NOW. SPACE IS LIMITED. Applications are due Friday, January 20. The application form and more information are available on the Arboretum website at arboretum.ucdavis.edu. If you have questions, please contact Roxanne Loe at (530) 752-4880 or rgloe@ucdavis.edu.



DONATIONS *Aug - Oct 2016*

We extend our sincere gratitude to these donors. To make a tribute gift or other donation online, visit arboretum.ucdavis.edu.

ENDOWMENT GIFTS

Arboretum Enhancement Fund
Scott Chan & Vicki Moore

Carolee Gish Ferguson Hummingbird Garden Endowment
Katie & Eric Hetrick

FOUNDATION GIFTS

Excelerate Foundation

TRIBUTE GIFTS

In honor of Shirley Maus
Karen & William Weigt

In memory of Deborah Pinkerton

All donations will be acknowledged in the spring issue of the Review.

FRIENDS ANNUAL FUND

Tré & Jim Frane
Terry & Judy Murphy

RESTRICTED GIFTS

Cagwin & Dorward Landscape Contractors
Don and Audrey Stoye
University Retirement Community

IN KIND GIFTS

Dick & Trish Bruga

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SEQUOIA CIRCLE

James Dunn & Johanna Schmitt
Mont Hubbard & Lyn Taylor

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Carol & Gerhard Parker
Isabel Shaskan
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Barbara Blanco
Anthony Cruz
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Sean Dunn
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UC DAVIS



ARBORETUM AND PUBLIC GARDEN

WINTER 2017 GATEWAYS EVENTS

plant sales

9 am–1 pm
Arboretum Teaching Nursery
Garrod Drive, UC Davis
arboretum.ucdavis.edu

MEMBER APPRECIATION SALE

Saturday, March 11 (Members Only)

- 10% off purchase
- \$10 off thank you gift
- free refreshments

Not a member? Call ahead or join at the door!

PUBLIC SALES

**Saturday, April 8
Saturday, April 29**

music & wellness

FOLK MUSIC JAM SESSIONS

**Fridays, January 13 & 27;
February 10 & 24, March 10;**
12–1 pm, Wyatt Deck

Folk musicians are invited to bring their acoustic instruments and play together informally over the lunch hour. All skill levels are welcome, and listeners are invited.

OPEN MIC NIGHT UNDER THE STARS

Thursday, February 9, 7–9 pm
Wyatt Deck

(Rain location: 146 Environmental Horticulture)

Join us for a free night of fun in nature while enjoying talented local musicians, poets, comedians and much more. If you would like to perform, email openmicnightucd@gmail.com for more information. **Intended for mature audiences.**

DASH AND DINE

Saturday, March 4, 9 am–12 pm
Wyatt Deck (Rain or shine!)

Start your day off right! Pick your distance and discover the Arboretum as you run or walk along our demonstration gardens, plant collections and the waterway, then join us for a light, healthy breakfast. Co-sponsored by the Arboretum Ambassadors and Davis Hiking Club.

RANG BARSEY A CELEBRATION OF HOLI

Sunday, March 12, 12–4 pm
Arboretum Gazebo

The Indian Graduate Student Association in collaboration with the Friends of the UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden present “Rang Barsey”—a celebration of Holi. Have a fun-filled time in this magnificent celebration of joy and love with colors, water, and lots of Indian food at the Arboretum Gazebo. Stay tuned for updates including ticket prices.

family programs

GET DOWN WITH UPCYCLING

Sunday, January 22, 1–3 pm
Wyatt Deck

(Rain location: 146 Environmental Horticulture)

Ever wonder what you can do with those empty soda bottles or milk cartons? Turn that trash into treasure! Join the Arboretum Ambassadors and the Aggie Reuse Store for a sustainable craft-making workshop. Learn how to press plants and upcycle everyday waste items into something creative and fun.

UC DAVIS BIODIVERSITY MUSEUM DAY

Saturday, February 18, 9 am–1 pm
Arboretum Headquarters

Go behind the scenes to explore and engage with scientists and students as you learn about the diversity of life right here on campus from 12 different university museums at this popular, all-ages open house event. Make the Arboretum one of your stops anytime between 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., but be sure to take in the other 11 participating museums anytime between 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For more information, visit <http://biodiversitymuseumday.ucdavis.edu>.

BIRDMANIA! BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND YOUR BIRD FEEDER

Saturday, February 25, 12–2 pm
Wyatt Deck

(Rain location: Environmental Horticulture 146)

Build your own bird feeder using materials you already have in your home while learning more about local bird species. Please bring empty milk jugs, plastic bottles, tin cans, or milk cartons to design your project. All ages are welcome.

NATIVE CALIFORNIA ELDERBERRY FLUTE-MAKING WORKSHOP

Sunday, February 26, 1–3 pm
146 Environmental Horticulture

In this free, two-hour workshop, people of all ages will learn how to make and play a Native California elderberry flute. East Bay Regional Parks docent Antonio Flores will talk about the culture of flute-making and also about the endangered elderberry beetle. All materials will be supplied. Please bring a sharpened pocket knife if you have one. Adults will need to supervise their young children.

guided tours

WEDNESDAY WALKS WITH WARREN

All walks begin at 12 pm

January 11

West End Gardens, meet at Gazebo

February 8

West End Gardens, meet at Gazebo

March 8

Warren G. Roberts Redbud Collection and Acacias, meet at Arboretum Headquarters (Valley Oak Cottage)

Join Warren Roberts, Superintendent Emeritus of the Arboretum and famous storyteller and punster, for an always engaging noontime exploration of the UC Davis Arboretum's gardens and plant collections.

WINTER BIRDS IN DAVIS: SLIDE SHOW AND TOUR

Saturday, January 14, 10:30 am
146 Environmental Horticulture

Our fine feathered friends are fascinating! Learn about birds that winter in Davis during a slide show talk. Then take a walk to see birds in the Arboretum (weather permitting). Park in Lot 5 and look for the signs to the meeting room.

AMAZING ACACIAS

Saturday, February 25, 2 pm
Meet at Putah Creek Lodge

Experience the spectacular spring display of yellow blossoms in the Eric E. Conn Acacia Grove. See acacia species from around the world and learn why they are great plants to consider for your home garden.

THE FEAST – A CELEBRATION OF MEAD AND HONEY

February 11, 6–9 pm
Robert Mondavi Institute

Featuring the partnership with the Arboretum and Public Garden

\$150 /person • More info: honey.ucdavis.edu

Proceeds benefit the UC Davis Honey and Pollination Center

UC DAVIS ARBORETUM AND PUBLIC GARDEN REVIEW

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FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

These cold and thankfully wetter winter months give us an opportunity to reflect on why we work so hard to make our gardens more environmentally-friendly. As Ellen Zagory and Katie Hetrick discuss on the cover of this newsletter, we are not only driven to make beautiful gardens. We believe it is important for us to create gardens that make the environment healthier by using less water and fewer inputs, while also protecting our waterways by filtering storm water and supporting native pollinators and other beneficial wildlife. We also work to encourage others to transform their own gardens and landscapes as well. To help you find the perfect plants for your garden, you can get a preview of our new plant recommendations, a weekly series that has already started appearing in the Sacramento Bee, which we've titled "Garden Gems" (see page 5).

Through our Learning by Leading Program, community volunteers and UC Davis students take on leadership roles to help us meet these lofty goals (pages 2-3). We want to thank everyone who has contributed to the Friends of the UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden's Annual Appeal this year to support the Learning by Leading students who, like us and our volunteers, are so passionate about the environment and making a difference in the world. If you would like to make a donation but have not already had the opportunity to do so, feel free to use the enclosed envelope.

Another way you can show your support for the Arboretum and Public Garden and for the environment is by volunteering with us. We have a new volunteer training starting soon (see details on page 7). We could not keep our gardens and collections looking as good as they do without our fabulous volunteers. As always, we also are so grateful to our members and donors who continue to support us with much needed funds that keep our programs going strong (see page 6). You can see some of the programs from our busy fall season on page 4.

Stay warm and dry this winter, but don't forget to enjoy the gardens and our exciting winter programming (see page 5) as much as you can.

Kathleen