UCDAVIS **RBORETUM** REVIEW

SPRING PLANT **SALES**

Arboretum Teaching Nursery Garrod Drive, UC Davis arboretum.ucdavis.edu

MEMBER APPRECIATION SALE

Saturday, March 15

- 10% off purchase\$10 off couponfree refreshments

Not a member? Join at the door!

PUBLIC SALES

Saturday, April 5 Saturday, April 26 Saturday, May 17



THE NEW FRONT YARD: SUPPORTING WILDLIFE THROUGH WINTER WHILE SAVING WATER

Ellen Zagory, Director of Horticulture

THERE IS A NEW PARADIGM in the garden world and the model is spreading. According to the US Forest Service website, "With more than 80% of the US population living in urban and urbanizing areas, protecting and restoring wildlife habitat in our cities and suburbs has become a vital component of wildlife conservation." For those planning to convert a water-guzzling lawn to a low-water landscape, now is also a great time to take stock and plan changes to also support wildlife.

At the same time you are evaluating your plants for their drought-tolerance, you can assess them for their ability to provide food and shelter to wild creatures. Adding or converting to California native plants wherever possible strengthens your garden's draw for native animals. Planting design, plant selection and maintenance practices all add up to the difference between a yard rich with living things and one without.

Many people don't realize that the winter garden is home to a variety of both resident and migrating bird species. Winter-blooming plants provide sparkle during dreary winter days but also provide nectar and pollen for resident creatures, like hummingbirds and native bees. These include shrubs like currants (Ribes malvaceum, Ribes viburnifolium), manzanitas (Arctostaphylos spp.) and silktassels (Garrya elliptica). Incorporating evergreen shrubs, including conifers, and growing thick hedges provides birds with shelter from inclement weather, places to hide from predators and a place to nest. If you don't have room for large shrubs, a small, sheltered brush pile can provide the same function.

Incorporating plants for berries and seed production will set the table at which birds will dine. A few recommended shrubs for berries are toyon

(Heteromeles arbutifolia), coffeeberry (Rhamnus californica), Oregon grape (Berberis aquifolium) and golden currants (Ribes aureum). Others that provide seeds are California lilac (Ceanothus spp.), buckwheats (Eriogonum spp.), mountain mahogany (Cercocarpus betuloides) and redbud (Cercis occidentalis). Native oaks provide acorns for jays and also host a wide variety of insects eaten by birds.

While most gardeners carry out a fall garden "clean up," a good wildlife gardener will wait until the end of winter. Perennials left to go to seed will provide food for birds while overwintering insects may inhabit the flower stems. Don't be in a hurry to rake. Instead, use leaves as a mulch layer around plants, which can provide shelter and a feast of insects and seeds. As you know, mulch also protects your soil from water loss, therefore reducing the amount of water your garden needs. Add a contained source of water to your design, like a bird bath, and birds will gather to drink.

Food, water, cover, and nesting sites are the foundation of a wildlife-friendly garden and, in addition to use of water-efficient plants, mulch, avoidance of pesticides and elimination of invasive species, it will make the garden more sustainable. If enough of our community embraces these ideas, we can create connected, low-water landscapes rich with flight, color and song.

SMALL HABITATS ADD UP TO MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

CHECK OUT PAGE 2 to see many of the Ellen's article above.

volunteer spotlight: DOROTHY BRANDON

DOROTHY'S HISTORY WITH THE ARBORE-

TUM dates back to her days as a botany undergraduate at UC Davis where her interest in and love of plants led her to a career as a member of the department's teaching support staff. It was there that she worked with former Arboretum directors and faculty members John Tucker and Grady Webster, who relied on Dorothy to track down the specific plant specimens they needed for class because she knew just where to go to locate them in the Arboretum.

Since 2006, Dorothy has continued to keep her botanical knowledge alive as a volunteer on the Arboretum's curatorial team where she works with Arboretum Curator Mia Ingolia to map and accession all the plants in our collections as well as verify their names.

"It's detective work figuring out what to call plants, how the names are affected by new nomenclature standards, and how plant family relations are altered due to family name changes," states Dorothy, "but I love the process and I love a challenge!"

This same love of process and challenge has also led Dorothy to become skilled at woodturning and experiment with her newest hobby—glassblowing—where she enjoys creating optical patterns in clear glass.

"I don't make anything pretty yet, but I enjoy doing it!"

When it comes to making things pretty, Dorothy excels as a member of the Arboretum Terrace Garden and Lois Crowe Patio and Arboretum's east-end volunteer gardening teams. And as if that wasn't enough, she is also a docent and a volunteer at our plant sales.

Thank you Dorothy! We are so fortunate that you've chosen to share your time, knowledge and passion with our organization. The Arboretum would not be the resource it is today for our community and beyond without volunteers like you!

SUPPORTING WILDLIFE THROUGH WINTER (con't)



THE FRIENDS NEED YOUR HELP TO MEET THIS YEAR'S GOAL

Suzanne Ullensvang, Resource Development Manager

EACH YEAR THE FRIENDS OF THE UC DAVIS ARBORETUM

RAISES CRITICAL FUNDS to support key areas of the Arboretum's work. This year, students are the focus of the Friends annual appeal and it has an ambitious goal—raise \$22,000 to provide support for four student interns this year.

Undergraduate students actively engage in nearly everything the Arboretum does. As part of the UC Davis GATEways Project and its Learning by Leading initiative, students are helping to develop the campus outdoor space into an inviting, interactive, and educational showcase for the public.

Dozens of students participate each year in unique hands-on internship and work opportunities. Student leadership projects add richness to the Arboretum experience, improve outreach efforts, and leverage staff resources. In addition, these experiences benefit the students' careers and can transform their lives. These students go on to become leaders in many fields, often tackling the difficult environmental issues that face us all.

To expand student opportunities, the Arboretum depends on community support. We appreciate the generous donors who have already funded student programs, such as Deborah Pinkerton and Bret Hewitt. Together they established the Deborah N. Pinkerton Arboretum Prize – a special honor awarded annually to students making significant contributions to the UC Davis Arboretum.

Please consider a gift! Your contribution in any amount will help us reach our goal. Use the enclosed envelope to help the Friends protect exceptional student opportunities at the Arboretum. You may also contact Suzanne Ullensvang at sullensvang@ucdavis.edu or (530)752-8324.



MUSEUM SCIENCE

"In my role, I do a lot of one-on-one problem-solving with our curator, which is really valuable professional training. I've also learned GIS, an essential research and analysis tool for my career, and gained handson experience with the plant collections, which I've grown to love. I'm always telling my friends what a 'hidden gem' the Arboretum student jobs are—working here has been one of the best parts of my UC Davis experience and it has really sparked my interest in curatorial science."

ANNA NICHOLS, BOTANICAL GARDEN MAPPING ASSISTANT, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE MAJOR

ARTS IN THE ENVIRONMENT

'For me, the Arboretum is the best part about UC Davis; it's a factory for learning and creativty. The staff really trusted in my abilities and nelped to foster my ideas into reality—most students just don't get that kind of opportunity. I still can't believe the impact my experience working with and for the Arboretum had on my life as a student and now as a professional."

JOHN GAINEY, LANDSCAPE DESIGNER, LUTSKO ASSOCIATES, ANIMAL SCIENCE GATEWAY GARDEN DESIGNER, SHIELDS OAK GROVE "CRESTED OAK" SCULPTOR, B.A. LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE + ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN 2011



SUSTAINABLE HORTICULTURE

"Through my experience here I have seen my project development and leadership skills grow. Now as an internship coordinator, I am more confident in my ability to support other interns in their learning experiences based upon my deeper understanding of my own particular leadership style. Our edible landscaping internship is a real pioneer on campus, and it's exciting to be part of the early developmental phases of something I know will give a new face to UC Davis."

ARIANNA KOSEL, EDIBLE LANDSCAPING INTERNSHIP COORDINATOR, SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS MAJOR

INNOVATION IN EDUCATION

"I was learning so much in class and I wanted to share it. Interning with the Arboretum offered me a place to create my own unique program, 'Bugtopia,' and a dedicated community eager for me to share my love for insects and my love of the outdoors all at once! Hands-on, interactive outdoor programs are a great way for everyone to learn and get excited about nature. My experiences here have helped me define who I am as an individual and what I want for my future."

MELISSA CRUZ, OUTREACH COORDINATOR AND FORMER AMBASSADOR CO-COORDINATOR, B.S. IN ENTOMOLOGY 2013

VALENTINE GIFT IDEA

STERLING SILVER PINS AND NECKLACES—cre-

ated from a valley oak leaf grown in the Arboretum are perfect for the Arboretum lover in your life! The same goes for the latest addition to our collection-acorn earrings. The top is created from an acorn cap grown in the Arboretum and the seed is hand carved from an oak branch. Your purchase supports the Friends of the UC Davis Arboretum, including educational programs for our community. Sterling silver necklaces and the earrings are \$48; the sterling silver oak leaf pins are \$42.

Arboretum Collection jewelry can be purchased at the UC Davis Downtown Store, located at 630 Second Street.

STAFF NEWS

Jim Dunn



We are very excited to welcome Jim Dunn as our new GATEways Garden Steward. Jim first came to us as a volunteer gardener after relocating to Davis from the east coast.

He arrives with a strong background in financial administration, volunteer management, and student aid programs. Jim will help manage GATEway Garden Project initiatives and serve as a liaison for visitors and volunteers.

Melissa Cruz



We are thrilled to introduce Melissa Cruz as our interim Outreach Coordinator. Melissa graduated from UC Davis with a bachelor's degree in entomology this last

June. Many of you will recognize her as one of our Arboretum Ambassador Co-Coordinators from 2011-13. Melissa helped us organize our fall plant sales and will continue that role through the spring. Additionally, Melissa will help develop outreach activities and events.

FALL GATEWAYS EVENTS

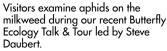
(Gardens, Arts, & The Environment)

Your membership in and gifts to the Friends of the UC Davis Arboretum help fund these and other educational programs for our community. Thank you!



Arboretum Ambassador Sofia Prokop (right) helps two young visitors with a Native Californian pump drill at *Storytime Through the Seasons: Under the Redwood Tree* at the Wyatt Deck.







Jack Collins launches his huge paper airplane at the *Arboretum Design* + *Launch Flight Derby*, co-sponsored by the Davis Art Center.



UCSC chemistry professor Roger Linington works with the audience to map out the steps in creating a new medicine from a marine organism at the Arboretum's 4th annual Science Café at Wyatt Deck, co-sponsored by Chemistry professor Jared Shaw.



Actors Connor Dick (Peter) and Wendy Wyatt-Mair (Rita) embrace affectionately in a scene from Common House Productions' *Prelude*, performed at the Wyatt Deck in October.



WINTER 2014 GATEWAYS EVENTS

SPRING PLANT SALES

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

MEMBER APPRECIATION SALE

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PUBLIC SALES Saturday, April 5, Saturday, April 26, Saturday, May 17



GUIDED TOURS

WEDNESDAY WALKS WITH WARREN

All walks begin at 12 pm February 12: West-end Gardens, meet at Gazebo March 12: Warren G. Roberts Redbud Collection, 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, February 1, 10:30 am, Environmental Horticulture 146

Our 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).

ALL THINGS ACACIA

Saturday, March 1, 2 pm, Putah Creek Lodge

Enjoy an early spring display of yellow blossoms on this guided tour of the Eric E. Conn Acacia Grove. The grove features more than 50 different acacias from around the world.

ARTS & LETTERS

FOLK MUSIC JAM SESSIONS

Alternate Fridays, January 17, & 31; February 14 & 28; March 14, 12-1 pm, Wyatt Deck

Folk musicians are invited to bring their acoustic instruments—fiddles, guitars, banjos, mandolins, squeeze boxes, you name it—and play together informally over the lunch hour. All skill levels are welcome, and listeners are invited.

FAMILY NATURE PROGRAM

STORYTIME THROUGH THE SEASONS: CLIMBING UP THE GINKGO TREE

Sunday, February 2, Noon-2 pm, Wyatt Deck (Rain location: 146 Environmental Horticulture)

Join us for a free, outdoor reading program exploring the cultural and natural world of Asia. Experience Asian culture in a whole new light with activities and experiences in the East Asian Collection. Come celebrate Chinese New Year at the Arboretum. Sponsored by the Arboretum Ambassadors. All ages are welcome! Please plan to come for the full 2 hours.

NATIVE CALIFORNIAN ELDERBERRY FLUTE-MAKING WORKSHOP

Sunday, February 9, 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 Californian 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.

STORYTIME THROUGH THE SEASONS: EXPEDITION TO AFRICA

Sunday, March 2, 1-3 pm, Arboretum Headquarters, Valley Oak Cottage (Rain Location: 146 Environmental Horticulture)

Take a safari to Africa with this free, outdoor reading program for children and families. Explore the stories and nature of Africa in the Acacia Grove. All ages are welcome. Please meet us at the Arboretum Headquarters, and plan to join us for the full 2 hours. Sponsored by the Arboretum Ambassadors.

DONATIONS Aug - Oct 2013

We extend our sincere gratitude to these donors

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DONOR SPOTLIGHT: THE DOMINO EFFECT OF A SINGLE GIFT



WHAT DOES THE ARBORETUM'S NEW ZEALAND COLLECTION

have in common with the new California Native Plant GATEway Garden? Neither would be possible were it not for a generous donation provided by Dr. George Mason, New Zealand native and UC Davis alum (1969, PhD Botany).

His \$100K gift to develop the New Zealand Collection as well as provide multiple student learning and public outreach opportunities, triggered a domino effect of improvements, including the creation of the new California Native Plant GATEway Garden and the closely linked Putah Creek Parkway project.

This once undeveloped area, which reaches into the heart of Downtown Davis, is now the centerpiece of more than \$1.4 million in grants, gifts, and other donations! We are so proud and thankful that Dr. Mason's gift provided the foundation for this truly special and unique garden enhancement.

We strive to acknowledge your gifts accurately. Please notify us of any corrections.

Julie Scarberry

BEHIND THE SCENES: TAKE A LOOK AT THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT GATEWAY GARDEN IN DEVELOPMENT



As a supporter of the Friends of the UC Davis Arboretum, we wanted you to be the first to see the exciting green features of the new garden, even before the fences come down. The garden should be open to the public towards the end of January or the beginning of February. Start your "Behind the Scenes" look in the breezeway between the two main buildings of the Davis Commons Shopping Center. As you walk toward campus notice that there is now a pathway that leads directly from this popular city hub and right into campus.

1. The **"SHOVEL GATEWAY" SCULPTURE** visible up ahead, crafted from over 400 community-donated shovels, gives visitors a visual cue as to the location of campus and the Arboretum. Along the way take note of the greening improvements made to the west wide of the parking lot near Aggie Village.

2. **CURB CUTS AND GRADE CHANGES** along the sidewalk entry to the parking lot now allow stormwater run-off to drain into this rain garden of sedges and rushes where it will be filtered naturally.

3. As you cross from the parking lot into campus, note that the **JOINTS BETWEEN THE PERVIOUS PAVERS ARE FILLED WITH SMALL, LOOSELY PACKED GRAVEL**. This minor paving change reaps huge benefits to improving stormwater quality as rain can now can seep back into the ground rather than flow directly into our storm drain system.

4. The same approach applies to the **NEW POROUS CONCRETE PARKING SPACES** east of the Shovel Gateway—the Rice Krispies[®] texture of this type of concrete allows water to permeate its surface. The pathway continues through the sculpture and into the main portion of the California Native Plant GATEway Garden.

Most of the rest of these features can be seen from outside the fence, and you'll be able to see them all up close once the fence comes down.

5. A **STEEL PAVILION** frames the north side of the garden, a soon-to-be shade structure and trellis for vines, including California grapes.

6 & 7. A **RUSTIC BOARDWALK** leads visitors over a shallow swale and **MULTIPLE BLOCK WOOD BENCHES** dot the site—these amenities were created from the reclaimed timber of trees removed for health or safety reasons from campus or local municipalities.

8. Throughout the garden, staff along with hundreds of community volunteers, have planted **OVER 25,000 GRASSES, RUSHES, SEDGES, AND WILDFLOWERS** native not just to California, but native to our local lower Putah Creek watershed. Conclude your tour by continuing along the gold paver pathway and into the south side of the Arboretum's Australian collection.

9. Look back to the slope that once defined the eastern edge of the Arboretum and note the **RUNNEL FEATURE** that serves to channel and filter stormwater from our new garden into the waterway.

UC DAVIS ARBORETUM REVIEW

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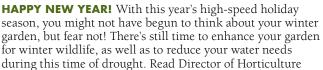
STUDENT STAFF

Ellen Zagory, Director of Horticulture

Spencer Abildgaard Grace Amico Leigh Hiura Diane Hwu Arianna Kosel Felix Lemus Mathias Marcos Erin McLachlan Anna Nichols

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,



Ellen Zagory's article, "The New Front Yard: Supporting Wildlife Through Winter While Saving Water" to find out what plants you can select, as well as gardening practices you can use right now (pages 1-2). Look for these types of plants at our member appreciation plant sale on Saturday, March 15 from 9 a.m-1 p.m. At this sale, our members receive a special thank-you gift of \$10 off their entire purchase, as well as the normal member discount of 10% off.

We are so grateful to you, our members and partners, for once again providing the Arboretum with a multitude of support through your time (see the volunteer spotlight on page 2), annual membership dues, plant sale purchases, dedications, donations of all sizes (see the donor spotlight on page 6), and more. Your participation is helping us build a strong future for the Arboretum as a strong community and campus resource.

UC Davis students are at the center of our work. Over its entire history, the Arboretum has been greatly enhanced by the stellar students that have contributed their talents and have gone on to be leaders in many careers, from horticulture and landscape architecture to education and garden administration. These are the people who will help us solve our environmental problems in the future. We want to make sure this legacy continues. On behalf of the Friends of the UC Davis Arboretum, I ask that you consider a gift to support these student leadership opportunities. Read more about this opportunity on page 3. In addition, consider supporting the Friends and the Arboretum's educational programs through your purchase of jewelry from the Arboretum Collection (page 4).

Looking back at 2013, we are so thankful for what has proved to be another exciting and prolific year, with one major highlight being the vast improvements to the Arboretum's east end with the construction of the California Native Plant GATEway Garden and enhancements to our City Arts GATEway connection. The fencing in this area is scheduled to come down towards the end of January or beginning of February, but we wanted to give you, our members, a little preview with a "behind the scenes" look (page 7). We hope you'll take the time to explore the space as well as some of the new "green" features that we've incorporated.

Lastly, we hope you will join us for many of the free guided tours, arts or family nature programs we've planned for winter (page 5). It's thanks to your membership and gifts that we are able to offer such a great range of activities. Whether you visit for a stroll, a plant sale, or GATEways program, I look forward to seeing you in the garden!

Kathleen