

WHY IS THERE A moon garden ? IN THE ARBORETUM ●

It continues a three thousand year-old gardening tradition

Historically, white flower gardens were used by aristocrats of ancient India, and later by English socialites, for outdoor parties before air conditioning was invented. In order to escape summer heat, parties were held in the evening. White flowers were ideal because they shine in the light of the moon.

It provides a wonderful destination for Arboretum visitors

This garden and gazebo are a beautiful setting for weddings and receptions. For reservations, call Campus Events and Visitor Services (530) 752-2675.

It provides food sources for night-pollinating insects

In the evening, many of the flowers in this garden have a stronger scent that attracts night-pollinating moths.



White garland ginger (*Hedychium coronarium*) from India is a popular moon garden flower because of its tropical fragrance.



Any white-flowering plant is suitable for a moon garden. Some of these scented favorites are found in this garden.



Ellen Zagory



Melissa Borel



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The sphinx moth is attracted to white flowers by their sweet fragrance and visibility at night. As the moth feeds on nectar, it pollinates the flowers. *Smerinthus cerisyi* (left), and *Hyles lineata* (right), both in the Sphingidae family.

Clockwise from top: summer daphne (*Daphne x transcaucasica*), southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), Argentine rain lily (*Zephyranthes candida*), and calla lily (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*).



WELCOME TO THE Carolee Shields White Flower Garden and Gazebo



Carolee Shields (far left), seated behind Judge Shields, hosts one of the first Picnic Day events in the area that eventually became the Arboretum.

Who was Carolee Shields?

Carolee Shields was the wife of Judge Peter J. Shields, an early champion of the founding of UC Davis. She is credited with starting the long-standing campus tradition of Picnic Day by hosting the first event in 1909.

After Judge Shields passed away, Mrs. Shields made sure that a bequest from their estate would create the Shields Oak Grove along with this garden and gazebo.

The formal white flower garden was planted in 1976 at the suggestion of Mrs. Shields' friends, Ruth Risdon Storer and Alyce Jewett.



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