A note from Suzanne…

It’s hard to believe it’s already December and 2009 is just around the corner.

We’ve had a busy and exciting fall with the official grand opening of the new Teaching Nursery in October. The fall Plant Faire was a wonderful success! What a great accomplishment made possible by great teamwork between Arboretum volunteers and staff.

Many other exciting things happened this fall, too. The East End Gardeners completed work on the beautiful new path in the Australian collection. And the “comfort station” near the Gazebo on the West end has been enhanced with a new mosaic mural depicting the Oak Family Tree. Many Arboretum and community volunteers helped create this masterpiece. If you haven’t been out in the Arboretum lately, be sure to stop by and admire these beautiful new additions.

In my first few months here, I’ve enjoyed meeting and getting to know many of you, seeing the various volunteer teams in action… and occasionally sharing in your delicious snack breaks! Thanks for your patience and good humor while I continue to match names with faces.

Coming in as a new staff member this fall I had no idea the Arboretum had so many volunteers working so actively in so many different areas! It’s great fun to work with such a dedicated and energetic group of volunteers and I see now that the volunteers really are the backbone of the Arboretum. None of the great successes this year would have been possible without the extraordinary commitment of our terrific Arboretum volunteer teams.

In this issue, you’ll find a special insert page with notes of gratitude from the staff members to the teams they work with throughout the year. We want you to know how much we appreciate the time you share, the hard work you contribute and the wisdom and energy you bring to the Arboretum.

Thank you and best wishes for the holidays!

Suzanne Ullensvang
Resource Development Manager

Announcements

We are sorry to share the sad news that docent Rob Merwin passed away earlier this fall. Rob was a valued member of our docent team and we will miss him in the Arboretum.

Deborah Rice joined the staff recently as the new Major Gifts Officer. Deborah’s office is in the Environmental Horticulture complex but she will be visiting Headquarters and walking through the Arboretum on a regular basis. You’ll certainly have a chance to meet her at various events. Please welcome Deborah and support her in building the relationships that can help grow support for the Arboretum’s future.

Staff member Mia Ingolia recently departed for her Australian adventure. Her crack team of curatorial volunteers will hold down the fort here and forge ahead with on-going projects while she’s away. See the thank you note insert for more details.

SF Flower & Garden Show Trip: March 18

The Arboretum is once again organizing a day trip to the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show. This would be a great outing for a group of volunteers! The cost of $55 general or $45 for members covers both the bus and entrance fee to the show on Wednesday, March 18. Call (530) 752-4880 or stop by the front desk to reserve your space soon.

Suzanne Ullensvang
Resource Development Manager
Plant Sale Updates and More…

Fall Plant Faire a Terrific Success
The fall Plant Faire was one of the most successful sales ever! Bravo to the many volunteers who put in so many hours planning the sale, orchestrating the move to the new Nursery and providing leadership at the event. The Friends report that 195 new and 94 renewing memberships were sold at the event!

Daisy Mah and Walt Mosely consult with Nursery Manager Beth Gale during a quiet moment on the sales floor.

The new team leaders did an outstanding job of recruiting and training their crews to help in all areas of the sale. This new volunteer structure for the sale was definitely a winner and made the entire sale process work smoothly. Special thanks to all the team leaders and team members for their hard work and to Mary Patterson and Kathy Olson for their excellent coordination of the team leader process.

Gladys Cosens and Kate Mawdsley work diligently to ring up sales at a cashier station. Customers really appreciated how efficiently the check-out system worked and the friendliness of the volunteers.

Thank you to all the plant sale volunteers who took the time to send in suggestions or attend the debrief meetings after the sale. We appreciate your valuable input as well as all you did to make the Fall Faire fantastic.

Improvements to Nursery in Progress
The new Teaching Nursery is now officially “launched” but it will continue to evolve and improve over the next year. Many interior improvements are being funded by contributions to the Arboretum Teaching Nursery Campaign being conducted by the Friends. This campaign is ongoing and we invite new gifts to help with these projects.

Silverado Building Materials recently made a generous donation of retaining wall blocks for the demonstration beds. Thanks to Janet Thatcher for helping with this connection and to Mary Patterson for leading the Terrace Gardeners in working to complete the beds. The beds will have different themes and showcase many of the Arboretum All-Stars. Two beds will include raised seat walls to provide a pleasant place for customers to rest. Volunteers are invited to come lend a hand installing the wall and finishing the demo beds in time for the spring sales. Contact Mary Patterson at maryp@capayranch.com if you would like to help.

The new Teaching Nursery looked spectacular this fall with a colorful new banner and roses lining the spacious main entry walkway. The four raised demo beds at the entry may be completed in time for the spring sales.

Spring Plant Sale Dates Announced
Mark your 2009 calendar for the spring plant sales:

Sat., March 14, 9am–1pm Member Appreciation Sale
Sat., April 4, 9am–3pm: All-Star Celebration & Sale
Sat., April 25, 9am–1pm: Gardeners Fair & Sale
Sat., May 16, 9am–noon: End of Season Clearance

The Plant Sale team leaders will begin recruiting volunteers this winter to help with these four sales. We'll be adding some new elements to the spring sales so it should be a fun season. Stay tuned for more details…
Dear East End Gardeners,
Wow! What a year we’ve had. This note is a big thank-you for your dedication to the big projects that we took on in 2008. The year started with a brand new team line-up that blended marvelously with several new team members that trickled in throughout the year. Our first project was the big one: renovate the Australian collection. And you did it with pride and gusto. Replanting all of the bare areas seemed like a big job until we started on The Path. I’ll admit that I didn’t know for sure if we were up to the task of all that heavy lifting (over 40 tons of soil, rock, and DG), but with your energy and perseverance, we created an amazing new asset for the Arboretum and its visitors. In addition to our work in Australia, we also managed to keep the rest of the east end in tip-top shape and find time for a couple of field trips in between.

We’re looking forward to another year of big, rewarding projects and thank you again for your dedication to the Arboretum.
Ryan Deering, GATEways Horticulturist
Mary Gibson, Gardening Specialist

Dear Central Gardeners,
We are grateful to have spent another year working with the versatile, energetic and talented “central area” volunteer gardeners. We labored through cutting back the huge Romneya coulteri (Matilija Poppy) and coughed and choked but soldiered on pruning down the Perovskia salvia. The new plantings in the South African and Southwest U.S. areas are thriving and there is more planting to come. Many thanks for your knowledge, enthusiasm, and humor (and good food). Enjoy the holidays.
Libby McGill, Gardening Specialist
Theresa Goman, Gardening Specialist

Dear West End Gardeners,
Thanks so much for all your work to keep the Storer Garden and Gazebo Garden in tip-top shape this year. The gardens are looking better than ever, and our visitors have really noticed the improvement. Your work has been vital for improving our maintenance standards in these gardens, and the gardens truly shine with the extra care.

We’re looking forward to working with you next year on improving the care of our oak collection in Shields Oak Grove, and starting the groundwork for a new interpretive trail and understory plantings. Pending grant funding, we may also have a Gazebo Garden renovation in our future with improved plantings and new plant labels.

Working with all of you in the garden is a great pleasure. We look forward to sharing more stories, laughs, delicious snacks, and satisfying garden accomplishments with you in the year to come.
Emily Griswold, Assistant Director of Horticulture
Theresa Goman, Gardening Specialist

Dear Terrace Gardeners,
Thank you so much for all the dedication, gardening knowledge, friendship, and humor that you have shown to the Arboretum in pursuit of quality maintenance and development of the Arboretum Terrace Garden. I look forward to our new endeavor as the “special forces” of the garden world always up for a new task and being in charge. We couldn’t do it without your help!
Ellen Zagory, Director of Horticulture
Dear Nursery Propagation Volunteers,
Over the 2007-2008 seasons, you have helped the Arboretum accomplish two major events: the moving of an entire nursery, and a year of record-breaking plant sales. Neither of these could have happened without all of you. You have helped us collect, clean and sow seed; take cuttings; take divisions; move plants; weed; prune; stick labels; set up plant sales; clean and organize; and repot, repot, repot. Your unique personalities and strengths have created three powerful and engaging teams. We are so proud and fortunate to be a part of them. Your dedication to the Nursery, and the Arboretum as a whole, is both honorable and inspiring. We look forward to a new year and a new nursery with you.

Thank you again so much—you are all truly appreciated.
Lisa Chaffee, Nursery Assistant
Beth Gale, Nursery Manager

Thanks to Our Naturalists!
This fall, we’ve had an incredibly vibrant group of naturalists guiding third and fourth-graders from regional elementary schools out on the trail in the Mary Wattis Brown Garden, the Redwood Grove and the Desert Section. The fall focus has been on the ethnobotany of Native Californians. Our new Outdoor Education Coordinator Ashley Khawsy has organized the naturalists and the tours this quarter. I want to thank Ashley, who has joined us this fall, for stepping into her leadership role with wonderful energy.

Next, I want to thank our Naturalists, both community volunteers and student interns, for their amazing creativity, enthusiasm, and hard work out on the trail. Thank you to: Sarah Benjaram, Candace Cross-Drew, Zala Dragos, Christy Dewees, Gayl Gregson, Kim Mayfield, Bree Murphy, Jeannette Robertson, Tracy Rosenthal, and Brian Santiago. Additional thanks go to Nicole Connell, Wayne Shiller, and Maxine Zylberberg — students from Professor Heidi Ballard’s Environmental Education Course who have assisted the naturalists on the tours.

I have been so inspired by the dedication each of you has brought to your work. The responses from the children, parents, and teachers who have visited us have been glowing!

Thanks,
Elaine Fingerett, Youth & Family Outreach Coordinator

Dear Docents,
You are wonderful ambassadors for the Arboretum! The energy and enthusiasm you put into leading the weekend and special group tours help visitors connect with the Arboretum in new and interesting ways. The fact that we can provide free tours throughout the year even in the cold of winter, the heat of summer or the blustery days of spring is terrific. You each bring unique skills and talents to the role of being a docent and we appreciate your dedication, creativity and dependability. Two volunteers deserve extra acknowledgement for their work in scheduling docent tours: Shirley Maus for handling the quarterly scheduling of free tours and Christine Joshel for scheduling special group tour requests.

Thanks docents and docent schedulers for a job well done.
Suzanne Ullensvang, Resource Development Manager
Dear Special Project Volunteers,
The Arboretum is blessed with some solitary heroes who often work behind the scenes on unique Arboretum projects. We’d like to acknowledge these special project volunteers who use their amazing talents and professional expertise to further our work, and they often do this alone! **Bob Gregoire** has provided another year of high-level consulting on our new Arboretum Teaching Nursery, from the nuts-and-bolts of getting it built to advice on the check-out flow for its first fall Plant Faire. **Mary Patterson** also lent her singular vision to the Arboretum Teaching Nursery design, participating in innumerable meetings over a year and a half! **Hank Bruett** continues to work closely with Robert Bohn, our Arboretum Steward, to make sure the Arboretum’s infrastructure is working and construction projects come off without a hitch. **Flora Tanji** continues to use her gardening expertise in the Storer Garden once a week and **Jack Klein** does the same in the White Flower Garden. They both give these gardens the extra TLC they need to look their best. Thank you to all of these special project volunteers for their tireless dedication to the Arboretum.

With our deepest gratitude,
**Kathleen Socolofsky**, Director; **Warren Roberts**, Superintendent; **Carmia Feldman**, Assistant Director; **Robert Bohn**, Arboretum Steward

Kudos to the Plant Sale Volunteers!
It takes a village of volunteers to pull off a plant sale. The three big sales were a super success in 2008 and we couldn’t have done it without the huge crew of volunteers who help out at each sale counting plants, ringing up customers, assisting on the sales floor, managing the parking lot and so much more. We appreciate all you do at the sales.

With sincere thanks,
**Carmia Feldman**, Assistant Director; **Ellen Zagory**, Director of Horticulture; **Beth Gale**, Nursery Manager; **Suzanne Ullensvang**, Resource Development Manager

Dear Thursday Curatorial Team,
Great thanks go to the Thursday Curatorial Team that has worked so closely with our Curator, Mia Ingolia, during the past year. Thanks to their incredible leadership, dedication, and their willingness to step up to even more responsibility, Mia was able to accept a temporary 7-month research appointment in Australia. Mia will be working with Australian scientists on an ongoing riparian restoration project -- work that may one day be the foundation for a research project leading to a PhD in restoration ecology at UC Davis. None of this would be possible for Mia without the amazing team that’s “got her back”: **Carol Knight, Dorothy Brandon, Linda Magrum, Linda Schmidt, and Lynne Hasz**. Each week, these volunteer plant record specialists work closely with Mia to accession all the new plants that the Arboretum acquires and grows, checking the nomenclature and researching all the needed information for our nursery, maps, and plant records. They are now boldly going where no team has gone before— they plan to continue their weekly work sessions in Mia’s absence. With adjustments made to deal with the time/date changes, Mia will continue to supervise this Thursday Curatorial Team from AUSTRALIA, using email, Skype, video chat, and phone calls. We are all excited about Mia’s new plans to pursue her graduate work and are looking forward to experimenting with new internet tools that will help this far-flung group continue their work together. Stay tuned as we learn more!

Thank you,
**Mary Burke**, Director of Planning and Collections on behalf of **Mia Ingolia**, Curator
Hurray for the Monday “CuraTeam”!
The Monday morning volunteer curatorial team members, Mary Horton, Marge March and Bob Breckenfeld, continue their excellent detective work with me every week. They are just about finished reviewing the Arboretum’s early accession records for accuracy and figuring out various mysterious entries regarding whether or not the seeds, cuttings, or plants were collected in the wild, from cultivated source, etc. Another current project is to produce illustrated information cards for the plants that will be offered at our plant sales. We are also producing lists of recommended plants for future propagation for our gardens and living plant collections. This will be a useful tool for Arboretum planning and planting and for production at our Teaching Nursery. This group makes Monday my favorite morning of the whole week.

Thank you,
Warren Roberts, Superintendent

To Our Wonderful Volunteer Leaders,
The Arboretum’s success is due, in no small part, to the commitment of its volunteer leaders. These incredible individuals have stepped up to take a large role in defining the Arboretum’s present and future. We want to thank the volunteer board of our support organization, the Friends of the UC Davis Arboretum, for its leadership at a time of great challenges and opportunities. This year, the board supported the move to the new Arboretum Teaching Nursery by launching a special fundraising campaign and kicking it off with a generous challenge gift. The board also continues to support the Arboretum through its regular annual appeal that is now in full swing. A wholehearted thank you to Mary Patterson, President; Martha Ozonoff, Vice President; Shirley Maus, Treasurer; Lois Crowe, Secretary; Ernie Lewis, member-at-large; and Kathy Olson, member-at-large.

Along with her other board duties, Kathy Olson acted as chair of the Friends’ Plant Sales Work Group. This group assisted during the first half of this year in making the spring plant sales record breaking! Thank you to Kathy and the other members of the Plant Sales Work Group for all they have done over the years: Jack Andrade, Lorna Belden, Dorothy Brandon, Joe Frankenfeld, Carolyn Hinshaw, Mary Horton, Carol Knight, Shirley Maus, Nova Poff, Mary Patterson, Kathryn Shack, Janet Thatcher, Ginny Vaughn, and Georgie Waugh. As we transitioned to the new Arboretum Teaching Nursery this summer, Kathy Olson and Mary Patterson were instrumental in creating a new team structure of volunteer leaders that would take on larger roles in recruiting, training, and supervising plant sale volunteers. These valiant Plant Sale Team Leaders had to learn their own roles on the job, even as they led their teams of volunteer salespeople, cashiers, plant counters, parking lot attendants, etc. They did an absolutely fabulous job and made the first Plant Faire at the new Arboretum Teaching Nursery an incredible success! A huge thank you to our new team leaders: Lorna Belden, Terry Davison, Jim Fowler, Heather Jones, Christine Joshel, Kend Linderholm, Pat Miller, Shirley Maus, Walt Moseley, Anabel Sanicky, Kathryn Shack, Lyn Taylor, Janet Thatcher, and Ginny Vaughn.

Thank you!
Kathleen Socolofsky, Director
Carmia Feldman, Assistant Director
Suzanne Ullensvang, Resource Development Manager
Judy Hayes, Administrative and Gifts Manager
Specialized Volunteer Trainings Announced for January
The Arboretum is recruiting new volunteers for the following five teams. Help us spread the word to your neighbors, friends, and colleagues. Or if you’d like to expand your involvement in a new direction with the Arboretum, consider signing up yourself. Training starts in January!


The Fabulous Fix-It Crew (new team!): The Fix-It Crew will work with the Arboretum Steward to maintain the equipment, teaching nursery facility, and public amenities of the Arboretum. If you enjoy tinkering this is the team for you. Orientation: Jan. 14, 9am – noon; additional training based on availability.

The Gregarious Gardeners Group: Volunteer gardeners work in partnership with the Arboretum horticultural staff to maintain the gardens through pruning, mulching, weeding, planting, raking, building paths, and assisting with garden development projects. Training: Wednesday, Jan. 14 – Feb 18, 9am – noon.

The Nursery Records Group (new team!): Nursery Records
Volunteers will help with plant inventories, enter propagation results in the computer, maintain a nursery inventory, and update database information. This would be a great fit if you enjoy detail-oriented work that involves critical thinking and use of the computer. Orientation: Jan. 14, 9am – noon; additional training based on availability.

The Outstanding Office Team (new team!): Office team members will work with the Administrative & Gifts 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 various staff with office support. Orientation: Jan. 14, 9am – noon; additional training based on availability.

Pre-registration is required; $10 materials fee. Volunteers who enter training this winter will be asked to complete the core training next time it is offered. For information or to sign up for training, please contact Suzanne at (530) 752-8324 or sullensvang@ucdavis.edu.

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Arboretum E-news is a New Communication Tool
In 2009, the Friends of the Arboretum will be using Constant Contact to send out a bimonthly E-news to members and non-members who want to stay in touch with what’s going on at the Arboretum. Each email E-news will contain a brief feature item, an “In the Spotlight” section on a particular area of the garden (written by volunteer teams on a rotating basis) and a list of upcoming events. Anyone can sign up to receive the E-news by submitting their email address to arboretum@ucdavis.edu. Members who have already included their email as part of their contact information will receive it automatically. Thanks to Martha Ozonoff for spearheading this effort and producing the E-news issues!
Calendar of Events

Saturday, December 6th, TOUR: Gardening in a Mediterranean Climate, 11:00am, Gazebo

Wednesday, December 10th, TOUR: Walk with Warren, noon, Gazebo

Friday, December 12th, FOLK MUSIC JAM: noon, Wyatt Deck

Wednesday, January 7th, LECTURE: Consilience of Art and Science, 6:30pm, ARC Pavilion

Friday, January 9th, FOLK MUSIC JAM: noon, Wyatt Deck

Wednesday, January 14th, TOUR: Walk with Warren, noon, Gazebo

Friday, January 23rd, FOLK MUSIC JAM: noon, Wyatt Deck

Saturday, January 31st, TOUR: Secrets for Container Gardening, 11:00am, Terrace Garden

Arboretum T-shirts and Memberships Make Great Holiday Gifts!
Stop by Headquarters to buy a shirt or a gift membership for the plant-lover on your list.