

## Honoring Native Americans

Ryan Deering, GATEways Horticulturist

*Native American Reflective Garden features locally-native plants to honor the Patwin people who lived along Putah Creek*



Carmia Feldman

Students from the Native American Studies Department made the first plantings in a new garden that honors the Patwin people. From left: Alapay Flores, Yeoun-Jee Pine, Bryan Billy, Christina Ortiz, Arboretum horticulturist Ryan Deering, Gina Caison, Aisha True.

“Try to imagine this place with no buildings, no sidewalks, no roads...”

So begins your journey into the new Native American Reflective Garden in the Arboretum near the King Hall Law School. The garden, enveloped by large oaks and buckeye trees, features locally-native plants and a beautiful curved stone wall inspired by the spiral of a Patwin basket. Basalt columns engraved with poetic descriptions of Patwin life line a gently curving pathway. The centerpiece of the garden is a tall basalt column engraved with the names of Patwin people who lived on this land and were removed to missions in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The garden is the first phase of the UC Davis Project to Honor Native Americans. This project began several years ago after the discovery of Patwin remains during the construction of the Mondavi Center catalyzed the desire to educate the UC Davis community about the first inhabitants of this land. A committee of

UC Davis faculty, staff and students, including members of the campus Native American community, consulted with Patwin elder Bill Wright and engaged Far Western Anthropological Research Group to develop concepts for a series of honoring sites across campus. This garden, funded by former Provost Hinshaw as part of the GATEways Project, is the first of these sites to be constructed. Other sites across campus will also feature columns engraved with Patwin phrases and stories.

The collaborative nature of this project makes it a great example of the GATEways model developed by the Arboretum. For instance, Arboretum staff collaborated with Native American Studies faculty and students, as well as members of the Patwin community, on interpretation for the garden.

The Arboretum also took the lead in developing the plantings in the garden. We decided to use plants native to the surrounding Putah Creek watershed as the dominant components of the garden—this will be a native plant garden in the narrowest sense. Warren Roberts, Arboretum superintendent, developed

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a list of locally-native plants, including those that have important traditional uses for the Patwin people. The project committee also produced a list of ethnobotanically-important plants that will become part of the garden. Labels with the Patwin plant names will be displayed by these plants.

Fortunately, the area already contained some large California buckeye, coast live oak, and valley oak trees. All of these species are important traditional food sources for the Patwin, and provide shade and a beautiful, cathedral-like ceiling to the garden. The garden site also had existing plantings of redbuds and deergrass, both of which are important components of Patwin basketry. To complement these, the entrance to the garden will feature a basketry planting of redbud, deergrass, and sedges. The redbuds will be coppiced, or pruned hard, so that they produce the supple and long shoots which are ideal for basketry.

As visitors approach the lower part of the garden, the plantings mimic a native meadow with slender sedge (*Carex praeegracilis*) collected in the Yolo bypass. This sedge is ideal because it stays low and evergreen. Within the sedge meadow are pockets of medicinal and edible plants that are important to the Patwin and other California tribes.

Planting the garden was a community event. Students from the Native American Studies Department kicked off the installation of the plantings. Volunteers with the Arboretum's weekly gardening program planted large parts



Carmia Feldman

**Top:** Students gather in the stone spiral before beginning the first planting in the Native American Reflective Garden. **Above:** Inscriptions on basalt columns help visitors envision Patwin life in this place.

of the project, too. Chancellor Larry Vanderhoef and former Provost Virginia Hinshaw, now chancellor of the University of Hawaii, also participated in the planting.

The Native American Reflective Garden provides a glimpse of life on Putah Creek as it was led for countless generations. It is a place to reflect and consider the original inhabitants of what is now the Arboretum, and honor their descendants, California's native people.

## CALIFORNIA PLANTS IMPORTANT TO THE PATWIN PEOPLE

### Featured in the Native American Reflective Garden

The versatile **soaproot** (*Chlorogalum pomeridianum*) is traditionally harvested with a digging stick from hillsides each winter. Soaproot provides food, soap, glue, brushes, medicine, and a potent fish poison.



SOAPROOT

**Hummingbird sage** (*Salvia spathacea*) leaves steeped in hot water make a tea used to treat stomach ailments, and as a cure-all tonic to cleanse and strengthen the body.



HUMMINGBIRD SAGE

The root of **yampah** (*Perideridia kelloggii*) is edible, raw or cooked, and is reputed to have a pleasant sweet and nutty taste. Infusions are traditionally used as eyewash and to disinfect skin abrasions.

The leaves of **alumroot** (*Heuchera micrantha*) can be steamed and eaten in spring, or dried and stored. An infusion of the root is traditionally taken for sore throat.



ALUMROOT

**Redbud** (*Cercis occidentalis*) is prized by Patwin basketmakers. The bark is peeled and used for rich wine-red designs, and the peeled shoots for white sewing strands.



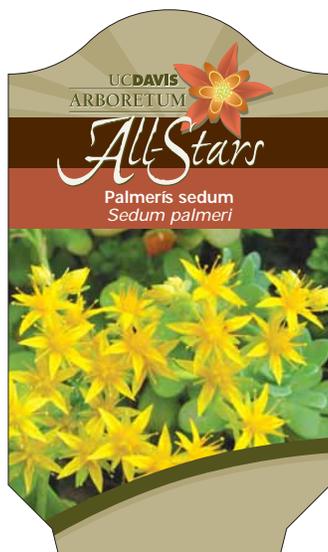
PATWIN BASKET

## UPDATE ON ARBORETUM ALL-STARS COMMERCIAL LAUNCH

The UC Davis Arboretum All-Stars program has received a big boost in 2009. Colorful tags and posters have been appearing in nurseries statewide helping to raise funds to support our sustainable gardening education efforts. Currently 18 retail nurseries (listed on our website) are featuring the UC Davis Arboretum All-Star plants and promotional materials encouraging gardeners to make the “green” choice for their gardens. Nurseries are reporting that sales are brisk and

wholesalers have had to reorder more of the special plant tags that accompany the plants.

The promotional team of Ellen Zagory (Arboretum), Missy Borel (California Center for Urban Horticulture) and Karrie Reid (UC Cooperative Extension) has worked with Master Gardeners across the state, including Tulare, Amador, Placer, El Dorado, Kings, Sacramento, Yolo, Alameda and Orange Counties, delivering information about the All-Star plants and benefits of their use. Ellen’s presentation to the Sacramento-based



Look for the Arboretum All-Stars tag at your local nursery.

Association of Professional Landscape Designers was enthusiastically received and promotional appearances have expanded to a variety of media including Northstate (KFPR) and Capital Public Radio (KXJZ), Fox 40 News, ABC News 10, KCRA 3, and KVIE Newswatch.

The *Sacramento Bee* now features a weekly All-Star plant in its Home and Garden section (thanks to garden writer Debbie Arrington), *Pacific Horticulture* magazine recently featured the All-Star program’s commercial launch, and the Haagen-Daz “Honeybee Haven” garden design features All-Star plants. An event at Alden Lane Nursery in Livermore featured the All-Stars, promoted their garden uses to area Master Gardeners and the general public, and also offered plants for sale. In cyberspace the All-Star program has been featured on the banner page of the UC Davis website, and the Arboretum’s website now includes a narrated slide show about the All-Stars, making information even more accessible to interested gardeners.

Thanks to generous donations of plants in support of the program from our commercial wholesale partners Native Sons, McCall’s and High Ranch Nurseries, we will continue to develop point-of-purchase materials and promotional activities in the upcoming year. The UC Davis Arboretum All-Stars team has already begun planning for commercial promotions for 2010, choosing the plants to be featured and generating ideas for more marketing materials.

## GRANTS SUPPORT TREE ASSESSMENT, ALL-STARS GARDEN, PROGRAMS

The Arboretum has received a grant of \$110,000 from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services Conservation Project Support program for a 14-month survey of the health of the Arboretum’s trees. We were one of only two botanical gardens nationwide to receive this prestigious award. We will conduct a detailed conservation assessment of the 2,200 trees in our living plant collection; develop a long-term conservation plan for the trees; design and build a GIS tree assessment data model that will be distributed to botanical gardens nationwide; and educate visitors about the conservation of living collections and the ecological services provided by trees. Curator Mia Ingolia will lead the project.

We received a \$30,000 grant from the Elvenia J. Slosson Endowment for Ornamental Horticulture to design and install a demonstration landscape planting with Arboretum All-Stars selections (shrubs, perennials, grasses and bulbs), to illustrate how All-Stars can be combined to create a beautiful and more sustainable garden and serve as a model for Californians who want to replace high water-use lawns. The demonstration planting will be located at the new Arboretum Teaching Nursery. Director of Horticulture Ellen Zagory will lead the project.

We received funding totaling \$2,400 from the City of Davis Civic Arts Program and Poets and Writers, Inc. to support readings and talks by local writers.

## LEAVING AN ARBORETUM LEGACY

You can support the UC Davis Arboretum far into the future by listing the Arboretum as a beneficiary of your retirement accounts, life insurance policy or other assets, as part of your estate planning. Planned giving can make it possible for donors to make a larger philanthropic impact than they may have previously thought possible.

### What is a Planned Gift?

Planned gifts are gift arrangements that have specific tax advantages and can include lifetime income to the donor and/or a loved one. A planned gift is an investment in the continuing excellence of the UC Davis Arboretum.

### Gift Strategies

There are a number of planned gift options that can fit your and your family’s financial needs. For example, you can establish a charitable gift annuity that will provide you with income, or include a bequest to the Arboretum in your will or trust. With a planned giving strategy tailored to your needs, you can put your assets to work for any part of the Arboretum you choose, knowing that for generations to come, your gift will support the Arboretum.

For more information about planned gifts, please contact Deborah Rice, (530)752-2179, [djrice@ucdavis.edu](mailto:djrice@ucdavis.edu).

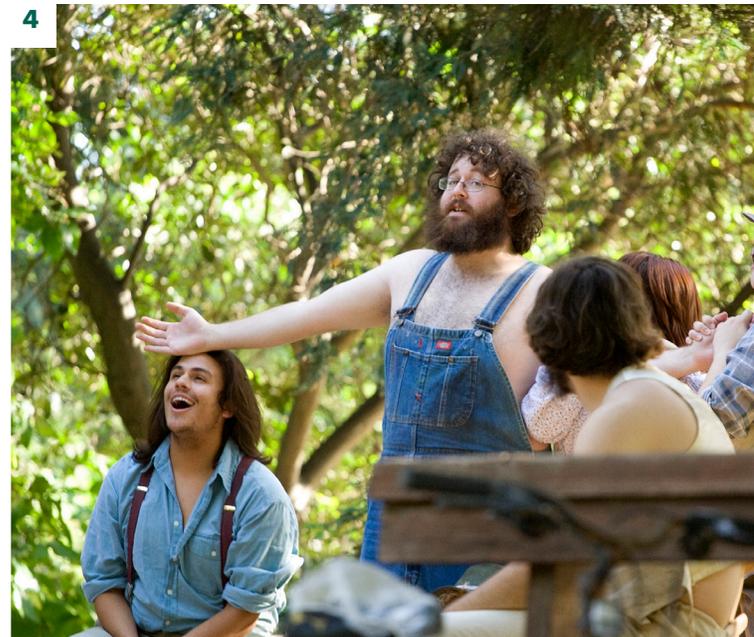
# Spring Events

1. Hope Mirlis, Wyatt Hesemeyer, and John Mahoney perform a Shakespeare sonnet put to music for the Valentine's Day Sonnet Walk.

2. Arboretum Naturalist Rebecca Davidson (left) and Director Diane Ullman (second from right) of the Art-Science Fusion Program help children build ceramic birds at the second annual Celia M. Hastings Art-Science Education Day.

3. A dozen community groups provided information and hands-on activities at the Gardeners Fair and Plant Sale.

4. Students Ulysses Morazan, left, as Snug, Daniel Guttenberg (bearded) as Bottom, and Kristina Stasi, in hat, as Snout, in the Studio 301 presentation of William Shakespeare's comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, performed at the Wyatt Deck.



Photos: 1, 2, 7 Elaine Fingerett; 3, Carol MacDonald; 5, 8 Carmia Feldman; 6, 9 Phil Nel; 4 Cheng Saechao/UC Davis.



5. Arboretum Ambassadors Hyoju Han (left) and Jennifer Velazquez help children build eco-pots and plant seeds to take home on Picnic Day, UC Davis' annual campus-wide open house.

6. Shoppers at a spring plant sale at the Arboretum Teaching Nursery. A total of 3,355 people attended our four plant sales this spring!

7. UC Davis Entomology Professor Phil Ward (facing camera) led a fascinating tour of native ant habitats.

8. Arboretum supporters (from left) Karrie Reid, Nikhil Joshi, Donna Billick, and Alan Hastings enjoyed hors d'oeuvres before a talk by David Fross, founder of Native Sons Nursery and author of *California Native Plants for the Garden*.

9. Plant sale shoppers plant their purchases using the new demonstration planting at the Arboretum Teaching Nursery.

## Guided Tours

*No charge, no reservation required*

### ECOLOGY OF THE REDWOOD FOREST

Saturday, June 27, 10 a.m.  
Buehler Alumni & Visitors Center

### DISCOVER PLANTS FROM DOWN UNDER

Saturday, July 4, 10 a.m.  
Arboretum Terrace Garden

### WALK WITH WARREN

Wednesday, July 8, 8:30 a.m., Gazebo

### BRING THE MEDITERRANEAN INTO YOUR BACKYARD

Saturday, July 11, 10 a.m.  
Arboretum Terrace Garden

### WATER-SMART PLANTS

Saturday, July 18, 10 a.m., Gazebo

### TIRED OF MOWING?

Saturday, August 1, 10 a.m., Gazebo

### SUN-DRENCHED COLORS

Saturday, August 8, 10 a.m., Gazebo

### WALK WITH WARREN

Wednesday, August 12, 8:30 a.m., Gazebo

### CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS IN THE GARDEN

Saturday, August 15, 10 a.m.  
Buehler Alumni & Visitors Center

### PLANNING YOUR GARDEN TO CONSERVE WATER

Sunday, August 23, 10 a.m., Gazebo

### WALK WITH WARREN

Wednesday, September 9, 8:30 a.m.  
Gazebo

### SIMPLE SECRETS FOR GREAT CONTAINER GARDENS

Saturday, September 12, 10 a.m.  
Arboretum Terrace Garden

### AUSTRALIAN PLANTS FOR CENTRAL VALLEY GARDENS

Saturday, September 19, 10 a.m.  
Arboretum Terrace Garden

### PERENNIAL PLANTS FOR THE CENTRAL VALLEY

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

**Information: (530) 752-4880**  
[arboretum.ucdavis.edu](http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu)

## Arts & Letters

### FOLK MUSIC JAM SESSIONS

Fridays, June 26, July 10, 24,  
August 7, 21, September 4, 18  
12:00 p.m., Wyatt Deck, Old Davis Road

Pull out your fiddles, guitars, banjos (you name it) for an acoustic jam session. Campus and community folk musicians play together over the lunch hour. All skill levels welcome. Listeners welcome!

### POETRY IN THE GARDEN

Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.  
Wyatt Deck, Old Davis Road

June 25: **John Oliver Simon and William O'Daly**

A poet and translator, Simon is Artistic Director of Poetry Inside Out, a project of the Center for Art in Translation. O'Daly is a poet and fiction writer, and translator of the great Chilean poet Pablo Neruda. They will read their poems in English and Spanish.

September 24: **Thomas Centolella**

Recipient of the 1996 Poetry Medal from the Commonwealth Club of California, 1992 Lannan Literary Award for Poetry, and Stegner Fellowship at Stanford University.

Sponsored by Rebecca Morrison and Poets and Writers Inc.



Cornia

Farmer and essayist Mike Madison reading in the Arboretum in May 2009, as part of the Writers in the Garden series, supported by a City of Davis Civic Arts Grant.

## Arboretum on the Air

Sundays, July 12, August 9, September 20  
11:05 a.m., KSTE Radio 650 AM

Arboretum Superintendent Warren Roberts talks with Farmer Fred Hoffman about what's blooming and recommends some favorite plants.

## Donations

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### LOUISE & ERIC CONN ENDOWMENT

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### UNRESTRICTED GIFTS

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# From the Director



Dear Friends,

As you know, the challenging economic situation in California and worldwide is affecting everyone, and the Arboretum is no exception. We have sustained significant cuts to our operating budget, and we anticipate the possibility of more cuts in the near future.

On the positive side, however, the Arboretum is positioned well for ongoing success. We continue to have strong support from the members of the Friends of the UC Davis Arboretum and our amazing volunteers, as well as from the larger community. Our new Teaching Nursery has been a fabulous asset, and our first year of plant sales there has been very successful. In addition, the UC Davis Arboretum GATEways plan is providing an exciting vision that is now integrated with the overall campus plan. The Arboretum is now a part of the Office of Resource Management and Planning, and our colleagues there are capable partners, helping to deliver the GATEways vision. One of the first GATEways projects, the Native American Reflective Garden, is nearing completion (page 1). We'll celebrate the official opening of this garden in the fall. Don't miss the photos of the other wonderful GATEways programs and plant sales that enlivened the Arboretum this spring (pages 4-5).

To address the budget situation, we will be working closely with Martha Ozonoff, president of the Friends of the UC Davis Arboretum, and the Friends Board this summer on short and long-term planning for serious reductions in our operating budget, and strategizing about how to increase our earned income and fundraising support. One area in which we have had continued success is in raising grant funds (page 3). Many of these are federal grants that help us improve the Arboretum and strengthen our position as leaders of innovation in the botanical garden world, while contributing to our bottom line. We have a number of pending proposals that we hope will be successful in helping us weather this time of decreasing state support.

While we raise vital funding from grants, memberships, annual gifts, and donations, we depend on the university to support fundamental areas such as salaries and basic operations. When cuts come to the university budget, it is particularly tricky for us, because it is difficult to raise external funding for these basic items. That is why it is crucial for us to develop steady sources of funding that will help us get through turbulent economic times. While we look for significant savings in our budget to get us through the current crisis, we will continue to work with the Friends Board to build an endowment that can sustain us when university and other funding is uncertain. Please see the article on planned gifts (page 3) and consider leaving a lasting legacy to maintain the long-term health of the Arboretum.

Through it all, we will work hard, and be as creative as possible, so we can continue delivering excellent experiences and programs for you, our valued members, volunteers, and visitors. Thank you for your continuing support. Together we can weather this period of uncertainty and ensure that the Arboretum remains a wonderful resource for future generations.

Sincerely,

*Kathleen*

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