

New Nature's Gallery Court in West End Showcases Environment, Education and Art

Suzanne Ullensvang, Resource Development Manager

As part of our 75th anniversary festivities, we're celebrating the recent completion of Nature's Gallery Court, a new signature feature at the west end of the Arboretum, between the Ruth Risdon Storer Garden and the Arboretum Teaching Nursery. This installation is one of the Arboretum's special GATEways projects that showcases the synergy of Gardens, Arts and the Environment.

Visit soon to walk down the shady allee, admire the newly planted sustainable demonstration gardens, then enter the heart of the courtyard to experience the magnificent tile mural. Each tile in the Nature's Gallery mural was hand-crafted by students, staff, faculty, or community members in 2007 as part of a collaborative project with the UC Davis Art-Science Fusion program. Hundreds of

people have participated in the planning, creation, and funding to make this special mural a permanent feature in the Arboretum. Thank you!

Dedications of tiles in the mural have supported the construction and installation of Nature's Gallery Court. A number of larger naming opportunities are still available within the court, including the court itself, central plaza, entry walkway, garden walls, trees, planting beds, and interpretive signs. These gifts will fund public and student education programs.

To see photos of the installation of Nature's Gallery, visit the public garden blog at publicgarden.ucdavis.edu. To make a gift in support of Nature's Gallery, please contact Suzanne Ullensvang at sullensvang@ucdavis.edu or (530) 752-8324.

SHIELDS OAK GROVE 50th ANNIVERSARY

Katie Hetrick, Director of Marketing and Promotions

Acorns from around the world have grown into a magnificent scientific collection and a monumental sight: the Peter J. Shields Oak Grove, dedicated on April 4, 1962, the day the grove's namesake turned 100.

In April, in honor of the grove's 50th anniversary and the Arboretum's 75th anniversary, the Arboretum hosted about 50 people—including Jane Keller, Shields' niece, and Professor Emeritus Dick Harris, chair of the Arboretum Committee at the time of the grove's establishment—for a celebration under the Persian oaks near the grove's entryway.

The Arboretum grew the Persian oaks (*Quercus castaneifolia*) from acorns sent in 1964 from Kew Gardens (the Royal Botanic Gardens) outside London. "They were among the first oak grove plantings and they have grown to an exceptional 90 feet tall," said Emily



Artist Donna Billick, co-founder of the Art-Science Fusion program, grouting tiles during the installation of the mural at Nature's Gallery Court.

Gregory Urquiza/UC Davis



Griswold, assistant director of horticulture and oak grove curator.

Emily thanked the volunteers, donors, and partners (especially the UC Davis Art-Science Fusion Program) who have contributed to recent improvements in the grove, and the Arboretum Ambassadors, who are introducing the trees to the next generation of school children.



Celebrants listen to stories under the trees during the 50th anniversary celebration for Shields Oak Grove.

LEAVE A LEGACY WITH A BEQUEST

Mary Burke, Director of Planning and Collections

Did you know that more than 80 percent of Americans contribute to nonprofit groups in their community throughout their lifetimes? But only eight percent choose to continue this support through a charitable bequest.

Charitable bequests are not only for the wealthy! We have received bequests from mailmen, ministers, former student

People sometimes worry that leaving a gift to charity will leave less for their own family. In fact, leaving a gift through a bequest often reduces the tax burden on heirs. Federal charitable giving laws are designed to help create win-win outcomes for families and communities.

employees, and many other people who love the Arboretum. Each planned gift has helped us build gardens, host popular family programs, and hire wonderful student employees. If you already support the Arboretum, your yearly gift could continue forever. All you

need to do is add a few sentences to your will or family trust.

Your planned gift will make you a member of the Warren G. Roberts Arboretum Legacy Society. The Legacy Society is open to all who contribute an endowment or plan an estate gift for the Arboretum. Why is building a lasting endowment important? Without an admission fee, the Arboretum needs an endowment for operating and program costs into the future. If you would like to learn more, please contact Suzanne Ullensvang at (530) 752-8324 or sullensvang@ucdavis.edu.

Prepare Your Garden for Fall Planting

Convert your yard to a sustainable landscape with Arboretum All-Stars

Diane Cary, Communications Director

If you live in a home with a yard in California, chances are it's mainly an expanse of lawn. Lawns are still the standard home landscape in the state, but they require a lot of water and regular attention and are often maintained with chemical fertilizers and pesticides that can harm beneficial species and pollute our waterways.

With water meters now the norm, the cost of water rising, and global climate change a reality, you have probably thought about converting to a water-saving, low-maintenance, more sustainable landscape, but you may be unsure of how to proceed.



Ellen Zagory

Demonstration plantings at the Arboretum Teaching Nursery provide inspiration for gardening with Arboretum All-Stars, our top recommended plants for sustainable California gardens.

Summer is a great time to get ready for the fall planing season. The process doesn't have to be intimidating. You can take small steps, converting one corner of the yard at a time. Merely reducing the size of your lawn is a step in the right direction. If you replace some or all of your lawn with Arboretum All-Stars, our top recommended plants for sustainable California gardens, you will not only save water, time, and money, but you will help support native pollinators and other wildlife as well.

REMOVING LAWN

Try these effective methods for removing or reducing lawns:

- It may be necessary to use herbicides if your lawn contains noxious weeds or vigorous perennial grasses like Bermuda grass, but many gardeners prefer to try less toxic methods first and spot-treat resprouting weeds as necessary.
- Sod cutters are machines that remove strips of sod; the strips can then be composted or flipped over and used as mulch (unless they contain Bermuda grass).
- You can rototill, irrigate to allow remaining weed seeds to sprout, then till again. This method may require several rounds of tilling.

- Solarization is very effective in the hot interior valleys of California. It basically involves “cooking” the lawn with solar heat. Water the site thoroughly, then cover it with UV-resistant clear plastic. Pile dirt around the edges of the plastic to make a tight seal. Leave the plastic in place for four to eight weeks for the full effect.
- Sheet mulching (also called sheet composting) uses layers of organic material to smother grass. Start by irrigating the area, then lay down layers of wet newspapers at least six sheets thick. Cover with manure, compost, or other organic materials (pine needles, straw, etc.) at least 12 inches thick. Wait four to six weeks until the material has broken down and the grass is dead.

PLANTING PLANS

After removing the lawn, you will want to prepare the planting bed by adding compost and/or well-rotted manure. Then design a planting plan. The Arboretum website features three ready-made planting plans for a California native plant garden, a low-maintenance garden, and a wildlife-attracting garden (right). All three feature Arboretum All-Stars. Each of the plans shows a 10-foot by 10-foot garden bed, but they can easily be expanded or reduced to fit the available space.

Fall is the best time for planting in our climate, so that new plants can get established and develop strong root systems before they have to face a hot, dry summer. You can purchase the All-Stars at our plant sales and at retail nurseries and garden centers throughout the state. At Arboretum sales, expert gardeners can help you choose the best plants for your garden conditions and advise you on planting and care. Visit arboretum.ucdavis.edu and click on Arboretum All-Stars for a plant database, planting plans, where to purchase, and more information.

If you install a new planting this fall, by next spring you will enjoy a gorgeous new sustainable landscape, lower your water bills, and spend less time mowing.

SHARE YOUR SUCCESS STORY

If you have converted your yard using Arboretum All-Stars, we want to know! We invite you to send your story and before and after photos to arboretum@ucdavis.edu. We will feature your stories on our website.

Information on lawn removal is drawn primarily from *Reimagining the California Lawn* by Carol Bornstein, David Fross, and Bart O'Brien. The Arboretum library includes this and many other excellent resources on sustainable landscaping. Members may check out books; call the office at 530-752-4880 for library hours. Visit our website (arboretum.ucdavis.edu) for a link to search the library catalog online.

WILDLIFE-ATTRACTING GARDEN

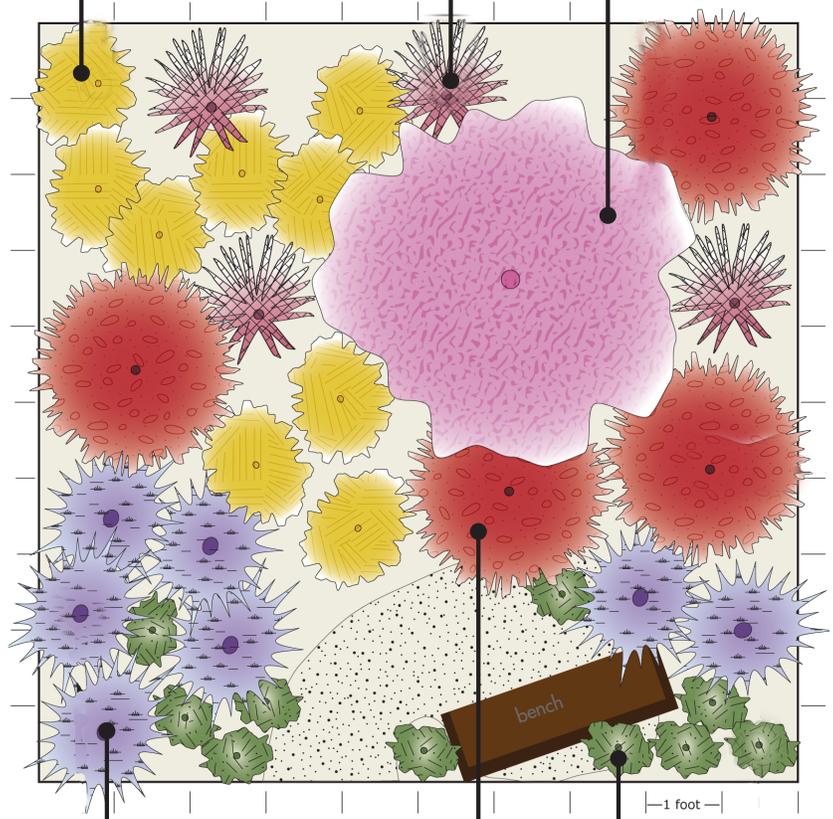
SANTA BARBARA DAISY
Erigeron karvinskianus



CORAL YUCCA
Hesperaloe parviflora



PURPLE BOTTLEBRUSH
Callistemon 'Violaceus'



GOODWIN CREEK LAVENDER
Lavandula x gingsinii
'Goodwin Creek Gray'



RED AUTUMN SAGE
Salvia x jamensis
'Scott's Red'



DWARF OREGANO
Origanum vulgare
'Betty Rollins'

This planting plan and two others are available for download at arboretum.ucdavis.edu. Click on Arboretum All-Stars for a plant database, planting plans, where to purchase, and more.

Fall 2012 Plant Sales—Mark Your Calendar Now!

Saturday, September 29 and Sunday, October 14

Plant Sale Preview Tour

Saturday, September 22, 10–11:30 a.m.

Arboretum Teaching Nursery

Get a sneak peek at the plants that will be available at the fall sales, in a garden setting at their mature sizes.

MELISSA CRUZ AND MAYA MAKKER AWARDED THE PINKERTON PRIZE

Elaine Fingerett, Academic Coordinator

The Pinkerton Prize Endowment for Outstanding Student Contributions to the Arboretum was created by Deborah Pinkerton, who worked as a student employee in environmental education from 1979 to 1985. She and her husband, Bret Hewitt, continue to add to this endowment in support of our exceptional students.



Carmia Feldman

Left to right: Melissa Cruz, Bret Hewitt, Maya Makker

We are very excited to honor two remarkable juniors with the prize this year: Melissa Cruz and Maya Makker, co-coordinators of the Arboretum Ambassadors environmental leadership internship program.

Melissa and Maya wrote a successful grant proposal to California ReLeaf with which they funded two full days of activities for middle school children from underserved communities this winter. This project, Arboretum Discovery Days, engaged 150 sixth-graders in learning about the Shields Oak Grove, local insects, composting, and sustainability. For the coming year, they wrote a grant proposal to fund five Storytime Through the Seasons programs for children and families.

Maya and Melissa's shared leadership of the Ambassadors is built on their complementary strengths—their creativity, enthusiasm, imagination, cooperation, motivation, and generosity. Each truly is an outstanding leader!

GRANTS RECEIVED

We received \$81,444 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to carry out corrective structural pruning on 100 trees and remove and replace 34 trees that are in poor or hazardous condition. Staff will be trained in monitoring the health of the tree collection to increase our capacity to manage tree care in house.

The Arboretum, the City of Davis, and several other partners were awarded a \$891,304 grant from the California Strategic Growth Council to enhance the City Arts GATEway and the planned California Native Plant GATEway Garden, restore native habitat in the Putah Creek Parkway, and improve pedestrian and bike connections. This is in addition to \$150,000 received from the Institute for Museum and Library Services for the California Native Plant GATEway Garden.

FLORIDA SOFTSHELL TURTLE CAPTURED IN ARBORETUM WATERWAY

The GATEways Project team has been working closely with researchers from Wildlife, Fisheries and Conservation Biology to create a habitat for native western pond turtles at the far west end of the Arboretum.

Researchers from the same lab were able to capture a non-native predator of the western pond turtle which has been eluding capture while living in the Arboretum waterway for four years—a wily Florida softshell turtle (*Apalone ferox*). The researchers were able to find a good home for this impressive creature. He now happily resides in a moat surrounding the lemur island at the Micke Grove Zoo, in Lodi.



Katie Heirick

This story ended well, but the lesson remains: dumping any animal, especially non-native species, in the Arboretum (or anywhere) upsets the ecosystem and can be dangerous to the dumped animal and to other animals in the habitat.

STAFF NEWS

Communications Director **Diane Cary**, an Arboretum staff member for 25 years, will be retiring at the end of June. Diane started as program coordinator in 1987 when there were just four other Arboretum staffers. In ten hours per week she managed the membership, volunteer, education, interpretation, communications, and fundraising programs. As more staff were hired, her duties were divided; seven full-time staff now handle those areas! More recently she has focused on writing everything from the Arboretum newsletter to grant proposals, press releases, journal articles, and planning documents.



Diane Cary

She also helps produce interpretive signs for the gardens. Diane reports that she will miss the wonderful people at the Arboretum but is looking forward to impending grandparenthood and to “whatever comes next.” We will miss her, too!

Nursery Manager **Lisa Fowler** and her husband Justin welcomed baby daughter Ava Camille Fowler, 7 lbs. 13 oz., on March 4. Everyone is doing fine, and Lisa has returned to work half time. Congratulations, Lisa!

Communications Analyst **Katie Stapko** has been with the Arboretum since July 2011; before that she was a graphic designer for the Grounds Division for several years. Her striking, original print documents and websites have been a key part of “branding” the Arboretum and the campus public garden initiative. She will be leaving in June to start a graduate program in graphic design at San Diego State University. We wish her every success in her future endeavors!

UC DAVIS ARBORETUM

GATEWAYS EVENTS SUMMER 2012

Guided Tours

No charge, no reservation required

TIRED OF MOWING YOUR LAWN?

Saturday, July 21, 10–11:30 a.m., Nature's Gallery Court

This "how to" tour will explore changing a home landscape from lawn to low-water, low-maintenance, beautiful plantings.

ARMCHAIR BIRDING: Plants in Your Yard and the Feathered Friends Who Visit

Saturday, August 4, 9–10:30 a.m., Arboretum Terrace

Learn how to add sound and movement to your garden by attracting birds and what local bird species you might see there.

THE REDWOOD GROVE: So Cool!

Saturday, August 18, 9–10:30 a.m., Wyatt Deck

Enjoy the cathedral-like cool and quiet of the grove and learn about the plants of the redwood forest understory.

EXPLORING NATIVE PLANTS

Saturday, September 15, 10–11:30 a.m.

Buehler Alumni and Visitors Center

Gardening with native plants saves water and energy, supports pollinators, and creates a sense of place.

PLANT SALE PREVIEW

Saturday, September 22, 10–11:30 a.m.

Arboretum Teaching Nursery

Get a sneak peek at the plants that will be available at the fall plant sales!

Arts and Letters

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S HENRY V

June 14–17, June 21–24, June 28–July 1

Thursdays–Saturdays 8 p.m. and Sundays 6:30 p.m.

Arboretum Gazebo

The Davis Shakespeare Ensemble (DSE) presents *Henry V*, Shakespeare's triumphant history of the events surrounding the Battle of Agincourt (1415) during the Hundred Years War. DSE sheds new light on this war epic with a small cast in an intimate setting. To reserve tickets or for more information, e-mail davis.shakespeare@gmail.com or call (530) 802-0998.

FOLK MUSIC JAM SESSIONS

Alternate Fridays: July 6, 20; August 3, 17, 31; Sept. 14, 28
12–1 p.m., Wyatt Deck

Folk musicians 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 Programs

CROSS-POLLINATION:

Art/Nature Workshop

Sunday, July 15, 10 a.m.–noon

Gazebo and Shields Oak Grove

Join us in a hands-on, interactive workshop where we'll explore the relationship between creativity and the natural world. Get ready to make art, collect natural materials, tour the Shields Oak Grove, and discover what happens when we encourage cross-pollination between art and nature. All ages are welcome to this free workshop, co-sponsored by the Davis Art Center as part of its new Discovery Art program. Learn more at www.davisartcenter.org/discoveryart.

OAK INK AND BEETLE JUICE:

Painting with Mother Nature

Sunday, September 9

Two Sessions: 10 a.m.–noon or 1–3 p.m.

Arboretum Gazebo

Ane Carla Rovetta, artist, illustrator, and biologist, will lead an engaging two-hour workshop where we'll learn how to make oak ink and use a variety of plant pigments in painting. All ages are welcome. Pre-registration is required for this workshop, and space is limited; to sign up, email arboretum@ucdavis.edu or call (530) 752-4880. The workshop is co-sponsored by the Davis Art Center and the Center for Ecoliteracy.



CAMP SHAKESPEARE

Session one: July 16–27 (wait list); Session two: July 30–August 10
Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

Early drop-off and late pick-up options available

Fee: Sliding scale; email davis.shakespeare@gmail.com

Davis Shakespeare Ensemble presents two two-week sessions of summer camp with theater games and acting workshops for campers aged 7–15, and a special camp production of one of Shakespeare's most exciting plays, *The Tempest*. This year campers will get a chance to be everything from monsters to magicians! Enroll today—there are only a few spaces left. For more information, visit www.shakespeare@davis.com or e-mail davis.shakespeare@gmail.com.

Spring GATEways Events (Gardens, Arts, & The Environment) in the Arboretum



Clockwise from top left: University Writing Program lecturer Andy Jones (left) and Sacramento poet laureate Bob Stanley read their work at a Poetry in the Garden event at the Wyatt Deck.

Arboretum student-naturalist Gina Dettmer (in hat) helped a family discover the many uses of oaks during Nature Discovery Drop-in Day. Graduate student-naturalist Alexali Brubaker, background, showed different types of bird beaks.

Entomology professor Phil Ward (second from right) led a fascinating tour in search of the indigenous ants that thrive in the dry areas west of Shields Oak Grove.



A shopper at the special sale for UC Davis students, staff, faculty, and alumni with his purchases.



Gathered in front of our Picnic Day Parade float are some of the 30+ people who marched to celebrate the Arboretum's 75th anniversary. The Arboretum Ambassadors, our environmental leadership students, took the lead in organizing and facilitating all our Picnic Day activities.



Photos by Elaine Fingereff except as noted.

Donations February–April 2012

We extend our sincere gratitude to these donors

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

- | | | |
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| Elma Aglubat | Ruby Canchola | Barbara Donnelly |
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Katie Hetrick

Carmia Feldman

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

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From the Director



Dear Friends,

During our 75th anniversary, we have been focused on fundraising efforts to begin to secure our future for the next 75 years and beyond. Since we have no admission fee to fund our operations, we rely on our community of members, volunteers, and donors. First of all, I want to thank the Friends of the UC Davis Arboretum, who have been recognized as UC Davis Chancellor's Laureates for cumulative giving of more than \$1 million in unrestricted funding for programs and operations.

We are so grateful for those supporters who have made gifts to the Arboretum in honor of our 75th anniversary, with an eye to the future. The Warren G. Roberts Arboretum Legacy Society recognizes donors who have remembered the Arboretum in their estate plans or created endowments (see page 2). For example, Donald Roberts, Warren's father, established an endowment to support the curatorial program, as well as leaving a generous bequest in his will. Ernie and Mary Ann Lewis recently created the Lewis Family Endowment Fund. Bret Hewitt and Deborah Pinkerton established the Pinkerton Prize for Outstanding Students (see page 4) and recently added another endowment to support GATEways programs. Thank you all!

We also want to thank those who have contributed to two special 75th anniversary projects, the Nature's Gallery Court with its stunning tile mural and the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Shields Oak Grove (see page 1) with its enhancements of new trails, mosaic seat walls and tree plaques. Donations raised through these dedication and naming opportunities directly support the educational programs of the Arboretum and Art-Science Fusion Program. Thank you to all who contributed your time, expertise, and gifts to help realize these projects.

One person who has contributed so much to the Arboretum and our fundraising efforts over the years, mostly behind the scenes, is our Communications Director Diane Cary, who is retiring at the end of June after being an Arboretum staff member for 25 years (see page 4). It has been through her unparalleled ability to turn our complex ideas into a clear and compelling story that the Arboretum has been awarded a multitude of grants over the years that have sustained and grown our operations and programs. Diane has been the "voice" of the Arboretum in most of our written publications, including our newsletter, news and magazine articles, press releases and donor communications. Diane will be sorely missed!

Enjoy your summer and join us for more of our innovative GATEways programs (see page 5)! I look forward to seeing you out in the gardens.

Best wishes,

Kathleen