

Arboretum extends deadline for annual appeal matching challenge to February 15

Dr. Eric Conn pledges to double your donations

Suzanne Ullensvang, Resource Development Manager



Dr. Eric Conn (pictured left) has seen how his contributions have made a difference at the Arboretum. (See article on page 2.)

Now he's hoping his pledge inspires you

to make a difference too. Give a gift to the Friends annual appeal, or make a tribute dedication in the Arboretum, and he'll match your gift dollar-for-dollar, up to a total match of \$30,000! What an easy way to make a greater impact with your giving. To make it even easier, we've extended the deadline for this special matching challenge from December 31 (per the letter you received from the Friends in late November) to February 15, so everyone has a chance to participate.

Why does the Arboretum need to ask for support in addition to memberships? The University provides basic support for the Arboretum each year, but it's not even enough to fully fund staffing and care of the existing garden collections. Over 50% of the Arboretum's annual budget must come from other community sources such as individual donations, grants, and other gifts. Given the

fiscal realities of the University budget, community support for the Arboretum is more critical than ever.

So, please consider these two ways to give this year. Both qualify for Dr. Conn's matching challenge.

1) Annual Appeal: If you love the Arboretum, we ask you to give generously to the Friends annual appeal, above and beyond annual membership dues. Annual appeal contributions help fund the Arboretum in all areas of operations, everything from maintaining and enhancing the gardens to putting on public education programs for children and adults.

2) Tribute Dedications: Many visitors ask how they can make a gift with lasting value to the Arboretum that also honors a loved one. There are several dedication options currently available. These range from unique Art-Science Fusion tiles and plaques in the Shields Oak Grove to hardwood benches in beautiful areas of the Arboretum. In addition to honoring a special person or event in your life, these gifts help us maintain the Arboretum for the enjoyment of everyone who uses them.

To everyone who has already made a gift, we extend our sincere thanks for your support this year.

If you are thinking of making a gift, have questions about the annual appeal or tribute gift options, please contact Suzanne Ullensvang at (530) 752-8324 or sullensvang@ucdavis.edu. You can also use the envelope found in the middle of this publication to send in your donation.

Dr. Eric Conn's research and contribution to our acacia collection

In 1953, Dr. Eric Conn, along with friend and colleague Dr. Paul Stumpf, came from UC Berkeley to establish the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics at UC Davis. In 1958, he began working with cyanide and cyanogenic plants (plants that produce cyanide). In 1960, upon learning that acacias are cyanogenic, Dr. Conn approached Roman Gankin, Arboretum Superintendent, and then staff horticulturist Warren Roberts, to request that they consider increasing the Arboretum's acacia collection to assist him in his studies.

See Conn's: Page 2



SPRING PLANT SALES

9 AM - 1 PM
Arboretum Teaching Nursery
Garrod Drive, UC Davis
<http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu>

MEMBER SALE Saturday, March 9

Not a member? Join at the door!

PUBLIC SALES Saturday, April 6 Sunday, April 28 Saturday, May 18



DISCOVER MORE ABOUT OUR ACACIAS! Attend our free events "Acacia Encounters" on March 2 at 2 PM and "Storytime Through the Seasons: Expedition to Africa" on February 3 at 1 PM. See page 5 for more information.

Arboretum jewelry sales support Friends

In honor of the Arboretum's 75th anniversary and to commemorate the Arboretum's signature tree, the valley oak (*Quercus lobata*), Nancy Shapiro—metalsmith, jewelry designer and co-president of the Friends of the UC Davis Arboretum—created the pins and pendants for the Campus Grown “Arboretum Collection” from the leaf of an Arboretum-grown tree. Each piece is crafted using the lost wax



Andrew Larsen

technique and cast from fair-trade silver. The “Arboretum Collection” currently includes two types of jewelry—a silver valley oak leaf pin (\$42) and a silver valley oak leaf pendant (\$48). Price includes eco-friendly packaging materials. Supplies for this premiere launch are limited and currently sold exclusively at the UC Davis Stores—Downtown. Proceeds from purchases of products in the “Arboretum Collection” support the Friends of the UC Davis Arboretum.

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Proceeds from purchases of products in the “Arboretum Collection” support the Friends of the UC Davis Arboretum.

Retail sales location:

UC Davis Stores—Downtown
630 Second Street
Davis, CA 95616
Tel: 530-297-4450

STAFF NEWS

Andrew Larsen



We are proud to welcome Andrew Larsen, our new Communications Analyst and Productions Manager. He was selected from 58 applicants based on his ability and experience designing for both print and digital media. After graduating from UC Davis with a bachelor's degree in design, Andrew served as the Art Director for the California Chamber of Commerce and worked as a freelance designer for Maloof Sports and Entertainment before coming back to UC Davis as the Senior Artist for UC Davis Reprographics (the on-campus printing and design service center). Look for Andrew's artistic impact throughout our landscape as the lead designer for our campus wayfinding project and as we develop a new website for the Arboretum and Public Garden.

Stacey Parker



We are delighted to welcome Stacey Parker as our new GATEways Horticulturist. Stacey was selected from a very competitive pool of 100 national and international applicants for the position. She has come to us fresh out of the UC Davis Horticulture and Agronomy masters degree program. During her time here as a graduate student, she completed Arboretum internships in GIS mapping and plant propagation. She also worked at the UC Davis Student Farm, where she helped with mentoring, leadership, and community-building with their internship program. Stacey's professional experience has been grounded in several years of work with Garden for the Environment in San Francisco, where she managed an organic demonstration garden and led the Gardening and Composting Educator Training Program. We are looking forward to capitalizing on Stacey's passion for horticultural education, California native plants, and edible gardening to expand student internships and volunteer programs in the UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden.

Conn's research and contribution to our acacia collection

From Page 1

Needless to say the Arboretum was able to accommodate and, since then, has expanded its acacia collection from a few trees to the over 50 different species we grow now. Most of these trees were grown from seed gathered by Dr. Conn on collection trips to Australia or sent to the Arboretum for propagation from his contacts worldwide. We even hold a species renamed after Dr. Conn (*Acacia conniana*), an honor bestowed upon him by Australia's acacia authority Bruce Maslin. Maslin, aware of a naming problem in which two different acacia species shared the same name, surprised Dr. Conn by re-naming one in his honor!

From 1958 to his retirement in 1993, Dr. Conn's research continued to center around cyanogenic plants like acacia and included decoding the process of cyanide formation in plants, understanding the function cyanide plays in plant metabolism, studying the role of substances that produce cyanide (*cyanogenic glycosides*) as a chemical defense utilized by both plants and animals, learning how animals detox from exposure to hydrogen cyanide (HCN), researching how sulphur is involved in the detoxification of HCN, and so much more.

Through Dr. Conn's prolific career as an educator and scientist, he published over 160 papers, worked with 15



Michael Conn

Dr. Conn in front of eponymous *Acacia conniana* in Australia.

graduate students, 38 post-doctoral fellows and 20 visiting scientists. In 1988, he was elected a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and, in 1990, he was awarded the UC Davis prize for teaching and scholarly achievement.

The Arboretum is privileged to have been a long-standing partner in Dr. Conn's research, to have contributed in some small way to his authority on the cyanogenic properties of acacia and today to be the recipient of his generous matching pledge for our annual appeal. Dr. Conn's legacy of support for the Arboretum includes the Eric and Louise Conn Endowment Fund that he and his wife established in 2001 and other special gifts over the years.

What to do in your garden this winter

Caring for your All-Stars when temperatures drop

Ellen Zagory, Director of Horticulture

All gardens need some seasonal attention in winter even if it is just to rake up the autumn leaves that might smother them. Many of the Arboretum All-Stars are virtually maintenance free, but there are a few that require a small amount of maintenance to get them to look their best.

A few of the plants on our All-Star list are true herbaceous perennials (they don't form woody stems and die back to the ground in winter), and these can be clipped to the leaves and buds at the soil surface (see third photo down) and old flowering stems removed to keep the garden more neat and tidy. This group includes *Achillea* 'Island Pink,' *Aster* 'Purple Dome,' California fuchsia (*Epilobium canum*), soapwort (*Saponaria* × *lempergii* 'Max Frei') and golden rod (*Solidago californica* 'Cascade Creek'). In addition, the warm-season grasses (that grow and flower in summer and fall and turn tan in winter) may lose their shape after being pummeled by winter rains. They can benefit from being sheared right at ground level before new spring growth begins. This would include feather reed grass (*Calamagrostis* × *acutiflorus* 'Karl Foerster'), Japanese silver grass (*Miscanthus sinensis*) and blue grama grass (*Bouteloua gracilis*). Other grasses are more evergreen and only need cutting as they age and lose vigor, including California fescue (*Festuca californica*), deer-grass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*) and pine muhly (*Muhlenbergia dubia*).



'Purple Dome' aster in summer/early fall.



'Purple Dome' aster in late fall/winter.



'Purple Dome' aster after dead growth is removed.



New 'Purple Dome' aster growth emerging in the spring.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: *The Arboretum is seeking to expand its group of gardening volunteers. See page 4 for more info on our free training this January.*

What if temperatures drop below freezing and stay there?

The All-Stars were selected to tolerate the short, evening frosts that are a normal part of our winter weather, but a few All-Stars, and especially plants that have succulent foliage, will benefit from being covered to protect them from sustained temperatures below freezing. Cape balsam (*Bulbine frutescens*), Palmer's sedum (*Sedum palmeri*) and coral fountain (*Russelia equisetiformis*) may be damaged by sustained freezing and benefit from protection by covering with frost cloth, straw or whatever you might have available. Covering before the temperatures are at their lowest will trap heat stored in the soil and prevent it from being lost to the sky and keep the plants a bit warmer. Be sure to remove the cover after danger of freezing is past to prevent moisture from rotting the plants below.

What do you do if your plants get damaged by a freeze?

First of all, don't panic and cut them down. Leaving the damaged leaves will help to cover stems below and help protect them from further cold. At the end of winter, inspect the plants carefully and look for green stems and any evidence of sprouting buds. When danger of freezing is past (in my experience this is usually the second week of February), go ahead and remove dead portions leaving the green stems that will re-sprout. Some plants are even "root hardy," meaning even though above-ground stems are irreparably damaged, new growth will emerge from the roots to grow and bloom again.

Director Socolofsky honored with award

Kathleen Socolofsky, director of the UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden, was honored October 5 with an "Award of Distinction" from the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

The award is presented annually to those whose contributions and achievements enhance the College's ability to provide cutting-edge research, top-notch education, and innovative outreach. Kathleen was recognized as a "Friend of the College" for her role in transforming the campus landscape with innovative programs and broad-based support. Seven other people—faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of the college—also received the award.



T.J. Using

FUNDRAISING NEWS

Excelerate Foundation gift to launch “Learning by Leading” initiative



The Excelerate Foundation, a foundation whose mission is to support nonprofit organizations that motivate positive social change and community development, has pledged a major three-year gift to build capacity at the UC Davis Arboretum in support of a new *Learning By Leading* initiative.

This expands on the Arboretum’s long tradition of involving University students, working together with lifelong learners in the community, in the creation and

UC Davis Wild Campus student leader educates visitors about reptiles during Wild Family day in the Arboretum.

presentation of public programs in the Arboretum. The *Learning by Leading* initiative has tremendous potential to train new student leaders in critically-needed 21st Century skills—skills like complex planning, collaboration, entrepreneurial skills, teaching, public speaking, and adaptive problem solving—focused on community-centered projects.

The new *Learning by Leading* projects—and, most importantly, the young student leaders that will help us design and launch these programs and projects—are certain to have a significant impact on the face of UC Davis, even as they provide new services and opportunities for underserved youth and families in our region.

We thank the Excelerate Foundation for their vote of confidence in supporting this exciting vision. Thank you to Ernie Lewis, long-time vice president of the Friends of the UC Davis

Arboretum and GATEways Planning Council member, who worked with Arboretum staff to bring this proposal to the foundation as part of his role as member of the board of trustees of the Excelerate Foundation.

Roberts bequest supports curatorial team

Donald G. Roberts made a lasting tribute to the Arboretum with a gift from his estate when he passed away in September 2011.



Donald Roberts, right, pictured with son Warren and wife Mildred in 2002.

Many people knew Don Roberts as the father of Warren G. Roberts, the beloved Superintendent Emeritus of the Arboretum. Don’s significant bequest adds to the Donald G. and Mildred S. Roberts Curatorial Endowment that was established prior to his death. This endowment supports the professional work of Arboretum staff and volunteers in cataloging,

mapping, and maintaining important scientific information about the Arboretum’s vast collection of plants.

In corresponding about his bequest, his daughter Marisa Houtchens wrote, “My parents, Donald and Mildred Roberts, loved the [UC] Davis Arboretum and during their lifetime they were quite generous in their gifts... including their funding of the beautiful Redbud tree collection shortly before my Mother’s death. They were so proud of my brother, Warren, and his lifetime work of developing and nurturing the Arboretum.” We thank Don and Mildred, and the entire Roberts family, for their ongoing support of the Arboretum.

New volunteer training begins in January 2013!

Hone your gardening, plant propagation or curatorial skills



Would you like to spend more time in the Arboretum? Would you like to learn new skills? Are you looking for a way to fulfill a new year’s resolution to give back to the community? Consider volunteering at the Arboretum! It’s a rewarding

place to spend your time with lots of fun, food and camaraderie.

To join one of the Arboretum’s regular teams, new volunteers must sign up in advance and complete a half-day general orientation class on Saturday, January 12 from 9 am-noon. Depending on the team you select, additional specialized training will take place after completion of the introductory class.

The Arboretum is currently recruiting for the following volunteer teams (teams usually meet 9 am-noon, one day per week):

- **Gardening** volunteers work in teams on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday mornings to help maintain and

beautify the Arboretum gardens. Each team focuses on a different section of the Arboretum, working in collaboration with one of the Arboretum’s horticultural staff.

Specialized training dates: Wednesdays, Jan. 16-Feb. 13

- **Nursery Propagator** volunteers learn propagation techniques and grow plants for Arboretum plant sales and collections, as well as help prepare the nursery for plant sale events. *Specialized training dates: Thursdays, Jan. 17-Feb. 14*
- **Nursery Caretaker** volunteers work as a team to tend the nursery growing area at the Arboretum Headquarters. *Specialized training dates: Thursdays, Jan. 24-Feb. 14*
- **Curatorial** volunteers verify plant taxonomy, facilitate research requests, catalog new acquisitions, record new plantings and update Arboretum GIS maps. *Specialized training dates: Thursdays, Jan. 24-Feb. 14*

For more information or to sign up for the volunteer orientation class on January 12, please contact Roxanne Reynolds at (530) 752-4880 or rgloe@ucdavis.edu or visit <http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu>.

Plant Sales

Arboretum Teaching Nursery, Garrod Drive, UC Davis

MEMBER SALE — Saturday, March 9, 9 am–1 pm
Not a member? Join at the door!

PUBLIC SALES — Saturday, April 6,
Sunday, April 28 and Saturday, May 18, 9 am–1 pm

Family Programs

STORYTIME THROUGH THE SEASONS: EXPEDITION TO AFRICA

Sunday, February 3, 1–3 pm, Arboretum Headquarters
(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. Presented by the Arboretum Ambassadors with a grant from Target.

NATIVE CALIFORNIAN ELDERBERRY FLUTE- MAKING WORKSHOP

Sunday, February 24, 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. Adults will need to supervise their young children.



Elaine Fingerett

Antonio Flores demonstrates an elderberry flute.

STORYTIME THROUGH THE SEASONS: UNDER THE PERSIAN OAK

Sunday, March 10, 1–3 pm, Gazebo (Rain Location: 146 Environmental Horticulture)

Children and families are invited to join us for a free outdoor reading program exploring the natural and cultural world of the Middle East. Discover the diversity of oaks through hands-on activities. All ages are welcome. This program will follow the same general structure of family events, but will also include attention specifically for children with special learning needs. The group sizes will be smaller, with more individual attention for each child; and the activities will be very flexible to accommodate different learning styles and abilities. Presented by the Arboretum Ambassadors with a grant from Target.

Guided Tours

WINTER BIRDS IN DAVIS: SLIDE SHOW AND TOUR

Saturday, January 12, 1 pm, 146 Environmental Horticulture

See photos and learn about the birds that winter in Davis. Then take a walk looking for birds in the Arboretum.

AUDACIOUS AUSSIES AND CURIOUS KIWIS

Saturday, January 26, 1 pm, Wyatt Deck

Discover the unusual features of plants from Australia and New Zealand.

NATIVE AMERICAN USES OF PLANTS

Saturday, February 9, 2 pm, Buehler Alumni and Visitors Center

Take a guided tour of the Native American Contemplative Garden to learn about traditional uses of native plants.

WALK WITH WARREN

Wednesday, February 13, Noon, Gazebo

Explore the gardens near the Shields Oak Grove with Warren Roberts, Arboretum Superintendent Emeritus.

EARLY SPRING IN THE TERRACE GARDEN

Saturday, February 23, 2 pm, Arboretum Terrace Garden

Look for signs of spring in the Terrace Garden and take home ideas of plants for your own containers and beds.

ACACIA ENCOUNTERS

Saturday, March 2, 2 pm, Arboretum Headquarters

You'll meet interesting acacias of all sizes on this leisurely guided walk through the Eric E. Conn Acacia Grove.

WALK WITH WARREN

Wednesday, March 13, Noon, Arboretum Headquarters

Discover beautiful redbuds and blooming California wildflowers with Warren Roberts, Arboretum Superintendent Emeritus.

Arts & Letters

FOLK MUSIC JAM SESSIONS

Alternate Fridays, January 4 & 18; February 1 & 15; March 1, 15, & 29; 12–1 pm, Wyatt Deck

Folk musicians are invited to bring their acoustic instruments and play together informally over the lunch hour. All skill levels are welcome, and listeners are invited.

KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED!

New projects to look for in the UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden



Andrew Fulks

WEST END (above): You may have noticed that we've installed hundreds of yards of erosion control fabric along the banks of the Waterway at the west end of the Arboretum. The banks were prepped and seeded with a mixture of native grasses and covered with this material to assist in establishing the vegetation. This project is part of a partnership with UC Davis Environmental Health and Safety to improve our campus's stormwater quality.



Elaine Fingerett

AUSTRALIAN COLLECTION (above): Now is the time to visit the Australian Collection at the east end of the Arboretum—some of our trees and shrubs have been “yarn bombed.”

The installation called “Natural Transformations” was created by students in Design 70 class taught by Professor Ann Savageau (seen fourth from right above) who transformed the environment so that viewers would have a new and heightened appreciation for their surroundings.

OLD DAVIS ROAD (left) between A Street and Mrak Hall Drive will soon be closed to car traffic and narrowed to create a pedestrian path and bikeway. Arboretum landscapes will fill in where road is removed. This area of the road will be renamed Arboretum Drive. Drivers taking the UC Davis exit off 80 who want to get downtown will soon be able to drive past the campus's Hyatt Hotel to get to A Street.



Gregory Urquiaga

Old Davis Road to become a pedestrian path and bikeway

Fall GATEways Events in the Arboretum

(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 and region. Thank you!



Gabby Battista

Davis Shakespeare Ensemble actor Evan Leiser portrayed Macbeth in the recent production of *Macbeth: The Radio Play* performed at the Arboretum Gazebo. Davis Shakespeare Ensemble and the Friends of the UC Davis Arboretum co-sponsored the production.



Poet Judy Halebsky, alumna who received her Ph.D. at UC Davis in 2009 and currently teaches at Dominican College, read her work at the Wyatt Deck as part of the Poets in the Garden series.



Arboretum Ambassador student Grace Persico reads a Miwok legend to young visitors at the Arboretum's *Storytime Through the Seasons* program in the Redwood Grove.



University of Nevada, Reno, professor Christopher Jeffrey talks about chemical defenses in plants and animals at the 3rd annual Science Café at the Wyatt Deck. The GATEways event was sponsored by the Arboretum, Chemistry Professor Jared Shaw, and NSF.

All photos by Elaine Fingerett unless otherwise noted.

Donations *August - October 2012*

We extend our sincere gratitude to these donors

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California Garden Clubs, Inc.
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Jennifer Van Wyk
Joanna Watterson
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We strive to acknowledge your gifts accurately. Please notify us of any corrections.

Address service requested

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From the Director



Dear Friends,

What an amazing year 2012 was thanks to your support! In spite of budget pressures, we're getting creative, starting new projects and improving others as our plans for the UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden continue to evolve. These last few months are no exception! We have exciting news to share about gifts we've received that I hope will inspire you to continue your support in the New Year.

Dr. Eric Conn, a longtime Arboretum supporter and namesake of our Acacia Grove, has offered to enhance our annual appeal with a challenge pledge, enabling our members and supporters the opportunity to double their donations to our yearly campaign. We are incredibly thankful to him and hope that you'll take this special opportunity to double the impact of your support for the Arboretum through our extended deadline of February 15. (Learn more on page 1.)

Two other gifts will make a big difference to the Arboretum in the years to come. Dr. Ernie Lewis, Friends of the UC Davis Arboretum board vice president and GATEways Planning Council member, has facilitated a capacity-building gift from the Excelerate Foundation which will further build upon the Arboretum's tradition of creating student leadership opportunities, motivating social change and developing communities. Don Roberts, through his estate, added a significant bequest to the Donald G. and Mildred S. Roberts Curatorial Endowment that was established prior to Don's death and is dedicated toward the maintenance and enhancement of the Arboretum's curatorial program. (See page 4.)

Last, but not least, we are also eager to unveil our newly launched custom jewelry line, the UC Davis Campus Grown "Arboretum Collection." Now you can also support the Arboretum by purchasing a fair-trade silver pin or pendant necklace created from the leaf of an Arboretum-grown tree. We could not have created such beautiful pieces to communicate the story and significance of our oak collection without the assistance of Friends board co-president and jewelry designer Nancy Shapiro. (See page 3.) Profits from the purchase of these items directly support the Friends of the UC Davis Arboretum.

As beautiful as the bark and berries of winter are, we will still look forward to spring and *our* unofficial end to winter—March 9—the Member Appreciation Plant Sale. I hope to see you there!

Best wishes,

Kathleen