

9 AM - 1 PM Arboretum Teaching Nursery Garrod Drive, UC Davis

PUBLIC SALES

Saturday, April 8 Saturday, April 29

Members always save 10% on every purchase!

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UCDAVIS

ARBORETUM AND **PUBLIC GARDEN**

IS THE DROUGHT OVER?

WHY WE STILL NEED LOW WATER LANDSCAPES IN CALIFORNIA

Ellen Zagory, Director of Public Horticulture

Ellen Zagory instructs Learning by Leading interns about the many benefits of low-water landscaping including its support of native species.

CHOOSING CONSERVATION

I believe most Californian's would say they want to be good stewards for the environment. As stewards we make choices that help improve biological diversity in our landscapes, eliminate the release of pollutants and reduce natural resource consumption. While the greatest proportion of the state's water supports our thriving agricultural economy, about one half of all urban water use is for landscaping. Good management of our precious water should focus on what our society really needs, for the health of our economy, thriving communities and healthy natural systems. As we convert to low-water, regionally-appropriate species in our landscapes, we create beautiful alternatives that can be enjoyed not only by humans but utilized by a spectrum of native creatures.

OUR NATURALLY DRY STATE

One of our favorite reasons to live in California is the weather because it is mostly dry. Dry may not be the first adjective to come to mind because the terrain is so gorgeous and varied, but nonetheless, it is. We need to reconcile ourselves to that fact and embrace it. Our weather follows the pattern of Mediterraneantype climates from around the world with long dry summers and cool rainy winters — at least in the good years. But California is also prone to periodic longer droughts where the winter precipitation provides less than what is needed. This is in large part why the days of proving we can grow plants where they don't belong are over. Low-water landscapes are

not a fad; low-water landscapes should really just be called "California landscapes."

IS THE DROUGHT OVER?

The answer seems to be yes and no. According to Jay Lund, professor of civil and environmental engineering and director of the Center for Watershed Sciences at UC Davis, in terms of surface water, most of California is no longer in a drought. The accumulated reservoir and soil moisture deficits of the last five years have been filled in most of the state. Yet, while most of the water shortages seem to be overcome, there are still areas in California that historically have less surface water and areas with aquifers that might never recover to pre-drought levels. In other words, we always need to be concerned with water conservation whether we are officially in a drought or not. The apparently passing drought has demonstrated across the state the need to manage our water in order to become more resilient in periodic dry spells when water delivery is less than needed.

We have made such great strides in water conservation statewide; let's keep it up not because the Governor told us we couldn't have green lawns, but because we are committed to adapting to our environment and not making our environment adapt

Thank you to Jay Lund and the UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences for providing up to date drought analysis and more on the California WaterBlog. https://californiawaterblog.com/author/californiawaterblog/

A WATERWAY TRANS

Andrew Fulks, Assistant Director

LONG BEFORE UC DAVIS, THERE WAS PUTAH CREEK...

the North Fork of Putah Creek used to flow where the Waterway is now, but in 1871, to prevent their fertile farmland from seasonal flooding, early settlers began the process of diverting the creek south of town to its current channel, what we now know as the South Fork of Putah Creek.

These settlers and, in the 1940s, the Army Corps of engineers, reduced the North Fork channel to the linear pond, now known as the Arboretum Waterway, which you see today. As the lowest elevation on campus, all water runoff from the central campus travels through our stormwater system until it flows into the Waterway. As the Waterway fills during storms, it rises until it flows over a weir at the western end and into a forebay where a pump moves the water into the South Fork of Putah Creek. This series of pipes and pumps is the only connection the Waterway has to the present-day location of Putah Creek.

Until now, the Waterway existed solely as a means to transport stormwater away from campus. This utilitarian view meant that during the summer, when water was mostly stagnant, the Waterway would frequently fill with algae, duckweed, and water meal, giving rise to the familiar green-covered water surface. Now, as a result of the merging of all our campus outdoor units into the single UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden, we are in a position to take a holistic view of the Waterway. We looked not only at how to fulfill its purpose as stormwater infrastructure, but at how we could improve its biological purpose and enhance its beauty.

After reviewing historical planning documents, water quality data, and natural river systems within the region, we engineered a solution involving a redesign of the entire Waterway.



The construction zone will extend from the Wyatt Deck footbridge (just east of the Redwood Grove) to the east end of the waterway. All the paths in this area will be closed with the exception of the pathway through the Redwood Grove. The Arboretum GATEway Garden behind the Davis Commons Shopping Center will also remain open, however you will find detours around our entire Australian and New Zealand Collection. The Wyatt Deck footbridge will also be subject to occasional weekday closures. See the map on this page for more details and visit http://publicgarden.ucdavis.edu/waterway for the latest news and information about this project.

SFORMED

NOW, IMAGINE THE IMPROVED ARBORETUM WATERWAY IN THE FUTURE...

This project will last over multiple years and several phases. From the eastern terminus in our Australia/New Zealand Collection, all the way to the land bridge near Putah Creek Lodge, the water, propelled by a series of pumps, gently cascades over a series of concrete weirs. Then, the Waterway's banks in these areas return to earth rather than being supported by cages of rocks, and a visually dramatic, vegetated edge filled with emergent marsh habitat is created.

As the Waterway continues to the west, a narrow channel widens into open water at Putah Creek Lodge. The plan here is to create a floodplain surface at an elevation still lower than the rest of the Waterway, where emergent marsh and riparian trees thrive next to and within the water — this area may include a boardwalk and teaching platform (see rendering below).

Lastly, visualize the Waterway enlivened with interactive programs that support ongoing maintenance and enhancement of the Waterway, student learning and faculty research, as well as exhibits that engage our community, children and families in learning about our watershed and local ecosystems. To keep everything running smoothly, we are happy to announce the addition now of a Waterway Steward (official announcement coming soon), as well as a "Waterway WOW!" campaign to help support our vision and these programs (see column on the right).

While transforming the entire Waterway will be years in the making, we wanted the opportunity to share with you, our members, this vision as we embark on phase one of this transformation. We hope that you will be able to participate either by attending an upcoming Waterway program (see calendar), supporting our Waterway WOW! campaign, joining in a future community planting event (dates to be announced) or sharing your knowledge of this vision with friends!



Wow

APRIL 21- MAY 4

AS YOU READ IN THE PREVIOUS ARTICLE, WATERWAY TRANSFORMED, we

have a tremendous vision for our Arboretum Waterway that goes well beyond the structural improvements currently underway and funded by campus.

Imagine the Waterway being cared for by passionate Learning by Leading students as they gain experience managing and enhancing this important and complex system, including planting the banks of the Waterway with thousands of native species. Doesn't that sound wonderful? To launch these types of programs, improvements and more, we hope to raise \$50,000 during our participation in two upcoming fundraising campaigns that together we are calling Waterway WOW!

The Waterway WOW! campaign launches during UC Davis's Big Give, a campus-focused giving day, which runs from noon on April 21 to 5pm on April 22. It continues with a social media countdown spotlighting trivia questions about the Arboretum Waterway designed to educate and improve community knowledge about the history and future of the Waterway. The Waterway WOW! campaign then concludes on May 4 during the Big Day of Giving, our region's community-wide giving day.

Watch for news about contests, giving opportunities and other ways to participate throughout the campaign. Your gifts during this timeframe will help make our Waterway vision a reality. In addition, local families that have already pledged gifts will match your donation!

Thank you for considering a gift to this campaign! If you'd like to be a social media "Ambassador" to help us spread the word about this exciting campaign, have other questions, or would like to offer a matching gift challenge, please contact Suzanne Ullensvang at sullensvang@ucdavis.edu.



SPRING 2017 GATEWAYS EVENTS

plant sales

9 am-1 pm Arboretum Teaching Nursery Garrod Drive, UC Davis *arboretum.ucdavis.edu*

PUBLIC SALES

Saturday, April 8
Saturday, April 29 (Clearance Sale)

Members always save 10% on every purchase!

Not a member? Call ahead or join at the door!

guided tours

WEDNESDAY WALKS WITH WARREN

All walks begin at 12 pm **April 12, June 14**Meet at the Arboretum Gazebo

Join Warren Roberts, the Superintendent Emeritus of the Arboretum and famous storyteller and punster, for an always engaging noontime exploration of spring in the UC Davis Arboretum's gardens and collections.

music & wellness

FOLK MUSIC JAM SESSIONS Fridays, April 7 & 21; May 5 & 19; June 2, 6 & 30, Noon-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.

TEA & CONVERSATIONS

Sundays, April 9 & 23; May 7 & 21; June 4, 11 am–1 pm *Wyatt Deck*

Join us in the Arboretum for tea and let's talk. This event is brought to you thanks to a collaboration between the Global Tea Club and the Arboretum Ambassadors

arts and Letters

CAN YOU HEAR THE ECO? EVENING OF SPOKEN WORD

Saturday, May 6, 5–6:30 pm Wyatt Deck (Rain location Env. Hort. 146)

Join Sick Spits and the Arboretum Ambassadors on the Wyatt Deck for an evening of spoken word about environmental issues and personal reflections. Talk about your relationship with the environment, favorite aspect of the Arboretum, or a passionate environmental matter. All are welcome to speak and listen.

6TH ANNUAL FAREWELL READING OF THE CREATIVE WRITING MASTERS PROGRAM

Thursday, June 15, 7 pm Wyatt Deck

The UC Davis Creative Writing MA program and the Arboretum and Public Garden present the 6th annual student reading. Graduating writers will read selections from their work.

all-ages programs

TAKE ONLY PICTURES, LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS — AN INTRODUCTION TO ESSENTIAL BACKPACKING PRACTICES

Sunday, April 9, 1–3 pm Arboretum GATEway Garden

Do you like hiking, camping, backpacking, or just being in the outdoors? Learn how to be better stewards of the environment through the seven "Leave No Trace" guidelines. Information and hands-on activities will teach all levels of outdoor enthusiasts how to lessen your impact on the environment. All ages welcome!

BRADT & BRAR AWARDED PINKERTON PRIZE

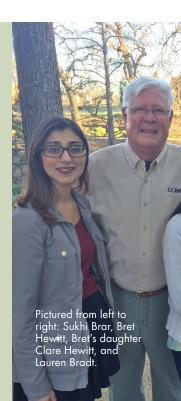
Elaine Fingerett, Academic Coordinator

THE PINKERTON PRIZE ENDOWMENT FOR OUTSTANDING STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS

to the Arboretum was created by Deb Pinkerton, who worked as an employee in environmental education from 1979 to 1985, and her husband Bret Hewitt. We were deeply saddened by Deb's passing in late 2016. Bret, as well as her family and friends, continue to add to this endowment in support of our exceptional students, Deb's passion. We are very excited to honor two remarkable student leaders, both graduating seniors, with the prize this year—Lauren Bradt & Sukhi Brar, co-coordinators of the Arboretum Ambassadors environmental leadership internship program.

Lauren and Sukhi have co-led the Ambassadors for two years, spearheading a variety of events including three successful Storytime Through the Seasons outdoor nature/culture programs for children and families, two new sustainability programs—Carve 'n Compost and Get Down with Upcycling—and several innovative collaborations with UC Davis campus partners—Birdstrike Improv Comedy Theatre, the Astronomy Club, Project Compost, and Aggie Restore.

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



WHAT'S UP WITH THE ARBORETUM WATERWAY?

Monday, April 17, noon-1 pm Sunday, April 30, 1:30-2:30 pm Wyatt Deck

The Arboretum Waterway has a complex past and exciting future. Come learn about its history, how it came to be the centerpiece of the Arboretum and the plans for renovating and transforming it over the next few years.

ANNUAL PICNIC DAY CELEBRATION

Saturday, April 22

Picnic Day Parade float, 10:10 am-noon campus and downtown

Celebrate UC Davis at this family-friendly extravaganza. It's free for all to come and experience the richness of diversity and achievement at UC Davis in the areas of research, teaching, public service and campus life. Be sure to cheer on our Learning by Leading students with our parade float.

OPEN MIC NIGHT UNDER THE STARS

Thursday, May 18, 7–9 pm Wyatt Deck (Rain location Env. Hort. 146)

Students and community members are welcome to watch or perform at our open mic in the Arboretum! Delight in an evening of acts from talented community members while enjoying complimentary refreshments. If you would like to perform, email us at openmicnightucd@gmail.com with your name and a description of your performance to reserve a spot. Five to 10 minutes will be given to each performer. Limited spots available. Intended for mature audiences.

WHAT'S THE BUZZ AND HUM IN THE ARBORETUM?

Sunday, May 21, 1–3 pm Arboretum Gazebo

Ever wonder what the buzz of the bee or the hum of the hummingbird is all about? Join the Arboretum Ambassadors in a hands-on exploration of the role of bees and hummingbirds in the life cycle of plants. Bring a camera or phone to capture photos for a flower scavenger hunt celebrating flower diversity.

STARGAZING: ARBORETUM UNDER THE STARS

Thursday, May 25, 9 pm Meet at the Arboretum Gazebo

Have you ever wanted to see planets, constellations, nebulas, and other celestial bodies up close? Now is your chance! Escape the gravity of "everyday life" by joining the Astronomy Club and the Arboretum Ambassadors to see the beauty the universe holds. Enjoy telescope viewing and complimentary hot drinks.

WILD FAMILY DAY

Sunday, June 4, noon-3 pm Arboretum GATEway Garden (behind Davis Commons Shopping Center)

Join Wild Campus in partnership with the Arboretum and Public Garden for our 6th annual "Wild Family Day." Wild Campus is a student organization dedicated to the conservation of local flora and fauna. Come enjoy fun games and activities for all ages, as well as educational displays and live animals! For more details, email wildcampus411@gmail.com.

camp shakespeare sign ups

SUMMER OF ADVENTURE Ages 8-12

Session 1 July 10-21,

Monday-Friday, 9 am-3 pm

Session 2 July 24-August 4,

Monday-Friday, 9 am-3 pm Arboretum Gazebo

Looking for an adventure this summer? Sign up for Davis Shakespeare Ensemble's Camp Shakespeare and explore the exciting worlds of *The Three Musketeers & A Midsummer Night's Dream* through acting, improv, stage combat, costume design, dance, music and more! Linked closely with the Davis Shakespeare Festival, campers will be guided by professional artists from the DSE team and will experience nearly all aspects of the theatrical craft.

TEEN CAMP Ages 13-18 July 24-August 4,

Monday-Friday, 9 am-3 pm Location TBA

This camp is designed for teenagers wanting to sharpen their acting skills. Campers will also explore heroism with the awesome characters listed above. Camp content will include stage combat, acting workshops, movement techniques, improvisation training, and more. Teens won't want to miss this opportunity to take their love of theater to the next level!

More Information

For more details and online enrollment, visit www.shakespearedavis.com or call 530-802-CAMP.



STAFF NEWS

WELCOME MAYA MAKKER MUSEUM EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION MANAGER

WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THAT MAYA MAKKER JOINED

OUR TEAM in December 2016 to develop new interpretive and engagement programs for community members and students. While studying history at UC Davis, Maya participated in the Arboretum Ambassador Learning by Leading internship at the Arboretum and Public Garden for three years, two of them as a student co-coordinator. Since graduating in 2013, Maya received her MA in Museum Studies from the University College London and did internships at many museums, including the National Portrait Gallery in London and the de Young Museum in San Francisco. Most recently, Maya was the Community Programs Educator at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, CA. Maya brings a great variety of experience in museum education and interpretation to our team. Please join us in welcoming her.







Agave 'Blue Glow' blue glow agave

It's a living sculpture of gray-blue, perfectly symmetrical leaves edged with dark red and a thin line of yellow that glows when backlit. It's a great plant for smaller gardens where you want a nice, low focal point at the front of the dry garden.



Euphorbia myrsinites myrtle spurge

The foliage of the sprawling myrtle spurge will soon be tipped with showy chartreuse green flowers and bracts, but don't get too close! The sap this plant produces has caustic properties and can cause a severe, burn-like rash, so be sure to wear gloves when working on or around this one.

FRANK AND MONA DEMASI ADVICE: LEARN BY DOING

Many succulents are well adapted to low-water landscapes because their thickened leaves store water, providing them the ability to survive dry, hot climates. Softer-leaved succulents like *Echeveria* prefer shade in our region while the larger, cold-hardy *Agave* and *Aloe* species do well in full sun.

As people learn more about the unique forms and many benefits of succulents, their popularity continues to grow, which is why we were inspired to feature Frank and Mona Demasi's front yard. Their smallish north-facing front yard resembles a rocky slope from a natural area in many dry climates of the world.

"I had no succulent experience when I started, and my friend leant me some books by Debra Baldwin (succulent writer based in Los Angeles), and I started reading them and looking for ideas. I had some succulents that I had saved from a prior garden and wanted to create a very low-water, waterwise garden. At first the plants looked taxed and I read that they needed regular water until established. So I installed a drip system and began to water...and the plants came to life!"

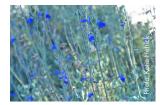
South African *Aloes* with thick fleshy leaves dominate the planting, producing candelabras of orange, red and yellow flowers frequented by hummingbirds for their nectar in early spring. Some *Aloes* grow like a shrub with woody stems while others, like *Aloe* × 'Caitlin,' make horizontal short offsets called "pups" that spread over time to a large mass — perfect for sharing with like-minded succulent gardeners.

"I love it when the plants are in bloom. The *Aloes* are literally alive with hummingbirds and the *Sedum* is active with bee visitors. Because the garden is on the north side of the house I thought it would be a cooler area, but it turned out it is more north west and was quite hot in the summer. I think my next step will be to add some drought-tolerant shrubs to shade the succulents and to help protect them."

life after lann Home switch



Homeowners that made the switch and love it



Salvia chamaedryoides germander sage

A low, rounded evergreen with silver-gray leaves and beautiful blue flowers in spring and fall. It grows to two feet tall by three to four feet wide, prefers full sun and tolerates low water, but will bloom longer with some irrigation. Shear after it blooms to remove old flower stalks and induce branching and rebloom.



Oenothera serrulata var. drummondii, sun drops

This mat-forming, herbaceous perennial has narrow green leaves and produces masses of bright yellow blooms in summer and fall. Their flowers open in the afternoon and stay open into the next day. Tough and persistent in our clay loam soils, it likes heat, full sun and will spread slowly over time.

EVA BAYONADVICE: SELECT PLANTS FOR YEAR-ROUND BLOOMING

The Bayon's front yard displays Eva's passion for and education in botany. An avid plant collector, Eva and her husband have created a miniature rock garden in their relatively small yard with the artistic placement of boulders and rock mulch, all anchored and softened by a variety of perennials that range in size, color and growing habits.

"It has been less than a year since we planted our front yard," shares Eva. "What thrills me the most is how we always see something in bloom. Our yard used to be a lawn, now it is a draw for bees, butter-flies and hummingbirds!"

In the Bayon yard, less common plant choices can be seen growing next to those more familiar to area gardeners. For example, *Verbena tenuisecta*, moss verbena, a flat-growing spreading plant with attractive dark-purple flowers covers the stone mulch by *Limonium perezii*, also known as statice, a tough plant loved by butterflies and handy for making long-lasting floral arrangements.

Lamb's ears (*Stachys byzantina*) form a silky, silvery clump below which spreading *Sedum*, *Delosperma*, rosettes of *Echeveria* and dwarf *Aloe* form a festoon on the lower slope. Upslope, the rounded forms of lavenders and sages provide evergreen structure. Both orange and yellow forms of *Bulbine frutescens* (Cape balsam) provide a long season of bloom given their yard's hot southern exposure.

DONATIONS Nov 2016 - Jan 2017

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SPRING 2017

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ARBORETUM AND PUBLIC GARDEN LEADERSHIP

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FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

We are just coming out of one of the wettest winters in recent memory, which may make some people think the drought is over and we can stop conserving water. Our cover article explores why it is still important to save water in our gardens no matter how much we might have available right now. And in a continuation of our Life After Lawn series, we present two new gardens that showcase exciting ideas about how to get rid of your water-thirsty lawn and replace it with beautiful, drought-tolerant plantings that attract all kinds of pollinators (see page 6).

Speaking of water, I am thrilled to let you know that Phase I of our Arboretum Waterway Management and Enhancement Project started construction in March (see page 2). This is the first part of our multi-year, multi-phase project to re-envision the Waterway to improve its qualities as a place of beauty, respite and wildlife habitat. You may have already noticed the fencing and detours around the whole east end of the Waterway. We apologize for the inconvenience, but we hope you'll agree that the temporary hassle will be well worth it. Most of this phase of the project is being funded by campus, but to put the finishing touches on our vision for this area we hope you will consider a gift to our upcoming Waterway WOW! campaign (see page 3). With your help our Learning by Leading ecological restoration students will have the funds needed to revegetate all the banks affected by the construction with thousands of plants.

As always, we want to thank everyone who has continued to contribute to the Friends of the UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden 2016 Annual Appeal, as well as all our members and donors who support our work (see page 7). Two such far-sighted donors, Deborah Pinkerton and Bret Hewitt, set up the Pinkerton Prize for Outstanding Student Contributions to the Arboretum in 1996, which allows us to award a deserving student or two with this special distinction each year. This year, we are pleased to announce that we've awarded the Pinkerton Prize to two amazing Arboretum Ambassador co-coordinators, Sukhi Brar and Lauren Bradt (see page 4).

Be sure to enjoy what promises to be a beautiful spring at one of our plant sales or educational programs (see pages 4 and 5). See you in the gardens.

