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Library Named for Myrtle Wolf

Everyone here at the Botanical Garden is thrilled to have heard recently that the University approved our proposal to name the new botanical and horticultural reference library at the University of California Botanical Garden in honor of Myrtle Wolf.

Myrtle Wolf's association with the Garden is both multi-faceted and enduring. She has been associated with the Garden through active participation in a multitude of volunteer activities. These range from regular Garden weeding forays with Wayne Roderick and propagating plants in all of the propagation departments for the plant sales soon after the plant sales were begun, to being an enthusiastic member of the original Board of the Friends of the Botanical Garden.

Myrtle Wolf's association with the Garden however, goes well beyond these activities of working for and in the Garden, as she has known the Garden both at its original site on campus and since its move to the Strawberry Canyon in the 1930's. She gives lively accounts of what the Garden site was like as a dairy farm, having ridden horses through the canyon as a young girl.

While Myrtle's PhD. is in Psychology, she also completed a Master's degree in Botany at Cal. Her visits here as a Botany student reinforced her love for the Garden. The subject of her thesis was the development of a botany curriculum for elementary schoolchildren. This later became the basis for the "Grocery Store Botany" unit still taught by our docents in local schools. She is a leading expert on California native plants and wrote a well-respected book about them. Myrtle's vast botanical knowledge benefits both the Garden and the Californian Native Plant Society.

Upon hearing of our plan to develop a building to house our library, (our collection of botanical and horticultural reference books is currently in bookcases distributed around Garden offices) Myrtle enthusiastically supported the idea. Myrtle believes, as we do, that allowing access to everyone needing expert scientific and botanical direction is imperative. As she says, "the important thing is to educate people



Photos by Gadya Eitan

Honored and celebrated by the Friends of the UCBG in 1990, Myrtle happily poses here with Jim Jones, honoree of the year in 1991.

about the joys of the botanical world." The library will serve not only the immediate Garden community of horticulturists, staff, volunteers and members, but very importantly, it will also be available to the University students and researchers using the Garden, and the East Bay community.

The devoted affection which Myrtle holds for the Garden is held in turn for her by all associated with the Garden—staff, academics and volunteers alike. Never could the naming of a building at the University of California Botanical Garden be more appropriate than this opportunity to honor a human "living treasure" of the Garden, one of our most beloved friends and staunchest supporters.

Please join us in developing a first class library for the Garden by contributing to the library Fund using the envelope in this issue, or, by contacting the Development Office.

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

This summer the Garden is ringing with the sounds of construction! In no small part, this is due to the vision of two key staff members who left the Garden this spring. Garden manager David Brunner and Business Manager Elaine Meckenstock have taken new positions, but their efforts have brought us over \$3 million in financial commitments from the University and over \$1 million in donations. With these revenues, we have begun to not only repair the Garden's decaying infrastructure, but also to develop new facilities for scholarly research and education in plant conservation.

Construction started at the end of May with the long-awaited utility upgrade, which will provide a much-needed boost in electrical service throughout the Garden. It will also eliminate unsightly utility lines by moving all utilities underground. As the trenches were dug, the Garden took on the eerie appearance of a heart surgery patient on the operating table. However, workmen soon laid the conduit and closed



Photo by Peter Allement

In the Corporate Yard, Grounds Maintenance Worker Gerald Ford surveys one of the trenching sites in the Garden's electrical upgrade.

most wounds. In time, like plastic surgeons, our outstanding horticulturists will remove any vestiges of scar tissue.

For now, open earthwork remains only in the area above the kiosk, the site of our new electrical substation. Trenching will, however, soon move across Centennial Drive to provide utility services for our new plant conservation research complex on the west side of Centennial Drive.

Initiating the utility upgrade has been somewhat like removing the key log from a logjam. Now, other projects will surge forward. On the west side of Centennial Drive, we will construct the greenhouse for temporary care of the Cactus and Succulent Collection. Then, in August, construction of a replacement for the Desert/Rainforest Greenhouse is scheduled to begin.

With last year's renovation of a utility shed into the Maintenance Shop, the way was prepared to renovate the Barn to serve as a new Staff Room for horticulturists. These changes, in turn, will clear the way to turn the old Staff Room into the new Myrtle Wolf Library.

In July, on the west side of Centennial Drive, we will start construction of the new UC Botanical Garden's Center for the Study of Plant Conservation. With a \$1.1 million bequest from the estate of Dr. Jane Gray, we will also begin final planning for the 4,000 square foot Jane Gray Research Greenhouse. This greenhouse will complement the Jane Gray Research Laboratories at the Garden's Center for the Study of Plant Conservation.

Lest the Garden itself should seem forgotten, Rob Ferber's generous contribution (more on this next issue) will facilitate the renovation of part of Africa Hill; this will also add an educational component that focuses on the conservation needs of South African bulbs and succulents. While reflecting the Garden's expanded commitment to plant conservation, this project also demonstrates how we will be taking advantage of our outstanding collections to lead an international effort in conserving Mediterranean climate ecosystems. In its 110th year, the Garden is indeed surging into the new century with renewed vigor and focus.

—Ellen Simms, Director

NEW DOCENT TRAINING

Join our select group of nature interpreters. Learn about botany, ecology, plant evolution, plant geography, and ethnobotany, and then learn how to share what you know with others! Primary qualifications are enthusiasm and liking people. We'll teach you everything you need to know in this 18-week class!

Training begins
September 11 at 1 pm

Fee: \$110

EDUCATION AT THE GARDEN

Interpreting the Garden's collections to diverse audiences continues as the focus of our Education Program with docent tours forming the mainstay of our effort. Through the dedication of more than 100 knowledgeable, enthusiastic docents, the Garden's tours reach 8,500 students and visitors, including Cal students, Bay Area students from kindergarten through 12th grade, and senior groups. Additionally, professors from dozens of local colleges, universities and life-long learning programs bring their students to the Garden. For all ages, the Garden serves as a major venue for learning about basic botany, conservation, ethnobotany, ecology, and plant evolution.

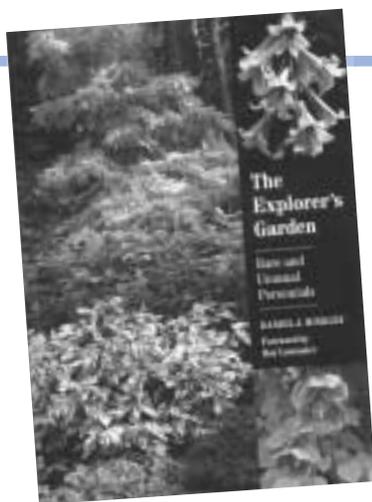
In order to remain up-to-date, we annually select tours to overhaul, then revitalize them with new content, activities and props. This year, we added to the *California Natives: Plants and People* tour six dynamic activity stations focusing on food, shelter, games, and tools for living. We also

revamped the *California Habitats* tour with new props and observational tools.

In this process, we work closely with faculty and other experts. For example, Dr. Thomas Carlson, a medical ethnobotanist associated with the UC Herbaria, recently presented a fascinating Docent Enrichment program on the Garden's medicinal plants. He is following up this summer by conducting two evening walks with docents, in which he will identify additional plants to include in tours. This fall, we expect to develop a new "rainy-day" tour, based on a program, which features the medicinal uses of plants in the Tropical House.

The stories of plants in the Garden are bountiful. I hope you will take advantage of learning some of them through our rich and diverse docent tour program!

— Dr. Jennifer Meux White



THE EXPLORER'S GARDEN: Rare and Unusual Perennials by Daniel J. Hinkley, foreword by Roy Lancaster. Timber Press, Portland, OR: 1999. Color photos, color map. 380 pages, \$39.95.

The thrill of discovering new plants and sharing them with others is at the heart of *The Explorer's Garden* by Dan Hinkley, one of America's foremost horticulturists and garden writers. A teacher, nurseryman, and seasoned plant explorer, Hinkley shares with his readers many plants new to cultivation that he found in remote

NEW BOOKS

areas of Asia, as well as gems discovered in gardens and wilds in both this country and abroad.

Like Hinkley's voluminous *Heronwood Nursery Catalog*, this book, written with inimitable style and wit, comprises a virtual candy store for collectors and plant addicts. What plant lover can resist the seductive diminutive Asian hepaticas, or the bizarre flowers of rare Himalayan arisaemas? Or how about the absolutely amazing patterned and variegated leaves of the Chinese *Podophyllum* species?

Sadly, many of these plants favor the cool moist maritime climate of the Pacific Northwest where Hinkley gardens or the hot, humid summers of the East and Midwest and are not suitable for large scale plantings in the Bay Area's drier Mediterranean climate. Most of us cannot, however, resist at least a few of these rarities—if you have a shady stream-side habitat

like the Asian Area at the Botanical Garden, so much the better!

In the introduction, Hinkley briefly addresses an issue pertinent to the work of botanical gardens as well as private plant explorers. The words "plant exploration", he writes, "conjure scenes of exotic locations while provoking questions about ethics and ecology."

Reassuringly, he also writes that "(a) consciousness concerning the need to care for our planet is now greater than ever before... (and) we all must garden and collect plants with an understanding of the complexities of the global ecosystem."

Whether you have experienced the excitement of discovering new plants in far away lands, in the foothills and Sierra, or just in your neighborhood or local nursery, this book with its fine photographs and entertaining prose will not fail to delight and inform.

—Larry Lee

Haruko's Moonlight

On the rainy Saturday in February when the Garden's "new" Japanese lantern was installed, the moon just happened to be in the same phase as that depicted on the lantern's firebox. The lantern is dedicated to Haruko Obata, a respected teacher of Ikebana, the art of traditional Japanese flower arranging. She was married to Chiura Obata, an influential artist and UC Berkeley instructor. The lunar conjunction seems poetic because the moon was a recurring theme in her husband's work.

The lantern was carved from granite about 150 years ago in Japan and brought here from the mountains southwest of Kyoto. It is in the Kasuga style, named for the Shinto shrine at Nara, where the approach to the main shrine is lined with as many as 3,000 similar lanterns. Used to light a path, these are lighted twice a year, once on the night of the Setsuban festival celebrated on the lunar year's last day of winter. The name Kasuga probably evolved from the deer which are considered to be messengers of the gods at this shrine. On one side of the firebox a deer is carved, and a gardener remarked, "That's the only deer that will be allowed in the Garden!"

The lantern's donors, Mary and Richard Schroter, were happy to honor Haruko. Born in Fukuoka in northern Kyushu in 1892, Haruko Kohashi began the study of Ikebana when she was 9 years old. She came to the United States in 1910 at the age of 17, initially to study English and western sewing, with the intention of returning to Japan to teach. Instead, she and Chiura met in San Francisco and were married in 1912. Beginning in 1932, Chiura taught art at Berkeley. Haruko held classes in Ikebana during the day, then came home to prepare dinner for her family. Often, she then stayed up into the night to help Chiura with his painting. She assisted him by grinding ink for the sumi paintings and cleaning the brushes. So, for the large paintings which required copious amounts of ink, by her own admission, she did half the work!

Haruko's own art was ephemeral, like aspects of the nature it evoked, but its beauty drew a large, appreciative audience. At the 1915 Panama Pacific Exposition in San



The moon shining from inside the lantern's firebox.

Francisco, an entire room was devoted to her work. Sometimes an exhibit juxtaposed Chiura's paintings and Haruko's flower arrangements, showing how they complemented each other. Throughout their life together, the Obatas both were influential artists and teachers, helping to promote and expand the understanding of Japanese arts, always consciously making an effort to foster communication between East and West. Even during the Japanese internment of World War II in the camps, they organized art schools which helped sustain people's spirits during this devastating period.

Setting up the lantern was mostly the work of Shigeru Namba, the stone mason from Osaka who built the retaining walls around the Japanese gate. Myrtle Wolf refers to him as "a magician". He helped us on his day off, driving all the way from Woodside with his wife, Sakiko, and two year old daughter.

He brought a tripod, chains and a hoist to lift the roof of the lantern. After leveling the base, Shigeru, with the gardeners' help, proceeded to assemble the other pieces, much to everyone's pleasure.

The following month, a special dedication was held by the Obata family in the Garden. During the ceremony, fami-



Sakiko and Shigeru Namba setting the lantern's base



From left, The Obatas' son Gyo Obata and daughter Yuri Kodani; Haruko's former students Kuwako Takahashi, Pearl Kimura (reading), and Hiro Fujii; and Myrtle Wolf

ly members, friends and former students of Haruko's read excerpts from the oral history taken by Kimi Kodani Hill, when her grandmother was 94. Then a procession led by Kimi's father and Myrtle Wolf led the way to the lantern. Because Chiura had painted extensively in Yosemite, the Obata family brought water from the Merced River for a purification ceremony. Everyone took turns pouring the water over the lantern with a bamboo ladle.

The landscape architect who made the initial bequest for a Japanese gate in honor of the Obatas, Geraldine Knight Scott, had been a student of Chiura's as well as a family friend. Mary Schroter also had taken art classes from him. Ron Herman, the landscape architect who found and purchased the lantern in Japan, had been a student of Geraldine. Myrtle Wolf, a friend of Geraldine and the Obatas, had taken Ikebana classes from Haruko. All of these people have also been connected with the Botanical Garden over the years. Haruko and her granddaughter Kimi came for walks in the Garden until the mid 1980's. Haruko passed away in 1989.

Our Japanese lantern is dedicated to Haruko Obata, for holding up at least half the sky!

The biographical information in this article is from Haruko Obata's Oral History and the newly published book, *Topaz Moon*, by Kimi Kodani Hill, Heyday Books. For further information see *Obata's Yosemite*, published by the Yosemite Association in 1993.

There will be an exhibit of Chiura Obata's paintings at the DeYoung Museum this fall, October through December 2000.

A Glorious Garden Party

A glorious day, wonderful wines, delectable foods, marvelous music, a truly amiable and happy group of attendees...what more could an event need?

A very beautiful Garden—that's what made it so special!

Many thanks to all of you who attended and supported our 110th Anniversary celebration, the "Great Grapes and Old Roses" Garden Party—it was a great success. The Garden Party involved a lot of hard work on the part of the volunteer program committee and staff, many, many thanks to everyone involved. We especially thank our event sponsors, without whose generosity we would have had no event!

*A.G. Ferrari Foods
Acme Bread Co
Ajanta Restaurant
Anna's Place
Bacheeso European Gourmet Deli
Bianco's Catering
The Bread Garden
Built Environment
Christopher's Cafe
Coastcom
Fetzer Vineyards
Peter Franus Wine Company
Gallo of Sonoma Wines
Green Acres Gardening,
Maintenance and
Landscaping Co.
Su Jacobsen
Kensington Bistro
Nancy Markell—
Taltarni Vineyards
Muller Family Foundation
Navarro Vineyards
Masse's Pastries
Peet's Tea & Coffee
Quorum Ventorum
Rick & Ann's Cafe
San Francisco
Rose Society
Skates by the Bay
Storybook Mountain
Vineyards
Toot Sweets
Vintage Gardens
Whitford Cellars*



At the Garden Party: TOP, Director Ellen Simms and Volunteer Coordinator Nancy Swearengen; ABOVE, volunteers Greg Govan and Ervin Hafter, pour wine for tasting; BELOW, guests line up for wonderful Anniversary cake.



GARDEN NOTES

WILDFLOWERS GALORE... In concert with the California Native Plant Society, the Jepson Herbarium, the Natural Science Guild, and the Oakland Museum, the UC Botanical Garden annually co-sponsors the Wildflower Show at the Oakland Museum. Curator **Holly Forbes** and Curatorial Assistant **Barbara Keller** were one of four teams who collected wildflowers throughout northern California to display at this show. If you missed it, mark it on your calendar for next year's Mother's Day weekend.

OFFICIAL VISITORS... In recent months, the Garden hosted visitors from the China and the Philippines. **He Fangchuan**, Vice President of Peking University, led a group of sixteen visitors, who toured all educational and support units within UC Berkeley. The group toured the Garden on March 13th as part of a visit to the museums overseen by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research. **Dr. Domingo Madulid** and **Ms. Maribel Agoo** of the National Museum of the Philippines toured the Garden on June 15th gathering information in order to help develop a national botanical garden in the Philippines.

PLANT SALE... The Garden's annual cycle of plant sales brings together many volunteers in the Garden. The Spring 2000 Sale was no exception. Our Volunteer Propagators outdid themselves in providing a splendid array of plants. One of the last duties of former Horticulture Manager, **David Brunner** was to join forces with Horticulturist, **Larry Lee** and Volunteer Propagator, **Lee Anderson** to produce a lively Silent Auction at the members-only Friday Preview Sale. Both then and on Saturday, docents and Garden Shop volunteers helped with the cashiering. All contributed to a highly successful sale that brought in \$20,000.

CONSERVATION... Curator **Holly Forbes** was recognized on behalf of the Garden during a dedication ceremony on April 28th for the new *Amsinckia grandiflora* Reserve on Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory property. Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson was present for the event, during which he signed a memorandum of understanding with representatives from the California Department of Fish & Game and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The 160 acre reserve supports several ecological zones, more than 300 species of plants, and 95 species of birds, reptiles and amphibians. Through our participation as a member of the national Center for Plant Conservation, the Garden helped to facilitate species recovery efforts for the large-flowered fiddleneck (*Amsinckia grandiflora*) which is listed as endangered both federally and by the state.

A FALLEN TREE... During the night of June 16th half of the old Italian Stone Pine, *Pinus pinea*, sheared away from itself and fell into the Japanese Pool, taking the beautiful Japanese maple with it, and crushing several things directly underneath it. Now that the devastated scene has been cleared up we can see that many changes will result from the loss of the tree. The character of the Japanese Pool will certainly be altered for a long time to come, but it will eventually acquire a new character, probably even more lovely than before. Those of you who mourn the loss of the stately Stone Pine can follow the development of the small Stone Pines recently planted out in their correct Garden region, the Mediterranean section, near the top of the Garden.



Photo by Janet Williams

WISH LIST

As there are no telephones in the corporate yard it can be very difficult for the kiosk staff to reach the horticulturist on duty, especially at weekends. If there were an emergency this could be a crucial problem. For this reason our wish list request this issue is for contributions toward a set of walkie talkies. This equipment would allow instant communication between the gate staff and horticultural staff. Of course, there are many potential uses for the walkie-talkies: special events, summer camp and tour coordination to name a few. They would be put to good use! If you are interested in helping us acquire a pair of walkie talkies please call Janet Williams in the Development Office at 510-643-2937.

Gardening Tips

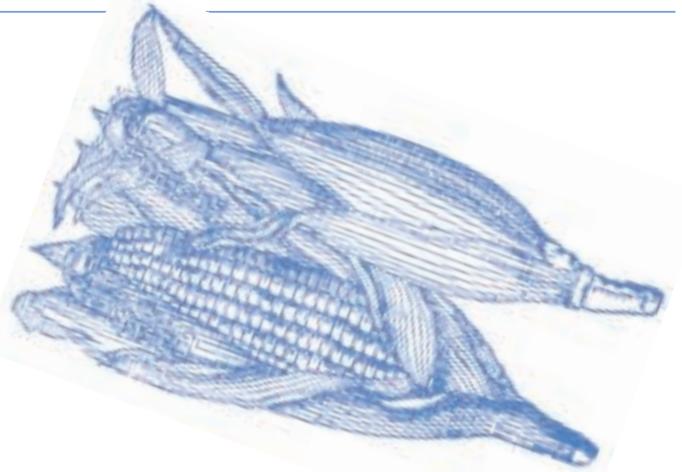
Colors

■ At Texas A & M, the Beta Sweet Carrot has been developed. Maroon on the outside and bright orange in the center, it has a crisp texture and sugary flavor. It contains anthocyanins (which contain antioxidants) and 50% more beta-carotene (also an anti-oxidant) than garden carrots. The Beta Sweet resulted from carrots which, native to the mountains of South America, were brought back and used in a breeding program for a number of years. Interestingly, one of the school's colors also is maroon; according to a report, this prompted the research. *Fresh Cut*, April, 1999: 30, 32.

■ Plant breeders in Texas have been working on the state flower and now, in addition to the blue blue bonnets, have maroon ones (Texas Aggie fans like that), and also flowers of pink, lavender and white. *Horticulture* 97 (1): 16, 18. (There are complaints about hybridists breeding different colors into the California poppy. Maybe this will happen in Texas.)

■ New *ornithogalums* called the New Chesapeake Series will, if grown indoors, bloom 4 times a year. They come in white, bright yellow, dark orange and vibrant orange. *National Gardening* 23 (5): 30.

■ Dwarf varieties of ornamental peanuts with nice yellow flowers are available in the Southeast; they make are good ground covers. *California Nurseryman* 7 (1): 27.



Corn

■ The corn growers with whom the Frito Lay Company contracts for special cultivars of yellow and white corn for snack food processing have been advised not to plant any genetically modified cultivars this season. The company processes 22 million bushels of corn a year. *Farm Journal*, Mid-February 2000: 33.

■ Biodegradable “eco-form” peanuts, made entirely from corn are now available for packaging. Once they get wet, they dissolve into a dilute cornstarch solution which is completely biodegradable to carbon dioxide and water by micro-organisms. *Cornell Plantation*, Spring 1999: 7.

And One-Up on Rose Disease

■ The *American Gardener* May/June 1999:11 lists selected disease-resistant roses. Those resistant to Black Spot include: ‘Altissimo’*, ‘Ballerina’*, ‘Gold Medal’*, ‘Henry Kelsey’, and ‘Sunsprite’. Those listed in the category Insect and Disease Resistant include: ‘Bredon’, ‘David Thompson’, ‘Dortmund’*, ‘Fragrant Cloud’, ‘Graham Thomas’, ‘Mr. Lincoln’, ‘New Dawn’, ‘Pacesetter’, and ‘William Baffin’. In the category Mildew and Black Spot Resistant: ‘Etoile de Holland’*, ‘Frontenac’ and ‘Thereise Bugnet’. Under the category of Disease Resistant: ‘Old Master’, ‘Peace’, ‘Scarlet Meidiland’, ‘Starina’, ‘Sweet Inspiration’, ‘The Fairy’*, and ‘White Meidiland’.

* The starred cultivars are reliable performers in the East Bay. Depending on conditions in your garden, others may also grow in good health.

— Dr. Robert D. Raabe

The Perils of Plant Pronunciation

According to an article in *Horticulture* 97 (1), these plants are frequently mispronounced:

<i>Achillea</i>	a kill EE a	not a KILL ee a.
<i>Ageratum</i>	a JUR a tum	not aj uer A tum
<i>Anemone</i>	an eh MONE ee	not a NEM o nee
<i>Asarum</i>	ASS a rum	not a SAH rum
<i>Brunnera</i>	brunn EER a	not BRUNN er a
<i>Cotinus</i>	KOTT i nus	not koh TINE us
<i>Echinops</i>	eh KINE ops	not EK i nops
<i>Erica</i>	eh RIKE a	not AIR i ka
<i>Lavatera</i>	la VATT er a	not lav a TEER a
<i>Oxalis</i>	OX a lis	not ox AL is
<i>Penstemon</i>	pen STEE mon	not PEN stih mun
<i>Polygonatum</i>	pol ee GON a tum	not pol ee gon ATE um
<i>Rheum</i>	REE um	not ROOM
<i>Saxifraga</i>	sax IFF re ga	not sax if FRAH ga
<i>Viola</i>	VYE o la	not vie OH la

A Growing Tradition: The Garden's Mothers Day Tea



Photo by Diane Kofke

Taking a breather after hosting the Garden's Mother's Day Tea... From left, Pat Smith, Ramona Davis, Chair Lee Hafter, Elaine Chernoff, and Claude Babcock

Created by **Eleanor Crary** four years ago, continued under the leadership of **Laura Wilt**, and now **Lee Hafter**, Mother's Day Tea has become a very popular annual event at the Garden. This year, at each of the three capacity seatings, our guests enjoyed tea, dainty sandwiches and myriad sweet treats. Our guests heard springtime madrigals performed by the Cragmont Camarata and enjoyed a diverse display of California wildflowers provided by Curator **Holly Forbes** and Curatorial Assistant **Barbara Keller**.

A Fine Four! Twenty-Five Years of Service To the Garden

This year, the Garden is honoring four volunteers who are celebrating 25 years of service to the Garden! They are **Iris Gaddis**, **Nancy Markell**, **Mary Pierpont** and **Mary Schroter**. All four started out in the Docent Class of 1975, but as volunteer opportunities expanded, three of the four branched out into other activities.

Iris Gaddis and **Mary Schroter** have become tremendously prolific and knowledgeable propagators. **Nancy Markell** has done just about everything in the Garden—from docent scheduling and training to volunteering in the Garden Shop and assisting **Elly Bade** with ordering books. **Mary Pierpont** has remained a steadfast and creative docent. A co-founder of Grocery Store Botany, she is also a major resource on California Indian uses of native plants.

The seasonal luncheons of the various volunteer groups honored this year's 25-year veterans. In addition, Director **Ellen Simms** hosted a luncheon for them.

Garden members are spellbound as one of our Rose Tour hosts explains her gardening philosophy.

A Time to Smell the Roses...

On a spectacular day in mid-May, 44 Garden members boarded a deluxe coach and traveled to Sonoma County to tour a pair of private gardens, each of which features roses. Group members reveled in the colors and fragrances of one garden, in which the roses are planted together according to type. At the other, they marveled at the wide range of companion plantings chosen to enhance individual roses.

Everyone enjoyed a champagne luncheon at the Korbel Winery, and a tour of their private garden, as well. The day was capped off by a shopping stop at Vintage Gardens in Sebastopol, where enthusiastic plant buyers succeeded in filling the luggage bins of the bus! All agreed it was a great day. If you weren't with us, be sure you don't miss the next tour!



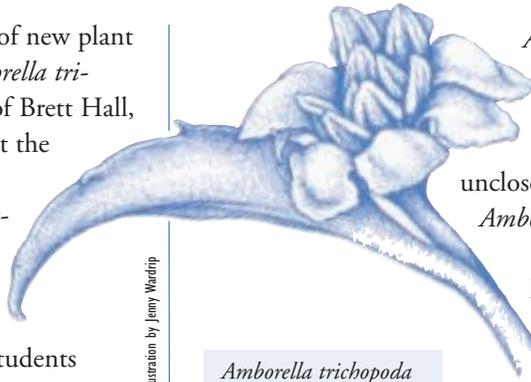
Photo by Nancy Swearingen

Celebrating 110 Years of Growth: From New Caledonia to the Garden

In any week, the Garden may receive dozens of new plant accessions, yet few are delivered personally. *Amborella trichopoda* did, however, arrive in the safe keeping of Brett Hall, Assistant Director for Horticultural Operations at the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum. This small specimen tells a story of dedicated plant collecting-and nurture-that eventually yields significant scientific knowledge.

Amborella entered the collection of the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum in 1975, thanks to two students Todd and Virginia Keeler-Wolf. Working under the direction of Ray Collett, who believed it important to collect plants from lesser known genera, the students found *Amborella* plants in the misty mountains of New Caledonia. Transported to California, these tropical plants required considerable nurture to survive in a cooler, drier climate. Enclosed in make-shift plastic tents, they were misted every few hours for several months. Survive these plants did and so did other *Amborellas* which germinated from New Caledonian seeds, and grew into woody evergreen shrubs.

Even in the early years, as it acclimated to California, *Amborella* was noteworthy as a member of a group of plants known as basal angiosperms. Though not eye-catching, *Amborella's* flowers exude a nighttime perfume very attractive to moths, which pollinate it. Unlike the most familiar angiosperms, the carpel in which its seeds then mature does not grow closed like a peapod. Instead, the lips of the



Amborella trichopoda

Amborella's carpel are sealed with a liquid, making it difficult for its seeds to travel a significant distance. This unclosed carpel readily earned *Amborella* the label "primitive".

Advances in molecular biology have enabled *Amborella* to fill in part of the unfolding story of angiosperm evolution. As Chris Carmichael, the Garden's Manager of Collections and Horticulture, explains, "Comparative genetic and morphological analysis of angiosperms has recently shown that *Amborella trichopoda* is the closest living representative of Earth's first flowering plants." In the grand tree scheme of plant evolution, *Amborella* is a survivor that stands alone in a lineage.

As this species continues its long journey from the mountains of New Caledonia, one plant is now in the care of Garden Propagator John Domzalski. Due to the specialized growing conditions *Amborella* requires, it is unlikely to be available for public viewing in the near future. With this new accession, however, the Garden fulfills two key aspects of its mission: conserving a rare plant and ultimately enabling researchers to continue studying the process of angiosperm evolution.

— Marilyn Setterfield

Recognition Contributions received from 2/14/2000 up to and including 6/19/2000.

New Members

The Garden welcomes the following new members:

Arlin Aasness and Philip Youngholm
Mr. Aruna Abeygoonesekera
Ms. Susan Adler
Dr. Dorothy Aggler
Ms. Margaret Alafi
Eleanor and Carlo Anderson
Ms. Shiela Appleyard
Ms. Nancy Bailey
Tamara Baltar and Claire Zukin
Rube Bandihai
Richard and Barbara Barlow
Mr. Billy Barrett
Ms. Maya Batchelor
Leslie Batz
Ms. Carolyn Beck
Ms. Lucinda Bender
Mrs. Noreen Bendetti
William Bennett and Margaret Lynch

James Berger and Marian Feldman
Roey Berman
Ms. Diane Birchell
Ms. Paula Biwer
Ms. Nancy Blackstock
Dr. John Bodle
Patricia and A. N. Brooks
Mrs. Caroline Booth
Mr. Martin Bovill
Chava Boyarin
Ms. Martha Breed
Ms. Sandra Brod
Dr. Joseph Byrne
Ms. Evelyn Calinog
Ms. Susan Campbell
John and Kati Casida
Ms. Judith Cayor
Ms. Deborah Celle
Mr. Max Chandler
Irene Chriss and Catherine Brousse
Ms. Patricia Coffey
Mr. Howard Cohen

Rose and Robert Craig
Ms. Natalie Cremer
Ms. Patricia Daniels
Mr. Lynden Davis
Stephen Dell and Julia Walsh
Mr. Walter Denn
Ms. Rene Di Rosa
Ms. Beverly Dobson
Ms. Joanne Doi
Ms. Caryn Dombroski
John and Margaret Douglas
Mr. Jean Driscoll
Ms. Patricia Drisoll
Ms. Zella Dutra
Mr. Bill Eckes
Ms. Anna Edmond
Kathleen Eldridge and Tim Moulton
Mr. Vincente Elmgren
Mr. Timothy Evans
V. Fahnestock
Mrs. Katherine Farnan

Planning a Gift to the Garden?

If you would like to include the Botanical Garden in your will, please let us know whether you need any help regarding the precise language to be used. We can forward information to your lawyer or financial advisor about making a bequest, donating appreciated securities, or establishing a charitable remainder trust. For more details, please contact either Janet Williams in the Development Office at the Garden (510-643-2937), or call the University Office of Planned Giving on the central campus at (510-642-6300).

Ms. Judi Fates
 Mr. Harvey Feld
 Ms. Margaret Filby
 Jean Fleury
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Don't forget **Extended Summer Hours!** The Garden is open until 7 pm every day through Labor Day! Here's a chance to plan a leisurely stroll, or even a picnic and enjoy the solitude of late afternoon and evening in this lovely place.

TWILIGHT TOURS

Every Wednesday evening during July and August, you can take a tour with a member of the Garden staff at 5:30 pm. See things you might otherwise miss, get the inside scoop on the different sections of the Garden, enjoy the special late afternoon light, and perhaps meet our quail families, or a bunny.

Free with Garden admission

MEDICAL SECRETS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AUGUST 9 AND 16, 5:30-7:00 PM

Walk in the Garden with physician and medical ethnobotanist, Adjunct Professor of Anthropology Tom Carlson, for eye-opening information about plants that are used medicinally by indigenous peoples. Dr. Carlson teaches Medical Ethnobotany on the campus and has done field research all over the world.

Free with Garden admission as part of the Twilight Tour Series.

MEMBERS DAY TOURS, PICNIC, AND GRAPE TASTING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1-4 PM

Bring your picnic and help us celebrate the end of summer in the Garden. Continuing with this year's theme of Grapes and Roses, we will enjoy a tasting of interesting and unusual table grapes. Selected grape plants will also be available for sale!

Special tours for new members. Members only!

FALL PLANT SALE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 10 AM - 2 PM

Fall is the best time to plant things in our area, and our volunteer propagators will offer a splendid array of selections to enhance your garden. Free!

FOODS OF THE AMERICAS SEPTEMBER 24–OCTOBER 15, 10 AM - 4:30 PM

Don't miss our colorful Latin American marketplace bursting with amazing produce that originated in the New World! School groups, grades 4–8, can arrange for special docent-led field trips of the marketplace and the Crop Garden. Call 642-3352 for more information.

For information about any of these events call Nancy Swearngen 510-643-1924



THE GARDEN SHOP

Now carrying a range of products celebrating the Garden's 110th Anniversary. Featuring the wonderful image created for us by distinguished artist Yan Nascimbene, we have T-shirts—both men's and women's, and mugs, as well as signed and unsigned copies of the poster commemorating the event.

Also available are our new UCBG "Planting the Future" Garden caps and tote bags!

Gifts, books and plants—gift certificates available!

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