



NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BOTANICAL GARDEN BERKELEY

Robert Ornduff, Director

Spring, 1976

FRIENDS GROUP ORGANIZED

The Friends of the Botanical Garden, University of California, Berkeley are organizing this spring. Officers are: Jerome Carlin, President; Fitzhugh Rollins, First Vice-President; Mrs. Willard E. Schmidt, Second Vice-President; Mrs. James R. Wilson, Secretary; and Vincent A. Clemens, Treasurer. The purpose of the organization is to foster widespread interest in the Botanical Garden through a variety of Garden oriented programs and events. In addition, the Friends seek funds to improve the various living collections, displays and facilities in the Garden. At the present time, plans are to hold monthly membership meetings beginning in September, 1976 at which times speakers will present talks on various topics of botanical or horticultural interest. Also, special workshops for the Friends are planned as are special tours of the Garden.

MATHER GROVE

Since this is the first formal newsletter issued from the Garden, a few notable events of the past 12 months will be mentioned here. With the assistance of the campus development office, we have completed with success a fund-raising campaign for the first phase of development of the Stephen Tyng Mather Redwood Grove. Dedication of the Grove was on Charter Day, April 2, 1976, with Peter H. Raven, Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden, as the featured speaker. The first main capital development in the Grove was the construction of the Calvin K. Townsend Amphitheater. Plans are to provide additional paths through the Grove and to establish plantings of native California plants that are normally associated with the Coast Redwood. In addition, a small portion of the Grove has been set aside for establishment of a Miocene Redwood forest, in which the modern descendents of tree genera that once grew with redwoods have been planted. At this time, various areas of the Grove have been named in honor of individuals who have provided distinguished service to the University, to the conservation movement, and to the Mather Grove project.

Future plans for the Grove include the establishment of educational displays, construction of an interpretive center, installation of a bridge across Winter Creek, and planting of various native trees and shrubs at the eastern edge of the Grove to provide a natural ecological transition into the Grove.

PERSONNEL

Personnel changes in the past year include the resignation of Ms. Anne Stocking as Education Coordinator. The Garden was extremely fortunate to replace Anne with Dr. Gertrude Machlis, who brings to the educational program extensive experience with educational and conservation

organizations in the region. Mrs. Annie Hannan has joined the Garden staff as Education Assistant to Dr. Machlis with responsibility for expanding the Garden's series of informational booklets. A new position, that was funded with external funds is that of Assistant to the Director, was filled by Mrs. Marjorie Gray, who likewise brings to the Garden considerable expertise in developing outreach programs. Ms. Kathy Ligon, Administrative Assistant, resigned to take a position at the University of California, San Francisco, and has been replaced by Ms. Gloria Gamblin, formerly with the Student Learning Center on campus. Keith Curry, Assistant Manager, resigned in October, 1975, to assume a position at Filoli Gardens.

NEW GREENHOUSES

Two notable capital developments have occurred in the Garden in addition to the Mather Redwood Grove. One of these is the activation (at last!) of the new tropical greenhouse next to the meeting room/greenhouse complex. This tropical house now houses a number of interesting economic plants from the tropics, including breadfruit, jackfruit, bananas, cocoa, achiote, cashew, various coffee species, yerba mate, ackee, cinnamon, and others, as well as cycads, ferns, nepenthes, and various ornamental herbaceous plants.

The other development is the completion of a new propagation house on the plateau near the Australasian area. Utilities have yet to be provided for this house, but we believe that these will be installed after the new budget allotments on July 1.

MOVES

In order to move certain maintenance operations away from the entrance to the Garden, the lath house was dismantled and moved to the plateau next to the new propagation house. In addition, a condemned greenhouse next to the old lath house was dismantled. This, as well as three other greenhouses, have been condemned as unsafe by campus authorities and plans are to "decommission" all of these eventually. The lath house area has been added to the Mexican area and has been planted with a number of unusual Mexican plants such as various species of firs, oaks, Tagetes, Clethra, and Arbutus.

HERB GARDEN

The herb garden has been substantially renovated and expanded and during the growing season attracts the interest of a large number of visitors. A number of fairly common herbs are included there, but we have also planted a number of uncommon ones such as Bee Balm, Costmary, Absinthe, Scabwort, Licorice, Lovage, Weld, and Woad.

ACCESSIONS

During the past year, we have accessioned about one thousand plants for the Garden. Many of these plants are to maintain parts of our collections that are already well established and to replace plants lost in the 1972 freeze. Other accessions are to build up some of our newly developed areas such as the Mather Grove, the Mediterranean and European area, and the North American area. Our new accessions are much too numerous to mention in detail, but a few interesting additions include a collection of Camellia species from the U.S.D.A., Torreya taxifolia (an Eastern U.S. relative of our California Nutmeg), Gomortega keule (a primitive tree from Chile), and Davidia involucrata (the Dove Tree from Southwestern China).

One group of plants that we are trying to build up is our palm collection. We presently have over forty species of palms, and although we have very limited greenhouse facilities for tropical palms, we are trying to build a collection of palms that will grow outside in the Bay Area.

During the past year, we have increased our contact with botanical gardens of the People's Republic of China. So far we have received or sent seeds to Peking, Canton, Lushan, Yunnan, Nanking, and Hangchow botanical gardens. Although it is still not possible to visit many of the botanically interesting parts of China, we are now beginning to be able to obtain wild-collected seeds from some of these areas.

SEED EXCHANGE WITH OTHER BOTANICAL GARDENS

The 18th seed list issued by the Garden was produced late in 1975 and listed 174 species of plants, largely collected by Wayne Roderick or Bruce Bartholomew in California, and by Bruce in Bhutan and Hong Kong. The Garden sends its seed list to approximately 400 other botanical gardens and arboreta in the United States and worldwide. Generally our list receives considerable interest because of the unusual array of wild-collected seed that we offer.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Curator Bruce Bartholomew collected seeds for the Garden in the Eastern Himalayas for one month in the fall of 1974. He visited both the Darjeeling District of India and the Kingdom of Bhutan. Only a handful of botanists have ever collected plants in Bhutan, and in fact, very few foreigners have ever visited this isolated Himalayan Kingdom. The Eastern Himalayas contain many plants of horticultural interest such as primulas, rhododendrons and magnolias to mention only a few. During November of 1975, Dr. Bartholomew visited Hong Kong and the People's Republic of China, collecting seeds from the native plants in the hills of Hong Kong Island and the New Territory. A number of interesting seed collections that were made on both these trips were also added to the current seed exchange list. Director Ornduff attended the meeting of the International Association of Botanical Gardens in Moscow June 30 to July 1, 1975, and then went to Leningrad where he attended the 12th International Botanical Congress, as did Assistant Director Nancy Vivrette. Following the Congress, Dr. Ornduff went on a post-Congress tour to Uzbekistan and visited the extensive botanical garden at Tashkent. Dr. Vivrette went on a post-Congress tour to the Caucasus. In late December 1975, Dr. Ornduff visited Yucatan and Chiapas, Mexico, and in the latter state collected about 100 species of woody plants and epiphytes for the Garden.

BOOKLETS AVAILABLE

The Garden's Education Program offers a number of booklets to assist the general public visiting the Garden. Those available at the present time are: Birds of the Botanical Garden, The Cactus Family, Flower Structure, The Herb Garden, The Indian Nature Trail, Insectivorous Plants, Old and New World Deserts, and The Redwood Family. These booklets are available at the Garden office at a nominal cost.

DOCENTS' PLANT SALE A SMASH HIT!

One of the most notable Garden events occurred May 3, 1975, when the Docents sponsored their first Plant Sale at the Oxford Tact in Berkeley. This was an enormously successful sale, netting approximately \$8,000, and provided a large number of unusual and interesting plants at nominal prices for the public.

The next Docent Plant Sale will be held at the east rim of the Berkeley Stadium on Saturday, May 1, 1976, and promises to be as successful (and less hectic!) than last year's sale. Proceeds from the sale go to support various Garden activities that are not supported by state funds. On a trial basis, the Docents have provided small grants to various botanists traveling to areas of interest to the Garden. These grants have been awarded to individuals visiting Peru, southern Chile, and New Zealand and we hope to enrich the living collections at the Garden as a result of these grants. The Docents have also funded construction of a number of outdoor display stands for the Garden and these will soon be available for visitor viewing.

PROBLEMS

Fortunately, vandalism at the Garden continues to be only a minor problem, although we have had to curtail the accessibility of the cactus-succulent-epiphyte greenhouse complex due to the "portability" of the plants there. One major problem is a financial one. Costs continue to rise and one very serious problem is that the heating bill for the Garden has risen to a very high level. It is probable that in the near future various greenhouses that are now heated will have to be operated unheated, which may result in the loss of some valuable collections of plants.

AN INVITATION

The Friends of the Botanical Garden invite your membership and for your convenience an application is attached.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Write the Botanical Garden, University of California, Berkeley, Ca. 94720 or phone weekdays (415) 642-3343.

Visiting hours at Garden on Centennial Drive: 9 to 5 daily except Christmas. Office hours: 8 to 4 weekdays.

CUT OFF

The FRIENDS OF THE BOTANICAL GARDEN

University of California, Berkeley, Ca. 94720	Students and Senior Citizens \$5	Payable
Membership Application	Individuals.....\$10	
Checks or Money Orders payable to name above	Cal Alumni Member Families	Jan. 1
and send, with this statement, to address above.	and 2 Member Families.....\$15	
Name.....	Families.....\$20	yearly
Address.....	Supporting.....\$50	
.....	Sponsors.....\$100	
Phone	Patrons.....\$250	
Area Code	Plant Societies, Garden Clubs \$25	
Number	Businesses and Industries....\$100,\$500,\$1000	or more
	Permanent	
	Life.....\$1,000 or more	

All dues are tax deductible