

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As our botanical garden begins its second fifty years in Strawberry Canyon, we are responding to the increased public interest and involvement in the garden and its educational and research programs. The Botanical Garden Quarterly Newsletter's enclosures directly relate to the many Friends and garden activities to which you are invited. For your convenience, a quick review of events including slide shows, tours, volunteer programs and plant sales is provided on the reverse. You and your friends are welcome to participate in all of these activities.

We draw your special attention to the enclosed Autumn Self-Guided Tour prepared by the garden's Education Program and highlighting points of particular interest in the botanical garden this fall. These seasonal tours will be a regular feature of this newsletter. With these informative guides in hand, one can become better acquainted with the garden and its incredibly diverse flora. We welcome your response to the enclosures and any suggestions from you that will contribute to your greater enjoyment of the U.C. Botanical Garden. *Jerry Carlin, President.*

Garden Volunteers

Volunteers are urgently needed to pot plants for the garden's Spring Plant Sale. Potters may choose to specialize in categories such as ferns and orchids, houseplants, succulents, and rhododendrons. No previous potting experience is necessary, and all supplies are provided except gloves and a mug. You are welcome to visit the garden's potting sheds any Tuesday or Thursday morning from 9-12 to pot or to look around. For further information, call Marney Ackerman at 933-9380, early mornings and evenings.

Nine new volunteers were recently trained by Educational Assistant Ellie Davis to staff the garden's Information Center. The center's hours are now Monday through Friday, 10:00-3:00, and Saturday and Sunday, 10:00-4:00. A volunteer will be on hand during those hours to answer questions and to sell garden booklets, plants, U.C. Press Books and Friends memberships.

Membership program

Laccopetalum giganteum, a buttercup with six-inch flowers and leathery leaves three feet long, is only one of the unusual plants to be discussed by Dr. Thomas Duncan in his slide-lecture "Plant Hunting in Peru", to be given November 2d at 8 p.m. in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building on the Berkeley campus. Dr. Duncan will describe his 1976 expedition to study the distinctive puna vegetation of the west slopes of the Peruvian Andes. This event is free to Friends (admission for non-members is \$2.00). Memberships will be available at the event - all members are encouraged to bring a friend to the lecture and to post or pass on the enclosed poster announcing the event.

Help the garden grow

The November 2d slide-lecture by Dr. Thomas Duncan will mark the start of a two-month Friends membership campaign. Your support is needed to help us meet our goal of 1000 members. Bring your friends to the lecture - Friends memberships will be available at the door for free admission. Friends memberships are thoughtful gifts for Christmas, birthdays, and other special occasions. A personal gift notice from the president of the Friends is sent to recipients of gift memberships. Use the enclosed form to give a gift that grows year-round.

Note the wide spectrum of titles listed on the enclosed UC Press Book order form. These beautiful books, available at a 20% discount to Friends, can be bought at our Information Center or ordered by mail. Mail order checks should be made out to Friends of the Botanical Garden and mailed directly to Friends of the Botanical Garden, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720. Both UC Press Book purchases and Friends memberships support the garden and its programs, as well as making enduring gifts.

Garden News

In November and December, *Dahlia imperialis* (pictured on the reverse) will be in bloom. This striking species is native to the mountains of southern Mexico and Central America and has numerous unbranched stems that grow each year from the base to reach an impressive height of about 20 feet. The nodding, daisy-like flower heads have lavender rays with bright yellow disk flowers. The garden has two different plants in the Mexican Area. One plant is from Chiapas, Mexico and the other from El Salvador. The two plants bloom at slightly different times and also have slightly different growth patterns. The location of the plants is marked by an asterisk (*) in the Mexican Area on the map in the enclosed self-guided tour.

Also in bloom at this time of year is the beautiful *Lapageria rosea* (Chilean Bellflower). Our plants are mostly grown on China Hill and in the Rhododendron Dell, where the wiry vines climb up many of the live oaks. The pendulous bell-shaped flowers range in color from white to pink and look as if they are made of wax. This interesting plant was named after Empress Josephine of France, the first wife of Napoleon, whose maiden name was de la Pagerie.

A significant addition to the garden is a drip irrigation system installed this summer in the Palm Garden, the Economic Area and the Miocene Forest. The plants in these areas have already shown a marked positive response to the more efficient watering they are receiving. The system's tiny perforated tubes, located barely below the bed surfaces, deliver a slow, steady flow of water, thoroughly penetrating the soil and greatly reducing water losses from evaporation and runoff. The most important savings, however, is on labor - beds once watered manually 2-3 times a week are now watered about once a week with the turn of a valve.





Dahlia imperialis - Two specimens of this spectacular 20-foot tall Central American dahlia will soon be in bloom at the UC Botanical Garden (see inside for details).

by Terese Bartholomew

FRIENDS QUARTERLY CALENDAR

November

- 2d- "Plant Hunting in Peru". Slide-lecture by Dr. Thomas Duncan. 8 p.m., 2503 Life Sciences Bldg.
- 10th- Fall Houseplant Sale. 9:30 a.m. until sold out, 2094 Life Sciences Bldg.

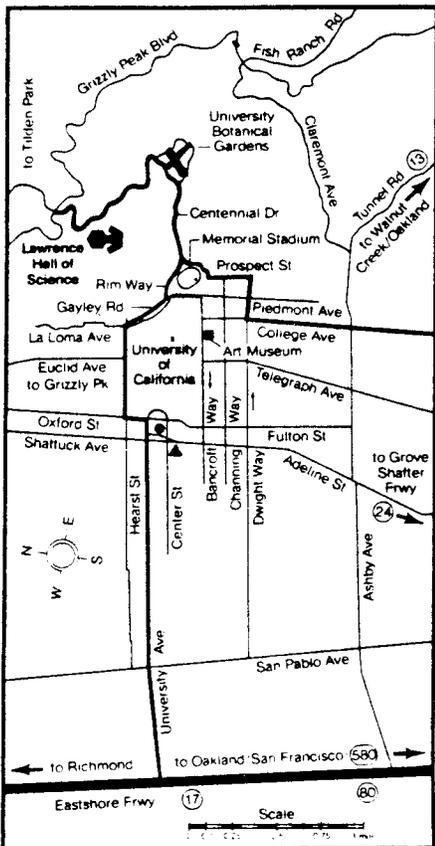
ADVANCE NOTICE

- January 31st - Slide-lecture by Dr. Bruce Bartholomew on his trip to Red China.
- April 7th - Botanical Garden Open House.
- May 5th - Friends Preview Plant Sale.

The Friends of the U.C. Botanical Garden provide assistance to the garden in improving and extending the plant collections, enriching the education program, and meeting general capital requirements.

Membership benefits include special programs on plants and gardening; mailings of the Botanical Garden Quarterly Newsletter and seasonal self-guided tours; a 20% discount on selected UC Press Books; and admission to the annual Preview Plant Sale exclusively for Friends.

Student, senior citizen, and garden volunteer memberships are discounted to \$5. Standard dues are \$10 for individuals, \$15 for families. The Friends of the Botanical Garden functions as a support group under the auspices of the UC Berkeley Foundation, and dues and gifts are tax-deductible.



UC Berkeley Foundation
 Friends of the Botanical Garden
 University of California
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- Beginning our second 50 years in Strawberry Canyon -