

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY

Botanical Garden Quarterly



BOLANDER PINE

Friends of the Botanical Garden

FALL, 1980

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Jerry Carlin

Because of staff changes over the past few months, it has not been possible to maintain the Garden Newsletter schedule. We know that some of you have been disappointed by this hiatus, and we apologize. However, new staff is being acquired and a reorganization of duties is nearly completed, and we expect to resume publication of the Newsletter on a regular quarterly basis next year.

In addition, plans are being formulated to present a unified public program for the Friends of the Botanical Garden with the combined assistance of Garden staff and volunteers. Activities are planned in all three areas in which the Garden relates to the wider community: public education, public information, and fund raising. In the Public Education area we will continue to offer guided tours of the Garden, lectures, workshops, classes and various Garden publications.

In the Public Information area are included the Newsletter, the Information Center, display cases, and the Open House. Under Fund Raising, we have on the one hand the sales (of plants, seeds, books, etc.), and on the other, membership dues, contributions, and grants.

Members of the Friends will continue to receive various benefits such as lower fees at workshops, exclusive access to certain classes, discounts on certain sale items, exclusive opportunity to buy at the Spring Plant Sale during the preview period, and, of course, the Newsletter.

The breadth and success of the public programs depend very largely on volunteers. The Guided Tours and Plant Sales were the first activities to benefit from the help of dedicated volunteers. With fewer than two paid staff positions, it is obvious that we will need many more volunteers if we are to maintain let alone expand, the other public program activities. So we need your help. And so that we may tap the resources of all of you out there, we are including with this newsletter a brief questionnaire concerning volunteer options available to you at the Garden. We ask that you please complete the questionnaire and return it to us as soon as possible. If you do want to help us continue to make this Garden a source of learning and pleasure for our community, we promise that you will be hearing from us.



Photinia arbutifolia

Photinia arbutifolia
(*P. salicifolia*; *Heteromeles*
arbutifolia; *H. salicifolia*)
Toyon; Christmas-Berry

California

FRIENDS SUCCESS STORY - 1979-80

The Friends of the Botanical Garden had a successful year 1979-80. The Treasurer's Report for the past year shows a gross income of \$37,044.67, most of which came from Plant and Information Center sales, memberships, and contributions specifically earmarked for support of the China expedition. Total operating expenses including administrative and supply costs was \$10,661.46, leaving a balance of \$23,289.26 for Garden uses.

The bulk of the net income has been allocated to Garden maintenance which is supported by the University in the amount of \$8,000. The Friends contribution increases that amount by \$19,035. Major allocations include enlargement of the propagation shade house, which was completed this fall, purchase and installation of a drip irrigation system, landscaping material, a dry wall for the African Hill area, a bridge for the Rhododendron Dell, and the splitting of vents in the propagation house. The remaining \$6000 has been reserved by the Friends for operating costs for the current year.

Your continued support of the Garden through memberships and volunteer services is much appreciated by both the Board of Directors of the Friends and the Garden staff.

REPORT ON THE GARDEN - Daniel Campbell, Senior Garden Manager

Some rather extensive changes have taken place in the Garden since the last issue of the Newsletter, most obvious of which is certainly the pruning and in some cases, removal of trees in several garden areas. This tree trimming activity was the culmination of a process that began last spring with the undertaking of a detailed survey of the Garden's trees by myself in consultation with the Garden's curator and staff. Assessing the trees from the standpoint of (a) public safety; (b) general health of the tree; (c) effect of the tree on understory plantings; and (d) suitability to geographic area of plant community, it was estimated that more than \$6,000 would have to be budgeted to pay for the minimum tree work required over the next fiscal year. At the June meeting of the Friends of the Botanical Garden, funds were allocated to cover half of this projected need.

Before the contract for the tree work was submitted, however, the Garden received a remarkable offer: Tree Shaper and Friends member Ted Kipping volunteered the services of his professional crew in performing not only the work that was immediately required, but that which would likely have been postponed due to limited funding. During July through September, Kipping and his crew completed work valued at approximately \$15,000, a very generous donation of time and talent, for which both the garden staff and the Friends Board of Directors are exceedingly grateful. The skill of the workers was evidenced by the fact that some of the trees that were removed appeared to have been lifted aurally from their sites, so minimal was the disturbance to the surrounding plants.

Three areas of the Garden received most of the tree trimmers' attention:

1. In the California Area, native oaks were removed to make possible the planting of a new Yellow Pine Forest community in beds to the left of the main road just east of the knoll.

2. The dense vegetation of the undeveloped slope in back of the storage and work areas at the rear of the garden was thinned to allow for the eventual relocation and expansion of the Mexican-Central American collection. Among the trees ex-

pected to be planted on the sunny slope are species of Arbutus, magnolias, pines, and evergreen oaks, all collected in the wild.

3. The most extensive work was done in the Rhododendron Dell. One of the first areas of the Garden to be planted, the Dell has been watered regularly for many years, a practice beneficial to the rhododendrons and other understory plants but detrimental to the native oaks. The heavy shading by some of the oaks has in turn been detrimental to the plants beneath. Therefore, several oaks in the upper part of the Dell which had rotted and deteriorated--their branches threatening to fall onto paths, thereby endangering garden visitors--were removed. The conspicuous oaks at the lower end of the Dell near the bridge will eventually be removed for the same reasons; for now, they have been pruned opening the area to more light while still providing some important shade to the more tender plants below. Additional light was also ensured in the upper Dell by thinning the lower branches of some of the redwoods.

The response of the understory plants in the Dell to the increased illumination was quite rapid: rhododendrons which had grown spindly in their reach for light are now sprouting out from the base and along the trunk. It is heartening to witness the healthy new growth of these prized specimens. Some of the empty sites left by the removal of oaks will be planted with appropriate Asian trees such as the attractive Exbucklandia, or Ptericarya, a relative of the walnut with long, drooping, decorative seed pods.

In addition to the major work performed on these three areas, attention was given to a few isolated trees. The Atlas cedar in front of the classroom, for example, had some broken branches removed for safety reasons, along with one branch that was resting on the roof of the building. A secondary benefit of this pruning was to shed more light on the palm garden below.

Since work which might have been stretched over a period of a few years was done in a few weeks in this case because of Mr. Kipping's generosity, the overall effect of the pruning and removal of trees has been a bit startling to some garden visitors. Although some of the affected areas still look a bit raw, the beneficial effects of the alterations can already be seen and will continue to manifest themselves for years to come. I will be happy to answer any questions about specific trees or future plans for specific areas; I may be reached at 642-3343.

INFORMATION CENTER ACTIVITIES

The Garden's Information Center has a number of fine new UC Press titles available to Friends members at 20% discount: "Growing California Native Plants" by Schmidt, "Natural World of the California Indians" by Heizer, "California Insects" by Powell and Hogue, and "Mushrooms of Western North America" by Orr.

A wide selection of books on botanical topics, horticulture and natural history of California and the Bay Area is currently available, along with attractive wild-flower postcards and posters and new color postcards of the Garden. Volunteers have prepared lavender sachets and even bouquet garni for the gourmet cook along with packages of seeds and a wide variety of plants from the Garden collections.

Friends members are encouraged to come to the Garden for an enjoyable winter visit and take a moment to stop by the Information Center and perhaps find an appropriate holiday gift. The Information Center is open daily from noon to 3 pm and 10 to 4:30 on week-ends, with other hours by special arrangement. For further information, call 642-3352 or 642-3343.

EDUCATION PROGRAM NEWS

The Education Program activities have been evaluated during the last few months, and some changes have been planned, along with a change in staff. The Education Botanist, Annie Hannan, left at the end of August and the new staff member, Christopher Byal, was not selected until mid-November.

The Tour Guide Training Program classes which have previously been offered in the Fall are scheduled to begin on February 19, 1981. The classes will be revised to reflect the current status of the tour programs; however, the training will still be offered on Thursday mornings and will last for 8 weeks. A description of the tour program, detailed schedule of the class topics and written applications for the class will be available after January 1st. Individuals interested in this opportunity to participate in the tour program are encouraged to contact the Education Program staff at 642-3352.

For the time being, the former monthly "Adult Enrichment Lectures" have been discontinued due to the staff time necessary to administer the classes. We realize these were very popular and worthwhile programs and hope to reinstate the lectures in the near future when other work responsibilities have been reevaluated and reassigned.

A monthly "Volunteers Garden Review" program has been initiated to provide all Garden volunteers with up-dated information about specific areas or collections within the Garden. Emphasis in these classes is on outdoor instruction. The Slosson "Garden of Plants for Mankind" and the Australasian Area were covered in October and November sessions and topics suggested by volunteers for the next few months include trees, African Hill and the Tropical House.

The annual Fall Campus Plant Sale was held on November 7th in the Life Sciences Building and earned approximately \$2400 for the Garden's programs, an increase of \$200 over the previous year. Successful events such as this plant sale are the result of all the special help given generously by the Garden's volunteers, and a real credit to their efforts. Some individuals volunteer to help prepare plant labels, others to make cuttings; some help with cashier duties and others prepare attractive publicity posters or information cards for the plants - each of these tasks is an important part of the overall successful production.

There are opportunities for volunteer participation in all of the Garden's programs: for propagation assistance, for public relations and general information and sales in the Information Center and as a tour guide - opportunities for group projects, for quiet work, for indoors or outdoors, frequent or occasional assistance. A volunteer interest survey is enclosed with this newsletter to specify some of the areas of greatest need. Please look it over today, and return it to the Garden with any comments. If you have further questions about volunteer participation in the Garden, please call the Education Program Coordinator, Nancy van Roessel, at 642-3352.

WATCHING YOUR STEP

The Garden staff has been busy recently reconstructing Garden pathways to eliminate potentially hazardous situations caused by erosion and root growth.

Particular attention has gone to rebuilding badly eroded footpaths in the Rhododendron Dell with a new resurfacing material. Steps have been improved on the African Hill, and one new connecting parthway has been developed in the lower part of the New World Desert, as well as several new pathway modifications in the Australasian Area.

CHANGES IN GARDEN STAFF

Al Irving retired in July after 20 years as an employee in the Garden. Al served as manager during his last two years and supervised many improvements in the Garden's appearance during that period. In appreciation of his dedication to the Garden, he was honored at a picnic and slide show hosted with affection by the staff and many of his friends.

Daniel Campbell, former assistant manager, was selected in September to replace Al Irving as Senior Garden Manager.

Peter Klement was hired December 1 as assistant to the Senior Manager. Peter has a degree in Horticulture from the University of Minnesota and several years experience in the field. Among his varied responsibilities will be the supervision of all plant materials for educational use on the campus.

David Weed left his Garden position as a Senior Nursery Technician in June to pursue graduate studies at Stanford School of Business.

Roger Raiche was promoted to fulltime status and has assumed David Weed's former responsibilities in the Herb Garden, the Slosson Garden of Plants for Mankind and the Northeastern American Area.

John Norcross was hired this fall to maintain the Glasshouse collections on weekends and holidays. He is also a parttime gardener at the Blake Estate in Kensington and has been an active member of our volunteer propagation group for the last year and a half.

Annie Hannan resigned as Education Program Botanist at the end of August to move to Santa Barbara where he husband accepted a teaching position in Botany at UCSB. Annie had been on the Education Program staff for several years and implemented a number of fine programs, among the most successful being the Adult Enrichment Lecture Series and an expanded collection of Garden booklets.

Christopher Byal was hired mid-November as the new Education Program Botanist. He was trained in Landscape Architecture in southern California and his skills and experience in writing, graphics, and education will be put to fine use in the Garden's educational activities.

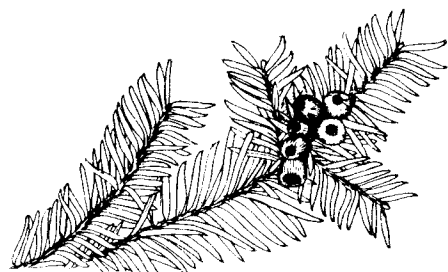
Laura Hess resigned as Executive Secretary to the Friends in late October in order to accept a fulltime position at the UC Press in the accounting department. Her former responsibilities have been partially assumed by other Garden staff members and Friends volunteers pending evaluation of the Garden staff position.

Dr. Robert Ornduff, Garden Director, spent two weeks in the highlands of Peru in October and obtained a number of collections of plants and seed to be added to the Garden's South American planting.

Taxus baccata

Taxus baccata
English Yew

Europe; northern Africa;
western Asia



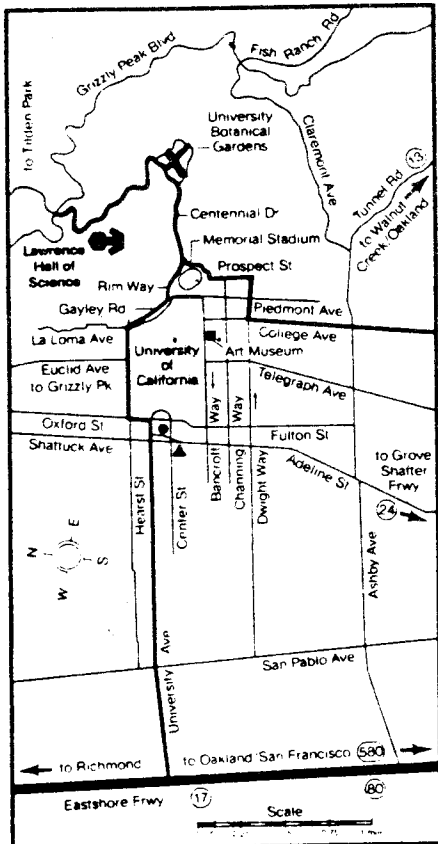
UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 29, Thursday, 8 p.m., 2000 Life Sciences Bldg. Lecture: PLANT GATHERING IN THE HUBEI PROVINCE, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA by Bruce Bartholomew, Curator, UC Botanical Garden. General Admission, \$2.00; students, \$1.00; Members, Friends of the Botanical Garden, free. Parking 25¢ anywhere on campus after 6 p.m., except in spaces marked "Reserved."

This expedition was in two areas in western Hubei Province near the border with Sichuan Province: Shennong Jia and Lichuan. Shennong Jia is a mountainous region of primeval forest which has only recently been explored, and we were the first westerners to ever visit this region. Lichuan is the native home of *Metasequoia*, and we were the first westerners since 1948 to visit this area. Supported in part by a grant from the National Geographic Society, this expedition, the first Chinese-American field expedition since the founding of the People's Republic of China, was a joint project of the Botanical Society of America and the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

MAY 9,, Saturday, Lawrence Hall of Science Plaza. Friends of the Botanical Garden PLANT SALE. Preview Sale for Friends only, 9-10:30 a.m. General Public Sale, 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Friends please note: This year the Spring Plant sale will be a one-day only event, with the Preview Sale taking place for an hour and a half before the general public is admitted.

SEPTEMBER 13, Sunday departure. EIGHTEEN-DAY NATIONAL PARK TOUR in conjunction with Strybing Arboretum Society of Golden Gate Park. Full details in the next Newsletter, also by brochure available about the end of January.



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