Garden Highlights

Winter rains may occasionally dampen spirits but they bring bursts of color back to many areas in the Botanical Garden. Whether you are on the alert for new curiosities or merely anxious for the return of old favorites, February and March are excellent months for a visit.

Aloes highlight the African collection. These succulent-leaved members of the Lily family produce showy spikes of brightly-colored, tubular flowers. Flowering with the Aloes are numerous African bulbs as well as several species of Erica or Heath. About 450 of the more than 500 species of Erica occur in southern Africa, most of them restricted to Cape Province. On the Cape Peninsula alone, an area less than one-third the size of Marin County, there are over 100 species of Erica. They are evergreen shrubs with whorls of small, needle-like leaves. The flowers are usually nodding and are either bell-shaped or long and cylindrical.

The Japanese Pool is a short distance up the path from the African collection. Many of the Rhododendrons that encircle the pool are in flower during February and March. Many of these are 50-year old giant specimens of rare or unusual species. If you enjoy spectacular displays of color, these are a "must" to see. More than 700 of these 1200 described species of Rhododendron occur where the borders of China, Tibet, Burma, and Assam meet. Also in flower in the Asian collection are showy species and hybrids of Magnolia and Camellia.

Many plants in the California Native Plant collection begin to flower in response to the winter rains. This is the best time of year to observe the small but attractive flowers of Achistostaphylos, the Manzanitas. This woody evergreen genus, which includes species that range from prostrate shrubs to small trees, is a conspicuous element in the California flora. The diversity within the group is well represented in the Botanical Garden collection. Other highpoints in the California area are the curious daisy Coreopsis gigantea (beds 5A, 6B) and the mallow Sidalcea malviflora (bed 1B). Also note the scented Eriostemon species (Wallflowers) in cream to orange colors in the coastal habitat beds.

Two new table displays and one closed-case exhibit have recently been set out in the Garden. A table display funded by the Pytanean Alumni, placed near the entrance to the Mather Redwood Grove, discusses the history and ecology of Redwood forests. The Redwood Grove may be closed to visitors due to road construction so you may not be able to examine this display until later in the spring. At the opposite end of the Garden, in the rose section of the Floricitude Area, another new table display describes the history of cultivated roses. Representatives of most of the important species and varieties that make up the rose genealogy are examined this display until later in the spring. At the opposite end of the Garden, there are many plants in full bloom. The diversity within the group is well represented in the Botanical Garden collection. Other highpoints in the California area are the curious daisy Coreopsis gigantea (beds 5A, 6B) and the mallow Sidalcea malviflora (bed 1B). Also note the scented Eriostemon species (Wallflowers) in cream to orange colors in the coastal habitat beds.

The Restoration of the Japanese Pool

The Botanical Garden was the fortunate recipient of the landscape stones and stone lanterns that had once been part of the Japanese Pavilion at the Golden Gate International Exposition of 1939 on Treasure Island. The gift was made possible through the generosity of the Japanese Alumni Association and the Japanese Government. The stones and lanterns were reassembled around a central pool at the Garden by designer-builder Kaneji Domoto. In 1962 a flood of rubble and mud damaged Mr. Domoto's landscape design. Parts of the stone lanterns were salvaged, as were most of the stones which were replaced in their former positions. The pool, however, remains almost completely full of gravel and rubble.

The Japanese pool, placed in a center focus of the Garden, was intended to be regarded as an example of classical and authentic Japanese landscape. The Botanical Garden endeavors to capture that initial enthusiasm and focus. The Garden's staff has replanted around the pool, however, major changes involving reconstruction of the pool's bottom can only be accomplished with outside assistance. To restore this historic Japanese pool to a design that reflects the Japanese landscape sensitivities of the original design the Garden needs $22,115. An initial fund has been set up, and the Garden wishes to thank Prof. and Mrs. Yasuo Takahashi, Mr. Yashii Sumya of California First Bank, and Mrs. A. Itatsu for the support to initiate this special restoration project. Further contributions are required. Please direct your inquiries to Daniel Campbell (642-3343) or Wendy Mitchell (642-2084).
You are invited to become a member of the Friends of the UC Botanical Garden. This organization was developed to provide assistance to the Botanical Garden in improving and extending the plant collections, enriching the education program, and meeting general capital requirements.

Members, in return, are offered special programs on plants and gardening, 20% discount on selected UC Press books (such as *California Spring Wildflowers* by Munz), preview privileges for the Annual Spring Plant Sale of unique plants from the Garden's collection, and mailings of the Friends Newsletter and seasonal self-guided tours.

Student and Senior Citizen memberships are discounted to $7.50. Standard dues are $15 for an individual. The Friends of the Botanical Garden function as a support group under the auspices of the UC Berkeley Foundation, and dues and gifts are tax deductible.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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*Make checks payable to: FRIENDS OF THE BOTANICAL GARDEN*

*Friends of the Botanical Garden, Centennial Drive, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720, WENDY MITCHELL, Editor*
Calendar of Events


March 3 - May 12  Educational Class: “From the Rainforest to Your Living Room,” Instructor Fred Dorrort, noted plant writer and collector. A course about orchids, bromeliads, and other exotic plants including their ecology, classification and culture. The class will include field trips and greenhouse and outdoor explorations. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon, Botanical Garden Meeting Room. $35.00 members, $40.00 non-members, for information call 642-3352.

March 8  Lecture: “Tropical Rainforests: Their Diversity and Destruction” by Cathy Pringle, M.S., stream biologist, Thursday, 8 p.m., Life Sciences Building Room 2003, members free, guests $2, parking available on campus, RSVP to 642-2084.

April 13  Open House featuring the Rhododendron Dell, Friday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., special tours of the Garden.

April 14  Open House featuring the California Area, Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., special tours of the Garden, workshops, and lectures.

86 New Members

A hearty welcome to all new members. We are delighted to have you and hope you will enjoy your association with the Friends of the UC Botanical Garden. Welcome. Special thanks to the 63 people who renewed their memberships.

Robert Allen, June Andrews, Karen Andrews, Alice Beall, Marie Bailey, Mary Ann Balian, Mrs. Harmon Bell, Dennis Breidt, Bob Erb, Lane Erb, Elga Famel, Mollie A. Balatnich, Mrs. A. W. Brown, A.W. Childs, Michael and Judy Ciraco, Mrs. and Mr. James O. Clayton, Ruth H. Cope, Jane S. Cooney, Robert L. Connick, Rosamond S. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. John Freiheit, Polly Feinberg, Walter J. Freeman, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Geertsch, Reason A. Goodwin, Carl Hamean, Mr. and Mrs. S.F. Hammond, Jr., Mitchell Harvey, Virginia W. Haven, Margaret P. Hasekawa, Betty Heflef, G. Gay Huffman, Mr. and Mrs. John Kadd, Dorothy Bosden Kellett, Dorothy M. Kesseli, David Shaw King, Henrietta Kleinschmidt, Stella May Knouse, Mrs. Rita Kruss, Mrs. Karole D. Laib, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis E. Lawyer, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Lichtenstein, Hazel C. Lowry, Mr. and Mrs. George J. Maslach, Sophie Meier, John Merece, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Mitchell, and Mrs. Newell Jr., Mr. and Mrs. C.R. Nieouwoger, Consuelo Odegard, Robert Offrma, Mary Charles Page, Barbara Palmer, Piedmont Garden Club, Mr. and Mrs. Reine R. Pollard, Ronald G. Prather, Mr. and Mrs. Robert V. Pyle, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Power, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Rosenblatt, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas G. Rosenmeyer, Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Rombold, Lloyd B. Ryland, Nancy Sale, Dana F. Sambor, Elaine M. Seder, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald K. Sipherd, Carl and Grace Smith, Jane Spelman, Caroline Spiller, George and Helene Strauss, Ted Tavshinsky, Mary E. Thiel, Edward Torres, Mr. and Mrs. Paul C. Watt, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Melvin M. Weihn, Jeannine Young

The Friends and the Garden Staff wish to express their gratitude to the following contributors who responded so quickly and so generously to the needs of the garden this winter:

Dr. John Adams, Jean Allen, Marie Bailey, Mollie A. Balatnich, Mr. and Mrs. Harmon C. Bell, James Benet, Berkeley Garden Club, Ethel Blum, Jean Claire Bowman, Janet J. Breuer, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Brewer, Gregory Bridwell, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence V. Brooks, Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Brown, A.W. Childs, Michael and Judy Ciraco, Mr. and Mrs. James O. Clayton, Ruth H. Cope, Jane S. Cooney, Robert L. Connick, Rosamond S. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. John Freiheit, Polly Feinberg, Walter J. Freeman, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Geertsch, Reason A. Goodwin, Carl Hamean, Mr. and Mrs. S.F. Hammond, Jr., Mitchell Harvey, Virginia W. Haven, Margaret P. Hasekawa, Betty Heflef, G. Gay Huffman, Mr. and Mrs. John Kadd, Dorothy Bosden Kellett, Dorothy M. Kesseli, David Shaw King, Henrietta Kleinschmidt, Stella May Knouse, Mrs. Rita Kruss, Mrs. Karole D. Laib, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis E. Lawyer, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Lichtenstein, Hazel C. Lowry, Mr. and Mrs. George J. Maslach, Sophie Meier, John Merece, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Mitchell, and Mrs. Newell Jr., Mr. and Mrs. C.R. Nieouwoger, Consuelo Odegard, Robert Offrma, Mary Charles Page, Barbara Palmer, Piedmont Garden Club, Mr. and Mrs. Reine R. Pollard, Ronald G. Prather, Mr. and Mrs. Robert V. Pyle, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Power, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Rosenblatt, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas G. Rosenmeyer, Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Rombold, Lloyd B. Ryland, Nancy Sale, Dana F. Sambor, Elaine M. Seder, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald K. Sipherd, Carl and Grace Smith, Jane Spelman, Caroline Spiller, George and Helene Strauss, Ted Tavshinsky, Mary E. Thiel, Edward Torres, Mr. and Mrs. Paul C. Watt, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Melvin M. Weihn, Jeannine Young

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Tributes

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Albert and Metta Clare Loomis

In Memory of Stephen Stewart
Eva and Tom Hartwell

In Memory of Christine Fields
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In Memory of Alwine Van Allen
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