

NEWSLETTER



ARBORETA & BOTANIC GARDENS

prepared by the public services division

July 10, 1973

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

We would like to welcome our new student worker in the business office, Miss Pearl Duenas. Pearl is a student at PCC and is replacing Louise Marks who has transferred into the Public Services Division.

Tickets are now available for the Arboretum picnic scheduled for Saturday, July 28th at Monrovia Nursery. This year's events will include swimming, food, ice melting contest, bingo, ping pong, sack races and lots of great prizes. All tickets must be bought by July 25th so don't delay. Get your tickets today and bring a friend.

Welcome aboard to our new daytime Custodian, Richard Barnes. Richard will be responsible for the Historical area.

ARBORETUM DIVISION

Tsuneo Imanishi has been appointed Arboretum Gardener and will be working with Joe Erby in the northern portion of the Arboretum. Ben McClaurin, Arboretum Tree Trimmer, is transferring to Descanso Gardens this month. Gardening positions yet to be filled include Assistant Arboretum Gardener and Assistant Nurseryman. These positions are expected to be filled in the near future.

All projects have been slowed down by vacations and illnesses but we hope normal activities will resume soon.

Joe Erby, Jack Toyota, and Ken Tokushige have started a car pool. Anyone interested in joining should contact one of these men.

SOUTH COAST DIVISION

The annual "Color Your Community Beautiful" Awards Luncheon was held here

on June 11 with 272 representatives of interested civic organizations in attendance. The community-wide project was sponsored by Los Angeles Beautiful. Eight silver trophies were awarded to the winners, as well as a special award to the Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens.

Our future main gate entrance on the Crenshaw Boulevard side of the garden has been paved. The boulevard itself is being widened and improved. These improvements are all the more welcome since the Board of Supervisors approved funds for building our Administration Building complex. Now the road and entryway will really be going somewhere!

The staff display, entitled "The Patio," took an award again this year at the Fiesta de Flores. This time it was a first place award.

With the record breaking temperatures here at South Coast, the eugenias and syzygiums were at their best ever.

Birds observed on the June walk included: ring-necked pheasant, rock dove, black-chinned hummingbird, cliff swallow, mockingbird, robin, hooded oriole, song sparrows, brown-headed cowbird, lesser goldfinch, and house finch.

PUBLIC SERVICES DIVISION

We'd like to introduce three new members of the Public Services Division: They are William (Bill) Washington and Thomas (Tom) Kaun, biology grads who will be working weekends and holidays as as-needed tour guides, and Louise Marks who has transferred from the business office where she was working as a professional student worker and who is now the Department's first female tour guide.

David Fields has been appointed Head Tour Guide and will be responsible for the tour guide and school field trip operations at each of our gardens.

The demand for our Poisonous Plant booklet from school districts, the public, and a few unexpected sources such

as a winery, continues. A somewhat lesser demand continues for our Vegetable Gardening brochure. Meanwhile, we have a new edition of the Fire Retardant Plant booklet in preparation for which there are already requests. Coming up around August 1: the fall three-garden Adult Education schedule and the Minicourse brochure for 1973-74.

RESEARCH DIVISION

An effort has been made by James Doty to collect species of insectivorous plants. At present the collection consists of 7 species of Drosera, 2 species of Nepenthes, 1 species of Drosophyllum, 1 species of Dionea, 1 species of Pinguicula, 1 species of Darlingtonia and 1 species of Sarracenia. Part of them, in good growth condition, are being exhibited to the public in the Research Building. One of the species is quite interesting; Drosophyllum lusitanicum is the native of the chaparral in Spain, Morocco, and Portugal. Whether or not it can survive our chaparral climate remains a question.

On the weekend of the Fiesta de los Flores at South Coast Botanic Garden, a raging brush and grass fire burned 1,000 acres in the area of Portugese Bend Drive in Rolling Hills just to the west of the gardens. Eleven homes valued at more than \$150,000 each were destroyed. The fire was fanned by high winds through tinder-dry fuel created by the hot, dry weather of the preceding several days. An emergency meeting of the Rolling Hills City Council was held the following Thursday (June 28) to begin formulating guidelines on what must be done to reduce the threat of soil erosion from the denuded slopes and to ensure that such a catastrophe will never happen again in the area. Ken Montgomery of our staff was asked to speak at this meeting and to outline the potential of Green Belts around homes using fire-retardant, low fuel-volume plants. A tour of the burned area two days after the fire had revealed that in several cases wide

Green Belts of succulent iceplants and other ground cover species stopped the spread of fire and helped save homes that otherwise might have burned. This fire also clearly illustrates the fact that fire-retardant vegetation around the home is only one aspect of living safely in foothill areas where the fire danger is high. The homes that were destroyed all had highly flammable wooden shake and shingle roofs. In every case, they caught fire from brands (burning debris) landing on the roof and not from fires spreading through surface plant fuels.

EDUCATION DIVISION

Weed pulling has become a major activity for the senior biologist these days! On June 18 Dr. Enari's class in Edible "Weeds" as it was billed by the media, opened for registration. A record-breaking 242 persons crowded even the SRO space. A second session was arranged for the following week and two full classes are meeting concurrently, learning and yearning over "weed" specimens. Ben Suzuki's Bonsai class for both beginners and experienced students is also full to capacity.

The History section has announced a change in public hours for the Santa Anita Depot. It is now open Wednesdays 9-12 and 1-4, and on Sunday afternoons 1-4. Patty Warren is recuperating satisfactorily in the hospital and Sandy Snider is doing an efficient standby with the help of the Las Voluntarias.

Hazel Rodgers has announced her retirement on August 1. Hazel has given long and dedicated service to our Plant Science Library.

The Youth Education section is on the last lap of the various summer programs and all staff members are secretly smiling about August vacations.

The South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation has purchased a new metal garden house for the Adult Education potting yard.

DESCANSO DIVISION

Ben McClarsen, tree trimmer from the Arboretum is moving over to Descanso as is Mike Scharry, South Coast grounds maintenance man. Larry Clark will be

our new custodian as John Collado has retired and is on his way to the Philippines for a vacation. Bill Outwin of Descanso has advanced to senior grounds maintenance man.

The delphiniums are blooming better than ever this week; the hot weather seems to agree with them.

The Descanso Gardens Guild donated a lovely flowering cherry tree to the gardens in honor of Frances Raitt, who is retiring this year after 20 years of service to the gardens. We wish her the best of luck.