FALL FUN & WINTER WONDERS

 YOU’LL BE GREEN WITH ENVY OF OUR COLORFUL SEASONS!

COME VISIT TODAY!

A colorful Day of the Dead symbol, the marigold’s scent is believed to attract the spirits. Read more about this ancient celebration of life, family and fun on page 3.

A holiday tradition, wreath making workshops are a natural way to celebrate the season. Adult and family programs are listed on pages 4 & 5.

Come and enjoy a friendly encounter with Arboretum wildlife on Informative, fun nature adventures and hikes. See page 5 for a list of family and kids programs.

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THREE FAST MONTHS!

As a newcomer, my first few months in California and as The Arboretum's new CEO have been a non-stop adventure. I want to thank everyone for so warmly welcoming my family and me. I have enjoyed meeting so many people who care deeply for The Arboretum. To see such a strong base of moral support is greatly encouraging. Please continue to say hello and to give me your observations and opinions when I'm out walking the grounds.

In many ways, I feel like a "kid in a candy store." There are so many possibilities to make a difference at The Arboretum; the early choices are just too much fun. Everyday I discover ten (10) new "favorite" plants. Every day we complete one more small project that enhances the gardens or makes The Arboretum look just a little better. Every day I find ways to give more of you an opportunity to help make a difference at The Arboretum. What is even more enjoyable is that I believe this heady feeling of opportunity will continue for a long time.

A basic understanding of the nuances and complex relationships, which affect operations, governance, and financing of The Arboretum, has been achieved. Our finances and governance are somewhat complicated, but so is our mission of education, recreation, research, and conservation. Everyone I have met from the County, the Foundation, Los Voluntarios, the staff, specialty horticulture societies and surrounding neighborhoods and communities all want The Arboretum to excel. It is our responsibility to manage the resources available in order to provide the best visitor experience possible, care for the aging facilities properly, and to engage visitors and the community to garner even more resources, so we will excel. The goal is to expand our fun, educational programs and our care for our world-class collections of plants and wildlife. As we increase attendance and gain support, we will expand our long-term care for this important facility.

My first exposure to events at The Arboretum was just amazing. The California Philharmonic Orchestra awed large audiences night after beautiful night on the great lawn (sign up now for next year). The Cactus and Succulent Show, the Fern Show, the Winter Flowering Cactus Show, the Soosuk display, and the Gourd Fair, L.A. were all spectacular. The Gardening Under the Mediterranean Skies symposium with the Pacific Horticulture Society was a world-class gardening event attracting numerous garden book authors from around the world. And let us not forget the numerous cooking, gardening, and art classes offered year-round at The Arboretum, which are all just absolutely splendid!

Where do all these new experiences lead me, as the CEO? Several key directions have become apparent. We must finish some critical planning efforts, so we have a conceptual road map for the future of The Arboretum. We need to know all the critical small changes, which will continually improve customer service, add points of beauty to the grounds, improve maintenance, highlight our educational messages and welcome everyone to The Arboretum, are leading to a unified experience by emphasizing the relationship between people and plants.

Dr. Mark Wourms, Arboretum CEO, George Brumder, Immediate Past President LAAF and Dr. Arnold Mulder, President LAAF.

The Arboretum must continue to work with the County and private corporations to fix up and beautify our buildings and grounds. I want you to turn corners in The Arboretum and be awestruck by unique plants, plant combinations and garden features, as well as the unexpected. Finally, to accomplish so many small improvements leading to bigger improvements down the road, we must get the resources flowing to The Arboretum. We will make it easy for everyone to help. Let me modify a famous quote by President John F. Kennedy: Ask not what The Arboretum can do for you, ask what you can do for The Arboretum! As we develop more resources, and more capacity, we will be able to better meet your needs and those of our plant collections. We will also be able to increase our outreach activities throughout southern California. I want you to tell us your observations and needs, and then help us develop the resources to meet those needs. I am honored to help create a growing future for our Arboretum.

See you out in The Arboretum.

Mark K. Wourms, Ph.D.

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**AN ETHNOBOTANIC CULTURAL CELEBRATION**

**MEXICO’S DAYS OF THE DEAD, A CELEBRATION OF LIFE**

With fall’s arrival, the long warm productive days of summer give way to the shorter days and crisp evenings of the harvest season. As growth begins to slow, and leaves change color or wither and drop, many cultures believe that the veil between the living and the shadow worlds grows thin.

Many modern Americans and their children celebrate this supernatural season at Halloween, a tradition with its roots in the ancient Celtic holy days now called Samhain that, with the coming of Christianity, became Hallowe’en (31 October), All Saints Day (1 November), and All Souls Day (2 November).

For the ancient Americans to the south, this time of year was no less special. In the fourteenth month (Quecholli) of eighteen in the Aztec calendar, people visited the graves of deceased warriors and left offerings of tamales, arrows, and pine torches. After the conquest of Mexico, the Aztecs adapted their own festival for the dead to the Catholic ceremonies of All Saints and All Souls holidays. This mingling of native and sixteenth century Spanish Catholic traditions became “Día de los muertos” or “Day of the Dead,” celebrated widely in Mexico even today.

Day of the Dead celebrations cover two days, both November 1 and 2. The first day is devoted to honoring the souls of children; the second day is for adults. Instead of somber days of mourning, the days of the dead are festive and upbeat. Colorful altars to honor dead family members are constructed in homes. On these altars the departed souls are invited to return to enjoy flowers, fruits, candles, cigarettes, chocolate, and their favorite food and drinks. In the local cemetery, family and friends gather to clean family plots, decorate, drink, and remember their departed relatives. In the markets one finds lighthearted parodies of death in the form of candy skulls, cartoons, cut paper figures, and folk art showing the dead in all sorts of very human activities.

Certain flowers are associated with the Days of the Dead. In particular, the marigold (Tagetes erecta), or cempasuchil in Spanish, plays a prominent role. Another flower used widely at this time is the cockscomb (Celosia cristata), ‘Mano de obispo’ or ‘bishop’s hand’ in Spanish. The brilliant orange or vivid yellow marigold heads contrast with the rausously brilliant magenta crested stems of the cockscomb and add beauty and color to altars and graveyards. Ancestors of these same marigolds were important in Aztec ceremonies.

If anything, the Days of the Dead celebrations in Mexico and north of the border have become more popular in recent years. Everyone can draw comfort by connecting in a positive way with those who have already left this world. In Los Angeles and surrounding areas, many public Days of the Dead events mix tradition and urban creativity. Such celebrations connect us to our roots and our cultures and add a deeper dimension to the changing seasons.

Jim Bauml, Ph.D., Senior Biologist

**LOS VOLLS UPDATE**

During the fiscal year 2003-2004, members of Los Voluntarios contributed over 29,000 hours of volunteer work to The Arboretum. “We have challenged ourselves to increase those hours by 10% for 2004-2005,” stated Los Vols President, Carol Cuthbertson, during the LAAF Annual meeting on September 26.

Thirty-one prospective volunteers started their orientation on September 30, 2004. John Barnes, First Vice President of Los Vols, planned an informative, interesting, “behind the scenes” look at various areas of The Arboretum—literally, something for everyone. The Orientation continues on Thursday mornings thru November 4th.

From left to right: Tom and Mary Conrow and Hiroko and Yoshio Fujikoa.
HORTICULTURE AND GARDENING

Special class: BERRY BASICS
Monday, Nov. 15
10:00 am – Noon / Lecture Hall B
Marc Hall, Instructor
$15 members / $18 non-members
An informative and delicious class! Learn to grow berries - strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, when and where to buy plants, tips for growing abundant crops, and guidelines for tending and harvesting your berries. Because berries are Marc’s specialty - and passion - he will share recipes and samples of homemade goodies. Marc is a certified nurseryman as well as our Gift Shop manager.

THURSDAY MORNING SEMINARS with LILI SINGER
Informative gatherings with horticultural specialists - for passionate gardeners and landscape professionals.
9:30 am – Noon / Lecture Hall A
$100/ series / $20/ class

WINTER SERIES
8 Thursdays, Jan 6 – Feb. 24
9:30 am – Noon / Lecture Hall A
$100/ series / $20/class

Jan. 6 “The Colorado Center Garden in Santa Monica” with Stephanie Ponsman
Jan. 13 “Water-Efficient Irrigation” with Bob Galbreath
Jan. 20 “Pruning Winter-Dormant Shrubs and Vines” with Brian Sullivan
Jan. 27 “Nursery Hopping in the San Gabriel Valley”
Feb. 4 “Buried Treasure: Bulbs That Naturalize in Southern California” with Lili Singer
Feb. 10 “The Moonlit California Garden” with Carol Bornestein
Feb. 17 Field Trip to the Getty Center Gardens, Los Angeles
Feb. 24 “The Good, the Bad and the Ugly” with Jill Vig

GARDENING 101 – A WEEKEND SERIES
The 3rd Sunday of each month
Fall: Nov. 21
Winter: Jan. 16, Feb. 20, March 20
2:00 – 4:00 pm / Lecture Hall A
Scott Daigre & Steve Gerischer, Instructors
$45 members / $52 non members/ series
$18 members / $20 non-members/ class

COMPELLING GARDENERS
Winter: 8 Fridays, Jan. 7-Feb. 25
9:30 – Noon / Lecture Hall A
$50 members / $58 non-members

URBAN ARBORICULTURE
Mt. San Antonio College class
Tuesdays, Jan. 11 – May 17
6:00-10:00pm / Lecture Hall A
Tim Wheeler, Instructor
$30 to Arboretum; $78 to Mt. SAC plus $20 materials fee
Call Mt. SAC at (909) 594-5611, x4540 to register

PRUNING FRUIT TREES
Saturday, January 22
1:00 - 3:30 pm / Lecture Hall A
Rick Wheeler, Instructor
FREE with Arboretum admission

FITNESS IN THE GARDEN

FITNESS WALKS & YOGA: MONDAY MORNINGS
8:30 – 10:00 am / Peacock Corner
Oct. 25 - Dec. 13 - 8 classes
$80 members/ $92 non-members
Jan. 10 - Feb. 28 - 8 classes
$80 members / $92 non-members

TAI CHI IN THE GARDEN
 Saturdays 8:00 – 11:00 am
You may arrive at any time.
Meet on the lawn near the Baldwin Avenue Entrance
Marvin Quon, Instructor
Free / Class cancelled if raining

ART IN THE GARDEN

OLD FASHIONED WREATH WORKSHOP
Tuesday, December 14
10:00 am – Noon / Ayres Hall
Marla Carter and Delores Keller, instructors
$20 members/ $25 non-members
(all materials included)

IKEBANA
8 classes, Jan. 7-Feb. 25
9:30 – 11:30 am / Lecture Hall B
Reiko Kawamura, Instructor
$65 members/$80 non-members
$24 materials fee payable to the instructor

COOKING IN THE GARDEN

FRESH – CELEBRATING THE TABLE
3:00 – 5:00 pm / Peacock Corner
$35 members /
$40 non-members/class

BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION

BOTANICAL WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP
8 Mondays: Oct. 25-Dec. 13
Jan. 3 - Feb 21
9:30 - 11:30 am / Education Greenhouse
Self-Directed / No instructor
$35 members/$42 non-members

BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION II
6 Wednesdays, Nov. 10 – Dec. 15
9:30 – 12:30 pm / Lecture Hall B
Olga Eysymontt, Instructor
$180 members/$200 non-members

REALISTIC WATERCOLOR TECHNIQUES FOR SCIENTIFIC ILLUSTRATION
A Four-Day Workshop: Saturdays & Sundays, January 8 & 9 and January 22 & 23
9:30 am – 4:30 pm / Peacock Corner
Olga Eysymontt, Instructor
$360 members / $415 non-member

INTRODUCTION TO BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION: BASIC DRAWING IN GRAPHITE
4 Saturdays, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26
10:00 am – 3:00 pm / Lecture Hall B
Diana Hall, Instructor
$240 member/$270 non-member
COME VISIT AND CREATE NATURE RUBBING HOLIDAY GREETING CARDS

It's a perfect time to make unique holiday greeting cards out of leaf and bark rubbings from items you find on The Arboretum grounds! Where else could you find such an amazing array of foliage?

One of the oldest ways of making copies is by taking a rubbing (or sketching) of the item that you wish to copy. When you can't take the original with you, taking a rubbing is the next best thing! Visitors at national monuments take rubbings of plaques to remember memorials. Historians take rubbings of artifacts to study their imprints without damaging the originals.

Here at The Arboretum, like at most parks, for the well being of the local eco-system, we ask that our visitors respect the environment and leave everything where they find it. So, making a rubbing of the beautiful oak leaf that you have just found will allow you to take an artistic replica home with you!

To make Nature Rubbing Greeting Cards with your family, you will need to bring the following items with you to The Arboretum:

- Paper (any color, depending on what color greeting cards you want.)
- Soft colored pencils
- Clipboard or large book to use as a flat surface.

Start out by gathering dry (but not too dry) leaves that have fallen to the ground. Place them upside-down on the clipboard so the veins face upward. Put your paper over one leaf at a time and then use the colored pencils to gently color over the leaf with the side of the pencil lead.

The texture and pattern of the leaf will appear on your paper! You can also place the paper over the bark of a tree to pick up texture with your colored pencils if you are filling in a drawing. It's as simple as that. The rest is up to you and your imagination!

To turn this activity into holiday cards, cover many sheets of paper with many rubbings. When you get home, make a stencil shaped like a Christmas tree, for example. Next, draw many trees over the leaf rubbings and cut them out. Glue them onto colored card stock to make your greeting cards! Happy Holidays from our family to yours!

By Lisa Beach, Education Specialist

FAMILY FUN AT THE ARBORETUM

KIDS AND FAMILIES

GARDEN SPROUTS - SATURDAY KIDS' GARDENING CLUB

Days are filled with planting and tending the garden, playing nature games, and learning gardening crafts! Just for Kids ages 5-8. (Parents: This is a "drop off" program.)

Dates: 1st Saturday of each month
1st quarter: Oct. 2, Nov. 6, Dec. 4
2nd quarter: Jan. 8 (1st is a holiday), Feb. 5, March 5
9:00 am - 11:00 am
Roots and Shoots Garden at the Old Ranch Rd. Entrance to The Arboretum (off of Colorado Blvd.)
Gardening Club Leader: Lisa Beach
Members - $25/quarter, or $10/Saturday
Non-Members - $30/quarter, or $12/Saturday

FAMILY ADVENTURES

First Saturday of the month
2:00 pm / Under the BIG Oak Tree in front of Ayres Hall
Lisa Beach, Instructor
$15 per family for members; $20 per family for non-members
Pre-registration Only! In the event of rain, the program is cancelled.

Each Saturday will have a different theme relating to nature or the environment, and includes a variety of activities such as a short story or talk, a walk to a special part of The Arboretum, and a take-home nature craft activity.

NOVEMBER 6
LEAF ART AT THE ARBORETUM

Learn the many shapes and sizes of the leaves around you. Make and take home a creative pressed leaf drawing!

DECIMAL 4:
HOLIDAY HIKE AND WREATH MAKING
Come on out for a holiday hike while we scavenger for colorful berries and cool seedpods for a family wreath that you'll be making for the holidays!

JANUARY 8:
PINTED FISH AND FISH PAINTING!
Back by popular demand! Venture out to the ponds near Kallam Perennial Garden to visit, feed, and learn about the colorful Koi Fish. Bring a T-shirt and make yourself a painted fish-shirt!

FEBRUARY 5:
HEART SHAPES IN NATURE
Come on a nature expedition! We'll be on the hunt for heart shapes in nature, just in time for Valentine's Day! Make and take home leaf rubbing valentines!

MARCH 5:
FUN WITH NATURE - DECOUPAGE EGGS
Come and learn the art of decoupage! We will be spending the afternoon gluing and pasting, turning nature into art!

Visit our website: www.Arboretum.org
Be a Water-wise Gardener

Our Mediterranean climate has a few drawbacks, one of which is a lack of rainfall during the summer. Even Californians have trouble understanding that we’re a semi-arid state, especially as constantly running irrigation systems create lush landscapes!

We all need to conserve water and one of the best ways to do so is by using plants that are not so thirsty. The Arboretum’s Water Conservation Garden was created to display plants from Mediterranean climates around the world and demonstrate how beautiful our California gardens can be without waves of water washing over them.

We all need to conserve water and one of the best ways to do so is by using plants that are not so thirsty.

Right now the Forsythia Sage (Salvia madrensis) is waving wands of lemon yellow flowers five feet in the air next to a waterfall of blue provided by Pitcher Sage (Salvia azurea grandiflora) while several varieties of Texas Rangers (Leucophyllum) are masses of violet blossoms that make them the stars of the garden while in bloom. They are part of a landscape that flowers throughout the year.

So come visit, enjoy the show, and start making notes of plants you would like to add to your garden.

Jill Vig, Water Conservation Garden Curator

Meet Nadia Balaz

As Special Events Coordinator since January 1996, Nadia handles all facility rentals, indoor/outdoor space rentals for filming, photo shoots, meetings and special events, and oversees weddings and wedding photo shoots.

Nadia’s position takes her to all areas of The Arboretum, and as such, she has experienced lots of adventures that she loves to share with visitors: “I love the Arboretum for its beauty, wild life, and its history. I take pleasure in telling first time visitors about the history of The Arboretum and some of my unique adventures. Every time my family or friends visit from Europe, I make sure that an Arboretum tour is part of their visit. My mom says that this place is like an oasis.”

Nadia works with the studios that rent The Arboretum grounds for shooting. Recently finishing a feature film shoot with Universal Studios “Meet the Fockers”, Nadia commented: “I think working with studios can be very beneficial for The Arboretum, especially when they help us to carry out some of our projects that would take years to complete or to finance. It is a hard balancing act to keep our visitors happy while we have a production company on the grounds for several months, but the best interest of The Arboretum is always on my mind. I hope that The Arboretum and our visitors will benefit from the event or the film shoot in more than just one way.”

Nadia also works with the various plants societies, and admires and appreciates what they do month after month, putting together beautiful plants shows and sales that the public can enjoy. Another significant part of her job is to work with Cal Phil: “I am glad that The Arboretum is the venue for the Cal Phil summer concerts. It is a great way for the public to enjoy The Arboretum in the evenings.”

Taking pride in every project that she works on, Nadia also takes pride in the fact that her daughter volunteers at The Arboretum during special events and, like mother like daughter, she loves The Arboretum too!

The next time you visit, stop by and say hello to Nadia. Who knows what adventure she will tell you about or who you might meet!

TO LEARN MORE about water-wise plants and gardening, we recommend the following books. All are available at The Arboretum Gift Shop. Come by and visit the book section or contact Marc Hall at 626-447-8751 or marc.hall@arboretum.org.

Sun Drenched Gardens by Jan Smithen
The Natural Habitat by Ken Druse
Gardening: The Mediterranean Way by Heidi Gildemeister
The Plant Locator/Western Region by Susan Hill
On the Wild Side/New Naturalism by Keith Wiley
Lavender: Fragrance of Provence by Hans Silvester
Thank You

Listed below are donations made to The Arboretum between July 1 and October 22, 2004. We apologize if we have made any inadvertent omissions or errors and request that you call Nancy Pirovano at 626.821.3211 to make any corrections or verify our record of your gift. We truly appreciate your generosity.

$5,000+
Chartwell Charitable Foundation
Ms. Jaquelyn Drumov
Mr. Dennis Hubbard
Mr. & Mrs. Ben H. Garrett

$2,500-$4,999
Mr. & Mrs. James W. Greth
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Mr. Michael Schneckert

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Mr. & Mrs. Hank Maarse
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Ms. Virginia Russell
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$250-$499
Arcadia Garden Club
Botanical Artist Guild of Southern California
Ms. Eva Casner
Ms. Diane Flood
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Storm

$100-$249
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Mrs. Kay Fun Cho
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Vons/Pavilions of Arcadia

FALL FUNDRAISING EVENT

Our generous contributors to this event:
Full House Restaurant
The Haralampous Beverage Company
Ranch 99 Market
The Sierra Madre Brewing Company
Simply Unique Catering
Wine of the Month Club
Whole Foods

A special thank you to our auction donors:
Leigh Adams
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Robert Rivera
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Don Weeke

From left to right: Phillip Hsu, Nancy Chan, Sho Tay-Trustee, Ling Su and Dr. Mark Wourms, CEO

OH MY GOURD!

A gourdeous evening was had by nearly 200 people at the first annual Oh My Gourd! fall fundraising event on October 22. This multicultural art exhibition preview was a collaborative partnership with the Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation and the California Gourd Society.

We thank all of those that participated and attended the event and we hope to see you again next year!
What's Blooming Now

The late fall and winter are host to exciting and beautiful seasonal color at The Arboretum. Some of the attractions are flowers; others are foliage and even stems. Some plants to look for when you visit are listed below.

In mid-November, Arboretum visitors are treated to fall colors. The premier source of this show are the Sweetgums (Liquidambar). A collection of different varieties line the stream running from the Meyburg Waterfall across the Meadowbrook Section. A commanding view of this area can be enjoyed from an overlook above the waterfall. Another dependable source of fall color is the Ginkgo (Ginkgo biloba). There are many fine examples throughout the grounds, decked out in fine yellow before all the leaves finally fall in a matter of days.

Throughout the grounds one can enjoy the pinks and whites of the Silk-floss trees (Chorisia). The white-flowered chorisias are C. insignis, known as "Palo borracho" or "drunk stick" in South America. In addition to the large white blossoms with yellow throats, the trees themselves typically have interesting swollen trunks. The most interesting White silk-floss tree is growing along the south edge of the upper roadway to the top of Tallac Knoll. The larger pink-flowered C. speciosa include four named cultivars (cultivated varieties) introduced by The Arboretum.

Another major attraction this time of year is the aloe collection. A classic winter experience is soaking in the many layers of red, orange and yellow masses aloe flowers from the main road south of the African Section with the backdrop of our stately San Gabriel Mountains. A leisurely walk among these colorful succulents shows a great variation in plant and flower form.

Starting in early winter and lasting through early spring, the magnificent flowers of the magnolias brighten the landscape. Our magnolias are concentrated in the south end of the Meadowbrook Section, just north of the Herb Garden. Some of the most colorful trees are on the Saucer magnolia (Magnolia x soulangiana), that blooms on leafless branches. Many other species and horticultural selections round out the display.

In addition to the trees and collections mentioned above, all throughout the grounds flowering treasures delight the senses during the late fall and winter.

Jim Bauml, Ph.D., Senior Biologist

The Arboretum
LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM & BOTANIC GARDEN
It will grow on you!
301 North Baldwin Avenue • Arcadia, CA 91007-2697
(626) 821-3222 • www.arboretum.org

ADMISSION: Members admitted free
Adults $7.00; Seniors age 62 & over $5.00;
Students with ID $5.00; Children 5-12 $2.50;
ages 4 and under free. tram tour $3.00 per person
Free Tuesday—3rd Tuesday of each month.

HOURS: Open daily from 9 am - 5 pm. Members may enter at 8 am. Admission closes at 4:30 pm.
Closed December 25. Gift Shop: 9:30 am-4:30 pm
Peacock Cafe: 9:00 am-4:00 pm

Would you like to receive email reminders of upcoming events? Please send an email to cynthia.vargas@arboretum.org.