



THE BARK

Newsletter for the Volunteers
of the UC Davis Arboretum

May-June 2009

A Note from Suzanne

It's almost time for our annual event honoring some Arboretum VIV's – you, our Very Important Volunteers!

Sure, we all know the Arboretum has some All-Star plants but at this event we'll be celebrating the *true* All-Stars of the Arboretum, our amazing volunteer team. The food prepared and cooked by staff will be a big hit and you'll be star-struck by all the fun and festivities. See the evening's line-up below, and watch for your invitation by mail or email.

The staff can't wait to say THANK YOU. We hope to see you June 5th!

Suzanne Ullensvang
Resource Development Manager

Announcements

Friends Board Transitions

As announced in the spring issue of the Arboretum Review, Mary Patterson has officially retired from the role of Friends Board President. After eight busy and successful years leading the Friends, Mary is looking forward to having more time to spend working on the plant sales. Fortunately, she also plans to stay actively involved on the Board. We will honor and thank Mary at the Volunteer Appreciation Party for her years of outstanding service as Board President.

Martha Ozonoff, who has been serving as Vice-President of the Friends, has agreed to step in and fill the remainder of the current President term through June 2010. Already, Martha has been busy representing the Friends at campus and community events and she looks forward to working with the Board and Friends in support of the GATEways vision.

A Friends Board nominating committee met this month and will be announcing the new slate of officers and members-at-large for the 2009-2010 Board year this summer.

WANTED: 1 gallon nursery pots

The propagation teams are in desperate need of more 1 gallon nursery pots! If you just finished your spring planting, please save those pots and drop them at Arboretum Headquarters in front of the potting shed. Or you can also drop them by the Arboretum Teaching Nursery. Please leave them to the right of the main gate. Tell your friends, too. We need LOTS of POTS for summer transplanting!



Please join us!
Seventh Annual
UC Davis Arboretum

Volunteer Appreciation Party

Friday, June 5, 2009
5:30-7:30 pm
Putah Creek Lodge
Barbecue — Door prizes
Great food cooked by Arboretum staff

***We'll celebrate the true
Arboretum All-Stars—
our fabulous volunteers!***



RSVP by May 29 to (530) 752-4880
or arboretum@ucdavis.edu
(spouses/significant others welcome)

Spring Volunteer Snapshots

Naturalists

Elaine Fingerett, Youth and Family Outreach Manager, extends thanks to all the community volunteer Naturalists who have been leading tours of school children in the Arboretum this quarter, focusing on adaptations and life cycles of plants and animals! About 80 students and 20 adult chaperones visit each week during the spring tour season. Here are a few photos of our Naturalist team in action.



Top left: Naturalist **Candace Cross-Drew** on the trail.



Top right: Naturalist **Gayl Gregson**.

Bottom:

High school intern **Brian Santiago** and Naturalist **Linda Sharrow** show prickly pear cactus to a group from Sacramento.



Spring Plant Sales

It's been a spectacular spring plant sale season! Attendance has been breaking records and plants have been flying out the gates at every sale. Thanks to the terrific team of volunteers who make each sale so successful, helping with everything from set-up to sales to cashiering!



Left: Volunteers **Frances Andrews** and **Walt Mosely** are poised and ready to help customers on the sales floor on April 4. Left, below: **Pat Miller** and **Ginny Vaughn** coordinate the big job of putting out and collecting plant information cards before and after each sale.



Team Exhibit Week

Volunteers **Lorna Belden**, **Dorothy Brandon**, **Kend Linderholm**, and **Willa Pettygrove** took on a special assignment in late March, collaborating with staff on Team Exhibit Week. During this intensive week, teams mocked-up and field tested new exhibit signs for the Australia and New Zealand collections. This work involved lots of "craftiness" making signs with posterboard, tape and glue and even a little "spying" as teams observed from afar whether Arboretum visitors were stopping to read the test signs. We thank these volunteers for their creativity and enthusiasm!



At far left: **Lorna Belden** sets up a sign prototype along the path to observe whether people will stop to read it.



At left: **Ken Linderholm** pastes together a mock-up of a sign for testing in the Australian section of the Arboretum.

New Arboretum Library Volunteer Team Springs into Action

Two newcomers to the volunteer team have taken the Arboretum library under their wings. Nyle Wiebe and Pamela Pogojeff bring extensive professional backgrounds in library science and are full of ideas for streamlining, documenting and organizing the Arboretum library collection. The library currently holds about 1,900 volumes and is an important resource for staff, volunteers and members researching plant information.

We thank Nyla and Pamela for taking on this special project. Please say hello when you see them in the library.

Volunteer Opportunities Abound at the Arboretum

Looking for a way to be involved in Arboretum volunteering beyond the weekly teams? Here are a few options that are great for people who want a more flexible schedule or looking for other ways to contribute their time in support of the Arboretum.

Photographers for General Photography and Special Assignments:

Volunteer Phil Nelms has recently taken loads of great photos of the plant sales and Kathy Olsen has recently shot some wonderful images of volunteer gardeners at work in the Australian collection. Do you like to take pictures, too? We always appreciate volunteers who can capture scenic photos of the Arboretum at different times of year or are available to go on special assignment to capture events or programs in progress. If you are a shutterbug and willing to share your photos for use in Arboretum publications and materials, we'd love to have you join our photography team.

Docent Scheduler: Do you enjoy getting in touch with other volunteers and planning schedules? We have a perfect job for you! The volunteer docent scheduler contacts our docent volunteers to help fill in the quarterly public tour schedule. The work can be done from home, once a quarter, in 3-5 hours over a couple weeks using phone and email.

Memorial and Tribute Monitoring Team: The Arboretum has dozens of tribute and memorial plaques and benches. We strive to keep them looking good but sometimes the elements and visitor use can take their toll on the appearance of memorial and tribute installations. We'd love to have a couple people willing to regularly survey the memorials and tributes, clean them up and report any needed repairs so that we can address them promptly. This would be a great reason to get out in the gardens even more often!

Please contact Suzanne at sullensvang@ucdavis.edu or 530-752-8324 to learn more about these opportunities.

Goodbye and Good Luck to Betsy Faber...

We bid farewell to staff member Betsy Faber in March as she left to relocate to Northern California to work at Cal State Humboldt. During her years at the Arboretum, Betsy worked with naturalists, docents, and many of our student volunteers, including the energetic Arboretum Ambassadors team. Betsy was also a familiar face at plant sales and Arboretum outreach events. Staff and volunteers alike will miss Betsy's positive energy and great leadership but we wish her the very best in her new endeavors up north.

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Calendar of Events *(for full listing, please visit arboretum.ucdavis.edu)*

Tuesday, May 12th, READING: Writers in the Garden, Mike Madison, 7:00pm, Wyatt Deck

Wednesday, May 13th, TOUR: Walk with Warren, noon, Arboretum Teaching Nursery

Friday, May 15th, FOLK MUSIC JAM: noon, Wyatt Deck

Saturday, May 16th, SALE: End of Season Clearance Plant Sale, 9:00am – 12:00noon, Nursery

Saturday, May 16th, TOUR: Secrets for Container Gardening, 11:00am, Terrace Garden

Tuesday, May 19th, READING: Writers in the Garden, Hannah Stein, 7:00pm, Wyatt Deck

Saturday, May 23rd, TOUR: Design Your Garden to Survive Drought, 11:00am, Terrace Garden

Friday, May 29th, FOLK MUSIC JAM: noon, Wyatt Deck

Sunday, May 31st, TOUR: Ethnobotany of California Native Plants, 2:00pm, Alumni Center

Friday, June 5th, EVENT: Volunteer Appreciation Party, 5:30-7:30pm, Putah Creek Lodge

Sunday, June 7th, TOUR: Roses of the Storer Garden, 2:00pm, Gazebo

Wednesday, June 10th, TOUR: Walk with Warren, noon, Gazebo

Friday, June 12th, FOLK MUSIC JAM: noon, Wyatt Deck

Saturday, June 13th, TOUR: The White Flower Garden in June, 11:00am, Gazebo

Friday, June 26th, FOLK MUSIC JAM: noon, Wyatt Deck