

Spring Plant Sales Feature Water-Wise Plants and Container Gardens

Suzanne Ullensvang, Resource Development Manager; Beth Gale, Nursery Manager; Ellen Zagory, Director of Horticulture

Purchases at Arboretum plant sales help support gardens, collections, and innovative programs all year long



Beth Gale

Succulents like this *Echeveria* 'Afterglow' grow well in containers. **Look for a wide selection of water-saving plants and container plants at Arboretum plant sales, April 10, April 24, and May 15.**

The dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers of the Arboretum have been diligently potting, pruning and weeding some exciting new plants for your garden this spring. Teams of volunteers propagate the plants and organize and run the sales with the support of the Arboretum's expert horticultural staff.

These volunteers take a business-like approach to running the sales and take pride in operating these events in

a professional manner. But, unlike a commercial nursery, all the proceeds from the sale of plants are donated back to the Arboretum to fund maintenance of the gardens, public education programs, development of new collections and other mission-related activities. The plant sales are the major fundraising activity of the Friends of the UC Davis Arboretum each year and generate unrestricted support for Arboretum operations that's especially critical in these challenging economic times.

Each year, we add new twists to the sales to support the Arboretum's commitment to sharing information about sustainable gardening. This year we'll be including new educational demonstrations at our April sales related to the themes of "Great Plants for Water-Wise Gardens" (April 10) and "Perfect Plants for Pots" (April 24). Both themes will highlight many of the UC Davis Arboretum All-Stars, our top recommended plants for California gardens. The last sale of the season, on May 15, will be an end-of-season clearance sale.

When you shop the sales, you not only get the satisfaction of supporting the Arboretum, you also get a great value for your money. You'll find amazing treasures of unique and hard-to-find plant varieties and, because most of the plants are locally grown, they will establish quickly in your garden. Plus there are lots of plant experts on hand to assist both new and experienced gardeners find the perfect plants for their outdoor spaces. And don't forget that Friends members always get 10% off the plant prices. Join at the sale and get a free plant!

So come explore, shop and buy plants this spring and feel good that your purchases are helping to support your community treasure—the UC Davis Arboretum.

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GREAT PLANTS FOR WATER-WISE GARDENS

Theme of April 10 Plant Sale

As California's population grows, each of us will need to make do with less water. Recent water legislation, the Safe, Clean and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2010, requires Californians to reduce water use by 20 percent by 2020. Global warming, water meters and the rising cost of water in urban areas will take a bigger chunk from hard-earned incomes. Creating an attractive water-saving garden—planting drought-adapted plants and reducing irrigation amount and frequency—is one way to help conserve our limited water supplies. Many of the plants at Arboretum plant sales are drought-adapted, native to California or from other hot and dry regions of the world like the Mediterranean and Australia. Mediterranean herbs like Mozart rosemary and Goodwin Creek Gray lavender (from our All-Stars list) combine well and are water compatible with the selections featured here. Be sure to check out our All-Star selections for other excellent choices.



CANYON SNOW CALIFORNIA IRIS

This tried-and-true California native iris is covered with white, orchid-like flowers in spring. Tough and tolerant of part shade, it grows with little maintenance and its narrow leaves form an attractive evergreen grass-like mound.

YELLOW-BERRIED TOYON

Native toyon normally produces red fruits that adorn the shiny-leaved evergreen shrub during the winter season. This cultivar, originally propagated right here in Davis, features attractive golden berries. In addition to providing garden color, the fruits are a tasty treat for migrating cedar waxwings, and the nectar-rich flowers provide sweet sustenance for beneficial insects.



SNOWY RIVER WATTLE

Nothing brightens gray winter days better than the masses of bright-yellow pom-pom flowers of the Snowy River wattle. This large shrub has fine-textured, apple-green leaves and grows into a most interesting sculptural form with time.



Photos this page by Ellen Zagory

PINK FLOWERING CURRANT

This is a great small shrub for dry gardens that have shade. This variety has long, dark-pink cascades of flowers in winter and early spring that the hummingbirds will love. Place it behind winter-deciduous plants where it can perk up the winter garden. Its apple-green foliage drops in summer if grown without summer water.



Introducing VALLEY VIOLET CEANOTHUS Reserve yours now!

This stunning ceanothus is our featured Arboretum All-Star plant for 2010. Its early spring bloom is so spectacular you'll want several for your garden.

The Arboretum has a limited supply of Valley Violet ceanothus in 4" pots available this spring for \$7.50 each. These plants have robust root systems and will be ready for pick-up during the April 10 sale.

Reserve your Valley Violet plants now! Email nursery manager Beth Gale at bhgale@ucdavis.edu. Be sure to include

- Your name, phone number, and email address.
- The number of plants you would like.

Friends of the UC Davis Arboretum members will receive a 10% discount (member price \$6.75 per plant). Anyone may join or renew at the time of purchase.

PERFECT PLANTS FOR POTS

Theme of April 24 Plant Sale

Growing plants in containers is easy, fun and can give a gardener lots of immediate gratification. Container gardening is for everyone, including those with limited mobility or who have only a balcony, porch or a window box garden. To be a successful container gardener all you need is a pot with a drainage hole in the bottom and a bag of potting soil to fill it. Lightweight containers can be moved around during the season to fill in garden gaps where a plant is past its showy season. On a deck or porch, pots can be massed in groups to provide seasonal shows that will greet visitors and provide interest for outdoor dining areas. Succulents are well adapted to container culture and their sculptural forms can be combined to create evergreen compositions. Plants with colorful or variegated foliage can be easily displayed right where you need them to complement views throughout the season.

PURPLE EMPEROR STONECROP



This award-winning succulent has dark purple, fleshy leaves topped with dusty-rose flower heads in late summer into fall. It's popular with butterflies when in bloom; later in the season the dried flower heads are ornamental in the winter garden. It has good compact form, reaching 15" tall by 20" wide. It will take full sun to part shade and makes an outstanding cut flower.

VARIEGATED JAPANESE SEDGE

This no-maintenance golden grass-like plant adds brightness to any garden location. It makes a perfect 14-inch mound that looks good year round and has a lovely cascading effect. It tolerates dry shade but would also be happy in part sun with more water. It really is one of our absolute must-have plants for any garden.



AFTERGLOW ECHEVERIA

This vigorous succulent has wide, powdery, pinkish-lavender leaves that form 12-20 inch wide rosettes. It has deep orange-red flowers in the summer which the hummingbirds love. Plant in full sun for best color, but it will also grow well in shade. It prefers a well-drained soil and will tolerate winter rainfall. The one our nursery manager has growing at home still looks good despite the low temperatures this past winter, so it is hardy to at least the low 20's. See photo on cover.



Allan Jones

SURPRISE WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS DELIGHT VISITORS

Some North American river otters (*Lontra canadensis*) have recently taken up residence in the Arboretum waterway, to the surprise and delight of visitors. According to Wikipedia, otters are semi-aquatic mammals endemic to the North American continent, found in and along its waterways and coasts. An adult river otter can weigh up to 30 pounds. The river otter is protected and insulated by a thick, water-repellent coat of fur. North American river otters hunt at night and prey on fish, amphibians, turtles, and crayfish.

Their presence in the waterway is a bit of a mystery, since it is a closed body of water. Look for them near the Native American Contemplative Garden, where they have been seen playing and swimming.

DOLCE CRÈME BRÛLÉE HEUCHERA

This coral bell will keep your attention year round, with its colorful bronze leaves that start out a stunning orange in spring. It makes a neat mound reaching 12 inches with pink flowers in spring. The potential color combinations with other plants are endless.



GOLD BULLION BEAR'S-FOOT



We are excited to be able to offer this new hellebore. A stunning 24-inch plant with narrow leaflets of green-golden leaves, it will add a feathery texture to any shady location. Although it looks good year round, it will especially get your attention with its unusual green flowers in late winter.

ASSESSING THE HEALTH OF THE ARBORETUM'S TREES

Mia Ingolia, Arboretum Curator

Beginning in July 2009, Melanie Gentles, campus arborist, and student arboriculture intern Jennifer Tso began conducting a detailed conservation assessment of the 2,200 trees in the Arboretum collection. The assessment includes photographic documentation, health analysis, and in-depth examination by consulting arborist John Lichter, who is providing treatment recommendations for particular specimens. The assessment is currently about halfway done and should be fully completed by April 2010. The results of the assessment will be used by Arboretum staff to develop a long-term conservation plan for the trees and develop educational programs for visitors and online audiences about the conservation of living collections and the ecological benefits trees provide.

Melanie and Jennifer are using a GIS (Geographic Information Systems) tree assessment software module created by Brian Morgan, Arboretum GIS manager. Brian is continuing to design and test the GIS tree assessment software in consultation with expert advisors in the field of arboriculture. The tree assessment module will be distributed to botanical gardens and zoos horticulturists nationwide upon its completion.

This research is supported by a grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services. The grant also supports partnerships with UC Davis faculty and students to create class projects that allow students to conduct research in the Arboretum and share their results with visitors. Students will help design interpretive signs and a cell phone tour with messages about the project and the Arboretum's national leadership in collections conservation.

In June 2010 Mia Ingolia and Brian Morgan will present a session and a workshop about the project at the American Public Gardens Association conference in Atlanta.

GIS TRAINING FOR MUSEUM PROFESSIONALS

With a separate grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Arboretum began a GIS training project in January 2010. The curatorial staff will develop, test, implement, and evaluate a multi-faceted GIS training program for museum professionals, in collaboration with more than 160 gardens and zoos participating in the Alliance for Public Gardens GIS. Training in the use of GIS will allow a broad mix of staff to plan, track, manage, and report on their projects and responsibilities more efficiently. This system will facilitate curation, conservation, facilities management, education, and research by allowing easy access, manipulation, and flexible display of information about living collections. It will also allow gardens to share information and develop national and international collections databases for use in research and teaching. Project activities will include an online guide to GIS for beginners, training workshops, training videos and podcasts, a training Web site, and a social networking site for participants.



Former student employee Mark Miller taking a GPS reading with a laser rangefinder in the Arboretum Redwood Grove.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR DIGITAL MAPPING PROJECT

As part of the grant project, we will also pilot a community volunteer training program that can be replicated in botanical gardens and zoos across the nation. Curator Mia Ingolia will be developing the training materials and volunteer program beginning in spring 2010. Volunteers represent a critical and reliable supplemental staffing resource for our garden. This project offers our volunteers a great opportunity to become involved with the Arboretum in a new way and to collaborate on a national level. The hands-on program will train volunteers to take GPS (Global Positioning System) readings and use them to create digital maps of the plant collections, while providing useful data and information products (specialized maps, lists, etc.) for the Arboretum. Please contact Mia at meingolia@ucdavis.edu if you are interested in getting involved.

SIGN UP FOR EMAIL UPDATES

As part of our ongoing effort to introduce sustainable practices, we will be sending more of our communications by email in the future. If you don't yet receive our bimonthly member email update, *The Leaflet*, send us an email at arboretum@ucdavis.edu with *Subscribe* in the subject line. We will not share your email address with any other organization.

In addition, we have published our annual report for 2008-09 online. You can download the report at arboretum.ucdavis.edu (click on News).

OAK DISCOVERY DAY

Emily Griswold, Asst. Dir. of Horticulture
Elaine Fingerett, Academic Coordinator

After silently growing for almost half a century, the venerable oaks in Shields Oak Grove will debut as the featured attraction of Oak Discovery Day on Sunday, May 2, 1–4 p.m. This spring celebration will spotlight oaks with an Arbor Day ceremony, oak tours, oak-related family activities, and exhibits of animals and insects associated with oaks—all centered around the newly constructed Oak Discovery Trail. Participants of all ages will have the opportunity to:

- Serenade the trees during a songwriting workshop with local musician Dave Nachmanoff
- Sculpt a leaf or acorn out of clay with Donna Billick and Diane Ullman of the Art-Science Fusion Program
- See how Native Californians process acorns for food with a native cultural interpreter
- Learn the latest news about protecting California's oaks from Sudden Oak Death with UC Davis expert Dave Rizzo.

The Arboretum Ambassadors, our undergraduate environmental leadership interns, are organizing Oak Discovery Day. In addition to heading up the organization of the event, Ambassadors Rose Swift and Ashley Cummings will be developing oak-related crafts and games to engage participants. Ambassador Alapay Flores will lead a tour highlighting Native Californian uses of oaks.

Funding for Oak Discovery Day has been provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Celia M. Hastings Art-Science Education Fund, and Professor Wendy Silk's Chancellor's Achievement Award for Diversity and Community. For more information and a schedule of event activities, visit the Arboretum website at arboretum.ucdavis.edu.



ARBORETUM WELCOMES NEW VOLUNTEERS

Suzanne Ullensvang, Resource Development Manager



A class of 32 new volunteers completed a four-week introductory training class at the Arboretum in mid-February. These newcomers enjoyed a series of presentations and tours led by staff to introduce them to the diverse work of the Arboretum. Training topics included gardening in a Mediterranean climate, sustainable horticulture, an introduction to scientific collections and the exciting future plans for the Arboretum with the GATEways (Gardens, Arts, and The Environment) initiatives.

Members of this year's class bring a diversity of experience and talents, ranging from landscape design to teaching to business management. While many live in and around Davis, some hail from as far away as El Dorado Hills and Yuba City demonstrating the widespread appeal of joining the Arboretum's volunteer corps.

New volunteer Joanne N. noted that the training was "very informative and a great experience." Dorothy Y., who volunteered at the Arboretum for a 15-year period starting in 1984, recently decided to become re-involved by taking this year's class. Dorothy reported that "it was fascinating to see how the Arboretum has evolved in terms of its educational programs, partnerships with other parts of campus, and the expertise of staff."

Kathy Olson, a member of the Friends of the UC Davis Arboretum board and long-time Arboretum volunteer, drew rave reviews for her leadership role in organizing and facilitating the new volunteer class.

Following the general training, the new volunteers branched off into specialized training in their selected areas of work. Out of the class, 16 are training to join gardening teams, six will be working in the areas of curatorial and plant records, five are learning to become new docents and/or naturalists to lead public tours, and four are forming a new volunteer team as caretakers of the propagation area at the Arboretum Headquarters.

We appreciate the work of all the regular Arboretum volunteers and are pleased to welcome these newest members into our work teams. Volunteers contribute a tremendous amount of time and energy each year and are important partners in meeting the Arboretum's community-focused mission.

If you missed this year's training but would still like to volunteer at the Arboretum, consider helping with the spring and fall plant sales. Volunteering at the plant sales is a fun way to meet other plant enthusiasts and does not require advance training. It's also a great way to support the Arboretum with the gift of your time.

To learn more or sign up to volunteer at the plant sales, please contact Suzanne Ullensvang at (530) 752-8324 or sullensvang@ucdavis.edu.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS SPRING 2010

SPRING PLANT SALES

Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Arboretum Teaching Nursery
Garrod Drive, across from the Vet School

April 10: **Great Plants for
Water-Wise Gardens**

April 24: **Perfect Plants for Pots**

May 15: **End of Season Clearance**

*Open to the public. Join at the door for
10% member discount and a free plant!*

GUIDED TOURS

No charge, no reservation required

EXPLORE THE REDWOOD GROVE

Sunday, April 25, 2:00 p.m.
Buehler Alumni & Visitors Center

SIMPLE TIPS FOR GREAT CONTAINER GARDENING

Saturday, May 1, 11:00 a.m.
Arboretum Terrace Garden

OAK ECOLOGY AND DIVERSITY

Sunday, May 16, 2:00 p.m., Gazebo

WHAT'S NEW AT THE ARBORETUM? Bicycle tour—bring your bicycle

Saturday, May 22, 11:00 a.m.
Buehler Alumni & Visitors Center

REDWOODS: MAJESTIC AND AMAZING

Saturday, June 5, 11:00 a.m.
Buehler Alumni & Visitors Center

ROSES OF THE STORER GARDEN

Sunday, June 26, 11:00 a.m., Gazebo

Oak Discovery Day

Sunday, May 2, 1:00–4:00 p.m.
Shields Oak Grove

This spring celebration will spotlight oaks with an Arbor Day ceremony, oak tours, talks by oak experts, demonstrations of traditional Native American uses of acorns, hands-on oak-related family activities, and exhibits of animals and insects associated with oaks—all centered around the newly constructed Oak Discovery Trail. The free event will have something for participants of all ages.

Arts & Letters

FOLK MUSIC JAM SESSIONS

Alternate Fridays, April 2, 16, 30; May 14, 28; June 11, 25
12:00 p.m., Wyatt Deck, Old Davis Road

Pull out your fiddles, guitars, banjos (you name it) for an acoustic jam session. Campus and community folk musicians play together over the lunch hour. All skill levels welcome. Listeners welcome!

HAIR: The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical

Wed. April 28–Sat. May 1, 8:00 p.m.

Wed. May 5–Sat. May 8, 8:00 p.m.

Sundays, May 2 & 9, 7:00 p.m.

Arboretum Gazebo

Donation: \$14 General, \$12 Students

Peace. Flowers. Freedom. Happiness. Student-run Studio 301 presents the psychedelic musical inspired by the hippie counter-culture of the 1960's. Directed by Stephanie Hankinson. *Hair* includes mature content and nudity. Bring a picnic blanket or lawn chair for comfort. For advance seat reservations email HairReservations2010@gmail.com.

THE MATTER OF TASTE

Wed. May 19–Sat. May 22, 8:00 p.m.

Sun. May 23, 2:00 p.m.

Wyatt Pavilion Theatre and Wyatt Deck

Tickets: Mondavi Center Box Office

General Admission: \$16 (\$18 at door)

Students/Children/Seniors: \$12

A performance and food event directed by Granada Artist-in-Residence Anna Fenemore, Dept. of Theatre and Dance. Part autobiography, part cookery demonstration, *The Matter of Taste* will address both the subjective and highly individual experience of taste and the social definition of “good” and “bad” taste.

WRITERS IN THE GARDEN

Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m., Wyatt Deck, Old Davis Road

May 25: David Robertson

June 1: Dorine Jennette

These outstanding writers will read from their work and talk about the importance of the natural world in their writing. Series supported by a City of Davis Civic Arts Grant.

Donations October - January

We extend our sincere gratitude to these donors

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

Jeff Adams
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Catherine Anderson
Neil & Carla Andrews
Marianne Arenas
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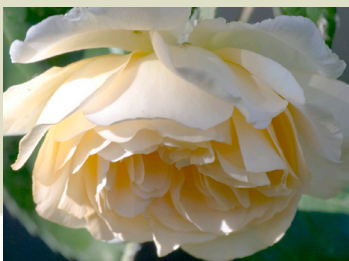
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From the Director



Dear Friends,

I want to start by thanking everyone who has supported the Nature's Gallery Court installation by dedicating tiles. So far over one-third of the tiles have been reserved, but there are many more available for your dedication. To learn more about the project and about how you can dedicate a tile, please visit our website at arboretum.ucdavis.edu and click on Nature's Gallery, or contact Suzanne Ullensvang at sullensvang@ucdavis.edu or 530-752-8324. Please also contact Suzanne if you are interested in any of the other naming opportunities in Nature's Gallery Court.

Thank you also to everyone who donated unrestricted gifts as part of our annual appeal. These gifts are especially important during these challenging budget times, since they allow us to apply the donated funds where they are most needed.

And an extra thank you to our wonderful volunteers who really make it possible for the Arboretum to flourish with their hard work and passion. We are pleased to welcome our newest volunteer class (see page 5), who have finished their training and are now working alongside experienced volunteers in the gardens, the nursery, and the office. The gift of their time and skills is critically important to the Arboretum's continued growth.

Remember that spring is a fantastic time to visit the Arboretum, with everything in bloom and lots of exciting programs (see the calendar on page 6). Be sure to attend one of our spring plant sales (see page 1). This spring the sales will focus on plants for water-saving landscapes and container gardens. We also have a limited number of the fabulous new Valley Violet ceanothus for sale (see page 2). You can reserve this great new Arboretum All-Star selection and pick up your plants at the April 10 sale. Thank you for your purchases, which help support the Arboretum's collections and programs.

If you would like to get reminders of Arboretum plant sales and programs, you can sign up for *The Leaflet*, our bimonthly e-mail update (see page 4). Besides the e-mail updates, we're adding another sustainable and cost-saving measure by publishing our 2008-09 annual report electronically on our website. You can download the report from our website at arboretum.ucdavis.edu (click on News). We hope you enjoy reading about all we've accomplished, thanks to the generous support of our members and donors.

Enjoy the spring! I look forward to seeing you out walking in the gardens or at one of our plant sales or education programs.

Best wishes,

Kathleen