

# NEWSLETTER



ARBORETA & BOTANIC GARDENS

prepared by the public services division

April 10, 1973

## SOUTH COAST DIVISION

Our thanks to Mr. Don Jordan for his donation of a Cycas revoluta (Sago Palm). The tree, valued by a local nurseryman at about \$975, has been incorporated into our demonstration shade garden.

The staff regrets the loss of three employees who recently resigned. We wish the best to Roger Fox, Edmund Villanueva, and Bob Seitzinger.

The lecture on Container Gardening, on Sunday, March 19, drew a more-than-capacity crowd. Overall attendance exceeded 850 visitors.

Attractive plants now in bloom include: grevillea species, Cassia tomentosa, Acacia melanoxylon, Acacia subporosa, Medicago arborea (Tree Clover), and Coronilla glauca.

## ARBORETUM DIVISION

A new garden has been developed in the Demonstration Home Gardens to help the people who live in apartments and townhouses get ideas for landscaping small areas. The structure and plantings are a Lang & Wood design and feature hand-hewn oak railroad ties and free-form panel structures.

Another Lang & Wood design will be executed in the plantings around the recently completed deck by the Bromeliad Greenhouse and along the west side of Baldwin Avenue.

Still another development that is taking place is at the corner of the road west of the Peacock Pavilion where we will develop an area that will give the visitors an opportunity to enjoy the vista of the Bauer Pool, Jungle, and Queen Anne Cottage.

Electrical work is nearly completed in the Meadowbrook area and the electricians will move next to the historical area where they

will begin installing increased power sources and convenience outlets.

## RESEARCH DIVISION

Weatherwise, this has been the most outstanding rain year since the inception of the LASCA weather station. Up to the end of March we have had 26.63 inches, all falling in the most beneficial way; no flooding - just thoroughly soaking our grounds. The gardeners welcome not having to water as this will enable them to care for the glorious flowers that will surely follow.

On the other hand, there is some damage to our experimental plot. For more than a year, the demonstration plot of fire-retardant plants at the Henninger Flats Resource Center in the mountains north of the Arboretum has been under observation by Ken Montgomery of our staff and Norm Cook of the County Forestry Division. They are interested in learning how each species performs in relation to a number of environmental factors such as climate and soil. Everything was going well until this past February when torrential storms created a river of mud and water that swept over the plot from the slopes above. More rain in March led to extensive surface soil erosion and gullying. The end result was that almost all of the plants were uprooted and killed. Despite the setback, the area is being cleaned-up, and several species have already been replanted. It is to be hoped we will be more fortunate in the future.

## DESCANSO GARDENS DIVISION

### Garden Briefs:

A very successful lecture on composting was held last Sunday with 65 people in attendance.

Our tram Clark tractor is being converted to propane gas for cleaner operation and smoother





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