

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



1973. "Research division." *Newsletter Arboreta and Botanic Gardens* 1973:Jul.10, 2.

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