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# Arboreta and Botanic Gardens

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## *Kenneth C. Smith named Department Director*

The County Board of Supervisors has appointed Kenneth C. Smith as Director of the Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens. Mr. Smith assumed the post on June 3. Leon Arnold had been acting director of the Department since the retirement of Francis Ching in March of last year.

Mr. Smith spent the first week getting to know the staff and support groups at the four gardens.

"I am pleased to be part of such a great organization," he said. "The gardens of Los Angeles County have unlimited potential. Each has its own personality, and together they reflect the attention and care that have been lavished upon them throughout the years.

"I am totally committed to supporting the efforts to make this group of gardens one of the finest botanic organizations in the United States," he added.

Mr. Smith, 58, worked at Cypress Gardens in Winter Haven, Florida, from 1950 to 1990, the last eight years as president. The 223-acre scenic attraction employs 700 and has 1.2 million visitors annually.

He became executive vice-president in 1972 at the time the company became publicly held. He is credited with the attraction's expansion which doubled the size of the park in 1979.

Mr. Smith left Cypress Gardens last

September to move to La Jolla with his wife, Bette. He was in the process of setting up his own business when he learned of the opening at the Department.



*Kenneth C. Smith*

While in Florida, he served as vice-president of the Southeast Tourism Society and president of the Florida Attractions Association.

Mr. Smith attended Florida Southern College in Lakeland and the University of Florida in Gainesville.

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