

PART IV. Activities of the Non-Profit Organizations.
Affiliated with the Department

The California Arboretum Foundation, Inc.

The California Arboretum Foundation is a non-profit organization incorporated under the laws of California on February 20, 1948, by a group of civic-minded men and women with the purpose of establishing and developing an Arboretum and Horticultural Center in sub-tropical southern California. This vision became a reality in the creation of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum which is located on the home site (127 acres) of historic Rancho Santa Anita. On July 1, 1953 the Department of Arboreta & Botanic Gardens, Los Angeles County, assumed maintenance, operation and further development of the Arboretum. Since that time the Arboretum Foundation has devoted its efforts for the public's benefit to certain special projects -- historical, research, and educational -- for which public funds are not available.

The 1958-59 officers of the Board of Trustees of the Arboretum Foundation consisted of the following: Mr. Robert Casamajor, President; Mr. Ralph D. Cornell, First Vice-President; Mrs. John Mage, Second Vice-President; Mr. Howard A. Miller, Treasurer; and Mr. George H. Spalding, who is the Arboretum Superintendent, Secretary.

A major achievement of the Foundation through its Historical Committee, has been the restoration of the "Lucky" Baldwin Queen Anne Cottage and the adjacent Victoria Garden, solely through private financing. The Baldwin Coach Barn and the Hugo Reid Adobe of an earlier era are being architecturally restored with State funds. Furnishings for the Adobe will be provided by The Colonial Dames through private donations.

Extensive Herb Gardens have been financed through the Foundation by the Southern California Unit of the Herb Society of America. Three orchid houses for propagation and display are the gift of three generous benefactors. A collection of rare horticultural books has been provided for the Arboretum Library. Grants to support staff research in horticulture have been accepted by the Foundation and others are pending.

An important contribution will be a Fragrance Garden for the blind adjacent to a medicinal plant garden to be completed within a year. The four Demonstration Home Gardens near the entrance to the Foundation, created under joint sponsorship with Sunset Magazine, are a major achievement of the Foundation, designed to demonstrate new ideas in landscaping and materials possible for adaptation to the individual home owner's garden.

The Foundation is organized to offer memberships of varying classifications to individuals, garden clubs, plant societies, historical societies, and other sponsored groups and organizations interested in the Arboretum activities.

The following are the major donations, research grants, and miscellaneous services provided through the California Arboretum Foundation in 1958-59.

Donations:

1. Begonia Greenhouse. This important addition to the Arboretum grounds was obtained through the donations of the American Begonia Society. This is an 18 by 50 foot, automatically controlled aluminum growing house for study and display of all species of begonias. Contributions from the Elvinia J. Slossen Estate are intermittantly made toward maintenance of the greenhouse by the Begonia Society through the Foundation.

2. Garland Orchid Greenhouse. This donated aluminum greenhouse was completed and dedicated in May, 1959. It is an 18 by 40 foot orchid house that is completely automatic. It will house species and botanical orchids from all parts of the world.
3. Home Demonstration Gardens. This valuable addition to the Arboretum was reported fully in the 1957-58 Annual Report. The Arboretum Foundation and Sunset Magazine during 1958-59 continued to jointly provide funds for the Gardens to felicitate revisions and planting.
4. Mexican Tiles. These are a collection of unique and beautiful Mexican tile pictures which decorate the walls of the entrance to the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum's newest building, the recently completed Administration Building Wing. The subject matter is reminiscent of the early Spanish influence in the history of California & the Arboretum's own flock of peafowl. The tiles are valued at \$2,500.00.
5. Black Swans. A pair of beautiful black swans, valued at \$200.00, were donated by the Hollywood Park Racetrack in May, 1959. The swans have been placed in the lagoon bordering the Hugo Reid Adobe and Queen Anne Cottage.

Research Grants:

1. National Science Foundation Grant. This grant was received in November, 1958. It provides \$29,900 for a three year study on the attraction of certain insects to particular plants.
2. Public Health Service Grant of \$11,040.00 was received in September, 1958, for research on the effect of air pollutants on tissue growth.
3. Longwood Foundation Grant of \$8,860.00 supported research on the development of the "Flower Carpets".
4. Cymbidium Research Fund. This grant was received on June 30, 1959.

Miscellaneous Services:

1. Jeep Trains. The donations received from visitors who ride on the passenger jeep trains, which tour the Arboretum grounds every day except Monday, are used to maintain and replace the jeep trains. The trains perform a valuable service for the Arboretum visitors.
2. Queen Anne Cottage Garden. This garden was replanted in 1958-59 by the Garden Club of Pasadena.

Descanso Gardens Guild

The Descanso Gardens Guild was formed in January, 1958, to support Descanso Gardens as a Horticultural and cultural center. The Guild consists of over 300 members who are from wide areas of southern California. The President of the Guild is Mrs. Judge I. Smith and the Vice-President is Mrs. Frank Bunch. The Guild meets regularly and advises on the operation of the Descanso Gardens. The Guild annually holds a reception in the Hospitality House at Descanso Gardens for an outstanding horticulturist in Los Angeles County.

Descanso Gardens California Native
Plant Committee

The California Native Plant Committee came into being in July, 1958. The Committee's purpose is to perpetuate California Native Plants at Descanso Gardens and in other areas where ever possible. Committee Chairman is Mr. Conrad Fanton. Members are Mr. Arthur Barton, Mr. Percy Everett, Mr. Lee Haines, Mr. Theodore Payne, and Mr. Richard Droege.

Committee members donated over 130 hours of their own time to the planning and supervision of the development of the California Native Plant Garden at Descanso Gardens. In addition to this, Mr. Theodore Payne, International Authority on California native plants, gave 50 hours of his own time and 40 hours of one of his employee's time in the actual development of the Garden.

Mr. Payne also donated 175 pounds of wild flower seed, 900 flowering bulbs, 565 trees and shrubs in one gallon and five gallon containers to the California Native Plant Garden. The Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens in Claremont, California, donated 140 trees and shrubs in one gallon containers to the Garden.

The California Native Plant Garden now extends to over five acres of area. All plants in the garden are donated (see above for some specific sources). The wild areas at Descanso Gardens have also been cleared so that trails run through displays of other native plants.



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