



*Dr. David Deardorff and Dr. Gary Wallace.*

#### APPOINTMENTS

**T**WO BIOLOGISTS have been appointed to the staff of the Department's Research Division, Dr. Gary Dean Wallace, a resident of Arcadia who earned his doctorate in botany in 1974 at Claremont Graduate School, and Dr. David Charles Deardorff, a native of Washington who received his doctorate in botany this year from the University of Washington. The background and special interests of both men are expected to strengthen greatly the Department's plant introduction and collection programs.

Dr. Wallace has a special interest in taxonomy in its broader aspects, one which includes such considerations as evolutionary phenomena, geography, and plant anatomy, particularly in relation to ecological distribution. Dr. Deardorff has similar areas of interest. His college major was in plant taxonomy and part of his

professional experience has been as a teaching assistant at the University of Washington in general biology and plant taxonomy classes with considerable activity in leading field trips and in the collection of plant material.

In their work in the Department, Doctors Wallace and Deardorff will have among their longterm objectives the making of botanical assessments of the plant collections with the view of completing the collections of genera having a potential for use in the Los Angeles area. The public good from this objective will be the introduction of more ornamental plants to the Southern California landscape. The testing and introduction of plants from different parts of the world has, of course, been a major function of the Department. In 18 years, over 60 plant introductions have greatly contributed to making Los Angeles one of the most colorful and



beautiful cities in the United States. In many cases there have also been practical advantages through low-maintenance ground covers and through the use of special plants for erosion control and for limiting fires.

### CAMELLIA SHOWS

**D**ESCANSO GARDENS and the Arboretum will be the scenes of three camellia shows within a period of less than three months, shows that will cover most of the varieties and just about every horticultural aspect of this highly popular genus. Although there are already several thousand named varieties of camellias, there is still a great potential for hybrids in a wider range of colors and sizes, a potential which diligent breeders are making inroads on each year.

The difference among the forthcoming shows is more than a matter of locales. In the world of camellias, there are early, mid-season, and late bloomers. And then there are mid-season and late bloomers that bloom ahead of their normal time as a result of being treated with the growth hormone, gibberellic acid. The first show of the season, presented by the Temple City Camellia Society at the Arboretum on the weekend of December 13 and 14, will be primarily for "gibbed" camellia blooms and will include demonstrations of the technique involved. The second show of the season, also at the Arboretum, will offer a conventional, full-scale competition over the weekend of February 14 and 15. Arthur Krumm, a longtime camellia fancier from Temple City, is the chairman of both shows. The third show will be presented at Descanso Gardens on Saturday and Sunday, February 28 and 29, by the Southern California Camellia Council. The Descanso show is not only the major flower show of the year at that garden, it is also one of the major floral

events in the country. Melvin Gum, president of the 20-year-old Council, reports that visitors can expect to see in cut-flower form three to four thousand varieties plus, of course, the 100,000-odd bushes that make up the Descanso camellia forest which will be at peak flower at that time. Regular features of the show will include question-and-answer booths, demonstrations of propagation by grafting, and displays of new hybrids and seedlings.

### NEW DESCANSO SERVICES

**T**HE DESCANSO Gardens Guild has planned two new public services for 1976 aimed, as are all Guild activities, at familiarizing greater numbers of people with the virtues of the Gardens. The first is "A Day At Descanso," offered each Tuesday during the first six months of 1976. For \$7.50 a visitor will receive a tram tour, a catered luncheon in the Hospitality House, and an illustrated lecture on the history of Descanso and its environs. The four-and-three-quarter-hour program starts at 10:45 a.m. and is limited to a minimum of 25 persons and a maximum of 80. Garden clubs, senior citizens and other interested groups are invited to call the Guild office (790-5414) for reservations and further information.

The second service will provide visitors to the Hospitality House with a Guild-manned information desk on week days from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. In addition, two other volunteers will staff the new gift shop just off the Gun Room that will offer a variety of garden-oriented items selected during the past summer by Guild member Mrs. Claude Bartlett. On Saturdays and Sundays similar items may be purchased from the Pink Cart near the Gate House from 1 to 4 p.m. Staffing coordinators for both the House and the Cart, Miss Helen Burr and Miss Dorothy Lewis, will welcome new volunteers.





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