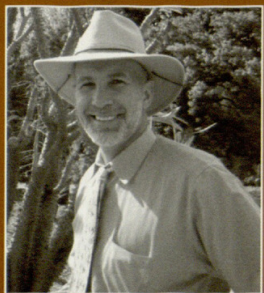


DEAR ARBORETUM MEMBERS

Mark K. Wourms, Ph.D., CEO



Change is in the air. Not only is the scientific community calling for rapid steps to slow global warming, but there is also a growing worldwide political consensus that we must all make a difference — **now!**

The Arboretum has been contributing to a healthy environment for years, simply by being a biologically rich, green oasis. We have also delivered classes, lectures, and workshops, which are designed to help each of us conserve water, use fewer chemicals in our garden, and understand biological systems and issues.

But we cannot wait any longer to take bigger, bolder steps to address local and global issues including climate warming, the importance of fresh water and its wise use, and the protection of unique habitats and rare plants.

The Arboretum has a history of involvement with conservation activities. These range from managing one of the last groves of Engelmann Oak in the United States and leading the Los Angeles Environmental Education Fair (LAEFF) 28 years. Additionally, we have been involved in locating and mapping rare plants, growing endangered species, and re-introducing butterfly larvae food plants. But all this has occurred only sporadically due to limited resources of staff and money.

I am pleased to announce that the opening of the Madagascar Spiny Forest exhibit has given us the opportunity to initiate a program to ensure The Arboretum grows into a major force in local, national, and international plant and habitat conservation activities. We have initiated The Arboretum's Plant Conservation Fund to provide the resources necessary to deliver on our commitment of ensuring unique plants and habitats exist for the enjoyment, economic benefit, and inspiration of people worldwide.

Our Plant Conservation Fund supports research, education programs, habitat restoration, and other conservation activities from California to the far reaches of the earth.

Examples of conservation programs in which The Arboretum is involved, or soon will be, include:

- Restoration of rare lakeside and riverine vegetation in California.

- Growing and distributing plants that support local, rare butterflies.

- Support of the research and conservation efforts of the recently discovered Wollemi pine in Australia

- Graduate student research on the destructive uses and alternatives for local people in the Spiny Forests of Madagascar.

I encourage everyone to get behind the conservation of water, energy, and materials in your house and yard, as well as supporting specific conservation programs through The Arboretum's Plant Conservation Fund.

Together, we can make a difference.



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