

## DONATIONS

A special planting of old-fashioned roses was donated by the Descanso Gardens Guild in honor of Mrs. Judge Smith upon her retirement as Chairman of the Board.

Two new gas stoves for use in the Hospitality House were donated by Mrs. Paul McClellan of the Los Angeles Camellia Council.

Two recirculating fountain pumps and 120 rose bushes were donated by the Los Angeles Camellia Council.

## SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN, *Palos Verdes Peninsula*

### ATTENDANCE

The dramatic rise in attendance at South Coast Botanic Garden can be attributed to the overall development of the gardens in terms of plantings and attractions, an increase in public services including tram tours, and a progressive increase in public hours.

At the beginning of this biennium the garden was open to the public four days a week from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. From November 27, 1970, it was opened to the public six days a week, the hours remaining the same, and on April 26, 1971, its hours became the same as the Arboretum and Descanso Gardens — seven days a week, 8 to 5:30 p.m.

1967 - 68	1968 - 69	1969 - 70	1970 - 71
19,334	21,571	33,277	47,111
40,905		80,388	

### WEATHER

South Coast Botanic Garden weather charts are made available to the Los Angeles County Flood Control District Hydraulic Division and the garden issues a monthly chart for Palos Verdes Peninsula.

Data for the weather season, Oct. 1 to Sept. 30:

	1969-70	1970-71
Lowest temperature	29° — Jan. 1 and 2, 1970	24° - Jan. 2, 1971
Highest temperature	101° — Sept. 27, 1970	105° — Sept. 13, 1971
Total days of rainfall	26 days	31 days
Heaviest monthly rainfall	Feb. - 2.78	Nov. - 6.61
Yearly rainfall	8.37	13.81



The earthquake on February 9, 1971, caused minor cracks in the road above the lake, and aftershocks and settling of soil was partially responsible for a 90-foot crack 3-inches wide near the north shore necessitating draining the lake in July.

## LAKE AND STREAM

The membrane serving as the base for the man-made lake and stream was laid and tarred and the job completed December 2, 1969. The lake was filled on December 8th and the circulating system was put in operation, returning the water that spills from the lake and cascades down through the stream bed. A 27-foot oval island with small trees and plants was constructed in the following three months. 28 boxes and plastic tubs planted with water lilies and other aquatic plants enhanced the east shore; other plantings coming down to the waters edge on the southwest bank improved that area.

It was quickly demonstrated that the lake and stream had more than ornamental value. There was an immediate increase in the number of wild bird species. The State Department of Fish and Game utilized the lake for an experiment designed to save an endangered species of fish — the Mojave Chub. On January 26, 1970, 146 chubs were deposited in the lake, some later getting down into the stream. The island helped to save the fish from natural predators for it had 400 3-inch diameter pipes used in the basal construction which allowed the fish to spawn safely. Bureau of Fisheries estimated that they took more than 6,000 fish back to Chino. Some of these fish will be reintroduced into pools in the desert.



*View of the 1,000-foot recirculating stream running from the small lake at South Coast Botanic Garden.*



## GROUND S MAINTENANCE

The continuing decomposition of trash in the subsurface of the garden causes greater heat in more areas. Readings of 115° to 135° are common; one spot checked by sanitation engineers had a high of 161° on the east slope. Despite the resultant horticultural problems and occasional broken pipes resulting from continued settling of the ground, plant collections have improved in quality

## PLANT INTRODUCTION

In September of 1970 the garden introduced a dwarf myoporum — *Myoporum laetum* 'Compacta', *Grevillea menatophylla* 'Silver Explosion' is expected to be introduced in 1972.

**EDUCATION** — *Classes, workshops, field studies the year round for students of all ages.*

The Department utilizes its plant collections, nurseries, youth centers, the flora and fauna of its natural settings, and the talents of its staff specialists to offer a broad educational program uniquely suited to its resources and responsive to the needs of the community and schools.

## YOUTH WORKSHOPS

At all facilities in this biennial period 139 workshops were conducted for 1677 students of grades 1 through 9 (ages 6 - 14 yrs.) in the following subjects:

Art in Nature	Greenhouse Propagation	Plant Propagation
Container Gardening	Hobby Gardens	Pond Life
Exploring Nature	Indoor Gardens	Pot Gardening
Flower Gardening	Natural Dye Craft	Pre-Vocational Gardening
Gardening	Nature Craft	Vegetable Gardening
Gardening Skills	Plant Adventures	

## SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS

School field trips are a regular school curriculum supplement. The content of field trips to the Department's three facilities and the teaching methods used result from meetings of staff members with school curriculum specialists and district officials.

65,000 students and 2200 teachers were given 2500 field trips in this biennial period in these subjects:

Nature and Conservation	Plant Science
Early California History	Arboretum Overview

This impressive number of students and teachers came from the 75 school districts served by the Department covering 130 cities. Nearly 70% of these field trips were led by volunteers trained by the Department staff who led the balance of the field trips.





Dimond, Donald S. 1961. "South Coast Botanic Garden, Palos Verdes Peninsula." *Biennial report* 1969-71, 6-8.

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