

AFFILIATED SUPPORTING FOUNDATIONS

The monetary and volunteer work contributions of affiliated non-profit supporting foundations make possible the implementation of numerous public programs that supplement the County operation of the Department.

California Arboretum Foundation

The California Arboretum Foundation is the oldest non-profit organization affiliated with this Department, originally being founded in 1948. The Foundation had 3,182 members as of June 30, 1977. Depending on the category of membership, dues range from fifteen to a thousand dollars a year. Members receive special rates for education classes; the Foundation newsletter, the Department's bimonthly magazine LASCA Leaves incorporated with the national magazine, Garden; an Arboretum plant introduction once a year; and invitations to previews and special field trips.

Within the membership are two service groups, Las Voluntarias, composed of 270 women; and Los Ayudantes, composed of 25 men.

Annual meetings in this biennium were held on May 5, 1976, and June 21, 1977. Tours of the new Prehistoric Garden and Jungle and the Tropical Greenhouse were featured.

The general business of the Foundation is conducted by a Board of Trustees composed of Foundation members; 39 in 1977. The Board is guided by an Executive Committee made up of five Executive officers and six persons selected from the membership. This committee meets monthly to review Foundation business and to make recommendations for the full board to act on in their quarterly meetings.

Special Events

The biennial Queen Anne Frolic benefit was held on September 19, 1975. \$4,660 in profits was realized to swell the fund for the proposed Hall of Environmental Education. The campaign to raise at least a pledged five hundred thousand dollars was officially launched on this evening.

Entries made in the horticultural section at the Los Angeles County Fair in the name of the California Arboretum Foundation earned first prizes of three hundred dollars each in both September 1975 and 1976.

The second Fota contest was held in November 1975. The response from both the contestants and the viewing public was most gratifying.

The largest benefit each year is the plant and craft sale, the

Baldwin Bonanza. On April 6, 1976, the Bonanza was put on with the help of the Arboretum staff and 400 volunteers (230 Las Voluntarias and Foundation members plus their families and friends). \$33,000 was raised. On May 1, 1977 over \$45,000 was netted from Bonanza number seven. Staff and 350 volunteers helped in this effort. The proceeds from both Bonanzas were put towards construction of the Hall of Environmental Education.

A 'Spring Extravaganza', an open house, was held each year in May. The California Arboretum Foundation joined the Arboretum staff, many horticultural groups and garden societies to present pertinent information to interested members of the general public through lectures, demonstrations and displays.

On Going Programs

The California Arboretum Foundation Gift Shop is staffed by volunteers on week days and some holidays. The craft committee keeps the Shop well supplied with saleable items made from natural materials gathered by other volunteers. Their products are also sold at the Bonanza. Members of the Greenhouse committee grow plants in their own greenhouse to be sold both in the Shop and at the Baldwin Bonanza.

Volunteers assist the Foundation's professional staff with typing and the preparation of mailings. They also assist the public at the Information Center five full days, and keep the Las Voluntarias office open five mornings a week.

They are responsible for the "Garden For All Seasons," which displays vegetables and flowers of great interest to the public. Flowers from the Garden are used in arrangements in the Home Demonstration Gardens, the Peacock Pavilion, the historical buildings and for special events which are sponsored by the Foundation. Volunteers also use the flowers together with other plant material from the Arboretum to illustrate "What's In Bloom At The Arboretum" displayed in the rotunda. Other Las Voluntarias occupy the Tropical Greenhouse five afternoons a week so that it can be opened for public viewing. Volunteer help is most welcome in the Youth Education Department, the Library, Research Division and the Herbarium.

Youth has been well served by forty-four Field Leaders who gave 927 guided nature or history tours to school children. 15,831 children toured in the 1975-76 school year, and 15,024 in the 1976-77 year. In the 1975-76 period four docents took the "Arboretum Story" into the classroom. They reached 615 children in this manner. The Youth Education Department was given help in the preparation of 1,000 Arbor Day kits each year. These were distributed to Los Angeles County Schools along with trees grown at the Arboretum. The Volunteers in the History Section give tours, keep the Santa Anita Depot open to the public two after-

noons a week, and clean and decorate the buildings for special events. They play hostess to many interested groups. In addition to their regular research activities, an "oral" history program was initiated in 1976. The purpose of this is to record interviews with people in the area who knew the Baldwin family or who have knowledge of Arcadia during the "Baldwin" period. In June 1977 Las Voluntarias raised \$400 at a Mexican cooking demonstration given by Ray Marshall of the Acapulco Restaurants. These monies were given to the History Department for the preservation of the historical costumes.

The Foundation continues to sponsor Sunday walks and lectures, Mini-courses and classes at the Arboretum. It also sponsored 16 flower shows in 1975-76 and 20 flower shows in 1976-77. The Foundation gave a Christmas luncheon for the Arboretum staff in both years.

Publications

In 1977, the Foundation assumed the responsibility for the printing of the booklets "Poisonous Plants in Southern California," "Self-Guided Tour Through the North Section of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum," and "A Walk Through History at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum." A nominal charge is made for these booklets to help recover printing costs.

Donations and Services

The total monetary donations made by the Foundation for various programs, operating needs and the building fund for the proposed Hall of Environmental Education during this biennium was \$391,180. The value of the various non-monetary donations made during this period such as plants and books was \$118,796. The volunteer hours contributed for various programs, activities, and special public events totaled 60,447 during the two-year period.

Descanso Gardens Guild

The Descanso Gardens Guild is a non-profit organization composed of citizens who assist in the development and through its various programs benefit the gardens, the schools, and the community. It is governed by a Board of Trustees who hold office on a rotating basis. Guild membership as of June 30, 1977, was 911. Of this number, 97 are life members.

Special Events

The Guild sponsored many special public events:

Annual Christmas Decoration Show -- this is one of the largest events of the year at Descanso Gardens. It usually runs for nine days and attracted 23,500 people in 1975 and

25,600 in 1976.

Annual Arts and Crafts Festival which attracted 3,800 in 1975 and 4,200 in 1976.

Paseo de Descanso -- a special fund raising tour given for the public. The tour featured stopping points in the garden manned by volunteer information aids and a luncheon.

Sunday afternoon concerts and dance performances by various groups from all parts of Los Angeles County.

Various flower shows.

On October 17, 1976, the tenth anniversary celebration of the construction and donation of the Oriental Tea House was held. Honored at this event were Mrs. Judge Smith, a founder and first president of the Guild, who was instrumental in the success of the project and members of the Japanese community who assisted in installing the lovely Japanese Garden adjoining the Tea House.

Education Programs

In addition to the on-going program of conducting gardening classes for the handicapped children from schools in the surrounding communities, the Guild sponsored Mini-courses on horticultural related subjects, bonsai classes, art classes, and cooking classes, and various special horticultural tours through the gardens.

Donations and Services

A total of 30,333 volunteer hours were contributed by members of the Guild during this biennium. Activities included conducting educational walking tours for school children, staffing the gift shop, information center, and special events sponsored by the Guild. A total of \$40,690 was donated this biennium for various projects and to meet emergency operating needs of Descanso Gardens.

Southern California Camellia Council

The Southern California Camellia Council is another support organization for Descanso Gardens. The affiliates of the Council are Los Angeles Camellia Society, Orange County Camellia Society, Pacific Camellia Society, Pomona Valley Camellia Society, San Diego Camellia Society, Southern California Camellia Society, and the Temple City Camellia Society.

The major event which they sponsor at Descanso Gardens is the Camellia Festival. For this event, over 1,000 hours of volunteer time is contributed for setting up for the show annually. During the biennium, members of the Council assisted the regular staff

at the Gardens in trimming the thousands of camellias in the camellia forest which had become overly dense. On August 20, 1976, the Council co-sponsored a highly successful fund-raising banquet in the Gardens with the Descanso Gardens Guild.

Donations and Services

During the biennium, members of the Council contributed approximately 6,000 hours of volunteer time to Garden related activities. In addition, the Council donated a reference library of horticultural books, various plants, building equipment and supply items, approximately 100 specimen camellias and the cost of maintenance of the public tram which it has done for many years.

South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation

The South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation was originally incorporated in 1961. In this biennial period, the Foundation divided its efforts between initiating and staging fund-raising events and serving the garden through its corps of volunteers.

Membership

A 25 percent increase in Foundation membership brought total enrollment to 515 as of June 30, 1977. Minimum dues were increased from ten to fifteen dollars a year, in part to cover the increased subscription costs to each member for Garden, the new Department bimonthly magazine.

An amendment to Foundation bylaws, made at the annual meeting of May 26, 1976, increased membership on the Board of Directors to 17, an increase of two persons.

Building Fund

In furtherance of its pledge to raise \$200,000 toward payment of construction costs for the new Administrative-Public Services Center, the Foundation turned over \$40,000 to the County in this biennial period.

Special Events

The major fund-raising benefit of the Foundation, and the major garden attraction, is the annual Fiesta de Flores, a two-day weekend affair in May. Always a gala event, in 1976, with the opening of the new Center, over 7,100 people came to enjoy the many plant exhibits, the twice-a-day garden lectures in the new lecture hall, the plant sales, and the South Bay and Peninsula musicians and painters who added sound and color in the inner patio. In 1977, attendance increased to over 7,600 for this event.

A special attraction of the Fiesta these two years was the

"Discovery Walk," a special tour for the public developed by the Foundation with stopping points manned by volunteer information aids. The Foundation has planned to make the "Discovery Walk" a recurring feature.

Donations and Services

Donations in this period included an expenditure of \$1,259 for equipment, \$2,000 to cover costs of renovating and relocating a greenhouse for use in the Education Garden Center, 416 books and pamphlets for the library, and a silver coffee and tea set received from Mrs. Burton Chace in memory of her late husband and longtime County supervisor.

The Foundation estimated that its volunteers gave 9,000 hours of service to the garden in this two-year period. Services were primarily in the following categories: school field trip guides, information aids, office duties, publicity, public events.



1961. "Affiliated supporting foundations." *Biennial report 1975-77*, 29-34.

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