

E. Internship program

The internship program provided a superb educational opportunity for college students while also meeting staff needs during one of the Arboretum's busiest seasons. Funding provided by the Foundation in 1988-90 was \$57,857, and in 1989-90 \$49,708.

Descanso Gardens Guild

Introduction

The Descanso Gardens Guild was formally incorporated in February 1960, following several years of informal activity during which the founding members were instrumental in convincing the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to preserve the old Manchester Boddy Estate, now Descanso Gardens, as a botanic garden for the enjoyment of the citizens of Los Angeles County. The Guild continues as the private non-profit support organization for the enrichment of Descanso Gardens.

Membership

Because of a very concerted drive, membership in the Descanso Gardens Guild increased from 3,707 in 1988-89 to 4,081 in 1989-90. This same growth was reflected in the volunteer effort which increased from 44,905 hours in 1988-89 to 55,967 hours in 1989-90.

Volunteer Programs: 1988-89--1989-90

The volunteers of the Descanso Gardens Guild are primarily responsible for what is termed "program enrichment" at the Gardens. These are programs which are not funded through the County but which add to the educational and recreational enjoyment of visitors to Descanso Gardens. During the biennium such activities have included:

1. Providing hostesses for the art gallery in the Hospitality House.
2. Conducting the month-long Christmas Show at the Gardens during December each year.
3. Staffing a speakers bureau which provides twice-weekly slide presentations and lectures at the Gardens.
4. Conducts organized school tours for over 6,000 students per year on such subjects as: pond ecology, how plants grow, native plants, critters of Descanso, Indian uses of plants, trail techniques, forest environment, bird identification and early California rancho days

5. Volunteer assistance in maintaining the Rose Garden.
6. Assisting in the gift shop and library.
7. Working on the newsletter and other public information and promotional activities.
8. Arranging musical entertainment for garden visitors on weekends.
9. Providing plant propagation service for new plants to be used on the grounds as well as for plant sales.
10. Assisted in preparation and planting of material for the annual Spring Flower Festival.

Curatorial Staff

In April 1990, George Lewis, Superintendent of Descanso Gardens, retired from County service after nineteen years as superintendent. Dr. Steven Cohan was appointed Acting Superintendent at that time and received a permanent appointment on July 1, 1990. Mr. Lewis was honored by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for his significant contributions to the development of Descanso Gardens.

Community Service Awards

In 1988, the Descanso Gardens Guild received the American Horticultural Society's Horticultural Therapy Award. Also, long time Guild Board member Mrs. Georgie Van de Kamp received the American Horticultural Society's Meritorious Service Award. In 1989, Mrs. Mary Ann Arnett, Guild President, and her husband, James, received the Les Tupper Community Service Award from the La Canada Coordinating Council.

Intern Program

During the biennium the Guild funded the Summer Intern Program in the amount of \$28,050. This provided a college accredited summer work study program for biology/horticultural students to gain hands-on experience in their academic field of interest and also to provide assistance in the Gardens during a heavy workload period.

South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation

Introduction

The South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation was incorporated as a non-profit



1961. "Descanso Gardens Guild." *Biennial report* 1988-90, 18-19.

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