

statement of the tour schedule, and staging of a number of special events, April should be another outstanding month for attendance figures.

The Palos Verdes Women's Club Tea on April 10 brought in about 700 visitors. Eric Brooks gave tours on the half hour from 11 am. to 4 pm. without a break. A special meeting of the Gardeners on April 11 featured Mrs. Shirley Wells of the Audubon Society as lecturer and guide for a field study walk. Silver Spur Garden Club staged their annual show April 20-21 and held a special meeting April 24 for a lecture on Bromeliads with guest speaker, Mrs. Alice Quiros. The South Bay Bromeliad Associates show was open to the public April 27-28.

A new group of volunteers will be helping out in the nursery propagation unit. Recruited by Mrs. Alice Quiros, the group consists of a number of airline hostesses with green thumbs.

Our thanks to Sanitation Department for clearing and leveling the site for our Administration Building.

We regret to report that Harvey Zimmerman, our Nurseryman, has had to have surgery on his left knee following an on-the-job injury. He will be out for a number of weeks. We wish him a complete and speedy recovery. Cards may be sent to his home: 17025 Pires, Cerritos 90701.

We have completed the planting of our deciduous fruit tree orchard. Apples, pears, peaches, figs, nectarines, apricots, and almonds were among the 50 trees set out.

Orioles have been sighted here in April. Birders are looking forward to spring migration which should be getting under way any day now, and will bring a great variety of birds through the garden. Quail, pheasant, hummingbirds, and mallards are now nesting, and new families should be observable soon.

DESCANSO DIVISION

The Sunday morning garden walk April 7 through the native plant section attracted over a hundred people. On Sunday afternoon, April 28, about 65 people showed up for the lecture on composting. Both walk and lecture were given by George Lewis.

The warm days and the easing of the gasoline shortage have caused the attendance to go up at Descanso, especially on weekends.

Don Graf and his family camped in Borrego

Springs State Park recently. He said that in spite of a dust storm he was able to see thousands of spring wild flowers in the area.

Ed Hargrove recently spent a few days fishing in the Salton Sea.

Juliane Foes, our newest employee, is quite energetic; she attends classes in the morning at Glendale College, runs the office here in the afternoon, water-skis on weekends, rides horses, and occasionally goes flying with a friend.

Joe Macias is doing his second round of jury duty in the L.A. Superior Court.

In the rose garden the old-fashioned and the modern hybrid teas will be blooming shortly. Descanso has several plantings of each A.A.R.S. winner since 1940; the 1974 All American Rose Society winners are very nice. There is one hybrid tea (Perfume Delight) and two Floribundas, Bon Bon, and Bahia. All are pink in color.

Don't forget the concert by the Glendale Community Symphony on the main lawn, May 26, at 3 pm.

RESEARCH DIVISION

Jack McCaskill won two trophies this spring for Pacific Coast Native Iris (Californicae group). The Aril Iris Society held their show March 30 and 31; he entered in the Pacific Coast Native Iris seedling section and won the "McCaskill Award, Best Californicae Seedling". It is a perpetual award. The Southern California Iris Society held their Iris Show April 20 and 21. Jack won the Stambach Award, a perpetual trophy, for the best Californicae Seedling entered in the show.

Lee Enari is trying to build up a good collection of economically important plant species, including many drug and medicinal plants. Recent acquisitions include Cinchona succirubra (Quinine tree), Panax quinquefolium (Ginseng), Taraxacum kok-saghyz (Russian dandelion - rubber producer), Cola nitida (Cola nut), Corchorus olitorius (Jute), Commiphora africana (Myrrh - tree wood as insense), Cinnamomum zeylanicum (Cinnamon) Elettaria cardamomum (Cardamom - spice), and others.

All department employees who would like to participate in a photography club are invited to contact Carlos Jativa in the Research Division.



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