

Gardens Celebrate

"Songs of Christmas" is the theme for the 1990 celebration of the Christmas season at Descanso Gardens. Activities in Van de Kamp Hall and throughout the grounds will take place Dec. 1 - 9. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. A special art show and sale in Hospitality House opens Dec. 1 and continues through Dec. 23.



Mother and daughter team, Ele Shaner (left) and Jan Gray and other Descanso Gardens Guild members work 10 months a year producing boutique items for sale during the annual Holiday show.

"The annual Christmas show began in 1958 with members of the Descanso Gardens Guild crafts boutique selling their handmade items as a way to raise money for the Guild", said Gail Boatwright, Guild president. "Now it's grown to encompass artists, sculptors, landscapers, musicians, garden clubs and more. It's a festive way to celebrate the Holiday season."

Shoppers will find a wide array of crafts and handmade goods in Van de Kamp Hall, seasonally decorated with Christmas trees and floral arrangements. All proceeds are used to further the work of the Descanso Gardens Guild in supporting and enhancing the Gardens.

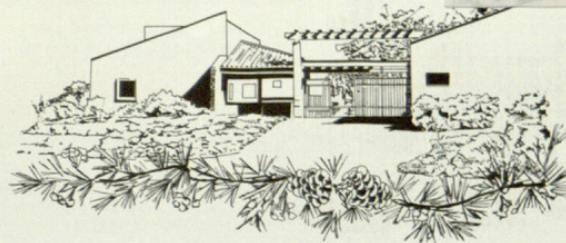
Frequent wreath making demonstrations by George Lewis, former Superintendent of the Gardens, continues during the show. He constructs wreaths in the Della Robbia style and also teaches how to make functional kitchen wreaths containing cooking herbs. In addition, Mr. Lewis creates wreaths of camellia leaves, one of the most famous horticultural features of the Gardens.

Hospitality House, festooned with Christmas decorations and holiday vignettes based on the musical Christmas theme, will provide the setting for the art show and sale which remains open through Dec. 23. More than 100 works of art, including oil and watercolor paintings, sculpture, ceramics and photography will be on exhibit.

Reindeer made from Descanso logs, the Gingerbread House on the main lawn, and photo sessions with Santa enhance the holiday spirit at the Gardens. Visitors can tour the Gardens free of charge on the reindeer bedecked tram. The Live Steamers will provide rides on a scale model diesel train to children and adults visiting the Gardens.

Musicians and musical groups will entertain visitors in the Gardens and Hospitality House, and a special holiday buffet will be available at the Cafe Court. The Gift Shop will be specially stocked with garden-related items suitable for gifts.

the Holidays



The Los Angeles State and County Arboretum is offering a variety of ways to make this Holiday Season a time to remember.

The Gift Shop will open the season Nov. 2, 3 and 4 with sales and workshops. From 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day shoppers can learn how to shape tabletop topiaries from ivy or fragrant rosemary, plant succulent wreaths and paint straw hats.

For sale will be miniature Christmas trees and vine wreaths decorated with tiny cones and pods gathered in the garden. Sundials, unusual garden books and ceramics are other gifts available for those with hard to shop for persons on their lists.

On Dec. 5 the California Arboretum Foundation will offer a lecture and workshop on Holiday decorating and topiary trees by Rene van Rems, floral designer and owner of Bloomen International. The morning lecture and afternoon workshop are priced separately, or attend both for \$90 (\$75 for CAF members) including lunch. Call the Foundation at (818) 447-8207 for more information or reservations.

The Queen Anne Cottage will be decorated for a Victorian Christmas for the annual open house Dec. 9. One little-known tradition in the late 19th century was saving the Christmas tree, stripped of needles and wrapped in cotton batting, to decorate the next year. To revive the practice, the parlor tree will be a dried agave stalk wrapped in cotton and decorated with peacock ornaments, blown glass birds and replicas of ornaments popular then.

A fresh tree decorated with turn of the century ornaments will hover over Victorian toys in the bedroom.

In the Coach Barn visitors can see a display of antique textiles and demonstrations of farm equipment used in Lucky Baldwin's time.

Guided tours of the Cottage will be offered Dec. 9 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A \$2 fee will further the Historical Preservation Fund goal of painting the Depot and purchasing a small mannequin for displaying the Arboretum's collection of Victorian children's clothing.

Celebration of "An Old Fashioned Holiday in the Gardens" Nov. 17 and 18 opens the season at South Coast Botanic Garden. The Foundation will demonstrate the Christmas spirit by giving free Holiday gifts to the first 100 shoppers to arrive each day beginning at 10 a.m. The sale continues until 4 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday.

Shimmering blue and silver decorations will form a backdrop for the festivities. Local businesses such as the Begonia Farm will decorate a forest of Christmas trees, and a score of garden clubs will mount exhibits featuring their favorite plants.

Shoppers can browse among the craft displays and demonstrations, watching artisans create gifts like those on sale. A harvest cupboard will offer home baked goods, take-home treats to supplement the snacks on sale at the garden. Poinsettias and other plants will be sold.

A kaleidoscope of Holiday music by carolers and other musicians will be punctuated by special programs. At 1 p.m. Saturday a fashion show will feature Holiday attire for everyone in the family. A puppet show Sunday afternoon will thrill youngsters of any age. Free guided tours of the garden will be offered throughout the weekend.

As the Holidays draw closer, emphasis at the gardens shifts to the sounds of Holiday music.

On Dec. 2 the Ellis Orpheus Men's Chorus, accompanied by the Palos Verdes Symphonic Band brass section, will perform Holiday selections. On Dec. 16 the full Palos Verdes Symphonic Band will give a Christmas concert. Admission to the 2 p.m. concerts is included in the garden admission fee.



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