

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS EXPANDING BENEFITS

As one of over 3,700 members of The Arboretum, we hope you are benefiting from your experience. Your support of The Arboretum entitles you to many different benefits based on your level of membership.

Basic member benefits include a year's free admission along with member early walking privileges beginning at 8:00 a.m. each day. Discounts in The Arboretum Gift Shop are 10%, and members also receive a 10% discount at participating nurseries. Arboretum classes, workshops, lectures, family programs and special events are offered at a 20% discount. New member orientation tram tours and invitations to member only special programs are also included. The newsletter you are reading and the enclosed calendar also provide you with information on opportunities to participate and enjoy the gardens and the programs.

A new benefit has just been added for all members. We have established a reciprocity program with the American Horticultural Society (AHS). Their Reciprocal Gardens Program offers Arboretum members free or discounted admission plus additional benefits at flower shows, and home & garden shows at more than 100 botanical gardens, arboreta, and conservatories throughout the United States and Canada.

You can now visit other arboreta and gardens, and save money at the same time!

Brochures listing the participating 2001 Reciprocal Gardens are available in the Visitors' Center located just outside the main entrance to The Arboretum. I hope you take advantage of this new

membership benefit when you travel.

Finally, we now have Corporate Memberships available for businesses to show their support to The Arboretum. We would like to welcome our first group of Corporate Members (listed in news from Peter Atkins) and thank them for their outstanding support.

The benefits of Corporate Membership vary based on the level of giving. They include items such as tickets to Arboretum events and programs, private tours for companies and guests, special corporate recognition, use of the Sunset Demonstration



Gardens for group events, a select corporate donors event and other added benefits.

We welcome your company's interest and participation with The Arboretum. Please contact Lou Ocampo at

(626) 821-3233. Enjoy all of your member benefits!

WEED THERAPY! PART 1

PART 2 APPEARS IN THE AUG/SEPT/OCT, 2001 NEWSLETTER

How does one get a handle on the never-ending invasion of weeds? The winter annuals are on their way out. Summer annuals are on their way in and perennial weeds such as purple and yellow nut sedge and *Nothoscordum* (a member of the onion family) are firmly entrenched in The Arboretum soils. The above pests not only seed their way around The Arboretum, they also produce tiny bulbs that break off from the parent plant when pulled from the soils – one plant suddenly becomes twenty and so on!

The idea of a best practice, least toxic approach to pest control, including weed abatement, should not have to include the use of chemicals. Yet, as a last resort, if needed, one may have no choice. Synthetic chemicals are still used at The Arboretum. However, be assured, our in-house Pest

Control Advisor is meticulously balancing our environmental concerns, our need to control noxious weeds, and our need to choose the most appropriate weed abatement methods.

The successful control of weeds incorporates both art and science. The science is knowing the chemicals to use, their mode of action, and the life cycle of the particular weeds you are trying to control. Unfortunately, the art of controlling weeds is often the cause of ineffective weed control.

Learning the best techniques for removing weeds by hand is not taught at the University, it's learned on the job, and sometimes artful

weeding takes years to perfect.

Our future weed control program (**control** being the key word, for we will always have some weeds on our 127 acres) at The Arboretum will continue to be based on good science and artful gardening.

Effective weed control programs require knowledgeable and dedicated gardeners. Also, numbers count. The more people we have assisting in our weed control efforts, the better our success. **Interested volunteers will not be turned away.** We will gladly teach eager volunteers the joys of weeding. Think of weeding as a therapy for the mind, body and soul. Come join our weed therapy program!

Tim Phillips, Superintendent





Phillips, Timothy. 2001. "Weed therapy! Part 1." *News from the Arboretum of Los Angeles County* 2001:June-July, 3.

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