

The net-bushes are small to medium sized evergreen shrubs with slender rigid leaves ranging from one to six or, in *C. longissimus*, up to 12 inches long. The usually one-sided flower spikes in some instances actually encircle the stem of year-old or still more mature stems. As is often the case in nature, the male provides the colorful display; the showy portion of the flower of *Calothamnus*, and of many other Australian Myrtaceae, is a grouping of the male elements, the stamens, rather than the petals. In *Calothamnus*, the four to five flattened bundles of stamens range from dark pink to red (rarely white or yellow), and are tipped by conspicuous yellow or golden anthers.

The Arboretum's Australian Garden currently contains a collection of seven different net bushes. Notable among these is one which has been selected as an Arboretum introduction because of its appearance and performance. In 1964 the honor befell *C. validus*, the Barrens claw flower, an erect, open evergreen shrub up to ten feet high and equally broad. It is notable for its very handsome open branching pattern produced by elongate twisted primary stems and few lateral branches. The leaves are rigid, needle-like and pointed, and up to an inch and one-half long. The flowers, bearing red scammony bundles, are borne in typical one-sided clusters up to two inches long. Plants can be seen in the northeast Australian Section.

The net-bushes need only average care to succeed and flower. Although a rich sandy loam soil is best, they have proved adaptable to a range of soils if good drainage is provided. They need only moderate water or less depending on the soil type, but will need a thorough soaking at least once or twice monthly in the hottest weather. Full sun is best, but they have grown well with only morning sun. They will tolerate temperatures in the mid-20's.

Calothamnus validus will be available at our 1991 Baldwin Bonanza Plant Sale, May 4 and 5 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm both days.

Our Superintendent, John Provine, will give a talk on the uses of *Calothamnus validus* both in the garden and cut for the home on May 4 at 10:00 am and 2:00 pm in the Lecture Hall.

Development News



Architects Douglas Campbell (l) and Regula Campbell (r) enjoy the opening celebration of the Peacock Café Terrace with Nancy McCullough.

Peacock Café Dedication

On the afternoon of November 18, 1990 major donors who supported the Peacock Café renovation project gathered to celebrate its completion including the Helen Chandler Garland Terrace.

A private foundation wishing anonymity provided a grant that enabled the renovation of the Peacock Café. The County of Los Angeles provided a generous matching grant. Many other donors participated including the J. W.

and Ida M. Jameson Foundation, individual Arboretum Foundation members and the Brown Jordan Company.

The view from the Peacock Café is gorgeous. The Café offers a comfortable place for visitors to obtain refreshments and meals. It also is an outstanding facility for private parties, receptions and dinners – which may be scheduled by simply contacting the Peacock Café manager (818) 445-4267.

Cici Williamson (l) visits with Gwen and Guilford Babcock at the opening of the newly renovated Peacock Café.





1988. "Peacock Cafe dedication." *News* 1991:spring, 2.

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