

Clippings

the newsletter of mt. san antonio college's horticulture program

vol. 2
issue 3
fall 2011



Hooray!

**A dream comes true as
new building is dedicated**

By Brian Scott
Professor of Horticulture,
Agricultural Sciences
Department Chair

Scores of community and campus supporters turned out to witness the dedication of the most modern, state-of-the-art Agricultural Sciences Complex around . . . and it occurred here at the Mt. SAC campus.

Legislators, community leaders, Agricultural Science professionals, students, faculty and administrators dished out high praise for the 52,000-square-foot, three-building complex. The facilities will offer cutting-edge horticultural, agricultural and animal sciences instruction to thousands of Mt. SAC students today and well into the future.

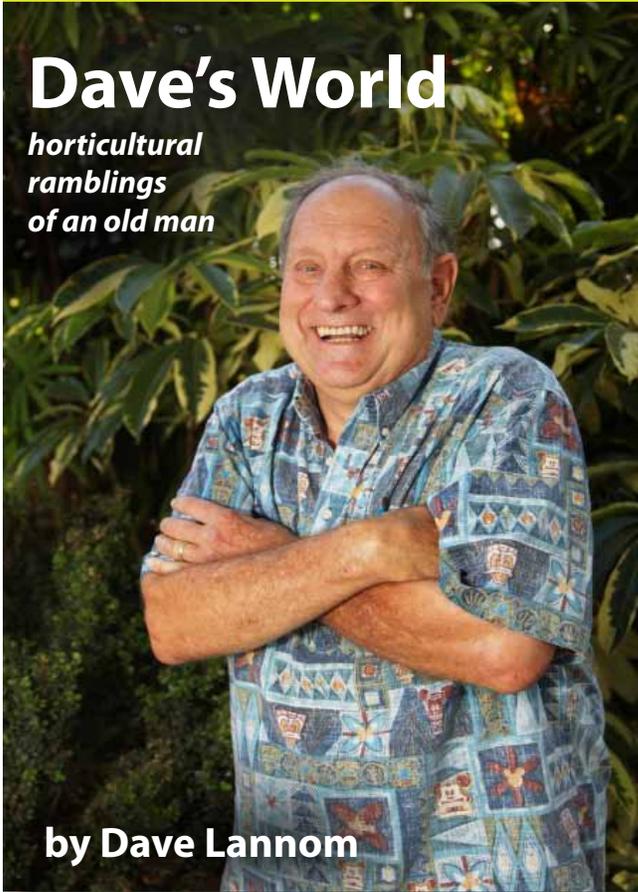
Continues on page 3

- 1 New Facility Dedication
- 2 Dave's World
- 3 Plant Profile
- 4 The Dirt
- 4 Restoring Forests, Restoring People
- 6 Where Are They Now?
- 7 Demonstration Garden Plans
- 8 Student Awards
- 9 Secret Life of Disneyland
- 12 Fall 2011 Class Schedule
- 13 Opportunities

Contents

Dave's World

*horticultural
ramblings
of an old man*



by Dave Lannom

The sago saga continues ...

In our first newsletter I shared with you the experience of obtaining a 42-inch sago and 2,000-pound rock fountain. Well, they have sat in my driveway for several months, and have not levitated into the backyard as expected.

I successfully postponed moving them until one fateful Saturday in June. My wife was to the point of charging me rent on the space they were taking up. Finally the Research Department constructed a special cart to move them into the backyard with the aid of an automobile engine lift. My wife is happy with the cart; she is sure that they can use it to move my coffin in.

We set the rock after much effort and had started to place the 42-inch box triple-headed sago when to my surprise who should drop out of the sky from Seattle but Noe Cardenas. Noe is not here to defend himself, so we will blame him for the mishap. As we were swinging the sago over the wall with the engine lift, Noe got thrown off the engine lift leg (he actually leaped off), and the engine lift tipped over and set me down on the wall. Thankfully

I was the only casualty, with a bull's eye on my buttocks, bruised ribs, and an equally bruised ego. Noe then added insult to injury by asking me, "Why is an old man doing this type of installation"!

My special thanks to Jesus Ramirez, Steven Meraz and Guy Hernandez for their assistance.



Weather plays havoc with nursery sales

The Midwest and East have had terrible weather, and spring tornadoes and flooding have led to reduced sales. Our early spring in Southern California was also beset with several weekends of rainfall. Nurserymen's Exchange, thought to be the largest wholesaler of green goods in the United States, has filed for Chapter 13. They have supplied plants to all 50 states going back to the era of 5- and 10- cent stores. Most of you don't even remember those!

Most nurseries seem to be in survival mode, and some are adjusting the product mix to include edible and sustainable crops.



International Plant Propagators' meetings

Mt. SAC recently coordinated an area meeting for the International Plant Propagators Society at Rancho Santa Ana. The meeting was a real thrill for me because several of the speakers were former students that I have had over the years.

This year's annual meeting will be in Sacramento on September 21–24, 2011. Next year's annual meeting, which I will coordinate and serve as President of, will be in Ventura September 19–20th, 2012. More info will follow later.



Brian Scott Wiffle Ball Stadium to be completed in the fall of 2011!

A vicious rumor is circulating that the Sports Turf Management Club is going to construct a professional baseball field in miniature, similar to Petco Park in San Diego. The big question is, will there be queen palms lining the outfield fence? Brian has offered an all-expense-paid weekend to an unknown destination for the first Home Run Derby Contest.



Plant profile



Michelia doltsopa

Dazzling magnolia alternative

One of my favorite under-utilized small trees is *Michelia doltsopa*. In our area it will typically grow to 25 feet with a narrow, upright form. It has dark green leaves with white blossoms that are 5–8 inches across. Absolutely great fragrance; starts blooming in late winter through spring. *Michelia champaca* has an

even stronger fragrance. It's a little hard to find this tree, but German Velasco at Evergreen Nursery in Hacienda Heights is rumored to have them. Great specimens in demonstration gardens. You can see one at Ayres Hall at the Los Angeles County Arboretum.

—Dave Lannom



the dirt.



**news from the Hort Unit
by Jesus Ramirez**

Last spring we had our Salsa Sale, and it was a big success. It was a lot of fun preparing for it as well. Heidi Kithara did all the research and found the seed growers for the tomatoes and peppers. We germinated them in December 2010 and thinned them out in January. At the sale we had 5 different peppers and 10 different heirloom tomatoes. The hottest item was the Ghost peppers.

We've also recently completed a bottom-heat system for our newly transformed propagation green house. All the work was done by students with the guidance of Dave and myself. We will put a handout together to show students how they may implement a system like this with a limited budget.

Our Spring Sale at Descanso Gardens also went well. The weather could have been better, but that is something we can't control. People were looking

for natives and drought-tolerant plants. In response we have been increasing our drought-tolerant nursery stock and are also working on getting more natives.

We have been busy over the past several months at the nursery transplanting, maintaining, and fertilizing. We had about 12 work experience students working at the unit. They had a lot of fun learning what goes on behind the scenes in a nursery and finding out how hard it is to keep a nursery running smoothly. With the guidance of Dave we do our best to maintain a welcoming environment and pleasant atmosphere where students can come and

We have been increasing our drought-tolerant nursery stock and are also working on getting more natives!

learn through hands-on experience.

In July we got the poinsettias that we'll be selling at Christmas time. Our production assistants, Ruben Flores and Teresa Aceves, have done an outstanding job with the nursery and the students. I have to take a moment to give them thanks for their hard work and positive attitude!



RESTORING FORESTS, RESTORING PEOPLE

Ms. SAC alum Noe Cardenas, certified arborist for the City of Seattle, is involved with a remarkable program training prison inmates in arboriculture.

The program is part of the Sustainable Prisons Project (SPP), a collaboration between the Washington State Department of



Corrections and Evergreen State College. The SPP recently held a full-day workshop on arboriculture at Cedar Creek Correction Center. The workshop was a great success with nearly 40 inmates in attendance. Inmates

participating already had an interest in and some experience working with trees; they were all members

See Prisons page 11



New Facility Dedicated

Sports Turf and Horticultural Demonstration Areas Under Way

(continued from page one)

The centerpiece of Mt. SAC's new Agricultural Sciences Complex is our new 34,000-square-foot Agricultural Sciences Building. The newest facility to be completed, it was officially opened May 6, 2011. College trustees, Mt. SAC President John Nixon, and Natural Sciences Dean Larry Redinger cut the ceremonial ribbon to the building, which represents one of the last projects to be built with Measure R funds.



Some guy in a suit.

Speakers included Professors Dave Lannom and Dawn Waters as well as horticulture science student Laurie Jutzi and registered veterinary technician student Linda Hicks.

Guests toured the building, which features state-of-the-art veterinary labs, an animal hospital, kennel, classrooms and conferences rooms, as well as administrative and faculty offices.

Sports Turf Area Focuses on Southwestern Region

Designed into the area surrounding the building is a sports turf demonstration area. This will include the varieties of turfgrasses used on sports fields in the United States, specifically the Southwest. It will also demonstrate a variety of infield and warning track mixes used on baseball fields which will be donated by Gail Materials.

There will also be literature discussing the wide variety of sports played on natural turf surfaces, ranging from croquet and cricket to soccer, football, baseball, and everything in between. The need for educated sports turf managers and the high demand for these professionals will be included in the literature. Artificial turf surfaces will

We will display varieties of turfgrasses used in the Southwest, as well as infield and warning track mixes.

also be displayed and discussed, including where it may be used, if it should be considered at all.

continues on next page

New Facility: Demonstration Areas Under Way

Continued from previous page

Finally, a small-scale baseball (wiffle ball) field will be used to demonstrate the many facets of maintaining a baseball field. The field will feature a pitcher's mound, turf infield and outfield with skin base paths and an outfield fence. It will also be used for much needed departmental recreation!

Several of the sports turf demonstration plots were installed on May 14 by agriculture students from Buena Park High School and Mt. SAC Horticulture students. Many thanks to West Coast Turf for donating the turf and to Sports Field Turf Services for donating the Axis soil amendment.

Horticultural Demonstration Area Includes a Forest of Bamboo!

We're also excited about our new Horticulture Demonstration Area (see plan on next page). One of the displays will be a bamboo collection, graciously donated by Ralph Evans, owner of Botanical Partners and Bamboo Headquarters. Ralph has generously provided us with over 50 species of bamboos. We hope to profile Ralph in a future issue of *Clippings*.

We want to get the bamboos planted soon, and then we will begin to install other displays within the Horticultural Demonstration Garden. We will need



On dedication day, Ralph Evans shared with us his vast knowledge of bamboo and his lifetime experiences. Wow! What a day. Talk about information overload!

volunteers to help us on workdays. Please look at the concept plan and let us know what you think. You can email Dave at dlannom@mtsac.edu.



Where are they now?

- **Deborah Day** is a Municipal Arborist for the city of Pasadena.
- **Mark Rheode** is Landscape Maintenance Manager for the City of San Dimas.
- After many years of persistence, **Jim Robertson** graduated in June and has been and Irrigation Specialist with the City of Pasadena.

• After years at Huntington Library, **Adolfo Alvarez** is now at Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Gardens.

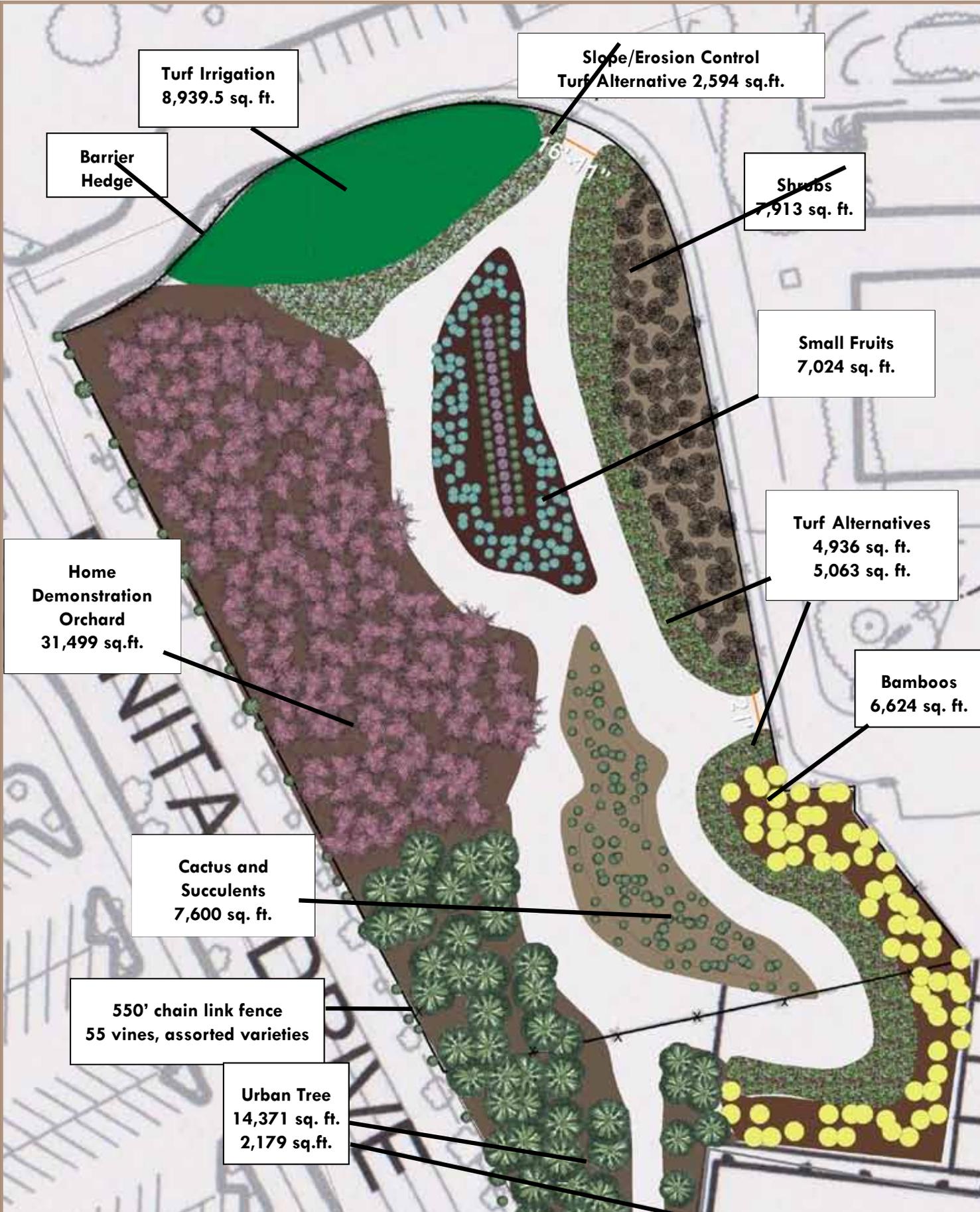
- **Dana Brown** is the project Manager for Ernest Reason Construction. He is nationally known for his creative work in water features; many Edwards Theaters have his creations in place.
- **Kathy Pyle** is working for the National Park Service in Oregon.



**MEET UP WITH
MT. SAC'S
HORTICULTURE
PROGRAM ON
FACEBOOK
CLICK HERE!**

- **Chaz Perea** is Landscape Facilities Manager for the outside of Dodger Stadium

Please let us know what you are up to and where you have landed (dlannom@mtsac.edu)!



Turf Irrigation
8,939.5 sq. ft.

Slope/Erosion Control
Turf Alternative 2,594 sq.ft.

Barrier Hedge

Shrubs
7,913 sq. ft.

Small Fruits
7,024 sq. ft.

Home Demonstration Orchard
31,499 sq.ft.

Turf Alternatives
4,936 sq. ft.
5,063 sq. ft.

Bamboos
6,624 sq. ft.

Cactus and Succulents
7,600 sq. ft.

550' chain link fence
55 vines, assorted varieties

Urban Tree
14,371 sq. ft.
2,179 sq.ft.

Drawn
Checked
Date: 2/5/2011
Scale: 1" = 20'
Job # 1109

Horticultural Demonstration Garden
Mt. San Antonio College
Walnut, CA

Laurie Jutzi, Designer
Grow Native Design
626 840 4754
laurie.grownative@gmail.com

Horticulture Students Receive Bevy of Honors

On June 4, the Agricultural Sciences Department and Horticulture Program awarded the following scholarships at the 65th Annual Awards Banquet:

**Al Sherman Award for
Outstanding 2nd Year Student:**

Ruben Flores

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award:

Laurie Jutzi

Harold Peck Outstanding 1st Year Student:

Fleur Nooyen

Herman Weskamp Ag Ambassador Award
(for promoting the Ag Department):

Ruben Avila

Don Angelbeck Award
(for an outstanding horticulture student):

Chaz Perea

Elsa Ochoa Murphy Award
(for a student who displays passion in horticulture):

Gabby Acosta

Elizabeth and Alex Del Turco Award
(for student who display a strong interest in horticulture):

**Kevin Marsh, Chris Romo,
Cynthia Robinson, and Kate Sullivan**

Tom McGregor Memorial Award
(for students with strong interest in propagation and production):

**Ruben Flores, Mike Dunn, and
Norm Hagemann**

Dave Lannom Award
(for a smartass with a strong work ethic):

Guy Hernandez

Beatrice Clark Awards
(for students with a strong interest in irrigation, landscape construction or equipment):

**Juan Solomon, Kay Hoevel,
Tobias Patino, and Eddie Castaneda**

Book Awards:

**Sara Hanley, Linda Cammiso, Duane Johnson, Heidi Kitahara, Alfonso De La Torre, Sandy Gillis,
Kelly De La Peza, Dani Booth, Kim Dexter, and Christine Beltran**

Congratulations to All the Winners!



CUTENESS OF THE SEMESTER AWARD
(FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN
THE FIELD OF CUTE)

This gorgeous baby, who
arrived this past spring!

The Secret Life of Disneyland

Personal musings on the Magic Kingdom

by Katz Sullivan

Recently a group of Mt. SAC Horticulture students and staff were treated to a private, behind-the-scenes horticultural tour of Disneyland.

This was an event I had been awaiting for several years; a love of Disneyland's plant life first led me to Mt. SAC—specifically, to Dave Lannom's Hort 101. (I am on the popular seven-year plan.)

It all started back in 2006. I was a rock critic looking for something new to write about. The imploding newspaper field had become an excessively stressful realm, and the new music was crappy anyway.

To escape, that September 2006 my boyfriend and I bought annual passes to Disneyland (still the best enter-



The light at Disneyland in the fall is gilt, amber, slanted and romantic. And Disneyland's abundant plant life comes into focus, claiming center stage.



tainment bargain in Southern California) and disappeared to Disneyland with regularity.

As we soon discovered, the light at Disneyland in the fall is fairly miraculous: gilt, amber, slanted and romantic, making you remember all over again why California is the Golden State. It's not really about actual gold; it's about the light.

As we also discovered, in the fall, the crowds thin at Disneyland and midweek visitors tend to be adults without children, or with infants too young to disturb the peace. The result is that Disneyland is glowing and serene. And with the necessary quiet and visual space, Disneyland's abundant plant life comes into focus, claiming center stage.

As we strolled Disneyland's winding paths and lazed about its many dream-like rides and attendant nooks, its plants seemed to call out to be noticed: the cannas lining the pond outside Adventureland; the banyan tree standing sentinel at the entrance to Pirates of the Caribbean; the tidy rows of miniature "crops" in Tomorrowland—a rainbow of

See Disneyland page 10

Swiss chard; strawberries; lavender and rosemary and even corn. The dollhouse-sized bonsai evergreens of Storybookland; the majestic wisteria twining on a pergola next to Toad Hall. All that, and more: the artfully haphazard drought-tolerant plantings in California Adventure—California poppies sprouting in a grassy meadow as if sprinkled there by Persephone herself, or John Muir (except that these included hybrid pink and lavender, double-bloomed poppies—of which Muir would probably not not have approved).



Disneyland is a plant lover's dream, and its green life ultimately inspired me to shift gears in my own life. In 2007 I decided to go back to school, to gain some book learnin' about the esoteric mysteries of horticulture. I thought maybe I could graduate from rock writing to plant writing.

(Ironically, the first person I ever heard use the word "horticulture" in conversation was Mötley Crüe drummer Tommy Lee. I was interviewing him in 2000, and he was revealing his secret passion for plants—specifically roses. I nodded knowingly, but scrambled for the dictionary as soon as I got home. Little did I know the word would one day become such a heavy hitter in my daily vocab.)



Fast-forward to 2011: A group of Mt. SAC-ers was granted an early-morning (5 a.m.) tour of Disneyland. I would have shown up at 3 a.m. This was a big deal!

We entered the park from Toon Town and emerged into the area outside Small

World, where a dude was pruning topiary with a headlamp and cherry picker. As we learned, the gardeners must learn to prune at night.

Outside the Storybookland Boats, a small vehicle was parked, laden with sod. Apparently, the boat ride—which travels among miniature homes of Disney characters, with appropriately miniature landscaping—is the most difficult area for gardeners in the whole park. They must either enter the area on boats or hike over rail tracks (for Casey Jr.) and berms. And the plants—genuine bonsai as well as seedlings—require constant attention.

In case any of us were fantasizing about working at Disneyland, we were assured: it is no place for the fainthearted. Plants here are not considered plants but "props" whose main purpose is to serve the "story" being told in any given context. For example, trees in Fantasyland must be small-scale, to complement the diminutive architecture—which means an unsentimental early death for any tree that gets too big for its spot. "We have to be emotionally detached from plants," our guide told us. "They might remove anything at any time. You get a hardened heart."

See Disneyland page 11

Aside from all that, Santa Ana winds, freezes, and guests all take their toll on plants. A majestic, beloved mesquite tree outside Big Thunder Ranch, normally festooned with miles of colored lights during the holidays, was recently dismembered by an errant truck backing up. And so on. Then again, plants do fight back, defying gardeners to mess with them: a cactus near Thunder Mountain sprouted Mickey ears—nature’s own contribution to Disneyland’s collection of “hidden Mickeys.”



a little humbling. The work seems to demand equal measures of love and detachment, a Zenlike combination that can’t be easily achieved.



Hearing the difficulties landscapers face every day at Disneyland was fascinating and

But as a frequent Disneyland guest, I can attest that this work is not in vain. The Alpine-esque wildflowers at the Matterhorn, the masses of annual color on Main Street, U.S.A., the tropicals of the Jungle Cruise—all the minute choices made at Disneyland are felt, and really do inspire a sense of wonder and love—for plants, for human artistry, and for the value of a job meticulously well done. In fact, they changed my life. ❁

Prisons from page 4

of Washington Department of Natural Resources forestry crews. Inmates on these crews work full-time planting trees, controlling weeds, fighting forest fires, and assisting with native plant restoration projects.

The workshop covered a wide range of tree-related topics including: forest ecology, an introduction to arboriculture, tree biology, tree career options, pruning, and a tree climbing demonstration. Seven volunteer presenters took time away from their busy schedules to share their passion for trees with the inmates. The goal of the workshop was to introduce inmates to arboriculture and other tree-related careers, and perhaps inspire them to consider becoming ISA Certified Arborists. The ISA has generously donated 50 certification exam study guides and featured the SPP in the April edition of their publication *Arborist News*.

If resources allow, the SPP will work with its partners at WDNR and Washington Department of Corrections to build a certification training program in the near future. The training program would bring

together volunteer instructors to help qualified inmates prepare for the arborist certification exam. An education and certification program at Cedar Creek Correction Center could provide multiple benefits including:

- Employment opportunities at a decent wage for inmates post-release
- Green-collar job training that builds a new work force to care for urban forests
- Involvement with ISA, an organization that encourages ongoing educational and professional development
- The program may serve as a model for other prisons and other states
- With increased employment opportunities and education, inmates may be less likely to re-offend when they are released.

The goal of the program is to introduce inmates to arboriculture and other tree-related careers, perhaps inspiring them to consider becoming ISA-Certified Arborists.

Congratulations and hats off to SPP, and to Noe, for their important and innovative work! ❁

**MT. SAC HORTICULTURE CLASS SCHEDULE – FALL 2011
CLASSES BEGIN AUGUST 29th AND END DECEMBER 18, 2011**

<u>Course #</u>	<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>CRN #</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Professor</u>	<u>Bldg/Room</u>
AGAG 1	Food, Land and Politics	3	21295	M	6-9:10 p.m.	Jennifer Garwick	80-1331
AGAG 91	Agricultural Calculations	3	21529	Th	6-9:10 p.m.	Tom Visosky	80-1460
AGOR 1	Horticultural Science	3	21258	MW	2:16-3:41 p.m.	Jennifer Garwick	80-1331
AGOR 1	Horticultural Science	3	21284	TTh	2:16-3:41 p.m.	Jennifer Garwick	80-1331
AGOR 1	Horticultural Science	3	21290	T	6-9:10 p.m.	Dave Lannom	**DESGAR
AGOR 1	Horticultural Science	3	21294	Th	6-9:10 p.m.	Dave Lannom	80-1331
AGOR 2	Plant Propagation	3	21304	M	5:30-10 p.m.	Jesus Ramirez	80-1200
AGOR 4	Park Management	3	21318	M	6-9:10 p.m.	Eric Johnson	***LA-ARB
AGOR 13	Landscape Design	3	21326	T	5:30-10 p.m.	Jennifer Garwick	80-1401
AGOR 15	Interior Landscaping	3	21337	W	6-9:10 p.m.	Jennifer Garwick	80-1401
AGOR 24	Integrated Pest Management	3	21338	T	5:30-10 p.m.	STAFF	80-1421
AGOR 30	Ornamental Plants - Trees/Shrubs	3	21355	Th	5:30-10 p.m.	Jennifer Garwick	80-1401
AGOR 39	Turf Grass Production & Management	3	21357	Th	5:30-10 p.m.	Brian Scott	80-1421
AGOR 50	Soil Science & Management	3	21358	M	5:30-10 p.m.	Brian Scott	80-1421
AGOR 51	Tractor and Landscape Equip Operations	3	21375	S	9-2:25 p.m.	Mark Pawlak	F7B
AGOR 53	Small Engine Repair I	3	21376	Th	5:30-10 p.m.	Mark Pawlak	F7B
AGOR 62	Landscape Irrigation Design/Installation	3	21416	W	5:30-10 p.m.	Bill Millward	80-1220
AGOR 64	Landscape Irrigation Drip & Low Volume	3	21418	Th	11:40-4:55 p.m.	Tom Visosky	80-1220
AGOR 71	Landscape Construction Fundamentals	3	21423	T	5:30-10 p.m.	Tom Visosky	80-1220
AGOR 73	Landscape Laws, Contracting & Estimating	3	21424	W	6-9:10 p.m.	Brian Scott	80-1421
AGOR 91-94	Work Exp. In Nursery Operation	1-4	TBA	TBA	TBA	Jesus Ramirez	F2A

*CLASSES MARKED WITH AN ASTERISK ARE APPROVED BY

THE CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF NURSEYRIMEN AND GARDEN CENTERS FOR C.E.U. CREDIT

**Class meets at Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada Flintridge

***Class meets at the Los Angeles Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia

CALL (909) 274-4540 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MAJORS AND CERTIFICATES
CONSULT CLASS SCHEDULE FOR CORRECT REFERENCE NUMBERS

Opportunities *jobs, internships, etc.*

Monrovia is looking for a **Plant Database Manager** at its Azusa Home Office. Responsibilities involve managing and updating Monrovia's Plant Information Database, sourcing and uploading photographs and research, writing plant descriptions, overseeing creation of plant labels, working with both external printing companies and Monrovia Craftsmen. Please contact Tracy Williams at (800) 999-9321 ext. 1407.

Monrovia is also looking for an **Inside Sales Associate**. Motivate, inspire and

coach inside selling team, at all locations, to be the bright spot and shining face of Monrovia Growers as they interact with customers, reps and growers. Please contact Tracy Williams at (800) 999-9321 ext. 1407.

Armstrong Garden Centers is seeking a designer to produce blueprints of designs created by in-house landscaping consulting service. Contact Bent Petersen, Greengoods Buyer, at (626) 914-1091.



**Post your job,
internship, scholarship,
or other listings!
dlannom@mtsac.edu**

Send us your opinions, story ideas, or whatever! bscott@mtsac.edu or dlannom@mtsac.edu

Clippings is designed & edited by Kate Sullivan. Photography by Jeff George.

MT. SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Faculty

Jennifer Garwick x4876 jgarwick@mtsac.edu

Dave Lannom x5150 dlannom@mtsac.edu

Brian Scott x4539 bscott@mtsac.edu

Tom Visosky x4892 tvisosky@mtsac.edu

Support Staff

Terri Colvil

Department Secretary x4540 or 5151 tcovil@mtsac.edu

Jesus Ramirez

Assistant Farm Manager x4694 or x4893 jramirez@mtsac.edu

FAX (909) 468-4052

horticulture.mtsac.edu

MT. SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE •
1100 N. GRAND AVENUE, WALNUT, CA 91789 •
(909) 594-5611