

2017 Calendar of Events for SUMMER/FALL

Palomar College Arboretum Web | www2.palomar.edu/pages/arboretum

NEWSLETTER

Introduction

During my teaching career in the Life Sciences Department at Palomar College I visited numerous botanical gardens to obtain images of interesting plants, including seed pods, beautiful seed jewelry from tropical regions, and economically important species. Tony Rangel, Supervisor of Grounds, has planted many of these plants in gardens at Palomar College. In fact, the campus gardens are so extensive that he has applied to the Morton Arboretum to obtain arboretum status for the Palomar College campus. We currently have 31 garden themes. —*W.P. Armstrong*

Palomar College Campus Is Officially Recognized As An Arboretum

Press Release From Palomar College Public Affairs Office

SAN MARCOS (December 8, 2016) – As Palomar College celebrates its 70th year, many would agree that the grounds of the San Marcos campus have never looked better. That impression was validated recently with the naming of the campus as a Level II Arboretum by The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program. In California, Palomar is the only community college in California with this distinction, and along with UC Davis, one of only two college campuses in the state that are certified as Arboretums.

“The fact that the entire campus is recognized as an Arboretum, not only the Edwin and Francis Hunter Arboretum located on the northeast side of Palomar, is very exciting,” said Dr. Joi Lin Blake, Palomar College Superintendent/President. “This is a notable distinction that places Palomar as a leader in the county.”

The requirements for ArbNet’s Level II accreditation include having an up-to-date database with a minimum of 100 woody

plants. Palomar now has more than 300 plants labeled. In addition, the accreditation requires that a plant collection policy must be in place and collections defined. Palomar’s roughly 200-acre campus currently houses 31 different garden themes, plus the *Endangered Coastal Sage Brush* community and the Edwin and Francis Hunter Arboretum. Some examples of the garden themes are as follows: a *Hardwood Garden* located near the Cabinet and Furniture Technology building displays trees often used in furniture and cabinet making; a *Polynesian Garden* near the Teaching and Learning Center is home to a faux lava field and rainwater-filled water feature; a *Cactus and Succulent Garden* near Mission Road and Comet Circle features more than 3,000 species; plus many *California Native Gardens* and other gardens that are scattered throughout the campus.

According to Tony Rangel, Palomar’s Grounds Services Supervisor, “Arguably Palomar College has one of the greatest concentrations of plant diversity on public display within a relatively small area in San Diego County, rivaled only by Balboa Park, the San Diego Zoo and Safari Park and San Diego Botanical Garden. Including the native coastal sage scrub north and east of campus, there are 3000-5,000 species spread throughout the campus property.”

Rangel, who is a certified arborist with the International Society of Arboriculture, said that Palomar’s arboretum certification contributes to the College’s Vision, *Learning for Success*. Arboretums display trees, shrubs and other woody plants from various locales around of the globe. “They are essentially living museums that allow for plant-based learning. Labeling and cataloging plant collections provides the public an opportunity to understand plant origins and how they fit into the global biodiversity of plants and animals,” he said. At Palomar, the arboretum

“Green Spaces are Crucial To future Of Our World”



also offers workshops and classes on plant care, ecology and biology.

Rangel further stated, “The Arboretum certification allows the college to work more closely and efficiently on plant-based conservation and education projects with other like-minded institutions from across the country and the globe. The certification demonstrates that the plants on campus are more than landscaping — they are part of a classroom, teaching visitors about the importance of landscaping responsibly with non-invasive plants, native plants and plants adapted to our climate. As the campus grows and diversifies over the coming years, Palomar will continue to show that we recognize and are committed to treating our botanical gems as ambassadors for conservation.”

ArbNet is an interactive, collaborative, international community of arboreta. ArbNet facilitates the sharing of knowledge, experience, and other resources to help arboreta meet their institutional goals and works to raise professional standards through the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program. The accreditation program, sponsored and coordinated by [The Morton Arboretum](http://www.mortonarb.org) in Lisle, Illinois in cooperation with [American Public Gardens Association](http://www.americanpublicgardens.org) and [Botanic Gardens Conservation International](http://www.botanicgardensconservation.org), is the only global initiative to officially recognize arboreta based on a set of professional standards. The program offers four levels of accreditation, recognizing arboreta of various degrees of development, capacity and professionalism. Standards include planning, governance, public access, programming and tree science, planting and conservation. More information is available at www.arbnet.org.



Images & Captions

Here are some images from the Palomar College campus showing interesting and economically important plants, plants with unusual seeds and seed pods, California natives, and endangered species from far away lands:



© W.P. Armstrong 2006

Figure 1. Western Soapberry (*Sapindus saponaria*): This widespread tree occurs in the southwestern United States, Mexico and South America, west across the Pacific Basin on a number of islands to New Caledonia. In Central America the hard seeds are called "black pearls" and are strung into necklaces. The foaming action of soapberries is caused by saponins present in the leathery fruit wall.



© W.P. Armstrong 2012

Figure 2. Kukui Nut (*Aleurites moluccana*): The kukui nut has been designated the official state tree of Hawaii. Unlike other state trees, it is not native and was brought to these islands by Polynesian sailors. Kukui nuts are commonly polished and made into necklaces, leis and beautiful bracelets.



Figure 3. Ornamental Sweet Potato (*Ipomoea batatas*): A cultivar of the edible sweet potato grown for its colorful foliage.

Garden Themes On Campus (Probably In Another Newsletter)



Figure 4. Sausage Tree (*Kigelia pinnata*), photographed in Maui: Fruits of the South African sausage tree hang from long, rope-like stalks. The fragrant flowers bloom at night and are pollinated by bats in their native habitat.



Figure 5. This garden near the Performing Arts Complex is a mixed planting that includes the Brazilian Fern Tree (*Schizolobium parahyba*).



Figure 6. *Sesbania tomentosa*: A Federally Endangered shrub native to the Hawaiian Islands. The beautiful South American *Sesbania punicea* (syn. *Daubentonia tripetii*) grows in the Arboretum east of campus.

Friends of the Palomar College Arboretum Committee

Tony Rangel, *President*

Susan Snow, *Vice President*

Dennis Astl, *Treasurer*

Pauline Riley, *Secretary*

Vacant, *Vice President of Membership*

Elaine Armstrong, *Community Liaison & Webmaster*

Vacant, *Business Liaison*

Alonna Farrar, *Graphics Specialist*

Wayne Armstrong, *Newsletter Editor & Life Science Liaison*

All plant photos by Wayne Armstrong ©

Figure 9. Spicebush (*Calycanthus occidentalis*): A fragrant California shrub native to the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. It belongs to its own North American family, the Calycanthaceae.



Figure 10. Coffee (*Coffea arabica*): One of the economically important plants in the Medicinal Garden near the Life Sciences Building.



Figure 7. Sugar Cane (*Saccharum officinarum*): One of several colorful varieties of sugar cane planted in the Polynesian Garden.



Figure 8. Alula (*Brighamia insignis*): A rare member of the lobelia family (*Campanulaceae*) endemic to steep sea cliffs on the island of Kauai. As of the year 2000, fewer than 100 of these remarkable plants grew in the wild. Like the California condor, this unique species has been brought back from the brink of extinction through breeding programs at botanical gardens. Tony Rangel's crew created the very realistic volcanic lava for this Polynesian Garden.



Figure 11. Roxburgh Fig (*Ficus auriculata*): A cauliflorous species distributed from India to China with large syconia produced on the trunk and limbs. Like the other 800+ species of *Ficus*, it requires a minute, symbiotic wasp for pollination.

Figure 12. The Polynesian Garden showing a kukui nut tree (*Aleurites molucanna*) and sugar cane (*Saccharum officinarum*).



Schedule Of Upcoming Events - Free Workshops, Lectures & Other Events - 2017

For Room Numbers Please Refer To The On-Line Events Calendar: <http://www.palomar.edu/arboretum/calendarEvents.htm>

From Plants To Ants

with Botanist and Professor Emeritus,
Wayne Armstrong

Saturday, April 8, 2017

10:00 am – 11:00 am

Room: NS-139

First floor of the Natural Science building.
Free parking in Parking Lot #5 for this talk
only. Admission is Free and open to the public
for this talk.

*RSVP Tony Rangel if you
would like to attend this
talk.*

arangel@palomar.edu
or call (760) 744-1150
x3122



Wayne's Introduction To Ants:

<http://waynesword.palomar.edu/AntIntro.htm>

Campus Walk

with Tony Rangel

11:30 - 1:30 Following Ant Talk

Meet at front door of room NS-139
(First Floor of the Natural Science Bldg.)

Please RSVP Tony Rangel if you plan to attend
this walk. Wear comfortable walking shoes and
sunscreen. Bring water and snack, especially if
you also attend the ant lecture.

Spring Clean-Up Day!

Saturday, April 29, 2017

From 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

*RSVP Tony Rangel if you would like to join this
Clean-Up Day event.*

arangel@palomar.edu or
call (760) 744-1150 x3122

Become a Member:

see **2017 Membership Form**

NOTE TO FACULTY: You can receive
Professional Development credit by taking our
workshops, tours and lectures.
Maximum of 2 hours of PD credit per
semester.

Please sign-up with the Professional Development
office. <http://www.palomar.edu/pdl>
Call (760) 744-1150 x2250 for more information.

LINKS

[The Morton Arboretum](#)

[American Public Gardens Association](#)

[Botanic Gardens Conservation
International](#)

www.arbnet.org

California poppies
on Owens Peak
with Palomar
College in distance.
The heavy rains
of winter 2017
produced flower
displays that haven't
been seen in many
decades.



Membership

Become A Member or Renew Your Membership

Membership Application Form

☐ Join, ☐ Renew or ☐ Gift Membership

Tax ID# 95-6094128

Date: _____

Mr. and Mrs. / Ms. / Miss / Mr. / Mrs.

Name: _____

	Student & Senior 60+	\$10
	Individual	\$20
	Family	\$40
	Founding	\$120
	Lifetime Membership	\$500
	Corporate Museum Associates	\$1,000
	Donations	\$

\$ _____ I have enclosed a donation to benefit the Arboretum

\$ _____ Membership

\$ _____ **Total Payment Enclosed**

Credit Card: VISA MasterCard American Express Discover (Please Circle One.)

Account number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

If a family membership, please give names of others in your family to be covered by this membership.

Mail this form and check to: **Palomar College Foundation Office**

1140 West Mission Road

San Marcos, CA 92069-1487

Please make check payable to:

Palomar College Foundation

Write "Arboretum" in the memo line.

The Friends of the
Edwin & Frances Hunter  **ARBORETUM**
at PALOMAR COLLEGE

Volunteer

A Plea For Volunteers To Work In The Arboretum

A Plea For Volunteers To Work In The Arboretum

We Also Need Committee Members For Friends Of The Arboretum

On a recent road trip to Arizona, I visited the Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Tucson Botanical Garden and the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. One thing in common about these outstanding botanical gardens is their large, dedicated staff of volunteers. This

is true of other impressive arboreturns throughout the continental U.S., Canada and the Hawaiian Islands. A handful of people is just not enough. As our Arboretum is improved with trail and irrigation systems, we also need volunteers to serve on the Friends of the Arboretum committee. Please visit the Arboretum home page for more information:

Palomar College Arboretum Web | www.palomar.edu/arboretum