

Issue #13. June 28, 2019

## The New Education Centers at Fallbrook and Rancho Bernardo Are On Their Way to Becoming Arboretums of Their Own.

Grounds keepers have been hard at work at both the Fallbrook Education Center and the Rancho Bernardo Education installing a variety of species in keeping with the spirit of making our landscaping diverse and educational. Rancho Bernardo already has 195, mostly drought tolerant, species installed including many California natives. The Fallbrook Educational Center will also be home to a diverse number of species expanding our Arboretum to 4 different campuses and possibly 4 separately recognized and unique Arboretums.



## The Friends of the Edwin & Frances Hunter Arboretum Promote Botanical Learning by Granting Two

### Scholarships to Palomar Students

Two students received scholarships from the Friends of the Edwin & Frances Hunter Arboretum to pursue their college degrees. Megan Abeyta and Cassy Lee were both students of Botany at Palomar College this year and will transfer over the summer to continue their education. Megan is headed to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and Cassy is going to Humboldt State. Both young women are very grateful for the support of the foundation.



## Tree in the Spotlight on the San Marcos Campus: The Blue Mahoe

The Blue Mahoe (*Talipariti elatum*) is the national tree of Jamaica and a tropical member of the Malvaceae native to the islands of Cuba, Jamaica, the US. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. The tree is valued for its beautiful hard wood that is highly varied in color, usually grayish or olive brown colored, sometimes with streaks of green, blue, or purple and is also has a musical quality and having been used in the traditional making of cuatros, a type of lute. The Blue Mahoe is also an important tree used in reforestation. Palomar College has several of these beautiful trees planted on the north side of the new library. Look for them in the spring when they open their fabulous 4-5 inch blooms which begin as yellow flowers and mature to orange-red and finally crimson.



Blue Mahoe *Talipariti elatum* (Sw.) Fryxell  
Image from Plants for a Future <https://pfaf.org/>

## Alula Project: supporting student research in the Arboretum



Palomar students and Botany Club members Leticia Marin and Isabelle Massaro worked with Biology Faculty member Beth Pearson in the Fall of 2018 to measure and observe the flowering cycle of Alula (*Brighamia insignis* A. Gray).

Alula is a critically endangered plant from the Hawaiian Islands whose wild population has been reduced to a singular individual. The species survives primarily in cultivation and studies are being conducted on how to preserve and proliferate the genetic diversity of individuals in cultivation. The Fall 2018 study was a baseline study to understand the flowering cycle and seed production in the Arboretum.



Leticia Marin and Isabelle Massaro count seeds of Alula in the Lab.

## Volunteers Help in the Arboretum

As a yearly tradition, Palomar students give back by volunteering their time to help beautify the Arboretum. These students help with digging holes for installing plants, pick up trash and pull weeds that sprout up in our gardens. The work is helpful and the students gain a connection to the gardens they pass by each day.



Palomar Students help to plant drought tolerant plants on campus.

## Groundbreaking on the Prop M Improvements to the Edwin & Frances Hunter Arboretum

Arboretum supporters, students, administrators and board members gathered to celebrate the groundbreaking for the improvements to the Edwin & Frances Hunter Arboretum. Notably, the Hunter Family (of Hunter Industries) was in attendance. They have established a sizable endowment to ensure the maintenance of the arboretum with a \$500,000 donation to the Palomar College Foundation in 2015.

The improvement plan is to build a trail network in the lower half of the arboretum that will allow visitors to enjoy the preserve on ADA-compliant paths. Crews will also be moving the entrance about 50 yards south so that it is adjacent to the arboretum parking area. All capital improvements are being funded by Prop. M, the \$694 million bond measure approved by voters in 2006.

The arboretum is ordinarily open to the public but will be closed for the duration of the improvement project. The project is anticipated to take six to eight months to complete, with the improved arboretum reopening ceremony scheduled to be on Thursday September 26, 2019 2:00 p.m.

## Palomar's Cactus Garden is the site for the unveiling of the new USPS Cactus stamp series

The US Postal Service celebrated the beauty of Cacti by releasing a stamp series in the Palomar College cactus and succulent garden which has existed since 1964. Lisa Baldwin, USPS San Diego Postmaster and master of ceremonies for the unveiling, introduced the stamp series with the following remarks.

"Cacti in bloom have been described as 'Mother Nature's fireworks,'" Baldwin said. "We would like thank Palomar College for hosting this stamp unveiling within their celebrated cactus and succulent garden. The opportunity to showcase both the new Cactus Flowers stamps and the amazing horticulture found in these gardens was a perfect match."

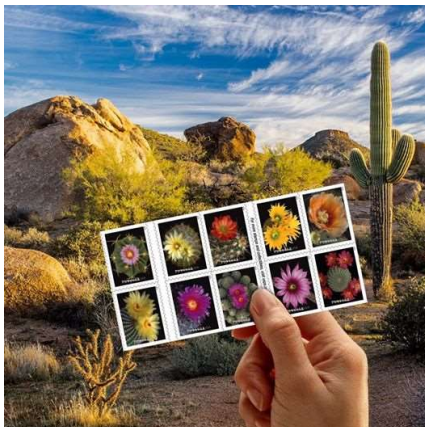


Image from USPS Facebook Page

## Walks and Talks from the Friends of the Arboretum

Tony Rangel led several walks this year to introduce the collections installed at the Rancho Bernardo Education Center and Fallbrook Education Centers as well as privately arranged walks on campus. In addition to the wonderful and educational walks, our very own Botanist Emeritus Extraordinaire Wayne Armstrong gave a talk for the community titled "Plant Mysteries & Mistakes" on May 3, 2019. Check out our website at [www2.palomar.edu/pages/arboretum/](http://www2.palomar.edu/pages/arboretum/) to learn about future talks and walks.

## The Friends of the Edwin & Frances Hunter Arboretum at Palomar College Committee

Tony Rangel	<i>President</i>
Susan Snow	<i>Vice President</i>
Dennis Astl	<i>Treasurer</i>
Pauline Riley	<i>Secretary</i>
May Fong Ho	<i>Vice President of Membership</i>
Elaine Armstrong	<i>Director at Large</i>
Beth Pearson	<i>Director at Large, Business Liaison, Newsletter Editor</i>
Wayne Armstrong	<i>Botanical Advisor/ Biology Liaison</i>

## Membership Application Form

☐ Join   ☐ Renew  
 or   ☐ Gift

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:

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.