The very first time we visited Santa Cruz, we explored the Arboretum—and from that moment, I fell in love. I am in awe of the plants, the vision, the critters and, most of all, the people (so many volunteers!) who make the Arboretum thrive. That love was bolstered by my time training to be a California Naturalist, so, when invited to join the board, I did not hesitate.

I am an organizer as well as a birder, gardener, sports fan, music lover, dreamer, unabashed inquirer, respectful iconoclast, spouse, friend, mother, and grandmother. I want to see the Arboretum flourish and become a treasured feature of Santa Cruz, understood and appreciated by folks near and far.

~ Susan Leo
Board President, Friends of the Arboretum

The Arboretum staff and Board wish to express their deepest appreciation to Joanna Miller, of Bonny Doon, for her generous donation of a New Holland tractor and a Kawasaki work-mule. These machines will enable us to move forward with garden improvements in a big way. Thanks, Joanna!

~ Martin Quigley
Executive Director, Arboretum

Mark Your Calendar

Hummingbird Day
Saturday, March 21, 2020
Event details will be posted on the Arboretum website.

Norrie’s Gift & Garden Shop
Spring Plant Sale
Saturday, April 11, 2020
Details and a Plant Availability List will be posted on the Arboretum website.
People in the News: Goodbyes & Greetings

Tom Saucedas, formerly Curator New Zealand Collection, retired October 2019. All of the staff, volunteers, and students who worked with him for over thirty years want to thank him profusely for his kindness, humor, hard work, and dedication to the New Zealand garden and the Arboretum. In the Q&A below, he shares the story of his career.

What interested you in working at the Arboretum and when were you hired?
Initially I was attracted to the Arboretum due to my love of plants and the environment. I loved to garden as a kid, especially growing vegetables and mowing lawns. As a new UCSC student, I rode my bike past the Arboretum, thinking how nice it would be to work there. In my second year, when eligible for the work-study program, I applied for that assignment. The first time I came to the garden, I met Brett Hall. What a nice guy, as he hired me on the spot and asked when I wanted to start. That was the fall of 1981. Since my dad and brother were carpenters, I learned construction skills as a kid: how to “swing a hammer,” push a wheelbarrow (without tipping it over), grade, mix and pour concrete, and carry lumber. That was my skill set as an 18 year old—plus lots of enthusiasm. Those first years at the Arboretum I did whatever was asked of me, mostly weeding, setting gopher traps, planting trees, and nursery watering. After a while, I started taking classes in botany, and Brett encouraged me along by loaning me books on botanical taxonomy and plant classification. My career was starting to take shape. I took more classes in plant sciences to learn how plants function and studied plant metabolism, photosynthesis, plant evolutionary theory, and ethnobotany. Reading about plants in scientific textbooks and then working with them as living specimens is the best way to learn, and, the more I learned, the more I wanted to learn. By the time I graduated in 1985, I had shifted to working primarily in the New Zealand garden. In 1987, after a benefactor made a generous donation to the Arboretum, a new position as Curator New Zealand Collection was opened and I was hired full-time.

What various positions have you had since you started at the Arboretum?
I started as student gardener, groundskeeper, then botanical curator. My job duties throughout have always been related to plants: weeding, pruning, planting, fertilizing, deer fencing, pest control, irrigation, mowing, plant propagation, plant record filing, nursery watering, greenhouse maintenance, plant sales, the list goes on. I loved it all. Never really a boring day. Later on I was the sponsor for student interns. Very busy days! The work never ceases. I also often gave garden tours—those were especially fun.

What have you enjoyed most about working at the Arboretum?
I’ve thoroughly enjoyed all my work—some tasks more than others, but it all evens out. In the early days, for example, we made our own potting soil from separate piles of redwood bark, sandy loam, and lava rock and put them together in a cement mixer. Nobody liked doing that job, but we constantly needed soil for the nursery; we made it fun with counting games for keeping track of different amounts, and sometimes shoveling the material at the same time to cause a "mid-air collision." It was just my way of turning a mundane task into something fun.

What are your plans for retirement?
I do not really have any “set” plans. My life is now full of activities revolving around my children and my wife’s schedule. We keep ourselves very busy. I’m hoping to spend more time landscaping my own garden and doing fun activities, such as sailing, running, and raising chickens. I also will continue to do landscaping for my own private business.

Reflections/thoughts about the Arboretum?
Wow! What an incredible career I’ve had. The Arboretum has been very good to me and I’ve tried to reciprocate. I have been dedicated to my work, to both my and the Arboretum’s benefit. The New Zealand garden is off to a great start and, though it was mine to maintain and curate over the years, it has always belonged to you, the public. It has been a tremendous journey for me to have taken the reins in this garden—to help plan, design, plant, prune, mulch, irrigate, mow, protect (fence from deer), and maintain, all with the help of many people both the staff and students too numerous to count. It has taken me from the literal shores of New Zealand to collect wild specimens to the heart of UCSC to the center of the community of Santa Cruz and beyond. I’ve had many, many great times working here. It’s been nothing short of a wonderful and productive career.
Linda McNally, the new Nursery Manager & Propagator, has actually been working in the gardens for many years.

Her path to the Arboretum was well-paved. After moving at 23 years old to California from New York, she started a career as a home organizer and personal assistant. As her business grew, for a few clients she took on the extra role of gardener; one client had a large succulent collection and, when she moved out of the area, gave it to McNally. McNally was captivated with these plants: she loved their exquisite architecture, delicate coloring, and unique flowers. Her second career was soon to bloom. She researched the plants and joined the Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society; there, while attending her first meeting, she met Stephen McCabe, then Arboretum Research Director. On her first visit to the gardens, her organization skills took over—she saw that there just weren’t enough people to do all the necessary work. McCabe agreed and invited her to become a volunteer.

When McCabe retired in 2015, McNally was hired as an independent contractor for the Succulent Garden. That job was thoroughly hands-on: every day was spent planting, weeding, and tending to the garden. As nursery manager, her duties are quite different—very little hands on, mostly, she says, ensuring "things keep moving along, step-by-step." The bulk of McNally's time is spent on these tasks: supervising the work of volunteers and students; overseeing the day-to-day functioning of the nursery, which includes endless ordering of supplies and constant checking of the greenhouse equipment and temperature; and ensuring that the propagation of plants for collections and sales stays on target.

Applying the skills from her first career, McNally spent the first weeks as Nursery Manager clearing out, cleaning up, and reorganizing Windy House, where most of the propagation occurs. That completed, she has turned her attention to two in-progress infrastructure projects: completing the renovation of the grow area (replacing worn out plant tables, torn shade netting, and inadequate watering systems) and updating and upgrading North and South Arch equipment (repairing water leaks and replacing old electrical systems). When these goals are met, she already has ideas on how to improve and increase plant propagation and sales at Norrie's Gift & Garden Shop. What McNally enjoys most about working at the Arboretum (she laughs a lot) is getting to be outdoors all day and collaborating with the "great, fun staff" on how to continue to keep the Arboretum healthy and prosperous.
Christine Altermann, the Arboretum's new Propagator & Retail Assistant, has lived in Santa Cruz for about thirty years. She was first introduced to the area and the Arboretum when visiting her sister, an Environmental Studies major at UC Santa Cruz and a student-worker at the gardens.

After studying landscape architecture at UC Berkeley, Christine worked as a propagator at Monterey Bay Nursery (MBN), where she became familiar with a wide selection of Australian and South African plants. To expand this collection, she found the Arboretum a wonderful resource for learning more about these plants and the species/varieties commonly available. In 2018, she began volunteering for her friend and mentor Arboretum Nursery Manager Martin Grantham and was enchanted by both the plants and people. When Grantham retired in 2019, the propagator position opened and she was thrilled to be hired in January 2020.

Her experience with propagation started when she was only five years old: an elderly neighbor demonstrated to her and her friends that a piggy back plant leaf (Tolmiea menziesii) will float in a glass of water and form roots and leaves that “piggy back” on the mother leaf. She was completely captivated and still finds joy in the magic of plant propagation. Her favorite type of propagation is seed germination because, as she describes, "seeds are little bundles of potential. The fact that you can grow a complete plant from such a little package never ceases to amaze me. I enjoy the challenge of germinating difficult seeds—the journey of finding the trick always gives me great pleasure."

Since her position is a new combination of previous nursery tasks, Christine is still figuring out a daily routine but is focusing on propagating cuttings, sowing seeds, maintaining the current stock of plants, fertilizing, and taking inventories.

Her work at the Arboretum is quite different from what she did at MBN; there she produced hundreds, even thousands, of a particular plant. Here she’ll concentrate on batches of 10-40 plants and with this smaller scale will be able to introduce efficiencies she developed for the wholesale market to make the best use of limited resources. And, unlike at MBN, Christine is now part of a large, collaborative team, and she looks forward to working with students, volunteers, and the knowledgeable staff, as well as visiting scholars, scientists, horticulturists, designers, foreign visitors, and plant enthusiasts.

Christine is always surprised when long-time Santa Cruz locals tell her they’ve never been to the Arboretum, so her goals include helping to make the gardens more "visible" to the local community, including UCSC students, by outreaching with social media and expanding both regular and special event plant sales at Norrie's Gift & Garden Shop.
Profile of a Volunteer

Sherry Eisendorf started volunteering at the Arboretum in 2001 as a member of the wreath-making group called "The Dried Flower Ladies." Newly retired, she had just moved to Santa Cruz from New York and was looking for useful and interesting places to volunteer. The Arboretum was a perfect match with its ambience, local flora and fauna, dedicated staff, and opportunities to learn new skills. While learning the craft of wreath-making, she realized she had a talent for matching buyers with gifts by sharing stories about the artist and materials used and pointing out the special but often unnoticed aspects of an item. Now in her new home at Dominican Oaks, she continues to sell wreaths year-round to delighted residents and their families—many of the front doors display Arboretum wreaths. In addition to volunteering, Sherry keeps active: she is an avid reader, plays bridge, enjoys biking and being outdoors, goes to concerts and local theater, and participates in a writing group, a book club, and a poetry group.
The nursery grow area is undergoing a total transformation: the ground has been leveled to prepare for new weed control and watering systems, and the plant tables and shade netting will soon be updated.

At Norrie’s Gift & Garden Shop, finding just the right plant for your garden has become even easier. Shifting sales to Norrie’s allows plants to be delivered when at their best and in bloom, and they are now organized on tables by country of origin or type of plant.

There’s more at Norrie’s…to assist with your selection, outside in the sales area, plant containers will soon have a detailed in-house label, most with accompanying photo (example at left), and inside the shop is a Plant Descriptions binder with an alphabetical list of plant descriptions and another list with common plant names atop botanical names.

And, last but not least, from your home computer or iPhone you can now access the online Norrie’s Plant Availability list (www.arboretum.ucsc.edu), usually updated twice each month, to peruse plants at Norrie’s—while they last—with recent deliveries color highlighted.
How You Can Support the Arboretum

Become a member of the Friends of the Arboretum. Select from eight levels: Student/Recent Alumni, Individual, Household, Garden Advocate, Garden Enthusiast, Trailblazer, Change Maker, or Visionary. Membership provides you, your family, and your friends the opportunity to explore, learn, and be inspired by nature year-round. Along with receiving the exciting benefits and privileges membership provides, you are giving to the Arboretum’s internationally recognized plant collections, regional conservation efforts, leading scientific research, and pioneering education and horticulture programs. Highlights of benefits are free admission to the garden and reciprocal admission to AHS (American Horticulture Society) gardens, discounts at local nurseries and gift shops, guest passes, and invitations to members-only special events. Two new benefits are ROAM (Reciprocal Organization of Associated Museums), which offers admission for two and store/restaurant discounts at participating museums in the US and Canada; and NARM (North American Reciprocal Membership) which provides free admission and discounts to an additional 900 cultural centers. See the Support Us webpage for more detail.

Volunteer. Choose from a variety of positions, including Garden Docent, Pathway Sweepers, Special Events, Succulent Group, Wayside Weeder, Norrie's Gift & Garden Shop, Jean & Bill Lane Botanical Library. See the Volunteer webpage for more opportunities and an application form.

Join the Board. The UCSC Friends of the Arboretum Board currently has several openings. The Board advocates for the Arboretum, collaborates with the Arboretum leadership and the community to meet the organization’s objectives, and facilitates committees and groups that focus on fundraising and achieving strategic initiatives. On-going 2019-20 goals are supporting the staff, elevating our presence in the community, and doing outreach to bring more visitors to the Arboretum. Anyone interested in joining the Board can start the process by completing a short application on the Meet the Board webpage. Contact Board President Susan Leo, (trevleo@gmail.com), with questions.

Visit the Arboretum. The first Tuesday of each month is Community Day (free admission to the gardens), and, if you’d like a guide, there's a First Saturday Garden Tour (with paid admission). From the moment you enter the gardens, you see amazing, unique plants. Below left is the sculptural Hesperaloe, located in the front parking area; Leucadendron ‘Goldfinger,’ a special new Protea species, and Leucadendron ‘Safari Sunset,’ pictured below, are available at Norrie's Gift & Garden Shop. See the Events webpage for more detail.

Host an event at the Arboretum. Venues available for weddings and social/business events are two outdoor garden settings and the spacious indoor Horticulture II meeting hall (at right). See the RENTALS webpage for details and application forms.

Visit the ARBORETUM webpage for more information: www.arboretum.ucsc.edu.
New Opportunity: We are looking for four or more skilled volunteers to take lead roles in supporting four exciting new specialty gardens now being developed within the South African collections. It's rare that the Arboretum is able to establish completely new displays such as these, and we need your help to make them thrive. These volunteer lead positions will require an average of four hours per week throughout the year, and there will be support from staff and student workers as needed.

The South African **Succulent Rock Garden** will feature Aloes, Euphorbias (pictured right), Haworthia, Cotyledons and other fantastic succulents—many of which have striking resemblances to New World species such as Agaves, Cacti, Aloes, and Echeverias. These pest-free, low-water South African plants deserve wider attention, and inclusion in gardens of the Central Coast.

Three vertical steel grids are the focal point of the **Pelargonium Garden** (the genus we call Geraniums here in the US). The panels will feature the “ivy” type varieties, growing upward, while the ground-level beds will display the shrubby and mounding forms, some familiar, and others rarely seen in North America. There will be brilliant year-round color displays, from pale pink, lavender and white to oranges, scarlet, purple and beyond. We have already acquired about 140 varieties, waiting impatiently to be planted and tended.

The South African **Bulb Garden** will be an informal installation of dozens of species of seasonal bulbs, starting with spectacular Amaryllids, Brunsvigia (pictured right), and Watsonia, and all sorts of esoteric beauties highlighting the full spectrum of fire-adapted geophytes. This will be a very naturalistic setting—using the existing meadow area, and planning ribbons of color that flower turn from spring through fall, and whose foliage withers to the ground before the next succession of blooms. Move over, you tulips and daffodils—the South Africans have arrived in a garden whose growing conditions exactly match those of their fynbos home. This garden will develop over several years as more species are introduced.

The South African **Maze Garden** will be a spinning, non-traditional maze planted entirely with a dozen or more species of the Restionaceae, the family of tall, rush-like evergreen spikes, ranging from 5 to 10 feet tall. Some will be dense thickets, and others will arch overhead, with a variety of textures entirely unlike the formal clipped hedges that are commonly used for mazes and labyrinths. (A maze has multiple entry points and ways to travel through it; a labyrinth has one entry, and only one correct path to its center).

For questions or to sign up for this new volunteer opportunity, contact Katie Cordes, Volunteer Programs Coordinator (cscordes@ucsc.edu)

More Volunteer Opportunities:

The Arboretum is currently seeking new volunteers to work at Norrie's Gift & Garden Shop and the Jean & Bill Lane Botanical Library; shifts for both are 10:00 am-1:00 pm, 1:00-4:00 pm. The Volunteer webpage has more detail on these and other positions and an online application form.
On the Shelf: Book Recommendation

Melinda Kralj, Curator of Collections at the Arboretum, thinks *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer, is likely her favorite book of the year: "It’s a book that should be read, especially with the constant influx of disastrous environmental news." What Kralj especially likes is that the author is "gently powerful" in expressing her themes and viewpoints.

The book, published by Milkweed in 2014, has been named one of the best essay collections of the last decade by Literary Hub. Kimmerer, a member of the Potawatomi Nation, is the Director of the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment, a professional botanist, and a SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor of Environmental Biology. Her book takes the reader on a journey illustrating how other living beings—asters and goldenrod, strawberries and squash, salamanders, algae, and sweetgrass—offer us gifts and lessons, even if we’ve forgotten how to hear their voices. Her central argument is that the awakening of a wider ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world.

The horrific fires in Australia, home country to many of the Arboretum's spectacular plants, have shocked and saddened the world. The loss of humans, fauna, and flora in the almost 16 million acres so far burned is devastating to the country and to the planet. Thus it is apropos the cause, primarily attributed to climate change, is the theme of this year’s Earth Day, the world’s largest annual civic event. Beginning the modern environmental movement, Earth Day started fifty years ago on April 22, 1970, when twenty million Americans (ten percent of the then population) took to the streets protesting environmental ignorance and demanding change. To learn more about Earth Day, go to [www.earthday.org](http://www.earthday.org) or attend Santa Cruz's Earth Day event at San Lorenzo Park Saturday April 18, 2020.

In 2016, UCSC Professor Bruce Lyon took these amazing photographs of birds at the Serendip Nature Reserve near Melbourne, Australia; we hope the area was spared and all its inhabitants are alive and well.

White-Plumed Honey Eater fighting with a Restless Flycatcher

Social nesting group of White-Winged Coughs
With its two locations—Water St. in Santa Cruz and Soquel Dr. in Aptos—DIG Gardens offers a plentiful array of plants, especially succulents, as well as unique containers, decorative items, and gifts. Open daily, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm.

Nurseries with discounts for Arboretum members:

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<th>All items</th>
<th>Plants only</th>
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<td>• Gold Rush Nursery, Soquel</td>
<td>• DIG Gardens, Santa Cruz &amp; Aptos</td>
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<td>• Ladera Garden Center, Portola Valley</td>
<td>• Drought Resistant Nursery, Monterey</td>
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<td>• Norrie’s Gift &amp; Garden Shop, Santa Cruz</td>
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<td>• Pottery Planet, Santa Cruz</td>
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<td>• Sierra Azul Nursery, Watsonville</td>
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Arboretum Spring / Fall 2020 Calendar

Check the Events webpage for additional lectures/classes/events and any schedule changes.

**FEB 12**
Wednesday

Ray Collett Lecture Series—
Stephen McCabe: Dudleya Conservation; 7:00 pm Horticulture II

**FEB 15**
Saturday

Community Science Phenology Walk—
11:00 am-1:00 pm; meet at Norrie’s

**FEB 21**
Friday

Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner—
6:00-9:00 pm Horticulture II

**FEB 26**
Wednesday

Board Meeting—
5:00 pm Lane Botanical Library

**FEB 29**
Saturday

Photoshop Workshop—
9:00 am-12:00 pm Lane Botanical Library

**MAR 03**
Tuesday

Community Day—
Free admission 1st Tuesday each month

**MAR 07**
Saturday

First Saturday Garden Tour—
11:00 am at Norrie’s (with paid admission)

**MAR 09**
Monday

CNPS SC Chapter Meeting—
Brett Hall: California Conservation Garden / Native Plant Program; 7:30 pm Hort. II

**MAR 14**
Saturday

Community Science Phenology Walk—
11:00 am-1:00 pm; meet at Norrie’s

**MAR 21**
Saturday

Hummingbird Day—
10:00 am-4:00 pm

**APR 04**
Saturday

First Saturday Garden Tour—
11:00 am at Norrie’s (with paid admission)

**APR 07**
Tuesday

Community Day—
Free admission 1st Tuesday each month

**APR 11**
Saturday

Save the Date—
Norrie’s Spring Plant Sale / CNPS Sale

**APR 22**
Wednesday

UCSC Giving Day 2020

**APR 22**
Wednesday

Board Meeting—
5:00 pm Lane Botanical Library

**MAY 02**
Saturday

First Saturday Garden Tour—
11:00 am at Norrie’s (with paid admission)

**MAY 05**
Saturday

Community Day—
Free admission 1st Tuesday each month

**MAY 11**
Monday

CNPS SC Chapter Meeting—
Janice Kuch, UC Master Gardener 7:30 pm Hort. II

**MAY 08-17**
Save the Dates—
National Public Gardens Week

**MAY 27**
Wednesday

Board Meeting—
5:00 pm Lane Botanical Library

**JUNE 24**
Wednesday

Board Meeting—
5:00 pm Lane Botanical Library

**JULY 22**
Wednesday

Board Meeting—
5:00 pm Lane Botanical Library

**AUG 26**
Wednesday

Board Meeting—
5:00 pm Lane Botanical Library

**SEPT 20**
Sunday

Save the Date—
Annual Members Meeting

**OCT 10**
Saturday

Save the Date—
Norrie’s Fall Plant Sale / CNPS Sale

**OCT 28**
Wednesday

Board Meeting—
5:00 pm Lane Botanical Library

**NOV 18**
Wednesday

Board Meeting—
5:00 pm Lane Botanical Library

**NOV 21**
Saturday

Save the Date—
Gift & Wreath Sale

**DEC 06**
Sunday

Save the Date—
Norrie’s Holiday Open House
**Arboretum Staff, Board Members, & Contact Information**

- **Martin Quigley**
  Executive Director

- **Katie Cordes**
  Volunteer Program Coordinator

- **Linda McNally**
  Nursery Manager & Propagator

- **Christine Altermann**
  Propagator & Retail Assistant

- **Yelcka Huaynalaya**
  Office Manager

- **Rick Flores**
  Director of Horticulture

- **Melinda Kralj**
  Curator of Collections

- **Brett Hall**
  CNP Program Director

- **Angelica Gomez**
  Event & Media Coordinator (Contractor)

- **Samantha Spurlin**
  Plant Inventory Specialist

- **Martin Grantham**
  Consultant

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**The Bulletin of the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum & Botanic Garden**

**Editor:** Linda Lane  
**Photos/Articles:** Linda Lane/Arboretum Staff/Volunteers

**Friends of the Arboretum Board Members, 2019-20**

- Susan Leo, **President**
- Marisa Gomez, **Vice President**
- Stephanie Nielsen, **Secretary**
- Martin Quigley, **Campus Representative**
- At-Large Members:
  - Ferd Bergholz, Jan Biegenzahn
  - Bill Bishoff, Phil Dundas
  - Elizabeth Evans, Marisa Gomez, June Heaton

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**Contact Us**

- **Arboretum:** 831.502.2998, 
  arboretum@ucsc.edu

- **Bulletin Feedback:** Martin Quigley  
  Email ideas/comments

- **Norrie’s Gift & Garden Shop:**  
  831.502.2999

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