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. Arborets 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 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 in Lisle, Illinois in cooperation with American Public Gardens Association and Botanic Gardens Conservation International, 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.
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:

**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.

**Figure 2.** Kukui Nut (*Aleurites molucanna*): 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.

**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 tripetallata*) grows in the Arboretum east of campus.

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**Garden Themes On Campus (Probably In Another Newsletter)**
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 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 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 moluccana*) and sugar cane (*Saccharum officinarum*).
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.

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/pd/
Call (760) 744-1150 x2250 for more information.

LINKS
The Morton Arboretum
American Public Gardens Association
Botanic Gardens Conservation International
www.arbnet.org

Palomar College

Owens Peak View
6 March 2017
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: __________________________________________________________________________________________

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$ ____________________ 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: ______________________________________________________________________________________

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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.

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 arboreta 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