



# Volunteer Times

Published for the volunteers of the UCI Arboretum

May 2012

## June Bloom Plant Sale Scheduled for June 16

By Laura Lyons, UCI Arboretum

Next up on our plant sale calendar is 'June Bloom,' a sale that marks the start of the summer growing season. Heat loving plants like *Passiflora*, Cape Skyflower, and our showy Pineapple lilies are coming into bloom and are ready to be sold. Spring flowers are on their way out, though many of them will continue to show light bloom into the summer. Though we've had a great spring, there are a few items among our spring bloomers that we are still overstocked on and will be putting on clearance to make way for our summer stock, and the fall plants we'll begin propagating June 1.

UCI will be busy with Commencement Weekend, which gives us the opportunity to pick up an amazing amount of drive by traffic. It also means that student help will be scarce that weekend—a great number of the wonderful students we've had this year

will be graduating. Volunteer help for this event will be crucial.

We have three shifts for the event: setup from 7 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., a morning shift from 8:30 a.m. to noon, and an afternoon shift from noon to 3:30 p.m. I will need volunteers to work sales, cashiering, and, most likely, take-out; since our students will be otherwise occupied! Please check your calendars and if you are free that day, sign up for the sale. We had a serious volunteer shortage during both April Showers of Flowers and the Spring Perennial Sale that was covered by our students. With them unavailable, I am counting on you to staff this sale. Please volunteer!



*Eucumis autumale*

I'll be on vacation May 14–26 (see below), but you can send me an email at [ldlyons@uci.edu](mailto:ldlyons@uci.edu) or leave a message at the Arboretum office at (949) 824-5833 and I will get back to you after I return.



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## Laura on Vacation May 14 through the 26

By Laura Lyons, UCI Arboretum

It's time for my annual vacation, where I leave the Arboretum in the capable hands of our volunteers and our students and embark on some rest and recreation. No big road trips this year, just a few days in Santa Barbara, a wonderful trip to Disneyland with my nieces, and some time to craft, garden at home, and catch up on my reading. When you're a hard-core reader and your sister is a librarian who keeps feeding your habit (most recently she got me hooked on the Hunger Games trilogy of books—wonderful books, by the way) that alone could fill two weeks!

While I'm gone it will be business as usual for

independent groups, like the Orchid Care and the South African Bulb—both meet on Wednesday—but groups I supervise, like the Nursery Group (Wednesday) and the Friday Club (Friday) will take the time off, unless I request a volunteer to come in and water.

The students will open and close the Arboretum each day so volunteers should have no problem getting in as needed to work. If you have any questions you can contact me before May 14 at [ldlyons@uci.edu](mailto:ldlyons@uci.edu). You can also send me email messages, of course, while I am on vacation, though I will not respond to them till May 29. You can also leave me a message on the Arboretum's voice mail at (949) 824-5833.



# Spring Perennial Sale Entices Guests

By Laura Lyons, UCI Arboretum

UCI Arboretum held its spring perennial sale on May 5 & 6, and the weekend could not have been more perfect! Clear and sunny, but not too hot; a perfect day for gardening.

With plenty of student labor on hand, we set up the perennial sale around the South African Perennial Garden. The new sections of the garden surrounding the renovated Gazebo lawn were in full bloom and looked truly spectacular. As I stood in the shade of the trees and watched the guests stream in, I have to admit I enjoyed all the comments about the beautiful masses of flowers, the view, and the Arboretum in general.

April and May are always challenging months to schedule garden events, with a plethora of plant shows, garden tours, workshops and classes, and other gardening related activities going on. Indeed, it is virtually impossible to find a weekend that something is not going on! Despite competition that included two major garden tours and of course Cinco de Mayo, we had an excellent sale.

Our new *Ptilosus* 'Platinum Wallaby' was popular, as were a variety of succulents, including *Echeveria* 'Madre del Sur,' *Sedum* 'Cape Blanco' and *Aeonium* 'Kiwi.' Plants that were blooming in the perennial garden did particularly well, such as *Pelargonium betulinum* and the beautiful and fragrant white *Nemesia*. We also had two lovely new colors of the classic and easy to grow zonal geraniums, with colorful 'Raspberry Twizzle' being a particular hit.

I would like to thank all the volunteers and students who helped out with the event, particularly the volunteers that worked extra shifts to cover some short-

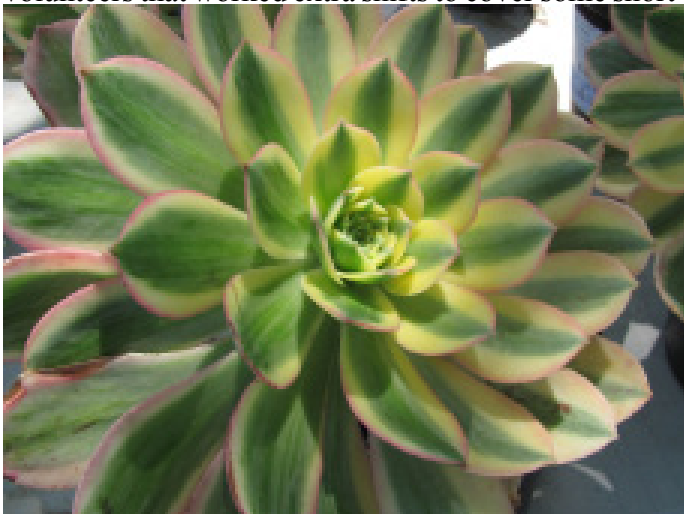


**Volunteer Sheldon Lisker discusses selections with a customer at our Spring Perennial Sale**



***Echeveria* "Madre del Sur"**

ages, particularly on Sunday. We had a wonderful and profitable sale and an enjoyable weekend.



***Aeonium* "Sunburst"**



**Photos by Laura Lyons**





## IMPORTANT DATES

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>TIME</u>
May 14 – 26	Laura on Vacation	
<b><u>LOOKING AHEAD</u></b>		
June 16	<b>June Gloom? No, June Bloom!</b>	
	<b>June Bloom Plant Sale</b>	<b>9 a.m. – 3 p.m.</b>
July 4	Arboretum Closed	
	Independence Day	
July 14	Bulb Repotting Day	8:30 – 11 a.m.
<b>July 21</b>	<b>Saturday Plant Sale</b>	<b>9 a.m. to noon</b>

## Summer Plant Sale Schedule

July 21	Saturday Plant Sale
August 11	Saturday Plant Sale
September 22	Saturday Plant Sale

Saturday Plant Sales are from 9 a.m. to noon.

## CURRENT VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>DAY AND TIME</u>
Nursery	Wednesday 9 a.m. – noon
Orchid Care	Wednesday 9 a.m. – noon
Bulb & Perennial	Wednesday 9 a.m. – noon
California Garden	Thursday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Herbarium	Thursday 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Friday Club	Friday 9 a.m. – noon
Special Events	See <b>Important Dates</b>

For information on any of these or for general information on volunteering, call Laura Lyons at: 949/824-5833 or e-mail: [ldlyons@uci.edu](mailto:ldlyons@uci.edu)