

DESCANSO

Spring – Summer 2020

Magazine

The Soul
of Descanso

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Nature is Nurture

Juliann Rooke, Executive Director

Nothing new here: Humankind has had an instinctive connection with nature since the beginning of time. Most of us are aware that being able to satisfy that need is important to your health and well-being.

What is news is the expanding body of evidence suggesting that nature deficit disorder contributes to higher rates of emotional and physical illness. My mom did not need the scientific community to tell her this. She instinctively knew kids should go outside and play. Now that I am older, I still feel much better when I “go outside to play” and can connect to nature.

There are many different ways to experience nature and to feel that connection. For me, a 30-minute walk under the Descanso oaks is just the ticket. I end my stroll feeling restored. There are many other ways that our members like to connect: Birding is popular with many, while others like to set up an easel and study nature through art.

We have many parents, grandparents and caregivers who bring children to the garden just to run and be free in the open air. Others sign their youngsters up for our children’s programming. Getting children connected to nature early is important to their development. So whatever motivates you to bringing your children to the gardens, bravo! In this newsletter, Education Director Emi Yoshimura addresses in more detail the importance of children being connected to the natural world.

As an institution, Descanso Gardens spends a lot of time creating experiences that allow our visitors and members to connect with the natural world in new and more meaningful ways. We are very excited by a new experience we will present in 2020. We are partnering with Pete Wyer, a British composer, who is recording a musical piece inspired by Descanso that will be installed in the garden in February. This composition, called *The Sky Beneath Our Feet*, will feature nine choirs of eight voices played over 72 independent speakers installed in the Camellia Forest. It has been a pleasure to work with a visionary like Pete. He first came to Descanso in August 2018, and it was a joy to watch him fall in love with Descanso. You can learn more about Pete and his project in a Q&A in these pages.

If you are reading this letter it is because you are a member. I might be preaching to choir here – you probably understand the importance of being outdoors. Maybe you are like me: I know time in nature is important, but I don’t spend as much time outdoors as I should. In 2020 I have resolved to spend more time connecting to nature. I hope you will join me in this endeavor as we kick off a new year and a new decade!



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Garden photos by Shannon Dillion,
Public Relations and Marketing Coordinator.

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Our Mission

Descanso Gardens is a unique Southern California landscape distinguished by its specialized botanic collections, historical significance, and rare natural beauty. Our mission is to practice exemplary stewardship of Descanso's distinctive character and assets; offer people an experience close to nature; and cultivate understanding of the natural world and people's place in it through inspiration, education and example.

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The Soul of Descanso

by David Bare, Director of
Horticulture and Garden Operations

When I was moving to California in 2014 I took a long detour to see the Native American cliff dwelling Canyon de Chelly in Arizona. A storm was passing through, one whose boundaries were sharply

defined curtains of rain that you could follow as they passed across the open mesa. Circular puddles gathered in depressions formed in the stone, hollowed over eons of wind-whipped sand. There, siphoning out an existence in the crevices of the red rock, was a beautiful miniaturized oak, *Quercus gambelli* likely, a tortured bonsai of a tree with the classic lobed leaves that characterize so many oaks. There seems an oak for everyplace.

I grew up among oaks on the East Coast. As a child my friends and I ran across the long-felled trunk of a white oak in the woods behind my house. There were scarlet and pin oaks there too, and I spent much of my boyhood up in their branches. When I moved south there were chestnut and red oaks and the weird little furry hat-capped acorns of overcup oaks. Willow oaks with their seemingly indestructible leaves lined every other street, always waiting to drop until the rest of the neighborhood trees were bare.

Along the coast I fell in love with *Quercus virginiana*, the southern live oak. On Cumberland Island off the Florida-Georgia border I walked down sand roads under long tunnels of knitted oak branches that formed natural pergolas, opening only when they yielded to the wild coastal edge.

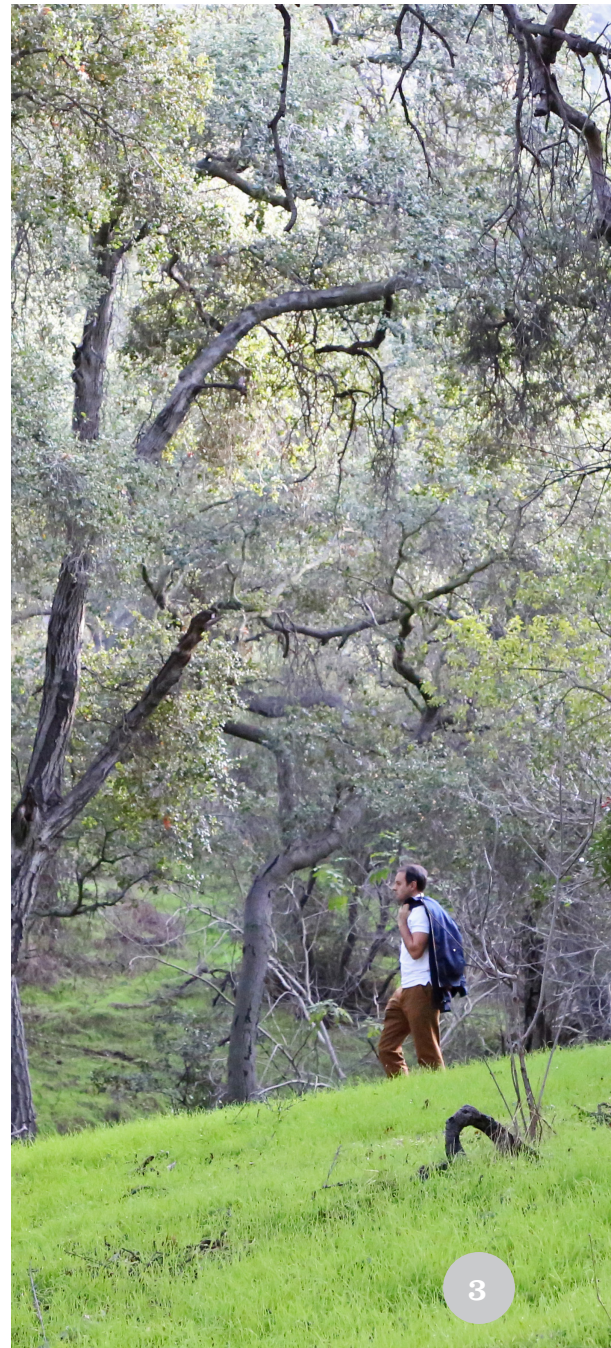
And now California, whose rich diversity of habitat seems to have an oak for every niche. Here at Descanso we are blessed with an abundance of *Quercus agrifolia*, the coast live oak, a species found from Mendocino all the way to Baja. Descanso's oaks are the beating heart and the numinous soul of the gardens. Every living entity within the gardens is tied to their natural history and aesthetic beauty.

We estimate that there are more than 1,000 mature *Q. agrifolia* in our plant records database, and each one has its own unique, gnarly character. The coast live oak bears its leaves year-round, shedding the older ones after up to two seasons, usually in spring. They are dark and leathery with a slightly glossy surface and a paler underside. An identifying characteristic is their convex shape and spiny margin, but the shape of the leaves can be as varied as the form of the tree. Acorns are typically long cone-shaped affairs.

The coast live oaks of Descanso are marvels of woodland architecture. Their branching patterns are a consistent source of wonder forming half circles and dipping to the ground only to spiral up again. It is often difficult to separate one tree from another as they seem to prop and lean upon one another, filling every open air space with a curtain of leaves. The rounded crown may tower upward or content itself to grow ever outward toward the forest edge.

The oak's complicated root system allows it to indulge in its fanciful architecture. A sprouted acorn sends a taproot deep into the soil. For several years it plunges and thickens, seeking resources well below the soil's surface. Lateral and feeder roots eventually spread out from the crown where they develop a relationship with fungi in the soil. Known as mycorrhizae, literally "fungus root," the two organisms are mutually beneficial to one another. The fungi are supplied with sugars from the roots through photosynthesis, and the roots benefit from the fungi by obtaining water and minerals. If you have ever kicked around in the forest duff, you may have seen the white, thread-like growth of fungal hyphae. These threads form extensive networks in the process of breaking down forest litter and often exclusively benefit oaks. Research has further indicated that mycorrhizae form a sort of communication network between plants. Trees that were attacked by insect pests were able to "tell" their neighbors to increase the chemicals they produce to thwart these pests.

“The coast live oaks of Descanso are marvels of woodland architecture.”





Just as complex as what goes on under an oak tree is what is happening in the canopy. California is rich in oaks and so rich in oak galls, the strange and multitudinous growths that can be found on oak leaves and twigs. Galls can be caused by bacteria, fungi or viruses, but the most obvious on oaks are caused by insects. No other plant hosts the variety of galls that oaks do. The forms of oak galls are as bizarre as the lifecycles that create them. They can resemble sea urchins, powder puffs, cocoons or mushrooms. Perhaps the most obvious is the ping pong ball size papery, tan brown oak apple.

Often the architect of an oak gall is a tiny wasp in the *Cynipid* family, about the size of a gnat. These stingless wasps lay their eggs on leaf, twig or root. When the larvae hatches and begins feeding, its saliva interacts with the

trees meristem cells and the plant is tricked into producing the gall.

The gall will serve as nursery, shelter and pantry, but such a rich food source will not go unnoticed. Squirrels, birds and myriad other creatures take an interest in galls. In some cases the oak gall is invaded by other parasitic wasps that feed on the oak gall and the original wasp residents. A British study found 17 wasp species living in one oak gall.

Birds form another integral aspect of the oak forest. Quiet observation reveals the activity of the many tiny birds moving through the oak canopy and forest. There are Townsend's and yellow-rumped warblers and kinglets swiftly inspecting the canopy for insects. Bushtits and

California towhees patrol the shrub level and forest floor respectively. The diminutive blue-gray gnatcatcher shows up in spring from its migratory journey to Central America.

Not all of the oak forest's birds are secretive though. Descanso has hosted a breeding pair of great horned owls for several years, and you can often hear their call in early morning or at dusk. The acorn woodpeckers' laughter-like yammering is a common occurrence behind the Boddy House. These birds are hard to miss with their iridescent black backs and clownish red and white face patterns accented by a bright white eye.

Acorn woodpeckers live in highly developed family clans of breeding and non-breeding members. Consisting of up to 16 members, the entire clan nests in the same tree cavity and all members help care for the young. Acorn woodpeckers cache their food in "granaries": tree trunks chiseled out to house hundreds of acorns in their own individual pockets. Granaries are communal affairs and all members are welcome to eat from them. I have watched an acorn woodpecker occupied with the work of sizing up a hole to fit his acorn just so, standing back, cocking his head to assess the angle, chiseling a little more, an artist at work. Granaries sometimes house thousands of acorns, a mind boggling fact when you consider that each acorn will shrink as it dries and require constant readjustment and rearrangement to snugly fit its hole. Otherwise squirrels will make off with the larder.

The acorn is perhaps the genius of the oak. A rich storehouse, acorns are 20 to 30 percent fat and 6 to 8 percent protein. It's a nutrient-rich dynamic package that pretty much guarantees distribution from every member of the food chain, from birds to squirrels to the native Tongva people. But we would be challenged to find a more responsible party for oak tree distribution than the scrub jay. Colorful, raucous and infamously intelligent, the scrub jay and the oak are another example of the intimate relationship between flora and fauna in the oak forest. More than 50 percent of a scrub jay's diet in the autumn consists of acorns, and a single jay may be responsible for caching up to 5,000 acorns. Those not retrieved are often in a perfect position for germination, diligently tucked into the leaf litter and carefully covered with detritus.

These are but a few examples of the intricately interwoven stories that compose the oak forest narrative. At Descanso we consider our oaks to be the very foundation of our identity. Each tree is unique in its form and beauty, each is a stitch in the whole cloth of our character. As we go forward with our Master Plan and exciting programming for the gardens, we face no greater task than assuring the health and welfare of our magnificent oaks.

Maintaining Healthy Oaks: The Key Factors

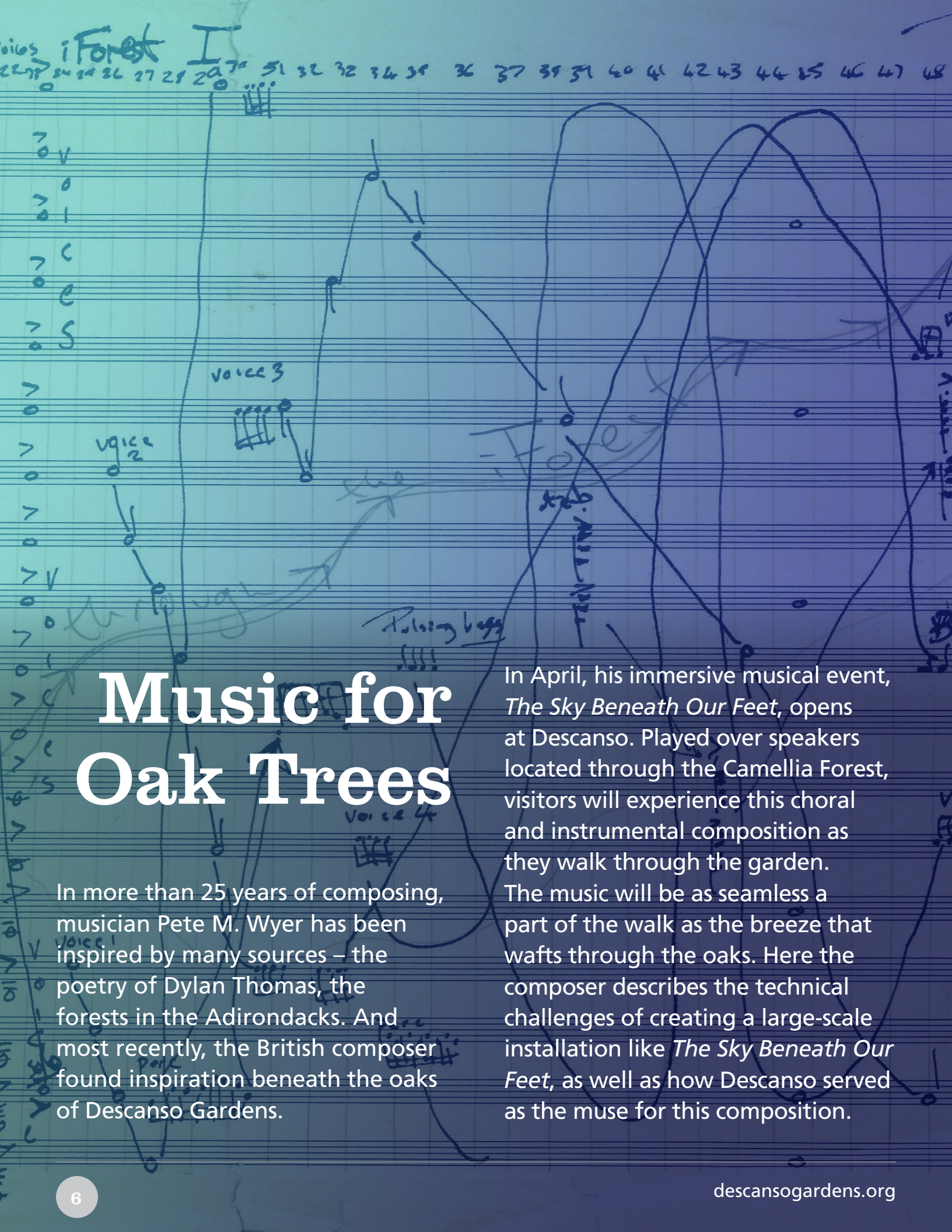
Water appropriately: Coast live oak is adapted to a dry summer habitat, and irrigation is a major contributor to the demise of many oaks. Summer irrigation can promote the development of oak pathogens such as crown rot and oak root fungus. Conversely, in periods of winter drought, supply water to the first foot of soil depth around the oak. Drip or soaker hose is the best method of delivery. When establishing landscape around existing oaks try to stay clear of the "drip line," the area that encompasses the tree's outermost branch tips. Using native plants will also assure a minimal need for summer moisture.

Maintain mulch: Organic mulches benefit the tree in many ways. They help reduce moisture loss and reduce weed encroachment. They help to reduce soil compaction. They provide an environment for healthy soil development through promoting mycorrhizae and other soil-dwelling organisms. Avoid piling mulch against the tree's trunk. When the proper 3-inch mulch levels are maintained, soil fertility will not be an issue or can be adjusted through the use of compost.

Pruning: Pruning should not be considered an annual chore on oak trees. Often times minimal or no pruning is required to maintain the vigor of a tree. Extensive pruning on older trees always calls for professional advice. Improper pruning can set a cascade of unfortunate circumstances in motion.

Monitor: Trees should be regularly inspected for signs of ill health. Dark bleeding sap, thin leaf cover, sticky sap on leaves or twigs, powdery gray leaves, and a multitude of other issues warrant investigation.





Music for Oak Trees

In more than 25 years of composing, musician Pete M. Wyer has been inspired by many sources – the poetry of Dylan Thomas, the forests in the Adirondacks. And most recently, the British composer found inspiration beneath the oaks of Descanso Gardens.

In April, his immersive musical event, *The Sky Beneath Our Feet*, opens at Descanso. Played over speakers located through the Camellia Forest, visitors will experience this choral and instrumental composition as they walk through the garden. The music will be as seamless a part of the walk as the breeze that wafts through the oaks. Here the composer describes the technical challenges of creating a large-scale installation like *The Sky Beneath Our Feet*, as well as how Descanso served as the muse for this composition.

How would you describe the installation you are doing at Descanso Gardens? *The Sky Beneath Our Feet* is a work for nine choirs of eight voices each, played back via 72 independent audio speakers across an area of coast live oaks at Descanso. The score uses pitch, rhythm, tone, dynamic and space, and it is my direct response to the land and particularly the trees of Descanso. *The Sky Beneath Our Feet* will be my largest installation to date.

What aspects of Descanso Gardens inspired this project? I love to respond to nature and for me Descanso provides a stunning landscape that is both richly inspirational and very different from my native England. When I visited in 2018 I had just (re)read *The Hidden Life of Trees* by Peter Wohlleben. I was fascinated by the idea, expressed in the book, of the “wood wide web” (discovered by Dr. Suzanne Simard) – the fact that the trees were communicating with each other beneath the ground across very large distances, and also through the air. So I was immediately drawn to the coast live oaks, the ancient heritage trees of Descanso. I wanted to create something that suggested a deeper sense of the extraordinary interconnected world carrying on invisibly all around us.

What is your process for creating this work, from visiting the Gardens for research to presenting the event? The beginning is very intuitive for me. Perhaps it sounds naive – I spend as much time at the location as possible. I walk around and around, without any special focus. I listen a great deal to what is already there. Everything interests me, the susurrations of leaves in the breeze, birds, distant chatter, hose pipes, traffic, the hum of cables, anything. Next, I try to hear mentally the sounds that I believe will work well in addition to what’s there. Alongside this I like to learn about the land, its ecosystems, what it would have been like 10 years ago, a hundred years ago, a hundred thousand years ago....

And in this instance I was especially interested in how the trees were experiencing the world. Their perspective of time, for example. I was interested in the history and impact of our own species but also aware that, to a tree, we may just be one more fleeting, noisy organism.

Are there sound pieces that are unique to each location? Is the experience of this work the same for all people, or is it unique to the path you take through the gardens? The work is never the same twice and no two people will have an identical experience. It will be different depending where you stand, what the weather is doing, how active the squirrels are and so forth. There is never any place you should be with the piece other than where you are – and if you’re somewhere



The Sky Beneath Our Feet
will take place
April 6 to Sept. 3

different, that’s where you’re meant to be too. Each of the 72 speakers will have its own unique sound, but that sound is coordinated within a score so there will certainly be times when sounds come together. The only thing I would encourage is to leave the cellphone behind and enjoy it in the moment.

Can you share who some of the performers will be on your work? Over the years it’s been my great privilege to work with singers and musicians from the Royal Opera House, London Symphony Orchestra, English National Opera, Welsh National Opera, Juilliard and many others. I have been able to develop a relationship with some of these world-class performers over the years and form my own ensemble for this work under the name Voices of the Ancient Woods and the Orchestra of the Ancient Woods. In addition I am hoping that my old friend, Gavin Greenaway, will conduct. Gavin is best known for conducting Hans Zimmer’s scores.



Nature is a necessity

by **Emi Yoshimura**, Education Director

Visitors enjoy Descanso Gardens for a variety of reasons – for the beauty; for the feeling of oasis, respite or rejuvenation the gardens provide; for the sense of being away from the city and close to nature; for the chance to have a shared experience with others; and for the opportunity to see something new or visit a regular beloved spot in the garden.

Those of us who visit with children also appreciate that Descanso is a wonderful place for young learners. A place that feels both wild and safe. A welcoming place to have children build a relationship with nature. For very young children, Descanso provides the sensory experiences of feeling the wind on their faces, seeing the gentle play of sunlight and shadows, or treading on bouncy grass. These sensory experiences can be both stimulating and soothing for babies and caregivers alike. For older children, the garden is a great place to run, jump and explore in an outdoor setting. The gardens are full of opportunities to look closely, observe carefully, wonder and discover, and be a scientist or nature detective. And, the excitement of watching squirrels, fish, hummingbirds and butterflies move throughout the garden habitat encourages children to become naturalists, noticing the living things around them and their interactions and behaviors. For even older

children, student community service days offer hands-on opportunities to give back and help take care of an important community resource.

But beyond being enjoyable, studies have shown that children benefit from time spent in nature in a variety of ways. “There is a large body of research that supports the idea of children needing to spend time outdoors, and that children suffer when deprived of the opportunity to experience nature,” said Allegra Inganni, school-age program director of the Child Educational Center in La Cañada Flintridge.

In his influential book *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*, author Richard Louv addresses the life-affirming influence of nature on children’s development. *Last Child in the Woods* was the first book to bring together a new and growing body of research indicating that direct exposure to nature is essential for healthy childhood development and for the physical and emotional health of children and adults.

In the years since Louv’s book was published in 2005, many researchers have studied the benefits of nature on children. Some of their key findings include:

- Early experiences with the natural world have been positively linked with the development of imagination and the sense of wonder. And a sense of wonder is an important motivator for lifelong learning.
- Outdoor environments are important to children's development of independence and autonomy.
- Nature helps children develop powers of observation and creativity and instills a sense of peace and being one with the world.
- Children with symptoms of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder are better able to concentrate after contact with nature.
- Children's positive encounters with nature can lead to the development of environmental ethics.

At Descanso, our staff and volunteers strive to support and encourage these types of experiences for children. And luckily, like-minded partners help us both in these efforts and in understanding better the positive effects programs in our space can create. Two wonderful examples of these partners are the Child Educational Center and the Los Angeles Unified School District Office of Outdoor and Environmental Education.

For many years, Descanso has partnered with the Child Educational Center (CEC), a pioneer in the practice and promotion of the Outdoor Classroom, an approach to learning in which teachers support and encourage outdoor play in order to enhance children's development. Both our proximity and similar belief in the importance of nature experiences for children have made the CEC and Descanso natural partners for summer camp and afterschool programs. According to Allegra Inganni, Descanso provides a prime location for the type of

outdoor play that helps to overcome a range of obstacles facing today's children, which includes a diminished focus on physical activity and the natural world. In addition to offering children education and exposure to a beautiful outdoor setting, our programs together also invite children to care for plants and animals and to learn skills and habits that will help children be the stewards of the earth for years to come. And as a result, she said, "Children and parents look forward to the opportunity to visit Descanso with the CEC. More than just a field trip, it is a meaningful educational experience."

Another longstanding partnership has been with Beyond the Bell through LAUSD's Office of Outdoor and Environmental Education. In the last school year alone, Beyond the Bell brought more than 2,000 participants (including students, teachers and chaperones) from around LAUSD to participate in the Day of Discovery field trip program at Descanso.

Gerry Salazar, administrator of the Office of Outdoor and Environmental Education, describes the time students spend at Descanso as "a game-changer." "It introduces children to meaningful outdoor science experiences that become part of every child's story," he said. And that student feedback reveals that the experiences students have at the gardens inspire both an emotional connection to Descanso and a sense of gratitude, he said, as well as an ongoing and more general developing interest in science and the outdoors.

In the past school year, Descanso Gardens welcomed more than 12,000 students on field trips and thousands more young explorers who came for programs, volunteering, or just an outing with their adults. What a joy and responsibility to provide nature experiences to all these young naturalists and to help fill their need for nature in their lives.





Volunteer
Ed Johnson
gets his hands dirty
in the Camellia Forest

How did you discover Descanso Gardens?

We moved here 35 years ago. Soon after arriving, my father called and very excitedly told me that he had found an article about Descanso Gardens in some retirement magazine! So we decided to take a look, fell in love with the garden's tranquility, and began visiting regularly. Several years ago, I looked around for opportunities to continue making contributions to my community, other than just writing checks. There was an email from Descanso to members calling for volunteers. Since I had been gardening off and on ever since I was a 12-year-old boy trying to earn spending money (at 50 cents an hour; can you believe it?), I thought why not give it a try.

Which area of Descanso is your favorite in general?

I love the entire garden but have a special affinity for the Camellia Forest. It is so unique; none of the other gardens in the area have anything like it. I especially like just wandering off the trails and getting lost among the magnificent bushes; it is so tranquil and peaceful under them.

What does a typical day of volunteering look like for you?

I arrive a little before 8am, wait out front for the others in our team to show up. Usually, there are about six or eight of us, most of whom have worked together for quite a long time. Then Richard (Troche), Descanso's Camellia Horticulturist, shows up and takes us to a place in the garden where he and Eddie (Castaneda), have already prepositioned tools. While we all work together, each of us tends to have a "specialty" – mine is to cut out the dead branches near the top of the camellias. Of course, there is always weeding that needs to be done, often mulch to be spread, and occasionally planting. Over the years, my fellow volunteers have become friends, so there is a fair amount of socializing, too. If, when I leave around 11am, I can look to four or five camellia bushes and see that they look better and more healthy, I leave with a real sense of accomplishment. Don't tell my doctor, but after a few hours of hard work, I usually reward myself with a thick bacon cheeseburger.

What do you think is important for our members and visitors to know about Descanso? Descanso is a little jewel for all of us to enjoy. While technically owned by Los Angeles County, the garden receives virtually no monetary support from the county; it is entirely self-funded. Thus, it is absolutely imperative that we support it: financially with admission fees and donations; and with volunteer hours spent in the garden, or the visitor center, or guiding groups of children through the garden. If we support the garden, it will thrive. If not, it cannot continue to provide a refuge for generations to come.

Little but mighty: the tea olive

Five things to know about this fragrant beauty

By **David Bare**,
Director of Horticulture

1. An unexpected and delightful duo

I don't know if it was an unhappy accident or someone's idea of a bad joke. One of Descanso's most pleasingly aromatic plants is situated just beyond one that makes you check the bottom of your shoes. A few feet from the olfactory insult on the Promenade that is a fruiting ginkgo tree lies the subtle vanilla fragrance of *Osmanthus fragrans*, the fragrant tea olive. It has dark, leathery leaves and is sort of the picture of inconspicuousness, the kind of thing that would make a good hedge or background plant. It grows 20 to 30 feet high and ours is probably in the 18-foot range.

2. Love at first smell

In the East this plant blooms just at the end of October when fall foliage is at its zenith and color is everywhere. I remember when I first encountered it.

I was walking along amongst brilliant orange maples and scarlet oaks when this delicious scent wafted into my path. I searched for the longest time before I found the tiny cream flowers blooming down in the leaf axils. Little four-petaled things in a tiny bundle called a cyme, they are announced by their fragrance, not their visual wallop. That fragrance makes the whole thing worth it though.

3. It smells like....

Scent is always one of those things up to personal interpretation. To me this one is somewhere between rose and vanilla. In *Landscape Plants of California*, author Bob Perry describes it as a "blend of citrus and gardenia."

4. family ties

Osmanthus is in the olive family, *Oleaceae*. The name derives from *osme*, meaning fragrant, and *anthos*, flower. Originally hailing from Japan and China, the tea olive is well adapted to our warm summers and winter rainfall. It exhibits good drought tolerance and requires afternoon shade to thrive.

5. You can try this at home

Unfortunately, not all the neighbors are olfactory friendly. *Osmanthus* begins to peak just as ginkgo fruit begins to ripen. The female ginkgo tree raises such a stench when its fruit ripens that responsible nurseries only offer male trees. The combination of ginkgo and tea olive makes for a delightful autumn duo, the scent of one and the brilliant foliage of the other.





Rewriting the stories of SoCal

by **Debra Scacco**, *Castle Garden* Curator

The world is written in code. Our language, street names, city grid all indicate centuries of migration and colonization and their compounded ecological impact. In our place names alone, we find evidence both of the native Tongva people (in Tujunga, Cahuenga and Cucamonga) and early settlers and city-builders (Verdugo, Mulholland and Sepulveda). The plants we cultivate in our gardens are in no way an exception to this code.

Through the centuries, humankind has attempted to “improve” on nature by cultivating gardens. With the colonization of distant lands came the desire to build empires in the image of one’s homeland, as well as re-creating “exotic places.” And with an expanded movement of people came coexistence of cultures on a new scale. The cultural ideals of plant and garden tropes became declarations of identity: the wealth evidenced by the British front lawn, native oaks as markers of ownership, the iconography of a Los Angeles palm. Over time, we have rewritten these stories as our own, so deep-rooted in American identity that the true origins of these iconic plants are virtually erased.

This coded history hides in plain sight at Descanso Gardens. Home to Old Verdugo, a now-vanished ancient oak used to subdivide property, Descanso once proudly displayed a sign reading “A surviving patriarch of the

days of Rancho La Cañada.” Its prized camellia collection grew from World War II-era Japanese internment. Roses, perhaps our most commodified flower so commonly cited as an English ideal, are extensively evidenced in the Middle East throughout the Roman period.

The art exhibition *Castle Garden* decodes aspects of plant migration, connecting American garden ideals with their cultures and peoples of origin. Presented in the Sturt Haaga Gallery and in the landscape, *Castle Garden* will feature work by Beatriz Cortez, Amitis Motevalli, Sandy Rodriguez, Fran Siegel and Jenny Yurshansky. Through contemporary artworks, historic materials and public programming, the exhibition addresses how, through the centuries, plants have been and continue to be public declarations of identity, culture, wealth and ownership. Through this exhibition, we may never view our gardens through the same lens again.

**The exhibition *Castle Garden*
can be seen at
the Sturt Haaga Gallery
May 17 – Sept. 6**



What an Enchanted Evening

The stars and lanterns glowed extra bright on Saturday, Nov. 16, when more than 1,500 guests arrived at Descanso Gardens to celebrate the opening of *Enchanted Forest of Light*.

The magical evening began with a special cocktail hour for sponsors and partners, who got the first glimpse of *Enchanted*. Throughout the night more guests joined the fun, enjoying Golden Road Brewing beers, Cardinal Rule wines, and a delectable feast from The Kitchen for Exploring Foods. The Flashdance DJs spun vinyl on the Main Lawn as the Living Vines performers roamed through the Oak Grove. Students from the California School of the Arts – San Gabriel Valley performed throughout the Gardens.

Thank you to the *Enchanted Forest of Light* sponsors: Anonymous, Erin and Rich Atwater, Frank and Margaret Campbell, Margaret Leong Checca, Gordon and Dona Crawford, John D’Angona, Leo and Stephanie Dencik, Georgianna Bray Erskine, Laura and Mark Furey, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Gleason, Heather Sturt Haaga and Paul Haaga, Jr., Lovell Holder, the Hotchkin–Tinoco Family, Katie King and Torrey Sun, Jennifer Kuo

and Thomas Baxter, Amy and David Lamb, Wendy Lees and Tom Boyle, James Levin and Sarah MacDowall, Kay and David Linden, Lucia and Ben Logan, Sandra Mays and John Marshall, Greg and Stephanie McLemore, Betsy and Ted Merchant, Ann and Peter Murphy, Juliann and Andy Rooke, Andrew and Carin Salter, and Brad and Vicki Schwartz

And thank you to the corporate sponsors: Home Street Bank, The Flash Dance, Golden Road Brewing, Cardinal Rule wine, California School of the Arts – San Gabriel Valley, Horvitz & Levy, LLP, Nixon Peabody, Signature Party Rentals and Goldstar.

Sponsors and individuals make the Gardens grow.

Each month members at the Center Circle Associate level are invited to special programs at Descanso. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

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Descanso Gardens

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