

ARBOR DAY

IN BALBOA PARK

April 27, 2012



First Arbor Day in Balboa Park, circa 1904

Friends
of **BALBOA PARK**



Schoolchildren from School in the Park celebrate Arbor Day at Morley Field, 2011

San Diego's First Arbor Day Celebration

On Saint Patrick's Day 1904, San Diego celebrated Arbor Day for the first time. With **Kate Sessions** helping to organize the planting, **Mary B. Coulston** [secretary of the Park Improvement Committee], put together a winning community event that brought 2,500 school children to City Park, with representatives of classes and schools planting 60 pine and cypress trees. Coulston had solicited messages from **Governor Pardee and President Theodore Roosevelt** to be read to the children, thereby insuring avid press interest.*

Since 2008, when **Friends of Balboa Park** revived this community celebration, we have planted over 125 trees in six different areas of Balboa Park and will continue to support and encourage this park-wide greening effort.

*Reprinted from Nancy Carol Carter, "The Trees of Balboa Park: 1910," *Journal of San Diego History* 56:3 (Summer 2010): 137-153. Full article available at: <http://www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/v56-3/v56-3carter.pdf>



Help us plant more trees for future generations through a generous gift today. Your tax deductible contribution to the Friends of Balboa Park will be used for future park improvements and to purchase more trees for Balboa Park. For more information about the Friends, please visit our website or call: **619.232.2282**
www.friendsofbalboapark.org

Thank you for joining us together with students from *Albert Einstein Academy, City Tree Christian School, and San Diego High School* to celebrate and plant trees in Balboa Park for future generations to enjoy.

PROGRAM

- 10:00 Dr. Carol Williams, San Diego Civic Organist
~ Lo Ballo dell'Intorcia by *Antonia Valente*
~ Our New Friends--composed for the new trees of
Balboa Park by *Dr. Carol Williams*
~ I Talk to the Trees by *Frederick Loewe*
~ My Heart Will Go On, from the movie Titanic
by *Horner and Jennings*
~Songs of Praise by *Herbert Chappell*
- 10:15 Welcome & Introduction ~ Friends of Balboa Park
Jim Hughes, Chairman, Friends of Balboa Park
- About Spreckels Organ Pavilion
Ronald De Fields, President, Spreckels Organ Society
- Arbor Day in Balboa Park
Park Ranger Kim Duclo
- Our Trees
Fausto Palafox, Owner Mission Hills Nursery
Member, San Diego Community Forest Advisory Board
President, Mission Hills Garden Club
- Toni Atkins
California State Assemblymember
- Todd Gloria
City of San Diego Councilmember, Third District
- Closing Remarks - Jim Hughes
- 10:45 Ceremonial Tree Planting

Thank you and please join us for refreshments!

About the Trees

16 Crepe Myrtle trees are being dedicated today in celebration of National Arbor Day. The botanical name is *Lagerstroemia Biloxi*. Mature trees in Balboa Park may be found near the El Cid statue (white flowering) and on the trees along El Prado (pink flowering).

Park Horticulturist Mario Llanos carefully selected this tree specimen with the future in mind and tells the story of these special trees:

For this year's Arbor day, we wanted to find a unique planting site, high profile if possible, which could benefit from an arboricultural face-lift. The Honey Locust trees in and around the Organ Pavilion had been on the watch list for many years as the trees were nowhere near mature height. In fact they were so small that they looked like they had only been in those concrete cut-outs for a few years, yet the others in the landscape areas and right-of-ways seemed much larger and older. After many attempts to prune and flush out the trees over their twenty years, it became obvious another approach was needed. Upon speaking with Mr. Ross Porter, Executive Administrator for the **Spreckels Organ Society**, we



Moribund Honey Locust trees at Spreckels site

knew the Society also agreed with our concerns and that they would support the replacement of these challenged trees.

When deciding what tree to put in, we considered the characteristics of the existing honey locust. We wanted a small to medium tree with attractive bark that is deciduous in the winter and would provide good shade in the summer and had showy fall foliage and flowers. There was no doubt in our minds a crepe myrtle tree would be the perfect tree. Plus we have a few around the Plaza de Panama and Prado area and it would be a good tie in. The concrete cutouts within the Organ Pavilion allowed for a specimen tree in a 48 inch box, but one thing to consider was how to plant such a specimen. We needed to use the existing tree grates and tree guards designed specifically for the area, so a tree bigger than the normal 15 gallon or 24 inch box the City is used to planting was required. We ultimately decided that a 36 inch box would

be a perfect fit; however there was still the challenge of planting such a large tree in that area—especially with the different elevation changes and access to all holes. It was originally thought that we would need a contractor to plant the trees using a crane to safely set the trees and avoid damage to the general area. With the involvement of **Friends of Balboa Park** who were eagerly finding donors for the actual trees, we came to the realization that we may need to come up with additional funds to involve an outside landscape contractor or at least rent a crane service to set the trees.



Upon careful planning and brainstorming with the City's Support Services Crew, we were able to safely access every tree hole with City equipment and manpower and not do any damage to the new trees or surrounding areas. This saved the project thousands of dollars and a possible change to a secondary planting site.

As time passes it becomes more difficult to find planting sites for multiple donated trees, let alone a group or grove of trees for an Arbor Day Planting. This year's Arbor Day Planting is very special, especially with Balboa Park's 100 year celebration on the horizon. It is special in that we are able to renovate an area in the heart of Balboa Park so deserving of an arboricultural makeover. I would like to thank all the people that made this possible: **The City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department** and Friends of Balboa Park, who were instrumental in securing the funds for such a project from the many donors involved with every aspect of this celebration.



Mario R. Llanos
Balboa Park Horticulturist

pink flowering crepe myrtle specimen (Lagerstroemia Biloxi)

Friends of Balboa Park + Sustainability

Friends of Balboa Park (FOBP) is proud to be funding and sponsoring events like Arbor Day, together with our community partners, donors, and the City of San Diego Park & Recreation. Over the past five years, we have undertaken many projects to help the park's horticulture and natural resources survive and thrive for future generations.

Development of a Water-wise Plan for Balboa Park's Parkland

Through the generous contribution and vision of **Dick and Dorothea Laub**, FOBP is working toward optimizing water-usage in the park. One of its projects has been the implementation of smart irrigation controllers park-wide. These have saved water and labor hours as well as improved plant health.



Now, with the input and visioning of park and sustainability experts, FOBP, together with the Park & Recreation Department, is producing a comprehensive plan for improvements to Balboa Park that will make its parklands water-wise. "Water-wise" means optimizing the use of water, thereby helping make the park more environmentally sustainable. Decisions about the optimal use of water are based not only on reducing water usage but also on the systemic impacts of water use on other natural resources such as air, energy, soil, re-use/recycling of materials, etc.



Canyon Reforestation & Volunteer Cleanups: We have joined **Friends of Florida Canyon** in helping restore native plants to this important habitat. The California Native Plant Demonstration Garden has also benefitted from the purchase and installation of native plants which have a chance to get established after the non-native exotic eradication efforts of many helping hands and hard work.

California Live Oaks for 2015: For Arbor Day 2010, Friends of Balboa Park helped plant 24 oak trees along Golf Course Drive (pictured). Tomorrow, volunteers from **Rotarians at Work Day** will be boxing up over 150 oak tree varieties and other native trees to be planted in 2015 for Arbor Day. These trees were grown from saplings at the Balboa Park nursery over the past three years, much like the ones we're giving the children today.



Spreckels Organ and Pavilion

This first-of-its-kind organ designed to play for an outdoor audience has been amazing music-lovers since December 31, 1914, when from his presidential desk Woodrow Wilson touched the telegraph key that set off fireworks and lit the Pavilion's 1,644 incandescent bulbs to launch the Panama-California International Exposition.



Entering the 21st Century with 4,518 pipes in 73 ranks, the Spreckels Organ is the largest outdoor organ in the Western Hemisphere and continues to offer free programs of the full range of musical masterworks thanks to a cooperative partnership between the City of San Diego and the Spreckels Organ Society.

The Austin pipe organ, and the Pavilion designed by Harrison Albright to house it, were a gift from brothers John and Adolph Spreckels to the people of the world, offering free music in the days before commercial radio, television, or movies with sound.

The Pavilion was a focus of musical performances during the 1915-16 Exposition, thanks to a music committee headed by Gertrude Gilbert. During World War I Miss Gilbert worked with the YMCA to furnish music for Sunday morning services here for sailors in training.

In addition to organ concerts, the Pavilion has served as a civic gathering place, including memorials for Warren G. Harding, John D. Spreckels, Madam Schumann-Heink, Bea Evenson, and welcoming luminaries from Albert Einstein to former presidents.

During World War II, Specialist First Class D. Robert Smith gave weekly recitals for servicemen and families, especially important in aiding shell-shocked troops. Daytime use of the Pavilion was for instruction and lectures, with movies shown at night.

With restoration completed in 1986, the International Summer Organ Festival was launched, offering magical summer nighttime concerts featuring the world's greatest organists. ~*Spreckels Organ Society, 2012*



Thanks to all who made this day happen!

Tree Donors

The Ashkins, Recknagels, and Tepper-Baltes Families, *in memory of*
~ Lieselotte "Lilo" Ashkins

Balboa Park Conservancy

Nancy Carol Carter

Dean Crowder,
in memory of

~ Alice Richardson Crowder

Friends of Balboa Park, *in honor of*

~ Park Ranger Kim Duco

Susan Hoekenga, *in honor of*

~ Edward Gergosian

The Maloy Family, *in memory of* "Lucky"

The Martinez & Sevilla families *in honor of*

~ Moy & Teresa Sevilla

~ Patricia Ellis

San Diego Regional Urban Forest Council
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San Diego County

The Williams Family:

~ Eric, Marlene, Jordan, and Amanda

Herman and Carol Wong, grandparents,

~ *in honor of* Kaileigh Jeanette Henry

West Coast Arborists

Arbor Day Tree Fund:

Harvey Berger and

Janice Mulligan

J. Marie Tuthill, *in honor of* Charlotte Tenney

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We thank all the students and teachers for their participation today

Albert Einstein Academy

2nd Grade Teachers:

Ms. Nicola Cooper

Mrs. Michelle Groves

Frau Suny Menze

Frau Gerda Raedle



San Diego High School

Joe Austin, Principal, School of Business

Luke Morgan, Garden Club Advisor

