

## NEW CAF OFFICERS

THE CALIFORNIA ARBORETUM Foundation elected a new slate of officers headed by John Shepherd as president at the annual meeting June 17.



John S. Shepherd

Mr. Shepherd, a member of the CAF board of trustees since 1979, has built his career around plant related activities. He is president emeritus of Calavo and is emeritus director of the California Avocado Society where he currently serves as publications editor. His continuing involvement with California agriculture includes acting as consultant to several other agribusinesses.

During his term of office, Mr. Shepherd plans to lead a team effort to sharpen the focus of CAF. "The Foundation has grown to a considerable size," he said. "Now it's time to bring a business orientation to it in the interest of better serving the Arboretum."

Mr. Shepherd believes that the difficulty of operating an arboretum during financially stressful times makes extensive long-range planning necessary.

"We will have to decide where and how we go," he said. "The organization must develop a pattern so the public interests will be best served."

Mr. Shepherd, a third generation Californian, lives in Altadena with his wife. They have two grown children.

Other CAF officers elected at the meeting are Nancy (Mrs. James) Anderson, first vice-president; Cecelia (Mrs. John) Grivich, second vice-president; and Kirk Evans, secretary-treasurer.

After the meeting, each member received a coleus cultivar or a *Lagerstroemia faurei* shrub for the annual plant distribution.

## SOUTH AFRICAN INTERPRETIVE CENTER

THE MAY COMPLETION of the new South African Interpretive Center and various landscaping improvements in the last two years has changed what was once barren, open ground into an exotic South African garden.

The framework that houses the colorful displays and informative guide to the unique trees and plants of South Africa was built by the

Galbraith Construction Company. The wood-beam structure, funded by the Hancock Park Garden Club and the California Arboretum Foundation, harbors four 4 by 8-foot glass covered viewing panels, each showing different plant forms and selected drawings and photos.

Visitors to the South African section can explore over 200 varieties of plants that provide year-around color while learning from the Interpretive Center more about the continent they represent.

Featured on the west panel are gazanias, colorful perennials that bloom intermittently throughout the year; wild poppies; and geraniums. These represent groundcovers, perennials and annuals from South Africa.

The trees and shrubs panel describes the Cape chestnut, a tree with large lilac flower clusters, and the Senegal date palms located at the Arboretum entrance gate. The unique baobob tree or monkey-bread tree, called "a carrot planted upside down" by David Livingstone,



A peacock perches on a wooden bench, part of the rugged framework that supports the slatted roof and display panels of the South African Interpretive Center.

Laurie Schenden





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