

DEAR ARBORETUM MEMBERS

Plants Are Giving

Mark K. Wourms, Ph.D., CEO

By their nature, plants are giving life forms. They gather the energy of the sun and through the process of photosynthesis convert that energy to sugars. These combine to form starch. And starch is useful to many other life forms as fuel for development and growth.

But beyond the biochemistry, plants give us so much that we occasionally take them for granted. That grain you eat at breakfast. The pickle slice at

*Plants feed us, cleanse the air,
shelter us and give us wonder.*

lunch. And yes, even the chicken or beef at dinner were all plants or fed on plants. This, our children should not forget.

Perhaps the best gift plants afford us is that they share the planet with us. Plants feed us, cleanse the air, shelter us and give us wonder.

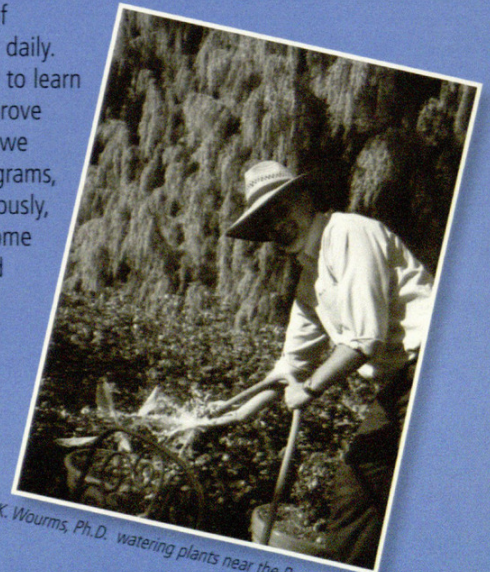
Look around. Every day something new has happened to the plants in your yard, on your street and around town. They have grown, changed, thrown a new leaf, dropped a leaf, opened a flower, leaned a little or changed color

oh so slightly. When one notices these subtle changes, the world is filled with wonder. Let me give you one example: the rains are coming soon. For some plants this may be the first water in months. What awesome resilience! And with the *When one notices these subtle changes, the world is filled with wonder.*

rains come some big changes. So look at a single tree, shrub or herbaceous plant once a day for the next three weeks. What changes do you see?

The Arboretum brings you the gift of thousands of plants, each changing daily. Every plant provides an opportunity to learn and find wonder. To continually improve this garden we call The Arboretum, we ask for your gift to support our programs, operations and mission. Give generously, for plants give back to you daily. Come out to The Arboretum this week and add a little wonder to your life!

See you in The Arboretum!



Mark K. Wourms, Ph.D. watering plants near the Peacock Café



Wourms, Mark K. 2005. "Dear Arboretum members: plants are giving."
Arboretum members' magazine (4), 2-2.

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