

home base for Porfidia's full-charge book-keeping service.

To advance his career Glenn-Erik constantly attends classes at local community colleges. At Mt. San Antonio he studied horticultural science including tree care and maintenance. Now he's at Pasadena City

College concentrating on computers.

"It's a computer world now," he says. But as much as he may be looking into the future, Glenn-Erik still had time to glance down to see a curiously carved rock that shows the Arboretum's place in history that stretches back thousands of years.

Arboretum lake dries up for first time in a century

Now that the water level in the lake at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum has fallen drastically, plans are being made to remove a century's worth of accumulated silt from the lake bed.

The lake was last cleaned out in the late 1800s by E.J. "Lucky" Baldwin who owned Santa Anita Ranch at the time. It was also during Baldwin's tenure that the lake dried up following a severe drought, said Sandra Snider, history curator for the Arboretum.

The lake was formed at least 3,000 years ago by the Raymond Hill fault that also raised Tallac Knoll. The fault splits near the west end of the lens-shaped hill, squeezing up the ancient rocks between the two fault lines the same way that pinching a slippery seed between the fingers forces it upward.

The lake, called a "fault depression," is like a negative of the upthrust Tallac Knoll. It is fed by springs pushed up along the south edge of the Raymond Basin where the Raymond Hill fault forms a barrier to ground water movement. The current drought may have lowered the underground water level causing the springs to dry up.

Although heavy rains filled the 3.5-acre lake to capacity in March, the water has since drained away, leaving most of the lake bed exposed. If not removed, mud banks and small pools may create a

mosquito problem or health hazard, said John Provine, superintendent of the Arboretum.

"However, we will seek the cooperation of appropriate Health Department and Agricultural Commission officials to monitor and, if necessary, mitigate any such problems that might arise," added Mr. Provine.

Wildlife that normally live in and around the lake seem to have taken the diminishing habitat in stride. Most of the birds and turtles have apparently migrated to the Upper Lagoon which is replenished by surface runoff from nearby areas. Fish, mostly catfish and a few introduced carp, are being relocated.



Ken Quigley

The Arboretum lake bed is exposed for the first time in recent history.



1991. "Arboretum lake dries up for first time in a century." *Arboreta and botanic gardens : a publication of the Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens* 3(3), 11.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/139261>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/146482>

Holding Institution

Missouri Botanical Garden, Peter H. Raven Library

Sponsored by

Los Angeles Arboretum

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.