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December 2015



*The University of Arizona Campus Arboretum is a living laboratory
promoting stewardship and conservation of urban trees.*

Together We Have Accomplished Great Things! Highlights of 2015

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Greetings!

In This Issue

[2015 Student Projects](#)

[Saving The Azores Laurel](#)

[2015 New Trees Installed](#)

[Events and Tours](#)

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[Meet the Board](#)

Season's Greetings



Berries of Desert Mistletoe, *Phoradendron californicum*

As the holiday season unfolds, we ask that you consider the impact the

[Meet the Students](#)

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Campus Arboretum makes each year for generations of students, communities, and landscape professionals throughout the state.

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Completed Student Projects



Students Make a Difference

New Trees 2014

Forty four trees were planted in 2014 and 6 by a single student in 2015. [Read more.](#)

Botanical Sign Refurbishment 2014-2015

The original Campus Arboretum signs served us well. They have been replaced to enhance access to more botanical detail with the addition of a QR (Quick Response) Codes that allows smart phone users to link from the signs to informative websites describing each plant species. [Find out more!](#)

Shrub Inventory 2015

An ambitious intern has meticulously compiled a list of all shrubs that have been recorded on our campus. Next semester, another Campus Arboretum intern will begin the task of mapping individuals of each listed species. Stay tuned next semester for our progress on the next stage!

Edible Landscape Self-Guided Tour 2015

Students collaborated to create a new and improved self-guided version of this popular tour. [View the booklet!](#)

Azores Laurel Propagation 2015

Read about this project below!

Saving the Azores Laurel (Update)



This one of a kind tree was rediscovered on campus when the Medical library was beginning renovations. Sadly, it was not able to be moved from its location due to important underground pipes entangled in the roots. Generously, the contractors gave the students a few months to collect stem cuttings and attempt to propagate. Thankfully you'll be seeing it's daughter tree in the future when it's ready to be transplanted!

[Find out more!](#)

A Sampling of Trees Installed by Student Interns 2014-2015

Dichrostachys cinerea - Sickle Pod



Four saplings planted by students are establishing well on the eastern side of Social Sciences.

Native to West Africa, this shrubby tree is considered to be a weed in many areas around the world. However, here in our harsh environment, it acts as an exotic, decorative tree. It is cold hardy, drought tolerant, fire resistant, fast growing, and has some of the strangest flowers on campus. As a member of the Fabaceae family, it improves nitrogen concentrations in the soil. In the wild, it is most often bat pollinated, but can also be pollinated by insects. This tree only grows 6-10 ft tall. It has feathery, bi-pinnate leaves and notable thorns. It also has a wide range of medicinal uses, from curing stomach ulcers to a snake venom antidote.

Read more at our [Species Description Page](#)

Acacia pruinocarpa - Black Gidgee



Thriving on the south side of the Chavez building is a

Black Gidgee sapling planted just last year by recent Plant Science graduate, Andrew Hatch.

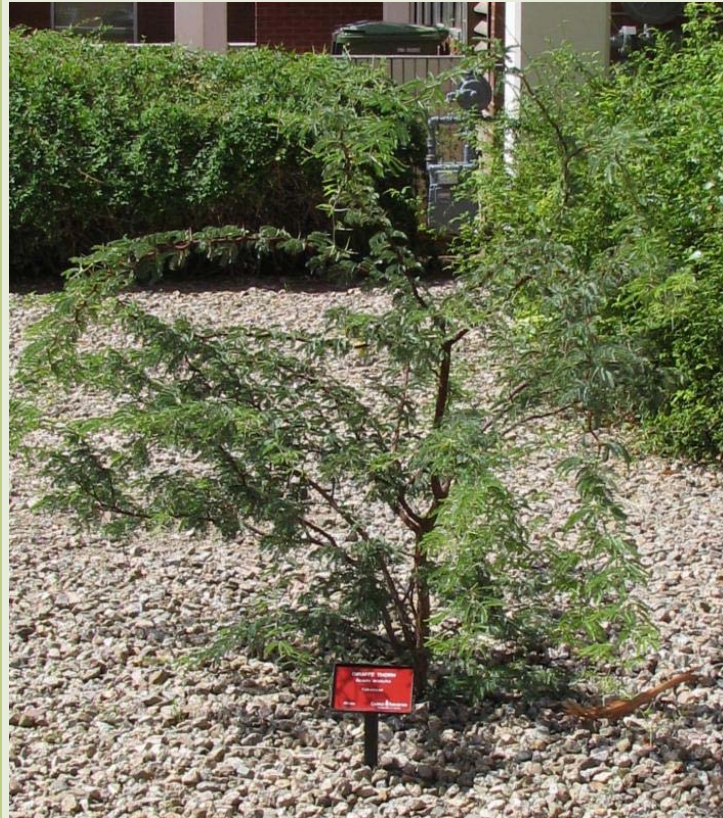
Acacia pruinocarpa is a thornless, Australian, shrub to small tree, native to dry hot inland areas. It can grow up to 40 ft. tall and over 6 ft. wide. It is a slow-growing tree that responds to damage or root disturbance by sending out root-suckers. It is adapted to wildfires and will sprout from the rootstock following a burn. Like most acacias, it has no leaves but rather modified leaf stalks, called phyllodes, which function as leaves. North of the equator, this species produces a profusion of golden globe shaped inflorescences in the spring, whereas in Australia they bloom in the fall.

This tree is a source of a sweet, edible gum (gardangu or ngarkarla) and the root may contain edible grubs (pilu or nyamirla) which is an important traditional Aboriginal food from the Australian desert.

Read more about this tree at [World Wide Wattle](#).

Sources: World Wide Wattle, inaturalist, and Arid Zone Trees

Vachellia erioloba - Giraffe Thorn



Students took special precaution in transplanting *Vachellia erioloba*, also known as giraffe thorn or camel thorn. This legume tree is unique for its large hollow thorns that allow ants to nest and survive in the extreme environment of the Kalahari. Uniquely, several different ant species can live side by side on the same tree. Only 8% of myrmecophytes, ant-housing plants, are occupied by more than one species at a time. The ants in turn protect the tree against insect herbivores and may also help deter mammalian herbivores, such as giraffes. Herbivores relish the leaves as well as the ear-shaped pods they produce.

This tree is native to Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe. It prefers

well-drained sandy soils and grows up to 55 ft. tall. Its range in the wild is limited by frost sensitivity. Read more about their cool symbiosis at <http://www.amnat.org/an/newspapers/DecCampbell.html>.

Events and Tours

- Dec. 5 2-3:30 pm **Tropical Trip Tour**
- Dec. 5 3:30 pm **Poetry and Science - A Celebration of Alison Hawthorne Deming**

Meet at the Fountain at Old Main

**Thank You
For Your Generous Support!
Together we
accomplish a lot!**



"The University of Arizona Campus Arboretum is a living laboratory promoting stewardship and conservation of urban trees through research, education and outreach."

Check out our [facebook page](#) for event updates and the Tree of the Week!

Sincerely,

Tanya Quist, Director
University of Arizona Campus Arboretum