

*leucophylla*, *S. apiana* and *Haplopappus* [*Hazardia*] *detonsus*. Red flowering highlights include: *Zauschneria* (many cultivars and selections), *Heuchera* cultivars, *Diplacus* cultivars, *Vitis californica* 'Roger's Red', *Mimulus cardinalis*, *Monardella macrantha* 'Fireworks', and eventually the bulbs *Calochortus kennedyi*, *Fritillaria recurva* and *Dichelostemma ida-maia* (firecracker flower). This short list will expand significantly with collecting trips this winter.

The triangular area opposite Environmental Horticulture has been called the Dark Wood Shrub Island and will be thinned to emphasize and expose the multi-trunk dark wood of existing plants. This area will be planted to develop an overhead canopy as visitors walk on the main path. Similar plants will carry over to the creekside embankment, linking both sides of the path and giving a sense of enclosure.

The grasslands area is next in a visitor's eastward progression. This area was detailed last issue, but the planting plan has been firmed up. Longer bands of horizontal plantings will be seen. A very large bulb cage (to protect from gophers and ground squirrels) has been finished. A ribbon of golden gravel has been proposed to tie the area together and join it with the next section.

The patio area will be transformed into a shady *Lyonothamnus* grove. Tightly spaced trees planted directly in the patio will invite the visitor to wander and explore the stand. The steps up to the patio will be removed and access will be limited to the east and west pathways. Landscaping will create a hidden garden, an escape from the surrounding area and traffic.

## Chess Games in the Cork Oak Grove

Changes are also coming in the areas near Mrak Hall. The Guadalupe cypress grove will become more dense with additions of more *Cupressus guadalupensis*. The grove will be confined to the upper slope and a more defined pathway, perhaps with a few stairs, will replace the existing eroded shortcut.

A larger cork oak grove will become more inviting with the proposed addition of stone chairs and tables, a quiet place for a chess game on a warm summer afternoon. The adjacent lawn may be reduced or eliminated and replaced with low shrubs and ground cover. Flowering cherries will be planted to form a canopy over the pathway and cascade down the embankment. A long horizontal band of shrubs on the embankment should discourage the travel of both waterfowl and visitors up and down the slope.

Finally, the path intersection near the southeast corner of Mrak Hall will be narrowed and the corners defined by new landscape. The entire area is to be softened with cascading and billowing plants. An interpretive display explaining Mrak Grove will be opposite the steps down from Mrak Hall. More redwoods will fill in gaps in the existing grove.

— Parker Sanderson

