



SANTA MONICA CANYON CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Board Minutes December 18, 2007

Attending: Jill Baldauf, Andrew Bergman, Lisa Bittan, Bob Bronstein, Mike Deasy, Judy Golden, Babs Lebowsky, Isabelle Mizrahi, Lani Pagano, Leslie Hope, Sanford Panitch, Anne Marie Veschio, Cynthia Winter, George Wolfberg, Elizabeth Zaillian

Excused: Jennifer Barker, Betty Bradshaw, Quentin Fleming, Dawn Forrester, Joan Graves, Marilyn Wexler

Guests: Andrea Epstein, Councilman Rosendahl's deputy; Max Taves, Palisades Post; Roberta Conroy, Sara Boyers, Randy Young, Alex Man, Rand Plewak.

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 by President George Wolfberg.

Introductions:

Approval of Minutes for November 13, 2007.

Upon motion by Jill Baldauf, seconded by Judy Golden, the minutes from November 13 were approved.

Treasurer's report: (11/31/07)

Savings	\$ 2,841.00
Checking	3,520.74
Certificate	<u>10,736.16</u>
Total	<u>\$17,097.90</u>

Membership: There are currently 337 voting members.

Burglaries in Upper Canyon.

Three or four burglaries have occurred in the past month or so in the upper canyon area entered via Kingman and San Lorenzo. Residents are demonstrating a heightened state of awareness. A neighborhood meeting was held with 60-70 persons attending and SLO Michael Moore speaking and Andrea Epstein in attendance. Issues being addressed include need for better community oversight and more support of guard service and desire for a neighborhood watch-type master communications list. A website also is in development and residents are interested in video cameras at community entrances.

Future Planning for Eucalyptus Forest.

Rand Plewak made a presentation and gave an overview of the community meeting recently held in the forest. Issues include dead, diseased and dying trees; lack of a operational deep watering system; and need for a plan to ensure a healthy forest in the future. Randy Young presented his *Timeline for the Grove* covering 1887 to the present and showing many promises made but not kept (see attached). The grove was acquired with substantial financial support of the SMCCA in 1954. It is a part of the Santa Monica Forestry Station, the oldest such station in the US and was landmarked by state and local agencies in 1971. Randy passed around a plan from 1917 and urged that the matter be referred to the Park Advisory Board. It was uncertain whether the new park director has reconstituted the PAB. Randy stressed it was time for solutions.

It was agreed to create a committee of interested members to follow up on issues relating to the grove. Members include: Rand Plewak, Randy Young, Leslie Hope, Lani Pagano, Elizabeth Zaillian, Alex Man, Steve and Sara Boyers, Roberta Conroy, Beverly Eyre, Russell Minchinton, Andrea Minchinton, Paul Desmond, Paul Densmore, Jill Walsh and Asta Young. It was agreed that the committee would attempt to meet early in the New Year with an immediate goal of giving input on the Prop K irrigation project..

Speed Humps in Rustic.

Roberta Conroy, a resident on Haldeman Road gave an overview. Both Haldeman and the stretch of Latimer beginning at the Clubhouse are private roads. She contributed \$400 for one-half of a speed hump at her property. It needs to be shaved down as the contractor installed humps of inconsistent height. Elizabeth Zaillian reported that there has been one reported injury of passenger hitting the ceiling of a vehicle. George reported that he had been contacted by the LADOT regarding six complaints it had received on the bumps. The DOT made a site visit and determined that the private easement was not under its purview. Sara Boyers indicated that cars carrying several passengers are unable to get over the bumps without scraping. George concluded by stating that he had been informed that the bumps will be made to conform with other bumps on Latimer between Mesa and the park and appropriate markings will be added as soon as the current rain event is over.

Old Business.

- **Newsletter Planning:** Elizabeth Zaillian will contact Erick Lopez for an update on mansionization. More articles are needed.
- **John Flynn Memorial Bench.** The bench remains on order with delivery expected early next year.
- **Prop. 12 and Prop. K Projects.** Alejandro Ortiz and George Wolfberg met with City staff to look at progress under the ongoing Prop 12 work. The patio is nearing completion with most of the landscaping and water systems installed. The post broken by the tree must be reconstructed and the City will look at getting a Jacaranda in the planter area. Sportcourt has been installed on the outdoor court.
- **Speed enforcement in canyon.** A volunteer is needed to attend the C-PAB traffic committee to encourage more enforcement.

- **California Incline Project; Bluffs project.** No new report.
- **Fireworks issues.** No new report.
- **Neighborhood Character Study / SR1818.** Issue is bouncing between the PLUM Committee and the City Planning Department. PLUM consideration is expected on January 10..
- **VA.** It was reported that congressional rules forbid adding desired restrictions regarding VA development to current legislation. Elected officials will keep pressure on the VA..

New Business.

Elizabeth Zaillian stated that incessant Saturday construction, while legal is a quality of life issue. Mike Deasy noted that this could increase construction costs. An option mentioned was to encourage contractors to perform the quieter aspects of their project on Saturdays.

Adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Next meeting. January 15, 2008.

TIMELINE FOR GROVE

Prepared by Randy Young 2007

Year 1887 The first forestry station in the United States was formed in Rustic Canyon..

August 27, 1889 Senator Jones and Colonel Baker, founders of Santa Monica, appointed to the State Board of Forestry (Book 595 page 241)

June 4, 1902 George W. Edmonds purchased the parcel of land on which the park is located from the Santa Monica Land and Water Co.

February 14, 1917 A map of the plantings at the forestry station was produced by Woodbridge Metcalf

Early 1921 Methodists bought the Edmond's holdings.

Early 1922 The Uplifters bought the property from the Methodists.

May 23, 1923 After the old clubhouse was destroyed by fire late in 1922, a new clubhouse was built, designed by Dodd and Richards. City Cultural Landmark # 663.

September 28, 1936 Easements established.

February 1938 *Palisadian* article stated, "Famous trees at Uplifters to be Identified." Article is about Metcalf and his work in identifying all the trees that were planted from the late 1880s to 1923, when the Uplifters purchased the property.

April 30, 1945 Uplifters Club property sold to Joseph Musgrove.

March 1947 Quitclaim from Musgrove to Leonidas Nicholas Embiricos

November 19, 1953 Nine acres of the original Uplifters Club property purchased for a park (Book 44241 page 234) for \$200 thousand, as a gift from Mabelle Machris.

March 11, 1954 Three other parcels were purchased for \$29,025.75, a third of the price having been raised by the Santa Monica Canyon Civic Association, two-thirds coming from the city, to create a preserve for the grove of Forestry Station eucalyptus trees.

March 1954 The original Uplifters swimming pool was removed for safety reasons.

Early 1959 The new swimming pool was built in it's present location.

Aug. 18, 1971 The grove was officially granted state historic landmark status at a ceremony attended by representatives of the state Forestry Department, city and county dignitaries. The plaque reads:

SANTA MONICA FORESTRY STATION

In 1887 the State Board of Forestry established the nation's first experimental Forestry Station located in Rustic Canyon. The first station tested exotic trees for planting in California. Established plantations for management studies, and produced planting stock for scientific and conservation purposes. The station was operated by the Board of Forestry until 1893 and by the University of California until 1923.

CALIFORNIA REGISTERED HISTORICAL LANDMARK NO. 840

Plaque placed by the State Department of Parks and Recreation in Cooperation with the California Division of Forestry and the City and County of Los Angeles. August 18, 1971.

Late 1975 Story of the grove and the importance of the surviving giant trees and their healthy progeny to the character of present-day Rustic Canyon told in Betty Lou Young's book, Rustic Canyon and the Story of the Uplifters..

1975 - 1977 As drought weakened many trees, neighbors tried to carry water to save those which were endangered. When they asked the □gardener to water, he replied that his own trees at home are dying, why shouldn't these.

1980 - 1984 Park system starts program that took ground-up tree □litter from other parks and puts it under the trees in the grove. In 1983 neighbors first notice that trees are infested with something, trees starting to look sick. During this period attempts continue to try to have the grove watered. Homeowners offer to pay for hoses and water if necessary, but the answer is always that the city will do it. Mr. Leon is repeatedly contacted; he replies that the city will take □care of it. Nothing happens.

1983 City plants several varieties of eucalyptus trees and other plants that are inappropriate to the historic grove. These are located around the historic marker and are kept superficially watered. Neighbor carries water to keep plants alive.

1983 \$20,000 is spent for a lighting system in the park.

Late 1983 Willie Bozung, who lives across the street from the grove, calls to see if the city can do anything about the mysterious □infestation. City park tree expert Bill Freedman comes, and in a meeting with Mrs. Bozung and John Flynn, who also lives adjacent to the park and has made frequent calls on behalf of the trees. He confirms, that the trees are infested with a beetle and if a program of deep watering is carried out, the trees' natural defenses would protect them. The

litter that was spread under the trees would have to be plowed to aerate the soil, and some trimming would be in order. Offers of cooperation in carrying out a plan to save the trees are made by the neighboring homeowners, but these are ignored.

July 1984 Three trees are cut down, including one from the original 100-year-old planting. A couple of other small dead trees are not removed. Neighborhood again requests watering system and is told one is on the way. Mr. Leon is the contact at the city. Community offers to raise money for a watering system but Mr. Leon says the city will take care of it. Gates are installed at about this time to prevent gang vandalism at the park.

October 1987 Large crew of workers descends on the grove, raking leaves into piles, then is told to spread them out again. Grove is cosmetically cleaned, ivy removed, etc., and a decomposed granite walkway installed along Latimer Road (which was seen by the neighbors as unnecessary.) Neighborhood complains that they were not consulted about the work being done. Mr. Leon meets with neighborhood representatives to tell them that no more work would be done without prior notice being given. Pleas continue to be made for preservation work on the grove, including deep watering, feeding, and pruning.

November, 1987 The Pacific Palisades Historical Society meets at the park on December 16 to honor the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the grove. The condition of the trees is observed and deplored.

November 21, 1987 The California Historical Society conducts a tour of the grove with eucalyptus expert Grace Heintz and notes the city's neglect of the historic trees.

Dec. 10, 1987 An article appears in the "*Palisadian Post*" concerning the 100th anniversary of the Forestry Station and focuses on the endangered condition of the grove. Betty Lou Young is instructed by the Pacific Palisades Historical Society to look into measures which can be taken to save the grove.

Jan. 15, 1988 Trees looking very bad, nothing done. Betty Lou Young calls Professor Arthur Schroeder, horticultural expert from UCLA who lives in Rustic Canyon. He consults with experts from Berkeley and Davis and is advised that deep watering and feeding are the treatment of choice for the beetle infestation. Mrs. Young calls Mr. Leon with this information, repeating our interest in preserving the trees and urges him to give us the promised watering system, or at least to run hoses out to the trees. Again she offers financial help from the homeowners, historical society, and other groups, to call in experts and to do everything possible to save the grove. She is told that the city will handle it, that a crew is working on the baseball field and that they will get to the grove when they have the field ready for baseball season. In a couple of months they will get around to the watering system. The emphasis in all of these conversations

continues to be on saving the trees, with removal only of those trees that were very dead and had been dead for a long time.

Feb. 3, 1988 Four trees are cut down; all were dead. Some might have grown up again from the stumps, but this is not the major issue.

Feb. 8, 1988 Crew comes to take out stumps, Someone in crew remarks that four other trees are slated for cutting. Neighbors are actively concerned. Some of these trees might be those which we are endeavoring to save. Also, there seems to be no concerted, scientific policy or program with regard to the trees, despite offers of support from the Pacific Palisades Historical Society, Homeowners Association of Rustic Canyon, Uplifters Improvement Association and the Garden Club.

March 9, 1988, With no notice to the homeowners, Mr. Leon of the Parks Department appeared in the grove with a Dr. Peter Fliegel, identified as an expert employed by the city. His stated opinion was that the plight of the trees was caused by too much water. He recommended that no watering system be installed and urged that the stressed trees be removed. He claimed that the trees suffered from a root fungus (Phytophthora) which he compared to a condition occurring in avocados and recommended that the same precautions should be taken. When asked about ways of dealing with the trees to try to save them, he responded that no such measures could be taken and that an organized reforestation procedure with proper planting methods to ensure fungus-free growth should be implemented.

It was deeply disturbing to the homeowners that this was represented as being the definitive opinion and the final word on the subject, with removal of the trees the only option. Several factors seemed contradictory. First, trees in private yards that are much more heavily watered are in perfect shape, even with thick ivy growing at their bases. Secondly, trees located in the regularly watered portion of the park seemed to be doing the best. The neighbors therefore consulted Dr. Arthur Schroeder, a retired UCLA professor of horticulture who lives in the near the grove. He is an internationally recognized expert on the avocado and well versed on the funguses that attack it. By coincidence, Dr. Schroeder was on his way to a conference with Dr. George Zentmeyer of Riverside, the recognized expert on root fungus in eucalyptus trees and a member of the National Academy of Science, who recently went to Australia on the invitation of the Australian government to give his opinion about their root fungus problems. Dr. Schroeder told him about our trees and described Dr. Fliegel's analysis. Dr. Zentmeyer questioned his opinion, since only one species of eucalyptus is known to develop root fungus (species Jarrah Eucalyptus Marginatis, which is rare in California and does not reside in Rustic Canyon.) Dr. Zentmeyer expressed a willingness to visit the grove and to give an opinion since it would be the first known example of Phytophthora infestation of eucalyptus in California.

March 29, 1988 Letter to Claire Rogger (Councilman Braude's office) stating that "tree expert" Fliegel's findings are questionable.

August 3, 1990 Neighbor William Dedon, who also has historic eucalyptus trees on his property writes a concerned letter regarding the trees in the grove to Braude's office.

September 29, 1990 While trees in the grove were in obvious distress, a sycamore tree in front of the clubhouse, located in the path of the sprinkler system, collapses from too much watering.

November 29, 1990 Hadaway to Braude about John Flynn's letter

October 24, 1991 Willie Bozung and concerned neighbor Mary Pelletier met with Joe Ikegami about the condition of the grove. He agreed that a deep watering system is needed, copy of his report went to Marilyn White.

November 14, 1991 Article in *Palisadian Post* regarding trees.

November 17, 1991 Letter sent to *Palisadian Post* by Betty Lou Young.

November 26, 1991 Letter from Braude to Jane Rasco.

December 30, 1991 Letter from Rasco to Braude.

During this period the Rustic Canyon Park Advisory Board was founded, with Betty Lou Young the member responsible for reporting on the grove. Park officials were repeatedly contacted about the condition of the grove and at some point a watering system was supposedly installed, but one or more of the sprinklers were immediately run over by maintenance equipment and never repaired.

May 5, 1996 Letter from Betty Lou Young to Mr. Steve Ball, thanking him for removing a dead tree and debris. He is reminded of the broken watering system and warned that it is futile to plant new trees without an irrigation system. There is also a complaint from a neighbor against using Roundup on the weeds in the grove.

May 5, 1996 Letter of appreciation to Marvin Braude from Betty Lou and Randy Young, John Flynn and the neighbors who live on the forestry station property adjacent to the grove. Things look as if they are beginning to move

April 1997 A woman was seriously injured by a falling branch—a case that came to court for which neighbors were subpoenaed to give testimony as to the care of the grove. Do not know what settlement was reached.

January 1998 A city parks crew worked in the grove for a couple of weeks, doing a magnificent job of pruning the trees. Suitable specimen trees were purchased by the city and proudly planted in the open spaces of the grove. No watering system was installed, however, and the fate of the trees was left to chance. Naturally, most of them died.

January 31, 1998 Letters to Kevin Regan and Steven Ball from Betty Lou Young and John Flynn thanking the city for trimming the trees. There is also a list of neighbors who signed a letter to Jackie Tatum director of the parks.

April 11, 1998 Letter from Betty Lou Young to Brett Hall---List of trees and plant materials from tree experts that would be right for the grove. Also a specialty nursery is named in Ojai. Neighborhood and board is encouraged by the pruning and the offers to add new trees, hoping that a watering system will also be installed.

April 13, 1989 Betty Lou Young reported to the Park Advisory Board that the cultural heritage landmarking process for the clubhouse was progressing well. Betty Lou also reported that She is pleased with the support promised by Mr. Ball and replanting will start July 1st.

April 16, 1998 Letter from Betty Lou Young to Cindy Miscikowsky thanking her for supporting our efforts and thanking deputy Lisa Hill for her efforts. "We are looking forward to a grove that will make the neighborhood and the city proud."

August 12, 1999 Walk-around with Kevin Regan where he promised a watering system and tree replanting.

In 1999 a new problem surfaced with the infestation of some varieties of eucalyptus trees by the lerp psyllid and led to concern over trees at the park.

October 8, 1999 Letter from Betty Lou Young To Kevin Regan:

Pursuant to our tour of Rustic Canyon Park and the eucalyptus grove several weeks ago, the full Park Advisory Board met and reviewed the topics which we had discussed, namely:

1. The infestation by lerp psyllids, which we understand will be subject to a watch and wait approach, hoping for a counter-attack by a natural enemy, such as the to-be-introduced wasp.
2. The planting of several appropriate trees (approximately 15) in the barren portions of the grove, the exact varieties to be determined.
3. The proposal that the state landmark monument be enhanced by rock work and landscaping.
4. The suggestion that the errant vinca and other inappropriate ground covers on the northeast corner of the property be removed.

5. The concern that the neighbor on the west has adopted a strip of city park land for his own use, specifically for parking work trucks
- 6 Moving some recently privately planted inappropriate varieties of eucalyptus trees to a new location.

The Park Advisory Board scheduled a visit to the grove at noon on Monday, October 18, to make specific suggestions in line with the above proposals. Concerned neighbors and the park staff were invited, with specific mention of Devin Regan, Steve Ball, and Jose Vara of the park staff. Otherwise, the suggestions will be transmitted to Kevin Regan.

As of now, the general feeling of the board and of the neighbors is that the grove should be kept as natural as possible and that any artificial improvements, such as rock work, should not be undertaken at this time. We are obligated to provide a place for new plaques or plaques moved from other places in the park at some future date, and we feel that too much emphasis on memorials would impact the treasured natural aspect of the grove.

We will keep you informed as to the opinions of the board and of the neighbors and look forward to having the long awaited replanting take place. We appreciate your interest and your expertise.

October 14, 1999 A list of trees being purchased under contract with Arbor Nursery Inc. is listed with prices.

The minutes of the meeting that took place are unavailable, but the city apparently reiterated its offer to plant suitable trees in the open spaces and to install a watering system.

January 2000 Letter from Betty Lou Young To: Steven R. Dunlap Central Service Yard
Re: Rustic Canyon Eucalyptus Grove

Happy New Year! Sorry I have been so slow in responding to your proposal regarding the grove. I did go over the list of trees you sent and find several that are historically suitable, especially the *Sideroxylon rosea* (red ironbark), *camaldulensis* (red gum), and *leucoxylon* (white ironbark), all of which occurred either in the grove or nearby. I also noticed the listing for *cladocalyx*, identified as "sugar gum", but in my listings I find a tree identified as "sugar gum" classified instead as *melliodora*. Could this be the same or similar? Other trees from the available list that occurred in the Uplifters area were *polyanthemos* (silver-dollar), *maculata*, and *ficifolia* (red-flowering gum).

We will be eager to hear what the city's financial commitment may be and will do our best to insure the planting of approximately fifteen trees.

We appreciated your coming out to meet with some of our interested neighbors and are passing the word along to the Rustic Canyon Park Advisory Board, which should be meeting early in the year.

March 23, 2000 Report on Rustic Canyon Park Advisory Board meeting at which plans for an event honoring dedication of the landmarking plaque for the clubhouse were discussed. It will be City Landmark # 663.

July 31, 2000 Report from Betty Lou Young to The Rustic Canyon Park Advisory Board

Regarding the grove, I have been in regular contact with Howard Putnam and John Flynn and hope that all is on schedule. The piles of leaves will be spread out for mulch now and more mulch added after planting. The leaves, etc. in it are supposed to be safe from infestation or other contaminants. Work on the watering system should begin soon and should be completed in late September or early October.

September 13, 2000 Letter from Betty Lou Young to the board:

I reached Howard Putnam to find out where we stand with regard to the grove, etc. They have located the old plans for the watering system and are waiting now to obtain supplies from the vendor. Howard is hoping to have the person in the department who is in charge of such installations out to view the site this week. The system will be very sophisticated, with drip watering attached to each tree, including the new ones. The money is there and if all goes well, the work should happen in October, with the 20 to 25 trees to go in thereafter.

November 9, 2000 Park Advisory Board Minutes----Betty Lou gave an update on progress at the grove. More than twenty eucalyptus trees have been planted, but the watering system is not in yet. Howard Putnam has been contacted, hoping to expedite this. Meanwhile, the new trees in the grove will have to be watered by the maintenance staff.

Undated 2001 Report from Betty Lou Young to the Park Advisory Board on a communication from Howard Putnam:

Howard's original funding source for the watering pipe apparently was exhausted in July, right after the new bids for funding could go in. So, now he is attaching that request to a request for a similar Temescal Canyon project which has Quimby funds and is trying to get the needed signatures of approval. The installation will be done by Howard's crew. Meanwhile, his crew is supplementing the watering, using a hose. A couple of trees have died, but will be replaced. His crew will install and care for Betty Lou's tree—a rare specimen—if she brings it over to the office some morning during the week when the crew will be there.

Missing here are the minutes of an important neighborhood meeting in the grove in mid-1994 with members of the park department staff. As I remember from my notes, we had John Fynn, Russell Michinton, and Betty Lou Young from the neighborhood, local arborist Carl Mellinger, and staff members Teresa Prosceweicz, Steve Dunlap, Patricia Rubideux, and Mr. Ochoa. Specific plans for the watering system were discussed, including the use of deep soil samples to ascertain the level of the water table and to make a decision as to what kind of watering system to put in. The need to water the recently planted trees was emphasized, since it is up to the regular gardener to water them when he has time. Mr. Ochoa asked for a map of the grove to give him an idea as to what varieties of eucalypts to use. (I sent him a copy within the week and that was the end of it.)

September 9, 2004 Letter from Betty Lou Young To: Brad Haynes
Re: Watering system in the eucalyptus grove.

When our PAB board meets this coming Tuesday afternoon, September 14, at Rustic Canyon Park, I would like to give them a progress report on the eucalyptus grove. I have tried to reach you by phone several times, but get no answer at all using the number 836-1040. We would like to know if there have been any decisions made on the watering system—probes used to determine what the water level is, etc. The plans we discussed the day our group met with the staff sounded very logical and seemed to be directed toward solving our problems with the grove in a constructive manner. We hope they are being acted upon.

October 13, 2005 Letter from Betty Lou Young to Brad Haynes
Senior Park Maintenance Supervisor

This letter is being written on behalf of the Rustic Canyon Park Advisory Board of which I am a member, in which capacity it is my specific duty to report regularly on the care and maintenance of the historic eucalyptus grove. It has now been more than a year since several representatives of our neighborhood and the Park Advisory Board met with members of the park maintenance and forestry staff to discuss specific plans for care of the grove, especially the installation of a proper watering system. As you know, this request has been the subject of countless phone calls and conversations for almost twenty years, with repeated assurances, but without resolution. At this meeting, specific tasks were assigned to various members of the group, and although I fulfilled my obligation promptly by sending a copy of the original forestry plan to Mr. Ochoa, we have received no report at all as to what further steps have been taken by the staff.

Admitted that last year's maintenance crews had their hands full with flooding, fallen trees, and slides, we feel that our ongoing campaign to have the existing

watering system repaired, or to install a better one, should by now have reached the top of the list. At the meeting we agreed on the use of probes to diagnose the watering needs of various parts of the grove, the application of safe mulch, the planting of appropriate trees to replace those that have died, and the installation of a suitable watering system. The Park Advisory Board therefore would like to request an official progress report on this project, with some sort of time table as to when the work might be accomplished.

November 25, 2005 From Betty Lou Young to Brad Haynes, Senior Park Maintenance Supervisor

Thank you for your phone call regarding the eucalyptus grove. At the last meeting of the Rustic Canyon Park Advisory Board, I notified the group that your department would soon be submitting a watering plan. At the same meeting, Jan Damiano, the park director, gave us copies of material she had received from a cycad organization regarding the importance of the collection at the park, which as I remember was given to the park many years ago by a retiring nurseryman for safekeeping. I am enclosing a set for your perusal and hope that you will share this information with your associates, who might want to find a place on the watering agenda for the care of these valuable specimens.

At this point there were many distractions, such as the creation of the VNOC board and the major and controversial expenditure of funds for park improvements that did not include the grove. Supposedly funds for the grove had already been earmarked. The PAB board also became inactive several months ago when the park director retired and there was a delay before a new director was appointed. The board will be reconvened later in January. A major supporter of the park, John Flynn, also died this summer, or his voice would certainly have been heard. Meanwhile, the large trees have gone unwatered and two of the oldest specimens are dead. If the drought continues, there will be more losses. Since the gardener has no helper, he lacks the time and perhaps the experience to undertake the deep watering required.