



# BRANCHING OUT

A Cypress Lawn Newsletter

Welcome to this seasonal issue of "Branching Out" –  
A place for stories about the many trees of Cypress Lawn Arboretum!



Dearest friends, neighbors, and tree-lovers near and far –

To step beyond the original threshold of Cypress Lawn Memorial Park, to walk through our gates and cross beneath the granite archway into our most noble cemetery, is to enter a place of profound history and monumental heritage. Here is a home of stories.

Cypress is a shared landscape, a rich palimpsest of human lives and botanical marvels, one intertwined with the other. This is a place of peace, respite, and compassion for all the people who walk our grounds, whether to cherish a loved one or just to sit beneath a tree and *be*. Perhaps above all, Cypress Lawn Arboretum is a place of kinship.

Trees and people – both at Cypress and across our Earth, both today and throughout our layered past – share the grand narrative of life in tandem together. To become human, we descended from the trees. To find our humanity, we look back up into their branches, breathe deeply, and wonder.

The qualities of the forest are often in kinship with the characters of our own culture. For example, both trees and people thrive on *community* and are stronger when we live in concert with each other. As the stump of a fallen Douglas-fir seals its mortal wound through the lifework of its standing neighbors, connected through deep roots, so too might a family collectively heal in the wake of a loved one lost. Also, for both the wooden ones and us *sapiens*, a strong *foundation* yields vital function and shared prosperity in the long run. An acorn grows healthy roots before the oak branches skyward, just as the good mason sets a level footing long before he places the keystone.

And then, the truth of nature is that *diversity* – amongst people and within the heart of the forest itself – real diversity cultivates resilience, perhaps the most important potential of any living beings, to respond in the face of adversity. Resilient and diverse life – a noble character of kinship indeed!

Our stories, in this remarkable place that I call Cypress Lawn Arboretum, are rooted within one another, woven as threads into the vast tapestry of our collective past, present, and future. I simply invite you to turn the page with me and share what we're growing together.

Your ever-humble Arboretum Director,  
Josh Gevertz

## HAPPENING THIS SEASON

**JUST HAPPENED IN JUNE:** Tree professional training programs as part of an ongoing collaboration with the Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (WCISA), including a Tree Care for Birds workshop as well as a Tree Risk Assessment (TRAQ) course.

**JUST HAPPENED ON JUNE 18, JULY 18, & AUGUST 9:** Tree Tours! For the general public, kids, and seniors, respectively. Led in person by Arboretum Director Josh Gevertz, these regular events will continue to be for learning about and celebrating the Arboretum with all of you!

**HAPPENING ALL SUMMER:** Continued restoration and preservation of centurial specimen Monterey Cypress trees at our historic Olivet Campus in collaboration with Christopher Campbell Tree Design.

## HAPPENING NEXT SEASON

**COMING UP THIS FALL:** Continued development of Cypress Lawn's new Arboretum Center as a hub for all Arboretum projects, tool and equipment storage for tree care activities, a nursery for young trees, and a future gathering space for volunteers and Arboretum staff.

**COMING UP THIS FALL:** Wood reclamation at the Arboretum! Giving a second life to trees recently removed on-site, this ongoing collaborative program with Arbor Upcycle custom milling and Structural Concepts Design Build will repurpose wood for benches, tables, and other furniture, both outdoors and in, throughout Cypress Lawn.

**COMING UP ON NOVEMBER 12:** Our third-annual Arboretum Day! Celebrating 130 years and 130 species in the living collection of Cypress Lawn, this special community event in our "Tree City USA" Town of Colma will showcase the diverse trees of the Arboretum, honor our champion Monterey Cypress by the entry archway of East Campus, and continue our living legacy with the planting of companion trees for old heritage specimens along Cypress Avenue of our original East Campus.

## SHARING WHAT WE'RE GROWING! – TREE TOURS AT CYPRESS LAWN ARBORETUM



Here at Cypress Lawn Arboretum, the most memorable moments are those we share together, in kinship with both the trees and the people of this remarkable home for Bay Area and California history.

The tales of times gone by, and those still growing, like that of our namesake Monterey cypress and so many other noble trees throughout the living collection, are just waiting here for you to discover.

To share in that learning and the celebration of life histories with all of you, I'll be hosting Tree Tours of the Arboretum on a regular basis in the seasons to come. Hop on the famed Cypress Lawn trolley, and join me for a journey through this one-of-a-kind outdoor museum!

[READ MORE & WATCH VIDEO](#)

## "DANCING ON THE BRINK OF THE WORLD" – VOLUME VIII: VETERAN



*Wonderment*

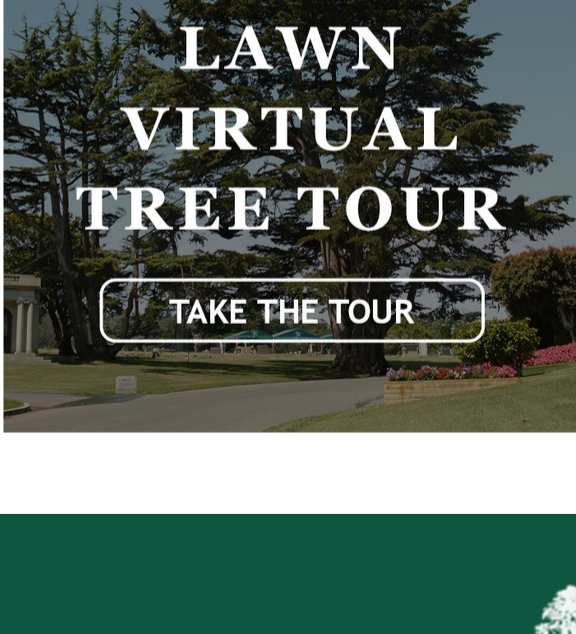
*My vision changes, year by year  
Each time I visit thee*

*A conscious aging, sharéd journey  
Of your growing majesty*

*I know you, closer, now than then  
As branches broken, strewn*

*Across the frothy, windswept shore  
My wonderment, begins anew*

[READ MORE](#)

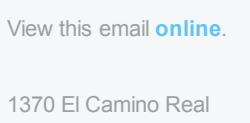


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