

## Officers 2004

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# Cascade Heather Society Fall 2004

## University of California at Santa Cruz Arboretum

I had the good fortune to be in the vicinity of Santa Cruz, California during the third week of May. I have wanted to visit this garden for years. I was able to snap some quick photos of the South African Cape heaths.

I must admit, I was surprised at how rough the garden looked. It appeared to be neglected and under funded. Many of the plants appeared to be suffering.

Through the rough edges, the beauty of the Cape heath flowers was not lost. The pale yellow flowers to the right are *Erica brachialis*. The collection included both pink and yellow specimens. The bottom photo is *Erica bac-*  
*cans*.

There was a section of young plants that were in the roughest shape. The older part of the Cape heath garden looked a bit better. The *Erica canaliculata* were as tall as a house. We missed the prime bloom period as many of the flowers had just faded to brown.

The gift shop had many nice plants for sale, but no Cape heaths. The surrounding nurseries did not have any either.

Sadly, I went home empty handed.

