



Efrain Navarro, Gardener Caretaker, 6 years.



Alicia Garcia, Gardener Caretaker, 5 years.

# ALL IN A Day's Work

## Great Greenery at Ontario Airport Extends the Welcome Mat

Landscapers work hard to make a first City impression a good one.

By Liz Montes, Club Counselor  
Photographs by Sammy Lam,  
Club IT Coordinator

Many people might not ever think about it, but the first impression any visitor might have of the City of Los Angeles is ... the airport where they arrive.

The same holds true for those who live here but have to leave for business or vacation. When they return, they should be welcomed back with as cheerful experience as possible.

That's the goal of the Ontario Airport Landscaping Shop, the landscapers at Ontario

International Airport. Well-kept grounds can go a long way to making people proud to visit here, or to come back home. It takes a lot of hard work, know-how and excellence to provide the most beautiful welcoming experience possible. But that's what the landscapers at Ontario provide.

Meticulous maintenance and pride of ownership are the order of the day for the 20 top-notch landscapers and gardeners at Ontario Airport.

Led by Bryan Jackson, the Park Maintenance Supervisor, all 18 Gardener Caretakers and two Senior Gardeners at Ontario put their heart and soul into their job, and it shows. There are literally thousands of acres of grass, shrubs, exotic trees, flowers and prized roses. There are also extreme temperatures that must be dealt with, from freezing winds to blistering heat.

Ralph Morones, the airport's Director of Maintenance, said, "Given the extreme weather conditions that the landscape staff is subjected to at different times of the year, I am impressed and gratified by their continued efforts and quality work."

Ontario International Airport (ONT) is located 35 miles east of downtown Los Angeles in the west end of San Bernardino County. Among the most dynamic of the nation's airports Ontario International Airport has seen a 500 percent increase in airline passenger volume in the last 10 years. During the same period, air cargo shipments have increased an amazing 1700 percent. Currently, about 6 million passengers and 250,000 tons of air cargo are handled annually. All this growth requires beautification, and lots of it.

"The high-profile work of the Landscape Shop is only one example of the excellent work performed by the entire Construction and Maintenance staff at Ontario International Airport," Morones says.

The Club salutes the hard-working landscapers at Ontario Airport for their excellence.



Dave Pro, Gardener Caretaker, 16 years.



Julio Navarro, Gardener Caretaker, 14 years.



Bryan Jackson, Park Maintenance Supervisor, 7 years.



Salvador Angeles, Gardener Caretaker.



Rogelio Salvador, Gardener Caretaker, 5 years.

Ontario Airport Landscapers



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Juan Reza Jr., Gardener Caretaker, 8 years.



Rosa Velez, Gardener Caretaker, 15 years.



Collin Concepcion, Gardener Caretaker, 9 years.



Dorla Baptist, Gardener Caretaker, 25 years.



Vicente Aguilar, Gardener Caretaker, 5 years.



Ricardo Espinoza, Gardener Caretaker, 1 year.



Guillermo Reza, Gardener Caretaker, 6 years.



Myrta Tesso, Gardener Caretaker, 19 years.



Carlos Cadena, Sr. Gardener Caretaker, 29 years.

## All in the Family

Club member Alicia Garcia, a Gardener/Caretaker at Ontario Airport, stands next to a framed enlargement of the September *Alive!*. Do you remember the girl with the big smile on the cover? That's Alicia's granddaughter Amanda, in a photo from ClubFest 2003. Upon hearing the news, Club Member Services Manager Angel Gomez donated the framed cover to Alicia.



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