

Flora & Fauna News

Yucca blooms and welcomes summer



By Flora & Fauna Staff

She's in full bloom. It began on June 1. Every day there after she's grown close to a foot a day while we watched in wonder. Today she burst into glorious bloom. So who is she?

Hesperoyucca whipplei (syn. *Yucca whipplei*) (chaparral yucca, Our Lord's candle, Spanish bayonet, Quixote yucca, common yucca, foothill yucca) is a species of flowering plant closely related to, and formerly usually included in, the genus *Yucca*. It is native to southern California, United States and Baja California, Mexico, where it occurs mainly in chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and oak woodland plant communities at altitudes of 1,000-8,200 feet. It produces a stemless cluster of long, rigid leaves which end in a sharp point. The leaf edges are finely saw-toothed. It often grows in sandy washes in the desert or inland valleys.

The plant typically takes 5-10 years to reach maturity, at which point it amazingly shoots up a flower spike to about 10-15 feet in about 2 weeks of growth. The spikes bear a spectacular display of hundreds of bell shaped white to purplish flowers. The fruit is a



SYV Botanic Garden photos

Above, the yucca on June 1 promised the spectacular bloom shown in the image on the left.

dry winged capsule, which splits open at maturity to release the seeds.

It is pollinated by the California yucca moth (*Tegeticula maculata*), a relationship which has become a classic example of symbiosis. Working at night, the female yucca moth collects up to a dozen sacks of pollen grains called pollinia and forms them into a massive ball. She then flies to another plant and lands on the ovary of a flower.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

New area used to demonstrate composting as well as reduce the Garden's green waste

By Flora & Fauna Staff

A long anticipated 'educational compost demonstration area' is under way at the north west corner of the Garden. The Garden will not only be able to use and reduce its own green waste, also lead as an example to the community at large. Classes will be offered to K-12 students and for adults as well.

The project is sponsored by SYV Foundation, Wood Clay- sen's Foundation, Santa Barba- ra County Waste Management division, and Santa Barbara County Water District. SYS Stone and Topsoil, Valley Tool Rental, Sunbelt, Santa Barbara Stone, All Around Irrigation, Valley Gardener, Manzanita Nursery, Arcadia Studio, Cre- ative Garden Design and Mis- sion Concrete are providing



SYV Botanic Garden photo

The committee discusses the composting demonstration area at the June board meeting.

materials and services at no cost or reduced cost in support of the project.

Legacy Landscape is the local landscape contractor in charge of the installation until its completion.

A sincere thank you to every- one who has contributed to this long anticipated project.

The new garden section will demonstrate three sheet mulch- ing sections in various stages of composting. Compost bin op- tions, ideal for medium to small

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Garden Events 2022

July

Sunday
July 17, 2022

9:00 AM - 12 Noon

Volunteer Day

SYV Botanic Garden

West end of River View Park

151 Sycamore Drive

Buellton, CA 93427

Sunday
July 24, 2022

7:00 AM

Bird Sit in the Garden

SYV Botanic Garden

West end of River View Park

151 Sycamore Drive

Buellton, CA 93427

August

Tuesday
August 2, 2022

5:30 - 8:30 PM

Summertime Supper

The Hitching Post 2

420 E. Highway 246

Buellton, CA 93427

Sunday
August 21, 2022

10:00 AM - 12 Noon

Kids Nature Crafts

SYV Botanic Garden

West end of River View Park

151 Sycamore Drive

Buellton, CA 93427

Summertime Supper

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2022

5:30 TO 8:30 PM

CLASSIC
BUFFET-STYLE
DINNER

LIVE
MUSIC

SILENT
AUCTION



420 E HIGHWAY 246 - BUELLTON, CA

TICKETS ARE \$75 IN ADVANCE
PURCHASE ONLINE AT SYVBOTANICGARDEN.ORG



Flower of the Month



SYV Botanic Garden photo

Eriogonum fasciculatum, or California Buckwheat, is of great benefit across its various habitats, providing an important food resource for a diversity of insect and mammal species. It also provides numerous ecosystem services for humans, including erosion control, post-fire mitigation, increases in crop yields when planted in hedgerows, and high habitat restoration value.

A bird sit routine can be an anchor in your life, especially during turbulent times. The practice is like an outdoor meditation, with a focus on birds.



SYVBG photo

Join us for a Bird Sit in the Garden

Did you know that birdwatching is a gateway to a powerful mindfulness practice? It's called a "Bird Sit."

A Bird Sit is like an outdoor meditation with a focus on birds. When we sit down, birds come closer to us than when we are walking.

Bird Sits provide similar benefits to mindfulness practices, including relaxation and quiet mind. They also cultivate a deeper bond with the birds around us and reveal the birds' secret languages.

All are welcome! No previous meditation or birdwatching experience necessary. Simple guidance and steps provided.

NOTE: We will gather and meet initially in a distanced circle prior to finding our individual Bird Sit locations in the garden.

WHEN: Sunday, July 24, 2022 @ 7:00 a.m.

WHERE: SYV Botanic Garden -- We will meet at the entrance next to the bridge.

COST: **FREE** or kindly offer a donation to the SYVBG via the website.

WHAT TO WEAR: Please dress in comfortable, weather appropriate attire. Color suggestion: wear subdued shades of brown, green, and gray. Avoid bright colors, especially white, which is a color many birds are accustomed to seeing as a danger warning.

WHAT TO BRING: Feel free to bring along whatever you need to be comfortable such as a small cushion, blanket, snack, water, or hot drink.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact Nicole at:

nicole@happinature.com ~ or ~ 949.413.3853

Learn about plants, wildlife on Nature Walk

By Flora & Fauna Staff

Los Padres ForestWatch conservation director Bryant Baker, a naturalist who specializes in the area's unique chaparral and coastal sage scrub ecosystems, recently held nature walks in the Garden. Participants learned some basics about local shrubs, trees, wildflowers, and other flora and fauna, including tips and trick for identifying them.

While exercising in nature's beauty, hikers learned how wildlife and the ecosystems in which they're found coped with wildfires in the region.

SYV Botanic Garden photo

Hikers learn about interesting facts about flora and fauna and how they deal with wildfires and other environmental happenings.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

yucca

Standing with her head near the stigma, she inserts her ovipositor into the ovary wall and lays a single egg. She then rubs her pollen mass against the central stigmatic depression, ensuring pollination. The pollinated ovary will now produce many seeds, ensuring an ample food supply for the larva. Although many associations of Yucca and yucca moth exist, *Tegeticula maculata* and *Hesperoyucca whipplei* form an exclusive relationship.

After the flowers have been pollinated, *Hesperoyucca whipplei* dies, though the stalk will typically stay upright for several more years.

Hesperoyucca whipplei is used in xeriscaping in Southern California, but reportedly is difficult to grow outside of its native range. It is extremely drought tolerant and thrives in clay soils.

It was used extensively by Native Americans. Fiber from the leaves was used for sandals, cloth, and rope. Young flowers are edible but may be bitter. The Kumeyaay of San Diego County boil them in water and then pour off the water three times before eating them. The stalk of the plant can be eaten. Fruits can be eaten raw, roasted, or pounded into meal. Seeds were roasted and eaten whole or ground into flour.

Source: California Native Plant Society

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

compost

scale gardens will be on display and in use, provided by County Waste Management.

All techniques will be on display, along with permanent signage describing each technique.

Signage will provide educational printed information and a QR Code that links to the Garden's web page and the County's green waste program, where visitors can receive additional information, resources and instructions on how to build their own compost area that best fits their home use and available space.

SYV BOTANIC GARDEN SCRAPBOOK

TAKE A STROLL AROUND THE GARDEN
FOR MORE BEAUTIFUL VISTAS



Desert Willow in bloom



Rain Garden in the summer.

The Santa Ynez Valley Botanic Garden Foundation is dedicated to encouraging children to explore, adults to learn, and individuals of all ages to discover the beauty, serenity and joy of our diverse natural environment and its significance in our lives.

Through more than a dozen annual events ranging from Arbor Day celebrations to wreath making, the Garden provides opportunities for the community and visitors to engage with nature and one another.



Wilderness Trail stone bench



Native Carex grass meadow

PHOTOS BY
SYV BOTANIC GARDEN

Thank you to the Schlinger Family Trust

By Flora & Fauna Staff

Santa Ynez Valley Botanic Garden Foundation would like to take this opportunity to appreciate our local SYV resident LeAnne Schlinger/Full Moon Farms, and the Schlinger Family Trust for their generous and continued support of the Santa Ynez Valley Botanic Garden.

The Foundation is excited to announce that the Schlinger Family Trust is the first of a number of community inspired and forward thinking sponsors we would like to recognize in our quarterly news letters, expressing our sincere appreciation of their support.

The Garden continues to grow strong roots. It is much thanks to our amazing community who in growing numbers continue to pay the garden a visit. It is happening much thanks to our sponsors, annual garden memberships and our dedicated, energized and amazing volunteers.

Fast forward to today, the native botanic garden has so much to offer. The best news is that more is to come. We are far from done and we are as energized as ever by newly formed committees and their creative ideas.



Fourth grade students from Lompoc take a field trip to the garden in May 2022

SYV Botanic Garden photo

As you might now, the natural community garden is free to visit, offering its visitors and volunteers of all ages a place of refuge and a natural space for discovery.

Let us not forget to mention what's most important, the native flora and wildlife. It seems we have new sightings of volunteer plants and wildlife reported every week or day, having made

the garden their new home and natural refuge.

Thanks to the Schlinger Family Trust, the botanic garden has a new and exciting announcement to make.

In honor of LeAnne Schlinger's growing family, and to all the families who've come to enjoy the garden, plans are in place to improve and complete the popular 'Woodland Family Garden'

with new and improved nature inspired additions, encouraging visitors to use their five senses. The timing is just right.

To the Schlinger Family Trust, please accept our sincere and heartfelt thank you for your continued support.

Expected grand opening of the Woodland Family Garden Summer, 2023.

Yes! I want to support the Santa Ynez Valley Botanic Garden

Please complete this form and mail to:

SYV Botanic Garden • P.O. Box 1623, Buellton, CA 93427

All members receive our newsletter, calendar of events, special discounts and more.

I am interested in volunteering:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Plant Information and Database | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art in the Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution at the following level for the year 2019.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$65 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Propagator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Pollinator | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Steward | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Sustainer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | | |

Billing Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Payment: Check Visa Mastercard

Card# _____

Expiration Date: _____ CVC# _____

Billing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

DO YOU WANT TO SAVE WATER

OVER 60% OF RESIDENTIAL WATER IS LANDSCAPING...WE CAN MAKE A CHANGE!

1 CHECK THE CLOCK! IN OUR VALLEY, THE WEATHER VARIES TREMENDOUSLY. COOL FOGGY MORNINGS FOR A FEW DAYS FOLLOWED BY NO HUMIDITY AND NO MARINE INFLUENCE. LEARNING ABOUT YOUR CLOCK AND MANAGING IT BY YOURSELF OR WITH YOUR LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE CREW IS VITAL. PLAY WITH THE TIMING...DUE TO MICROCLIMATES, SOIL AND TOPOGRAPHY THERE IS NO 'ONE SIZE FITS ALL' FOR WATER TIMING.

2 GIVE PLANTS PLENTY OF ROOM. MOST OF OUR NATIVE SHRUBS ARE HAPPY WITH GROWING ROOM OF 6' TO 8' IN DIAMETER. SOME ARE SMALLER SOME ARE LARGER BUT MOST OF US OVERPLANT BECAUSE WE CAN'T RESIST. BUT IF YOU ARE TRYING TO CONSERVE WATER FEWER PLANTS LESS WATER. ALSO PLANT IN LAYERS ALLOWING ACCESS SPACE AND BREATHING ROOM BETWEEN PLANTS. YOU WON'T SEE THAT SPACE FROM THE DINING ROOM WINDOW BUT AGAIN FEWER PLANTS AND EASIER MAINTENANCE.

3 DAPPLED SHADE IS YOUR FRIEND. WHY DO WE LOVE LOVE LOVE ITALY, MEXICO, SPAIN, MORROCO? COURTYARDS AND SHADE. IT'S NOT THE TURF. EXPAND YOUR ENTRY EXPERIENCE WITH A SIMPLE COURTYARD WHEN YOU CAN SLOW DOWN AND PAUSE. FIND A PLACE FOR A PAVED TERRACE FOR DINING OR EXPLOITING A NEW VIEW. MAKE SURE YOU ARE USING TREES TO YOUR ADVANTAGE; WHERE DOES THE SUN RISE AND SET? SUMMER AND WINTER?

4 EXPAND YOUR EXISTING PATIO WITH A GRAVEL BORDER, STONE, OR OTHER DECORATIVE MATERIALS. THE MINIMUM DEPTH FOR A COMFORTABLE PATIO IS 14'. ARE YOU JAMMED UP TO YOUR ONE FRENCH OR SLIDING GLASS DOOR? MOST ARCHITECTS UNDERSIZE OUTDOOR LIVING AREAS. BE REALLY DARING AND CREATE AN OUTDOOR LIVING SPACE AWAY FROM THE HOUSE...ENCOURAGE FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO WALK TO A NEW DESTINATION!

5 LET'S SUPPORT ALL OF OUR WONDERFUL LOCAL FARMERS IF TOO LITTLE WATER FOR A VEGETABLE GARDEN? IF YOU LOVE TO GROW YOUR OWN FOOD, GROW A FRUIT TREE OR TWO FOR COLOR, SHADE AND SEASONAL TREATS. PLANT SEASONAL COLOR, A TOMATO OR TWO AND SOME HERBS IN POTS TO LIVEN UP THOSE NEWLY PAVED AREAS.

6 CAPTURE RUNOFF IN A 'DRY CREEK' OR RAIN GARDENS TO ALLOW THE SOIL TO CAPTURE RUNOFF WATER ON SITE. IF YOU LIVE IN A MORE URBAN SETTING WITH STORM DRAINS, COMMIT TO KEEPING YOUR RUNOFF ON SITE. WE ALL NEED TO HELP IN THE RECHARGE OF OUR GROUND WATER BASINS.

7 DEDICATE PART OF YOUR PROPERTY TO HABITAT. THE FAUNA COULD BE AS SMALL AS A MASON BEE OR LARGE ENOUGH TO HOUSE A COVEY OF QUAIL. THINK OF YOUR PROPERTY AS ONE PIECE OF THE MOSAIC THAT IS YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD, YOUR VALLEY, YOUR SANTA BARBARA REGION.

8 THINK ABOUT THE TECHNOLOGY OF LANDSCAPE. IS YOUR IRRIGATION SYSTEM OLDER THAN 10 YEARS? YOU ARE DUE FOR AN OVERHAUL. JUST REPLACING OLD VALVES AND HEADS CAN RESULT IN WATER SAVINGS. EXPLORE THE USE OF A GRAY WATER SYSTEM OR A RAIN CATCHMENT SYSTEM. RESEARCH SOIL ADDITIVES PARTICULARLY FOR POTS THAT HELP SOILS RETAIN WATER.

9 MULCH AND MULCH SOME MORE. WHETHER YOU PREFER TO BUY THE 'GRADE A' MULCH OR USE TREE CHIPS OR COUNTY MULCH, MULCHING IS CRITICAL FOR THE HEALTH OF VALLEY GARDENS. A WELL MULCHED GARDEN YIELDS HAPPIER PLANTS AND LOWER WATER BILLS!

*IF YOU HAVE A LARGE PROPERTY, TAKE A LOOK ON GOOGLE EARTH. MOST PEOPLE BECOME OVERWHELMED WITH A GARDEN THAT IS LARGER THAN 7,500 SF. RURAL PROPERTIES BENEFIT FROM THE 'ZONE' APPROACH: ZONE A - NO ADDITIONAL PLANTING WITH THE EXCEPTION OF NATIVE TREES AND LARGE SHRUBS, IF ANY. MANAGE EXOTIC WEED GROWTH WITH GOOD SEASONAL MOWING PRACTICES AND MAKE SURE EXISTING MATERIAL IS THINNED FOR GOOD FIRE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES. ZONE B - TRANSITIONAL ZONE THAT INCORPORATES 'RANCH WORK' AND PRODUCTION AREAS AS WELL AS TRANSITIONAL ELEMENTS SUCH AS FENCING, WALLS, OR HEDGE ROWS OF NATIVE MATERIAL. ZONE C - INTERIOR ZONE THAT IS COMPRISED OF COURTYARDS, SMALL LAWNS, PLAY ZONES WHERE MAINTENANCE AND WATER USE IS INTENSIFIED. EVEN WITH LARGE PROPERTIES IN OUR CLIMATE LAWN SHOULD BE LIMITED TO SIZE REQUIRED FOR FUNCTIONAL PLAY LIKE VOLLEYBALL OR CROQUET. IF YOU ARE TRAINING A FUTURE STAR IN THE AMERICAN SOCCER LEAGUE OR NFL GO TO THE PARK!

