

UPCOMING EVENTS

October

- 6 - 2nd Annual SYVVG Member Appreciation BBQ & Auction
13 - Arbor Day in the Garden
20 - Fall Succulent Pumpkin Workshop

November

- 2 - Fall Photography Workshop
17 - Faeries & Dragons Festival

December

- 8 - Marshmallow Roast & Holiday Crafts Event
14 - Winter Wreath Making Workshop

Flora & Fauna News



Photo by Eva Powers

Even rain can't dampen an event

The Foundation honors Cachuma Press for their invaluable and lasting work documenting the native plants, plant communities

By Puck Erickson-Lohnas

If the valley needs rain, ask the SYV Botanic Garden to schedule an event! On May 18th, members and supporters of the Santa Ynez Valley Botanic Garden gathered to honor Cachuma Press and turned a steady drizzle into a damp but enthusiastic celebration.

The Foundation chose to honor Cachuma Press for their invaluable and lasting work documenting the native plants and plant communities through beautiful and accessible publications.

A mutual love of books, natural history, and California's wild landscapes was the catalyst for launching Cachuma Press, which was officially incorporated in 1991. Two titles were published that initial year, California's Eastern Sierra: A Visitor's Guide and Oaks of California.

Cachuma Press has published books under its own imprint and also packaged a limited number of books for outside clients. It has been the recipient of the Publishers Market Association Benjamin Franklin Award for Oaks of California; the National Park Service Award of Excellence for Capitol Reef: Canyon Country Eden; The



Photos by Eva Powers

Council of Horticultural and Botanical Libraries Literature Award for Conifers of California; and the 2006 Book Award from the American Horticultural Society for California Native Plants for the Garden.

John Evarts and Marjorie (Margie) Popper met as students in 1970 at Antioch College in Ohio, where they both volunteered at the adjacent Glen Helen Nature Preserve. They moved to Santa Barbara in 1972 and began work with the non-profit Community Environmental Council.

CACHUMA PRESS CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

2ND ANNUAL MEMBER BBQ Festivities set for October 6th

By Bethany Clough

It's that time of year again! The Santa Ynez Valley Botanic Garden's membership drive-will kick-off with our Annual Member and Supporter Appreciation Barbecue.

Now that we've gotten the first barbecue under our belts, we are really pumped about being able to sit down with our supporters at the Garden, break bread, eat good food, imbibe from a selection of beverages, and enjoy musical entertainment and tours of the Garden.

Most current board members will be in attendance to chat, discuss and share the Garden's news. The festivities will begin at 3 p.m. on Oct. 6 at Riverview Park, a stone's throw away from the bridge into the Garden.

Your individual membership entitles you to one complimentary ticket. All other membership levels qualify for two. Tickets can also be purchased for \$20. We will have a limit of 80 people, so please call the Garden office or go to our website www.santaynezvalleybotanicgarden.org under the Events tab and RSVP—even for complimentary ones—as these tickets are first come, first served.



Float away on a Walnut Sail-shell

By Tracy Roberts

Here is a fun project you can use in a planter or in water. You will need the following materials:

- Small piece of felt, cut in a sail shape. 2 inches by 2 inches will yield two sails. (*note: photo below shows a found leaf, which also works well.)
- Toothpick or found twig of similar size
- Dab of beeswax
- And lastly, half a walnut shell, entire or nearly so
- Scissors for cutting felt

First, get a piece of felt and cut a small sail piece. Cut slits in felt, being careful not to cut through to the edge!

Then thread your toothpick or a small twig from the ground through the slits you've cut in the 'sail'.

Insert some beeswax into bottom of the walnut shell and attach all together.

Now your walnut vessel is ready to set sail on your imagination!



BIRDS OF THE SANTA YNEZ VALLEY BOTANIC GARDEN

One of the smallest song birds has strong flocking behavior

Meet the Bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*)

By Peter Schneekloth

The Bushtit is a common bird in the Santa Ynez Botanic Garden, throughout most habitats in the county and much of the western US. They are gray-brown overall with a small stubby bill, relatively long tail and at just over 4 inches one of the smallest song birds. For most of the year, the birds will be found foraging in flocks of 10-15 or more birds. The birds in the flock will call to each other almost constantly as they roam about. This flocking behavior is so strong with Bushtits that if you come across a noisy flock of small birds rummaging through brush, they are almost certainly Bushtits.

Bushtits were found nesting



in the Botanic Garden this year. They weave an elaborate orb nest of mosses and plant material all strung together with spider silk. The birds are year round residents.

For more information on Bushtits check: www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Bushtit/id



CACHUMA PRESS FROM PAGE 1

Gardening class for Santa Barbara City College Adult Education. In 1975 they started Everts Apiaries, a commercial honey production and crop pollination service. They were founding members of the Santa Barbara Food Coop, where Margie worked as a manager. John was one of the co-founders of the Santa Barbara Farmers Market in 1979. Margie received her B.S. in Environmental Biology in 1981 from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

In addition to their work with Cachuma Press, John and Margie have been active in the valley community. Margie served two terms on the Ballard School Board (where their two children attended school), and John was a member of the Santa Ynez Valley General Plan Advisory Committee for nine years. John and Margie founded the nonprofit Santa Ynez Valley Natural History Society in 2000 and continue to serve on its board of directors. In recognition of their involvement in these and other activities, they received the 2009 Santa Barbara County Action



Photo by Eva Powers

Network "Environmental Protection and Sustainability Award," which was presented by Third District Supervisor Doreen Farr. In 2018, Margie was honored as "Volunteer of the Year" by the local nonprofit NatureTrack for her dedicated work as a docent in nature education for students.

Look for their books at the Book Loft in Solvang. In particular, Cali-

fornia Native Plants for the Garden is a great resource for local gardeners who want to incorporate more native plants into their gardens. By incorporating natives, our community can support our pollinators and the health of our environment.

Thanks to John and Margie for their background information for this article.

ASTRONOMY



Photo by Derek Glas

'Scoping out the stars

We had our sites set to outer space in the garden Aug. 11 and it did not disappoint. Enthusiasts gathered and were able to see our moon clearly and brightly, Saturn and its rings, Jupiter and 3 of its moons, a large beautiful Perseid meteor and the amazing

M13 globular cluster of several hundred thousand stars. A lucky few also caught a glimpse of the barn owls in the garden- all while enjoying a peaceful night listening to the crickets and sounds of nature. A huge thanks to John Figoski for sharing his amazing knowledge and telescope with all of us!

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY BOTANIC GARDEN

SAYS THANK YOU

■ A very enthusiastic and warm thank you to Kathleen McCollum, the Garden's most recent intern. She wrapped up several projects, kept others going, and started a few. We offer best wishes as she completes her degree!



Kathleen McCollum



Photo by Eva Powers

■ We are so very appreciative of Board member Julio Carrillo and his work mates'

efforts and success at showing the tule Ap's some much needed love and care. The 'remodel' looks great and we love what you did with the place.



Photo by Eva Powers

John Matthews, left, and Dave Bemis of the Los Olivos Rotary Club stand with a newly installed Little Library located in the SYV Botanic Garden.

■ The SYV Botanic Garden is the latest home for one of Buellton's Little Libraries! Special thanks to John Matthews and Dave Bemis for their installation near the amphitheater in the Garden.

FEATURED PLANT

Shrub is important food source for many birds

Blue Elderberry
(*Sambucus nigra*
ssp. caerulea)

By Kathleen McCollum

DESCRIPTION:

Look closely in the surrounding vegetation throughout the Santa Ynez Valley, and you will see this shrub growing everywhere. Its cream-colored flowers are transforming into a cluster of green berries. In late summer, these berries will be a deep dusty blue (Lowry, 2014). These fruits are one of the most important food sources for many bird species and is a very important shrub for many wildlife species ranging from bees to bears (Lowry, 2014; *calscape.org*). Can you guess what this plant is.... It's the one and only, Blue elderberry!

Blue elderberry has the botanical name of *Sambucus nigra* subspecies *caerulea*, which is commonly referred to as *Sambucus mexicana*. Blue elderberry is a deciduous shrub/small tree growing anywhere from 8-25 feet tall and has a very broad range of habitat from British Columbia to Baja California (*calscape.org*; Bornstein et al 2005). It typically has a multi-trunked growth pattern but can be pruned to have one main trunk and has bright green pinnately compound leaves. Its umbrella shaped inflorescence has hundreds of small flowers that attract many pollinators (*calscape.org*).

CULTIVATION:

Sambucus nigra is easy to grow, tough and grows rapidly. It will fruit and flower most abundantly in full sun but also does great in part shade.

Sambucus nigra will tolerate a variety of moisture conditions but prefers moist, well-drained soils. Once established, it can thrive in moist or dry areas. However, if no water is given, it may go deciduous in Summer and Fall (*calscape.org*).



Photo by Derek Glas

USES:

Elderberry flowers are used in plant medicine preparations. The Chumash use this plant in the treatment of wounds, to induce sweating, to treat colds and flus, and body aches (Timbrook 2007), and can still be used today to treat these ailments (Funk, 2013). The Chumash also use the wood of the elderberry plant to make musical instruments, such as flutes and also for making hunting bows (Timbrook 2007).

The leaves, stems and branches contain poisonous substances and should not be used (Lowry, 2014).

The berries are prized by animals and humans alike and can be used to make delicious pies, jams and wines. However, raw berries may cause stomach upset,

and therefore should be cooked or dried prior to consumption (Funk et al 2013).

Other important notes about this plant is that Blue elderberry is the host plant to the valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*), which is listed as a Federally threatened species. *Sambucus nigra* is also often used in revegetation projects for its wildlife and habitat value (Funk et al 2013).

REFERENCES:

Timbrook, J. (2007) Chumash Ethnobotany. Berkeley, California, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

Funk, A., Kaufman, K. (2013) Living Wild, Nevada City, California, Flicker Press

Lowry, J. (2014) California Foraging, Portland, Oregon, Timber Press

Bornstein, B., Fross, D., O'Brien, B. (2005) California Native Plants for the Garden, Los Olivos, California, Cachuma Press

Calscape, California Native Plant Society

[https://calscape.org/Sambucus-nigra-\(Black-Elderberry\)](https://calscape.org/Sambucus-nigra-(Black-Elderberry))

The Garden SCRAPBOOK

Photos by
Derek Glas



Nature Craft Day

Excited kids and adults gathered in the garden on June 15 for Nature Craft Day. This wonderful event had everyone out exploring the garden and being inspired by nature by creating fun projects with items found in nature or at home. Participants created dog boats, necklaces, wind mobiles, dream catchers and many other fun projects. The day wrapped up with everyone working together to plant faerie gardens. Thank you all who participated, planned, volunteered and contributed to make this a great day in the garden!

Karen Palmer, spokesperson for We, The World will be the first person/group to use the Garden's brand-new Usage Request form! Her event is part of the celebration of the 11 days of Global Unity planned for the weekend of September 7. The Usage Request form will soon be up and available on our webpage.

Pooch-a-Palooza

Our second annual Pooch-a-Palooza event was a success as dog lovers gathered to enjoy the outdoors and garden with their best dog friends and fellow dog lovers. All needs were covered for pets with on-site care including low cost vaccinations, micro chips, nail trimming and other needs covered by multiple mobile vet services. Dog sports were enjoyed as trainers and pets ran agility courses inspiring the crowd to join in their activities. Demonstrations included emergency pet care, adoptions from local rescues and the humane society were available as was tons of great information from vendors and



the City of Buellton. Face painting and a photo booths commemorated the day and the even wrapped up event a costume contest and raffle drawing. Congratulations to the winners of our costume contest! Thank you to all who donated to our raffle and came out to enjoy the day!

Photography in Nature Workshop



With unpredictable spring weather this year our photography workshop started off with a downpour as photography enthusiasts gathered under the pavilion to hear amazing photography

tips and techniques and advice from an incredible panel of talented photographers. The rain let up and the sun came out just in time as participants explored the garden enjoying all the beautiful spring blooms and scenery in the garden to photograph. Thank you to all the wonderful photographers for leading this brilliant workshop and to all the participants for joining in, we look forward to seeing your photos or any photos of the garden please share them with us on Instagram by tagging us using the hashtag #syvbotanicgarden or tagging us on Facebook!

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

Please complete this form and mail to:

Santa Ynez Valley 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:

- Gardening Youth Education
 Adult Education Newsletter
 Garden Plant Information and Database
 Art in the Garden
 Other _____

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

- \$50 Individual \$65 Family \$100 Propagator
 \$250 Pollinator \$500 Steward \$1000 Sustainer
 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: _____