

Flora & Fauna News

Why membership matters

When the Garden began almost fifteen years ago, we could not have imagined the many experiences shared in the Garden by individuals, families and groups. Not only have we become familiar with the native plants of our region, but with one another as well. Tiny plants planted by small hands have grown into flowering shrubs and windblown grasses. Trees that once were viewed at eye level now tower over head, providing welcoming shade in the summer heat. The Foundation is so fortunate to partner with the City of Buellton in the development and maintenance of all the Garden spaces. But as the private partner, we also depend on the support of the community. For less than a dollar a week, a single membership can help support the maintenance of the Garden, children's programs and workshops for adults. As we begin a new year at the Garden, following a well needed summer rest, please consider joining the Garden. Just go on line to www.santaynezvalleybotanicgarden.org/membership and sign up today. By signing up or renewing now, your membership will be active through 2022. You too can make a difference in sustaining this important community for yourself, your family and the community.



Volunteer Susan NeedLastName shows the trash that has washed in around the storm drain. SYV Botanic Garden photos

A special thank you for special volunteers

So many of you contribute to the Garden throughout the year. We would like to extend special thanks to the following volunteers:

- Susan for her tireless work around the storm drain area. Please take a close look; there is a lot of water that comes into the channel from lawn and street runoff.
• We now have new environmentally friendly safety equipment thanks to the LEEF Grant from Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District, Ian Jacobsen, Solvang Rotary, Buellton



Volunteer Karen Young repainted our photo tree. Thank you, Karen!

- Rotary, Allan Jones, Candy Waldron, SYV Rotary and a donation from the Los Olivos Rotary club.
• Mr. Steve Berg for the donation

of a new woodchipper which he secured from Lowe's Home Improvement.
• Valley Gardener for their continued support through in-kind donation of maintenance services that are critical for the Garden's growth and success.
• And we would be remiss if we did not mention Mr. Len Fleckenstein this month. He is our tireless grant writer who continues to secure important funding for the expansion of facilities and sustaining programs for the community.

Connecting families, nature



Homeschoolers visit the Garden. SYV Botanic Garden photos

Homeschoolers, the Children's Museum and recently Hidden Wings all used the Garden to connect with nature.

Special thanks to the Magistro Foundation for the Family Workshop



Photo by Rosa Andrade. Hidden Wings performs Shakespeare in the Garden.

News is sprouting up everywhere in the Garden



Our new donation box was created by Tyler Powers from Rockwood Metalworks.

Whimsical donation box accepts all gifts

Many thanks to those who donate to the Garden in our new donation box created by Tyler Powers from Rockwood Metalworks. Despite its whimsical appearance, it is a sturdy depository for all gifts small and large. We use these donations to buy supplies for our Propagators and other gardening supplies.

Program provides docents on second Saturday of month

We have been hard at work on Plant Identification Signs for the Garden. We now have more than 100 native plants identified in the Garden. However, many have asked us to learn more about the Garden and its plants.



SYV Botanic Garden photo

Buckwheat is just one of the native plants in the Garden.

Native California propagators sprout through the Garden

Observation, learning and growing is a constant in our nursery. This last sowing season we had great luck with *Aquilegia formosa* (Western Columbine) and *Artemisia californica* (California Sagebrush). These seeds did not require any special pre-treatment (some seeds require cold treatment, smoke treatment, heat treatment etc.). Also, we have noticed that seeds of *Populus trichocarpa* (Black Cottonwood Tree) and *Heteromeles arbutifolia* (Toyon) are brought in by the wind and sprout in pots throughout our nursery, which we separated into their own pots. We also observed that tiny volunteer seedlings of *Ribes aureum* (Golden Currant) sprouted throughout the garden, which we dug up and potted.

There are many exciting components to the propagation of California natives such as: observing which seeds sprout in certain conditions, cleaning and sowing seeds, learning and implement-



SYV Botanic Garden photo

Tiny volunteer seedlings of *Ribes aureum* (Golden Currant) sprouted throughout the Garden were dug up and potted.

ing correct seed treatments, using the right soil mixtures, transplanting and maintaining potted plants, cleaning and organizing growing materials and so much more.

The propagation department continues to stay busy growing and we are preparing for another season of

seed sowing! We have work days once a month in which volunteers have the opportunity to come and gain hands-on experience in the art of propagation of California natives. If you would like to join the propagation sub committee, please contact contact@syvbotanicgarden.org.

We now have a docent program that will provide Docents on the second Saturday of every month.

They will lead short tours, sharing new information every month on trees, medicinal shrubs and other plant groups in the Garden.

Please contact us if you would like to become a part of this exciting volunteer group.

Visit website to stay up to date on our events, workshops

Due to the everchanging COVID environment, please check our website and sign up early. We have to limit numbers to maintain accepted COVID protocol standards.

Our schedule thus far is as follows:

• FALL VOLUNTEER IN THE GARDEN DAY, October 24th.

Bring your own clippers, other tools and instruction are provided. All ages are welcome from 9am-2pm. We will be planting the entry and the Butterfly and Pollinator gardens. Doughnuts and cider too!

• SUCCULENT PUMPKIN WORKSHOP, October 30th.

First session 10am-12pm and second session 1pm-3pm. Sign up early as these workshops regularly sell out.

• MEMBERS PICNIC, November 7th. 11am-1pm.

Food and drinks are provided. Meet other Garden supporters and receive an update on latest projects and new goals for 2022, surrounded by fall colors. Don't forget to bring blankets and chairs. This is a free event for members but registration on line is required.

• HOLIDAY WREATH MAKING CLASS, December 12th.

First session 10am-12pm and second session 1pm-3pm. Sign up early as these workshops regularly sell out.



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