

UPCOMING EVENTS

April

- 13 - Gypsy Art Watercolors
- 24 - Wabi Sabi Workshop
- 27 - Field Trip to Ventura Botanic Garden
- 28 - Propagation Workshop
- 28 - Photography Workshop

May

- 4 - Basket Weaving Class
- 11 - National Public Garden Day
- 11 - SYVBG Appreciation BBQ

June

- 8 - Driftwood & Succulents Workshop
- 9 - Pooch-a-Palooza
- 15 - Kids Nature Craft Day

Flora & Fauna News



Photo by Derek Glas

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION

Irrigation of trees with automatic irrigation systems

By Flora & Fauna News Staff

What follows is a discussion of some of the different types of equipment commonly used for irrigation, and some strategies and information indicating which is most suited to your particular situation. The three types are bubblers, drip or point source emitters, and over-head spray.

Bubblers can be an efficient means to deliver water to container plants, but manufacturers have improved upon the basic bubbler and created sub-surface bubbler kits that are all-in-one set-ups specifically configured for trees. They are considered the best means of tree irrigation. These bubblers are configured in a nice package, ready to be installed. They provide deep irrigation, are efficient because they are below the surface and covered with a plastic grate and/or gravel. For various reasons related to flow rates and cost, they aren't usually an easy option in a retro-fit situation, as these bubblers should be on a valve dedicated to just tree bubblers.

Drip irrigation means the source of water is

IRRIGATION CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Starting in the next issue, and continuing with interest, there will be information and discussion on irrigation here, in the SYVBG Newsletter, regarding the Santa Ynez Valley. We're looking forward to hearing about your own experiences and queries. Send in your questions too. Email the garden, and maybe your question, concern or comment will be the subject of the next month's newsletter irrigation article!

PLANT OF THE MONTH:

Coastal Silk Tassel is a slow growing perennial with tassels of flowers

Three species of Garrya elliptica are native to Santa Barbara Co.

By Steve Schulz

The Garryaceae family of plants consists of 18 species in 2 genera worldwide. Thirteen species are native to North and Central America and the West Indies. Five species of Garrya are native to California and the Pacific Coast States, and three are native to Santa Barbara County. All of the Garrya species are dioecious, meaning that the plants only produce male catkins or female flowers on separate plants.

DESCRIPTION:

Coastal Silk Tassel is a slow growing perennial shrub with a stiff and irregular branching pattern to 6 feet or more in height and spread. The evergreen leaves are simple and ovate to 2 inches in length, dark green and waxy on the upper surface and grey and wooly beneath. The leaf margins are entire and wavy; similar to *Pittosporum undulatum*, with the waves becoming more pronounced during drought stress. The leaves are arranged in an opposite pattern along the stem with the paired leaf petioles fused at growth node on the stem. Flowers are borne in late winter to early spring. The male catkin form multiple chains of bell shaped pollen sacks up to 10 inches in length. Each pollen sack is 1/8 inch in diameter and white/grey to pale yellow in color. The female flowers also hang in tassels of pale pink and white, with individual flow-



Coastal Silk Tassel female flowers hang in tassels of pale pink and white, with individual flowers 1/4 inch in diameter.

ers 1/4 inch in diameter. The female flower tassels are typically half as long as the male flower but twice as showy. The fruit are small berries that hang like small clusters of grapes. When ripe the 1/4 inch diameter berries are red

COASTAL SILK CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

The Garden SCRAPBOOK

Photos by Derek Glas



Living Fence Workshop

The wonderful world of willow was explored early this year as a group of garden enthusiasts gathered in the botanic garden for our Willow Fence Workshop on January 27th. We were blessed with a beautiful day and started in the amphitheater discussing the amazing qualities of our native willows in the valley and the many different things they can be used for. The groups divided and alternated between working on crafting our living willow fence in the garden, and others prepared the willow branches for the fence. The fence was swiftly and beautifully assembled, and now is a beautiful addition to the garden making an impressive entrance to the Willow Maze. The fence has already started taking root and is showing some signs of growth, we are excited to watch it grow!



Brick Barn Valentine Wreath Workshop

The Santa Ynez Valley Botanic Garden led a Willow Heart Valentine Wreath Workshop on February 10th hosted by the Brick Barn Wine Estate. SYVBG President Eva Powers led the workshop with the help of one of our wreath making expert volunteers Rachelle Witt. Participants gathered in the beautiful wine estate, which was set up for the workshop and well stocked with cookies, cheeses, and charcuterie platters along with wine provided by the estate. The Group enjoyed the treats and wine while learning the qualities and uses of the willow. They were led in a demonstration on how to fabricate their own willow heart wreath. Thank you Brick Barn for hosting this event! It was wonderful to see the creativity come out in everyone as they all diligently worked creating unique masterpieces. All beautiful and not any two were alike.

COASTAL SILK FROM PAGE 1

to purple in color but covered in a grey waxy coating and a favorite of many bird species.

HABITAT:

Garrya elliptica can be found on coastal ridge tops from Santa Barbara County, north to the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State. Coastal Silk Tassel is a common plant in the coastal

Manzanita chaparral plant community and mixed evergreen forests of Northern California, Oregon and Washington. It prefers full sun exposure, well drained soil and is drought tolerant once established.

The two other species of *Garrya* found in Santa Barbara County are *Garrya flavescens*; Pale Silk Tassel and *G. veatchii*; Veatch's Silk Tassel.

USES:

Coastal Silk Tassel is well adapted to residential landscapes or native gardens. It prefers well drained soils but is tolerant of clay soils with supplemental summer irrigation. The open branching pattern makes it useful as background to middle-ground shrub on slopes and perimeter areas. The tassel like flowers; although not particularly showy,

add seasonal interest while most other shrubs are in dormancy.

Native people of the Pacific Coast made a tea of *Garrya* leaves, bark and root to treat stomach cramps and diarrhea.

Garrya is used medicinally by herbalists as a smooth muscle relaxer and anti spasmodic. It is also a useful pain reliever for gastro-intestinal cramps and other internal organ pain.

IRRIGATION FROM PAGE 1

a single point, and generally at a rate of delivery much slower than bubblers or spray heads (overhead application). Drip irrigation can be an excellent way to irrigate trees with a couple of provisos. First, drip is more efficient when the emitters are 'scratched in'- that is, when installed in a little groove in the

ground; or are installed below the surface a number of inches, usually 4 to 6". The latter is not often done with trees, more commonly it is utilized in place of overhead spray to irrigate turf grass. To effectively irrigate newly planted trees, drip irrigation should be laid in a loop around the tree between 2 to 6 inches BEYOND the rootball. By placing the emitters beyond the rootzone a little

bit, root growth is encouraged, hastening establishment.

Overhead spray is not considered a healthy, efficient, or practical means to irrigate single or even a few trees. Trunks and canopies block the spray stream, creating dry spots beyond, starving tree root growth in that area. Consistent wetting of trunks can be detrimental to many trees, especially our native Oaks

during the dry season. Sometimes this is unavoidable, as when a tree is located within a turf area. Special consideration should be made when positioning the spray heads to limit detrimental effects to the tree(s).

These are the three main ways of irrigating trees. Knowing a little bit about the types and what differentiates them helps everyone to improve irrigation in our own garden.

WITH GRATITUDE

ANNIVERSARY GRANT Montecito Bank, Trust gives Garden \$2,000 for signage

Santa Ynez Rotary Club
will also bestow grant

By Flora & Fauna News Staff

Many thanks to the employees of Montecito Bank and Trust for selecting the Garden for one of this year's Anniversary Grants. This grant of \$2,000.00 will be used for improving our informational signage program and our new propagation programs. We are honored to be selected as one of the two non-profits from the Santa Ynez Valley.

Not only does the Garden Club of Santa Barbara contribute to the continued growth of the Garden through their generous support, Garden Club members offer hands on help as well.

This month they will be helping to plant the expanded areas of the Pollinator Garden. Watch for new signage in this area too!

We believe that the Garden attracts and supports all generations of our Santa Ynez Valley community. One of the latest examples of this is the wonderful work done by the Boys and Girls Club of Buellton. Spring maintenance is always challenging in the Garden and their efforts are much appreciated.

The Santa Ynez Rotary Club has announced the Garden will be receiving one of their annual grants. We appreciate their generosity and recognition of the Garden as an important community resource. We invite all Rotarians to visit the Garden to appreciate how their contributions have allowed the Garden to grow.



Photos by Derek Glas



NEED TO CONTACT US?

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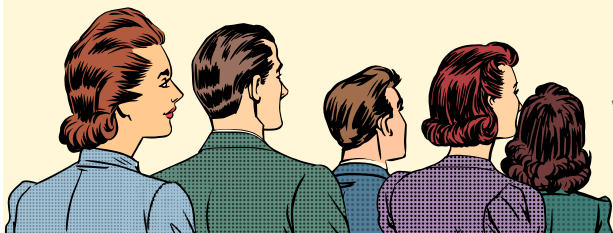
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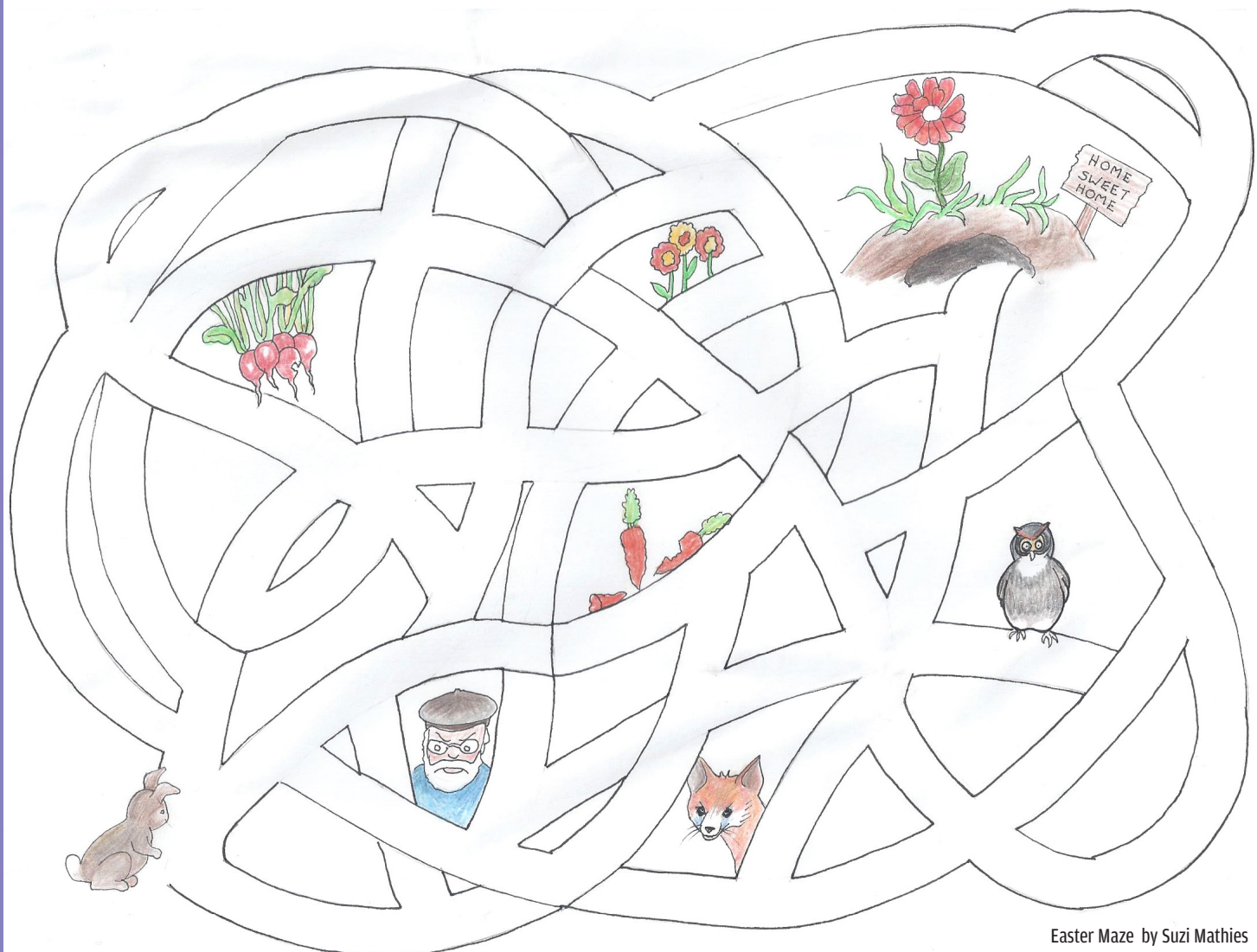
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Easter Maze

Help the Easter Bunny find his way back to his garden home.



Easter Maze by Suzi Mathies

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 _____

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