

## Upcoming Events –

Visit [slobg.org/events-classes](http://slobg.org/events-classes) for details! \$3 County parking fee on weekends.

### Thursday, April 12, 1 PM - 3 PM

**Mediterranean Cuisine ‘Cruise’ – Greek Cooking Class with Brenda Hock**  
\$25 members, \$30 non-members.  
Register early at 805.541.1400 x302.

### Saturday, April 14, 1 PM - 3 PM

**Saturday at the Garden – Artful Pruning with Curtis Counts**  
\$5 members, \$10 non-members.  
2 PM Docent-led tour. See cover article.

### Saturday at the Children’s Garden – Kid’s Herbal Balms

Make your own lip balm and sunscreen.  
\$5 donation for materials.

### Sunday, April 15, 4 PM

**Oak Glen Pavilion Concert Series – Blame Sally, Americana Music**  
\$15 members, \$20 non-members.  
On-line ticketing at [slobg.org/blame-sally](http://slobg.org/blame-sally) or call 805.541.1400 x302.  
See article inside.

### Sunday, April 22

**Earth Day at El Chorro Park**  
FREE all day event with food, music, speakers, kid’s activities, and vendors. Visit [slobg.org/earthday](http://slobg.org/earthday), [www.earthdayalliance.com](http://www.earthdayalliance.com), and our Facebook pages for more information.

### Saturday, April 28, beginning at 8 AM

**Audubon Bird Walk**  
Walk begins at the Oak Glen Pavilion, \$5 for members, \$10 non-members.  
See article inside.

## Saturday at the Garden, April 14, 1 PM - 3 PM

## Artful Pruning



The Japanese Maple (*Acer palmatum*) on the left has been allowed to assume its natural form. The one on the right has been pruned to display its structure and to harmonize with the other elements of its environment. Left photo by Rick Turozy; right photo by Jacki Dougan

Join us for a workshop on Artful Pruning by Garden volunteer and pruning expert Curtis Counts. Last January, Curtis gave us a demonstration of “Aesthetic Pruning” as applied at mid-winter. This time Curtis will continue his earlier workshop by demonstrating the differing goals and techniques applied to spring pruning.

Curtis will begin with a brief talk regarding the proper tools and their uses along with a few general pruning techniques. He will talk about large reduction, heading back and thinning branches and the aesthetics of direction pruning. Curtis will then guide us through the garden, and demonstrate how some of our plants, large and small, can be benefited by his shaping.

Curtis studied under Merritt College instructor Dennis Makishima who is widely recognized as a master of “Aesthetic Pruning.” Aesthetic pruning seeks to bring out the natural beauty of trees and shrubs by harmonizing the appearance of the tree or shrub with the overall context of the environment which it is grown.

Presentation is \$5 for members, \$10 non-members. Followed at 2 PM by a free docent-led tour of the Garden. An added bonus class will be held on Earth Day, April 22 from 11 AM to noon. For more information call 805.541.1400x304 or [education@slobg.org](mailto:education@slobg.org).

A \$3 fee is charged for parking by San Luis Obispo County Parks in El Chorro Regional Park April through September on weekends and holidays.

### Tuesday, May 1, 5 PM

### A Virtual Tour of Royal Botanical Garden - Melbourne

Join us for a special evening presentation with visiting RBG-Melbourne California Collection curator Tim Wall. Visit [slobg.org/events-classes](http://slobg.org/events-classes) for details.



# Connections With Nature:

## Mike's Field Notes –

Usually, when you plant sunflower seeds you get sunflowers. When planted in moist soil, in the late and warming spring, less than two weeks pass before the first two fat leaves pop out of the ground. Would you be surprised, or disappointed, if nothing came up? What if those first two fat leaves grew into squash? Or poppies? Or a toyon? Having planted the sunflower seeds, one surely has a reasonable expectation to see sunflowers grow! (That is, if anything at all comes up.). Yet, there exists in virtually all soils a large 'seed bank' - of live, ungerminated seeds. Here in our natural California landscapes with fire-evolved plants, we know that some seeds just need some extra heat to germinate. Others need more time, the correct amount of moisture or the right exposure to the sun.

Seeds can lie buried just deeply enough that they don't germinate, yet when we till the soil to plant our sunflowers, those other seeds are now exposed to enough light and WOW!

*What's that?* Now we have something we didn't plan on. Maybe it's something even better than the sunflower.

So it is with many of our experiences –vacations not unfolding as we intended, completed houses differing from the original plans; we all start out relationships or projects or adventures with expectations, based on what we think we have planted. Sowing and reaping have been a part of mankind since the beginnings of civilization, some 10,000 years ago. Yet, isn't the unknown potentially even more interesting? If all went according to plan, we might be comfortable but not amused, challenged, interested or surprised! So plant sunflower seeds. Expect sunflowers.

Then – celebrate what grows.



Mike Bush  
Executive Director

## Sunday, April 15 at 4 PM SLOBG Concert Series – Blame Sally

A unique collective of four distinct voices and musical backgrounds, Blame Sally has forged a compelling and original sound that has earned the band the well-deserved reputation as "Bay Area phenomenon". Recently signing a five year mid-six figure record deal, the band's spirited, take-no-prisoners attitude is a welcome contrast to traditional folkie navel-gazing, and the band has the songs, chops and pipes to back up their tough-talking, clear-minded folk rock.

Blame Sally is Pam Delgado, Renee Harcourt, Jeri Jones and Monica Pasqual, four lifelong musicians, born songwriters who banded together in their 40's in spite of individually successful and fulfilling non-music careers which in the Fall of 2008 they left behind completely. That move inspired Tom Brokaw's daughter, Sarah Brokaw, to feature two of the band members in her book "Fortytude", about women making the decades of their 40's, 50's and beyond the best years of their



lives which debuted at #10 on the New York Times Bestseller list. Go to [www.blamesally.com](http://www.blamesally.com) to hear them.

Seating limited, reserve early on-line at [slobg.org/blame-sally](http://slobg.org/blame-sally) or call 805.541.1400 x 302. \$15 members; \$20 non-members. Indoor concert, doors open at 3:30 PM, concert begins at 4 PM. Free docent led tour of the Garden begins in the Preview Garden at 2:30 PM. No-host bar. Our 2012 Concert Series is proudly sponsored by New Times and KCBX.

## You Can Help "Grow Our Garden" Support SLO Botanical Garden

by Debbie Hoover, Business Manager

Do you shop on-line? I do. And now I can help the Garden Grow each time I shop at [LandsEnd.com](http://LandsEnd.com) or [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) or any of the other 800 on-line stores.

Go to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) to learn more about their on-line shopping mall.



**Rabobank**

**Here's another way to help our Garden grow...  
Become a business member.**

Please welcome Rabobank as our newest business member and Earth Day sponsor! Rabobank, a Silver Business Member, joins our other sponsors: **Frame Works**, the Art Eco sponsor and **Halter Ranch Vineyards**, the wine sponsor for special events. Visit our NEW website to find out more information on becoming a SLOBG Business Sponsor!

## Friends of SLO Botanical Garden

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### San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden

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[www.slobg.org](http://www.slobg.org)

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## Guided Audubon Bird Walk at the Garden

**Saturday, April 28, beginning at 8 AM**

Mike Stiles and Eric Wier of the Morro Coast Audubon Society will lead a birding walk through the Garden and the surrounding environs including El Chorro Regional Park, Dairy Creek, the Bluebird Trail, and the grassy hillsides. They will be looking for nesting birds, late spring migrants, and could see several hummingbird species, raptors, flycatchers and kingbirds, along with our common nesting warblers. Orioles, grosbeaks, and shrikes are also possible. Walk will begin at the Oak Glen Pavilion and is \$5 for Garden members, \$10 non-members. For more information contact Mike Bush at 805.541.1400 x303.

## Kid Cool Plant

### Lemon Balm: The Sweet Scent of Spring

by Lindsey Collinsworth, Education Coordinator

*Melissa officinalis* is a relative of mint and native to the sunny Mediterranean area. Its soft green foliage covers the ground and creates a beautiful green orb, or it can be planted in rows to create a beautiful, fragrant border. The summer awakens its sleeping white flowers into bloom. Full of nectar, these flowers entrance our friends, the bees. In fact, its Latin name *Melissa*, is Greek for honeybee. Lemon balm has been used for both culinary and medicinal purposes. Its cooling lemon fragrance can be used in tea, ice cream and



Photo by Lindsey Collinsworth

candy. The leaves can be rubbed on the skin to repel mosquitoes. Taken as a tea, lemon balm has been used as a calming cold remedy. Lemon balm is an extremely helpful plant, and you can learn more about it by joining us for the following Kid and Family Events in the Children's Garden.

Email [education@slobg.org](mailto:education@slobg.org) for more information on these and other upcoming events, or visit our website [slobg.org/education/kids-events](http://slobg.org/education/kids-events) and find out more.

## Volunteers Wanted Eve's Garden Shop

With the Garden expanding its hours to seven days a week from 9 AM to 5 PM, we are looking for additional energetic, outgoing, and dependable **Garden Shop volunteers** to staff Eve's Garden Shop.

As a volunteer in Eve's Garden Shop, you are the first to welcome visitors to the shop and the SLOBG Administration Building. Not only do you help support the growth of the Garden through shop and nursery sales, you are also our Garden Ambassadors to visitors, providing information on the Garden, upcoming programs and events, services, facilities such as the Oak Glen Pavilion, and directions to other attractions in and around the San Luis Obispo area.

### So if you...

- love to meet and greet new people
- are reliable and timely
- are comfortable with computers,
- and are experienced with sales

(extra credit but not necessary!)

.then we would love to have you on our Garden Shop team! In particular, we are looking for extra hands to help out on weekends when the visitor traffic increases from the park and campground, but we have openings during the weekdays as well. Shifts would be from 10 AM to 2 PM and we ask that volunteers commit to one day per week. For more information, call 805.541.1400 x305 or [volunteer@slobg.org](mailto:volunteer@slobg.org).



Photo of Marty Tidyman  
by Ron Kindig

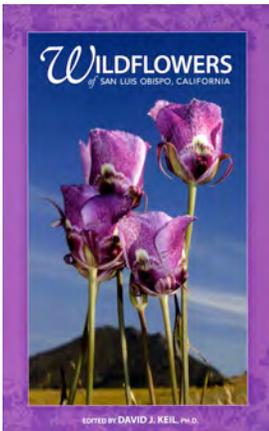
# Eve's Garden Shop

Friends of SLO Botanical Garden  
3450 Dairy Creek Rd.  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405  
www.slobg.org

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## Item of the Month – Wildflower Book



by Janet Swanson, Volunteer

Just in time for your wildflower walks this Spring, the book *Wildflowers of San Luis Obispo, California* is our item of the month at Eve's Garden Shop. This beautifully photographed and designed book is a must-have for those of you who love wildflowers.

The book features 290 wildflowers that grow in and around the city of San Luis Obispo. The wildflowers are organized by color to make them easy to find in the book, and each plant's description includes common and botanical names,

notes on its growing habits, its blooming seasons and general locations of where it can be seen. There is also a map showing public Open Spaces and trails of the city of San Luis Obispo.

As the featured Item of the Month, *Wildflowers of San Luis Obispo* will be on sale at 15% off for Garden members and 10% off for non-members. Come in and get your copy and be ready for some wonderful wildflower walks in San Luis Obispo County.

## Plant of the month – Late Winter Color

by Ron Kindig, Volunteer

This Peruvian scilla (*Scilla peruviana*) brightens up the winter with its brilliant sprays of blue flowers. (Sometimes, they are white.)

Use it as a tidy border, where it behaves itself nicely. It also likes containers, which make it easy to locate when it goes dormant and disappears for awhile in the fall. (Don't water it then; remove its dead leaves and let it rest.) Its low water needs also make it suitable near oak trees.

This handy plant also continues to bloom even in some shade. Its deep green lily-like leaves are attractive on their own. It comes from the lily family (*Liliaceae*).

Although its common name is *Peruvian scilla*, it does not come from Peru; it is native to the mediterranean region of Spain. It was originally transported around the Mediterranean on a ship named, *The Peru*, and the name stuck.

Specimens of the *Peruvian scilla* are available for purchase in **Eve's Garden Shop**.

*Scilla peruviana* was chosen for the **Garden's 128 of Our Best**, which includes plant photos, descriptions, and uses of 128 of the Garden's best plants for the landscape. This book is available in **Eve's Garden Shop**.



Photos by Ron Kindig

CAUTION: All parts of this plant are **poisonous**.  
However, that keeps predators away too.