



# San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden

Dec 2013

*Our Mission is to honor and preserve our connection with nature*

## Upcoming Events

[www.slobg.org/events-classes](http://www.slobg.org/events-classes)

### Saturday, December 7

Kids' Garden Gifts  
1 PM to 3 PM

### Saturday, December 14

Secrets of Seaweed  
1 PM to 3 PM

### Saturday, January 11

Tool Maintenance 101  
1 PM to 3 PM

### Saturday, January 18

Kid's Garden Day  
1 PM to 3 PM

### Saturday, February 8

Sustainable Vintners  
1 PM to 3 PM

## Board of Directors

Ke-Ping Tsao, M.D., *President*  
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Curtis Black, Deputy Director -  
Parks, *SLO County Parks Liaison*

**SLO Botanical Garden communications will be sent out electronically, saving your Garden time and money. A few printed copies will be available in the Gift Shop. Come in and say "hi!"**

**Sign up to receive event updates electronically at: [slobg.org/about/newsletter](http://slobg.org/about/newsletter)**



photo by Wikiwatcher1

## Secret Lives of Seaweeds

**Saturday at the Garden - December 14, 1 PM to 3 PM**

Central California's rocky intertidal and subtidal areas are covered by a beautiful and diverse array of marine algae. Many visitors to the coast focus their attention towards otters in the kelp forests or sea stars nestled in between rocks and under algae, but seldom explore the algae themselves. The macroalgal communities of California are composed of nearly 700 species of red, brown and green seaweeds. In addition to their striking colors and morphologies, they provide a host of important ecosystem services. They are even harvested and grown by humans for a number of uses.

Come and enjoy an afternoon in the Garden's Oak Glen Pavilion learning about the secret lives and uses of local seaweed species. Learn about their life histories, recognize common local species, how to tell the difference between red, green and brown algae (it is not as easy as you think!), why seaweeds are so important, and more!

Laurie McConnico is actively involved in marine algal research and is a tenured Marine Biology and Ecology instructor at Cuesta College. For the last 15+ years she has worked on subtidal and intertidal projects in California, Florida, Hawaii and/ or Baja California, Mexico. Laurie completed her MS in Marine Science at Moss Landing Marine Labs and is currently pursuing her PhD at the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California Sur in La Paz, Mexico. She has a passion for science, travel, Baja, and seaweeds.

Presentation is \$5 for members/\$10 non-members. Followed at 2 PM by a free docent-led tour of the Garden. For more information visit [www.slobg.org/seaweed](http://www.slobg.org/seaweed).

## Cool Kids in the Garden

We had a wonderful turnout for our 8th Kids' Garden Fresh Cooking Class on November 16. Our partners STRIDE and SLO Natural Foods Co-Op helped create a wonderful learning opportunity for a full kitchen of young learners. Recipes and pictures are available on our [Facebook page](#).

Join us for the next Children's Garden event on **Dec 7, from 1-3 PM** as we transform plants into **Great Garden Gifts!** More information is available on our website: [www.slobg.org](http://www.slobg.org)



photo by Mikayla Byars

## Operations Update

By Gill Blonsly

As an eventful year draws to an end, the Executive Committee has been developing plans for an expanded array of services and programs that reinforce our basic mission, and open new opportunities to serve the community.

While many of the activities can be volunteer-driven, our reduced staffing imposes limitations in the level of support that can be offered. Most significantly, our need to increase the financial support for expansion of programs is obvious.

### Hardscape Project:

As of now we are in the final review process with the County, and expect to have plan approval within a few weeks. At issue is the scope of the project. The total design far exceeds the \$300,000 grant the County has authorized. It will be necessary to eliminate some items, as well as segmenting the project into two or more phases as we move forward. The good news is that "phase one" will go out to bid in the next few months.

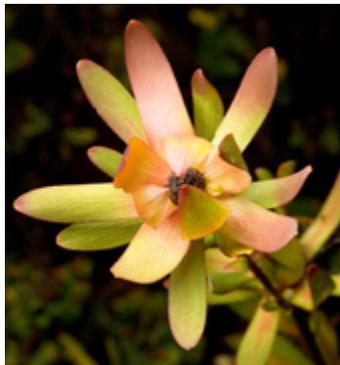
### Fire Safe Project:

Some design work has started and our temporary "hold", imposed to assess project management, has been lifted. We will be moving forward to complete the plan in the next two or three months. The work should be completed by this summer, thanks to the generosity of the Fire Safe Council, Hearst Foundation, and the Miossi Trust.

## The Garden in Autumn

By Eve Vigil

The temperatures are cooling, rain is expected (hopefully!), and now is moving time - transplanting that is. There is just enough warmth and sunshine left in the season to give the plants a good start and harden them off before it gets really cold. Here are some of the moves we're making: the scented geraniums are being moved to what is now the Iris collection in Bed H - too much shade; the iris will be scattered throughout the Garden; temporary plants in the *Leucadendron salignum* cultivars display have been moved now that the *Leucadendrons* are one year older and making more of a statement on their own; the aging Torch Lilies along the path to the building have been replaced with *Aeoniums*, which will provide a spectacular show of yellow flowers against the maroon colored leaves in the spring. There is never a dull moment in a Garden and autumn gets us ready for a spectacular spring!



## 128 of Our Best Book

Get the "dirt" on the greatest plants in the Garden! The 2014 edition of **128 of Our Best** is coming soon to Eve's Garden Shop thanks to an incredible amount of volunteer effort! New plants and a new format makes this little book a wonderful resource for gardening enthusiasts. Thank you Ron and everyone involved.

photo by Ron Kindig



## Your Connection to Nature

Scientists, philosophers, psychologists, ecologists, educators, and students of all ages agree that spending time outdoors is good for your health. Financially supporting the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden helps deepen our community's connection with nature by offering "education through exploration."

Your Botanical Garden is dedicated to teaching adults and children about the natural environment, rules of ecology, sustainability, where food comes from and the major role plants play in our lives.

Your Botanical Garden receives no government subsidies and is totally reliant on membership dues and donations.

**Will you help the Garden GROW?** Help us create meaningful nature connections by making a tax-deductible contribution **NOW**.

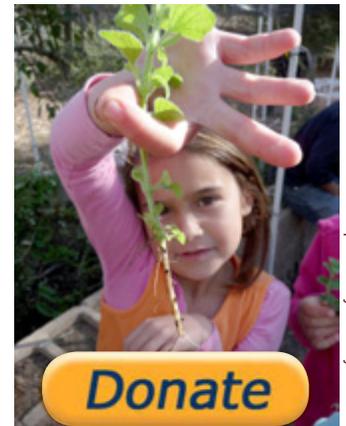


photo by Nancy Schum

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Help our Garden grow by becoming a Business Member! Visit our website [slobg.org/help-us-grow/business-support](http://slobg.org/help-us-grow/business-support) to find out how we can be business partners.