

Upcoming Events

Details at: slobg.org/events-classes
\$3 County parking fee on weekends.

Mediterranean Adventure Camp! TWO sessions this year

July 9 - 13 and August 6 - 10

Don't miss out on this incredible fun and educational day camp. Details at slobg.org/education/summer-camp. See article inside.

Saturday, July 14, 1 PM - 3 PM

Saturday at the Garden -

Flowers as Photographic Models

\$5 members/\$10 non-members. 2 PM Docent-led tour. See cover article.

Saturday, July 14, 1 PM - 3 PM

**Saturday at the Children's Garden -
Native American Gardening!**

Learn about traditional gardening and crafts! \$5 donation for materials.

Saturday, August 11, 1 PM - 3 PM

Saturday at the Garden -

Plant Terminology Made Simple

\$5 members/\$10 non-members. 2 PM Docent-led tour. Details at slobg.org/plant-terminology.

Saturday August 11, 1 PM - 3 PM

**Saturday at the Children's Garden -
Garden Lip Balm and Sunscreen
Making**

Learn how to make your own natural products with plants in the Garden and take some home. \$5 donation for materials.

Sunday, August 26, 4 PM

**Oak Glen Pavilion Concert Series -
Chris Stuart and Janet Beazley,**

From the group Backcountry; folk, blue-grass and country. \$20 members/\$25 non-members. Limited seating, ticketing at slobg.org/stuart-beazley. See article inside.



Photos by Marlin Harms

Saturday at the Garden – July 14, 1 PM - 3 PM

Flowers as Photographic Models: Putting the Best Face Forward

Nature photographer Marlin Harms will offer inspiration for flower photographers and suggest ways to improve flower photography, at the Garden's Oak Glen Pavilion on Saturday, July 14 from 1 PM to 2 PM. Topics will include: subject and background choices, lighting in the field, and equipment. He will illustrate his talk with photos, many taken at the Garden. After his presentation he will lead a walk through the Garden and illustrate his methods, equipment and thought process.

Marlin Harms has been photographing nature for over two decades. While he has a degree in biology, he has found that curiosity with a camera has been a springboard to furthering his learning about the natural world and its many intricacies. He has honed his skills with workshops from George Lepp and David Gubernick. In the late 1990's and early 2000's he was involved with Morro Estuary Greenbelt Alliance and the Trust for Public Lands, in numerous conservation projects in SLO County, most of which, he is proud to say, were successful. He is a member of the California Native Plant Society. Several of his photos have appeared in books and he is well-represented by many photos in the local guide, *Wildflowers of San Luis Obispo, California*, (sold in Eve's Garden Shop). In the 2012 Morro Photo Expo, he co-led a class on photographing wildflowers. Some of his photos can be viewed at www.flickr.com/photos/marlinharms.

Presentation is \$5 members/\$10 non-members, to be followed by a free docent-led tour in the Garden. For more information contact 805.541.1400x304 or education@slobg.org. \$3 County parking fee on weekends.

**Saturday at the Children's Garden – Native American Gardening
Saturday, July 14, 1 PM - 3 PM**

Learn how to plant a "Three-Sisters Garden," play Chumash games and paint pictographs in the Garden. Activity is \$5 donation per family for non-members. Class size is limited. For more information contact our Education Coordinator at education@slobg.org or 805.541.1400x304.

Connections With Nature:



Mike's Field Notes —

Incubation – Like eggs and seeds, ideas and gardens require incubation. You might think that twenty-two years was plenty of time for our Garden to incubate, and you'd be correct! However a 2,000 year old date palm seed from Herod's Palace in Israel is now successfully growing, so by comparison our twenty-two years is but sand in the wind.

Our Garden has actually had several periods of ideas and incubation, as new efforts are assimilated into the framework of the existing ones. This ebb and flow can be frustrating for some of us, yet the delays allow time for the great ideas to mature, and allows those ideas that are not worthy to wither.

I began my work at SLOBG last May 23; my own incubation feels nearly complete, a full year later. Our Garden Volunteers, Members and supporters and I are becoming familiar to one another. And many of your names come easily to me now. [Odd how a simple "Jim" or "Mary" may be harder to recall than *Megaskepsma erythrochlamys!*] I have now walked the entire 150 acres of our future and am committed to bringing great gardens to those grand vistas on the hills above the Garden and Oak Glen Pavilion.

Still, my priorities remain much as they were early in my 'incubation':

- Meet those that have grown the Garden and learn from them
- Reach out to others to share the Garden and encourage participation
- Grow our Garden with a respect for mediterranean plants and color – and for our environment
- Continue to expand and review daily operations and programs
- Build great gardens on our 150 acres of grand vistas

We are making good progress on several fronts; perhaps the increased light and color within the Garden is the most noticeable. Community support continues to be encouraging – from memberships to committees for art and garden design. Near the end of May, the Garden hosted a successful 'FUN and FUNdraising' dinner which has allowed us to take positive steps in making our daily operations more financially secure.

My August, 2011 'Field Notes' closing is every bit as appropriate today as it was then: "...if OUR Garden matters to you - please help us move forward. If possible, add dollars to your membership, add an extra shift or event to your volunteer schedule and add some more garden-stories to your conversations with friends. Better yet, spread the word with the gift of a Membership to a friend. I can guarantee that your efforts will be received with gratitude and appreciation and will be efficiently put to good use."

And it won't take 2,000 years of incubation! See you in our Garden soon.

Volunteer Spotlight —

Why do YOU volunteer?

by Kristina Van Wert, Director of Volunteers

There are dozens of reasons why you should volunteer at the Garden and just as many opportunities to match you up with. But most of all, being a great volunteer is doing what you love, and my goal is to find the opportunity that feels right for you. So if something on the list below resonates with you, give me a call at 805.541.1400x305, or email volunteer@slobg.org, and let's get you started on your reason!

10 Great Reasons to Volunteer at the Garden

- Make a difference
- Feel involved
- Contribute to a cause that you care about
- Use your skills in a productive way
- Develop new skills
- Meet new people
- Explore new areas of interest
- Impress yourself
- Expand your horizons
- Get out of the house

Adapted from an article on www.volunteermatch.com

Cool Kids

at the Mediterranean Adventure Camp July 9-13 & August 6-10

by Lindsey Collinsworth,
Education Coordinator

Romp and stomp at this one-of-a-kind adventure for 2nd-6th grade kids at the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden. Kids will enjoy the outdoors and explore the five mediterranean climates of the world in a fun-filled outdoor classroom.

Through exciting hands-on outdoor activities, campers will discover how we need and use plants every day, and will learn all about the cultural, historical and geographic identity of California, Chile, South Africa, Australia and the Mediterranean Basin. Camp

Adventurers will play, explore and investigate the natural world. Sign up NOW as spaces are very limited.

Cost: \$150 for 5 days; light snacks provided. Scholarships are available. Ask about our Garden Member discount.

Enrollment deadline: Call for July Camp availability, Monday, July 23 for August Camp

Contact: Lindsey at 805.541.1400x304 or education@slobg.org



Photos by Lindsey Collinsworth and Emi Tragori



"Flowers always make people better, happier, and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine for the soul."

— Luther Burbank

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San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden

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SLOBG Concert Series ~ 2012

Chris Stuart and Janet Beazley

Sunday, August 26 at 4 PM

Chris Stuart and Janet Beazley play mostly original material in the tradition of bluegrass, folk, Americana, and even early music, and enjoy putting on a good show. In the past nine years they've toured the US, Canada, England, Europe, and the Middle East, and have recorded seven albums. You can check them out at www.chrisstuart.com.



Chris Stuart is a songwriter, writer, guitarist, and old-time banjo player. He is a winner of the Merlefest Chris Austin Songwriting competition in both bluegrass and gospel categories, and his songs have been recorded by leading artists like: Claire Lynch, "Paul and Peter Walked," "Thibodaux," "God Spoke His Name," Dale Ann Bradley, "Julia Belle"; Danny Paisley, "Don't Throw Mama's Flowers Away"; Larry Cordle, "First Train Robbery"; Michael Cleveland, "Farewell for a Little While," and others. In 2009, with co-writer Ivan Rosenberg, Chris received the award for the International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) Song of the Year for "Don't Throw Mama's Flowers Away," recorded by Danny Paisley and the Southern Grass.

Janet Beazley was recently featured on the cover of *Banjo Today*, and the cover story described her as an accomplished bluegrass banjo player, singer, songwriter, and teacher. Janet's solo CD, *5 South*, was the focus of a profile article in the August 2005 issue of *Banjo Newsletter*, and appeared on the *Bluegrass Unlimited National Survey Chart for Top 15 Albums*. The song, "Julia Belle," spent eight months on the Top 30 Songs Chart, reaching #9. Janet produced and engineered all of the CSB band albums, as well as solo projects by guitar virtuoso Eric Uglum.

Seating limited; reserve early on-line at slobg.org/stuart-beazley. \$20 members/\$25 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; please no outside food. Our 2012 Concert Series is proudly supported by New Times and KCBX.

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.

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Help our Garden grow...become a Business Member. Visit our NEW website at slobg.org/help-us-grow/business-support to find out how we can be business partners.

Take the Garden with you this summer!

Reciprocal Admission Program—Do you have travel plans this summer? When you pack up your swimsuits and suntan lotion, be sure to double-check that your SLOBG membership card is safely tucked into your wallet as well since it can save you money along the way.

Whether in tropical Florida, upstate New York, or the plains of Ohio, there are botanical gardens out there that just can't be missed. Thanks to the American Horticultural Societies Reciprocal Admissions Program, your SLOBG membership card is a passport to America's garden treasures. With a flash of your card, you can receive special admission privileges in addition to discounts on gift shop purchases and special events at over 270 horticultural organizations throughout North America.

A full list of participants can be found at www.ahs.org/events/reciprocal. Print out a copy to add to your travel book, and send us a postcard; we'd love to hear from you!



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 —

Poems for Endangered Places

by Janet Swanson, Volunteer

We have a unique offering for our July Item of the Month in Eve's Garden Shop, the inspiring book *Poems for Endangered Places* by The Plein Air Poets of San Luis Obispo County. The seven poets featured in this book traveled throughout San Luis Obispo County over a one year time span, to write poems at locations they chose for their beauty and ecological or cultural value and because these places are threatened by human actions. Oceano Dunes, Irish Hills, and Bishop Peak are some of the areas visited.

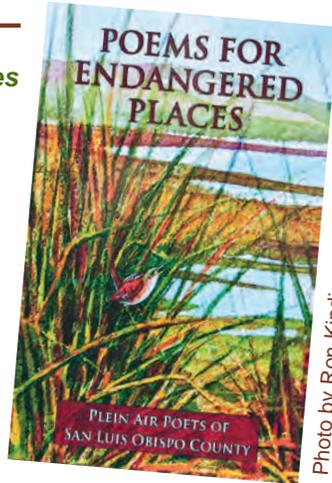


Photo by Ron Kindig

These gifted, award winning-poets share what they learned from spending time in the fragile, sensitive, rare environments of creek beds, seaside slopes, or an oil-spilled beach. In reading the poems you will experience familiar territory in a fresh, new light. There are lovely illustrations of each location visited.

As the featured Item of the Month, *Poems for Endangered Places* will be on sale in Eve's Garden Shop during the month of July at a 15% discount for members and 10% discount for non-members.



Plant of the month

by Ron Kindig, Volunteer

Red hot poker lights the way to summer!

Red hot poker (*Kniphofia uvaria* 'Orange Flame') brings its brilliant blooms to the garden from late spring well into summer. You can find it in the Garden in Beds E, H, and I, where it joins other *Kniphofias* with brilliant hues of yellow.

It comes to us from slopes and grassy meadows of the strandveld plant community of the Western Cape of South Africa, which is very similar to California's coastal sage scrub. It likes well-draining soils and a little water when the buds start to form. Otherwise, its deep succulent roots retain moisture through droughts and dry summers.

It is happy in full sun or some shade (the ones in Bed E are growing under an oak tree). It is a good choice near oak trees for its low water needs, and it behaves itself as a border or in a container as well. Its red tubular flowers are a hummingbird favorite, but deer do not prefer it.

The leaves last fairly well year around and provide a nice green background. In fall, cut out any that look sad.

Kniphofia uvaria 'Orange Flame' 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. Find out more about our plants on our website at slobg.org/our-garden/what-we-grow.



Specimens of red hot poker are available for purchase at Eve's Garden Shop.

Photos by Ron Kindig