



San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden

Our Mission is to honor and preserve our connection with nature

Upcoming Events

www.slobg.org/events-classes

Saturday, April 5
Kids' Spring into Nature
1 PM to 3 PM

Saturday, April 12
Talkin' Trash
1 PM to 3 PM

Sunday, April 27
Earth Day Music Festival
10 AM to 5 PM

Saturday, May 10
All About Composting
1 PM to 3 PM

Saturday, May 17
Pine Needle Basketry
9:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Saturday, May 24
Audubon Bird Walk
9 AM to 11 AM

Saturday, June 14
Invasive Plants & Insects
1 PM to 3 PM

Saturday, June 21
Nesting Boxes &
Hummingbirds
1 PM to 3 PM

Mon-Fri, June 23-27
Kids' Summer Camp
10 AM - 3 PM

Sign up to receive event
updates electronically at:
slobg.org/about/newsletter



Photo by Mike di Milo

Talkin' Trash - with Mike di Milo

Saturday at the Garden - April 12, 1 PM - 3 PM

Ever wonder where all the trash you put on the curb goes each week? Discover the state of recycling and solid waste management in San Luis Obispo County, as the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden welcomes Mike di Milo of Integrated Waste Management on April 12, at 1 PM. In collaboration with the Morro Bay National Estuary Program's Estuary Month, the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden is pleased to host Mike di Milo. Learn how simple actions help preserve vital resources, take action in reducing waste, and help SLO County move toward a zero waste society.

Mike di Milo is the Education Program Coordinator for the San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA). Mike and his staff deliver about 700 recycling presentations and field trips each year to children and adults throughout our county. Mike graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with a degree in Natural Resources Management, and has lived in San Luis Obispo since 1978.

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/trash.

Weekends and holidays April through September County Parks Charges a \$3 parking fee.

Cool Kids in the Garden: Spring into Nature!

Kids' Saturday at the Garden - April 5, 1 PM - 3 PM

Join us for a hands-on learning experience for the whole family. Learn how to plant an ideal family garden and all about making plant stamp crafts. Plus bring home a plant of your own!

Activity is FREE thanks to our partners at Cuesta College Library. For more information visit www.slobg.org/spring. To register call 805.546.3190

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Photo by Neomi Vembu

Debbie's Corner

This year the Garden celebrates its 25th anniversary. And this year, I celebrate my 15th year with the Garden. As a long-time staff member, I am committed to the mission and vision of the Garden. Together we've accomplished so much since the Garden originated as an idea in Eve Vigil's mind. Here are a few highlights:

- Obtained a 150 acre site within El Chorro Regional Park;
- Accepted a unique, award-winning Master Plan for the design of the Garden;
- Negotiated a 99 year lease on the property with the County of San Luis Obispo;
- Raised private funds to design, build, and plant a three-acre Garden that displays the many ways plants from the five Mediterranean regions of our world can be utilized to produce beautiful and useful landscapes;
- Raised private funds to design and build two buildings;
- Raised private funds to construct a state of the art waste water treatment plant that processes all of the waste water from both buildings;
- Established comprehensive education programs that promotes the understanding of the relationship of people to the plants and environments that nurture us;
- Planted a grove of approximately 90 Chilean Wine Palms which are listed as vulnerable on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List and is very likely the largest grove outside Chile;
- We have instituted GPS mapping for all new areas of the Garden such as the Mediterranean Climate Orchard, the Palm Grove, and the Oak Hillside;

What's ahead for this year? By the end of April, we will have applied for the permit to install the Fire Safe Demonstration Landscape Garden. We look forward to completion by July. We are in the final review process with the County for the landscaping around the buildings. We expect to have plan approval soon. By the time you receive this newsletter, the Learning from the Land Hiking Trail will have received its final grading by Cal Fire. Irrigation for the Children's Garden Play Meadow was installed and a group of preschoolers joined us for a ground breaking ceremony.

Our volunteers donate hundreds of hours to maintain the Garden, assist in the office, plan programs, catalog books, help with events, propagate plants, interpret the Garden and so much more. This morning as I walked through the Garden I came across a sign with a quote from Sherry Anderson, "Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but, because they're priceless!" The Garden could not exist without all of our volunteers who work tirelessly on behalf of the Garden.

THANK YOU!



Debbie Hoover
Operations Director

Special Celebration! Earth Day Music Festival Sunday, 27, 10 AM - 5 PM



San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden is excited to be part of the 2014 Earth Day Celebrations at El Chorro Regional Park, Sunday April 27 from 10 AM to 5 PM.

Earth Day is the largest FREE annual environmental event in SLO County. This great event will return to the natural spacious outdoor setting of El Chorro Regional Park. San Luis Obispo County Parks and the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden will partner with Earth Day Alliance in producing the 24th annual SLO County Earth Day. Returning as a major sponsor, Rapid Transit Authority (RTA) will provide free bus rides from every corner of the county, to the park and back all day long, on April 27. Enjoy music from Burning James & the Funky Flames and other great performances throughout the day. Special activities will take place in the Children's Garden from 11 AM to 3 PM.

More information about Earth Day can be found at: www.EarthDayAlliance.com or www.slobg.org/earth-day

Grow With Us! Children's Garden Committee by Marilyn Wills, Volunteer

Over the past six months, a team of volunteers who share a love for kids and gardens has been meeting to develop long- and short-range plans to enhance the Children's Garden. Our primary goal is to "put the Children's Garden on the map" for locals and their guests. Aiming to become a popular destination, a place where families gather to relax and experience nature together, we have surveyed our client community and are responding to their needs.

Most importantly, we intend to transform the Children's Garden into a hands-on learning lab where kids have fun interacting with plants and living creatures as they absorb new insights into the wonders of nature. So far, we have created a Dune Digging Zone, Imagination Village, and Wishing Tree. A much needed shed has been donated and installed. Watch for a big new sign at the entrance.

We are looking forward to showcasing these attractions and many more at Earth Day, April 27th. Come check us out!

For more information about participating in our activities or donating much-needed items, please contact Lindsey at education@slobg.org



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Board of Directors

Ke-Ping Tsao, M.D., *President*
Fred Bogart, CPA, *Treasurer*
Gaby Levine, *Secretary*
V.L. Holland
Madeline Moore
Eve Vigil
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!"

Business Sponsors

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KON TIKI INN

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You can help the Garden grow by becoming a Business Member! Visit our website slobg.org/help-us-grow/business-support to find out how we can be business partners.



Photo by Kessner Photography

All About Composting - with Madeline Fay Saturday at the Garden - May 10, 1 PM to 3 PM

Over 40% of food is thrown away in America, resulting in 31 tons of food added to landfills every year!

Composting enriches the soil with nutrients, helps clean up contaminated soil, prevents landfill waste and methane production, and reduces the need for water, fertilizers and pesticides! This process is easy, and when done correctly, doesn't smell!

Master Composter and Garden Volunteer Madeline Fay will describe the basic method for composting your yard waste and vegetable food scraps. Learn how to tailor basic composting techniques to your specific home and garden situation. Enjoy the spring weather at this outdoor presentation and learn something that can make a sustainable difference in the health of our planet as you transform garbage into gold!

Madeline Fay became interested in organic gardening in the late 1970's and started to "dig" compost. In 1997 she went through Master Composter training in Santa Clara County. For ten years she volunteered teaching composting workshops throughout that county. In 2012 she joined the Garden as a volunteer and docent.

Presentation is \$5 for members/\$10 non-members. Followed at 2 PM by a free docent-led tour of the Garden. For more info visit www.slobg.org/compost.

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Cool Kids in the Garden: Adventure Camp! Kid's Saturday at the Garden - June 23-27, 10 AM to 3 PM

Play, Explore and Investigate the Natural World! Enjoy the outdoors and explore the natural environment through hikes, gardening, art, music, science experiments, live animals and more hands-on activities. Campers will discover the relationship between plants and people. Snacks provided. Please bring a bagged lunch. For kids grade 2-6. Extended day drop off and pick up is available.

Cost: \$150 for 5 days, Garden Members save 10%. Scholarships and extended day are available. Visit www.slobg.org/summer-camp or email education@slobg.org for more information.

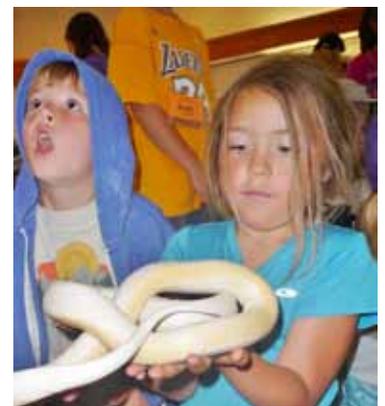


Photo by SLOBG

Special Workshop is BACK! Pine Needle Basket Weaving Saturday, May 17, 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM Elizabeth Bear, *Fabric Artist*

Photo by Elizabeth Bear



"A basket reflects the person who makes it... There's no machine that can make a basket"
- Elizabeth Bear.

Join us at the Garden as we explore the ancient art of pine needle basket weaving.

Artist Elizabeth Bear will guide attendees

through the process of creating beautiful, fragrant and sustainable pieces of artwork at this intimate workshop.

Just bring sharp scissors, imagination and a bagged lunch, as Ms. Bear provides all materials and her masterful insight. Each participant will make their own basket and start a second basket to work on at home. Workshop also includes a lecture on sustainable harvesting and tree kindness.

Workshop is \$95 for members / \$120 for non-members. Limited class size. For more information visit www.slobg.org/weaving. To register call 541.1400x304.

Memorial Weekend Special Audubon Bird Walk Saturday, May 24, 9 AM - 11 AM

Photo by Eric Wier



The Garden is pleased to welcome Mike Stiles and Eric Wier of the Morro Coast Audubon Society for a family-friendly birding walk. This bird walk through the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden and surrounding area will be approximately one mile long at a slow to moderate pace, depending on where and how often birds are spotted.

People of any birding skill level are welcome. We expect to see dozens of species in a variety of habitats, with likely sightings of: White-tailed Kite, Red-shouldered Hawk, California Quail, Western Scrub-jay, Western Bluebird and possible nesting Black-headed Grosbeaks and orioles.

We'll meet near the Garden entrance. If you have binoculars please bring them; if not, loaners will be available. Walk is \$5 for Garden members/\$10 non-members. For more information visit www.slobg.org/birding.

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Long-Lasting Blooms! Plant of the Season

by Ron Kindig, *Volunteer*

From rocky, dry cliffs along the coast and inland Mediterranean comes the Jerusalem sage (*Phlomis fruticosa*). This hardy plant adds color to slopes and backgrounds for a long time during the spring and summer. See it in Bed B in the Garden.

It grows about 4 feet high and wide in bloom, and it needs little water; however, It blooms more with more. Its light gray-green leaves help reflect heat, so it survives in North SLO county heat with a little afternoon shade. It also survives 0° temperatures!

Phlomis fruticosa is fire resistant, and deer do not care for it. It is generally pest free, and can be cut back hard in late winter to rejuvenate.

Phlomis fruticosa was chosen for the Garden's "128 of Our Best 2014," 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 at our website at www.slobg.org/what-we-grow.

Photos by Ron Kindig



There are about 100 species of Phlomis.

Board Member Recruitment

If you share the Garden's goals and wish to have an impact on its future, please consider Board membership. We are currently seeking applications from interested individuals; and while we cannot assure your election, we would welcome your expression of interest and ask that you consider applying. I would welcome a personal conversation if you have some specific questions. Just call me the Garden at 541-1400 x 300 for questions or to request an application.

Thank you for your consideration. -Debbie Hoover