



San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden

Our Mission is to honor and preserve our connection with nature

Upcoming Events

www.slobg.org/events-classes

Saturday, November 14

California Condors
1 PM to 2 PM

Saturday, December 5

Hands-On Gardening Class
10 AM to 1 PM

Sunday, December 6

Holiday Herbal Workshop
2 PM to 4:30 PM

Saturday, December 12

Migrating Monarchs
1 PM to 2 PM

Garden Wish List:

Thinking about upgrading your smart tablet this holiday season? Consider donating your old one to the Garden! With this donation SLOBG can join the 21st century and provide mobile service during on and off-site events! For more information contact info@slobg.org.



Photos by Joseph Brandt and Chuck Szurlo

California Condors: Back from the Brink with Dave Clendenen of MCAS

Saturday at the Garden - November 14 at 1 PM

Poaching, lead poisoning and habitat destruction resulted in the extinction of California condors in the wild in 1987. Due to tremendous efforts, the largest birds in North America were reintroduced into the wild in 1991 and now hundreds of these charismatic birds can be found in the western United States, but their struggle isn't over yet! Discover current conservation efforts and the inspiring story of one species journey back from the brink of extinction. Followed at 2 PM by a free docent-led tour of the Garden.

Presentation is \$5 for Garden members / \$10 public.

No preregistration required. For more information visit slobg.org/condor.

Dave Clendenen is the Lands Manager of the Morro Coast Audubon Society. He worked first for the Audubon Society and then for the US Fish & Wildlife Service during his 15-year tenure on the California Condor Recovery Program. He participated in all phases of the Condor Recovery Program, including studies of the remnant wild flock, before assisting in the capture of the last free-flying birds for captive breeding. He held the position of Lead Biologist during the early stages of condor reintroduction, and was appointed by the FWS Regional Director to serve on the Condor Recovery Team. Dave has also participated in the bald eagle reintroduction on Catalina Island, and worked on a study of bald eagles in Arizona.



Photos by Sage Ecological Landscapes

Hands-On Landscaping/Gardening Class with Sage Eco Landscapes

Saturday, December 5, 10 AM - 1 PM

Fall and winter are the perfect times to install your native plants, and that's exactly what we're doing at the hands-on gardening class. Come learn best practices for installing your native landscape while working with professional landscapers! Get experience planting while learning design basics from the wonderful staff of Sage Ecological Landscapes. This event is free, festive and very kid friendly.

Look for project updates on our website and come join the fun as we plant and play in the Children's Sage Meadow! Help plant a lasting memory in the Garden.

Free to attend! No preregistration required. For more information visit slobg.org/sage. Thank you to our generous sponsors at Clearwater Color, One Cool Earth, Central Coast Landscape Products, Home Depot, Souza Construction and Sage Ecological Landscapes.



Holiday Herbal Laboratory with herbalist, Greg Money Sunday, December 6, 2 PM - 4:30 PM

Fragrant herbs have been used for centuries for culinary, medicinal, and ornamental purposes. Join us in the Children's Garden as we learn the history of common herbs, how to harvest and process them into great smelling and delicious treats. We'll make crafts and learn more advanced herbal preparations, like lotion and hydrosols. Class is best for adults. Limited class size.

Greg Money is a native resident of San Luis Obispo and has always been passionate about alternative medicine. Greg received his training at the first herb school in the nation, the California School of Herbal Studies. He continued his studies at the Dyanna Center for Ayurvedic medicine.

Material fee is \$15 for members/ \$20 for non-members. Reservations required.

For more info or RSVP visit slobg.org/herb-lab or email education@slobg.org.

Don't Doubt the Drought 10 Favorite Water Frugal Plants

by Ron Kindig, Garden Docent

What does "drought tolerant plants" bring to mind? Cactus? Weeds? Are you thinking of planting rocks and concrete to save water? Even with El Nino at our door, we need to make water conservation a daily practice and not just when faced with catastrophic drought.

The San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden features plants that are not only drought tolerant, but beautiful to boot. We perused our publication, *128 of Our Best*, for plants that use the least amount of water, are colorful, and have endured in the Botanical Garden.

The results are **IN! Here's 10 of the best.**

Arbutus unedo 'October Festival' (strawberry bush)
Wonderful small evergreen tree/shrub about 6 to 8 ft. high and wide. Clusters of delicate deep pink flowers fall winter, spring, followed by bright red berries.

Photos by Ron Kindig



Arctostaphylos densiflora 'Howard McMinn' (sonoma manzanita)
Shapely shrub about 6 ft. high, 7 to 14 ft. wide. Clusters of light pink or white flowers, winter, spring, followed by berries.

Cistus x purpureus (orchid rockrose)
Wonderful ground-covering shrub about 3 to 4 ft. high and wide. Bright orchid flowers, spring into summer and longer.

Crassula perfoliata var. *falcata* (airplane plant)
This succulent shrub is a real water miser, about 4 ft. high and 4-5 ft. wide. Clusters of bright red fragrant flowers, summer to fall.

Dendromecon rigida (bush poppy)
A long blooming shrub, to 9 ft. high, 6 ft. wide. Bright sulfur yellow flowers, spring to summer, some to rest of year.

Eschscholzia californica (California poppy)
What can we say? This brilliant golden-orange flower just keeps coming back every spring to summer. 6 to 15 in. high and wide.

Kniphofia uvaria (red hot poker)
The brilliant flowers on this succulent give it its common name. About 10 to 15 in. high, 15 to 18 in. wide. Blooms midwinter to early spring in a variety of oranges and yellows.

Lampranthus aurantiacus (ice plant)
Ice plant?!?! Relax. This is the well-behaved non-invasive kind of succulent. About 10 to 15 in. high, 15 to 18 in. wide. Honest! It's neon bright orange, yellow and other colors (depending on variety) light up the garden from midwinter to early spring.

Rosmarinus officinalis 'Ken Taylor' (rosemary)
This good-smelling shrub can grow to 6 ft. high and 20 ft. wide. Deep blue fragrant flowers bloom winter, spring, and sometimes fall.

Santolina chamaecyparissus (lavender cotton)
This hard-to-pronounce shrub grows about 1-2 ft. high and spreads 6-8 ft. wide. Its bright yellow fragrant flowers sparkle from late spring to summer.

More info with pictures are on our website:
slobg.org/our-gardens/what-we-grow.



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**One plants trees
to benefit future
generations.**

-Caecilius Statius

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Photos by Mike Baird and William Warby

The Mystery of Monarch Migration with Jessica Griffiths of MCAS

Saturday at the Garden - December 12, at 1 PM

Every fall, tens of thousands of colorful monarch butterflies return to the California coast to spend the winter. Join Jessica Griffiths for a fun and informative talk about these unique visitors. She will discuss surprising facts about monarch biology, the amazing ways that monarchs migrate and navigate, and give pointers about where to go around San Luis Obispo County to see this seasonal phenomenon. You will never look at a monarch butterfly the same way again! Followed at 2 PM by a free docent-led tour of the Garden.

Presentation is \$5 for Garden members / \$10 public.

No preregistration required. For more information visit slobg.org/monarch.

Jessica Griffiths is a biologist with Althouse and Meade, Inc., as well as the Coordinator for Monarch Alert at Cal Poly University, where she earned her Masters in Biology. Jessica has over 10 years of experience as a field biologist working with monarchs and birds on the central coast. Through Monarch Alert she is collaborating with several organizations and universities to engage citizen scientists in monarch research in order to further monarch conservation in the west.

Gifts From the Garden

Seasonal Treats Support Your Garden

Looking for the perfect gift this holiday season, but don't know where to start? Check out Eve's Giftshop this winter for locally grown and packaged seeds, locally made earring (pictured), stickers, notecards, t-shirts, plants, and our very popular *128 of Our Best* book.

Don't see exactly what you want? Give the **gift of membership** so your favorite people can enjoy discounts at local nurseries, on programs, at other botanical gardens and more! We also have gift cards that come in **any amount**. That way your picky gardener can get exactly what they want, while also supporting a great non-profit garden!



Photo by Lindsey Collinsworth

A Thankful Garden

by Debra Hoover, Operations Director

As the Thanksgiving holiday for giving thanks approaches, we at the Garden pause for a moment to reflect back on the year with gratitude. Here at the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden we have many reasons to be grateful.

We're grateful for successful Spring and Fall Plant Sales. As I write this article, it's raining. The arrival of the rain brings a welcome drink for all those recently planted plants purchased at the Fall Plant Sale. Our watering can is running over.

We're grateful for the tremendous community support the Garden received. Our volunteers generously gave their time and talents to keep the Garden going, growing and maintained. The business community stepped up to donate equipment, materials and labor to install the pathways in the Fire Safe Demonstration Garden.

We're grateful for the completion of the Discovery Hiking Trail. An amazing team of volunteers developed a brochure and interpretative signs that enrich a visitor's experience while hiking the trail. Visitors will be rewarded with awesome views from the top. Also at the top of the trail, is a newly installed weather vane donated by Marilyn Leverich in memory of Bill Leverich.

We're grateful for the addition of a weather station and an earth oven to the Children's Garden. The weather station was made possible by grants from IBM and

You Grow Our Future

As a non-profit botanical garden we grow on the kindness and generosity of our volunteers, visitors, sponsors and donors.

Because of your generous support in 2015:

- thousands of visitors marvel at and reconnect with nature in the Garden annually,
- hundreds of fire resistant plants were planted and are thriving in our nearly completed Fire Safe Demonstration Landscape,
- over 800 people attended 30 different educational programs in 2015,
- over 4,000 volunteer hours were recorded between January 1, and September 30, 2015
- over 1,000 students and adults enjoyed a free docent tour of the Garden, and many more are scheduled throughout the year,
- your donations granted many scholarships for children to attend educational programs,
- the beautiful and sustainable Oak Glen Pavilion hosted numerous events and rentals throughout the year,
- we installed an earth oven in the Children's Garden with the support of Libbie Agran and Guy Fitzwater,
- we are placing interactive signs in the Present Garden that connect people to the **128 of Our Best** plants and,
- we have been developing an exciting project that will enhance the County and your community.

SLO County Parks and Recreation.

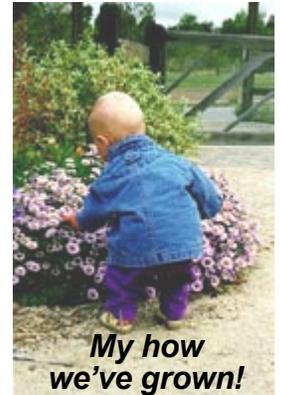
We're grateful for our adult and children's programs. The community enjoyed 20 adult programs and 13 children's programs.

And lastly, we're grateful for the financial support of donors. Together we are creating an enduring garden that is an educational resource and community gathering place to honor and preserve our connection with nature. None of this is possible without your continued support.

Debra Hoover
Operations Director



Photos from SLOBG archive



We are so grateful to you for helping create and support our committed team of staff and volunteers. Will you consider a contribution during this gift giving season? You are helping our Garden touch the lives of thousands – whether they are young students first discovering the life cycle, inspired community members learning about drought-tolerant landscaping, or a family spending quality time away from the screen and in person, in nature.

The San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden is your botanical garden. We exist to connect you, your loved ones and your community - to the wonders of nature. Your contribution is extremely important because it offers immediate resources that are directed to current needs at the Garden. All of our volunteers, visitors and students are counting on your support. We all thank you for your generous partnership and assistance. Know that your donation leaves a legacy of lasting environmental stewardship. Thank you!

Make a donation online by visiting slobg.org/help-us-grow and click on the yellow "Donate" button.