



# San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden

*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, September 12**

Favorite Rare Fruits  
1 PM to 2:30 PM

**Saturday, September 26**

Family Herbal Laboratory  
1 PM to 3 PM

**Saturday, October 3**

Propagating Native Plants  
1 PM to 2 PM

**Saturday, October 10**

BATS: Beyond Legend  
1 PM to 2 PM

**TENTATIVE TO RAIN!**

**Friday, October 23**

Members ONLY Plant Sale!  
10 AM to 2 PM

**Saturday, October 24**

Fall Plant Sale  
10 AM to 1 PM

## Garden Wish List:

*We're raising money to help "Raise the Roof" over the Earth Oven in the Children's Garden. Building this structure will provide protection from the elements and keep the oven functioning for years to come. If you would like to support children's health and nutrition consider supporting this project with funds, materials or labor. For more information contact [education@slobg.org](mailto:education@slobg.org).*



## Favorite Rare Fruits for the Central Coast with California Rare Fruit Growers

**Saturday at the Garden - September 12 at 1 PM**

The Central Coast of California is known for its mellow climate and robust agriculture, but what are some unique and delicious fruits that are right for your home garden? Join us at the Garden to hear from members of the California Rare Fruit Growers (CRFG) as they share their favorite fruits and how to grow them on the central coast without a greenhouse! Enjoy refreshments and mingling with CRFG members with the presentation starting at 1:30, followed by a free docent-led tour of the garden at 2:30 PM.

**Presentation is \$5 for Garden members / \$10 public / FREE for CRFG members.** No preregistration required. For more information visit [slobg.org/fruit](http://slobg.org/fruit).

*Founded in 1968, the **California Rare Fruit Growers (CRFG)** is the largest amateur fruit-growing organization in the world. Its membership includes nationally recognized botanical gardens and noted international horticultural researchers, as well as hobbyists, commercial growers and representatives from institutions of higher learning.*

*County Parks charge a \$3 parking fee on weekends and holidays April – September. Carpool and SAVE!*

## Family Herbal Laboratory

**Saturday, September 26, 1 PM - 3 PM**

with Lindsey Collinsworth

***Play, Explore and Investigate the Natural World!***

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 basic herbal preparations. For kids 9 years old and up. Limited class size.

*Lindsey is the Education Director at the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden. She is a graduate of the Herb Pharm internship and is getting her Masters in Teaching Biology with an emphasis in ethnobotany.*

**Material fee is \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members. Reservations required.** RSVP at [education@slobg.org](mailto:education@slobg.org). For more info visit [slobg.org/herb-lab](http://slobg.org/herb-lab).

***Children's education programs generously sponsored by Joan Sargen***



## Growing Native Plants from Seed for Simpletons with Greg Ellis of One Cool Earth Saturday, October 3, 1 PM

Adding native plants to your landscape can enhance wildlife and support local ecology while reducing your water bill. Discover how to propagate easy to grow native plants from seed, when/how to collect seeds and what soil types are preferred for these plants. We'll discuss the experimenting process of propagation, planting out and more.

We will have the opportunity to learn techniques for growing some of the following plants:

- California fuchsia - *Epilobium canum*
- California buckwheat - *Eriogonum fasciculatum*
- California strawberry - *Fragaria californica*
- sawtooth golden bush - *Hazardia squarrosa*
- deer grass - *Muhlenbergia spp.*
- foothills penstemon - *Penstemon heterophyllus*
- white sage - *Salvia apiana*
- black sage - *Salvia mellifera*
- yellow-eyed grass - *Sisyrinchium californicum*

**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 [slobg.org/seed](http://slobg.org/seed).



Photos courtesy of Greg Ellis

**Greg Ellis** resides in Paso Robles and works for the nonprofit One Cool Earth supporting outdoor education at public schools. He founded and oversees a student-run native plant nursery that has grown a few thousand natives each year since 2010. Students in the program learn native plant propagation, from seed collection to planting-out. Plants have gone to local school yard habitat gardens, hedgerows at a local vineyard, and to residential landscape projects. Greg is a true “learn-by-doing” success story that shares his love of nature with students with no credentials in horticulture. If he and the students can grow natives, so can you!

## BATS: Beyond Legend with Melinda Alvarado, PWC Saturday, October 10, 1 PM

Do bats give you the “heebie-jeebies”? Acquaint yourself with a friendly bat from Pacific Wildlife Care (PWC) and learn what bats do and don't do. Bat conservationist and rehabilitator, Melinda Alvarado of PWC, will present a slide show and feature live, tame bats for viewing and discussion. Myths, superstitions and misperceptions about these highly beneficial mammals will be discussed and replaced with factual learning about the importance of bats as insect controllers, pollinators and seed dispersers. Great presentation for all ages, kids are welcome to attend! Come with questions and curious minds.

**Presentation is \$5 for members/\$10 non-members.**

Followed at 2 PM by a free docent-led tour of the Garden. No preregistration required. For more info visit [slobg.org/bat](http://slobg.org/bat).

**Melinda Alvarado** began rehabilitating wildlife in 1987 with Pacific Wildlife Care. She began giving wildlife educational programs in 1990. Melinda has been rehabilitating bats since 1996 and was trained in 1999 to give bat educational programs. Melinda is currently a supervisor at the Pacific Wildlife Care center in Morro Bay.



Photo by Defenders of Wildlife



# San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden

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

**-Caecilius Statius**

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Photos by Lindsey Collinsworth & Melissa Traynor

## The San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden has some very exciting projects underway

Last fall we celebrated a ground breaking ceremony of the Fire Safe Garden. The California Conservation Corps have been busy digging and grading the pathway. Garden volunteers planted hundreds of fire resistant plants. Funded by the William R. Hearst Foundation, SLO County Community Fire Safe Council, Morro Bay National Estuary Program and the Harold J. Miozzi Trust, this is the largest demonstration garden in the region showcasing fire safe planting techniques. The gazebo has been redesigned and is in the permit application process.

The Hardscape Plan funded by a San Luis Obispo County grant has been redesigned to fit within the grant budget and the bid proposal document is nearing completion under the direction of David Foote. The bid selection process will follow SLO County procedures and we anticipate construction beginning by the end of this year.

Vision Guild supporters gathered at the Garden Saturday, January 17 for a presentation from Archaeologist, Mike Glassow PhD. Professor Glassow took attendees on a journey through time to the Channel Islands explaining the importance of plants and animals to the Chumash people that resided on these islands based on his years of research in and out of the field. Vision Guild supporters enjoyed a wine and appetizer reception with our engaging speaker. Vision Guild members enjoyed sustainably grown Halter Ranch wines and wonderful refreshments created by Mary Ann Rutshaw.

The spring plant sale was a tremendous success and many California native plants found new homes. The Garden hopes you'll join us for another successful fall plant sale.

This summer those attending Children's Camp have an Earth Oven which was made possible by Libbie Agran and Guy Fitzwater. The Earth Oven was first used on Earth Day when fifty pizzas were baked. Last month's Children's Adventure Camp was a smashing success. Children learned about snakes, bugs and birds and listened to live drum music. Campers hiked, met live animals, learned about plants and had a lot of fun. The camp finished with a pizza party where children made their own pizzas.

We have a new exciting project in the works and have been working with County Parks, legal counsel, and a business plan to launch this in the coming months.

Your support of the Garden is vital to our future and the community we serve. Our dedicated staff of two, Debbie Hoover and Lindsey Collinsworth, has been busy working with the Board on these projects and are excited to showcase the results to you later this year at an open house. Details and the date for the open house will be determined soon. We'll keep you posted.

Madeline Moore,  
SLOBG Board President

## TENTATIVE TO WEATHER... Fall Fundraising Plant Sale Saturday, October 24, 10 AM - 1 PM

The seasons are changing and it's time to get ready for some serious gardening; which means it's time for our annual **Fall Fundraising Plant Sale** on Saturday, October 24, from 10 AM to 1 PM. Garden members are welcome to join us for an exclusive shopping experience at: 9 AM on Saturday October 24, *AND* Friday October 23 from 10 AM to 1 PM!

**All plants will be tax free to the general public and Garden members will receive an additional 15% off!**

**Learn something new-** This is more than just a plant sale! It is an opportunity to learn more about your climate region and see a multitude of plant species that thrive in this area. Our plants are well suited to our climate and are drought resistant!

**Get expert advice-** Are you having specific plant problems or need advice? Come talk with our experts and find out what plants would work best for your situation.



Photos by Eve Vigil and Ron Kindig

**Find great deals-** Pay reasonable prices and support a good cause at the same time! We rely on our members and guests to support us and our work in the community.

All plants will be TAX-FREE to the public from 10 AM to 1 PM.

For more info and possible date changes visit [slobg.org/sale](http://slobg.org/sale).

## What's Growing? Welcome to the Children's Garden by Ken Levine, Volunteer

This last year has seen major changes to the Children's Garden. Lindsey Collinsworth and the very active and hardworking Children's Garden Committee (chaired for the last year by Marilyn Wills and now by Laura Wagner) have made many improvements. I learned a lot by talking to members of the committee. Like most of our committees, they would like more volunteers, more money, and more publicity. Regular activities of the Children's Garden includes a monthly educational programs, cooking classes, fundraising events and summer camp. The Children's Garden was one of the venues at this year's Earth Day, and the Earth Oven produced delicious hand-made and wood baked pizzas. People lingered around the Garden, happily eating their pizzas.

The Children's Garden contains many clever areas. The Dig It Garden is really just a big sand box, which the younger children love. The sand was donated by Los Osos Sewer Project. The two areas of the Kitchen Garden have a new deer proof cover, built by Jan Von Engel, Jerry Spriull and Larry Tolson. The Kitchen Gardens are planted to align their harvest with the two yearly cooking events.

The Earth Oven is a convection oven, constructed with adobe over earth bags. It was well planned and constructed to include cabinets to store the utensils, etc. It was built by 'Ncredible Edibles. It still needs a cover to protect the dome. Also, there is a Five Senses Garden, and an area planted to attract pollinators. You can probably guess what

the emphases in the Alphabet Soup and Zoo Gardens are.

I was very impressed by the new Weather Station area. The first section is aimed at the children; they can see the rain gauge, check the time and temperature, and monitor the wind direction. The more technical part of the Weather Station submits weather information from the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden directly to John Lindsey, the PG&E meteorologist.

At the far end of the Garden is a wonderful Gathering Space. It was built with parts of an old ocean pier, supported by pine tree trunks. The work on this was led by volunteer Mark Niggel. Near here is an Imagination Village, just waiting for more volunteers to develop it. And the large Play Meadow connects the Children's Garden with the start of the Discovery Trail. Although the trail will be enjoyed equally by adults as well as children, the interpretative signage is aimed at the 4th to 5th grade level. Personally, I found it perfect for me.

Initially the primary goal of the Children's Garden Committee was to fill the Children's Garden with hands-on, interactive zones to promote discovery and learning. Now the Committee is working to boost attendance via targeted publicity and by developing partnerships with other child-focused organizations. The Committee would appreciate any help with public relations and fundraising. They need to raise about \$2000 to build a shelter over the earth oven.

I hope that any volunteers who are interested in joining the Children's Garden group will contact Lindsey for more details. And remember that if you don't have the time right now, you can think of a friend or neighbor who would find the Children's Garden a great place to spend a few hours each week.