

# Become a Friend of the Gardens!

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Please make checks payable to:

Hallberg Butterfly Gardens  
8687 Oak Grove Road, Sebastopol, CA 95472  
(707) 823-3420

Or donate by paypal:  
[www.hallbergbutterflygardens.org](http://www.hallbergbutterflygardens.org)

## Donations Keep us Going

Private donations are the only significant source of funds to purchase the plants, materials, and labor that create the Hallberg Butterfly Gardens.

Hallberg Butterfly Gardens is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation (91-1767178). Your gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



**15 SECRET GARDEN** This is a quiet place that children recognize from the book *A Class Trip to Miss Hallberg's Garden*, written by a Graton author. These days it is abundantly overgrown and ferny, but this used to be where an automobile was parked. Note the gracefully branching camellias, squirrel statuary, bird feeder, large native spice bush, and carpenteria shrub.

**16 THE POND** The pond by the beautiful Japanese maple tree marks the heart of Della's garden. It is usually covered to keep out tree leaves and raccoons. As you continue to follow the path, notice the Dutchman's pipevine twining throughout the other plantings and along the ground. In spring and early summer, keep your eyes out for caterpillars on the move. In fall and winter, you might see white snowberries in the foliage.

**17 BLACK OAK** The 150-year-old black oak towering above you is Sonoma County Heritage Tree #24. Its massive branches are held together by steel cables to keep it from splitting as oaks tend to do after a century or so. Behind you is a summer deciduous native tree, the California buckeye. Butterflies and other pollinators are very attracted to its nectar-rich, conical blooms in late spring. The path continues down the hill and through the gate.

**18 ORCHARD** These Gravenstein apple trees were planted in 1948. They are managed organically, in tandem with the adjacent family orchards. Many kinds of wildlife wander through these trees, including deer, quail, wild turkeys and gray foxes. Birds nest in their branches and sometimes even in the trunks. Butterflies may be seen nectaring on apple blossoms, finding shelter under the shady leaves, or visiting rotting fruit. Continuing up the hill, take a moment to sit on the benches and look up toward the Buddleia if they are in bloom. This was the first area planted to attract butterflies, and is a favorite place to spot several butterfly species such as Anise, Tiger Swallowtails, and Cabbage White, nectaring on the blossoms.

**19 LUTHER BURBANK TREE** When Luther Burbank passed away in 1926, he was buried under a 'Cedar of Lebanon' tree growing at his home in Santa Rosa. The tree became a community landmark, and was decorated for the holidays every year until it had to be

removed in 1989 due to root disease. The cedar planted here was grown from a cutting taken from that tree...a nice way to remember one of Sonoma County's most influential residents, a contemporary of Louise's father, and a great contributor to our horticultural heritage.

**20 COURTHOUSE STONE** In 1966, the grand Sonoma County Courthouse at the foot of Mendocino Avenue in Santa Rosa was torn down. This slab of granite was a piece of the curb in front of that formidable building, built with extra rebar reinforcement in the walls after the first courthouse in that location had been destroyed in the famous 1906 earthquake.

**21 PICNIC TABLES** You are welcome to have your picnic lunch here. Please pack your trash, or carefully use the receptacles provided for trash and recycling.

Learn more about the Gardens by visiting our website: [www.hallbergbutterflygardens.org](http://www.hallbergbutterflygardens.org), where you can also read our annual newsletter, *The Pipevine*.

## CATERPILLAR CLUES

To find caterpillars in the wild...

- look for the caterpillar's host plant
- look for chewed leaves
- look for caterpillar droppings (frass)

## BUTTERFLY BEHAVIOR

**Nectaring:** sipping from a flower with a long, tubular tongue—how an adult butterfly “eats”—may also suck nutrients from rotten fruit or animal droppings

**Puddling:** sipping dissolved minerals and salts (and maybe water?) from wet earth

**Hilltopping:** males patrolling a high spot to defend territory and seek mates

**Ovipositing:** females laying eggs on specific host plants, singly or in clusters depending on the species

**Basking:** soaking up sunshine to warm their cold-blooded bodies

## SELF-GUIDED TOUR

# Hallberg Butterfly Gardens



Pipevine Swallowtail

## Welcome to Hallberg Butterfly Gardens!

Please use the map inside to orient yourself to the grounds and learn a bit about what makes this place so special. The numbers on the map correspond both to the text and to numbers posted throughout the Gardens. Feel free to keep this guide as a souvenir, or return it to the basket for someone else to use. Please keep in mind that this is a private residence, and a working orchard, as well as a wildlife sanctuary and teaching garden.

To make your visit more enjoyable, and ensure that the Gardens remain open to the public:

- Please stay on the paths
- Please don't pick plants or touch caterpillars
- Please use the trash and recycling receptacles
- Please don't take strollers on paths
- NO DOGS - NO SMOKING

Thank You!



May 2018

**1 TOUR START** The butterfly habitat on either side of the path is planted with dependable nectar plants like Buddleia, verbena, scabiosa, and asters, as well as larval host plants like plantain, grasses, and milkweeds. Both nectar plants, for food, and larval host plants, for laying eggs, are needed to attract butterflies. Louise Hallberg began intensive gardening to support this butterfly habitat in 1990.

**2 PONDS** These two ponds greatly improve the habitat value of the Gardens for birds, butterflies, frogs, dragonflies and gardeners, too. Dry sticks and edge grasses provide perches for winged visitors, while larger plantings shade the pools to prevent algae. Look among the overhanging branches for birds enjoying the falling water. See if you can spot dragonflies skimming the sunny areas.

**3 APPLE TREE** The blossoms of the ‘Best Ever’ apple tree provide nectar in spring, apples and shade in summer, and leaf mulch and sun in late fall and winter. Note the blooms of ocean spray and variety of Buddleia. Other plants that are to the south of the apple tree are asters, verbena, and other perennials.

**4 WEATHER STATIONS** The two small white cabinets are weather stations both used to record the daily high and low temperatures and rainfall. Louise’s father, Alfred faithfully recorded the weather for more than three decades. His original weather station from the 1930s was replaced at the same site by the newer cabinet. Louise kept records for the National Weather Service since 1968. In 2008 she received recognition from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for 40 years of service. A new solar powered weather station was installed in 2018 and the Gardens continues to record data for NOAA at one of the county’s oldest weather stations in continuous use.

Across the road from the weather stations are nectar and host plants—pipevine, Buddleia, rosemary, asters, holly tree, oregano, and more.

**5 CRAWFORD VIVARIUM** The vivarium is where we nurture annual wildflower seedlings, tiger lilies, and native plants to plant out in the Gardens

each spring. The ‘Black Thompson’ grape over the arbor was planted by Louise’s mother, Della, in the mid-1900s.

**6 PIPEVINE THEATER** This barn has been in use for over a hundred years. It was home to livestock until the late 1990s but now is used mainly for storage. The Pipevine Theater houses our gift shop, books for sale, and extra exhibits when visitors come for Open Gardens and guided tours in the spring and fall.

**7 BUTTERFLY CREEK** This waterway was built in 2010. It was designed to attract wildlife, especially the California Sister butterfly, which lays eggs on oaks and is attracted to damp earth. Many host plants and nectar plants were donated by the San Francisco Arboretum and by Cal Flora Nursery. The painting on the barn door opposite the creek features stages of the pipevine swallowtail’s life cycle and its butterfly host plant, Dutchman’s pipevine.

**8 STOP, LOOK, AND LISTEN** Pause a minute at the top of the hill, and look across the sloping meadow below. Are birds or insects flying? Is there a breeze blowing? What do you hear? Many kinds of birds, including great-horned owls and red-tailed hawks, have nested in these towering trees, which were planted in the late 19th century by Louise’s grandfather. This spot is rich with history, and with life. The meadow on the hillside was at one time a pasture for grazing, but is now planted with goldenrod, bee plant, penstemons, manzanita, lavender, ceanothus, salvia, coyote bush, and Fremontia.

**9 WOODPECKER GRANARY** When these tree trunks were still part of standing poplar trees a few years ago, acorn woodpeckers made holes and filled

them with acorns in the fall. Over time, the harvested acorns dried out and shrank so the birds repositioned them into increasingly smaller holes to prevent stealing by jays and squirrels. Maintaining a granary requires these birds to live in large, cooperative family flocks. Fierce winter storms brought the weakened trees down a few years ago. We put the stumps back up so visitors could feel how deep the holes are—just the right size for acorns. In some, you can still find the tough acorn shells.

**10 MEADOW GARDEN** This meadow was the original site of the Hallberg home and the family

vegetable garden which Louise continued to maintain into her 80’s. Now it is becoming a butterfly habitat, as native shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers are planted each season.

**11 UP THE HILL** On your way back up the steps, notice the variety of nectar plants, where we often see butterflies swooping between stands of trees. Just through the gate is a patch of stinging nettle, host plant for Red Admiral butterflies.

**12 NEW PATH** At top of stairs, follow path to the right, past blackberries and towering eucalyptus, turn left behind barn where, once, a resident horse was kept. Note stacks of Best apple boxes from years of active apple production. Back on main road, is Amorpha, or False Indigo, host plant for California’s state Dogface butterfly. Continue past Pipevine Theater toward the white Arbor. On your left is the native *Spiraea douglasii* which has fuzzy pink blooms in spring and summer. It is the nectar plant and larval host plant for the Echo Blue butterfly.

**13 LOUISE HALLBERG RESIDENCE** Louise lived in this house since she was born, in 1917. In 1983 – 1984, it was remodeled and modernized, under the guidelines of local historic preservation standards. The Hallberg Butterfly Gardens, became a non-profit organization formed in 1997 for the purpose of education and habitat preservation. As you pass through the arbor toward the house you are walking in the footsteps of nearly 25,000 visitors, including many schoolchildren who have come since 1988.

**14 DUTCHMAN’S PIPEVINE** Louise remembered the day in the 1920s when her mother, Della, stopped to collect a bit of Dutchman’s pipevine (*Aristolochia californica*) growing in the dry shade along a local country road. When they returned home, Della tucked the specimen into the garden she kept around the family home. As you travel around the house, you can see remnants of Della’s garden and how the Dutchman’s pipevine has thrived over the last 90+ years. The flower blooms in late winter or early spring, before leaves emerge, and is pollinated by gnats. This particular planting is a good place to observe the vine, Pipevine Swallowtail eggs, and the butterfly’s red-spotted, black caterpillars up close.

