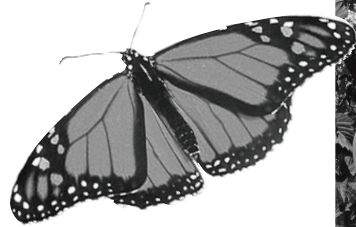


You are Invited...

11th Annual Hallberg Butterfly Gardens
Open Gardens Celebration

Sunday, June 29, 2008
10:00 to 4:00 pm

No Admission Fee
No Reservations Needed
(No Pets Please)



Wildflower & Historical Displays

Children's Activities

Walking Tours of the Habitat Garden

Plants, Books, & Handcrafted Items for Sale



Hallberg Butterfly Gardens
8687 Oak Grove Road
Sebastopol CA 95472
www.hallbergbutterflygardens.org
Member of Sebastopol Chamber of Commerce,
NABA, and Sonoma County Farm Trails
A 501 (c) 3 Non-profit Corporation
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Hallberg Butterfly Gardens The Pipevine

8687 Oak Grove Road
Sebastopol, CA 95472

707 | 823-3420
www.hallbergbutterflygardens.org

Issue Number 10

Spring 2008

By sharing the knowledge of butterflies and providing for their habitat, we seek to promote and inspire the appreciation and conservation of the wonders of nature.

It is my fervent wish to enhance and preserve the Hallberg Butterfly Gardens so that future generations will always have the opportunity to behold the beauty of nature's wonderful miracle—the butterfly.

— Louise Hallberg, 1997

HALLBERG BUTTERFLY GARDENS IS A 501(C)3 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gay Bishop Brorstrom
Wintress Huetter
Kathi Jacobs
Phil Van Soelen
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Open Gardens 2007 Commemorating 10 Years as a Non-Profit Organization

by Louise Hallberg

June 24th, 2007 was our 10th annual Open Gardens Day. More than 700 visitors, some from places as far away as Georgia, Arkansas, Arizona, New Mexico, Washington, Missouri, and England, came to enjoy the beautiful 85-degree day and see what we've accomplished over the last decade.

Continued on page 3

Several hundred guests visited Hallberg Butterfly Gardens for Open Gardens Day 2007. Children and adults alike enjoyed good weather, great people, interesting displays, and fun activities.



Louise Hallberg visits with volunteers Pat C. and Lorie S. near the Kids' Table during the 10th Annual Open Gardens Day.





Volunteer News

by Wintress Huetter

First Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

In October of 2007, Hallberg Butterfly Gardens held its first annual Volunteer Appreciation Event. On a lovely autumn afternoon, surrounded by golden and scarlet leaves in the organic apple orchards, we gathered for a light dinner and conversation with members of the Board. Many people who had volunteered (in one or several ways) over the

years came to celebrate with us. It was fun to get together and chat about the Gardens past, present, and future, and get to know each other a little better. The food was great and the company superb... what more could one ask for on a Sunday afternoon? We look forward to doing it again in 2008!

Drop-In Volunteers


This spring, we instituted a new drop-in volunteer program which was very rewarding. On the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month, beginning in March and lasting through June, members of the community were invited to come spend a few hours helping out with garden projects. Quite a few students from local high schools and the JC participated, receiving classroom credit for community service requirements as well as a little padding for resumes and scholarship applications. Others came just for fun, to reconnect with the Gardens after a few years away, or on the recommendation of the Volunteer Center of Sonoma County.

On select Saturdays throughout the year, the Volunteer Center of Sonoma County also hosts Hands Across the County, which connects volunteer groups and individuals to non-profit organizations for special projects. These events are sponsored by Friedman Brothers Home Improvement. Hallberg Butterfly Gardens is fortunate enough to be a featured site for Hands Across the County days for 2007 and 2008, and we have had some

Each weekend, we watered, weeded, planted and mulched special corners of the Gardens as we chatted, listened for birds, watched for butterflies, and made new friends.

great, hardworking helpers as a result!

With our volunteers, we watered, weeded, planted and mulched special corners of the Gardens as we chatted, listened for birds, watched for butterflies, and made new friends. Everyone got to learn about Hallberg Butterfly Gardens' unique mission and our style of gardening for wildlife, and we got sooooo much done! We hope the volunteers will come back on Open Gardens Day to see their handiwork in full bloom.

Thanks to everyone who has put their love and sweat into the Gardens this year! And if anyone else is interested in helping out in any way, please email wintress@hallbergbutterflygardens.org. 

Wishful Thinking

As a nonprofit staffed by volunteers, there are always a few items needed at Hallberg Butterfly Gardens that aren't quite covered by the annual budget. This year, we're trying to build garden infrastructure. We would welcome help with the following:

- Irrigation Design
- Irrigation Equipment (controller, pipe, tubing, emitters)
- Woodchips
- Compost
- Website Maintenance

A Special Note to All Volunteers...

We will be holding our 2nd Annual volunteer appreciation event at Hallberg Butterfly Gardens this fall. We will be contacting everyone individually with more details after the fall tour season...so make sure we have your current contact information!

Friends of the Gardens...We Thank You!



Private donations are our only significant source of funds to purchase the plants, materials, and labor that create the Hallberg Butterfly Gardens. The following individuals helped sustain our nonprofit organization during 2006, although all of our contributors (past, present, and future) are deeply appreciated. (* = Major contributor)

<u>Astoria, Oregon</u>	<u>Oakdale</u>	<u>San Diego</u>	
David L. Myers	Marjorie Lucero (in memory of Carroll Reilly)	Stanley Jones	
<u>Concord</u>	<u>Occidental</u>	<u>San Jose</u>	
John and Susan Devlin	John, Phil & Amy Melman	Gloria McClain	
<u>El Verano</u>	<u>Orinda</u>	<u>San Rafael</u>	Sae Taw Win II Dhamma Foundation
June England	Bill & Pam Martin	Caren Signorelli	Lorie Silver
<u>Glen Ellen</u>	<u>Petaluma</u>	<u>Santa Rosa</u>	Arthur and Judith Slater*
Diane & Kenneth Jacobsen	Joan Grosser	Marie Francescutti	Dave & Julie West
<u>Graton</u>	<u>Richmond</u>	Betty Groce	<u>Sonoma</u>
Kris Nevius	Don Mahoney *	Charles Lahm *	Kathy Mugele (in memory of Geneva Karr)
Christy Lubin		Josephine Nattkemper (in memory of Jo Russell)	Nan and Pat Perrot (in memory of son Don and Caitlin Byrd)
		Joan Ringler	<u>Woodside</u>
		<u>Sebastopol</u>	Margery Edgren (congratulations on your 10 th anniversary!)
		Gay Bishop	<u>Switzerland</u>
		Tom Borowicz*	Beth Graves
		John & Patricia Dervin *	
		Richard Fashbinder	
		Louise Hallberg *	
		June Nielson	
		North Bay Chapter, NABA	

I'M A FRIEND OF THE GARDENS TOO!



- I wish to become a Friend of the Gardens I wish to renew my Friendship
 \$250 Pipevine Swallowtail \$150 West Coast Lady \$100 Monarch
 \$50 Buckeye \$25 Woodland Skipper \$ _____

I wish to make a gift in honor of _____

I wish to make a gift in memory of _____

Your Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Your gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. HBG is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

Please make check payable to **Hallberg Butterfly Gardens**

Mail to **8687 Oak Grove Road, Sebastopol, CA 95472** (707) 823-3420

We Couldn't Do it Without Our Donors & Dedicated Volunteers

The following people, businesses, and organizations contributed to the gardens in 2007.

Louise Hallberg and the Hallberg Butterfly Gardens Board of Directors would like to share their heartfelt gratitude for all of the time, energy, and enthusiasm volunteers have shared with the Gardens while serving as docents, gardening and watering, staffing booths, creating and selling artwork and other products, working in the office and much more! Without these wonderful people, the Gardens could not exist.



Are you looking for a rewarding volunteer or intern experience?

Spend some hands-on time with us... there is no better way to learn the fundamentals of habitat gardening, and how to share this knowledge, while getting fresh air and exercise! There is always plenty to do...



Call Louise at
707-823-3420

 or email Wintress

wintress@
hallbergbutterflygardens.org

SRJC students may apply for an internship position through the Work Experience Office on campus. Interns earn a small stipend and up to three class credits. For more information, Contact **Bev Henningsen (707-527-4604)** or email **wintress@hallbergbutterflygardens.org**



Organizations

Cal-Flora Nursery
Graton Community Club
National Wildlife Federation
North Coast Natives Nursery
Press Democrat
Rotary Club of Sebastopol
Rotary Club of Sebastopol Sunrise
Shooting Star Propagation
Sonoma West Times & News
West County Gazette

Tour Docents

Gay Bishop
Robert Cugini
Patricia Dervin
Beth Graves
Wintress Huetter
Kathi Jacobs
Linda Johnston
Alexandra McDonald

Regular Volunteers

Haven Best
Patricia Dervin
Richard Fashbinder
Wintress Huetter
Kathi Jacobs
Linda Johnston
Alexandra McDonald
Kathy Oetinger
Gene & Kathy Pearson
Judy Scott
Cindi Soliz
Joanne Taylor

Contributors of Time, Expertise & Materials

Gay Bishop
Bill Brungardt
Margaret & Carl Brown
Deb Burchmore
Stephanie Caldwell
Nick & Melissa Chase
Leslie Crebassa
Jan Davis
Rose Ann DeGuzman
Cheri Duzanica
Sister Sarah Fisher
Kathy Goetzel
Gayle Goldberg
Elizabeth Graham
Diana Hallett
Pam Ish
Jerry Johnston
Jennifer Kerrigan
Liz Knisley
Don Mahoney
Maya Margaronis
Alexandra McDonald
Amelia & Dylan Miller
Amanda Mundelius
Kathy Oetinger
Sister Jana Olmsted
Phil Van Soelen
Kathy Spalding
Nazareth S. Tesfai
Ross & Alex Weishaar
Terry Wells
Julie West
Jane Woo
Ben & Vinnie
Nick & Kelly

Open Gardens

Mary Ann Beiter
Haven & Esther Best
Jo Benz

Kathy & Dave Biggs
Mark & Gay Brorstrom
Margaret & Carl Brown
Bill & Joan Brungardt
Ana Castillo-Williams
Catarino Contreras
Jim & Pat Costello
Robert Cugini
Marilyn & Molly Deis
Patricia Dervin
Cheri Duzanica
Richard Fashbinder
Pegge Fuchs
Wintress Huetter
Kathi Jacobs
Linda Johnston
Jan Lee
Don Mahoney
Keller & Marcia McDonald
Alexandra McDonald
Karen Nagel
Kathy Oetinger
Gene & Kathy Pearson
Jean Powers
Joan Ringler
Lorie Silver
Lorna Skinner
Joan Skinner-Schwan
Phil Van Soelen
Debbie, Wayne, & Ryan Snapp
Joanne Taylor
Ross & Alex Weishaar

Pipeline Newsletter

Louise Hallberg
Wintress Huetter
Kathi Jacobs
Linda & Jerry Johnston
Kathy Oetinger

Open Gardens 2007

Continued from page 1



Artwork sent by visiting classrooms is displayed along the rows of apple trees at the entrance to the Gardens.



A golf cart shuttles guests to the gardens.



Visitors parked on Oak Grove Road and walked down the driveway to the Gardens. Regular helpers Richard, Mark, Bill, Ed, Duane and Ryan assisted with parking and shuttle trips.

Many of our visitors immediately looked for plants along the many tables, studying comprehensive, illustrated plant description tags for detailed information. We had a record number of plants this year, generously donated by Shooting Star Nursery, with specialty butterfly plants brought in by Phil Van Soelen of Cal-Flora Nursery, Mary Ann Beiter of Graton Community Club, Kathi Jacobs and Hallberg Butterfly Gardens. Kathy Pearson headed the plant sale preparations and execution, with hard-working assistance provided

by Mary Ann, Joan S., Phil, Margaret, Jo, Debbie, Pat M., and Ana.

As visitors walked down the road, they were able to stop and examine many colorful posters and books hung from 200 feet of clothesline strung between the orchard rows. This artwork, sent to Louise and the Gardens over the years by classrooms of grateful kids who had toured the

Continued on page 4



Above: Louise and fellow butterfly enthusiast, Charles Lahm.

Left: Visitors gather their plant selections early from the large collection of butterfly-attracting plants for sale.

Open Gardens 2007

Continued from page 3



Left: Greeters at the Sign-in Table.

Above: A Cardinal Meadowhawk.



Gardens, touched many people. Also, there were signs identifying the varieties of apple trees.

As usual, guests were asked to sign in at the Guest Table, where Linda, Peggy, Joan and Lorna presided. Brochures, Walking Tour maps, and FarmTrails booklets were provided.

By the ponds, Kathy and Dave Biggs and Joan Ringler spotted dragonflies for the curious. They saw a male Blue-eyed Darner patrolling over the ponds, Two male Flame Skimmers having a territory dispute, and courtship, mating and ovipositing behavior expressed by 2 male Cardinal Meadowhawks in the company of one female. From here, visitors walked past the weather station and then down to the barn, where there were several interesting displays.

Wintress showed wildflowers and Gardens history on the Pipevine theater side. On the walls, visitors could read newspaper and magazine articles chronicling the last ten years at Hallberg Butterfly Gardens, including write-ups in Sunset, Pacific Horticulture, the San Francisco Chronicle and several local papers. There was also a world map with pins marking the 42 states



Above Left: Wintress and a knowledgeable young man enjoy a conversation about caterpillars and history in the Pipevine theater.

Left: A visitor admires the wildflower assortment.

OLD Copy

In Our Guestbooks...

States

Alaska
 Arizona
 Arkansas
 California
 Colorado
 Connecticut
 Delaware
 Florida
 Georgia
 Hawaii
 Idaho
 Illinois
 Indiana
 Iowa
 Kentucky
 Maine
 Maryland
 Massachusetts
 Michigan
 Minnesota
 Missouri
 Montana
 Nebraska
 Nevada
 New Hampshire
 New Jersey
 New Mexico
 New York
 North Carolina
 North Dakota
 Ohio
 Oklahoma
 Oregon
 Pennsylvania
 Texas
 Utah

Vermont

Virginia
 Washington
 D.C.
 Washington
 Wisconsin
 Wyoming

Countries

Argentina
 Australia
 British
 Colombia
 Czech
 Republic
 England
 France
 Germany
 Guam
 Guatemala
 Ireland
 Israel
 Japan
 Kenya
 Mexico
 Netherlands
 New Zealand
 Nova Scotia
 Peru
 Philippines
 Puerto Rico
 Romania
 South Africa
 Spain
 Sweden
 Switzerland

New Plant Signs Installed

The Rotary Club of Sebastopol, Sunrise awarded Hallberg Butterfly Gardens a grant in 2005 to manufacture durable signage for garden plants. Several people contributed time and material to the project, which was spearheaded by Joanne Taylor.

Joanne serves on the Hallberg Butterfly Gardens Board of Directors as Treasurer, is in charge of our Gift Shop inventory, and has created several items in her woodshop for the Gardens. She has also been a volunteer at the San Francisco Botanical Gardens at Strybing Arboretum since 1995, and the design for the plant stakes based on the standard plant identification used there.

Louise selected the plants she wanted to highlight from a plant inventory created by Ana Castillo-Williams. After the plates were laser-engraved, Joanne attached them to stakes and brought them to the Gardens. Now, when our guests are curious about some of the more interesting plants we have for butterflies, they will be able to read the name, and copy it down if they like.

These identification signs are a great asset to our Gardens, especially for visitors using the self-guided walking tour. We are very grateful to the Rotary Club of Sebastopol, Sunrise and everyone who helped make these signs a reality.

Plants for Sale at the 2008



Open Gardens Celebration

The following plants will be available for purchase at Hallberg Butterfly Gardens on June 29th, our Open Gardens Day. They will be in 4" pots and ready to fill your garden full of nectar!



Agastache, 'Rosey Giant'
 Festuca, 'Elijah's Blue'
 Gaura, 'Siskiyou Pink'
 Gaura, 'Whirling Butterflies'
 Penstemon, 'Margarita BOP'
 Penstemon, 'Midnight'
 Verbena bonariensis
 ...and many more!



Educational Tours

by Wintress Huetter

This years' tour season started off strong. We were almost completely booked by the time the season began, mostly with elementary school classes. Some garden clubs signed up, too, coming from as far away as Napa, Cloverdale, and Berkeley.

The docents got together early in April and reviewed the new Information Packet that Kathi Jacobs had prepared for teachers by way of a grant from Sebastopol Rotary. The packet contained butterfly activities, tips for butterfly gardening, and a copy of *A Class Trip to Miss Hallberg's Garden*, our very own picture book. It also contained information teachers need about visiting the gardens and a form for them to send us feedback afterwards.

Most of the classes who came were first or second grade, since those are the years children learn about life cycles in general and butterflies specifically. Many teachers read *A Class Trip to Miss Hallberg's Garden* to their students before they came, so the children were well-informed and looking forward to special places mentioned in the book, especially the secret garden and the pond. The children also enjoyed hearing about how the woodpeckers cache acorns in the dead poplar stumps at the bottom of the meadow, and quickly learned to recognize Dutchman's Pipe (*Aristolochia californica*) as well as Pipevine Swallowtail butterflies and caterpillars on their trip around the Gardens.

Each docent brings a unique touch to the tours, so every group has a slightly different experience. For instance, Alexandra and Gay are our bird experts, so the groups they lead are always alert for Red-Tailed Hawks nesting in the Eucalyptus trees, Turkey Vultures wheeling in their "teetering



Louise talks with students on their class visit to the Gardens.

vees", and the special soft song of Cedar Waxwings in the shrubbery. Wintress gives a new tour every time, playing by ear, asking lots of questions, and helping kids "stop, look, and listen." Louise shares her decades of observations and knowledge of native plants, while Kathi brings years of teaching and experience as an outdoor educator to her tours. Linda is also a regular gardening volunteer and knows the Gardens well. Bob tunes right into the little ones and makes them giggle, and nobody spots caterpillars like Beth. Patricia often helps out in the gift shop, writing out receipts and sharing information about the displays inside.

After the tours, when the children are gathered at the picnic tables coloring or having lunch, they often tell each other what they saw. It's always interesting to hear what THEY think are the highlights. Often it's Miss Hallberg herself. More than one child has asked, "Can I live here?" and many say it's the best place they've ever been... "like a jungle!" It's a pretty great experience to help kids connect to nature and watch them get excited about insects. It enriches all of our lives. 🦋

Activity Statistics 2007

(number of people shown in parenthesis)

Month	Tours	Groups	Special Tours	Children's Tours	Open Gardens
Jan.					
Feb.	1 (4)		1 (4)		
March	1 (1)		1 (1)		
April	20 (89)		16 (36)	4 (53)	
May	52 (475)	11 (94)	9 (25)	32 (356)	
June	19 (865)	2 (36)	11 (46)	6 (43)	740
July	8 (55)		5 (14)	3 (41)	
Aug.	19 (83)	3 (21)	16 (62)		
Sept.	17 (48)	2 (14)	15 (34)		
Oct.					
Nov.					
Total Tours	137	18	74	45	740
Total Guests	1620	165	222	493	740



Above: Alex explains the relationship between the butterflies and their host plants.

Above Right: Anise Swallowtail caterpillar on fennel.

and 26 foreign countries represented in our guest books, photos from the last nine Open Gardens Celebrations, and Hallberg family photos.

Alex showed caterpillars and host plants next door. Along the wall, there were samples of many common host plants in vases, clearly labeled with colorful pictures of their associated butterflies mounted behind them.

Beth Graves, our overseas correspondent (she came all the way from Switzerland!) took turns at both the barn stations, and helped visitors observe tiny Anise Swallowtail caterpillars munching on fennel in the driveway. Her spontaneous teach-in was so impressive to our guests that

Continued on page 6



Beth Graves helps visitors observe tiny Anise Swallowtail caterpillars on fennel (above).

Left: Shady Ladies.

Below: Tiger Swallowtail on Buddleia.



Open Gardens 2007

Continued from page 5

many stopped by the plant table as they left to see if there was fennel for sale!

At the next stop on the tour, Karen and Alexandra met the visitors at the bird table. They helped spot 27 bird species throughout the day. They also showed pictures of the baby Great Horned Owls that fledged in the nearby eucalyptus and answered visitors' questions. They also had bird nests, books, eggs, a birdhouse, and a poster of state birds pinned up. At the bottom of the hill, Keller and Marcia McDonald pointed out the workings of the Acorn Woodpeckers in the fallen poplar trees.

In front of the house, Bob helped visitors spot the Pipevine caterpillars on the Dutchman's Pipe and a recent chrysalis on the house just above the plants. Marilyn, Cheri, Beth and Patricia took turns pointing out caterpillars down by the old pond area. On the north side, by the blooming Buddleias, Ross had his camera and was identifying the butterflies that were flying in the area. He saw the California Hairstreak, which hasn't been seen here before, and a total of twelve species.

Gay, Joanne, Patricia, Melissa, and Jean were at the book table to help visitors make selections. Many purchased *A Class Trip to Miss Hallberg's Garden* (written by Gay Bishop-Brorstrom and illustrated by Kathy Goetzl), *Dragonflies of North America-A Color and Learn Book* by Kathy Biggs and Tim Manolis, and the new *Field Guide to Butterflies of the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento Valley Regions* by Art Shapiro and Tim Manolis. Nearby, at the refreshment table, Jean and Pat C. provided soft drinks. The information table was staffed by Lorie Silver. The kids' tables, where younger visitors made colorful craft keepsakes, were very popular. Kathi J., Lindsey, Jean Ferretti, Pat C., Jean Powers, Peggy and Jan supervised. 🦋



A recent chrysalis attached to the house siding, just above the Dutchman's Pipevine Plants.



Ross points out and identifies the plentiful butterflies on the north side of the house while visitors enjoy the show from the shade of the apple trees.



Creativity and busy hands flourish at the kids' table.




Volunteer, Jennifer weeds Plantain, a host plant for the Common Buckeye.

of the hill, as a barrier against weed seeds blowing in from the annual grassland below. After clearing weeds off of the hillside, we used a thick layer of wet newspapers to cover the ground and keep them from growing back. Then we planted wildflower seedlings—Clarkia, Baby blue-eyes, Phacelia, etc—that had been grown from seed in the vivarium. That first year, the hillside, which came to be known as “Catarino’s Meadow,”

was a wonderful mix of colors. Over the past 10 years, we have been steadily adding grasses, perennials, and shrubs for more permanent habitat enhancement.

In 2007 we planted several native trees, shrubs (Willow, Toyon, Coffeeberry, Ocean Spray), and wildflowers in the sunny, sheltered area that used to be the family vegetable garden. This is sure to be an important destination, for both butterflies and their human observers, in the future.

In the next few years, there are several projects we’d like to explore... a small, shallow, slow “stream” west of the barn, where local riparian butterflies might congregate and “puddle,” constructed seasonal wetland ponds for migrating birds, maintained wildflower meadows, and soil microbiology (compost). An automatic irrigation system, plant propagation program, and trail maintenance would support all of these endeavors. These might seem like big dreams, but the distance we’ve come in the last ten years and the momentum we’ve gained makes it feel

like anything is possible. 



Ben and Vinnie sheet mulch a weedy area.

Plants added at Hallberg Butterfly Gardens

(h) host (n) nectar

- (h) Amorpha
- (h) Asclepias species (Milkweeds)
- (h) Asters
- (n) Asters
- (h) Bee plant
- (h) Buckwheat
- (n) Butterfly Bushes
- (h) Ceanothus
- (n) Ceanothus
- (h) Clover
- (h) Coffee Berry
- (n) Coreopsis
- (h) Dutchman’s Pipe
- (n) Eryisimum
- (h) Fennel
- (n) Goldenrod
- (h) Grasses (Bermuda, Fescue, Curly)
- (n) Lavender Species
- (h) Dogwood
- (n) Manzanita
- (h) Mustard
- (n) Mustard
- (h) Ocean Spray
- (h) Penstemon
- (n) Queen Anne’s Lace
- (h) Radish
- (n) Radish
- (n) Rosemary
- (n) Salvia species
- (n) Sedum
- (h) Snow Berry
- (h) Spirea
- (h) Stinging Nettle
- (h) Thistle
- (h) Toyon
- (h) Tree Mallow
- (n) Verbena species
- (n) Yarrow

Hallberg Butterfly Gardens

An Expanding Habitat

By Wintress Huetter

The foundation of Hallberg Butterfly Gardens is the *Aristolochia californica* (Dutchman's Pipe) planted behind the family home in the 1920's. Because it attracted local Pipevine Swallowtails and has fostered close to eighty annual generations of the butterfly, this planting was the window through which Louise first glimpsed what was to become her passion.

Since Louise began gardening specifically for butterflies two decades ago, every year brings a variety of new projects aimed at expanding butterfly habitat, protecting the natural cycles of the plants and animals that live here, and increasing opportunities for educating the public. Working with the existing landscape and vegetation, we strive to support a dynamic and protected ecosystem by planting a variety of host and nectar plants. Often, experimentation

with new plants and new planting strategies are part of this expansion. From time to time, new garden structures are built that help support habitat or allow access to new areas. Almost all of the garden furniture or ornaments you see are gifts from visitors, friends, or family.

Each addition to the Gardens represents a labor of love, a spiritual investment, and gracious generosity on the part of one or more members of our local community. Much of the work is done by volunteers. Every discovery of a new caterpillar resident or butterfly visitor is celebrated as the fulfillment of a vision and encouragement to continue.

Habitat Expansion

The first area we began enhancing for habitat was north of the house, between the tank house and the orchard. Buddleias and Strawberry Trees formed the backbone of the sunny, sheltered area, which

On one of the early drop-in volunteer days, Alexandra works near the pond. This was one of the first habitat areas added to the Gardens and a popular destination for birds and dragonflies.

emphasized nectar plants like Verbena, Bidens, Wallflower and Centranthus. Soon the north side became a favorite place to observe butterflies, especially early in the season. This is where we usually see the greatest number of species on our Open Gardens Day.

The next area of concentration was the entry to the Gardens—along the driveway from Oak Grove Road, where we planted Manzanitas, Fremontia, Buddleia and Ceanothus—and the area between the driveway and the pumphouse, where the ponds are today (the first pond was added in 1998, and the second in 2006). Dragonflies and birds enjoy the splashing water and pond plants. Butterflies come to the area for the nectar... Scabiosa, Sedum, Santa Barbara Daisy, Lippia, Sweet William, and Verbenas are planted in profusion. There is even a shady bench under the apple tree for humans to rest and watch the wildlife. Between the ponds and the pumphouse, host plants are the focus. Plantain, grasses, Sorrel and Lavatera dominate.

In 1997 the first Manzanita and Ceanothus were planted in the pasture at the top of the hill. We put wire cages around them to protect them from deer. Next we began planting a hedgerow of large native shrubs, like Coffeeberry and Coyote Bush, around the foot

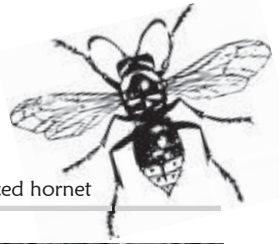




The Incredible Paper Nest

by Louise Hallberg

Bald-faced hornet



Kathy and Gene Pearson were saying good bye on

June 25th, the day after Open Gardens when Kathy exclaimed, "What is that!" Hanging from a shrub just north of the house was an old unused bird feeder. It was partly covered somehow with insects flying in and out of a hole near the bottom of a ball shape. Gene, with camera in hand, stepped over and took a picture. There was a pretty pattern in the covering - pink, white and gray colors. A call to Gay Bishop and her daughter Hedda, a spider specialist, brought them to the Gardens to observe the structure. They were also amazed. Hedda procured information and pictures about the black insect with a white face that was building the nest. It is called a Bald-faced hornet, although it is not a true hornet. It's an aerial nesting yellow jacket belonging to a genus of wasps and yellow jackets. Bald-faced hornets are most common in southeastern United States and are known for their huge football-shaped paper nest suited for raising their young. Every year queens that were fertilized the previous year start a new colony and raise their young. Workers expand the nest by chewing up wood that mixes with their saliva and is spread over the nest with mandibles and legs to dry into paper. (Could they use the

nearby strawberry tree bark for pink color, birch tree bark for white and the apple tree for gray?) The workers collect nectar to feed the young and they also guard the nest. This continued all summer. Visitors were interested and many pictures were taken. Ed Wong and Pat Muscat took pictures in September just before the nest fell. We collected a big box of the beautiful paper nest material. Two or more layers had been laid. Information from the internet tells us that as winter comes, the workers die and the queens hibernate underground until spring when they emerge to start another nest. Where will it be?



Bald-faced hornets built this huge paper nest around an old bird feeder hanging from a shrub in the Gardens.

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Sunday, June 29, 2008
10:00 to 4:00 pm

No Admission Fee
No Reservations Needed
(No Pets Please)



Where Have All The Butterflies Gone?

by Louise Hallberg

In the spring of 2006 concern about the decline in butterfly populations was in headlines. At the Gardens in 2007 lack of butterflies was very noticeable. No west coast ladies, no veined white for two years, no purplish coppers for two years and since 2003 only three have been seen. The purplish copper butterfly was a common in the Garden with many nectaring on the October Glory every fall. Even the pipevine swallowtail butterflies that were seen—maybe 40 – 50 in the spring have declined to 10 – 15. The anise swallowtail commonly laid eggs on fennel have declined showing later and disappearing earlier. For the first time since 1997 when 108 monarchs were released monarchs did not lay

a single egg on milkweeds at the north garden pond area or meadow. There have been none to count during the annual North American Butterfly Association, NABA, November butterfly count in Bodega for three years. I used to release late hatches from the Garden on small trees at Bodega. Hundreds of monarchs wintered over in the big cypress trees. In 2007 an increase of azure blues and lorquins admirals were observed here at the Garden.

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ground. It has been said that loss of habitat, pesticide use and global warming might be the cause population decline. Here we have added habitat every year since 1990. We have more host plans and more nectar plants. Pesticides are not used and the orchard is now in second year toward organic. Near by habitat has changed – two houses next to northwest side were built. Deer and wildlife have lost some areas, neighbor's nearby apple trees are gone and vineyards have taken their place. Deer are forced to spend more time in the Gardens. Their meals include centranthis, mallow, clarkia, and sedums. Some lucky school children enjoy seeing the deer in the orchard. Is Global Warming affecting wildlife? 🦋



Pipevine swallowtail eggs have been laid on the Dutchman's Pipe blossoms instead of the plant's leaves.

This keeps the air pressure from getting under the feathers and pushing them out of place. Each feather on a bird overlaps the one behind it like a shingle on a roof, so the surface stays smooth.

A surprise

A recent study by two students at UC Berkeley shows that certain sounds made by some hummingbirds, long thought to be vocal in origin, are in fact a product of the motion of the birds' tail feathers during sharp changes of direction. The students filmed male Anna's Hummingbirds with a high-speed camera during mating season, when the birds exhibit deep display dives. At the bottom of the dive, a chirp is heard. Playback of the tape seems to indicate that this chirp is caused by a movement of the tail feathers...the tail feathers flare for about 60 milliseconds (quicker than the blink of an eye) and the inner vanes of the birds' two outer tail feathers vibrate across the air in the 50 mph airstream, causing the chirp.



Woodpeckers' Loss and Gain

by Louise Hallberg

For many years we have enjoyed seeing the Acorn Woodpeckers always busy any time of day on the three dead poplar trees. They drilled deep holes to store acorns or big holes for nesting. Over a period of two years all three dead trees have fallen. Two were cut and logs were positioned up right in a semi circle around a birdbath. The birds came back and filled the holes with acorns. Three logs were nailed together and up righted with the hope the birds might use the nest holes again.

The birds filled many holes with acorns and also filled a nearby bird nesting box with hundreds of acorns. A rough estimate is between 400 – 500 acorns were stored.

Hopefully they will remember to return to enjoy their stash. They can't retrieve the acorns from the nest box because the hole is too small. The small hole makes the nest box starling proof—and in this case woodpecker proof.

Extreme Weather and Acorns

Extreme weather created an extra huge crop of acorns in 2007. We are told the cold January killed the damaging weevil population and the dry hot month of April allowed the oak pollen to spread for effective pollination. January had a record of 21 successive days of freezing or below. April was unusually hot with 20 days in the 70's. One day reached 87 degrees. The woodpeckers stored all the acorns they could for later feasts.



Hummingbirds

by Louise Hallberg

Years ago we used to see 10 or so hummingbirds nectaring on the pretty pink horse chestnut blossoms. Today, April 21, it is in bloom and we see only one or two. Why?

Up at the corner my sister Esther and Haven have many using their feeders.

According to a 1927 book on the Pacific Coast, *A Garden*, no matter how small, a hummingbird is a familiar sight, probing with a blur of wings and vibrating tail into one flower after another or flying to a twig to preen its breast.

Several tour visitors have seen our Anna's Hummingbird at the top of the tall grass next to the pond. Sometimes it flies low to catch spray from the splashing water falling over the rocks below. This hummer has a green back but the top of the head and throat show black one instant and next flash crimson. Often, in January, the male flies over the female and darts down at her with a rapid whirring of wings.

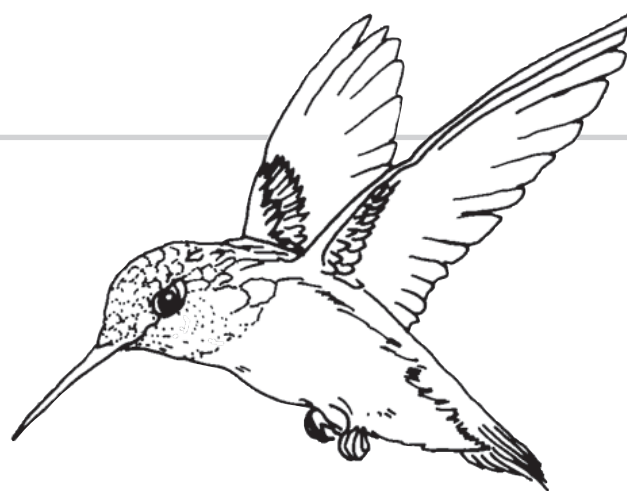
Nesting

Nesting season begins as early as December and extends into spring and sometimes summer. The female gathers cobwebs for the tiny nest made on a sloping branch. At Hallberg Butterfly Gardens, we have observed humming birds taking cobwebs from the side of the barn, but we

have never found a nest, which is a tiny eyrie lined with plant down, and feathers in which the female lays two tiny eggs, the size of a grapefruit seed. Lichen might be around the outside. Early nests may take a month to build, but later nests have been built in two days. The eggs incubate for an average of 16 days. The young are incubated and fed by the female alone. Since the brightly-colored male would divulge the nest location, he avoids the vicinity of the nest. The female sticks her long bill down the young's open mouth and pumps in partially-digested food. The fledgelings also accept nectar mixed with insects gathered by the female. A female will sometimes raise two broods a season, building a new nest, laying a two new eggs, and starting to incubate them while still feeding nestlings in her first nest.

Appearance

Hummingbirds are well-named because of the humming sound made by their wings when they fly. They often make fifty or sixty strokes a second, and



sometimes as many as 200! You can't see the wings except when perched on a twig or the edge of a nest. Otherwise they buzz so fast they are a blur.

There are nearly 400 species of hummers, all found on our side of the Atlantic Ocean. Most are in Mexico, Central America, and northern South America. A few come to the United States in spring and summer.

The Ruby-throat is a little over three inches long. It weighs only a fraction of an ounce. It can shoot ahead 50-60 miles an hour. It can fly in many directions. It is a fighter. It can drive bigger birds out of the neighborhood. It has a long, sharp, bill. Its wings are long and narrow with stiff feathers that can be driven through the air fast. The breast bone muscles which work them are bigger in proportion to the size of the bird than any other species. When it comes to flying all directions, the hummer twists its wings so the lead edges face in the direction it wants to go.

STATISTICS: Species Sightings in 2007

FAMILY and Common Name	Latin Name	First	Last
PAPILIONIDAE		Date Seen	Date Seen
Anise Swallowtail	<i>Papilio zelicaon</i>	March 11	October 4
Pipevine Swallowtail	<i>Battus philenor</i>	March 11	September 6
Pale Swallowtail	<i>Papilio eurymedon</i>	July 13	July 13
Western Tiger Swallowtail	<i>Papilio rutulus</i>	April 3	November 13
PIERIDAE			
Alfalfa (Orange Sulfur)	<i>Colias eurytheme</i>	March 14	October 27
Cabbage White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	February 5	November 13
LYCAENIDAE			
California Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium californica</i>	June 24	June 24
Spring Azure (Echo Blue)	<i>Celastrina ladon echo</i>	March 13	July 20
Gray (Common) Hairstreak	<i>Strymon melinus</i>	June 24	August 21
Unidentified Blue	<i>unknown</i>	September 3	September 3
NYMPHALIDAE			
Coronis (Crown) Fritillary	<i>Speyeria coronis</i>	May 23	May 23
Satyr Comma (Anglewing)	<i>Polygonia satyrus</i>	September 26	October 21
California Common Ringlet	<i>Coenonympha tullia, calif.</i>	April 26	November 2
California Tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis californica</i>	February 16	March 23
Common Buckeye	<i>Junonia coenia</i>	June 15	October 20
Field Crescent	<i>Phyciodes campestris</i>	April 26	October 7
Lorquin's Admiral	<i>Limenitis lorquini</i>	April 9	November 13
Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	April 13	November 13
Mourning Cloak	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>	January 22	October 31
Mylitta Crescent	<i>Phyciodes mylitta</i>	March 18	November 27
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	February 6	November 2
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	January 8	November 29
Variable Checkerspot	<i>Euphydryas chalcedona</i>	November 21	November 21
Virginia Lady, American Lady	<i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>	February 2	February 2
Unidentified Lady	<i>Euphydryas chalcedona</i>	June 19	July 8
HESPERIIDAE			
Common Checkered-Skipper	<i>Pyrgus communis</i>	March 23	November 11
Fiery Skipper	<i>Hylephila phyleus</i>	September 5	October 21
Mournful Duskywing	<i>Erynnis tristis</i>	March 22	October 4
Northern Cloudywing	<i>Thorybes pylades</i>	June 24	June 24
Properthus Duskywing	<i>Erynnis properthus</i>	June 24	June 24
Umber Skipper	<i>Poanes melane</i>	April 23	June 19
Unidentified Skippers	<i>unknown</i>	April 30	November 13

year	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
# of species sighted	27	26	31	33	21	35	28	33	32	30	32	32	36	38	27	32

Fifty-nine of California's 236 native butterfly species are commonly seen in the San Francisco Bay Area. A total of 49 different species have been catalogued visiting at Hallberg Butterfly Gardens over the last 15 years...some just once, or only rarely, and some establishing populations in our enhanced habitat.

Butterflies

By Louise Hallberg

Red Admiral

Caterpillars of the Red Admiral were found on the stinging nettle in the meadow in April and May. Beth, our docent from Switzerland, picked the nettle sprays with caterpillars on them with her bare hands! The first butterfly was released on June 30th and the ninth was released on July 23rd.

Anise Swallowtail

Upon examining past butterfly sighting records, it is noted that the Anise Swallowtail butterfly has been showing less often. In 1996, it appeared almost daily March through October. In 2007,

it was seen frequently March, July, and August and less often in other months...three times in September and not at all after that. Fewer caterpillars have been seen, with the result that we have fewer chrysalises. In the last few years, 14-15 butterflies have been released, while in the late 1990's releases were in the 20's. Habitat has been added, more of the favorite host plant (fennel) is available. Will we see a comeback?

This spring, Hallberg Butterfly Gardens received a grant to plant a section of the garden exclusively with host plants for the Anise Swallowtail, of



Red Admiral

which there are several. Anise Swallowtail caterpillars feed on the large Apiaceae family, which includes food crops like carrot, dill and parsley, native plants like Lomatium, Queen Anne's Lace, and Cow Parsnip, and the ever present Wild Fennel which colonizes roadsides and sunny stream banks. They are also reported to lay eggs on citrus trees. It will be interesting to see if this concentrated planting helps attract a new population, and if so, which of the range

Vanishing Monarchs

by Louise Hallberg



Ten years ago we enjoyed seeing monarchs in the fall nectaring and laying eggs on our few milkweeds. But what is happening to them? For the last three years there have been no adult butterflies at Bodega for the North American Butterfly Association, NABA, November butterfly count. In years past our Garden's late hatches of monarchs were released at Bodega on small trees under the tall cypress where hundreds of monarchs covered the branches. The cypress provided a safe winter haven for monarchs. *Monarchs winter as adults. They spend*

only a few weeks as a chrysalis and emerge as an adult. To protect the egg and caterpillar from predators like spiders and fly larva, Monarch caterpillars are generally brought into the house and cared for in a cage. In 1997 I released more than 100 adults. This year for the first time we saw a few monarchs off-and-on in the fall nectaring on our milkweeds but they never laid eggs. Four eggs were obtained on *Asclepius fascicularis* we purchased from Cal Flora Nursery. Three eggs developed in captivity and were released. Milkweed plants were waiting out north,

MONARCH RELEASES		
Year	Releases	Tachinid Fly Losses
1997	108	n/a
1998	53	80
1999	18	11
2000	82	5
2001	12	n/a
2002	22	4
2003	28	2
2004	51	20
2005	7	7
2006	57	3
2007	3	

by the ponds, and down in the meadow of our Gardens. Where are the butterflies going? What is happening? It is discouraging to advise visitors that we do not have the beautiful chrysalises to show them. Will 2008 be better?



Anise Swallowtail

of foods are selected by the butterfly most frequently for caterpillar rearing.

Pipevine Swallowtail

The first butterfly was seen March 11th, and the first eggs were found on March 28th. On April 16th, caterpillars were seen and the first chrysalis was noted June 7th.

One mystery has not been solved. Catarino began seeing eggs on the blossoms by the house and also by the holly tree. All agree the blossoms were late because of the 21 freezing days in January when they usually begin to bloom. Still, there were plenty of green leaves and stems available by the time the butterflies began to lay eggs. Naturally, the blossoms dried up and fell off like they always do after pollination...although some were picked up and taken in, none hatched so many (15-20) clusters of eggs were lost. Although several knowledgeable persons have been queried, none have heard of such a thing. Why did this happen?

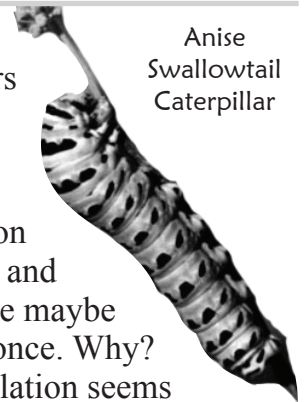
Some chrysalises were on the house and nearby buildings, which had to be painted in the fall months, so the contractor carefully moved the chrysalises

inside to a cage. As of April 19th, 2008, none have hatched.

North Coast Native Nursery called us three times to come relocate caterpillars that were happily, hungrily, feeding on the lush Dutchman's Pipe plants they were growing for sale. The gallon pots were in neat rows in a shadehouse near a wild riparian area, and the mother Pipevine Swallowtails must have recognized the safe, warm, predator-free paradise of well-groomed foliage as the perfect place for their young to hatch and thrive, which they did. Did they also know that this is one of a handful of nurseries that wouldn't immediately spray them as a pest? Did they know that in this special place they would be recognized as an important native species and respectfully relocated? Several hours were spent over the course of three visits hand-picking dozens, if not hundreds, of caterpillars of all sizes from the plants, then transporting them here to the Gardens. One caterpillar even went into chrysalis en route, which was something to see. These caterpillars were soon absorbed into the Gardens and we hope there are chrysalises nearby.

Many years ago we counted so many chrysalises on nearby fences, shrubs and trees, as well as the barn and outbuildings—one year we listed 189. Now we see so few—15 or 20—we hope many others may be hiding.

Likewise, in prior years 40 or more butterflies could be seen flying on a given day, and now we have maybe 10 or 15 at once. Why? As the population seems to have been decreasing steadily over the past few years in this garden, while remaining strong or growing in other areas, there has been much conjecture. Catarino and Linda observed dead caterpillars on the Pipevine more than once and wondered what had happened...maybe spiders are getting them. An increase of bird activity would also explain a lower caterpillar count...caterpillars are bird food, although some sources say that Dutchman's Pipe contains toxins that make the caterpillars unpalatable to birds. Another theory that was suggested is a localized virus. Changes in the weather might also be the cause. Every year is different, and insects are sensitive. Cold or hot, wet or dry...is the weather having an effect on insects and wildlife, and are decreasing butterfly numbers a warning to us?



Anise Swallowtail Caterpillar

Pipevine Swallowtail

