

13th Annual Hallberg Butterfly Gardens
Open Gardens Celebration

Sunday, June 27, 2010
10:00 to 4:00 pm

Wildflower & Historical Displays

Children's Activities

Walking Tours of the Habitat Garden

Plants, Books, & Handcrafted Items for Sale

No Admission Fee

No Reservations Needed (*No Pets Please*)

Louise Hallberg,
Sonoma County's
own Butterfly Lady



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
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Dear Friends:



We love keeping in touch with you through our annual Pipevine newsletter! However, we are also interested in conserving resources and reducing waste.

We are now publishing the Pipevine on our website and sending it out by email.

If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, please drop us a line (wintress@hallbergbutterflygardens.org).

If you prefer to be taken off our mailing list entirely, please let us know.

Thank you so much!



Hallberg Butterfly Gardens The Pipevine

8687 Oak Grove Road
Sebastopol, CA 95472

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www.hallbergbutterflygardens.org

Issue Number 12

Spring 2010

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.

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A special thanks to Gene Pearson, who took the wonderful Open Gardens photos featured in this newsletter.

13th Annual
**Open Gardens
Celebration**

Sunday, June 27, 2010
10:00 to 4:00 pm

Open Gardens 2009 Celebrating 12 Years

by Louise Hallberg

Apparently the butterflies knew it was a special day. We were celebrating the Garden's twelfth year. Surprisingly, 20 species of butterflies were sighted—an all time record for different species seen during Open Gardens. One rare butterfly and seven species of dragonflies were seen.

More than 600 visitors shared the day with us. Most of our guests were local, but 11 came from other states (New York, Hawaii, Washington, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Arizona) or other countries (England and New Zealand). The 94 degree heat kept the two drivers of the golf carts busy bringing visitors down the drive to a shady spot in the garden. On the way they could view the long line of Thank You Murals hanging on a clothes line along the apple tree row.

It is a miracle so many plants were sold on such a hot day, but detailed information on each plant was shown and volunteers worked hard. This is our one annual fundraiser.

Children were kept busy with activities. There was an origami table



Louise Hallberg takes time to visit with a guest during the 12th Annual Open Gardens Day.

where butterflies were made from folded paper. The popular face-painter was new this year.

The seven species of dragonflies were sited on the nearby pond were Pacific Forktail, Western Forktail, Eight-spotted Skimmer, Flame Skimmer, Blue Dasher, Cardinal Meadowhawk and Common Green Darner. Children as well as adults enjoyed seeing and hearing information on these insects by the Dragonfly Lady, Kathy Biggs, and Joan Ringler.

Once again the Sonoma State students had an extensive exhibit. Visitors could view insects through magnifying glasses and learn about their usefulness. Another exhibit in

Continued on page 2

Open Gardens 2009

Continued from page 1

the barn had cages with caterpillars of the Anise Swallowtail, Pipevine Swallowtail and the Lorquin's Admiral. A surprise Pipevine Swallowtail chrysalis was visible high on the barn wall in a horse shoe hanging on a nail. Chrysalises can be many places and it is necessary to be very careful when pruning or working anywhere because caterpillars can travel a long way from a plant they were feeding on to fences, walls, trees, arbors or bird baths to change into a chrysalis and rest for months.

Walking around the garden, people could see the new plant identification signs paid for by a grant from the Rotary.

Other butterflies seen that day were Buckeye, Checkered Skipper, Grey Hairstreak, Painted Lady, Monarch, Mournful Duskywing, Mourning Cloak, Purplish Copper,

Kathy Pearson helps visitors choose nectar plants



Red Admiral, Satyr, Spring Azure, Tiger Swallowtail, Western Tailed Blue and Yellow Sulfur.

A birder at the volunteer's table at the top of the hill viewed 18 species of birds: Acorn Woodpecker, American Robin, Anna's Hummingbird, Ash Throated Flycatcher, Bushtit, California Towhee, California Quail, Chickadee, Northern Mockingbird, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Pacific Slope

Flycatcher, Scrub Jay – Western, Song Sparrow, Spotted Towhee, Tree Swallow, Turkey Vulture, White Pelican, Violet-green Swallow.

In spite of the late June date, wildflowers were collected and displayed to view at the south end of the meadow – a new area we are developing for birds, butterflies and insects in the former vegetable garden.

As people wandered around the house, they could see Pipevine Swallowtail caterpillars marked by signs. So many caterpillars were killed by spiders there is a

Activity Statistics 2009 (number of people shown in parenthesis)					
Month	Total Tours	Groups	Special Tours	Children's Tours	Open Gardens
Jan.					
Feb.	1 (2)	1 (2)			
March	1 (2)	1 (2)			
April	26 (181)	8 (31)		18 (150)	
May	58 (477)	22 (117)		36 (360)	
June	14 (122)	6 (29)		8 (93)	610
July	38 (203)	28 (126)	7 (45)	3 (32)	
Aug.	23 (86)	21 (60)		2 (26)	
Sept.	9 (120)	1 (4)	8 (148)	1 (18)	
Oct.	14 (31)	7 (21)	7 (10)		
Nov.					
Total Tours	185	95	22	68	
Total Guests	1884	392	203	679	610

Tours 2009

Comments are necessary regarding the great change in tours. Open Gardens attendance was 400 visitors fewer than the previous year, school tours had a slight increase, but individual tours were greatly increased. The 2009 season had 95 individual tours with 392 people visiting compared to 62 tours and 164 visitors in 2008. July and August of 2009 were busy months. Many did not need directions because they had found us on our website, www.hallbergbutterflygardens.org. A new state and several foreign countries were added to our master guest list. Fewer butterflies were seen, but visitors seemed very happy with the garden visit.



Fun at the kids' craft table

concern about next year's butterfly population. We only knew of 2 chrysalis by April 5, 2009. Compare that to a year in the early 90's when more than 180 Chrysalis were accounted for.

People reaching the apple orchard area could sit on benches and watch for the butterflies. Ross, a volunteer, pointed out butterflies nectaring on the blooming butterfly bushes. Twenty species in one day is a record. The Western Tailed Blue and Milbert's Tortoiseshell, a rare species, were seen for the first time in the gardens. Other species seen during Open Gardens were Anise Swallowtail, Buckeye, Cabbage White, Checkered Skipper, Grey Hairstreak, Painted Lady, Little

Brown – unidentified, Lorquin's Admiral, Monarch, Mournful Duskywing, Mourning Cloak, Pipevine Swallowtail, Purplish Copper, Red Admiral, Satyr, Spring Azure or Echo Blue, Tiger Swallowtail, Yellow Sulfur.

In the last few years there has been a decline in butterfly populations. 54 species have been sighted at Hallberg Gardens; some species once or rarely. We hope to continue developing habitat for wildlife – birds, butterflies, bees and other insects and animals. Many areas of local wildlife habitat are being lost.

Some visitors were glad to find a new book or a craft at the
Continued on page 4



Wintress and Kris answer questions at the wildflower table

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
West Virginia
Wisconsin
Wyoming

COUNTRIES

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



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 Leah
leah@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 leah@hallbergbutterflygardens.org

Wildlife Sanctuary

We add habitat every year hoping to save a little area for insects and animals. In late November, we were alarmed by shooting sounds and found the poor dead deer in our garden. We hope visitors and children appreciate the area and the wildlife here. Since habitat is changing and being lost we hope to share its beauty with the wildlife.


In the Gardens

Visitors enjoyed seeing the old lavender lilacs bloom in the spring with Pipevine Swallowtail butterflies nectaring. The Erysimum bloom January through May and June. They are a favorite early nectar plant of butterflies. Marguerites, ceanothus, and bidens also show early. June until late fall, butterfly bushes of all colors are favorites of the butterflies. Radish, salvia, goldenrod are favorite late blooming flowers. Bees are thick on goldenrod. All kinds of asters, especially low growing ones, attract mylitta crescent, field crescent, and ringlet butterflies. Lippia is low ground cover plant. Its flowers attract butterflies. Lavender, verbena and tithonia are other favorite nectar plants.

This winter, 2010, heavy rains washed over the ditches and washed down the barn steps and washed out the gravel path west of the barn. Many hours of labor have restored the damage to the gravel barn path

and steps to the meadow. Many hours are spent weeding. After three years of drought, the rain brought on many weeds. Unwanted burr clover is found in many areas.

Several kinds of mushrooms were seen – large orange ones under the strawberry tree, big brown ones by the ferns near the ramp, and white ones by the pond and vegetable garden.

In the fall the tiger lilies were pretty in four different areas. I was disappointed to learn they are not wild lilies even though the flowers resemble them. Our variety multiplies by little bulblets that appear on the stem just above a leaf. The bulblet develops small roots and pushes itself off the stem where it drops to the ground and start a new seedling in the spring. The adult plant is at least 4 years old before it has produced a bulb large enough it can blossom. Humming birds love to nectar on the lily blossoms. 




Caterpillar identification

Open Garden Day

Continued from page 4

information tables in the shade. A special table was set with information about Esther Best who passed away in February. Her special cookies were missed. She donated time and cookies to the Open Garden event every year. The first celebration was by the north apple trees on two foggy days in 1998. This year Pat Costello made cookies for a donation of a memorial bench to be purchased in Esther's memory.

We hope it was an enjoyable day for all in spite of the heat. 

Surprise! The State Butterfly...Dogface

By Louise Hallberg

As a guest walked along the path west of the barn, I pointed out the special plant, amorpha, a big green shrub that is the host plant for the state butterfly, Dogface. I showed a picture of the butterfly from the book I carry when showing a tour around the property. In 2008 the guest said he could perhaps get some caterpillars next spring. In July 2009, we received the surprise caterpillars. Five were placed on a branch of Amorpha east of the barn. Eight were placed on branch of Amorpha west of barn. Thirty-four other caterpillars were placed a cage in the utility room to be fed. Most caterpillars were quite large and did not eat long before they went into chrysalises. They hung from branches or the top of

the cage.

On August 7th, the first one hatched. The female is yellow all over and easily confused with Cloudless Sulphurs. The males have distinguishing black and pink markings on the open wing and a small red circle on the under wing. When released from the cage, most flew very fast and high. Some flew to flowers to nectar. A book says they like the flowers of thistles and *Verbena bonariensis* which grow near our Amorpha. Many guests took pictures while the Dogface butterflies were in the cage. This was a treat because this butterfly is not common in this area and few guests had seen them before. All were released by September 4th. In March 2010 we saw the Dogface

in flight here at the Gardens. Did it emerge from a chrysalis or winter over as an adult? Amporha, Also known as False Indigo, goes dormant over the winter and leafs out in the spring.

It is such an exciting experience to have the state butterfly at the Gardens. It is not common in Sonoma County. 🦋



Ready to start her own butterfly garden!

On the Internet

In August 2009 Kathryn Hall of www.kathrynhallpublicist.com visited the Gardens and took many pictures while on tour. We had the Dogface butterfly in flight at that time because of a gift of butterfly caterpillars several weeks before. Luckily she got pictures of this bright yellow butterfly. They seldom were seen quietly nectaring on a flower. Flying high and fast makes them difficult to observe and photograph. We released an adult that had just emerged from a chrysalis. The caterpillar was raised in one of our butterfly cages. They remain in a chrysalis for just a few weeks. This adult flew directly to some asters for nectar and a few pictures before it remembered its species' habits.



A recently released dogface butterfly lands on Queen Anne's Lace. Photo courtesy of Kathryn Hall, www.plantwhateverbringsyoujoy

Kathryn gave us 20 pages of pictures and information about her visit to the Gardens. It was a great contribution to our library. The pictures were on the website for weeks. We are grateful for her kindness and happy she saw the state butterfly. It was the first time we have had California dogface flying at the Gardens. 🦋



(name)



Why Butterflies?

By Ingrid Stearns

Pausing for a moment to look around me one warm, sunny spring day, I was struck by the beauty of the Butterfly Gardens. A myriad of perennials were showing signs of new life after a long, rainy winter. Evident was the love, care, knowledge, and contribution of so many people through time – all present in a wild display of colors and textures.

What is it about butterflies that inspires us to make such efforts toward their conservation? Butterflies are beautiful and awe-inspiring. It is easy for us to appreciate them without even knowing anything about them – they naturally provide aesthetic value to the human experience. Understanding of the process of metamorphosis that occurs in their lifecycle adds even more depth to our fascination. Upon closer examination, we realize that butterflies are actually insects – one of the few insects that humans easily feel affinity for. As such, they serve as a bridge between us and the insect world, which is a vital element in a healthy ecosystem.

For millions of years, butterflies have co-evolved with their host and nectar plants; each has influenced the way the other has evolved, and they are dependent upon each other for their survival. But it is often

not a simple one-to-one ratio. For example, the Dutchman's Pipevine plant is the only food source for the Pipevine Swallowtail caterpillar. The leaves give the caterpillar (and later the butterfly) a bad taste, which protects it from being eaten by the birds. But the Dutchman's Pipevine is pollinated by another insect, and so there are at least two organisms involved in this interdependent relationship.

Because of their intimate association with their host and nectar plants, butterflies can be an important indicator of the health of the ecosystem. Butterflies move through their life cycle fairly quickly, and changes to the ecosystem will be evident within the butterfly communities in a short amount of time. Declining butterfly populations may signal other problems throughout the ecosystem; other plant, insect, and animal species may also be in decline. When there is a loss in one species, there can be an effect throughout the ecosystem.

Habitat loss has been the major cause of decline in butterfly populations. This can happen overtly, such as when a meadow is paved over, or inadvertently, such as when a non-native invasive species is introduced to an area. Non-native species, devoid of the controls found in their natural environments, can thrive and outcompete the native species with this unfair advantage. We have even seen this happen at the Hallberg Butterfly Gardens, where *Vinca major* has established a foothold in some areas.

One of my personal goals as an intern has been to uncover the

Dutchman's Pipevine from under a huge tangle of *Vinca* across from the house. Louise had told me that there were 80-year-old pipevines there, but when I first walked into the patch, I couldn't actually see them. So one day I pushed back some of the *Vinca*, sat myself down, and began pulling it out one by one. As I worked my way through, inch by inch, three feet below the canopy of vines, I began to uncover the Dutchman's Pipevine. It was still there.

I cleared out four square feet of *Vinca* in about an hour, having revealed five or six Pipevines. They were small and had tiny leaves, but at last they had some room and exposure to the sun. When I returned a few days later, they had begun to flourish once again. Afterwards, when I had the opportunity to see my first Pipevine Swallowtail – an exquisite dark butterfly with shimmers of blue – I was happy to think I may have made a contribution to the ongoing health and survival of this population.

We have witnessed the decline of butterfly populations, but we can help to counteract the loss of habitat and make an important contribution to their survival. By creating and restoring butterfly habitats in our own yards, we are increasing biodiversity and supporting a healthy ecosystem. The more butterfly islands there are, the more chances the greater population has of survival. Visit the Hallberg Butterfly Gardens for examples and ideas on what can be done to successfully transform a landscape into a haven for the butterflies. 🦋

Ingrid Stearns is an Intern with HBG....

Pacific Grove – February, 2010

By Joan Ringler

On February 02, 2010 I drove down to Pacific Grove with a local tour group to learn about the Monarch Butterfly. Upon arrival we were met by a volunteer who walked us through an area surrounded by Monterey Pines and California natives. Fortunately, for that time of year, it was a beautiful sunny day, giving us the best chance to see Monarchs in flight.

We did not see a vast quantity of butterflies, but we did see hundreds. Every time a branch would light up with the sun's rays, their beautiful orange and black wings would flutter over our group.

Our docent theorized that one reason there were fewer Monarchs could be that higher temperatures caused there to be fewer milkweed plants available during migration last year. Without their essential diet, caterpillars die and populations dwindle. In 2009, the Monarch count was about 19,000 in Pacific Grove.

Scientists have tested Monarchs within a dark room to study their built-in knowledge of when they should migrate. When researchers

simulated seasonal light conditions, the butterflies became aroused and wanted to fly around the room. They were trying to fly away. It was discovered that the life span of the winter generation is increased in order to reach their destination. At night, while migrating, they land on whatever is available and look for their own kind to press up against.

During mating, when the female is ready to attract a male, she flies through the air in a zig-zag pattern. On the ground she can deny her suitor by bending her tail down if she thinks he is not suitable. If they mate, he can pick her up and take her to a tree. Her weight is equal to his, so this is quite a feat.

Our docent showed us new trees that have been planted at the butterfly sanctuary to supply the Monarchs with lower limbs to cling to. It was pointed out that in Mexico, another major migratory destination for Monarchs, a similarly significant decrease has been observed. It is hoped that environmentalists there are doing as much as possible to plant milkweed and preventing deforestation.

Wishing Well

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. Again this year, we're trying to build garden infrastructure. We would welcome help with the following:

Color Markers for Kids' Tours

Large Rolls of Butcher Paper

Irrigation Design

Irrigation Equipment
(controller, pipe, tubing, emitters)

Photocopier

Website Maintenance

Grant Writing



Kids like face painting!



So does Gene!



Bob Cugini, tour guide extraordinaire



Butterflies

An early monarch visits the nectar-rich Buddleia

by Louise Hallberg



Losing Monarchs

For the last few years, Monarchs have not been in the trees at the campground in Bodega Bay during winter where we used to see and count hundreds. This year we saw fewer Monarchs here in the Gardens. In early years we saw them almost every day August through October and some in November. This year we kept watching and saw very few. Milkweeds were blooming in the north garden, by the ponds and at the bottom of the hill where eggs were usually found. The few we saw nectaring might have been mostly males on the milkweed as we found no eggs until the one time on September 30, which was six weeks late. These eggs were taken in along with the milkweed plants, which were dug and put

into gallon cans. The eggs hatched and caterpillars ate. On November 15th, 2009, some hung to start a chrysalis and then died. There were five in the utility holding room. One died hanging in a J, four dropped to the bottom of the cage, went into chrysalis and then died. Of the thirteen caterpillars in the bathroom nursery hanging in a J, nine went into chrysalis but never hatched. So sad to lose all eighteen eggs that had hatched but had been laid too late with weather too cold.

In March this year, experts said the Monarch population is in jeopardy. Monarchs are dying in Mexico where they spend the winter. For three of the last five years, winters have been bitter cold, severe rainstorms and drought have taken their toll. Additional threats are loss of habitat and illegal logging and spraying of pesticides in areas of Mexico where Monarchs gather. Because of high altitude and severe cold, many Monarchs froze and did not get back to the United States this spring. Some experts say the population is down as much as 75% and this season's migration from Mexico to Canada has shown the death of millions of Monarchs.

So we do what we can; plant milkweed and nectar plants for any that find our gardens.

Pipevine Swallowtail

Writing this article in April, 2010 for the Newsletter reporting 2009 activity, I think back to April 1990 when I called the San Francisco Arboretum about their scheduled plant sale for butterflies. Barbara Deutsch, a volunteer, answered the phone and said they would save plants for me. When she listed the plants for sale, I already had all of them. I told her we had maybe 50 Pipevine Swallowtails a day flying. She, Don Mahoney, and Jeff Caldwell immediately arranged to come see the butterflies. At that time our garden was mainly around the house and in the shade. Jeff suggested we plant north of the house where there was more sun. Every year since then we have added a new section to the habitat area. The grounds have expanded but this April, 2010, so far we have seen two Pipevine Swallowtails flying. In 2009 the first butterfly was seen March 20, when weather warmed. We hope to see more but the last few years we are fortunate

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	n/a
2008	24	3
2009	18	18 (late hatch, too cold)



Pipevine Swallowtail



Anise Swallowtail

saw it fewer days. In 2009 we saw it only once in March, June, October and fewer times in all other months. From March 31 to April 17, nine eggs

to see ten a day during this period. In the 90's there were 180 chrysalis attached to the house, barn, trees and fence. In April 2010, I know where two chrysalis are.

Brown spiders were destructive in the Spring of 2009, eating eggs and all sizes of caterpillars. In May of 2009 I took about 50 small caterpillars in the house to care for them. Caterpillars of this species eat for about 6 weeks before going into chrysalis. They rest as chrysalis until March – June the following year before emerging as an adult butterfly. Caring for hungry caterpillars is very time consuming. They need a constant supply of fresh pipevine stems and leaves and clean cages. As of July 27, 2009, I had 52 chrysalises. The first adult emerged March 18, 2010. It was too cold to release it immediately. As of April 17, no eggs have been found outside yet. We've had a rainy cold spring and that could be delaying the life cycle.

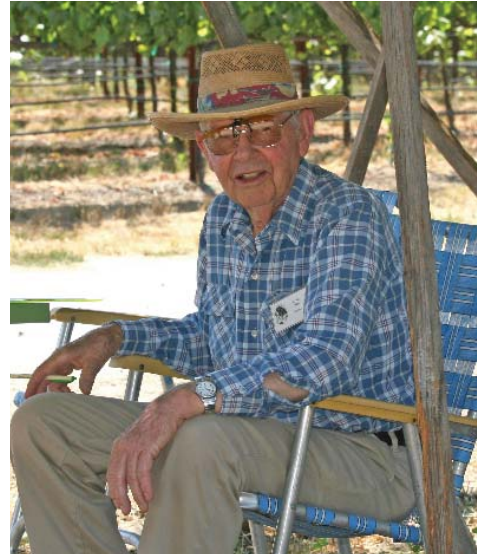
were found on fennel. None were found on the study host plants. From April 22 to July 2, less than 6 caterpillars were found on fennel near the Vitex and brought in to cages. From May 4 to June 27 fourteen Anise adults emerged from chrysalis and were released. These adults had been young caterpillars brought into cages where they were fed until going into chrysalis last summer. Even after releases, few were seen flying. Why is this once common butterfly becoming so rare in our garden?



Haven Best, apple grower for 60+ years



Western Tiger Swallowtail nectaring on Buddleia



Wildflower specimens



Anise Swallowtail

How grateful we were to receive a grant to study the Anise swallowtail host plants – but guess what happened in 2009? Comparing butterfly sightings from 1992 to 2001 we saw the anise swallowtail almost every day April through September or October. Beginning in 2002 we began seeing it less – especially in April, June and October. Each following year we

STATISTICS: Species Sightings in 2009

Family and Common Name	Latin Name	First Date Seen	Last Date Seen
PAPILIONIDAE			
Pipevine Swallowtail	<i>Battus philenor</i>	March 20	September 30
Anise Swallowtail	<i>Papilio zelicaon</i>	March 30	October 27
Pale Swallowtail	<i>Papilio eurymedon</i>	May 12	May 12
Western Tiger Swallowtail	<i>Papilio rutulus</i>	March 31	October 30
PIERIDAE			
Cabbage White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	February 3	November 29
Sara Orangetip	<i>Anthocharis sara</i>	March 26	October 21
Orange Sulfur (Alfalfa)	<i>Colias eurytheme</i>	March 30	October 28
California Dogface	<i>Colias eurydice</i>	August 7	October 21
LYCAENIDAE			
Purplish Copper	<i>Lycaena helloides</i>	June 28	October 26
Great Purple Hairstreak	<i>Atlides halesus</i>	July 31	July 31
Brown Elfin	<i>Callophrys augustinus</i>	June 28	June 28
Gray (Common) Hairstreak	<i>Strymon melinus</i>	May 28	October 2
Western Tailed-Blue	<i>Everes amyntula</i>	June 28	August 21
Spring Azure (Echo Blue)	<i>Celastrina ladon</i>	March 12	July 2
Acmon Blue	<i>Plebejus acmon</i>	September 9	October 6
NYMPHALIDAE			
Field Crescent	<i>Phyciodes campestris</i>	April 11	October 29
Mylitta Crescent	<i>Phyciodes mylitta</i>	March 20	November 13
Variable Checkerspot	<i>Euphydryas chalcedona</i>	August 7	August 7
Satyr Comma (Anglewing)	<i>Polygonia satyrus</i>	June 28	June 28
California Tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis californica</i>	February 27	March 31
Mourning Cloak	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>	January 12	July 1
Milbert's Tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis milberti</i>	June 28	June 28
Virginia (American)Lady	<i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>	September 29	October 1
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	January 9	November 20
West Coast Lady	<i>Vanessa annabella</i>	February 2	October 29
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	January 9	December 1
Common Buckeye	<i>Junonia coenia</i>	April 22	November 7
Lorquin's Admiral	<i>Limenitis lorquini</i>	May 8	October 28
California Common Ringlet	<i>Coenonympha tullia, calif.</i>	April 19	October 8
Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	April 22	October 23
HESPERIIDAE			
Properius Duskywing	<i>Erynnis properius</i>	April 3	May 7
Mournful Duskywing	<i>Erynnis tristis</i>	March 11	October 25
Common Checkered-Skipper	<i>Pyrgus communis</i>	April 22	November 20
Fiery Skipper	<i>Hylephila phyleus</i>	September 27	October 23
Sachem Skipper	<i>Atalopedes campestris</i>	May 8	May 8
Woodland Skipper	<i>Ochlodes sylvanoides</i>	September 27	October 1
Umber Skipper	<i>Poanes melane</i>	May 8	October 9
Unidentified Skipper	<i>unknown</i>	May 7	November 2

year	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'00	'01	'02	'03	'04	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09
# of species sighted	27	26	31	33	21	35	28	33	32	30	32	32	36	38	27	32	32	38

Fifty-nine of California's 236 native butterfly species are commonly seen in the San Francisco Bay Area. A total of 54 different species have been catalogued visiting at Hallberg Butterfly Gardens over the last 17 years...some just once, or only rarely, and some establishing populations in our enhanced habitat.

Birds

by Louise Hallberg

For the first time we located a Downy Woodpecker's nest. It was found at the top of a limb starting to rot in a nearby apple tree. Visitors could hear and see the babies being fed. Downy woodpeckers are small and have a white back, short pointed bill, and outer tail feathers have faint dark bars or spots. Males have a bright red patch on the back of their head. They have short downy feathers by their nostrils – likely the trait that they were named for. They are small and active. They are often seen in suburbs, woodlands, shrubbery and orchards. They are a familiar visitor to bird feeders and important members of the orchard. Seventy-five percent of their diet is insect larva and eggs dug out of tree bark. The head is heavy and a great tool for hammering. The tongue has barbs that helps pull out insects. Their feet are adapted to climbing – two toes in front and two toes in the back cling to the side of tree. The tail is short and strong.

Spring courtship includes hammering on a hollow branch to attract a female. Pure white eggs are laid on chips at the bottom of a cavity drilled in a tree. The chicks

hatch blind and naked. When they leave the nest the parents teach them to bore for insects. They can use the nest during the winter to keep warm. They are a useful bird all year. We hope to see them in the same hole in the apple tree this season.

Sparrows and juncos were here late October through mid April. The white-throated sparrow was seen by several birders. At the feeding table chickadees, titmice, and finches were commonly seen. A few times we saw a dozen quail on the deck or steps eating sunflower seeds. We watched them through the glass door. The Acorn woodpeckers work on the telephone pole and are seen occasionally at the poplar stumps in the meadow. No acorns were put in the stump holes this year. Starlings have taken over the nest in the barn pole. The Great Horned Owls have been seen and heard off and on. We wonder if they are nesting in a Red-tailed Hawk's nest from last year.

In the early spring the Cooper's hawk was observed sitting on the pasture fence and diving down for something in the grass.



Young scientific illustrator at work



2008 Open Gardens

Birds & Butterflies

Birds seen at the 2009 Open Gardens:

Acorn Woodpecker, American Robin, Anna's Hummingbird, Ash Throated Flycatcher, Bushtit, California Towhee, California Quail, Chickadee, Northern Mockingbird, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Pacific Slope Flycatcher, Scrub Jay – Western, Song Sparrow, Spotted Towhee, Tree Swallow, Turkey Vulture, White Pelican, Violet-green Swallow.

Butterflies seen at the 2009 Open Gardens:

Anise Swallowtail, Buckeye, Cabbage White, Checkered Skipper, Grey Hairstreak, Painted Lady, Little Brown – unidentified, Lorquin's Admiral, Monarch, Mournful Duskywing, Mourning Cloak, Pipevine Swallowtail, Purplish Copper, Red Admiral, Satyr, Spring Azure or Echo Blue, Tiger Swallowtail, Yellow Sulfur.

Names

[names names names names names names names names names names names] at the greeting table await the crowds

A Great Surprise...Swifts Return to the Chimney

By Louise Hallberg

At 9:00 AM on September 6, 2009, Gay Bishop came to help pot up plants for the Graton Community Club plant sale and was surprised to see 20 or more swifts flying over the house and gardens for a long time. She thought maybe they were roosting in the chimney as for many years they had nested in the chimney but not recently.

For several evenings I watched at sundown but saw no birds. On September 14, 2009, I was in the vegetable garden about one half hour watching swifts fly over the trees and bank so spectacularly that I went out at sundown and thought I saw a few go into the chimney.

On September 15 & 16, we saw swifts again over the vegetable garden and over the house in the afternoon and I thought some went into the chimney but many flew south – to where?

Austin helps Grandma Gay Bishop-Brorstrom at the book table



A paper was put over ashes in the fireplace and we found tiny feathers on it.

I don't recall birds in the chimney after nesting season. To see them here in the fall was exciting. They are spectacular little birds. They cannot perch on a fence or wire like other birds but they have special feet and tail feather-like quills that enable them to cling to a vertical wall like a brick chimney. They are mostly airborne except when nesting or roosting.

In our first Pipevine Newsletter, Spring 1999, I had written about the first experience with these birds in May 1997 when one was in the house. I learned it had come down the chimney and out where the screen was ajar. This led to listening to the birds being fed which a guest spent the afternoon timing at every 10 minutes. A single swift can consume up to 20,000 insects a day.

The birds are losing their habitat, trees as well as brick

chimneys as they can't cling to newer metal chimneys. We have not seen them in the Spring lately or heard baby birds.

How can these birds drop into chimneys – know they are brick and with openings as small as a foot square?

So it was an exciting Fall when from September 10 to October 9, 2009, we and guests on some nights about sundown, watched the little birds suddenly appear and drop into the chimney. At the beginning, four to seven birds, but many nights in the 20's and the record night of 55 on October 6, 2009.

From October 9, all were gone on a trip to Central or South America just before a storm here. What an exciting month for so much pleasure at sundown!

After an absence of a few years of spring nesting, I wonder if we will see them soon. We are grateful for the pleasure and happy to share it with anyone interested. 🦋

Louise, Gene & Kathy Contribute to SSU Butterfly Gardens Sign

On October 29, 2009, a new sign for the butterfly habitat garden at Sonoma State was dedicated. An energetic committee brought the sign into being over the course of 2009, with design, manufacturing and installation completed by Bob Sanders of Robert Sanders & Co. in Sonoma.

The permanent, full-color porcelain enamel sign measures 2' x 3' and depicts three distinct butterfly habitats: Woodland, Meadow, and Riparian. The lifecycle stages of

a butterfly species representative of each habitat are illustrated by color photographs provided by Julie West, Louise Hallberg, and Gene and Kathy Pearson.

The Butterfly Habitat Garden at SSU began with a vision in 1993, and has been supported over the years by several generous grantors as well as a team of committed volunteers. Louise Hallberg attended the dedication reception, accompanied by Gene and Kathy Pearson.

Western Bluebirds

By Gay Bishop-Brostrom

As far as fantastic birds go, Western Bluebirds surely come to mind. More Disney cartoon character than thrush that it is, this species seems better suited to flutter around Cinderella's gown, than hover and flycatch as it does. In fact, western bluebirds feed in a variety of ways, gleaning insects from foliage and ground-sallying (settling briefly on the ground to capture an insect before returning to a perch). Being generalists, they eat a variety of insects and fruit; mistletoe berries included.



Swifts Dropping into Louise's Chimney

As resident birds, Western Bluebirds stay put throughout the year. The old orchard on the way into the Hallberg Butterfly Gardens is a reliable place to see bluebirds at any season. The apple trees supply many holes in which these bird to nest and roost. To help compensate for the loss of orchards in our area and because of the increasing threat of non-native cavity nesters like the European Starlings and English House Sparrows, nest boxes have been set up along the road into

the Gardens to provide additional nesting opportunities for bluebirds.

The boxes often attract other native species such as the Oak Titmouse, Violet-green Swallows, and White-breasted Nuthatches which, this year, are nesting in the box directly in front of Ms. Hallberg's house. If you're considering installing nest boxes and have the room, consider putting up a number of them as avian real estate is in great demand.

Is it the color of the male bluebird, especially when seen in spring sunlight, that makes this species so spectacular? (Yes! -Ed.) There is magic in the iridescent blue flashes we see. This occurs when light is refracted by the uneven surface of the feathers which bend light like a prism into a spectrum of color not produced by pigment. At angles when light is absorbed, not reflected back, the birds appear black.


On my own property, one spring, a male bluebird kept the female patiently perched in a walnut tree waiting two weeks for nesting to begin while he battled his reflection in windows to the east of the house and then in the afternoon, on the west side and with the changing light, onto the north side.

Following the sound of glass-tapping, I taped newspaper to the inside of the windows, hoping to block his reflection and discourage this expenditure of energy. For the same reason, in springtime, my family is in the habit of covering all car mirrors with plastic bags.

They may look fanciful, but male bluebirds are ferociously territorial and their mates seem

patient beyond all measure with their mate's shenanigans.

Once settled into husbandry, however, the males prove to be supreme providers. The male and female alternate in bringing insects to their brood every two minutes for over an hour. They might have continued, but at that point, I was too tired watching and recording to keep track.

For beauty and interesting natural history, native Western Bluebirds are the true birds of happiness, capable, even, of flying somewhere over the rainbow. 



Charles Lahm and Louise Hallberg

Library Gift

We are grateful to Angela Ford for a special book. *The Butterfly Book, Popular Guide To Know Butterflies Of North America*, by W.J. Holland. It was published in 1902 with a copyright in 1898.

It is a wonderful addition to our library collection.

Farewell

Josephine Nattkemper

Josephine Nattkemper and her late husband Clark were supporters of the Gardens from the very beginning as a non-profit in 1997. They came to the special event at the Oak Grove School for the Jefferson Weather Board. Almost every year Josephine was the first to send in a donation after receiving the annual newsletter from the Gardens. She passed away last spring and will be missed. We received some funds from the estate.

Esther Best

In February Esther Best passed away. We miss her help during Open Gardens Day. She baked her famous cookies and helped at the reception table. She welcomed the guests and recognized many neighborhood guests that come every year.

Adele Zygielbaum

Late October 2009 the Gardens received funds in memory of Adele Zygielbaum. She lost family members in Nazi concentration camps in 1940's. Her father had taught her welding so her skills were valuable. She endured three years of abusive treatment until being liberated in Germany in 1945. She met and married her husband, Joseph Zygielbaum from Poland, before coming to New York in 1946. Adele moved to Santa Rosa in 1999 after a full life with her husband in Southern California. She always had a love of the promise of new life and butterflies.

Our Heartfelt Thanks to Volunteers

The following people, businesses, and organizations contributed to the Gardens this year...

Organizations

Armstrong Paper Group
Britton Tree Services
Cal-Flora Nursery
California Horticultural Society
Graton Community Club
Press Democrat
Rotary Club of Sebastopol
Shooting Star Propagation
Sonoma West Times & News
West County Gazette
www.kathrynhallpublicisit.com

Tour Docents

Gay Bishop
Leah Brorstrom
Robert Cugini
Patricia Dervin
Wintress Huetter
Kathi Jacobs
Linda Johnston
Alexandra McDonald
Kathy Spalding

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Richard Fashbinder
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Kathi Jacobs
Jerry & Linda Johnston
Johnston
Alexandra McDonald
Kathy Oetinger
Gene & Kathy Pearson
Joanne Taylor
Paul Wycoff

Contributors of Time, Expertise and Materials

Loretta Bentancourt
Gay Bishop
Arno Boer
Bill Brungardt
Margaret & Carl Brown
Patricia Dervin

<ary Lou Downing
Angela Ford
Kathy Goetzel
Estrella, Quince, & Kevin Holman
Kathi Jacobs
Jerry & Linda Johnston
Lyra Liefke
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Tanya Tillman
Kathy Trafton
Ross & Alex Weishaar
Ed Wong
Redwood Origami Club

Pipevine Newsletter

Gay Bishop
Louise Hallberg
Wintress Huetter
Kathi Jacobs
Linda & Jerry Johnston
Kathy Oetinger
Ingrid Stearns



Learning about dragonflies at the pond

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 2009, although all of our contributors (past, present, and future) are deeply appreciated!
(*Major contributor)

Concord

Judith Sherwood

El Verano

June England (*in memory of David England*)

Graton

Carol Bernfell
Kris Nevins

Guerneville

Diane Landry

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Marjorie Lucero

Richmond

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Rohnert Park

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Pat Costello



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
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I wish to make a gift in honor of _____

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Your Name _____

Address _____

E-mail Address _____

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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



This lucky chrysalis (hanging from a horseshoe) hatched during a school tour in spring 2010



Alex and a visitor observe caterpillars



Frederique Lavoipierre's entomology students answer all your insect questions

Open Gardens Day Plant Sale

The following plants will be available for purchase at Hallberg Butterfly Gardens on June 28th, our Open Gardens Day. They will be in 4" pots and ready to fill your garden full of nectar!

Buddleia alternifolia

Lavandula 'Alba'

Penstemon 'Lavender'

Salvia 'Waverly'

Scabiosa 'Butterfly Blue'

Lavatera 'Kew Rose'

Phlomis fruticosa



Update
List?

7131 #2 unsure of the story here

7191-a #2 Great Purple Hairstreak

7161 #2 Flame Skimmer

7146 #2 Butterfly crafts at the kids' table

7115 #2 Entomological displays in the barn

7114 #2 Lepidoptera specimens in the barn

7130 #2 Wintress describes the history of the Hallberg ranch to visitors

7172 #2 The morning shift

7168 #2 Gay and Joanne answer questions at the book sale table

7170-a #2 Cute kid but a cute caption eludes me just now

7168 #2 Don Mahoney guides visitors

7212 #2-3 Wildflowers

7192 #2 Kathy Pearson and Mary-Ann Beiter run the plant sale

7101 #2 Natives & nectar!

7226 & 7228 #2 unsure of the story here

7240 #2 Origami Lepidoptera

7242 #2 Entomology in the barn

7247 #2 Avian expertise provided by [name]

7261 #2 Western Tiger Swallowtail visits the Buddleia

7238 #2 Louise and Kathy Trafton

7288 #2 Long-time volunteer Alex Weishaar

7209 #3 Flame Skimmer

7129 #3 Peaceful path in the meadow

7210 #3 unsure of the story here

7196-1 #3 Scrub Jay

7127 #3 A piece of history

7291 #3 A well-behaved helper

7283 #3 ?

7310 #3 Taking ideas and nectar plants home



Volunteer (name) helps at the bird table



Hummingbirds enjoy Buddleia too!