



Hallberg Butterfly Gardens

# The Pipevine

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Spring 2014  
Issue Number 16

## Welcome to Open Gardens Day Sunday, June 22, 2014

By Louise Hallberg

Due to lack of rain, we've planned for one table for the plant sale, which will be down the road before the guest sign-in table. We hope to have several host plants; Dutchman's Pipevine, Milkweed, and nectar plants, Scabiosa as well as Verbena bonariensis. At the guest table we will have the up-to-date map for self-guided tours beginning with the remodeled dragonfly pond; then going by the weather stations where an unusual number of below freezing days were recorded. Little rain was recorded and as of March, we are far below normal rainfall.

There will also be the usual insect display and the host plant display. Many birds are seen in the meadow  
*Continued on page 2.*



Host Plants—Not Weeds. One species' weeds are another species' baby food. Photo by Gene Pearson

## National Heirloom Exposition September 10th-12th, 2013

By Gay Bishop Brorstrom

Hallberg Butterfly Gardens was invited to be represented at the National Heirloom Exposition at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds last fall. It was the third year this largest pure food fair event in the US and the world was held. Young farmers from throughout the country exhibited and sold their produce and wares. To see so many young people committed to going back to the earth for their livelihood was nothing short of inspirational.

Throughout all three days speakers from around the world were scheduled to speak on topics as diverse as Backyard Chickens, Kombucha Journey, Seed Saving 101 and everything in between.

Hallberg Gardens had a premiere location in the Hall of Flowers close to the, by now, famous up-to-the-ceiling

pyramid of gourds and squashes and near the pumpkins weighing in at over a thousand pounds, all vying for medals.

Our table was surrounded by glorious produce: three pound tomatoes, squashes of every pattern and hue. And the gourds. Good golly, it was hard to believe the gourds! Gourds transformed into artwork with teeth and eyes to resemble horses galloping through air, gourds made into marionettes.

It took a lot to be noticed in this produce spectacular. And yet we did and with a flourish. How did we accomplish this?

Ours was a display of weeds and only weeds and it drew curious attention. While, all around us, others were displaying the most incredibly beautiful  
*Continued on page 2.*

**Hallberg Butterfly  
Gardens**

17<sup>th</sup> annual

Open Gardens Celebration



Sunday, June 22, 2014  
10 am to 4 pm

**Free!** No Reservations Needed.

## Open Gardens Day

June 22, 2014

*Continued from page 1.*

and volunteers are available to answer questions.

Further down in the meadow will be the wildflower table, with volunteers to help answer questions. Returning up the hill and going in front of the house there may be Pipevine caterpillars on the Dutchman's Pipevine and also on the plants at the rear of the house. Follow the path that leads up to the orchard. Volunteers will point out the butterflies on the butterfly bushes. Further on is the book and craft table and near by, the refreshment table. Visitors with small children will find the children's table across from the guest sign-in area. The children enjoy face painting and making butterfly objects to take home. There are limited parking places off of Oak Grove Road, and a shuttle will be available. Last year we were fortunate to have ideal weather. We had about 1,000 visitors from Sonoma County and abroad. Almost all of the 3,000 plants were sold.

### HBG Garden Tours 1999 to 2013

Year	Visitors	School/ Children's Tours
2013	1,891	417
2012	2,120	424
2011	2,358	489
2010	2,503	494
2009	1,884	679
2008	2,020	538
2007	1,620	493
2006	1,539	596
2005	1,573	818
2004	1,743	927
2003	1,872	912
2002	2,264	902
2001	3,239	1,290
2000	2,464	822
1999	2,505	845
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,704</b>	<b>10,229</b>

## Heirloom Exposition, September 10th -12th, 2013

*Continued from page 1.*

produce grown for mankind, we, the Butterfly Gardens, were the one and only display featuring plants grown, not for people, but for insect-pollinators instead.

We featured thistle, plantain, oak, radish, milkweed, Dutchman's pipevine; each species with signs explaining that these plants—while weeds—are host plants, necessary for the very existence of Monarchs, Pipevine Swallowtails, West Coast Ladies and on and on.

As a showstopper, in case our weeds weren't attention-getting enough, we featured one Monarch Butterfly chrysalis in a cage; it's lovely shiny jade-green form hanging from its delicate thin black silken thread, with a line of sparkling gold at its shoulders and golden dots around its narrow terminus. Seldom seen or recognized by the average person or hardworking farmer, our brave beauty dazzled curious, interested spectators.

All our 100 brochures were scooped up by the crowd of thousands after two days. Next year, we'll provide many more. This hugely popular event also had wonderful food and musical

performances from rural America. Especially good this year was the Baker Family from Mountain View, Missouri with their 14-year-old songstress belting out, "There's only two things money can't buy, that's true love and homegrown tomatoes." What more need be said?

Mark your calendar for next September's Exposition, an amazing event and celebration of heirloom seeds. Better yet, volunteer to represent the Butterfly Gardens at this educational and inspiring fair.



Monarch Chrysalis

*Editor's Note:* The 4th Annual "World's Fair of Pure Food" will be September 9, 10 & 11, 2014 at the Sonoma County Fair Grounds in Santa Rosa, CA.

Below: Sandy Baker, children's author, Master Gardener, and environmental supporter, reaches out to visitors with her adventure and coloring books, butterfly tattoos and special seeds at Open Gardens, while displaying her new 2013 *The Dead Butterflies Diary*.





June 23, 2013

## Butterfly Sightings

Anise Swallowtail, Cabbage White, Common Checkered Skipper, Echo Blue, Fiery Skipper, Lorquin's Admiral, Mournful Duskywing, Pipevine Swallowtail, UMBER Skipper, Western Tiger Swallowtail, (Day flying moth – ctenuchidae)

## Bird Sightings

Acorn woodpecker, Allen's hummingbird, American Crow, American robin, Anna's hummingbird, Barn Swallow, Bewick's wren, Black-headed grosbeak, Black phoebe, Bushtit, California quail, California towhee, Chestnut-back chickadee, Downey woodpecker, European starling, House finch, Lesser goldfinch, Northern flicker, Northern mockingbird, Northern oriole, Nuttall's woodpecker, Oak titmouse, Pacific slope flycatcher, Song sparrow, Spotted towhee, Turkey vulture, Violet-green swallow, Warbling vireo, Western bluebird, Western scrub jay, Western wood peewee, White-breasted nuthatch, Wrenit

Longtime Docent Bob Cugini shows Dutchman's Pipevine in front of house. Eggs and caterpillars are observed, and if you're lucky, you'll see a female Pipevine Butterfly laying eggs.



# Open Gardens 2013

By Louise Hallberg

How very, very fortunate that our 16th Open Gardens Celebration was held June 23rd. The day before, during set up, it was a sizzling 94 degrees, and the day after brought 1.70 inches of rain. Over 1000 people came out to let the flowers and butterflies see them.

Our plants sale was a success with 1200 plants generously donated by Dan and Nancy of Shooting Star Propagation. It is encouraging to hear from people who

purchased plants from us in the past, and now have Pipevine swallowtail butterflies, eggs, caterpillars, and chrysalids.

There were 33 species of birds seen, an all time record for Open Gardens. Ten species of butterflies were recorded, the smaller showing most likely due to cooler, cloudy weather.

Many thanks to the large number of volunteers who make this Celebratory day possible!



Above: The Barn, has housed horses, cows, and calves and now is home to "The Pipevine Theatre." The Theatre functions as a photographic display and souvenir shop during our Apr.-Oct. tour season and is home to Sonoma State's Insect Display on Open Gardens Day. The large center room displays specimens of host plants (aka caterpillar food) and pictures of the butterflies the caterpillars may become. Beneficial Nectar plants are also on stage. Photos by Gene Pearson.

Below: Pipevine Swallowtail Butterflies made from pipe-cleaners, clothespins, tissue paper and little fingers. Shady spaces provided for little ones to cool off after exploring the garden.





# Butterflies in the Garden

By Louise Hallberg

We have a different story about the butterflies this year. We saw from five to ten Pipevine Swallowtails in the spring, the first butterfly on March 12th, the first eggs on April 3rd and the first caterpillar on April 18th. In the middle of May several chrysalids were seen: one near the table by the north path, one on the butterfly bush by the table on the north path, and one on the butterfly bush on the southeast corner of the house.

Eventually, ten or so chrysalids were seen. Because of unusually warm weather, we had Pipevine Swallowtail butterflies hatching out and laying eggs much later. Normally they lay eggs in the spring, but 2013 saw eggs laid into October. See *Unusual Weather Effects on the Garden* on page six for more details.

In 2013, nine Pipevine butterflies were released between April 5th and May 9th.

On August 12th, Catarino saw two monarch butterflies; on August 14th a caterpillar was found on the milkweed—five additional caterpillars were found on the milkweed along the stream. By August 27th, we had 19 caterpillars in a cage eating the milkweed picked by the stream and getting quite big. By August 28th, all caterpillars had gone into chrysalids. From September 13 to September 20th, the butterflies were released as they hatched. This was encouraging after having no monarchs the



Monarch



Anise Swallowtail



Buckeye



Pipevine Swallowtail Butterfly.

two previous years.

On March 24th, the first Anise swallowtail was seen. April 10th, three eggs were found on the fennel. April 28th, Catarino found five caterpillars. By May 19th, all the caterpillars were gone. On April 8th, an Anise was released.

During the year, Catarino saw more Buckeye butterflies on more days than in the past few years. He also saw more West Coast Ladies, Tiger swallowtails and Cabbage butterflies. We are grateful for Catarino's attentive observations and keen eyesight.



West Coast Lady



Tiger Swallowtail



Cabbage White

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	0	18*
2010	2	2*
2011	0	0
2012	0	0
2013	19	0

\*Due to late hatch, too cold (not tachinid flies).

## STATISTICS: Butterfly Species Sightings in 2013

Family Name	Common Name	Latin Name	First Date Seen	Last Date Seen
<b>PAPILIONIDAE</b>				
	Pipevine Swallowtail	<i>Battus philenor</i>	March 12	October 11
	Anise Swallowtail	<i>Papilio zelicaon</i>	March 24	October 16
	Western Tiger Swallowtail	<i>Papilio rutulus</i>	March 21	October 18
<b>PIERIDAE</b>				
	Mustard (Veined) White	<i>Pieris napi</i>	March 17	November 2
	Cabbage White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	February 25	November 30
	Orange Sulfur (Alfalfa)	<i>Colias eurytheme</i>	March 16	October 1
	California Dogface	<i>Colias eurydice</i>	April 3	October 1
<b>LYCAENIDAE</b>				
	Purplish Copper	<i>Lycaena helloides</i>	October 13	October 30
	Great Purple Hairstreak	<i>Atlides Halesus</i>	June 5	November 4
	Gray (Common) Hairstreak	<i>Strymon melinus</i>	June 3	June 3
	Spring Azure (Echo Blue)	<i>Celastrina ladon</i>	March 21	July 25
	Acmon Blue	<i>Plebejus acmon</i>	June 5	June 30
<b>NYMPHALIDAE</b>				
	Field Crescent	<i>Phyciodes campestris</i>	March 21	September 3
	Mylitta Crescent	<i>Phyciodes mylitta</i>	March 21	November 27
	Mourning Cloak	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>	February 14	November 30
	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	July 1	December 2
	West Coast Lady	<i>Vanessa annabella</i>	February 20	November 30
	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	February 26	November 14
	Common Buckeye	<i>Junonia coenia</i>	June 18	December 2
	Lorquin's Admiral	<i>Limenitis lorquini</i>	May 9	September 20
	California Sister	<i>Adelpha bredowii</i>	October 1	October 1
	Variable Checkerspot	<i>Cercyonis pegala</i>	February 28	February 28
	Satyr Comma (Anglewing)	<i>Polygonia satyrus</i>	May 23	May 23
	Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	March 22	October 8
<b>HESPERIIDAE</b>				
	Mournful Duskywing	<i>Erynnis tristis</i>	March 22	November 18
	Common Checkered-Skipper	<i>Pyrgus communis</i>	August 3	November 15
	Sandhill Skipper	<i>Polites sabuleti</i>	May 11	May 11
	Woodland Skipper	<i>Ochlodes sylvanoides</i>	June 5	October 16
	Umber Skipper	<i>Poanes melane</i>	May 3	May 17
	Unidentified Skipper	<i>unknown</i>	May 17	November 3

year	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'00	'01	'02	'03	'04	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13
# of species sighted	27	26	31	33	21	35	28	33	32	30	32	32	36	38	27	32	32	38	36	33	27	30

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 22 years...some just once, or only rarely, and some establishing populations in our enhanced habitat.

# Unusual Weather Effects on the Garden

By Louise Hallberg

With the lack of rain and the unusual high and low temperatures, the Pipevine butterflies hatched out and laid eggs in late July on the leaves of the newly potted little Dutchman's Pipevine plants that we were saving for the 2014 sale. The caterpillars quickly ate most of the green leaves. On August 27th, Catarino saw 4 to 5 Pipevines flying and found more eggs and little caterpillars on the Pipevine plants. Some plants were moved to a butterfly bush that had a big Pipevine plant growing nearby. In early October we found more than 30 eggs on these tiny potted plants. We had butterflies laying eggs in both the Arbor and by the potting table, because the leaves of the old plants were beginning to dry up.

Don Mahoney, Hallberg Butterfly Garden's board member and Curator at San Francisco's Arboretum, suggested we bring the caterpillars inside because it would be too cold outside for them. This did not solve the problem of feeding them. The older more mature pipevine plants that had been picked to provide food, started to lose leaves. In November and December, four generous people brought us green plants from areas more temperate than Sonoma County. Gradually, the caterpillars became smaller and smaller and after two months, January 9th, 2014, they disappeared. As of late March very few of the little potted

Dutchman's Pipevine plants are growing, so we lost the plants and the caterpillars. How did the butterflies know to lay the eggs on the new green leaves of the little plants so late in the year? This happened for the first time ever, presumably because of the weather. Normally, they lay eggs in the spring.

Because of the lack of rain Catarino had to water all fall. Now it's a dry spring so we are saving water from the house for the garden and conserving water wherever we can.

Because of the extremely cold days we are still watching to see how many plants survived. It's a good thing Caterino saved *Salvia mexicana* seeds because it doesn't look like it made it through the frost. A few new plants are being added and we're concentrating on plants not needing much water.

## Rainfall Totals

2013	September	0.48"
	October	0.0
	November	1.84"
	December	0.55"
2014	January	0.11"
	February	12.7"

## Temperatures at or below Freezing

2013	November (10 nights)	30, 28, 32, 32, 31, 28, 29, 32, 32, 32
	December (27 nights)	32, 23, 26, 26, 27, 23, 18, 20, 19, 23, 21, 27, 26, 28, 29, 32, 25, 31, 32, 31, 27, 27, 28, 25, 27, 25, 31
2014	January (22 nights)	27, 30, 31, 30, 25, 29, 32, 32, 32, 32, 28, 27, 26, 26, 26, 26, 22, 26, 28, 28, 30, 31
	February (7 nights)	25, 24, 28, 28, 28, 30, 32

## Temperatures above 70

2013	November (20 days)	78, 83, 80, 70, 76, 81, 80, 81, 82, 79, 71, 78, 81, 73, 74, 75, 74, 70, 75, 75
	December (12 days)	75, 76, 70, 70, 70, 71, 70, 71, 75, 70, 70, 75
2014	January (19 days)	71, 75, 74, 72, 71, 72, 74, 74, 73, 76, 74, 74, 78, 76, 72, 76, 80, 74, 72
	February (6 days)	70, 74, 76, 73, 73, 78

# Birds

By Louise Hallberg

Red-breasted nuthatches visited the feeders for the first time this year. House finches in great numbers were also seen. We were frequently visited by white-breasted nuthatches, black-capped chickadees, and oak titmice. More unusual, three to four white throated sparrows visited feeders throughout the winter. Flocks of golden-crowned and white-crowned sparrows fed on seed provided along the driveway in the front of the house. They were joined by numerous dark-eyed juncos.

Occasionally we saw the Bullock's orioles and families of black-headed grosbeaks. Acorn woodpeckers also have been seen. Some visitors who do not see butterflies in the meadow, say they are happy to see the California quail. The quail use the Himalayan blackberry brambles for protection.



Red-breasted Nuthatches

Hallberg Butterfly Gardens  
**Thank You!**

Private donations are our only significant source of funds to purchase the plants, materials, and labor that create the Hallberg Butterfly Gardens. See Page 11.

Receive your newsletter by email! Drop us a line at: [Leah@hallbergbutterflygardens.org](mailto:Leah@hallbergbutterflygardens.org)



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# 2013 Vaux's Swift Story

By Louise Hallberg

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After watching the chimney for a few nights at sundown, Vaux's Swifts were finally seen dropping into the chimney on April 26th 2013. This was two weeks earlier than their 2012 arrival from South America. After seeing them drop in, off and on, we finally peeked into the fireplace and saw little pieces of nesting material, so we knew they were making a nest.

Following a long time of not hearing any little birds, we looked in during the



Vaux's Swift's nest. Photo by Bill Brumgardt.

summer 2013. We saw nothing on the paper towels we'd left at the bottom of the fireplace.

Then on March 21, 2014, Kathy Spalding and Bill Baumgardt came and looked into the chimney to see a well-built twig nest about seven feet up.

Bill got on the roof with a camera and lowered it down into the chimney on a rope while Kathy was in the fireplace with a flashlight. The camera's flash did not go off when it was lowered above the nest which was approximately 14 feet from the top of the chimney. They returned in the afternoon and lowered the camera from the roof with a 14 foot pole, Kathy got into the fireplace with a flashlight again, and Bill got some pictures.

He returned the next morning with a different camera, and had only ten seconds from when the camera was lowered until the timed-flash went off, but he had no light. He came back a

fourth time with Kathy and a flashlight to try for an even better, more centered picture.

The photographs showed the nest was empty of eggs. This explained why we had not heard the raucous daily feeding of chicks we had previously experienced off and on since 1997. We made a tape-recording in 2012 of the chicks' begging sounds amplified by the brick and metal hearth, and have replayed their calls for many visitors. We very much missed this special and much anticipated event last year. We hope these long-distant travelers will return this year.

We are especially grateful to Kathy and Bill for the time spent acquiring the great photos of the 2013 Swift's nest. Getting such pictures of the nest is rare because so few chimneys are currently left open to accommodate the swifts' nest building.



Vaux's Swift

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## Drought and Wildflowers

Posted on February 2, 2014

By Phil Dean

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We are finally getting a "little" rain today. In our part of the county we have about an inch. This would not be unusual if we had not been so low on rainfall this season. It is probably going to be one of the driest if not THE driest ever here in Northern California. What will this do for plant life? A couple of things should be remembered. First, native plants are survivors and can adjust. These plant populations have dealt with low water in past seasons. Second, what about the non-native plants that we are used to seeing? They may fare worse. In the case of invasive plants that dominate us—having them do worse can be good news for some of the wildflowers. We may be

able to see them this year. The invasive European Grasses may not crowd them out so totally. You'll probably be able to see some smaller species that normally can't compete well with tall weedy grasses.

Whatever happens this will be an interesting year. You'll see things you've never before seen. I can't predict exactly what that will be but you'll notice different plants and I encourage you to get out and see them.

The other thing you should really do this year is see what plants are doing well in the wild. The nice ones you see surviving are probably the ones you'll want to shop for at your local native plant nursery. These plants don't use irrigation

and need a lot of extra water. Those of us with huge expanses of green lawn will need to rethink some of our time and money investment. There will possibly be water rationing and spraying huge amounts on non edible, non-native plants will seem foolish to some quite soon. Other people will not be able to afford the luxury.

So...this is a great opportunity to look to the future. Go on this year's wildflower hikes in the regional parks with me. I can give you some pointers and you can bring your camera and take photos of plants you like and look for them in nurseries to plant on your own property. You'll save money and be the envy and ecological pioneer of your neighborhood. The schedule will be posted very soon. Look for it.

*Editor's Note: Read more posts by Phil Dean at <http://www.sonomawild.us/drought-and-wildflowers/>*

# Thoughts on Pesticides in the Garden

By Arthur Slater, M.S. Entomology, Environmental Health & Safety Specialist, ret. UCB

Pesticides is a broad category that includes insecticides (kill insects), rodenticides (kill rodents), herbicides (kill plants), fungicides (kill fungi), and other “pests.” They used to be called Economic Poisons, a term which better characterizes their use and how we should view them.

There is a costly, extensive registration process for products and many assume that because the Government has registered them for use that they are safe, which is often not the case. However, gardeners need to be able to deal with, or at least avoid/prevent/etc. pest problems and what is one to do?

## Problems with Pesticides

First of all, do not spray flowering plants! Not just when they are flowering, but do not purchase plants that have been treated with nictinoids and other

persistent insecticides that can kill pollinators up to two years after the plant was treated. Plant sprays are not tested for their effects on pollinators (butterflies, bees...). Nictinoids (now the most commonly used type of insecticide) were registered on an emergency basis by the Environmental Protection Agency a number of years ago. They are deadly to pollinators. Seed treated with nictinoids kills birds, and health and safety tests required for the usual registration process were circumvented and have not been performed.

Insecticidal sprays kill all insects, beneficial and pest, and the pests recover faster. Some pests—mites are a good example—were not pests until people started to spray. Pest mites recover faster than the beneficial mites that control them and the spraying results in more pests.

Unknown problems due to changes after application can be caused by exposure to sunlight. Fipronil, the active ingredient in Termidor

which is the most commonly used spray for ants, changes when exposed to UV in sunlight (takes only 4 to 7 hours) to a compound that is stable in the environment, with persistence similar to that of DDT. For ants this pesticide is applied twice per year. There were also fipronil containing sprays registered for use on fruit trees.

Second generation rodenticides (bromadiolone, brodifacoum (D-Con), bromathiolone...) all poison hawks, owls, cats, dogs and other predators that eat poisoned rats, mice and gophers. Snail/slug baits containing metaldehyde are the major source of dog poisonings treated by veterinarians. There are problems with the registration process testing. All pesticide toxicity (and other testing) is done with purified active ingredients. “Inerts” are not tested. Atrazine, now the second most commonly applied herbicide in the U.S., but prohibited in Europe, causes male frogs to become female, and makes them more susceptible to diseases. Professor Tyrone Hays, at U.C. Berkeley, who performed the research on Atrazine was recently told by the Provost that funding for his laboratory was not being renewed.

*Continued on next page*

Activity Statistics 2013 (Number of guests shown in parentheses)				
Month	Total Tours	Groups	Children's Tours	Open Gardens
JAN				
FEB				
MAR				
APR	12	12 (45)		
MAY	26	17 (89)	9 (282)	
JUN	13	12 (79)	1 (18)	(1000)
JUL	22	19 (71)	3 (82)	
AUG	21	15 (72)	1 (18)	
SEP	12	11 (62)	1 (17)	
OCT	14	14 (56)		
NOV				
DEC				
Total Tours	115	100	15	
Total Guests	(1891)	(474)	(417)	(1000)

Clarkia or Farewell-to-Spring signals the shift in our ever changing landscape.  
Photo by Gene Pearson





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## Pesticides

*Continued from page 8.*

### Pest Control in the Garden

Water sprays that blast aphids and mealybugs from plants are effective. If the pests are not a problem and are being fed on by beneficial insects (syrphid flies, ladybird beetles, lacewings...) you might consider leaving them. Select plants that are adapted to the site. Maladapted, stressed plants tend to get pest (insect and disease) problems. Do not over fertilize, soft overgrown plants are more susceptible to pests. Do not overwater. Ceanothus bushes are known for being short-lived (10 years) in the watered garden. When not watered after they are established they last for 20 years.

Mulches conserve water and snuff out weeds (or at least make the weeds easier to pull), but most (approx. 70%) of the native bees burrow into bare soil to make their nests, and mulching will prevent native bees from nesting. Leave some areas bare for native bees to nest, and do not mulch areas where they are nesting.

Native bees are usually more efficient than honeybees as pollinators. Examples are mason bees for fruit trees, bumble bees for tomatoes and peppers, squash bees for melons and squash and alkali bees for alfalfa. However, the periods that the adults are active may be short and coordinated with the flowers that they gather pollen from. Finding nesting areas in the ground may require looking for them when the flowers that the adults are pollinating are blooming. When my meadowfoam, low growing gumplants, California asters, and Zauschnerias are blooming the plants are abuzz with bees. The rest of the year the nest tunnels are closed and almost impossible to find.

Polyploid flowers may also lack pollen, and modern patented roses are bred for flowers, not disease resistance. Disease resistance is often lost in the breeding, and these patented roses depend on pesticide and fertilizer applications to keep them thrifty. Older roses are sometimes available that have not lost their disease resistance, but they are hard to find. Nurseries promote the newest

patented roses that they can sell for higher prices, and roses that require more care (pest control and fertilizer products which the nurseries also sell).

Pesticides reduce biocontrol (insects, spiders...) and biodiversity helps make a healthier garden. I am a licensed structural pest control contractor, and have been for over 38 years and I never spray my garden with insecticides. I use some OMRI certified herbicides. I never use fungicides and I use traps for rodents. I sometimes use baits for Argentine ant control. Removing the Argentine ants, which protect and move aphids and mealybugs, enables biocontrols to effectively deal with the plant pests. *Sunset Garden Book* used to recommend controlling ants as the primary measure for aphid control on roses.

Healthy plants tend to be pest free plants. Growing the garden well, and replacing plants that do poorly (or moving them to a better location) is more important than spraying to compensate for poor plant selection and poor growing practices.



## Dragonfly Pond

By Louise Hallberg

The best improvement this year was the complete remodeling of the dragonfly pond by David Sooter. Everything was removed and David placed a liner over the entire space so debris would not stop the pump. He added more rocks, three little waterfalls and an area for birds to get a drink and bathe. Kathy Biggs, aka "The Dragonfly Lady," came and placed appropriate plants which she donated. While doing this she saw a dragonfly lay an egg on a rock so maybe we will have more dragonflies.

Photo by Patricia Dervin

# Volunteers Valued

By Louise Hallberg

On Open Gardens Day almost 60 volunteers are available to help answer questions at various areas to make people's visit more worthwhile and enjoyable. These special people are very much appreciated for their donated time. During the year a few help regularly in the garden or with required paper work. In the year 2000, one saw our page in the Farm Trails, came to Open Gardens

and volunteered with various inside and outside jobs for four years and since then has worked hard every year on the plant sales.

Another came from the Volunteer Center and works regularly in the garden and at computer work. Our daily butterfly sightings list is updated on the computer every year so we have those valuable statistics since 1992. However, I did not expect to see such a dramatic change in butterfly populations from frequent for Anise and Pipevine Swallowtails to almost none for Anise and five a day instead of 50 a day for the Pipevine.

## Farewell to our Volunteer

Beth Graves, born January 4, 1942, died February 28, 2014. She was a resident of Switzerland who came to



Louise Hallberg and Kathi Jacobs at Louise's 97th Birthday, celebrated with friends, presents and cakes.

Sebastopol in the spring to visit her sister and helped as a tour guide at the Gardens. Later she could not travel due to physical troubles but on recovery she visited the Gardens she loved and was here in November 2013. I will always remember her finding the caterpillars of the Red Admiral butterfly on the stinging nettle, and picking the nettle for us without a glove on—amazing. Her tour help, financial aid, and her loving visits to the Gardens will be greatly missed.

Dozens of Docents on hand to help identify plants, larvae, insects and birds. Large hats are recommended on hot days. Photos on this page by Gene Pearson.

*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

Kathy Pearson at the Plant Sale.





# 2013 Friends of the Gardens...

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### Hallberg Butterfly Gardens

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## Hallberg Butterfly Gardens

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