

# Become a Friend of the Gardens!



- 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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Please make checks payable to:

Hallberg Butterfly Gardens  
8687 Oak Grove Road, Sebastopol, CA 95472

(707) 823-3420

Donations accepted online:  
[www.hallbergbutterflygardens.org](http://www.hallbergbutterflygardens.org)

## Donations Keep us Going

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

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

she kept around the house. You can see the remnants of Della's garden and how the pipevine has thrived over the last 100+ years. The flowers bloom in late winter or early spring, before the leaves emerge, and are pollinated by gnats. This is an excellent place to observe the pipevine swallowtail's life cycle or complete metamorphosis. Keep a lookout for butterflies fluttering near the vines. The Dutchman's pipe is the only plant they will lay their eggs on because this is the only plant their caterpillars will eat! Look for black caterpillars with orange spots chewing on leaves. You may even spot a chrysalis on the side of the house.

**15 SECRET GARDEN** This is a quiet place that children often recognize from the book "A Class Trip to Miss Hallberg's Garden," written by a local Graton author. These days it's abundantly overgrown and ferny, but this used to be where an automobile was parked. The magnolia before the arbor and the spicebush at the opposite end are two ancient flowering plants that evolved with beetle pollination before the prevalence of pollinating bees. Beetle-pollinated plants developed thick, broad flowers to withstand the beetle's chewing mouthparts, heavy bodies, and clumsy flight.

**16 HEART POND** The pond with a beautiful Japanese maple tree marks the heart of Della's garden. As you follow the path, observe the "heart-shaped" leaves of the pipevine plant along the ground and twisting through the branches. Notice any nibbling? Remember, chewed leaves are a beautiful indication of butterflies to come.

**17 BLACK OAK** The ancient black oak, Sonoma County Heritage Tree #24, was between 250-350 years old before being taken down due to damage during storms in January 2023. It would not have reached this impressive age without the installation of safety cables and yearly arborist care to maintain its stability. Note the fallen trunk and branches alongside the trail. This oak will continue to be an essential source of food and shelter as it slowly decays in place. Behind you is a summer deciduous tree, the California buckeye. This tree is a popular nectar source for native pollinators and a host plant for the pacific azure butterfly.

**18 ORCHARD** The Gravenstein apple trees in this orchard were planted in 1948. They are managed organically, in tandem with the adjacent family orchards. Wildlife wanders through these trees, including deer, quail, wild turkeys, coyotes, and gray foxes. Birds nest in their branches and trunks, while butterflies may be seen

nectaring on apple blossoms or sipping on rotten fruit. You may also see honey bees and native bees, such as the blue orchard bee, pollinating the flowers.

**19 LUTHER BURBANK TREE** Luther Burbank was a significant, influential contributor to Sonoma County's Horticultural heritage. When Burbank passed away in 1926, he was buried under a 'cedar of Lebanon' growing at his home in Santa Rosa. The tree became a community landmark. It was decorated for the holidays every year until it had to be removed in 1989 due to root disease. The cedar planted here was grown from a cutting taken from that tree.

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

**21 PICNIC TABLES** You are welcome to have your picnic lunch here. Please pack out your trash with you.

Learn more about the Gardens and read our annual newsletter, THE PIPEVINE, by visiting our website.  
[www.hallbergbutterflygardens.org](http://www.hallbergbutterflygardens.org)

## CATERPILLAR CLUES

To find caterpillars in the wild...

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

## BUTTERFLY BEHAVIOR

**Nectaring:** Sipping from a flower with a long straw-like mouth called a proboscis.

**Puddling:** Sipping dissolved minerals and salts from wet/dry earth, rotten fruit, sap, or animal droppings.

**Basking:** Soaking up sunshine to warm their cold bodies. A butterfly's wings efficiently absorb the sun's energy for warmth.

**Ovipositing:** Females lay eggs on specific host plants, singularly or in clusters depending on the species

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

## SELF-GUIDED TOUR



Pipevine Swallowtail

## Welcome to Hallberg Butterfly Gardens!

Please use the map inside to orient yourself and learn what makes this place special. The numbers on the map correspond to the text and the numbers posted throughout the Gardens. Feel free to keep this guide as a souvenir or return it to the kiosk for someone else to use.

Please remember that this tour navigates through a mixed-use space with a working orchard, private residence, wildlife sanctuary, and teaching garden.

Garden Guidelines:

**No Dogs - No Smoking**   
**Stay on the paths**


**Do not pick plants or touch caterpillars**

**Pack out trash with you**

**Do not take strollers on paths**

*Thank You!*

**1 TOUR START** Nectar and host plants are essential to attract butterflies and support all life stages. Butterflies lay eggs on the host plant that their larvae, the caterpillars, will eat. Nectar from flowers provides food for the adult stage, the winged butterfly. The habitat on either side of the path offers seasonal nectar sources such as aster, sage, ceanothus, and yarrow and host plants like plantain, grasses, milkweed, and oaks. You may notice that a singular plant can serve as both a host and a nectar plant at the same time! Louise Hallberg, the founder of the Gardens, dedicated all her time to supporting butterfly habitat after retiring in 1975.

 As you walk the paths, keep an eye out for butterflies painted on stones—they will be tucked away next to their host plant(s).

**2 PONDS** These two ponds significantly improve the habitat value for birds, butterflies, frogs, dragonflies, and people. Dry sticks and edge grasses provide perches for winged visitors. Look among the overhanging branches for birds enjoying the falling water. See if you can spot dragonflies and damselflies skimming the sunny areas or laying eggs in the pond. From their eggs hatch voracious aquatic predators called nymphs. Light-colored, evening blooms around the ponds provide nectar and pollen for essential night pollinators such as moths.

**3 APPLE TREE** In front of you is a heritage tree called “Best Ever.” The tree provides blossoms with nectar in the spring, apples and shade in the summer, then leaf mulch for the soil, and overwintering habitat for insects in late fall and winter. East of the apple tree is a native shrub, ocean spray. This shrub is the larval host plant for the Lorquin’s Admiral butterfly. Nectar plants south of the apple tree include buckwheat, sticky monkey, aster, phacelia, and penstemon.

**4 WEATHER STATIONS** The two white cabinets were weather stations used to record the daily high and low temperatures and rainfall until the installation of a new solar-powered station in 2018. Louise Hallberg’s father, Alfred, began recording rainfall records in 1900. Then in 1930, he started reporting more detailed weather records. Louise kept records for the National Weather Service from 1968 – 2017. In 2008 she received recognition from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) for 40 years of service and as one of the nation’s oldest weather stations in continuous use.

**5 CRAWFORD VIVARIUM** Louise initially wanted the vivarium built to raise caterpillars for educational outreach. Due to temperature restrictions, we now use this space to cultivate primarily native plants for our Gardens and seasonal plant sales. The ‘Black Thompson’ grape over the arbor, north of the vivarium, was planted by Louise’s mother, Della, in the mid-1900s. Look for the passion vine climbing on either side of the vivarium door. Passion vine is the host plant for a migrating tropical butterfly, the gulf fritillary. Throughout the summer months, you can typically see caterpillars on these vines. While making your way to station six, look to your left as you pass the steps. We have planted a patch of host plants for the painted lady butterfly, including lupine, mallow, thistle, and pearly everlasting. These examples are just a few of the hundreds of plants eaten by the painted lady caterpillars.

**6 PIPEVINE THEATER** This has been a working barn for over a hundred years. It was home to livestock until the late 1990s. The Pipevine Theater houses our gift shop when guests come for tours in the spring. If the theater doors are open, you are welcome to use our self-checkout options in the shop. Each year at the end of June, we use this room to display educational exhibits during our Open Gardens Day Celebration and plant sale. We currently seek support to restore this historic barn and expand the useable space for a museum and education center.

**7 BUTTERFLY CREEK** This waterway was built in 2010. It was designed to support wildlife and even butterflies! Puddling is a behavior in which butterflies such as the California sister use their straw-like mouth, called a proboscis, to drink minerals from the damp soil. This area is also a popular spot for the anise swallowtail butterfly. Caterpillars are often found in vegetable gardens nibbling on fennel and parsley, but they also feed on native yampah, angelica and biscuitroot. These caterpillars will host on a variety of plants in the carrot family. San Francisco Arboretum and Cal Flora nursery donated many of the original plantings here.

**8 STOP, LOOK, AND LISTEN** Pause at the top of the hill, and look across the meadow below. Are birds or insects flying? Is there a breeze blowing? What do you hear? The plants hold the history of this land. The eucalyptus was originally planted by Louise’s father, Alfred, for kindling and a windbreak. Many birds nest in these towering trees, including great-horned owls and red-tailed hawks. Along the hillside was once a pasture for grazing but is now established with habitat plants such as goldenrod, bee plant, manzanita, ceanothus, salvia, coyote bush, and milkweed. Imagine the land before Hallberg’s Garden—a mixed oak woodland and hillside meadow, the homeland of the Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo people.

**9 WOODPECKER GRANARY** Long ago, acorn woodpeckers made holes in these trunks and filled them with acorns in the fall. Once harvested acorns dried and shrank, the birds would reposition them into increasingly smaller holes to

prevent stealing by jays and squirrels. Maintaining a granary requires large, cooperative family flocks.

**10 MEADOW GARDEN** This meadow was the original site of the Hallberg’s home and the family vegetable garden, which Louise continued to maintain into her 80s. The Hallberg home was relocated to its current location in 1911. The meadow continues to transition as native shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers establish each season.

**11 UP THE HILL** Butterfly activity fluctuates by the time of day, season, and location. Some butterflies are residential and remain in our gardens throughout their life cycle, and others are visitors migrating through the landscape. While in our Gardens, butterflies often frequent certain flight pathways, or flyways, along resources and protected areas. On your way back up the steps, notice the variety of nectar plants where butterflies can swoop between stands of trees and shrubs. To see the most butterfly activity take your time along ‘flyways’ such as this hillside.

**12 BLACKBERRY PATH** At the top of the stairs, follow the path to the right. The vegetable garden behind the barn was once a horse’s corral. Note the stacks of Best apple boxes from years of active apple production. As you continue along the east side of the barn, keep an eye out for false indigo, the host plant of the California dogface, our state’s butterfly! Continue toward the Hallberg home. On your left, before the white arbor, is the native plant western spirea with large pink inflorescence. This flowering shrub is a host plant for the pacific azure butterfly.

**13 LOUISE HALLBERG HOME** Louise Hallberg lived in this house her entire life, from 1917 – 2017. In 1983 the home was remodeled and modernized under the guidelines of local historic preservation standards and is currently inhabited by the Gardens caretakers. Hallberg Butterfly Gardens was established as a non-profit organization in 1997 for education and habitat conservation. As you pass through the arbor toward the house, you are walking in the footsteps of over 35,000 visitors, including schoolchildren who began visiting in 1988.

**14 DUTCHMAN’S PIPEVINE** Louise often spoke about the day in the 1920s when her mother, Della, stopped to collect a piece of Dutchman’s pipevine growing in the dry shade along a local country road. When they returned home, Della tucked the specimen into the garden

