



NAPA VALLEY

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sale Report:

I am happy to report that our 2021 spring sale was a success in spite of the limitations imposed by the continuing Covid requirements. The first part of the sale was a one-day in-person event. While we limited attendance to 6 people for each 20-minute time slot, sign-ups were good, and many plants found homes.

It was nice to be able to suggest plants for specific site needs and to answer questions about planting and care. Thanks to Watershed Nursery in Richmond, CA, for sharing their Planting Guide with us, which you can access with this [link](#).

The second part of the sale was online, as both our 2020 sales were. Many people chose to attend the in-person sale, but we still had a good number of online purchases. Thank you to everyone who chose to buy native plants, more important than ever as we enter our second drought year.

We are now beginning to plan our Fall 2021 sale, anticipating a return to our 2 day in-person format. The sale will be October 9 and 10. Stay tuned for more information.

Thank You to Some of our Volunteers

Many of the plants that we now offer for sale are grown from cuttings from plants in the Martha Walker Garden. Our volunteers, Gale and Jaime Giorgi, work hard to collect the cuttings, start them in small pots, then transplant them into larger pots as they take hold and grow. We have benefitted a great deal from their dedication to learning about and perfecting the propagation technic to provide us with a large number and variety of the plants that we sell. Their work helps us promote the use of native plants that provide habitat for our local birds, butterflies, and insects while conserving water and creating interesting landscapes.

I also want to thank our 'water brigade'. These volunteers show up on their scheduled day to water and monitor the plants that we have purchased from wholesale nurseries for our sale and those that have matured from propagated starts to thriving outside propagating house. Thank you Sandie Hewitt, Chris Anderson, Karen Lassegues, Evelyn Zlomke, and Gale Giorgi.

An interesting link:

Calscape.org is a site created by the state office of CNPS to provide information about native plants. You can search for information about individual plants and get advice for creating a native plant garden using the Planting Guide feature. To learn more, visit www.calscape.org.

NEW BENCHES IN THE GRAPE ARBOR GAZEBO

In August, 2020, we received an email from a father and son who were visiting the Garden on a regular basis during the COVID-19 shut-down. The email noted that the benches in the grape arbor gazebo were 'kinda in bad shape,' to put it nicely. But that email was not just to make that observation. It also asked if they could replace them.

By early September, Anthony and his son Ryan, age 10, had delivered 3 new benches to our gazebo. What a welcome upgrade. A huge THANK YOU to Anthony and Ryan for their generous donation to our Garden. We all hope that you, our visitors, will enjoy a quiet moment relaxing under the arbor on one of the benches, or, like Ryan, dancing under the arbor in front of them.



BECOME MORE INVOLVED WITH YOUR LOCAL NAPA CHAPTER

The chapter needs you to become involved. We currently have more than 200 members, but only about 8 are actively involved. There are many different ways you can become involve to support the chapter.

You can get involved in the administration of our chapter. You don't need specific native plant knowledge to help with the various organizational tasks, such as editing our newsletter, helping with publicity for events such as our sales and conservation projects and information. Talk to a current Board member or contact me (henni@napavalleycnps.org) to see how you can become more involved.

And if you want to learn about native plants, or already know about them, we work in the Garden doing maintenance and rejuvenating parts of the Martha Walker Garden, organize and run the semi-annual plant sales, promote conservation and preservation of native plants, lead wildflower walks, and publicize the benefits and beauty of native plants. You can gain practical information on transitioning from traditional resource-intensive gardens to more natural, interesting, and fun gardens featuring low water-use native plants.

We greatly appreciate all members' support of the goals and mission of CNPS, through your membership and attendance at our plant sales. And we would be delighted to have you join our Board or join the Friends of the Garden to help keep it vibrant. There are many ways you can become involved, even without getting your hands dirty. I can say from experience that you will find great satisfaction from helping to spread the knowledge of native plants and their importance for our environment and their protection.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE MARTHA WALKER GARDEN?

BY KAREN LASSEGUES

The Riparian habitat is one of the seven habitats in the Martha Walker Garden. It is characterized by native plants that grow naturally adjacent to rivers and streams. The volunteers are currently renovating this area to showcase those riparian plants that a home owner could grow in their garden with the addition of extra water.



Wild Mock Orange in Bloom

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE GARDEN - CONTINUED

They require good, moist soil and enough water to simulate the type of environment where they naturally grow. They prefer part shade. Some of the natives we have been adding are six varieties of ferns which includes 3 types of Maidenhair Fern, the Giant Chain Fern that is the largest fern in California, Ranunculus, Carpenteria (Bush Anemone), Columbine, Mimulus (Diplacus/Sticky Monkey Flower), and Stream Orchid. An interesting trait of our California Polypody (i.e., California ferns) is summer dormancy. It can be used in a fern collection and even if given regular water the fronds die back and almost immediately start unfurling new ones. They spread vigorously and we have some patches that are 6' long and almost as wide.

Already in that area when we started the renovation were ferns, Bleeding Heart, Yerba Mansa, Violas, Trillium, Wild Mock Orange, and the water loving Red Twig Dogwood. When we cleared out the overgrowth they sprang to life and started flowering. As an aside, there is another area, near the north gate entrance to the Garden, that gets seasonal flooding and is moist enough for a grouping of White Alder. The bark is striking.

If you drop by in a few weeks you will see the beginnings of our newest habitat and please come back to visit as it grows.



New Fern Plantings in Riparian area



Bleeding Hearts in Riparian area



Stream Orchids

IRRIGATION PROJECT IN THE GARDEN

The irrigation system in the Garden is upgraded! To give you a little background, the Garden is approximately 2.5-3 acres, and the current system was originally installed 30+ years ago, with various areas being added to the original system over the last 30 years. The most recent addition was in 2009. The current system was a combination of drip and overhead sprinklers, run from a single control box. As you might imagine, various parts of the system would break down and/or leak with great regularity. In fact, so many parts of the system were no longer working that most of the watering of the Garden during the last 2 years has been done by individual sprinklers attached to hoses throughout the Garden. This is both inefficient and probably not a water-wise way to water, and we lost a number of plants due to lack of proper irrigation last summer.

It was a lengthy process finding a contractor willing and able to take on a project of our size and complexity, and obtaining an evaluation of the system to determine what was needed. The work began on June 2nd, and we conducted a final walk through on July 7, making sure all areas of the Garden were covered appropriately efficiently.



New Lines



Repairing the valves

We want to thank the Napa Valley Community Foundation for its support from several grants over a period of several years. Since 1994, Napa Valley Community Foundation has served as the philanthropic partner to hundreds of individuals, families, nonprofit agencies and corporations in Napa County. For more information, visit www.napavalleycf.org, or call 707-254-9565. The grants, added to the funds we have been saving from our plant sales and a contribution from Skyline Park Citizens Association, allowed us to complete this badly needed project. We also wish to thank Skyline Park personnel for their hands-on assistance before and during the project.

Finally, we want to thank the team from Cagwin & Dorward, Landscape Contractors, for their work on the project. They were able to upgrade our irrigation system with minimal disruption to visitors to the Garden or our volunteers performing maintenance work.

Now that the system is in working order, we are looking forward to new plantings and renovated garden areas. Please visit soon.

Irrigation Project - Continued



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Installing New Lines



Adjusting sprinkler range

OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President - Henni Cohen
- Vice President - vacant
- Chapter Delegate - Stephen Rae
- Secretary - Marilyn Burrows
- Treasurer - Barbara Viets
- Conservation/Rare Plants - Jake Ruygt
- Volunteer/Outreach - Sandie Hewitt
- Skyline Citizen's Assoc Rep - Karen Lassegues
- Education - Kent Ruppert
- Newsletter/Website - Ben Wilson
- Membership - vacant
- Field Trips - Linda Price
- Propagation - Gale Giorgi; Jaime Giorgi
- Publicity - Acting: Sierra Minchaca
- Member at Large - Eric Nightingale
- Member at Large - Gerald Tomboc
- Member at Large - Evelyn Zlomke
- Member at Large - Katherine Novick
- Special Projects & Horticulture - vacant

email: mail@napavalleycnps.org
web: <https://chapters.cnps.org/napa/>

Napa Valley Chapter
California Native Plant Society
2201 Imola Avenue
Napa, CA 94559