



FORT BRAGG GARDEN CLUB

News & Notes

October 2022

UPCOMING EVENTS

Garden Tour Thursday Oct. 27 2pm



Simone

Put this date on your calendar for an opportunity to visit the garden of Simone Pisas. Simone described her garden at our recent meeting as “eclectic” and seldom watered for the last two years. As we’ve all been dealing with the lack of water, it will be interesting to see how well her garden is thriving.

Garden visits are always fun—and an opportunity to socialize and get to know other members better. You are welcome to bring your partner or a friend. To get to Simone’s, turn inland onto Little Lake Road at the Mendocino traffic light on Highway 1. Travel approximately 1 mile to 43758 Little Lake Road, which will be on the left side of road. There is a California flag on the address post.

We hope to see you there.

Water Conservation Tour—Same day

Hearing how many members expressed their interest in seeing his rain catchment installation and other water conservation projects, our October speaker, Ken Taylor of Joshua Grindle Inn in Mendocino, decided to hold an Open House from 3:30 to 4:30pm on Oct. 27, timed to make it convenient for those attending our garden tour. Joshua Grindle Inn is the first building on the right as you turn into town from the traffic light.

Our Next Meeting: Monday November 14

Our November speaker is Andrea Davis, a professional landscape designer and Member of the California Native Plant Society who will speak on native plants for drought tolerant gardens. Her business, Wild Rose Eco Design, is responsible for the beautiful gardens at the Grace Hudson Museum in Ukiah. As Davis is knowledgeable and inspiring, we are looking forward to her presentation.

Zoom gloom?

Davis is Ukiah based and we planned for her to join our in-person meeting by Zoom. As those who attended our October meeting—whether on Zoom or in-person—know, we had considerable trouble with Zoom at that meeting and lost the connection mid-presentation. Staff at Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens have identified the problems as being because their system is not fully compatible with MAC computers. We are currently evaluating our options, which include the possibility of the Club acquiring a PC-based computer. We have one that is twelve years old, but it cannot be upgraded for current software. The fallback solution would be to hold the meeting entirely by Zoom. This would be a real disappointment as attendance at Zoom meetings has always been low.

As of this writing, we are still evaluating our options. If we acquire a new or new-to-us computer, we will conduct a test to ensure that the meeting will go smoothly. We will keep you posted.

Presidents' Project

Redwood Elementary School Butterfly Garden

Enthusiasm is flourishing as we plan for the butterfly garden at Redwood Elementary School. The principal, teachers, librarian, and Parents' Club delight in our plan for the children. They are grateful that our club is designing and implementing such a needed project that the 500 students will be able to appreciate every day. Exchanging weeds and berry vines for flowering native plants that butterflies enjoy challenges our club to put the knowledge we have gained over the last few years into practice. Get ready to help plant cement planters around five patios in the first-grade wing. When sufficient funding is

secured, we will then plant six steel stock tanks in the second-grade wing of the school. There will be one 2'x2'x4' tank in front of each classroom. An additional 2'x2'x6' tank will be planted near the entrance to the library. The library has a section of new books on pollinators in both Spanish and English. A meeting with the new superintendent is scheduled for this week. Keeping him updated on our progress and inviting him to be a part of the planting will remind him of how school gardens transform the school environment and nurture children. Here is the galvanized steel stock tank we hope to install at the school.



Model Nbr - HG20204

Approx. Size 2' x 2' x 4' (Width x Depth x Length) - 3 (Tanks in a nest)-
102 gallons (Approx. Capacity) - 44 lbs (Approx. Wt. 22GA)

Thank you to the eight-member work party who collected seed from Yarrow and Coastal Angelica, *Angelica hendersonii*, specimens at Silver Gate. They also carefully transplanted sixty-four *Erigeron glaucus* young plants into four-inch containers. One plant that we didn't know whether to pull out, Cornelia identified as a native sunflower. So now we can add more seeds to our collection.



Baby blue eyes, *Nemophila memziesii*, and Tidy Tips, *Layia platyglossa*, are among the annuals we hope to start in late winter for our Plant Sale.

Next week Kay will discuss with the maintenance chief steps to be taken to revitalize the greenhouse at MacKerricher State Park. Some of you will recall the project we had there in 2020, growing starts for our Plant Sale, which like much that year ended abruptly. We are hoping to create something similar in the spring.



CHANGING GARDENS



FOR A CHANGING WORLD

Plant Your Garlic NOW (*If You Haven't Already*)

It's late-October; I will plant my garlic this week. This is not just information for my readers, but an affirmation to thwart my penchant to procrastinate.



Some of this year's Rocambole seed garlic.

Although technically garlic can be planted in the spring, gardeners on the Mendocino coast have said for years that the last day to get your garlic in is Thanksgiving. One year, dinner in the oven, I was out in the garden planting garlic on Thanksgiving. But a November 1 last planting date makes more sense to me today. This is not only because earlier is inherently better, but because the changes in our climate are real and unpredictable with mid-winter dry cold periods and/or dry warm periods in recent

years. So, get it in now. Give it time in the ground to establish roots while the soil is still warm.

I grew garlic for market for over a decade from the mid-90s to the mid-aughts while on an extended midlife break from my business career. I first grew garlic to help diversify the produce grown on the farm where I lived and worked. I thought I knew what I was doing but I believed the claim—one I still see on multiple online sites—that gophers don't like garlic. The gophers destroyed a good part of the crop before we invested in gopher traps. But the garlic that survived was fantastic—because we had soil ideal for garlic: well-drained sandy loam soil.

I no longer grow enough to sell, but every year I share garlic for seed or eating with friends and family. Today I defeat gophers by growing my garlic in wine barrels. And I start each fall by adding compost to the barrels. Soft neck garlic is considered easiest to grow. It's particularly adapted for our climate because it likes mild winters. It also has the benefit of being the longest lasting. Properly stored, it can last up to twelve months. Also, it's the variety that can be braided which can be an excellent storage method *if* you don't use your

braided garlic as a display item. It needs to be stored like all garlic in a cool, not cold, dark place.

I grow hard neck garlic, which is adapted to colder winters, but I have never had trouble growing it locally. I prefer it for taste—it's the best garlic to roast—but it does not store as long as soft neck.

A friend asked recently if garlic would look alright in the front yard. Some of my barrels line my front driveway. I add nasturtiums, which set nitrogen, a good thing for garlic, and they look okay to me.

Whichever type you grow, I hope you have your seed garlic already. It's hard to find this late although I just checked with North Star Nursery and they have a small amount left. I've never tried to grow grocery store garlic. Reports are mixed which has a lot to do with how the garlic was dried and stored

Good luck growing your garlic; let me know how it goes.

- Cornelia

The Garden Club Family

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Thanks for reading. We hope to see you soon.

Your co-presidents,

Kay Rex & Cornelia Reynolds

