



FORT BRAGG GARDEN CLUB



NEWS & NOTES



SEPTEMBER 2021



NEWS FLASH:

We have been gifted an ideal location for our September Membership Meeting to be in-person and outdoors – at the Campfire Center at MacKerricher State Park.

We owe thanks to Kay Rex and her son Loren Rex for making this possible. Kay reports that the park manager is happy to welcome us in appreciation of our past support of the park. There are bathrooms, plenty of parking and enough space for distancing. Detailed directions will go out with the meeting agenda after the Board meeting on Thursday Sept. 8.

Please make an effort to attend our September Membership Meeting on Monday September 13. We've had so few chances to be together in the last year. Yet we accomplished so much: a successful Spring Plant Sale and

Boutique; the 2020 Sidewalk Gardens to Bragg About, and three scholarships to deserving graduates pursuing agricultural and environmental careers.

We have a different year ahead. It is somewhat unclear as we write, how much the ongoing pandemic will affect implementing our plans. Some of our traditional events must be rethought in today's conditions.

We have a fabulous program for the year ahead on the theme of Beauty and Biodiversity. Our focus is on implementation and "how-to." One goal is to learn more about how to respond as gardeners to climate change and drought.

We look forward to delivering that program, hopefully in person, and engaging as many members as possible in our club projects. Learn more about our plans at the September 13 meeting.

COMING OPPORTUNITIES

- Thursday, September 9 at 1:30 PM: **FBGC Board Meeting** via ZOOM
All Welcome! Agenda and link to go out with the newsletter.
Chat room to open at 1:15 PM.
- Monday, September 13 at 1PM: **Garden Club Membership Meeting**
Campfire Center, MacKerricher State Park
First Meeting of the Year: ***"A Modern Plant Shop"***
Sage Andersen of Ficus and Fern will share her knowledge about keeping house plants happy and healthy.
- Wednesday, September 22: Mendo-Lake District Meeting via ZOOM
"Creating and Maintaining a California North Coast Native Plant Display Garden"
Kay Rex of FBGC will be the presenter.
- Thursday, October 7: FBGC Board Meeting, location TBD, 1:30 PM
- Monday, October 11 at 1PM: **FBGC Membership Meeting**
Campfire Center, Mac Kerricher State Park
"Creating Beauty and Biodiversity by Propagating Using Cuttings"
Johanna Brekke-Brownell of FBGC will lead the hands-on workshop.

🌿 BEAUTY & BIODIVERSITY 🦋

We are excited to introduce our theme of the year:

How-To for Beauty and Biodiversity

This year we will explore opportunities to enrich the beauty of our homes, gardens and communities, while supporting the biodiversity so necessary to addressing climate change and drought.

We hope to present this column all year with notes and ideas from members to help beautify our gardens while making them more drought tolerant and beneficial for pollinators.

If you have a short on a plant, a process, an experience or relevant topic, send it along and we will include it in a future newsletter—include a photo if you have it.

Here's something from each of us about our gardens.

My New Favorite Native *Helianthus bolanderi* [CR]



- Native to the north coast
- Drought tolerant
- Deer tolerant
- Cut flowers
- Containers
- Reseeds
- Poor to average soil

Here's my new favorite native: Serpentine Sunflower, a drought tolerant, annual sunflower I was completely unfamiliar with until I began looking for native flowers needed by local bees, butterflies and moths.

Short for sunflowers, at 3' tall x 30", dense 2" blooms, dark floral discs and heart shaped yellow petals from the top to the bottom of the plant. They bloom from spring to early fall, providing both pollen and nectar for local bees.

They survive in poor to average soil, including our serpentine soil common to northwest California and southwest Oregon where 58 species of butterflies and moths are dependent for reproduction on this native rarity. Deer resistant. Container friendly.

I grew them in compost-enhanced soil this year and they thrived for a while—until the lack of water dried them up. They self-sow but are not aggressive. I have seeds to share when next we all get together.

Gardening Ennui [JB]

I am not feeling much like a gardener these days. I am constantly reminded to wait: don't stress the bush or tree by trimming; don't add a new plant as it won't get enough water to take hold. Our plants plea for our shower bucket flow or dishpan moisture. While I feel discouraged that I can't plant and transplant during this water crisis, I am reminded that even now the biodiversity and inclusion of drought tolerant and coastal natives in my yard is assuring habitat for a diverse population. Use your spying expertise and see what you can find in my pictures. More importantly check out who you find habituating in your yard.







Thanks for reading.

Your co-presidents,
Johanna Brekke-Brownell
Cornelia Reynolds

