



FORT BRAGG GARDEN CLUB

News & Notes

March 2022



One of several gorgeous ceanothus planted in 2017 now huge and blooming at the Bee City Garden at Guest House Museum Park in downtown Fort Bragg. The club voted at its February meeting to become the official local sponsor of Fort Bragg Bee City USA.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Zoom Doom?

We are excited to announce that our next membership meeting on March 14 is NOT on Zoom. Hurray for progress and hopefully the beginning of a post-pandemic world. COVID is not gone and is still a concern for those who are immune compromised. But with planning and awareness, we hope to keep everyone safe at upcoming meetings and events. We are exploring the possibility, when we return to indoor meetings, of also offering them on Zoom.

Mario Abreu on ‘Weeds of the North Coast’

On Monday March 14, we will meet in person outdoors at the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens. Gather at the main entrance at 1PM. We will meet our speaker, Mario Abreu, and enter as a group.

Mario will speak on ‘Weeds of the North Coast’ and share examples to be found in the gardens. Mario Abreu worked for the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens for over 25 years. Retired now, Mario generously shares his knowledge about weeds, native plants, mushrooms, and just about anything else that grows here on the north coast.

Board Elections: Planning for the Next Two Years

Our board meeting, which *is* on Zoom, on Thursday March 10, 1:30PM, will include on its agenda the first discussion of officer elections for the next two-year term of 2022—2024.

According to club by-laws, the club president appoints a nominating committee of three at the March membership meeting. This committee is charged with presenting at least one candidate for each position at the April meeting. With the candidate’s permission, additional candidates may be proposed from the floor at the April meeting. Officers elected at this meeting are installed at the May meeting.

The club faces both challenges and opportunities in the next two years. Communication questions will face us in any case. Changes in our community, including many new neighbors on the coast, raise questions for the club. For instance, we’ve been asked to hold some of our events at times more convenient for working people.

It is our great hope that some of the newer members will come forward to help support future projects—including those you may like to propose. You may do so either as a committee chair or a board member. If taking a board position seems too big a step, consider becoming a co-chair. The club has had good success with co-chairs for most positions and this approach lightens the responsibility. Let the nominating committee know you are interested in getting more involved. Members of the nominating committee will be announced at the March membership meeting.

Arbor Day and “Bucks for Trees”

Arbor Day on Monday March 7 begins California’s Arbor Week. It also begins our club’s ‘Bucks for Trees’ program. This year, for the first time, the program extends to the end of the month. At any time between March 7 and March 31, any tree purchased at one of the three Fort Bragg nurseries – Hare Creek Nursery, Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens, and North Star Nursery – will be \$5 off, courtesy of the Fort Bragg Garden Club. Don’t miss this opportunity.

Prepping for the May 14 Plant Sale

A small but hearty group gathered recently on a cold Saturday morning at Johanna’s garden to prune, separate, re-pot or whatever was needed for a wide range of plants including succulents, dahlia bulbs, and other plants donated by members. After working we sat down to hot tea and baked goodies. Look for announcements of additional Plant Sale work parties in the weeks ahead.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Nurturing Our Members So All Flourish

We have been missing **Ruth Sparks** at our meetings this year. Please join us for a backyard visit this coming Monday, March 7 at 3 PM. Relax with friend and enjoy refreshments. Please RSVP for planning purposes. Email Johanna at jbboakland@live.com.



As you know, **Patricia Marian** passed away peacefully on Sunday. Many of us had the opportunity to share time with her this last month. Her generosity and love remained front and center as she approached her death with open arms. Patricia’s donation of \$2,000 to our scholarship fund is one of the many ways she showed her love and thoughtfulness.



BEAUTY & BIODIVERSITY



Weeds, Weeds, and More Weeds



Three weeds that dominate parts of my garden; names unknown.

Weeds raise a lot of questions for me. What is a weed other than a volunteer in a place I don't want it? But there is a big difference between a weed, or two or three, and an infestation of an aggressive pest—and there are native pests as well as invasive pests brought from other climates. I am familiar with the drama queens of local weed land, such as stinging nettle, poison oak, broom, cape weed and bindweed. But I've been known to plant purslane in gardens where there was none.

My goal is to learn the names of the local weeds I deal with most in my garden. For one, to be able to use a name when cursing them. Also, because there is so much more to learn about every plant, including weeds. Weeds can give me valuable information about my soil and the plants in my garden. Weeds can be contradictory; they can actually improve drainage, or they can drain valuable moisture from the soil. I'm looking forward to learning more at our upcoming presentation on weeds—and I hope to see you all there. -- Cornelia

Thanks for reading.

Your co-presidents,
Johanna Brekke-Brownell & Cornelia Reynolds

