



THE BOTANICAL GUARDIAN

Spring 2024

Spring Updates and the Humboldt Botanical Garden Annual Plant Sale

By Dr. Benjamin Crain

Spring is certainly in the air here at Humboldt Botanical Garden. Rains have encouraged many of our plants to bud and blossom while our creeks are running at full speed through several of our gardens and trails. Manzanitas in the Native Plant Garden displaying brilliant white blooms covered with industrious pollinators and the bright yellow Daffodils emerging in the Temperate Woodland arden are unmistakable signs of the changing seasons. In locations worldwide, the appearance of these blooms is celebrated with a variety of festivals, and here at HBG we are excited that their proliferation coincides with our annual plant sale which will take place on Friday, May 3rd, from 3:00pm - 7:00pm (members only!) and Saturday, May 4th, from 9:00am - 3:00pm (open to the public).



Mexican Blueberry
'Blutini' (*Fuchsia
arborescens*)

Have you ever visited Humboldt Botanical Garden, spotted a plant that stopped you in your tracks, and said to yourself, "Now that is something I'd love to have in my garden"? Well our annual sale is your chance to get your hands on many of the plants featured prominently at HBG. At this year's sale, botany enthusiasts and horticultural aficionados will find a remarkably large selection of native plants, annuals, perennials, kitchen garden plants, house plants, and showy ornamentals, to name just a few. Our Green Team volunteers and staff have worked diligently to grow the best plants for the best prices and you are sure to discover several "must haves" among the abundance of one-gallon, four-inch, and six-inch specimens we have cultivated for you. With hundreds of plant species, varieties, and hybrids available we know the 2023 sale will be our best ever.

Reflecting our Dedekam Ornamental Terrace Garden, HBG is pleased to offer a fine selection of outdoor plants well suited for the Humboldt County garden. Blue Sea Holly (*Eryngium*) and Alumroot (*Heuchera*) will offer wonderful opportunities to display foliage color. We will also have several varieties of colorfully flowered Peruvian Lilies (*Alstroemeria*) available in one gallon sizes. Mexican Blueberry 'Blutini' (*Fuchsia arborescens*) is another attractive ornamental shrub we will offer, and one that is also edible!

Our Lost Coast Brewery Native Plant Garden is also well represented in this year's sale. California native plant lovers will encounter a diverse selection of often hard to find *Arctostaphylos*, *Ceanothus*, *Lewisia*, and *Mimulus* in several colors. Of course, we will also be offering the ever popular Matilija Poppy (*Romneya coulteri*), which has a prominent place here at HBG, as well as specimens of the California Poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*) including the coastal variety (*E. californica* var. *maritima*). As a new addition, we will also have a few native California orchids (*Epipactus gigantea*) that can be grown outdoors here in Humboldt.



A showy California native:
Romneya coulteri

For those searching for the perfect way to add more color to a hardy coastal Humboldt County garden, look no further than offerings inspired by our Betty Kuhnle Heather Garden. We will have a great selection of Heaths and Heathers (*Erica* spp. and *Calluna vulgaris*) in a variety of shades available for you. 'Blazeaway' boasts seasonal colors ranging from bright gold, green, and orange in the first half of the year, changing to vibrant blazing red hues in fall. Its long-lasting summer blossoms are attractive lavender-pink. Other cultivars like 'Spring Cream' boast bright white blooms and green foliage, whereas 'Silver Knight' will add blue foliage and pink flowers to your garden.

Other selections that are ideal for gardens in our area are on display in our Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden. We will have several named selections of Western Azalea (*Rhododendron occidentale*), which is native to the west coast from Oregon to San Diego and sweetly fragrant.

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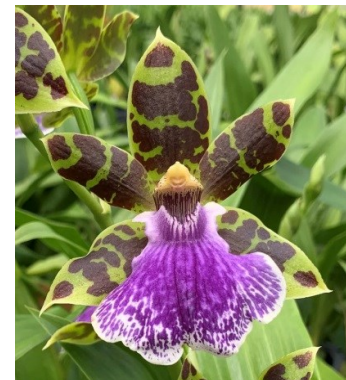
Himalayan Blue Poppy
(*Meconopsis* sp.)

Iris douglasiana, another California native will also be abundantly available. For those with more exotic interests, consider purchasing one of our remarkably beautiful Himalayan Blue Poppies (*Meconopsis* spp.) or the other worldly *Gunnera manicata* with its giant four to eight foot leaves!

Alternatively, if you tire of the cold and rain, or if outdoor gardening is not quite your thing, consider going tropical! One of our new features this year will be offerings of several *Zygopetalum* hybrid orchids. Known for their showy and often highly fragrant flowers, these tropical orchids can tolerate cooler temperatures than many others and are well suited to the indoor Humboldt climate. Other fun indoor plants we offer will vary widely, ranging from the easy to grow tropical Coffee plant (*Coffea Arabica*) to the succulent Donkey Tail (*Sedum morganianum*) which will be available in hanging pots. Of course, this is just the tip of the iceberg. A large variety of ferns, carnivorous plants, herbs, pollinator plants, and others will be here to fulfill

your wish list, whatever your garden fancy might be.

No matter your plant interests, our experienced staff and volunteers will be here to help you select the right plants suited just for you. Keep in mind that Friday, May 3rd is a “members only” event and popular plants can sell out fast! If you have your heart set on a particular species, hybrid, or cultivar, consider becoming an HBG member now! You can also join at the entrance cottage on the day of the sale to secure your admittance on day one. So don’t forget to bring your boxes and fill them up so you can help HBG grow! We can’t wait to see all of you here at the garden!



Zygopetalum Hybrid
(Orchidaceae)

Along the Trails

by Chris Haynes

Looks like a real Humboldt County winter as of this early February writing, with seasonal rainfall (as of October 1) of slightly over 29 inches at the Humboldt Botanical Garden rain gauge. As a result, many of our trails have suffered some winter wear with water and muddy spots and we are trying to keep up with mulching and bridge building as fast as we can! During these winter conditions, please make sure you are properly dressed for conditions and wear good footwear. It is unavoidable that some spots will be slippery and muddy during our stormy periods.

Most trail work over the last several months has revolved around keeping up with winter problems, with a lot of mulching and bridge maintenance. Of particular note is the double bridge that has been placed over the unruly creek on the way up to All Happy Now Earth Sculpture, just below the steep steps. Hikers can now easily traverse this wet and muddy section.

Even though it is the middle of winter, our mild conditions mean that many of our trail side vegetation is beginning to show signs of life. Currant bushes are beginning to bud with nettles and foxglove emerging from the ground. Our spring migratory birds can’t be far behind! Hope to see your footprints, and Happy Trails!

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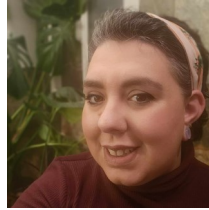
Seeds of Thought

By Evelyn Giddings



A huge Thank You to Danelle Tegarden for her years of service with the Humboldt Botanical Garden. She joined our board in 2014 and stepped down December 31, 2023. You will still be able to see her smiling face (along with her husband Cary)

volunteering at our Summer Music series, June through October, where they will be serving beer and wine. Danelle was active in several committees and was instrumental in fundraising and human resources. She will focus more of her spare time in her role as President of Soroptimist International.



Please join us in welcoming Alexis Treckeme to our team at the Garden. In December she took on the role of Office Administrator for the HBGF with a background in event/facility coordination. Originally, from

the Central Valley, Alexis previously lived and worked in Yosemite National Park before relocating to Humboldt in 2016. Eureka is the place she calls home with her husband and their two dogs. Alexis is proud to serve her community and expresses her gratitude to work for a local non-profit organization. Outside of work you will find Alexis with her head in a fantasy book, binge watching/ listening to true crime, working on her novel, creating art, or most importantly traveling with family & friends.



HBG Welcomes New Board Members

Robert Crane recently retired as President of the C. Crane Company. Committed to the role of AM radio as a tool for dialog across the country, Robert has combined his passion for communication with user-friendly, though advanced, radio design. As president of C. Crane, Robert has traveled extensively throughout China and has seen firsthand the impact of China's massive economic growth. In addition, Robert has appeared on several radio programs throughout the country, talking about C. Crane's new products, and most recently, introducing Americans to the benefits of C. Crane's almond milk filter system. In 1983, Robert made the transition from a successful, home-based, design and construction company in the San Francisco Bay Area to a rural California location with a small population. All of us at HBG are so happy he joined us!



Mary Gearheart is a retired landscape design professional with over 30 years experience creating aesthetically and functionally pleasing architectural designs for residential properties and public spaces. Through her firm, Design Work, she worked closely with architects, engineers and other professionals to ensure client's visions were implemented with appropriate plants and outdoor design. She worked with other volunteers to bring a Botanical Garden to Humboldt County and currently still volunteers to help insure the Master Plan for the Humboldt Botanical Garden, as designed by Landscape Architect, Ron Lutsko, is closely followed. Mary has also served on the Humboldt County Planning Commission, the boards for Hospice of Humboldt, Redwood Parks Conservancy, and in the past, HBGF. We are thrilled to have her back on board!

Kimberly D. Preston is the Principal and Owner/Manager of Omsberg & Preston. She graduated from San Diego State University in 1996 and is a registered Civil Engineer and Land Surveyor in California. She has nearly 30 years of professional planning, civil engineering, project management and surveying experience. She began with Omsberg & Company, Eureka in 2002 as a Project Engineer and became the owner of Omsberg & Preston in Eureka in 2004. Ms. Preston is very involved in our community. She is an Affiliate Liaison to the Board for the Humboldt Association of Realtors and is a Member of the Humboldt Builder's Exchange. Kim brings a wealth of experience to the Humboldt Botanical Garden. We are excited to have her join our team!



Bed Upgrade at the Paver Patio in the Lost Coast Brewery Native Plant Garden

by Mark Moore, Curator

In a previous article on the Lost Coast Brewery Native Plant Garden, I discussed in general why and how we rehabilitate garden beds by removing old, dying shrubs and replacing them with new plant material. I thought it might be of interest to briefly describe in a bit more detail one such example completed in November of 2023.

Bed 1 at the Native Plant Garden includes the area west of the Paver Patio, extending in the direction of the south Garden entrance. The portion of this bed adjacent to the patio was initially planted in 2007 with a 'Pacific Mist' Manzanita, a fast growing, attractive, and vigorous selection. 'Pacific Mist' Manzanita was also planted and is well established in several other parts of the Native Plant Garden. Initially this plant spread out and filled the bed space nicely. However, over a period of 15 years it spread to the margins of the bed, requiring frequent pruning and resulting in an unattractive "cut face" appearance along two of the garden paths.

Although the plant remained healthy, the dead, knee-high pruned edges of the plant bordering the paths detracted from its overall appearance. Removal was really the only option short of living with this condition. I also noticed an increase in damage to the plant due to Manzanita Leaf Gall Aphids, (*Tamalia coweni*), possibly as the plant's stress response to constant pruning of the edges and crown. The Manzanita Leaf Gall Aphid is often present on many species of Manzanitas both in gardens and in the wild, but rarely to the extent that it disfigures the plant.

The removal of the top growth and rooted stump took about a day to complete, and was greatly aided by the use of our newly donated garden tractor, operated by HBG Gardener David Gensaw. Manzanitas have very strong root systems, and it required the use of a choker cable and chain attached to the tractor to extract the stump and roots. A planting of Matilija Poppy (*Romneya coulteri*) along one edge of the bed was reduced but retained during the process.

I also rescued and carefully relocated two Rough Skinned Newts (*Taricha granulosa*), one alligator lizard (*Elgaria* sp.), one Garter Snake (*Thamnophis* sp.), and two California Slender Salamanders (*Batrachoseps attenuatus*) while removing this shrub. Given the extent of other areas of the Native Plant Garden now covered with similar mature vegetation, I gained an even greater appreciation for the habitat values the Native Plant Garden provides for amphibians and reptiles.

After all of the plant crown and roots were removed, the site was cultivated with a digging fork, while carefully retaining the thick layer of Manzanita leaf mulch. A six-inch layer of coarse sand and grit was then added to the site to provide for improved drainage and soil structure.

Once the bed was prepared, replacement plants were installed and the site mulched. Three rare, slower growing ground cover Manzanitas (*Arctostaphylos glandulosa* ssp. *cushingiana* forma *repens*) were planted along with three Coastal California Poppy (*Eschscholzia californica* var. *maritima*), three foothill penstemon (*Penstemon heterophyllus* 'Blue Springs'), and three Western Columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*). The goal is to provide a long season of color and interest next to the Paver Patio, along with multi-season nectar sources for bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Temporary caging of some of these new plants was needed to prevent rabbit predation.

When you next visit the Native Plant Garden, take a minute to look at this recently completed work. While the bed looks rather plain and the plants barely noticeable, they should be showing off many new textures and colors to the Native Plant Garden starting next summer and over the coming years.



Bed 1: Before Manzanita removal



Bed 1: Preparing substrate



Bed 1: Newly planted portion

Volunteers are the Heart of the Garden

Special Recognition: Volunteers with over 100 Hours in 2023

NAME	HOURS	TASK	NAME	HOURS	TASK
Ellen Gill	278	Green Team, MFTWG	Debra Strahan	107	Gate Hosting
Chris Haynes	176	Trails	Marybeth Volk	101	Gate Hosting
David Lemm	513	Everywhere	Jackie Wales	113	Pollinator Garden
SWAP	2,097	Everywhere	June Walsh	358	MFTWG
Mark Moore	510	LCBNPG	Tim Walsh	217	MFTWG

SWAP - Sheriff's Work Alternative Program LCBNPG - Lost Coast Brewery Native Plant Garden

MFTWG - Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden

Open Volunteer Opportunities

Annual Plant Sale, May 3rd & May 4th:

cashiers, ticket writers, check-in, haulers, and plant experts

Friday, May 3rd: 3:00pm-7:00pm and Saturday May 4th 9:00am-12:00pm & 12:00pm-3:00pm

Gate Hosting (greeting visitors and collecting admission):

Beginning April 1st, Mondays 9:00am-1:00pm and 1:00pm-4:00pm

Please email Tammy at tammypetitjean@hbgf.org

2024 Science and Education Seminar Series

March 30, 2024	10:00am-11:00am	General propagation	Atsuko Gibson
April 13, 2024	10:00am-11:00am	Gardening for insects and birds	Donna Wildearth
April 20, 2024	10:00am-11:00am	Succulents of California	Jeff Moore
June 15, 2024	10:00am-11:00am	Geology of the HBG Area	Frank Bickner
July 6, 2024	10:00am-11:00am	Butterflies at HBG	Dr. Gary Falxa
August 3, 2024	8:30pm-9:30pm	Bats at HBG	Dr. Scott Osborn
September 14, 2024	10:00am-11:00am	Coastal dune, saltmarsh, and prairie restoration near Table Bluff	Kelsey McDonald
October 5, 2024	10:00am-11:00am	Knowing & taking care of your soil	Liz McGee-Houghton
December 14, 2024	10:00am-11:00am	California Condor conservation in Northern California	Chris West

Additional classes will be posted on our website, www.hbgf.org, and sent by email.

Please RSVP as space is limited. To become a Member, please visit www.hbgf.org/membership.

Meet the Yellow-Faced Bumblebee

by Jackie Wales, curator of the Pollinator Garden



Yellow faced bumblebee
Photo by Jackie Wales

The yellow-faced bumblebee, *Bombus vosnesenskii*, is native to the west coast and is one of the most abundant bees in their range. We certainly get lots of them in the Pollinator Garden. *Bombus* comes from the Latin word that means a buzzing or humming sound.

The yellow-faced bumblebee is one of the first bees to emerge in early spring. This bee nests underground in places like old rodent burrows. Queens are the only colony members to survive the winter. The queen emerges from hibernation in late January, finds a nest, lays an egg brood and begins incubation. During this period she will have to do her own foraging for food. After about a month, the first workers will hatch, typically in early March. The colony will continue to grow to about 200 to 300 bees. Drones are reared in summer to mate with newly emerging queens. Late in the season the queen will go from egg-laying to foraging. If you see a larger than usual *Bombus vosnesenskii* late in the season you may be seeing a queen. By late October workers and drones will die off leaving only the mated queens to overwinter.

Yellow-faced bumblebees are good pollinators. They wet pollen by mixing it with nectar. When you see them in the garden, their back legs are often loaded with pollen. Note the orange ball on the back leg of the bee in the photograph. This is a favorite bee for pollinating commercial green house plants, particularly tomatoes. Many flowers of the nightshade family (tomatoes, potatoes, etc.) have anthers that hold on tight to their pollen. Bumblebees have a technique called buzz pollination. The bee latches onto the anthers and buzzes its wings causing vibrations that release the pollen. I have heard this while working in the garden but never realized who it was or what was going on.

For those who are afraid of bees, bumblebees are quite docile. They are able to sting but rarely do. I have never had any problem working around them.

Keeping track of plants at Humboldt Botanical Garden

By Jim Bauml and Darci Short



Typical plant label found throughout the garden made of plastic.

All plants at the Humboldt Botanical Garden have their stories. Where did they come from? Are they divisions or cuttings from a horticultural specimen? Were they grown from seeds or cuttings from wild stands? How many individuals arrived? Where were they planted? How are they doing? And if you need help identifying what you see, garden labels will do the job. Preserving these stories and sharing this information is the job of the Garden's volunteer record-keeper, Jim Bauml, and label-maker Darci Short.

The garden manager and the curators are the gatekeepers for these plant stories that come along with new arrivals. The information that accompanies them is passed on to Jim and Darci.

Background information is stored in a Filemaker Pro database with numerous fields. Each new plant is assigned its own unique accession number to accompany it during its tenure at HBG. After planting, the 'Garden' and 'Bed' fields document where each plant is growing. Reports can then be generated for curators as checklists to

keep the records current. With requests from curators, labels are made that are mounted on sturdy stakes to inform visitors of the names (common and scientific), plant families and, when appropriate, conservation status.

Our hope is to continue to enhance and expand the database, including photographs, to better document the Garden's holdings, and to provide a public interface for interested parties, as well as to get more labels out into the Garden to enhance your experience.

Most of the plant labels at HBG are made of plastic that garden volunteers have been engraving 'in house'. After more than a decade of label making, HBG is now ordering custom plant labels made of etched aluminum. The first of these new labels can be found in the Lost Coast Brewery Native Plant Garden.



A new aluminum label located in Lost Coast Brewery Native Plant Garden.



Annual Plant Sale

~ Plant Ahead! ~

Please join us at the Garden:

Friday, May 3rd

Members only

3:00pm-7:00pm

Saturday, May 4th

Open to the public

9:00am - 3:00pm

Humboldt Botanical Garden 

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS REWARDS

These local businesses offer HBG members a 10% discount (excluding sale items).

Please show a current membership card and remember to support these merchants who support HBG.

- The Jonsteen Company**, McKinleyville 839-1067
- Miller Farms Nursery** (plants only), McK 839-1571
option: 5% discount + 5% donation to the Garden
- Singing Tree Gardens**, McKinleyville 839-8777
- Mad River Gardens**, Arcata 822-7049
- Hensel's Hardware** (garden-items), Arcata 822-2965
- Greenlot Nursery**, Eureka 443-9484
- Pierson's Garden & Nursery**, Eureka 441-2713
- Shafer's ACE Hardware**, Eureka 442-5734
- Creative Landscape Structures**, Eureka 443-5656

HBG Membership Rewards: In addition to supporting a growing Garden, your annual membership has rewards! Members get free admission to the Garden, discounts on public programs, access to a members-only pre-sale opportunity at our annual spring plant sale, discounts at local retailers, and reciprocal membership benefits at 300+ gardens in the US and Cayman Islands. Included with a **new** membership is a one-year subscription to Better Homes & Gardens Magazine.

Did you know? You can purchase and/or renew your membership online or by calling the business office. Visit our website or call (707) 442-5139 and renew today.

The 2024 Annual Sponsorship begins May 1, 2024. Sponsorship is recognized in many ways and at many levels. We'd like to include you/your business.

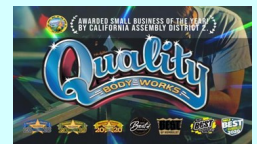
Thank you to our 2023 Annual Sponsors! HBG is supported by local businesses and families that provide donations, time, and in-kind resources to help the Garden grow. If you see our sponsors in the community or at their place of business, please let them know their support is appreciated.



DAVID LEMM & EVELYN GIDDINGS



PEGGY & GEORGE SCHMIDBAUER



Times  Standard

HBG Mission Statement

To cultivate a garden that provides an enjoyable discovery into the botanical world through education, participation, and community service.



The many faces of
All Happy Now

HUMBOLDT BOTANICAL GARDEN
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We envision a world class botanical garden that attracts visitors for inspiration, education and growth, and enhances the quality of life in our community.
"Inspire, Educate, Grow"

Beginning April 1, 2024, our open days and hours will be changing.
We will be open 7 days a week,
10:00 - 5:00. Our last entry will be at 4:00.

HBG Board of Directors

President: Evelyn Giddings
Vice President: James Sessa
Treasurer: Cathy Randall
Secretary: Micki Davis
Members at Large:
Frank Bickner
Nancy Cavanaugh
Robert Crane
Larry Eitzen
Mary Gearheart
Barbara Groom
Kimberly D. Preston

HBG Staff

Evelyn Giddings, Acting Executive Director
hbgf@hbgf.org
Dr Benjamin J. Crain, Garden Operations Manager
benjamincrain@hbgf.org
Tammy Petitjean, Volunteer Services Management
tammypetitjean@hbgf.org
Marta Williams, Gardener
David Gensaw, Gardener
Troy Beattie, Garden Maintenance
Barbara Fields, Weekend Gate Host
John McClelland, Forest/Fuel Manager
Dennis Houghton, Trail Maintenance

HBG Volunteer Staff

Mary Gearheart, Design Management
Frank Bickner/Darci Short, Plant Labels
David Lemm, Garden Maintenance
Mark Moore, Lost Coast Brewery Native Plant Garden Curator
Tim & June Walsh, Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden Curators
Micki Davis, Betty Kuhnel Heather Garden Curator
Peter Santino, All Happy Now Curator
Chris Haynes, Trails
Jackie Wales, Pollinator Garden
Jim Baumel, Accession

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