



Fungi Sightings by Elena Jones



Fungi Slug Feast
Photo Elena Jones

With the ground moist from all the rain, you might have seen Unidentified Fungal Objects popping up in your backyard. You will see mushrooms in all sorts of decaying materials: compost, decaying tree roots, leaf litter, old wood - especially when moisture is present. Fungi are a vital part of every plant-based ecosystem, whether natural or manmade. Lawn grass would not be very healthy if there weren't mycorrhizal

fungi on its roots.

Combined with decaying organic matter, damp soil creates an ideal environment for fungal growth. In fact, mushrooms sprout up in soils that are rich in organic matter - indicating healthy soil.

Mushrooms are the fruiting bodies of airborne spores that have found their happy place in our soil. Mushrooms excrete enzymes that begin the process of

decomposition thus aiding in the decomposition of matter and promoting the growth of lawn, shrubs and trees.

Note: Though most common backyard mushrooms are harmless and play an important role in your backyard ecosystem, it is always best not to touch or eat any unknown wild mushrooms that appear in your yard.



Island Snapdragon
Galvesia speciosa
Photo from wiki commons

Meeting January 22nd, 2:00

Interesting Plants of Santa Cruz Island by Annie Meeder

The Santa Barbara Channel Islands are essentially peaks of a mountain range, parallel to the Santa Ynez Range, partially covered by the ocean. Each has its unique geology, plants, and animals. Santa Cruz Island is one of the larger and

most accessible of the Islands. It is also the most complicated geologically and topographically which leads to interesting plant communities. The removal of grazing sheep and feral pigs along with invasive weed control has allowed regrowth of native plants and recovery of native animals.

Annie Meeder is a biology graduate student at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA.

The program will begin at 2:00, Stone Pine Hall, 210 South "H" Street, next to the Lompoc Museum. Light refreshments are provided. All garden and botany enthusiasts are welcome, so invite your friends and neighbors to join in.

Membership Meeting Minutes from November 20, 2022 *by Elena Jones*

The meeting was called to order at 2:06 p.m. by President Warren Arnold. He passed around a sign-in sheet for members and guests.

Warren Arnold entertained a motion to get approval of the minutes of the September 2022 meeting. Charlie Blair moved; Elena Jones seconded. The minutes were approved with no corrections. None opposed.

Treasurer's Report: on behalf of treasurer Julie Levy, Warren Arnold reported that, as of 11/18/2022, our petty cash was \$30.00 and that our bank account had a balance of \$16,840.56. As per the budget: total credits \$58.00; total debits -\$230.00; net change - \$172.00.

Old Business

Proposed change to the by-laws regarding new members joining after January: to pro-rate the dues at the treasurer's and/or membership chair's discretion, but thereafter all dues would be paid in January of each year. Patcine Beaman made a motion to amend our by-laws as indicated above and received a second by Elena Jones. Majority approved.

With regards to our communications with AHC for the replacement of the picnic table at the BMCG,

member Christine Zuhlsdorf reported that she had been in contact with the staff, who were looking into taking care of the cost and the labor involved.

With regards to the possibility of getting our own t-shirts to wear during our society's outdoor projects, Warren Arnold showed a vest that, in the past, members had worn and he recommended that we create something similar for the t-shirts, with the Lompoc monkey flower image as our logo. He reminded us that a portion of the sales would go to our society.

Warren Arnold entertained a motion for the approval of the board members' decision to spend \$250 for the new engraved signs that would be placed at the BMCG. Charlie Blair moved the motion, Jana Hunking seconded it. The motion was carried with none opposed.

Charlie Blair reported that no progress had been made on the application for our Society's 501(c)(3) tax status.

New Business

Warren Arnold reported that the board had appointed a new Member-at-Large: Carl Jones.

With the Secretary position vacant, Warren Arnold asked if there was anyone

interested in being nominated. After hearing the description of the Secretary's job, Kristin Worthley said she would be willing to take the role. The board members who were present appointed her.

Nominating Committee: Warren Arnold explained what the duties entailed and said that he would welcome new ideas and therefore new people on the board. Patcine Beaman, Marcia Hart and Elena Jones were appointed to select the slate of officers for 2023.

Committee Reports

Botany: Charlie Blair reported that the spruce-up of the DTG, during the 'Make a Difference Day' event of Oct. 22, went well and he then talked about a few ongoing issues at the garden.

The board approved the nomination of Christine Zuhlsdorf as our new Education Committee chairperson. Christine introduced herself and shared what her approach style would be like.

Other announcements

Member Marcia Hart shared information on the May 6, 2023 garden tour organized by the local Alpha Club. She encouraged anyone with a garden of interest to submit a re-

quest for inclusion in the event.

Member Jana Hunking informed everyone that the Lompoc Artesia School Museum would be open to visitors the coming Saturday afternoon.

Warren Arnold entertained a motion to form a Communication Committee and asked for the members' approval. Kristin Worthley moved the motion, Charlie Blair seconded. All in favor.

Charlie Blair reminded us of the publications that were available for purchase.

President Warren Arnold adjourned the meeting at 2:34 p.m. The plant exchange and light refreshments followed.

Respectfully submitted by Elena Jones, Acting Secretary



Narcissus — see Elena's article on page 4

Photo Mimi Erland

President's Message *by Warren Arnold*

We have come to the end of another year of operation as the Lompoc Valley Botanic and Horticultural Society. After a two-year hiatus because of the COVID epidemic, we are back on track and had a good and productive year.

In addition to our informative programs, we also continued our traditional activities of clearing the paths in the Chaparral Botanic Garden at the Lompoc Campus of Allen Hancock College, mulching the Drought Tolerant Garden at the Wastewater Treatment

Plant, and holding our annual Plant Exchange.

Now we have come to another annual event, and that is election of officers for the coming year.

We were very fortunate in this past year to have several new and enthusiastic people join the Society. They have brought fresh ideas, a cooperative spirit, and the energy to get things done. We have long wished for such an infusion of new talent, and that wish seems to have been fulfilled.

Now we need to consider the kind of leadership the Society needs to keep the momentum moving forward. Think of whom you feel will be the best leaders to accomplish our goals. A nominating committee has been formed and will present a slate of candidates, but nominations will also be called for at the meeting so be ready to promote your choices.

Let us hope the coming year will bring even greater success in achieving the goals of the Society.



Amaryllis 'Apple Blossom'
Photo Patcine Beaman

LOMPOC VALLEY BOTANIC AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY 2023 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Please fill out and mail or bring to the next meeting with your check for **\$15.00** (or \$30.00 for two years) to: **LVBHS, C/O Julie Levy 1717 East College Ave. Lompoc, CA 93436**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail (for LVBHS use only): _____

New member ____ or Renewing member ____ Amount Paid \$_____ Today's Date _____

I would like to help with:

____ The Burton Mesa Chaparral Garden at Allan Hancock College, Lompoc Center

____ The Drought Tolerant Garden on Central Ave ____ Planning field trips

____ Website support ____ Hospitality (refreshments) ____ Newsletter ____ Telephoning

____ Serving on the Board Other: _____

Lompoc Valley Botanic and Horticultural Society

LVBHS

C/O Julie Levy
1717 East College Avenue
Lompoc, CA 93436

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President

Warren Arnold 736-7633

Vice President

Charlie Blair 717-0067

Secretary

Kristin Worthley 909-855-9786

Treasurer

Julie Levy 717-8713

COMMITTEES:

Chaparral Garden

Elena Jones 450-3668

Julie Levy 717-8713

Charlie Blair 717-0067

Drought Tolerant Garden

Mimi Erland 315-7105

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Carl Jones

Narcissus by Elena Jones

When we have a "false spring" condition in the area - like we recently experienced - our plants start growing early. This was the case with my potted *Narcissus*, aka daffodil or jonquil, a flowering perennial plant of the amaryllis family*.

It is an easy plant to grow and requires very little maintenance. However, drainage is key, as excess water lingering around the bulbs may promote rot conditions. The soil should be able to hold moisture, but drain off any excess quickly.

Though the bulbs can tolerate freezes, a sudden cold snap can cause damage to tender buds. Protecting them will ensure that the flowers will greet you with

their cheery yellow faces in spring-time!

*There are 40 different species and thousands of varieties of *Narcissus*

Photo Elena Jones

