



New Year's Eve Windowsill by Al Thompson

I recall a phrase from an old "Amos and Andy" radio show, "No pain, no gain, no undo pressure on the clavicle!", when one of the guys was referring to an untoward situation working out alright in the long run. I think of this phrase relative to my present gardening situation.

I turned 90 on December 21, 2021 (I'm a Winter Solstice guy), I'm still upright and of basically good health. As many of you would know, I'm an avid gardener too! I may have mentioned in a past item about now living in a 3rd floor apartment with garden spaces I've

attended to out at the back of the apartment building- attended to until lately!



While attending to those garden spaces, there was no pain, no undo pressure on the clavi-

cle. But now, at 90, I have not been gardening in those garden spaces, nor in the little green-

house below my apartment in the same building as my apartment. There is some pain, not

in the clavicle but below it- chronic back pain! Frankly, it's a pain in the ---!

So-with shovel and hoe, etc. set aside, my gardening tools are a small trowel, my hands, of course, and windowsill boxes.

My apartment windows face south. Earlier I planted radish seed, onion sets, and some lettuce seed, but with minimal luck. They're now planted with flower bulbs. The freesias in one pot are almost a foot tall already as I write this. Wish me better luck this time, and HAPPY (2022) NEW YEAR!



Toyon *Heteromeles arbutifolia*
Photo Mimi Erland

Meeting January 16th, 2:00

Our Visible Treasure: The Burton Mesa Chaparral

Come learn about the beautiful Burton Mesa Chaparral while viewing a video commissioned by the Society on our unique local plants.

To aid in plant identification, a collection of chaparral cuttings will be available to see, feel and smell.

The program will begin at 2:00, Stone Pine Hall, 200 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.

Upcoming Activities:

Feb. 12, 9:00 Chaparral Spruce-up, at the Burton Mesa Chaparral Garden at Allan Hancock College, Lompoc.

April 2, 9:00, Drought Tolerant Garden Spruce-up, Central Ave. between V and Western.

Bring pruners, loppers, rake, water, snacks and your garden know-how.

President's Message *by Warren Arnold*

As LVBHS begins its 44th year I would like to see more members involved in the goals of the Society; namely helping to establish the purposes upon which the society was founded.

I have heard it said "LVBHS is run by a clique". If by a "clique" you mean a small group of people willing to keep things running, then I agree with the statement. If you mean "a group of snobs", then I don't agree. There are members who have been involved in the Society for most of the time since its founding. They may do things like they have always done them, because other ways were less satisfactory. Like Edison said, "I have found 10,000 ways that don't work.". The Board of directors is in the process of re-establishing the responsibilities of our several committees.

Consider joining one after you hear the new guidelines. Hopefully our members will not shut you down for your interest and enthusiasm... after all, it is my hope that this Society will continue long after most of us have "gone to greener pastures" and new leadership will have come forward.

So please consider getting involved with our goals. Each of you has an interest in plants, else you wouldn't have joined this Society. Let's put your interest to work for the betterment of our organization.

One of our purposes is to study native plants. Find a favorite native, research it and give a brief presentation of your findings to the group, either in person or as an article in the Newsletter. Another activity would be to help main-

tain our two display gardens: either at the much neglected Drought Tolerant Garden on Central Avenue or at the Burton Mesa Chaparral Garden on the campus of the Lompoc branch of Allan Hancock College on Highway One just past the "Y". Serving on these projects can "Sponsor displays..." and "Increase the public's interest..." If home gardening is your forte', bring in some samples and tell how you succeeded in getting good results, or do a demonstration of a propagation technique you think may interest the group. Again, this can be done live at one of our meetings or with a few photos submitted to our Newsletter.

So, to paraphrase one of our popular presidents "ask not what LVBHS can do for you; ask what you can do for LVBHS."

A Gard'ner's Work is never at an end; it begins with the Year, and continues to the next.
John Evelyn, The Gard'ner's Almanac, 1664



Tangerines ripened to perfection in Julie's yard

Money for Schools *by Julie Levy*

Greetings from LVBHS to all you wonderful gardeners and plant aficionados! As the new treasurer for 2022, with pleasure I'm happily reporting that - because Covid reduced our meetings in 2020 and 2021, which reduced our expenses - we have funds enough to give away healthy amounts (\$250 to \$500) to various schools for their garden-science projects.

If only we had an Education

Chairperson to facilitate our communicating with the schools! Won't somebody volunteer to do that?

With many thanks to you, our LVBHS members, for your continuing support! Keep it up!
-- Julie "Leafy" Levy

The Milky Caps by Vern Human (from *A Naturalist at Play*)

The rains have come, and the magic of mushrooms is upon us again. Who would not believe in leprechauns when confronted with their unearthly colors, habits, and forms? Irony, superstition, folklore, history – depend on the fungi to be involved in all of them. You think that would be enough, but the Milky Caps have added alchemy to their ancient and mysterious attributes.

Mushrooms of the genus *Lactarius* can be confused with their near neighbors the *Russulas*, but you need only slash the gills in order to distinguish between them. The lactarids exude latex when injured, the color and behavior of which are important features in their identification. Most are medium-sized to fairly large mushrooms, and retiring in habit. I have found the following species at La Purisima Mission. All of them occur under oak trees.

Perfect Milky Cap, *Lactarius alnicola*, is a handsome fellow

with pinkish to cinnamonish cap and whitish spores. Slash its gills and a milk-colored latex oozes out, which changes to yellow in about half an hour. Yellow-staining Milky Cap, *L. chrysorheus*, generally resembles the foregoing, but differs in having a milky latex that turns yellow within thirty seconds! Golden Milky Cap, *L. insulsus*, has a cap zoned with concentric bands of colors ranging from pale yellows through orange to almost cinnamon. Its latex is milky, unchanging, its spore print yellow.

Vulgar Milky Cap, *L. trivialis*, despite its specific name, is anything but trivial. With a cap approaching ten inches in diameter, it might be the Mission's largest gilled mushroom. Nevertheless, it isn't easily seen, for it only slightly elevates the thick "mushrump" of leaf mold under which it dwells. The cap is colored a peculiar mix of purples and greens. Latex is milky, unchanging, but it slowly stains

the wound tissue brown. False Candy Caps, *L. sp.* is an exact copy of the *L. camphoratus* pictured in every mushroom book, but is critically different in that it has yellow spores, whereas the latter's spores are white. Its latex is colorless, waterlike, scanty, the unchanging cap burnt orange to cinnamon. It commonly occurs in low clusters under oaks.

Although I haven't found it locally, another immigrant, Delicious Milky Cap, *L. deliciosus*, probably is the species portrayed in the oldest drawing of a fungus of which we have record. It was painted on a wall in Heracleum, the city buried by the Mount Vesuvius eruption of 79 AD. Pliny the Elder, who gave us the earliest extant written description of the species, died in the same city during the same eruption! That's the fungi for you. No matter your field of interest, they will somehow manage to get mixed up in it.



Fungi photo by Dave Pierce taken at La Purisima Mission during a rainy December in 2016

If you take a flower in your hand and really look at it, it's your world for a moment.

Georgia O'Keeffe

Sweet Peas in the Valley From *Acres of Loveliness* by Bess Christensen

According to an article in the Lompoc Record for October 14, 1913, copied from the Santa Barbara News, Mr. Atlee Burpee had been looking for a site for a west coast experimental farm. Deciding on the Lompoc Valley in 1909, he bought fifty to sixty acres of what was described as "the finest land in that fabulously rich valley," and he also leased an additional 100 acres, devoting 120 acres of the total acre-

age to sweet peas. In all, the plantings included 700 selections, four of which would be included in the 1914 catalog.

Sweet peas were an economical crop to grow; not only do they restore nitrogen to the soil but for many years they were one of the few crops that could be raised mostly by machine – seeded with a drill, cut with a mower like hay, and threshed like grain. Only the weeding

needed to be done by hand. Sweet peas were being grown in England, but owing to the weather, seed production was poor. The climate of the Lompoc Valley was uniquely suited to their needs: deep fertile soil, cool foggy mornings and evenings with warm days, and breezes from the ocean to aid in pollination. One writer cited also the tubular shape of the valley, which drew in the

(Continued on page 6)

Acres of Loveliness and A Naturalist at Play are both available to purchase from the Society. Ask at any meeting or call Charlie Blair at 805-717-0067

Free to Take by Mimi Erland



I have a large pile of smooth black oval shaped stones that would be lovely in someone else’s garden. They range in size from 3-7 inches across. I also have plenty of Matilija poppies (*Romneya coulteri*) and Lion’s tail (*Leonotis leonurus*) to give away. The Matilija can be dug up as clumps. They grow 4

-5 feet tall, spread by underground runners and are great for open spaces with plenty of room. They need no extra water once established. The Lion’s tail are seedlings that grow 4-6 feet tall and attract hummingbirds. Please call Mimi at 805-315-7105 or email mimierland1@gmail.com.



Nov 21, 2021 General Meeting Minutes by Carol Redhead

The meeting included a plant exchange and tool sharpening by Warren Arnold.

Charlie welcomed all, asked for (new) nominations for board members, receiving none, a vote was taken of the slate - which was approved. The slate: Warren Arnold, President; Dr. Charles Blair, Vice President; Julie Levy, treasurer; Carol Redhead, secretary. Mimi will continue publishing the newsletter. Anita Friedman will continue as member-at-large. Jana resigned as member-at-large. Charlie thanked her for her year of service and accepted her resignation.

The new officers will assume office in January of 2022.

We need membership and horticulture chairs.

Charlie called for two minutes of silence in remembrance of two long-time members we lost this year: Alyce Martin and Judy McKinnon.

As people arrived and met with one another, they picked up

the latest copy of the newsletter, sampled drinks and baked goods (thankfully donated by Laura Lee and Carol and others), took a look at the plants on display, and thought about which ones they would like to have of the many types and varieties people brought to share.

To introduce the various plants, each person who brought some told us about the plants, how they are grown, and the characteristics.

Charlie handed out red tickets for the plant exchange - one per person. When your number is called, you choose one plant. We keep this up until all plants have new homes. The few plants left over were taken back home for an easy clean-up.

During the exchange, out on the patio, Warren Arnold kept up a steady grinding as he sharpened shovels, loppers, pruners, and hedge trimmers to a fine blade, making the coming years’ work so much quicker and easier.

Among the plant descriptions, Leslie Vincent showed her native plant of yellow flowers, Mimi shared her various “odd ball” plants, including an aloe and plants for hummingbirds, alstroemeria, fire stick plant (*Euphorbia*), a miniature rose bush, a large leatherleaf fern, and an unknown orchid. Julie brought aloes and succulents and Hannelore brought hundreds of purple-black scabiosa seeds. Charlie shared a large orchid and told us of the difference between soil and dirt: soil you plant with, and dirt is what you get on your clothes. Charlie has available for purchase our library of DVDs of the local chaparral area, the book by Vern Human: “A Naturalist at Play” (very entertaining and fun to read), the booklet, and “Acres of Loveliness”.

Submitted by Carol Redhead, Secretary

November 30, 2021



Aloe at the San Diego Wild Animal Park

Photo Mimi Erland

**LOMPOC VALLEY BOTANIC AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
2022 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, P.O. Box 1266, Lompoc, CA 93438-1266.

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: _____

LVBHS founded June 5, 1977

BOARD MEMBERS:

President

Warren Arnold 736-7633

Vice President

Charlie Blair 717-0067

Secretary

Carol Redhead 819-0760

Treasurer

Julie Levy 717-8713

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Chaparral Garden

Mimi, Julie, Charlie

Drought Tolerant Garden

-volunteers needed

Horticulture

-volunteers needed

Membership

-volunteer needed

Newsletter

Mimi Erland 315-7105

Publicity

-volunteer needed

Website

Julie Levy

lvbothortsoc@gmail.com

At Large

Representatives:

Anita Friedman 736-2722

Patcine Beaman 736-7687



Yellow Monkey Flowers

photo Julie Levy

Lompoc Valley Botanic and Horticultural Society

P.O. Box 1266
Lompoc, CA 93438-1266



Manzanita blossoms

Photo by Dave Pierce

...Sweet Peas cont.

(Continued from page 3)

cool winds and fogs. A typical acre was said to produce forty-two hundred thousand seeds.

Sweet Peas in Mimi Erland's garden



More mushroom photos from La Purisima Mission by Dave Pierce



*Cardamine
concatenata*
Photo by Al
Thompson

