



Cape Ivy by Warren Arnold



Cape Ivy

Photo above and drawing below,
Warren Arnold

Five mornings a week I stroll along the path on the western edge of River Park. While the dog searches for gopher holes, I watch the changing scene among the trees and shrubs on the east side of the riverbed. Spring has come to the plants there, regardless of the Earth's position in its orbit around the sun. The Willows leaf and bloom out, the Elderberries force new leaves from barren branches, and the Cottonwoods are green again.

There are three species of vining plants there too. One is Clematis (*Clematis lasiantha*),

with pale yellow flowers, another is Chilicote or Wild Cucumber (*Marah macrocarpus*), with almost white blossoms, and a third I had just recently noticed, German Ivy or Cape Ivy (*Delairea odorata* (nee *Senecio mikanioides*)). It was the yellow flower clusters that caught my eye, these showing brightly against the green clinging foliage. Those groups of yellow blossoms are made up of as many as 25 "heads" to a cluster, each "stem" varying in length to place each "head" at the same height, so as to produce a flat plain of "heads." Each

head is composed of twelve disc-flowers, each held together in a cup of little green blades. Each disc flower contains petals, anthers, pistil and pappus. I have dissected one of the flowers from a "cup" and made an illustration of it. There are no ray flowers present.

Now to some, German Ivy is a noxious weed, and indeed, it is not native to this continent. And to be politically correct, it also has the common name of Cape Ivy. (Choose which Cape you want to besmirch) It is native to South Africa, and it is not in the

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Meeting March 20th, 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.

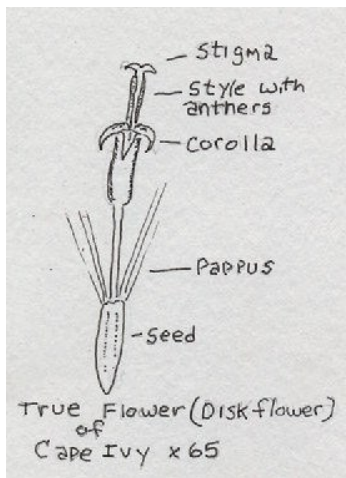
Light refreshments are provided.

All garden and botany enthusiasts are welcome, so invite your friends and neighbors to join in.

Upcoming Activities:

April 2, 9:00, Drought Tolerant Garden Spruce-up, Central Ave. in front of the Waste Water Reclamation Plant between V and Western (Bailey).

Bring pruners, loppers, rake, wheelbarrow, water, snacks and your garden know-how. Someone to take photographs would also be welcome.



Nuts, nuts NUTS! *by Julie Leafy Levy*



An acorn is a true nut, a walnut is a dry drupe

Photo Julie Levy

A banana is a “**berry**”, as is a blueberry, and so is a watermelon, an avocado, and a tomato. Strawberries, however, are not real berries but actually an aggregate of “**achenes**”, and a sunflower seed actually is a single achene. Peanuts are not nuts; they are “**legumes**”. Pecans, almonds, and walnuts are not true nuts; they are seeds inside “**drupes**”; and drupes are 3 layered “stone fruits”. More on nuts below.

In common usage, a fruit enclosed by a shell is considered to be a nut (for example, sunflower seed, peanut, acorn, chestnut, walnut, coconut, and almond). In the kitchen, food consumers think something dry and crunchy is a nut. Consumers are not likely to change how they categorize their food; but it turns out that to be botanically accurate, the grocery store shelves should have signs for “almond seeds”, “pistachio seeds”, “pecan seeds”, and “cashew seeds”; and “peanut legumes”.

Truly, (or most nuttily,) botanists love classification. Ac-

ording to botany, “a true nut” is defined as a dry fruit of a plant or tree, with a hard shell encasing a single seed. Technically, the shell is a non-splitting ovary wall, or to put it differently, the hard shell of a true nut does not open on its own to release its seed when it matures. Some examples are hazelnuts, chestnuts, and acorns.

A drupe’s distinguishing characteristic is that it is a simple fleshy fruit that usually contains a single seed, such as the cherry, peach, and olive. As a simple fruit, a drupe is derived from a single ovary of an individual flower. And now for the nitty-gritty (or nutty-gritty): Almond seeds develop within a green, fleshy fruit, and cashews emerge from green, red and yellow cashew apples. For many drupes, we eat the juicy fruit and discard the pit, but for nut-like drupes, we do the opposite: remove the endocarp, also called the husk, and eat the seed inside the pit.

The next installments will tell you why bananas and watermelons are berries; what the

difference is between plums and prunes; why coconuts can be loosely defined as a fruit, a nut, and a seed; why rosehips are pseudo-fruits; and how raspberries are not berries but aggregates of drupelets.

Additional Resources:

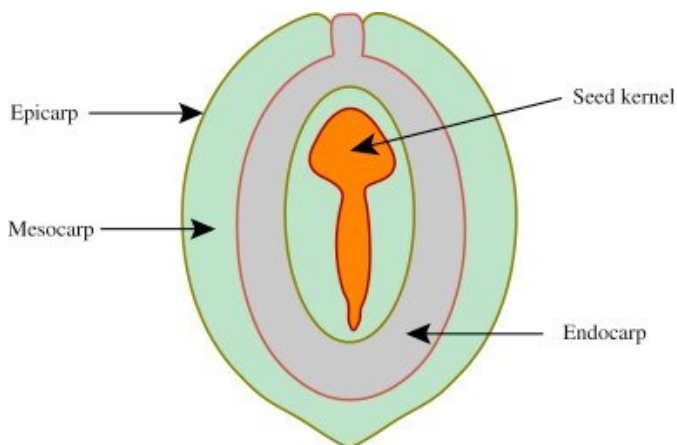
Source: <https://www.livescience.com/what-are-nuts.html> (12-26-2020)

Source: <http://www.differencebetween.net/object/comparisons-of-food-items/difference-between-nuts-and-peanuts/>

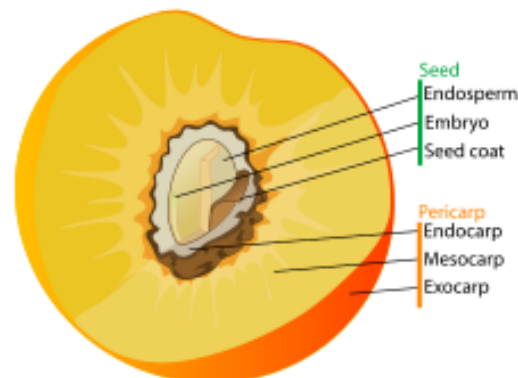
Source: <https://www.mcgill.ca/oss/article/nutrition-did-you-know/cashews-and-almonds-arent-technically-nuts-so-what-are-they>

Source: <https://www.nybg.org/blogs/science-talk/2014/08/what-is-a-fruit/>

Source: <https://www.britannica.com/science/drupe>



Olive drupe from sciencedirect.com



Peach drupe from wikimedia.org

President's Message *by Warren Arnold*

We had a good turnout at our annual trail clearing at the Burton Mesa Chaparral Botanic Garden (aka BMCG) at the local Allan Hancock College campus this month. The hard working group produced a large pile of trimmings as testament to their dedication on a hot and windless morning. Their efforts are much appreciated. Several members volunteering had never been to the Garden before, so it was a good introduction to the garden and its potential.

To some members, it may seem like “well, that’s over and done with for the year,” but this annual trail clearing is really just the tip of the iceberg, if we expect to be good managers of this educational display of native vegetation.

We were very fortunate to have the college pay for and install the new kiosk, but we have not used it as I think it should be

used. Those pictures and lists on display have been there for many years. We have had many members of the Botanic Committee in the past, but none has ever shown a dedicated interest in keeping the Garden well maintained. This is not a “once a year” project; it should be an on-going one that receives at least monthly updates. In fact, dedication to the BMC Garden could be the entire goal of LVBHS, without any of the other projects we have taken on over the years. But, alas, that is why we are ... Botanic and Horticultural, since not all members are interested in chaparral botanic gardens.

BMCG is fairly remote and visited infrequently, so our Botanic Garden should not be compared to the Mission Gardens, Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens, or Buellton’s River View Park.

I have been very pleased and surprised that there has been no sign of vandalism to the kiosk or trail signs; however neglected they have been over the past years. One of my goals while I am serving as president is to reorganize the various committees, and I hope that we can get several members on the Botanic committee that will be dedicated to the jobs that need to be done at the Chaparral Botanic Garden.



February 12, 2022 Workday

Mimi above, Warren, Cathy, Carol and Richard below



LVBHS *founded June 5, 1977*

BOARD MEMBERS:

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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

Many thanks to all who attended the work day—

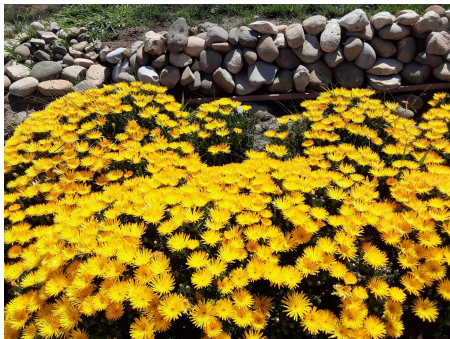
Warren Arnold, Jana Hunking, Nancy Straight, Carol Redhead, Cathy Runser, Richard Stroud, Julie Levy and Mimi Erland.

Elena Jones and her husband also stopped by to see the garden for the first time!

Thank you Julie for the photos!

Lompoc Valley Botanic and Horticultural Society

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



Ice plant bright as the sun

Photo by Julie Levy

...Cape Ivy cont.

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Araliaceae Family with the “true” ivy. This plant is one in the great family Asteraceae, the Sunflower Family.

Side note:

While researching this article, I read that Cape Ivy is slightly toxic, a mild dermatitis. This was interesting, because the specimen I brought to photograph and illustrate had to be unwound from a branch of Poison Oak! In Jepson’s Manual, the expert on this plant and its genera was Theodore Barkley. His brother Paul was my roommate at Oregon State. Paul was very proud of his older brother.



Free Sweet Pea Seeds

The seeds in these packets were harvested in Alyce Martin’s garden in 2021. Alyce had wanted to share her lovely sweet peas with family and friends, so her daughter and granddaughters harvested and packed them to give out. If you would like a packet or two, contact Mimi Erland at 805-315-7105 or mimierland1@gmail.com. I will also bring them to the March meeting.