



La Purisima Mission's Wildflowers by Vern Human



Bush Lupine
Lupinus longifolius
Along upper loop road
photo Mimi Erland

Excerpted from *A Naturalist at Play*, by Vern Human. This seemed particularly appropriate to include since a number of wildflowers are currently in bloom at the Mission.

Not until April did I get around to the 1994 version of my annual pilgrimage to view La Purisima Mission's wildflowers...I reversed my usual procedure, starting at the bottom of the hill between the old pond and the settling tank and working up. At once a golden carpet was unrolled for me,

the handwork of zillions of Dwarf Golden Yarrows. Then came Chia, Golden Girls, and Globe Gilia, which so completely dominated the general mix that some time passed before I noticed the astonishing paucity of White Tidy Tips and California Dandelions, especially the latter, which usually are one of the real dominants in this area. On the other hand, the Globe Gilias and Golden Girls were much more abundant than usual. Other differences awaited me at the

top of the hill-sweeping ranks of richly-colored Chinese Houses, but Owl's Clover and Parry's Larkspur conspicuous only by their scarcity. Here, as at so many other places, annual exotic grasses were enjoying a vintage year. I cannot remember ever having seen them so dense and lush, and even growing commonly in places where not one of them was to be found in years gone by...

A Naturalist At Play is available to purchase from LVBHS. Ask Charlie Blair.



Worm Bin
Photo Angie Ouellette

Meeting March 19th, 2:00

Composting and Vermiculture

Angie Ouellette from Explore Ecology in Santa Barbara will be talking about different ways to compost food scraps at home and explore the benefits of reducing food waste for us and the planet.

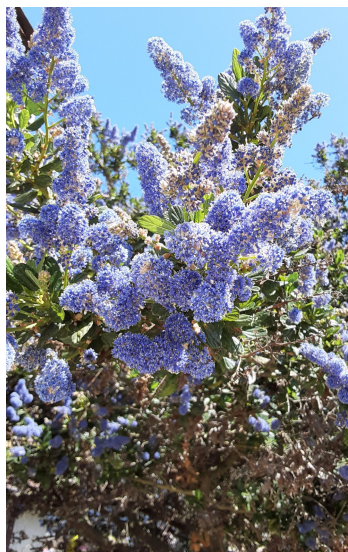
She will demonstrate how

to make a small worm bin that can be used at home, explain how to harvest the castings and show how they can be used to improve the health of indoor and outdoor plants.

Angie will also have worms available if anyone is interested in starting their own worm bin.

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

Membership Meeting Minutes *From January 22, 2023 by Elena Jones*



California Lilac
Ceanothus sp.
Photo Julie Levy

LVBHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING Minutes
Jan. 22, 2023
Stone Pine Hall, Lompoc

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by President Warren Arnold. He passed around a sign-in sheet for members and guests. There were 20 members present and a couple of guests.

Acting Secretary Elena Jones, with the help of Warren Arnold, entertained a motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the November 2022 membership meeting. Mimi Erland seconded. After the President's correction to the minutes - which had to do with the terminology associated with the procedure for a motion - the minutes, as corrected, were approved by majority. None opposed. The amended version will be available online.

Treasurer's Report: Julie Levy went over the income and expenses incurred since last membership meeting and reported that, to date, our net change was -\$507.30, our petty cash was \$50.00 and that our bank account had a balance of \$16,333.26. Julie Levy invited the members to make donations, then presented the new budget, which had been accepted by the board on Jan. 14, 2023 - see attachment. Several items were discussed.

Committee Reports

Botany: Mimi Erland informed the members that there would be more opportunities for participation in the form of garden care days at the Burton Mesa Chaparral Garden and at the Drought-Tolerant Garden, the first of which would be on Feb. 4, followed by one on Mar. 4. Education Chair Christine Zuhlsdorf invited everyone to participate in any capacity.

As for the signs that will be placed at the gardens, Julie Levy reported that the project was still in progress.

Education: Christine Zuhlsdorf reported that new picnic tables will be put in place by the local College and that she was still waiting to hear back about who the facility manager will be.

Old Business

With regards to the possibility of getting our own t-shirts to wear during our society's outdoor projects, Joe Heuring reported that the board would work on finalizing a logo to use as our image.

New Business

Member-at-Large Carl Jones entertained a motion to have at least one membership meeting a year outdoors at the BMCG. Charlie Blair seconded the motion. Warren Arnold solicited comments and Julie Levy expressed her concern over inclement weather.

Mimi Erland suggested that we hold the outdoor meeting in September, when the chance of rain is very unlikely. The motion was approved by majority.

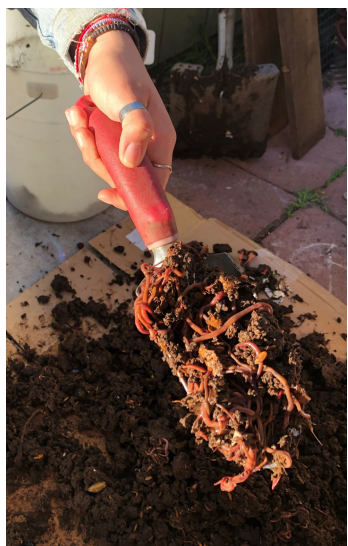
Patcine Beaman asked that a new version of our membership application form be created, to include more lines for interest items, such as container gardening.

Elections: Warren Arnold asked for nominations from the floor, while Nominating Committee member Marcia Hart handed out paper ballots. After the votes were tallied, Marcia Hart introduced the new board of officers:

- President - Mimi Erland
- Vice-President - Patcine Beaman

- Treasurer - Carl Jones
 - Secretary - Kristin Worthley
- Warren Arnold invited Mimi Erland to take over and the meeting ended at 2:55 p.m. it was followed by a presentation on the vegetation of Santa Cruz Island.

Respectfully submitted by
Elena Jones, Acting Secretary



Worms in compost
Photo Angie Ouellette

Cistus by Warren Arnold

The perennial shrubs known as *Cistus* come from the Mediterranean area. A common name for them is Rockrose. They have large showy blossoms and are drought tolerant. We have several varieties doing well in our Drought Tolerant Garden on Central Avenue. They need little to no care once established in well drained soils. Allan Hancock College in Lompoc has planted an abundance of these plants on their campus.

Also on that campus is the Burton Mesa Chaparral Botanic Garden. The original intent of the garden was to grow plants representative

of the many plant communities found throughout our state, including our own Maritime Chaparral. Some of the introduced plants survived, but many could not tolerate the porous soils and summer drought.

However, these conditions are very well suited to *Cistus* which was either planted in the Chaparral Botanic Garden as a “filler” or has sprouted from seed dispersed from the nearby campus. In any respect, *Cistus* plants do not belong to our Chaparral Botanic Garden and need to be removed. This is going to take an ongoing effort by LVBHS to keep the area

exclusive to Maritime Chaparral.

Recently many of these invasive plants were found and uprooted during our annual renovation efforts, but many still remain, some with pods ready to shed seeds.

If you plan to visit the BMCG anytime soon, bring along a shovel and uproot all the *Cistus* you find. If you feel you can't recognize it from some of our native plants, look at some pictures online or at the Drought Tolerant Garden and familiarize yourself with the characteristic foliage of *Cistus*.



Cistus spp.

Above photo Warren Arnold
photo below, Mimi Erland



President's Message by Mimi Erland

Thank you all for your support in making me your president. I will try my best to make this a fun and productive year for LVBHS. We also have a new Vice President - Patcine Beaman, Secretary - Kristin Worthley and Treasurer - Carl Jones.

Members have recently shown enthusiasm to get projects rolling. Christine Zuhlsdorf, new Education Chair, worked with Allan Hancock College to have two new picnic tables delivered to the Chaparral Garden and organized members to apply sealant to help the wood last longer.

At the garden care days at the Chaparral Garden in February and Drought Tolerant Garden in March, members cleared overhanging branches and weeds from the trails. A new benefit shared by all attending were the delicious snacks provided by Elena and Carl Jones.

Allan Hancock College donated more than 50 large posts for displaying plant labels. The garden committees are working on ordering labels for both gardens with the \$250 approved last year and can use these posts for the labels.

Joe Heuring, History Chair, is organizing and scanning all kinds of records of Society history. If you have old photos to share of Society events like plant sales or field trips, please contact Joe. Committee chair contact info is on the last page of this newsletter.

If you are comfortable with spreadsheets like Excel, we need your help. Our membership list needs to be maintained to track contact information and dues records. Please let me know if you are interested in helping us keep up to date.

Upcoming Events

Membership Meetings

- March 19
- May 21

Garden Care Days

- Earth Day, April 22 at the Drought Tolerant Garden
- May 6 at the Chaparral Garden

Lompoc Valley Botanic and Horticultural Society

LVBHS

C/O Carl Jones—Treasurer
416 North C Street
Lompoc, CA 93436

BOARD MEMBERS:

President

Mimi Erland 315-7105

Vice President

Patcine Beaman 588-7498

Secretary

Kristin Worthley 909-855-9786

Treasurer

Carl Jones rayjones267@yahoo.com

COMMITTEES:

Chaparral Garden

Elena Jones 450-3668

Charlie Blair 717-0067

Drought Tolerant Garden

Mimi Erland 315-7105

Education

Christine Zuhlsdorf
czuhlsdorf@gmail.com

History

Joe Heuring joseph.heuring@gmail.com

Horticulture

Need volunteer

Membership

Need volunteer

COMMUNICATIONS:

Newsletter Editor

Mimi Erland mimierland1@gmail.com

Newsletter Mailing

Marcia Hart mhart434@earthlink.com

Books and DVDs

Charlie Blair blaircharles491@yahoo.com

Publicity/Social Media

Elena Jones edavey@hotmail.com

Website

Julie Levy lvbothortsoc@gmail.com

At Large Representatives:

Elena Jones 450-3668

Need two more members

Gardener's Poem submitted by Warren Arnold

Please forgive my dirty nails today.

I've been a gardening on my plot which is composed of loamy clay.

The weeds, they are a tricky lot, which I'll keep pulling long as I am able.

Then water and trim which I do best and have some vegetables for my table.

And then I'll give away the rest.



Warrior's Plume, *Pedicularis densiflora* at La Purisima Mission, photo Mimi Erland