

# OVER THE GARDEN WALL

Member of the San Fernando Valley District, California Garden Clubs, Inc.,

Pacific Region, and National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Newsletter Number 200 April 2024 Editor: Ingrid Nonnast

## Agenda April 4, 2024 Meeting

9:30 a.m. Doors Open  
10:00 a.m. Business Meeting  
11:00 a.m. **Speaker:** Katherine Pakradouni  
**Subject:** the first Miyawaki-inspired micro-forest within the Griffith Park Bette Davis Park.



## April 2024

### President's Message

Happy Spring everyone! What is abuzz in your garden? Hopefully your garden is abuzz, full of all kinds of pollinators flitting about gathering nectar and pollinating. Spring is a wonderful time in the garden, full of possibility. A garden awakening from a long winter's nap with glorious blooms.

My garden is full of native bulbs and a few wildflowers. Wildflowers often make up a native landscape with an assortment of host plants for our pollinators. Host plants lure the female pollinators into the garden providing a place for them to lay their eggs and nurture their offspring. A wonderful example of a host plant we all know and love is the *Asclepias fascicularis* or Narrow Leaf Milkweed.

We might also have a few nectar plants. Nectar producing plants have flowers upon which the butterflies can stand to feed. They prefer individual flowered plants such as yarrow, buckwheat or mint. Butterflies are often attracted to flowers by color with red and orange the most common. Nectar plants for moths may have long nectar tubular flowers that flower at night.

Having a variety of flowering plants with both host and nectar plants ensures a diverse array of choices for pollinators to feed on, lay their eggs and raise their offspring. While many of us enjoy being in our garden taking in the activity and beauty, some, like myself, occasionally like clipping a few blooms to arrange for display on my dining room table.

Unfortunately our April meeting speaker, Debbie James, has moved out of the area and will not be joining us. Instead we have the good fortune to have Katherine Pakradouni step in at the last minute. Katherine is an LA-based native plant horticulturist, urban habitat restoration project designer, educator and nursery starter. She will speak with us about her work as the creator of the first Miyawaki-inspired micro-forest within the Griffith Park Bette Davis Park.

*Robin*

"The simple flowers of our spring are what I want to see again." -John Keats

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## HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAY!

April 3 Noella Ballenger  
April 7 Vonda Neundorf  
April 12 Sandy Keaton



## WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

**Mary Ann Deal**  
**1813 N California Street**  
**Burbank, CA 91505**  
**818 679-9162**



### March 7 Meeting with Roxie Esterle

What is the difference between cactuses and succulents? That question was of interest to many club members and guests. Roxie Esterle did an amazing presentation on lots of different cactuses and succulents. Very enjoyable!



### May 2, 2024 Field Trip

**Kathy Itomura** has planned a fabulous and interesting field trip for our club. The destinations are:

**THE JAPANESE GARDEN** at Tillman Water Reclamation Center and **GREEN THUMB NURSERY** in Santa Clarita.

Our bus departs at 9:00 a.m. from Little White Chapel. Bring your own lunch; water and dessert provided by the Club. Cost: \$20 per person. Bring check or cash to April meeting. Or **before April 30** mail your check payable to Burbank-Valley Garden Club to treasurer Ingrid Nonnast, 907 N. Clybourn Ave, Burbank, 91505. You may also pay via VENMO – be sure to include the hyphen in Burbank-Valley Garden Club.

### The Japanese Garden at The Tillman Water Reclamation Plant:

The recovered water is safe and suitable for agriculture and for release into the Los Angeles River. The handsome traditional Japanese stroll garden and tea-house were designed by noted international garden designer and landscape architect, Koichi Kawana. We should see the spectacular azaleas and irises in full flower.



### Green Thumb Nursery in Santa Clarita.

We will eat our lunch together in the Green Thumb Nursery garden pavilion. Bring your own picnic lunch. Water and dessert will be provided by our Club. There are tables and chairs for us - plus, one of their people, John Windsor, will speak on integrated pest management and caring for our gardens with minimal chemical use. You may shop this wonderful nursery before we return home. The bus will depart for Little White Chapel at approximately 2:30 p.m.

### Raffle at April 4th Meeting

According to **Kathy Itomura** we will have a really rich Raffle at our April meeting, so bring money. Two interesting vases - one large Chinese motif to be donated by Kathy, and one lovely medium size vase with dish, both hand painted and donated by Pradip.

## **Meet the Elusive Broad-Billed Hummingbird**

By Robin Gemmill

In case you missed it, a few weeks ago there was a tiny visitor causing quite the stir in Glendora. The elusive broad-billed hummingbird (BB as he is called) made an unexpected visit to Kristin Joseph's Glendora home last month. Birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts came from all over Southern California to catch a glimpse of BB's vibrant red beak and iridescent body. These petite, fast-flying hummingbirds are usually found in the canyons, woodlands of Mexico and southern Arizona. So this was a rare treat for visitors to Kristin Joseph's garden.

Visitors to Kristin's garden, with binoculars and cameras in hand hoping to get a glimpse of BB were also treated to a buzzing garden, filled with pollinators of all kinds, from butterflies to bees to grasshoppers. Kristin's garden was transformed a few years back when she swapped out her thirsty lawn for drought-tolerant native plants. The best part, while neighbors, passerbys and the community at large stood in awe of BB they found themselves rapt with the beauty of all the pollinators. They were asking questions and learning about the benefits of a native landscape. BB's beauty and surprise visit inspired many to visit, few expected to learn about the benefits of pollinators. Swapping out a thirsty lawn for a native landscape supports all pollinators, adds interest and beauty to your garden. Let's all invite BB and all pollinators back next spring to our gardens.




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## **Mrs. Chipmunk Speaks**

It just keeps on raining and now we have snow in the mountains. The spring plants that have been blooming seem to welcome the cold. Luckily most of my friends, here in the forest, have hidden enough food for the winter and also the spring, until it is time again to collect for storage. Most have safe places, that fire cannot destroy a season of hard work getting this food together. Oh, yes, we are anticipating another bad fire season. I hope not, but with the rain everything grows better, including the weed growth and grasses that the fires love to gulp up. The fires are big, hungry monsters that do not care what is in their way.

Luckily we have an alert system in place. The birds are the first to know and as they fly by, we get the message. Same as when a big rain storm is on it's way. They are gone and everything is so quiet. All my neighbors either scurry away to a safer place, or burrow in if they can. It is a most frightening time. The trees have nowhere to go, thus we lose some of our favorite and often the

## **Mrs. Chipmunk (continued)**

oldest trees. The forest is no longer a lovely refuge, a place of happiness, growth, and possibilities. We cannot always move on, but stay and try to make another home if we have to. 

Our homes, our lives, our trees.....gone!! " forest fires!! "

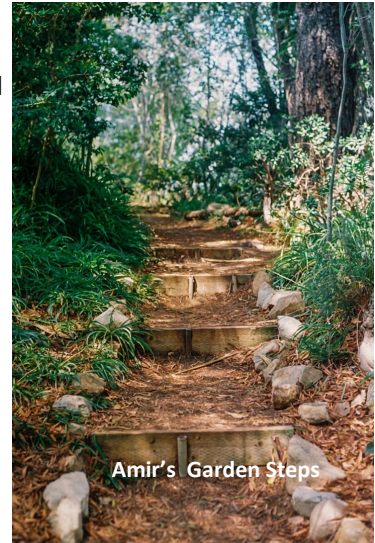
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## **Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Natural World!**

By Jan Kidwell

### **Sierra Club Garden Hikes**

There are two gardens in close proximity to Burbank that Sierra Club volunteers have maintained for years. They are Amir's Garden in Griffith Park, and the Corralitas Stairs ongoing planting project in Silver Lake. Both fulfill the promise of a good hike filled with beautiful plants along the way. And we have the ardent and dedicated conservationists to thank for all their work on both. I have had the pleasure of being led to both by trained hiking leaders of the Verdugo Hills Group of the Sierra Club. Both are very special areas, and quite accessible to anyone living here.



### **Amir's Garden**

In Griffith Park, in 1971, a gentleman named Amir Dialameh began working to turn a fire ravaged hilltop into a lush ornamental garden. This is a loop hike with steep wood steps cut into the hillside, as the website explains. <http://www.hike-losangeles.com/amirs-garden.html>.

You can take some time to stop to look around at the top, and have your snack or lunch at the picnic tables. For more history on Amir's Garden go to [www.AmirsGarden.org](http://www.AmirsGarden.org). For more Sierra Club evening hikes go to: [angeles.sierraclub.org/griffith\\_park/evening\\_hikes](http://angeles.sierraclub.org/griffith_park/evening_hikes). All Sierra Club hikes are free and open to non-members.

Beginners, if you choose a hike from the Club's website, please pay attention to the elevation gain and total distance you will walk on each hike. This is always given. Amir's Garden is a 6 mile hike, beginning at 800 feet with a 240 foot gain. Hiking time is 1 hour.

Rated: Strenuous, but short. Take some water, a hat, and wear hiking boots for all hikes.

### **Corralitas Stairs**

The Verdugo Hills Group decided to beautify the side of this stair hike. It has produced some charming results with drought tolerant echeverias and ice plants. In Silver Lake, just off Alesandro where Rosebud passes under the freeway to end at Corralitas. For more info go to: [sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/](http://sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/) or contact the Outings Dept at 415-977-5528 for a printed version.

Happy Hiking!

**B**urbank-Valley Garden Club  
907 North Clybourn Ave  
Burbank, CA 91505-2701

**2023-2024  
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Robin Gemmill

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Nancy Bryant

**Treasurer:**

Ingrid Nonnast

**Parliamentarian:**

Terry Davis



**Happenings**

**April 13 @ 10:00 am - 12:30 pm**

**San Fernando Valley District Garden Tour**

Tea & Roses

(fundraiser rose garden tour) at the home of Natalie Bloxham

4434 Arcola Avenue, Toluca Lake 91602

Purchase tickets from Natalie by April 3—\$40

[gypsyroses@icloud.com](mailto:gypsyroses@icloud.com) – Checks payable to SFV District

**April 13 and 14, 2024 Hours: 9am to 4pm**

**South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society (SCCSS) Annual Show & Sale**

Palos Verdes Art Center, 5504 Crestridge Road, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

Admission and parking are FREE

For more information visit [southcoastcss.org](http://southcoastcss.org) or call 310-346-6206

**April 27 @ 9:00 am - 1:30 pm—FREE**

**Southern California Garden Club's 57th Flower Show**

Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd, Encino.

Flower Show Chairman Carol Vallens, [CVallens57@gmail.com](mailto:CVallens57@gmail.com), 818-378-1313

or Publicity Chairman Greg Pokorski, 818-361-7873.