

Summer 2022

VOLUNTEER VOICE

MENDOCINO COAST BOTANICAL GARDENS



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THE NEWSLETTER RETURNS!

BY ALISON FELICIANO
MCBG VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Hello, volunteers! After two years of COVID chaos, we are getting back into the swing of things with the return of the volunteer newsletter. This newsletter will be sent out at the start of each season in June, September, December and March. Not only will it include upcoming volunteer opportunities, but we'll be sharing articles, poems, art, recipes, and photos that YOU submit. It will be a great way for all of us to get to know each other and stay connected over our shared love of this beautiful place.

And speaking of getting to know each other, perhaps I should introduce myself to those of you I haven't met.

Hello, everyone! I'm Alison! I started my role as Administrative and Volunteer Coordinator for MCBG in April of this year. My husband and I are newcomers to the area, after buying a small patch of land in the summer of 2020. We were instantly captivated by the majestic redwoods, countless huckleberries, talkative ravens, and the distant sound of the sea. So much in love with it all, we made the trip from Davis every single weekend! After nearly two years and more miles than we could count, we decided to make the coast our home. Best. Decision. Ever.

In the coming months, I hope to meet each and every one of you. Volunteer work is such an extraordinary act of kindness, and I am humbled to be surrounded by so many fine folks who work hard to make the Gardens the sanctuary that it is. Whether it's pulling weeds in the veggie garden, making repairs to the deer fencing, covering lunch breaks in the store, or leading our guests on informational tours, YOU are making a tremendous difference in this world. **WE APPRECIATE YOU!**



Above: Early misty morning at the Gardens

Cover photo: Late spring rhododendron along the North Trail

YOUR PHOTOS WANTED!!! Please email them to volunteer@gardenbythesea.org

WE HAVE A LITTLE GARDEN

BY BEATRIX POTTER

We have a little garden,
A garden of our own,
And every day we water there
The seeds that we have sown.

We love our little garden,
And tend it with such care,
You will not find a faded leaf
Or blighted blossom there.



MEMBERSHIP PERK ALERT: Did you know many nurseries in the Bay Area offer botanical garden members discounts? One of our staff members received 10% off at Annie's Annuals in Richmond after showing their membership card. Next time you visit a nursery, it can't hurt to ask! And remember, you always get a discount at the MCBG Nursery!

WHAT'S NEW IN EDUCATION?

BY NATASHA LEKACH,
MCBG EDUCATION COORDINATOR

There is a lot of education activity this summer: The docents continue to offer tours to the public on Thursdays at 3pm and to visiting school or travel groups. We are offering summer workshops, including [Cut Flower Gardening](#) (July 23) and the various AIG workshops. The Sprouts program initiated a new partnership with Fort Bragg library. All summer reading participants will receive complimentary Sprouts tickets to the Gardens – spread the word!

Volunteers are involved in all aspects of the education programs at the Gardens. I am so lucky to work with a group of education volunteers who are passionate about the Gardens, horticulture and sharing their passion with others.

For the volunteers who I haven't met, I am Natasha, the new Education Coordinator. Before moving to Fort Bragg, I was the Education Program Manager at the Martin Griffin Preserve of Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR.) There, I oversaw all aspects of the nature education programs, including the school program, public programs, the California Naturalist Program, and working with an incredible group of volunteers. Since moving here, I've spent many hours in my mostly native garden, biking around town and in the forest, and exploring the inter-tidal life at the ocean's edge. I am thrilled to be able to support the Gardens' Education Programs and you all!

There are so many ways to volunteer!

- Gardening
- Propagation
- Restoration
- Nursery
- Garden Store
- Docent
- Rhody's Café
- Construction
- Administration
- Special Events

Invite a friend!

PROGRAM RECAP POLLINATOR DAY HIGHLIGHTS!

The Gardens were abuzz with visitors on April 24 - budding naturalists experienced bumble bee research in action and scouted for native plants, gardeners learned strategies for enhancing their gardens with insects, and families practiced scanning for pollinators. We estimate that around 150 people participated in the day. What a success! We are proud to say that all the workshop survey respondents rated the content of the day as 5 out of 5. Thank you to all the volunteers who assisted with parking, tabling, program development and delivery, and more!



Above: Docent Louisa helps a young bee enthusiast understand pollination. Below: Mario shares his native plant knowledge with plant walk participants.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT! SHARON GIERAS



Like many folks, Sharon first visited the Mendocino Coast while on vacation. She was living in Placer County, with her husband, Henry. He worked for the ski resorts; she ran her own bookkeeping business. They had been coming to the Fort Bragg area for decades, but on a visit nearly ten years ago she asked Henry, "Do you want to live here?" It was an immediate and emphatic "YES".

In every place she's ever lived, gardens and libraries were always top destinations. So, once they were settled, volunteering at MCBG just made sense.

"It's such a great place to be," Sharon tells me from the Vegetable Garden, as she wrestles out a weed and drops it in a bucket.

"There are so many happy people here." Sharon comes in at least twice a week, both for weeding and as a docent for group tours.

When asked if she has a favorite place within these 47 acres, she was quick to say, "No. No favorites. I love it all."

"My whole life I've been running around to different places, different jobs, different things. And now, living here, I just feel content. And I just like being here at the Gardens. I mean, look at it! I call it Heaven's Waiting Room."

Upcoming volunteer opportunities:

Would you like to help get the postcards out for AIG? If so, please call or email Alison! We will be tackling this project during the first week of July.

And then, the big event itself...ART IN THE GARDENS is August 6th and 7th. We will need LOTS of help to ensure a successful event. Can we count on YOU?

Questions or comments? Please email

volunteer@gardenbythesea.org

SEEKING: HOUSING FOR POTENTIAL STAFF AND INTERNS!

Do you have or know about a small studio unit, a little cabin, or even trailer space? Help the gardens hire great staff and provide opportunities for future interns by letting us know about your available space! Fill out this [FORM](#) to let us know or to get more information.

2022 Birdhouse Auction!

The Friends of the Gardens (FOG) annual Birdhouse Auction will run May 27 through August 11. Now in it's 16th year, this annual silent auction is comprised of uniquely beautiful, quirky, and just plain fun birdhouses to decorate your garden or home. The auction will take place entirely online, where you can still enjoy a bidding war or purchase your favorite for the "win-it-now" price. Birdhouses will be on display at the Gardens (June - August), come on by to see the fine details on each of the birdy-abodes!

