

PACIFICA NOTES

BY PEG PRAG

Insects at Pacifica

Pacifica provides a natural corridor between the Siskiyou (via Powell Creek) and the Applegate River for insects. We have planted a large pollinator garden that provides nectar and pollen, and Pacifica's Nature Center will soon have a large area of interactive activity stations on insects.

Though not singing (other than a sweet buzz), bees are a very important insect family for human food. There are around 3,000 species of wild native bees in the West, plus honeybees, which, though not native, are still very important. Like other insects, they are declining, but there are things home gardeners can do to help protect them.

Things to do

Don't use pesticides. Watch your carbon footprint. Learn about insects.

Insects, including bees and other pollinators, need good food sources spring through fall. Plant appropriate flowers, shrubs, trees, and grasses that bloom in a variety of seasons. Don't make your garden or yard too tidy. Leave open ground, rocks, and branches.

Make "insect hotels" to house insects that don't live in the ground or a hive. Turn outside lights off at night. It's been shown recently that more than attracting insects at night, these lights paralyze them—they don't know which way is up or where to fly.

Take part in a Citizen Science project. Everyone can help with this important work. A 13-year-old boy from New York is currently the world expert on fireflies.

Insects are in trouble

If we were humble enough, we might admit that insects could rule the world. Earth could survive without humans but not without ants and certainly not without insects. As a staple food for birds and



other animals, they are essential for the functioning of ecosystems.

There are about five million kinds of known insects (plus many that aren't yet known) but only around five thousand kinds of mammals. Ninety percent of the animals on our earth are insects!

Despite that, many insects are in trouble. Globally we've been losing ten percent of insects per decade. The western US is a particularly bad spot. If you're of a certain age you might have noticed clean car windshields that used to be insect-covered.

One positive point is that freshwater insects are increasing rather than declining, likely because America has been cleaning up its water pollution. We can do this for other insects too!

There are grassroots things we can do to help, but complete solutions are going to require sweeping change—much of it top-down and requiring full engagement by scientists, lawmakers, CEOs, bankers, agribusiness men and women, and community organizers.

For more information, visit thebeeconservancy.org, scistarter.org/caterpillars-count, bumblebeewatch.org, scistarter.org/pollinatorgardens/monarch-larva-monitoring-project, greatsunflower.org, and scistarter.org/pollinatorgardens/journey-north.

Peg Prag • peg@pacificagarden.org

Update on Pacifica's Sequoia Sanctuary

BY RICHARD REAMES

On February 18, 2023, over 60 individuals joined forces to plant 113 sequoia trees in a spiraling circle spanning 100 feet in diameter. Today, these trees are thriving. They have doubled in size and are visible from space through Google satellite imagery.

To mark the first-year anniversary, we buried a time capsule at the circle's center,

housing letters, notes, pamphlets, and business cards. Scheduled for unearthing every 50 years, on February 18, 2074, it will be inspected and reburied for another half century. Photos of the planting and the capsule burial are available at arborsmith.com/sequoia-sanctuary.

The vision for this circle of trees is for it to evolve into an event space suitable



Sequoia Sanctuary

for various community gatherings, ultimately forming solid walls of living wood. Experience it firsthand by visiting Pacifica. To locate it, walk approximately 100 yards down the ant trail; the gate is on your right.

Pacifica is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, boasting 428 acres of public hiking trails, horse-riding trails, and an 18-hole disc golf

course. Pacifica features a large event hall constructed by rocker Steve Miller and is home to the historic Pond House, which is available for rent. Weddings take place year-round.

Donations are greatly appreciated. For more information, visit pacificagarden.org.

Richard Reames
richard@arborsmith.com

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Pacifica Summer Camps Mark your calendars!

June 3-July 17: Ceramic Open Studio Starts! Ages 14 and up.
June 23: Indigo Dye Shibori-Inspired Workshop. Ages 7-14.
June 25-28: Earthwise Forest School Summer Session. Ages 4-7.
June 25-28: Summer HEART Camp. Ages 8-14.
July 2, 10:30 am-12:30 pm: Come paint a hanging wall vase. All ages.
July 16, 10:30 am-12:30 pm: Come paint a mug. All ages.
August 6, 10:30 am-12:30 pm: Come paint a customized plate. All ages.
July 8-11: Creative Engineering ~ Discovery and Play. Ages 7-12.
July 22-26: Ceramics: Come Discover Your Inner Artist. Ages 13-17.
August 5-9: Ceramics: Come Discover Your Inner Artist. Ages 9-12.
August 6-9: "Oh, The Places You Will Go!"
 Destination: Dance Camp! Ages 5-17.
August 11 & 12: How to Speak Flower ~ Summer Camp. Ages 6-10.
August 12-15: Gallop into summer at our Horse Camp! Ages 7-14.
August 19-22: Sewing Camp ~ Summer Sewing. Ages 7-18.

**For more information and to register,
visit pacificagarden.org.**

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