

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2021



COMING EVENTS *Mark your calendars!*

Thursday, February 11, 2021

HMG ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

7:00 PM - ZOOM call meeting

Guest Speaker for our Annual Meeting – Anna Maria Desipris

NATIVE BEES & HOW TO PROTECT POLLINATORS

She wears many hats: beekeeper, herbalist, Permaculture educator/practitioner, farmer, college professor, and a new mother. When not teaching, Anna Maria can be found outside with her 16-month old son, tending to the homestead's crops, goats, chickens and bees, or inside crafting medicinal herbs for clients and community. Anna Maria has a mission to let people know that the bees have much to teach us about how to sustain a healthy Earth. She and her husband Lucian began working together in 2014 to support the health of our shared ecosystem and communities through education, regenerative practices, and “Permaculture” — a blueprint for the way we live our lives. The word was originally made up from two words ‘permanent’ and ‘agriculture’ and now refers to creating a culture that can endure and thrive for generations to come, using three simple tenets:

1) Care for the planet, 2) Care for people, and 3) Use your Fair Share and return the surplus

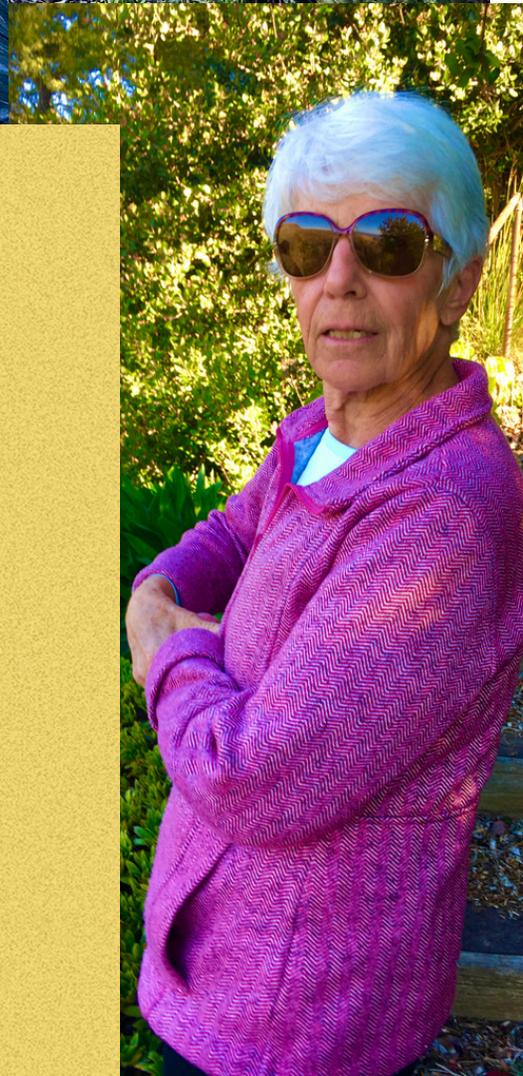
I.E., Recycle. Anna Maria earned her BA degree in International Affairs and Pre-Med. While working at the River School Farm in Reno, NV, her mentor shared the magic of bees with her and she’s been hooked ever since. She moved to California and landed a position at The Ecology Center in San Juan Capistrano. There she worked directly with chefs, farmers, purveyors & artisans to create farm to table events. She believes “Southern California has an incredible abundance of sustainable heritage options for everything you could need to survive, from fiber to grain, dairy, meat and, of course, produce.”

She now rescues many bee hives from extermination, establishes urban bee sanctuary hives, and has created an apprenticeship training program for beekeeping. She believes bees and plants bring the magic to her life. Their 40-acre farm, known as Desert Bloom – Permaculture Research & Education Farm (located inland from Temecula and Palm Desert), has been instrumental in teaching others about bees and giving scholarships to those who want to engage in sustainability.

More on Anna Maria’s 2021 classes on Permaculture, homesteading, beekeeping and herbalism may be found at www.aboutandforsustainability.com



This Fall the Friends have been preparing for Spring, when the Garden will reopen to the public for scheduled tours and events. Paths have been improved and plantings replenished. Pictured here, from upper left, the Friends' President Diane Lannon, Garden Manager Stephen Crawford, hardworking volunteer FuMei Huang, longtime member Marsha Bode, and Board member Sherry Stevens.





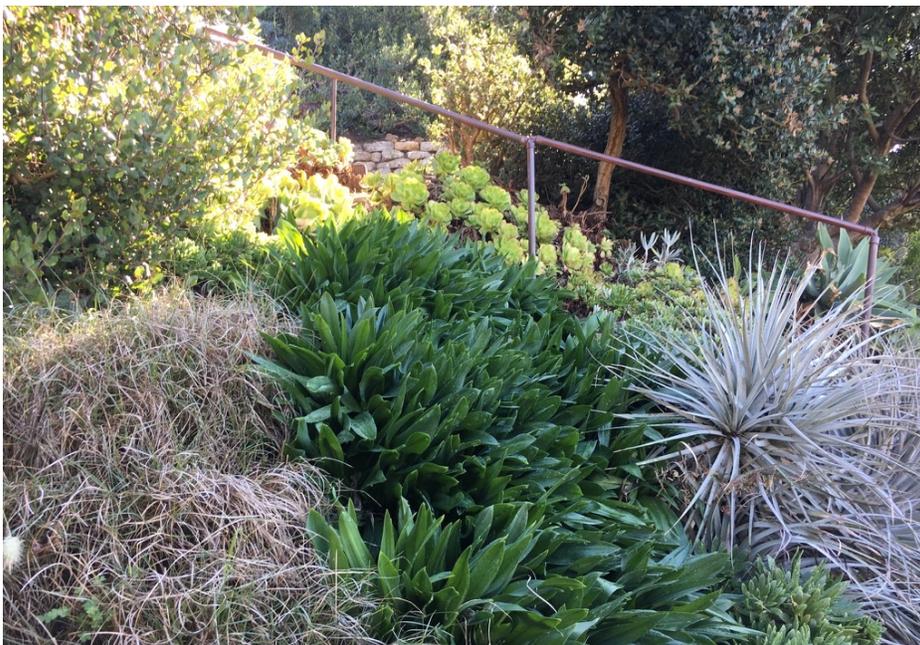
From the Friends of HMG Board President, Diane Lannon

VOLUNTEER! Get lost in the Garden! 2020 was a tough road for many being stuck at home. 2021 is time to start anew. We are ready to welcome new volunteers in the garden. Do you have an hour or two in your week when you'd like to get out to the hillside overlooking Boat Canyon and be shaded under towering trees or on a sunny slope in the peaceful gardens of Hortense Miller? Our Garden Volunteers work tirelessly each week in their corner of the garden keeping it healthy. It is very rewarding as you get your exercise and can enjoy the quiet of the canyon and catch the soaring hawks overhead and scurrying quail about the bushes.

We have 2 1/2 acres to care for with planting, pruning, watering & weeding; getting our hands dirty so we can sit and enjoy the fruits of our labor. There are murals to coat with protective finishes, benches to sand and stain, watering basins to fill for the animals and bees. If you're feeling creative, we also have many container gardens to maintain as well as planters to fill with the wondrous variety of plants from our gardens.

With many trails and little garden vignettes, we keep separated and yet together during this quarantine as we work the garden. Bring your water bottle and gloves and join us. As you make a difference to the garden, you'll make a difference in your day; you'll feel great! Contact Diane Lannon if you're interested in spending some time in the garden. Diane.Lannon@gmail.com or 949-374-2696 cell

We are planning HMG Workshops for later in 2021 with our grant from the City of Laguna Beach. They include many of Hortense's interests: plein air painting, garden art, meditation and building a bee house.



Thank you for your continued support of the Friends of the Hortense Miller Garden. We sincerely look forward to welcoming you back to the garden soon to participate in our events and see the renovated Gazebo and surrounding gardens.

PAIN AND FLOWERS

By Marsha Bode

One has only to dip into the diaries of Hortense Miller to realize how important plants were to her emotional well-being. Time and again she writes of various problems—the diminished energy and physical strength of “old age”, the alarming increase in the world’s human population, and the declining numbers of birds and insects.

Each lament is followed by an observation of a beautiful plant in bloom.

On Monday, September 17, 1990

Hortense wrote in her journal: “At 2 o’clock today Dody screamed 3 times---I went to see & I think the red bobcat got her...A big part, a daily part, of my life for the past 31 years has just gone out of it.” The next entry in the journal notes: “The *Malviscus* has threaded its way high into the juniper—very pretty. I did not know it would be so nice—Too bad we do this so seldom in our gardens. The tree daisies, the tree dahlias, asters (everywhere now) and the reinwardtias are now very good. Also *Barleria* in purple and the pink winter oxalis.”

These plants that cheered her so are examples of the type of plant Hortense favored. They are all sturdy shrubs which have a long bloom season covered with hundreds of small flowers. Because of climate change, drought, and other forces we have lost many of these shrubs over the years. The *Barleria* and the pink oxalis still bloom in the winter months, but others of Hortense’s favorites, such as *Sparmannia* and *Montanoa* are no longer a part of the garden.

I have spent some time lately on internet searches looking for these plants for sale. Unfortunately, they are no longer grown by any nursery that I can find. Perhaps they grow too large for most of today’s suburban gardens. I can remember the *Montanoa grandiflora* growing to fifteen feet high and ten feet around, totally covered with white daisy-like flowers in the spring and early summer. It was a sight to cheer anyone suffering the trials of daily life. Hopefully, our current pandemic will soon be conquered so that visitors can come once again to delight in the beauty and healing of the garden’s blooms.



Two of Hortense’s favorite flowering shrubs are pictured here, *Sparmannia* or African Hemp and *Montanoa grandiflora* or Daisy Tree.



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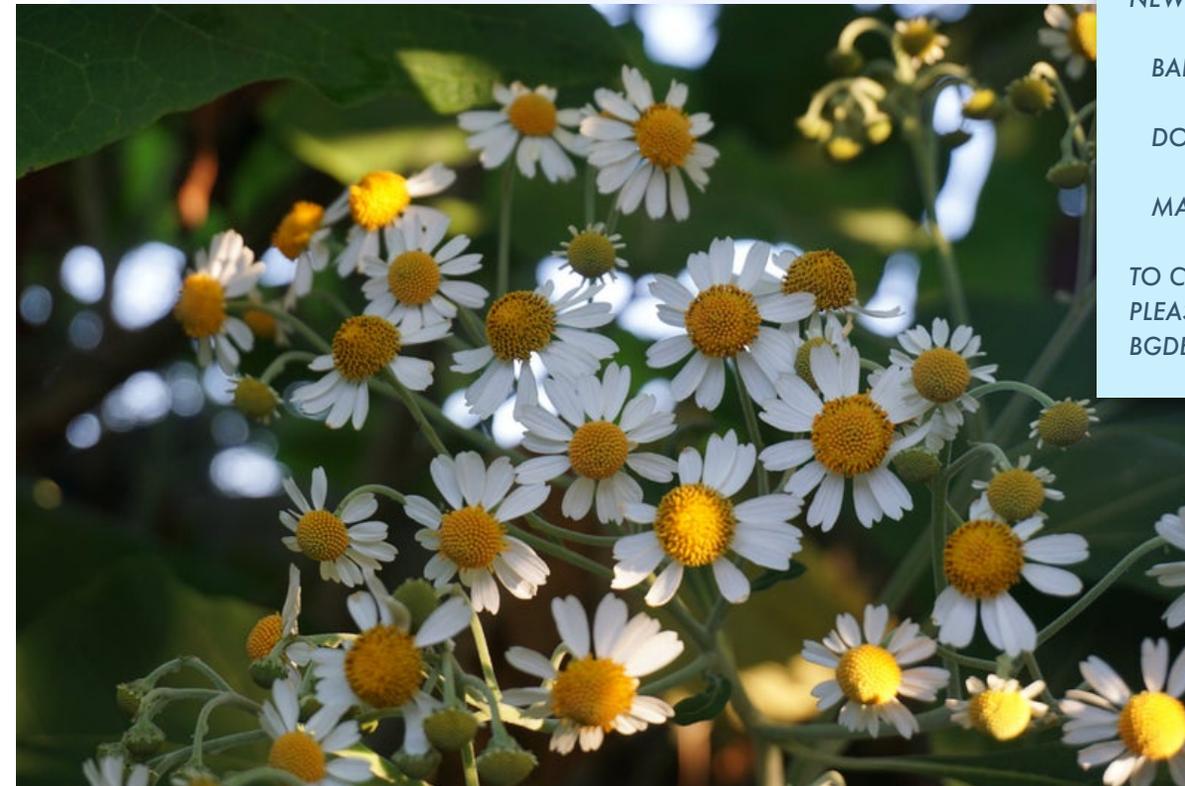
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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

The Friends of the Hortense Miller Garden is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to the continuing support, preservation and improvement of this unique garden and historic residence. Your contributions, either as annual membership renewal or donation, are helping in this endeavor. When making a donation and/or renewal, please print and complete the form on this page, include your email address and check, and mail to:

Friends of the Hortense Miller Garden, Box 742, Laguna Beach, CA 92652

or enroll on our website: www.hortensemillergarden.org

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Please select membership level:

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Including email address saves the Friends mailing expense.

Donation \$ _____



P.O. Box 742, Laguna Beach, CA 92652



Looking forward to the Spring! It won't be long now until we can return to scheduling events and tours in the Garden.

Come tour the Garden!

Docent Guided Garden Tours Reservations 949-464-6645

“Like” us on Facebook: Hortense Miller Garden Website: www.hortensemillergarden.org

Friends of the Hortense Miller Garden is a nonprofit public benefit 501 (c)(3)corporation:#95-3131731