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Kiosk Installed at Habitat Restoration Site



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A

new educational kiosk is now in place along the Alta Del Mar trail near the water fountain and picnic bench! Eagle Scout Samuel Janda and Troop 1203 completed the installation over two weekends in August.

A special thank-you to **Masumi Parekh**, our Youth Coordinator, and **Ranger Gina Washington** for helping guide and coordinate the project. We are also incredibly grateful to **all the volunteers who showed up, pitched in, supported the Scouts, and helped make this community project possible**. It truly took many helping hands to bring this wonderful addition to the Habitat Restoration Site to life!

Flowers for a Smile: Kathy Cash

Kathy Cash's creative flower arrangements continue to bring smiles to library patrons. Her thoughtful, playful themes—like pencils tucked among the blooms for back-to-school—make each display especially charming and have been wonderfully received.



Please [sign up for October](#) and share a little joy of your own. A simple bouquet of homegrown flowers or a cheerful potted plant is perfect. **Containers are always returned.**



Belden Community Garden:

Hallie Worsey

Hallie Worsey has gone to Belden two times this month and planted seedlings and met with residents and Master Gardeners to keep the garden growing. They have also added vego round fruit tree planter for Fig tree this August.



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Seed Library at Carmel Valley Library: Barbara Scholz

🐾🌱 Pippi, Vlada & a Whole Lot of Seeds! 🌱🐾

Hallie Worsey and her 🐾 shadow, Pippi, recently scored a wonderful collection of seeds from Armstrong Garden Centers in Del Mar. Barbara Scholz also received a generous donation of seeds from Vlada's Seeds—our Seed Library shelves are looking very happy!

Vlada's Seeds of Life promotes good health through nutrient-dense whole foods and strong family connections. The organization encourages a balanced diet with fewer highly processed foods and believes that growing, cooking, and sharing food together helps create healthier communities and lasting memories.

One of its inspiring initiatives is Little Sprouts, which donates seeds to public libraries, schools, and community organizations to encourage: Sustainability –

promoting eco-friendly practices through accessible community gardening. Healthy Living – empowering people to grow fresh, nutritious food. Community & Family – fostering stronger relationships and quality time through shared gardening experiences. Many may also know Vlada Vladic as the host of the local television program *Cooking with Vlada*, which airs in Del Mar. **Next Seed Packing Meeting** : Friday, Sept 11, 10:00 am - noon. Carmel Valley Library. Stop by to grab free seeds or help! Stop by to say hello or take some speciality seeds for your garden. It's a fun way to meet members while learning about each other's gardens. Questions? Email: bscholz@hotmail.com



Vlada's
Seeds Of Life

Armstrong
Garden Centers



Summer Fun Challenge — How Many Adventures Have You Had?

Del Mar Mesa Garden Club Summer Fun Challenge! Check off the adventures you’ve enjoyed—from reading a book and flying a kite to planting a flower, hugging a tree, helping someone, or simply making a wonderful summer memory. Bring your completed list to the Recreation Center office to be included on our Summer High Achiever List, posted the second week of September. Every adventure counts, and every memory matters! Visitors to the Ocean Air Recreation Center are being welcomed by an interactive planter that gives healthy creative suggestions for summer fun and relaxation.

SUMMER FUN CHALLENGE!

JULY • AUGUST • SEPTEMBER 2026

**Read a book, fly a kite,
Dance in the kitchen late at night.
Watch the sunset's golden glow,
Find a ladybug as you go.**

**Plant a flower, hug a tree,
Watch a butterfly flutter free.
Take a picnic, build, create,
Try something new—don't hesitate!**

**Call a friend, help someone too,
Share a smile in all you do.
Big adventures or simple pleasures,
Summer is made of little treasures.**

HOW TO JOIN:

- How many adventures did you have this summer?**
Check off all the activities you completed from the Summer Adventure Garden tags.
- Then bring your list to the Recreation Center office**
to be included on our Summer High Achiever List!
- Lists will be posted during the second week of September,**
so write neatly—we'll be displaying everyone's accomplishments!

Please include:

First & Last Name: _____

Age: _____

SO MANY WAYS TO HAVE FUN THIS SUMMER!

READ A BOOK

FLY A KITE

PLANT A FLOWER

WATCH A BUTTERFLY

ENJOY AN ICE CREAM

HUG A TREE

HELP SOMEONE

MAKE A MEMORY

Every adventure counts. Every memory matters.
We can't wait to celebrate your summer of fun!

kite



WELCOME NEW MEMBER JOSEPH CARLEY
Joe is a home gardener in Carmel Valley who loves to grow cut flowers and has raised bed/s. We are thrilled to have him as a new member in our garden club and hope to see him at the Sept 2nd meeting or another September club event.

AUGUST GARDEN TASKS: source [Garden Design](#)

This is often the hottest month of the year, so be sure to protect your skin, wear a hat, and drink plenty of water when you're outside. When it comes to the garden, August is all about staying on top of your harvest and keeping things tidy, fed, and watered. Here are a few garden reminders, inspiring ideas, and indoor activities for this month.



1. Harvest, Harvest, Harvest The vegetable garden harvest is often at its peak in August. It's especially important to pick runner beans, herbs, tomatoes, cucumbers, and squash so that they keep producing. Don't forget that vegetables and fruits taste best when you harvest them at their proper size (no one likes the taste of oversized squash that were left on the plant too long). To improve taste, it's also best to harvest early in the morning. Harvesting when it's cool out and then taking produce indoors helps extend their shelf life. August is also a great time to harvest many varieties of pears, plums, apple, pluots, and peaches. (This [harvest chart](#) can help with your planning if you want to plant fruit trees in Fall)



2. Feed Strawberries Your strawberries are likely done producing unless you have everbearing strawberries that produce fruit beginning in spring and then intermittently through summer and fall. Either way, it's important to give your berries proper fertilization this time of year. Use a fertilizer designed specifically for berries such as [Espoma Organic Berry-tone](#). Water well after fertilizing.



3. Give Melons & Pumpkins Support This month is a good time to lift melons and other developing gourds and pumpkins off the soil to prevent issues such as rot and discoloration as they grow. Some people like to use bowls, but you can buy [melon and squash cradles](#) that are specifically designed to help you grow blemish-free produce. These cradles often come in sets and are easy to store. Stop watering melons around one week before you're ready to pick them. This allows sugars to concentrate in the fruit and also helps prevent the melons from splitting open.



4. Prune & Clean Up Around Fruit Trees If you notice any dead or diseased branches on your fruit trees, cut them off now. But only remove problematic branches that can cause disease or other issues—you'll want to hold off on any major pruning until the fall for most fruit trees. Citrus trees, for example, should be pruned at the end of their fruiting season before next year's flowers begin to bud. Remove fallen fruit and old



leaves from below trees to help prevent pest infestations and the spread of disease to healthy trees.

5. Visit Southern California Gardens (in person or from home)

There are many extraordinary gardens, so we created a collection of [self-guided day trips](#) with beautiful photos to browse from home, along with insights and information to help you plan your next trip and make the most of your time in each location! [Los Angeles Day Trip](#): Garden expert and horticultural consultant Nicholas Staddon guides you through the LA Arboretum, which, “really is a gem,” he says. Next, the iconic Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Garden (pictured), and the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, which is a living museum of plants. [San Diego Day Trip](#): Sunny San Diego has a lot to offer—and outstanding gardens are definitely on the list! Start at the San Diego Botanic Garden; then on to the Botanical Building and Lily Pond at Balboa Park, home to over 2,100 plants; and finally to the San Diego Zoo where there are many succulents and cacti to admire. Local expert Debra Lee Baldwin is your guide.



6. Transplant Perennials

This is the month to transplant or divide bearded irises, daylilies, lilies, peonies, and oriental poppies (divide or plant poppies later this month and into the fall). Be sure your new plants have properly amended soil. Use an all-purpose fertilizer such as [Yum Yum Mix](#) along with a good compost to prepare your soil. If you want to add to your daylily collection visit Proven Winners or [Oakes Daylilies](#).



7. Grow Cool-Weather Crops or Plant a Cover Crop

By late-August you can begin direct sowing seeds of broccoli, Brussels sprouts, kale, mustard greens, and other fall crops. Cauliflower and cabbage grow better when you start them indoors and transplant them once seedlings have a chance to mature. You can plant crops through late summer and early fall in Southern California. Use [Clyde's Garden Planner](#) to figure out the exact timing for your area. If you're not planting a fall garden, then consider planting a cover crop such as [alfalfa](#), [fava beans](#), or [crimson clover](#). These plants add nitrogen to the soil as they grow so it's available to future crops once the cover crops are removed. They also serve to suppress weeds in your empty garden beds. When you're getting ready to plant your crops come spring, you'll cut down your cover crops, compost green stems and leaves, and till roots into the soil.

8. Blooming Now

With Southern California being mostly in Zones 8-11, there are many plants blooming through late summer. With sterile varieties now available, [butterfly bush](#) is a great way to invite



pollinators into your sunny garden. An easy-to-grow and beloved succulent is [sedum](#) (pictured), and August is a good time to plant as well. Hardy in zones 9-11, [angelonia](#) grows great on hillsides and in containers alike. When the temperatures rise, this snap-dragon lookalike says "bring it on!"



9. Wash, Fertilize & Protect Houseplants

It's common for scale, spider mites, and thrips to wreak their havoc on houseplants during summer, so this is a good time to give your indoor plants a refresh. Put all of them in the bathtub and give them a good rinse and soak. Spray them with room-temperature water to rinse dust and infestations off foliage.

If you don't have a bathtub, you can also take your plants outside, set them in a shaded area, and gently spray them with a garden hose. Treat severe infestations with insecticidal soap such as [Espoma Organics Earth-Tone Insecticidal Soap](#). Keep infected plants away from healthy plants to avoid the transfer of pest problems. It also helps plant growth to wipe off dust regularly, which allows plant foliage to respire and absorb all available sunlight. When wiping down plants, adding a diluted amount of neem oil can help protect against pests. Fertilize with [indoor plant food](#) or use [indoor plant food spikes](#).



10. Test Watering Systems

This can be the toughest time of year for plants in Southern California because of the heat, so verify that your plants are getting plenty of water. Native plants typically don't need added water unless there's been prolonged drought or extreme temperatures. To ensure your plants are getting proper water, test your [irrigation systems](#) and watch how water reaches the plants. In

some cases, you'll notice broken sprinklers, clogged drip-irrigation emitters, broken lines, or sprinkler heads spraying the sidewalk instead of the plants. Fix or adjust irrigation systems where appropriate.

TIPS FOR TOMATOES

[Great article on pruning tomatoes correctly for higher yield.](#) [Notes from Roy Wilburn's talk on Tomatoes](#)

Saving the
**Monarch
Butterfly**

talk by
Kenneth Abernathy

Wed., Sept 2
Carmel Valley Library
11:00 am - 12:30 pm



UPCOMING September EVENTS

Monthly Meeting: Wednesday Sept 2, 2026 [Sign up](#)

Location: Carmel Valley Library. Time 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Speaker: Kenneth Abernathy is a **California Naturalist** and founder of Caterpillar Chow

Habitat Farms, where he studies local pollinator habitats and grows native host plants, including milkweeds, for habitat projects and restoration. His work focuses on the **urban-wild interface, monarch conservation, and increasing biodiversity in our communities** through native plants, education, and hands-on habitat restoration.



Seed Meeting: Friday Sept 11, 2026

Location: Carmel Valley Library. Time 10:00 am - 12:00 pm



GARDEN TOUR

of a newly remodeled garden

 Date and time
TBA

 for members only



DEL MAR MESA GARDEN CLUB