



THE GARDEN NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR THE HORTENSE MILLER GARDEN COMMUNITY

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Photo: Mary Hurlbut



*Elizabeth McGhee,
current artist-in-residence*

The current art installation at the Garden features local artist Elizabeth McGhee who chose colored pencils as her medium to relate a quite personal experience she had during her visit.

“Being in the gardens and inside of the home of Hortense Miller really did feel like visiting my great grandmother,” she said.

“Charlotte Light (1901-1997) — or “Grandma at the beach” as we called her — lived in Capo Beach and was an artist at the Festival of Arts as well. She had the same

aesthetic as Hortense, and I recognize many pieces of the furniture and decor.”

Strolling through the garden looking for subjects to draw the memory of Charlotte reminded Elizabeth of another time.

“I miss my great Grandma’s house — it was sold when she passed and then torn down to make a multi-story “modern” home by the new owners. Seeing the Hortense Miller house is almost like time travel for me. And I am so grateful that Hortense’s home is being preserved!”

“The gardens and pathways are an absolute treasure, again almost like a walk back in time to how Laguna and so many other coastal communities used to be. Looking around and being inspired by the colors and textures of a more rural and natural garden inspired me to work on this series of colored pencil drawings. I tried to enjoy not just the plants themselves, but the place they are in — the shadows on walls, the architecture that surrounds them, the weathered wood of shelves, and the chalky aged terra cotta that contains them.”

Elizabeth says she will donate 20% of each drawing sold during the show back to the Hortense Miller Garden as she “sincerely believes in the work and upkeep of this historic place in Laguna.”

On display through September 30th. Stop by the Garden and enjoy!



Dear Friends of The Garden,

This newsletter highlights just how valuable the home, the grounds, and the gardens of Hortense Miller are for the cultivation and curation of new creative efforts in our Laguna Beach environs. Be it through the on-going seasonal cultivation and nurturing of native plant and animal species; or as a source of inspiration and exhibition for the highly evocative colored pencil representations of Elizabeth McGhee (installed in the Atrium through September 30th); or as an outlet for our local Plein Air painters to teach and create garden landscape art “in the open air” (see “Upcoming Events” on pg. 3).

The entire “Garden”— as the complex is affectionately called — seems to be constantly buzzing with the growing, building, creating and preserving of both artistic and craft pursuits, and with the support of local plants and animal species.

Our last newsletter reported on the drama of rains of this past February, and this newsletter follows up with two significant consequences of those rains. The first worth mention arose from the resourceful action of our resident “wood addict” Rick Huffman, who spearheaded the rescue and salvage of yard after lineal yard of live-edge wood slabs from two very large and beautiful trees on the property (see story on pg. 4) Thanks to Rick and Steven (our Garden Manager), this extensive wood slab resource can now be used by local artists and woodworkers, instead of getting hauled off as waste to clog up a landfill nearby.

Secondly, we would be remiss if we did not mention goats. That’s right — with all that rain there’s new growth everywhere and that means we see lots of brush growing in Boat Canyon adjacent to the Garden and up to the other Allview Terrace property lines. Thus, as responsible land stewards we collaborate with other residents and the Laguna Fire Authority and enlist a herd of able-bodied shrub chewing goats and gave them a good feed along our property lines. Of course, any smart goat knows the weeds are always tastier on the other side of the fence, so a certain amount of goat wrangling was needed to keep our dinner guest from noshing on residential lawns instead of flammable brush, and to steer them away from our bee hives to avoid territorial uprisings in the garden. Suffice it to say, everyone left happy and fed, bees settled down, and brush abatement was achieved, so with both the heavy rains and the goats it’s a win-win for the Garden.

Please stop in for a visit when you can — see the art we have exhibited, join in on a workshop, take in the native plants and our beehives. We’re a fun group and we still have the warm months of September and October to enjoy. See you in the Garden.

Kimberly A. Jameson
President of the Hortense Miller Garden



About 10 to 12 goats got loose and were running around the garden and out on Allview Terrace. Luckily there was no damage and nothing actually got eaten except for Coastal Scrub... mmmmmm delicious.



Goats helping out with fire control at the Garden

UPCOMING EVENTS

AT THE HORTENSE MILLER GARDENS



Painting by
Amy Jackson
(above)

Lori Kahn
(right)

McGhee past
workshop
(below)



SEPTEMBER 14 AND 23 — PLEIN AIR PAINTING

So Cal Papa artists come to the garden — 9:00am - Noon

SEPTEMBER 23 — ELIZABETH MCGHEE'S COLORED PENCIL WORKSHOP — 9:45am - Noon

Learn to draw with colored pencils and blend them like paint through a step-by-step process taught by LOCA arts Education artist Elizabeth McGhee. Using layering and blending techniques on toned matte board, each person will complete a finished rendering of a flower. All materials provided. Includes a short tour of the residence.

Request a reservation at www.hortensemillergarden.org

SEPTEMBER 3 — AMY JACKSON'S ACRYLIC PLEIN AIR PAINTING WORKSHOP — 8:45am - Noon

Paint in the Garden with artist Amy Jackson. Learn to capture light and shadow; create a convincing sense of space; and depict trees, flowers and buildings. The fundamentals of painting—composition, drawing, value, color and edges will be explored in his three hour workshop.

OCTOBER 7 — MINDFUL MEDITATION WORKSHOP WITH LORI KAHN — 9:45am - 1:00pm

The Hortense Miller Gardens are the perfect environment to practice Mindfulness Meditation. Lori serves as a guide to deepen our experience and appreciation of the environment, manage the chatter of inner dialogue that can cause distractions and stress, and connect with the natural sense of peace that exists both outside of our surroundings and within ourselves.

OCTOBER 12 AND 21 — PLEIN AIR PAINTING WITH SO CAL PAPA — 9:00am - Noon

Artists coming to the Garden .

NOVEMBER 18 — LAGUNA BEACH FARMER'S MARKET

Booth for HMG to promote membership and sell container gardens and plants.

TBA — DECEMBER HOLIDAY CELEBRATION AT THE GARDEN — 3pm - 5pm

Either potluck or catered light appetizers and small desserts.

High Quality Milled Wood—A Garden Commodity

If you've been up to the garden lately you might have noticed something missing in the view. It has opened up to more sky with the downing of the Torrey Pine during the winter storms this year. Replanting is getting underway while the considerable damages caused when she fell have mostly been repaired. In the spirit of Hortense Miller, the Friends have decided to re-purpose the tree, milling the wood and selling it at a nice price.

Over the past seven years, the Hortense Miller Board has contracted with local mills to cut two trees into lumber for sale from the Garden.

The first tree, a Peppermint Willow in the entry courtyard, was leaning toward the house when the Board and consultants determined it was unstable and needed to be taken out. Board Member Rick Huffman and Garden Manager, Stephen Crawford arranged with a local mill to have the tree milled.

The wood from this source is not all sold, and what remains is drying at the Garden in primarily 3'x14'x3" slabs with a live edge. They are beautiful slabs, suitable for table tops, bars and benches.

The second tree was the Torrey Pine that fell by the lower gate in February's storm. The tree has been milled and the slabs are drying primarily in place. Luckily Hurricane Hilary's damage was minimal.

Those interested in purchasing wood from the Garden, please contact: Stephen, 949 494-6386, sjscrawford@cox.net or Rick, 714 397-4707, rickhuff@ca.rr.com



At this year's Open House, Rick and his helper sold a few choice pieces from the Peppermint tree.



Bench made from the old Peppermint Tree



Table made from the Torrey Pine by Van Stephens



Slab of beautiful Torrey Pine anyone?



*Do you know where the owl is in the garden?
Find the owl and win a prize!
Email Dorothea at dyellott@icloud.com*



Late Summer in the Garden



August's Naked Ladies Popping up in the Garden

Contrary to what its name might suggest, the 'naked' lady lily is a plant of mysteries. Known for its bold and bright blooms that grow without any leaves, naked lady flowers are prized amongst gardeners who want to add a pop of color and uplift the aura of their green piece of land.

A unique phenomenon in the late summer, the Naked lady flower is the name that several plant species from the family Amaryllidaceae share: *Amarilis Belladonna*, *Amarilis Paradisciola*, and *Lycoris*, widely known as spider lilies.