

Harvest Moon Edition - October 2025

[Calendar link](#)

[Website link](#)

[Documents](#)

[Instagram](#)

A “Day” in the Life of our President - Meet Miranda!



Hello Beautiful Wild Ones!

I have been delighted to serve as founder and president of this chapter of Wild Ones, the first and only chapter chartered in California. I usually put together a newsletter that reflects what we have been up to during that season, and today is no different, but in this very special edition I am here to share what it takes to run a volunteer community organization on the day to day from my perspective. Welcome to the heart of Wild Ones San Diego :)

Collaborations: As President, my favorite responsibility is making connections with community gardens and horticulture organizations within the community. I grew up partly in University Heights, so the UH Garden Club was one of the first groups I reached out to when I formed Wild Ones San Diego three years ago. You can find us at their Fall Festival this Saturday! Another frequent associate is the Lipayan Nation of Santa Ysabel, and while tabling at one of their festivals, I met Jonathan who was representing U.S. Fish and Wildlife. He gave us our first major seed donation and invited us to join the San Diego Pollinator Alliance, which brings us together with other organizations who

are really making an impact in the environment. Last year, we joined the Adopt-a-Plot program in Balboa Park, so I now have the pleasure of attending their monthly Horticulture meetings, led by the fabulous Lucy Warren. We are a founding member of the Old Town Urban Greening Commission, and are planning to plant a monarch overwintering garden there this December using a plant grant from the Xerces Society. Our Board Members include the founders of Caterpillar Chow Habitat Farms and Busy Bee Gardening Coop. And that's just the start!

Gleans: Several times a year, we go out and hand collect seeds for distribution from private land with permission. Last month, I woke up at 4:00am to head into the foothills with Ken and collect narrowleaf milkweed pods at dawn. Sometimes you don't realize how big milkweed plants can get until you see them in the wild, or how beautiful they are until you see them at that hour. And there is enormous satisfaction in hunting and gathering these prized seeds in a real-life treasure hunt. I want to take this opportunity to thank Al (middle picture, with Toyon) for allowing us to collect Blue-eyed Grass seed at the Point Loma Native Plant Garden, right after it was named San Diego's official flower! Members are always welcome to come up to Julian to collect from the foothills with me and Felicia, featured here with a Chaparral Yucca ready to be gleaned... and also Abe!



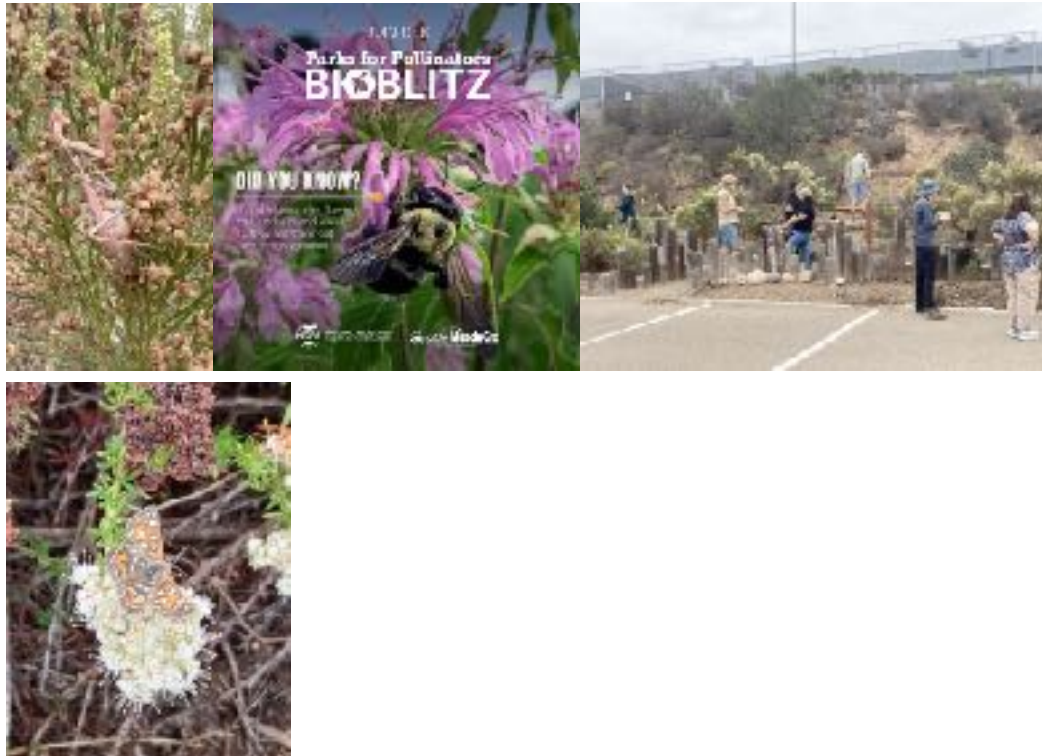
We are always accepting native seed donations for our restoration projects and seed give-away events. Here are some of the seed donors I've met along the way: Jonathon of the **San Diego Pollinator Alliance**, Veronica of the **Earth Discovery Institute**, who was also a winner in our recent Pollinator Photo Contest, and Ken of **Caterpillar Chow**, our nursery partner in Lakeside, and Caroline, one of our residential donors, who you

can follow at **Growing San Diego**. You can donate too, if you have native plants in your yard!

Just email me at wildonessandiego@gmail.com to arrange a time to glean!



Outreach: Thank you to everyone who attended our recent **Parks for Pollinators Bioblitz** at the California Native Plant Demonstration Garden in Morley Field. Bioblitzes are community science events that bring together members of the public to document plant and animal species throughout the world. Most use the free iNaturalist app to coordinate groups and share finds with other users. We spotted some great specimens, including the pregnant female California praying mantis pictured below. You can always sign up for iNat and help scientists get an accurate and precise look at how our ecosystems are doing. We have information on how to use the app whenever we host a table, so check out our calendar of events and to see when you can visit us, and pick up free native seeds and seedlings locally sourced and grown by our members. Or head out to the San Carlos Community garden and utilize one of our public Seed Libraries hand crafted by Abe.



Workshops: Wild Ones San Diego has been invited to give our presentation “Local Pollinators and the Plants that Support Them” by groups like **Master Gardeners of San Diego**, the **Chula Vista Sustainability Commission**, and **Treedom Cooperative**. V.P. Elena delivers a very informative powerpoint presentation, and we often use handheld magnifiers to explore native flowers that we grow in our gardens. Let us know if you are hosting an event and would like us to present!

Arts and Crafts: I am privileged to have attended every single crafting party at V.P. Hayley’s house. We’ve gone home with macrame plant holders, fruit ornaments, witches bells (pictures in the wedding spread below), seed coasters, and more! I am looking forward to our next craft party on December 14th. In the past, we have offered a class to make a stained glass California poppy, which we might repeat if there’s interest. This holiday season, we are looking forward to selling professional watercolor cards featuring different colored native wildflowers by Susan, and a new line of my father’s pottery mugs, hand painted by V.P. Elena. And every Wild Ones T-shirt we sell is made by yours truly using my friend’s vinyl cutter and my iron :)

Hikes: We often enjoy hiking in Santa Ysabel, so I try to have folks meet up at my favorite bakery/amazing gift shop while we’re up there - Dudley’s Famous Bakery and Cafe. We are also due for a return to Torrey Pines for a visit to our coastal species and docent friends. Did you know you can check out a parking pass to State Parks from your local library?



Grants: Our grant-funded pollinator garden at San Altos Elementary is thriving!



[Upcoming Wild Ones Events - all FREE! - \(Click here\)](#)

 [Save our Google Calendar](#)

October Event Highlights: 🎃 🦋

Webinar: "Next Steps for Nature" with Doug Tallamy Thursday, October 16th, 2025 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm (Pacific Time) Virtual: Register Now	Details: In this talk, Tallamy addresses common concerns on biodiversity, invasive species, native plants, and conservation strategies, providing practical guidance and motivation to restore nature in everyday spaces.
University Heights Harvest Festival Saturday, October 18, 2025 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm (Pacific Time) Alice Birney Joint-use Field 4345 Campus Ave, San Diego, CA, 92103 Map	Details: The University Heights Harvest Festival just gets better every year, with music and vendors and food trucks and free garden-related activities. Come have some free fun with us 😊
Caterpillar Chow Haunted Nursery Sunday, October 26, 2025 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm (Pacific Time) Caterpillar Chow Native Nursery 11470 Posthill Pl, Lakeside, CA, 92040 Map	Details: Celebrate spooky season with coyote melon gourd decorating, prickly pear candies, a matilija poppy planting demo (involves fire!) and more. You can also help us plant the next round of seeds at this Lakeside nursery and help keep San Diego Wild!
Mark your Calendar - next Crafting Party	December 14th at noon, location TBA



A Very Wild Wedding in Presidio Park

On a personal note, I took advantage of the fallow summer season in southern California to plan my own Wedding Extravaganza at a beautiful city park overlooking Old Town. And some of our very own Wild Ones San Diego Board members made special guest appearances! Meet Abe, and please take note of our matching embroidered flowers and pollinators - our wedding clothes are wild!



Chelsea assembled a native seed mix as a special take-home gift and distributed them in a basket from co-Secretary Lorian with a description of the species inside. And Ken put his minister's license to good use with the largest feather quill in town!



Elena created all the flower arrangements, bouquets, and boutonnieres with yarrow - one of my favorite native flowers. Felicia provided the sound system, sang a beautiful song, and generally held things together. Hayley reprised her very popular Witches Bells craft station for our guests to make their own rings of good fortune.



Acorn Cookie Recipe I also bake pollinator shaped bundt cakes for special occasions! And here is a way to celebrate the harvest season with a local classic.



How to Make Acorn Flour:

Classic Acorn Cookies

(Makes 2 dozen)

Pre-heat oven to 375 degrees

Ingredients:

2 2/3 Cup butter (10 2/3 TBS)

3/4 Cup sugar

1 egg

1/2 tsp. vanilla

1 1/2 tsp. baking powder

1 1/2 cup flour

1/2 cup acorn meal

1/4 tsp. salt

4 tsp. water (as needed)

In a large bowl mix:

- Cream the butter and sugar
- Add egg and vanilla and mix until it is light & fluffy
- Stir dry ingredients into creamed mixture and add water (as needed)
- Bake at 375 degrees for 12 minutes or until lightly browned

I recommend cold-leaching to remove the tannins: Shuck, Peel, Blend, Soak, Strain, then repeat the soaking and straining process until it loses the bitter taste. Below is a link to a website with more detailed instructions.

[Link to Acorn Processing Instructions](#)

