

# **Häagen-Dazs Honey Bee Haven Annual Report**

Prepared by Christine Casey  
University of California Department of Entomology and Nematology

September 2014



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2014 has been an exciting year of growth at the Haven. Considerable effort was put into our education and outreach efforts, and this is reflected in an increasing number of garden visitors. Substantial new plantings reinforce the original designers' concept while offering additional plant options for visitors to consider for their own bee gardens. Opportunities for virtual visitors were also created or enhanced via social media and the internet. Plans for 2015 include securing funding for permanent plant labels, improved interpretive signage and other visitor resources, and installation of bee hives in the garden.

## **SUPPORT**

### ***Financial***

In addition to ongoing support from Häagen-Dazs®, a generous donation was received this year from the California State Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. These funds will support installation of benches, arbors, and a shade structure. This money has also permitted us to increase the raised beds to a comfortable wheelchair height.

### ***Volunteers***

A core group of volunteers has been recruited. Work takes place weekly on Tuesday mornings and monthly on the second Saturday. Additional Saturday workdays for department employees and students are held during the fall, winter, and spring academic quarters. The department workdays are attended by ten to 15 volunteers and have been effective for accomplishing large tasks such as tree pruning.

## **PLANTINGS**

An assessment was made of the garden's plantings in Summer 2013, and I determined that some of our plants were at the end of their useful life. Other plants suffered during record cold temperatures during the winters of 2012 and 2013. A replanting program began in Fall 2013; it will be completed by early 2015. Criteria for plant selection, removal, and re-location were:

- Addition of important bee plants from the original design that were missing from the garden
- Addition of important bee plants not in the original design
- Addition of fall- and winter-blooming bee plants
- Creation of effective hydrozones
- Planting of a new My Back Yard area to effectively reflect its educational goal. Photos of the new area are in Appendix I.

Upgrades to the garden's irrigation system are also ongoing.

## **GARDEN VISITORS**

The garden is open daily from dawn to dusk for self-guided tours. Based on my own observations and records from the garden's security camera I estimate we average five to 10 daily self-guided visitors. Guided tours are given mid-March to mid-October; between March and September 2014 758 visitors ranging in age from pre-school to seniors participated in organized tours. By

comparison, the garden hosted 132 guided tour participants in 2013. The \$3 guided tour fee is used to support garden maintenance and planting. Tour reservations and payment were streamlined this year by moving them to a web-based system.

A survey of garden visitors was conducted at an open house held June 20 in conjunction with National Pollinator Week. The survey results are presented in Appendix II.

## **GARDEN EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

### ***Garden educational displays***

With the help of summer interns, a display of common bees in the garden has been prepared and has been used at garden tours and off-site outreach events. Our 2014 intern also prepared a display on plant pollination for permanent mounting at the garden. She also prepared improved plant labels that provide information on each plant's water needs. A handout summarizing bee garden best practices (Appendix III) is on display at the garden. It is available for free at the garden and for download on the garden web page. Between June and September 2014, 270 hard copies have been distributed.

### ***Bee gardening educational programs***

I have spoken regularly at gardening events, Master Gardener Volunteer training programs, and to beekeeping organizations. The purpose of this outreach is to publicize the garden, to acknowledge the support of Häagen-Dazs® and other organizations, and to teach the concepts that underlie an effective bee garden. Between March and September 2014, 453 people attended these lectures.

We held two open houses at the Garden this spring, with a third scheduled for October 3. They were May 9 (National Public Gardens Day; 69 visitors) and June 20 (National Pollinator Week; 118 visitors). All open houses feature a garden tour on a pertinent topic (i.e. drought-tolerant plants in June and fall- and winter-blooming plants in October). The October open house will include a fund-raising raffle and sale of hand-decorated bee houses.

### ***Media***

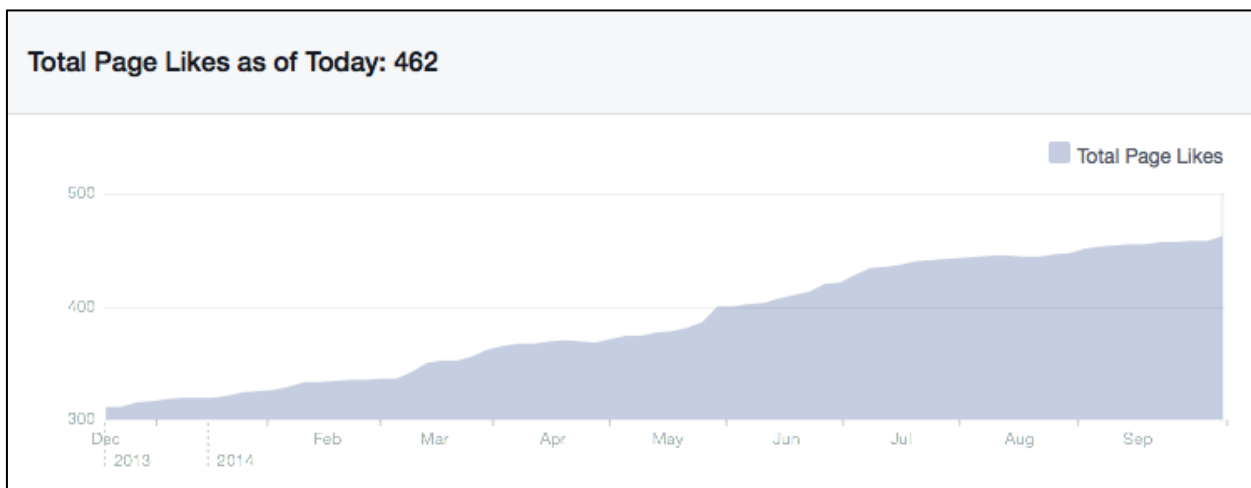
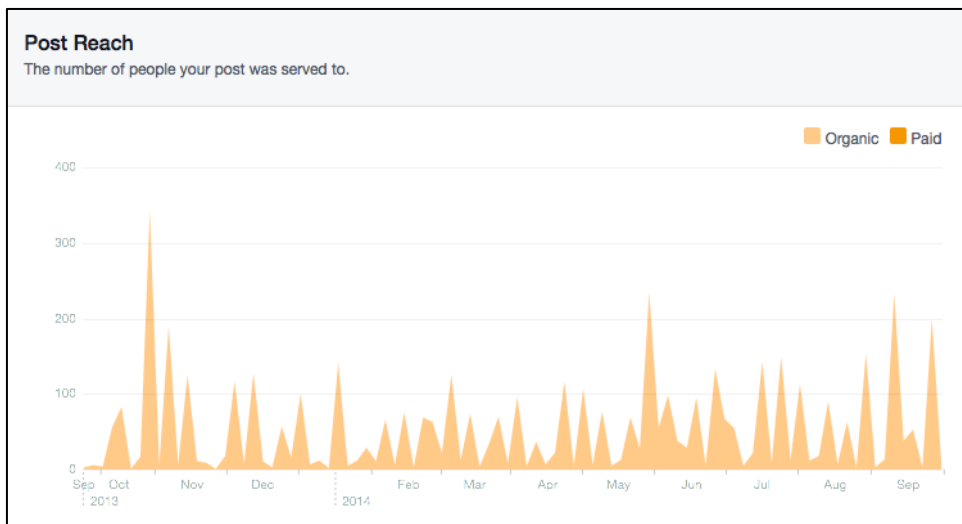
The garden was covered in print and on television in 2014. It also served as the backdrop for Professor Emeritus Robbin Thorp's appearance on an episode on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's *La Semaine Verte* (The Green Week).

Print coverage was in the [Davis Enterprise](#) (May 8) and [Inside Land Park](#) (June 14); television coverage was June 30 on [Good Day Sacramento](#).

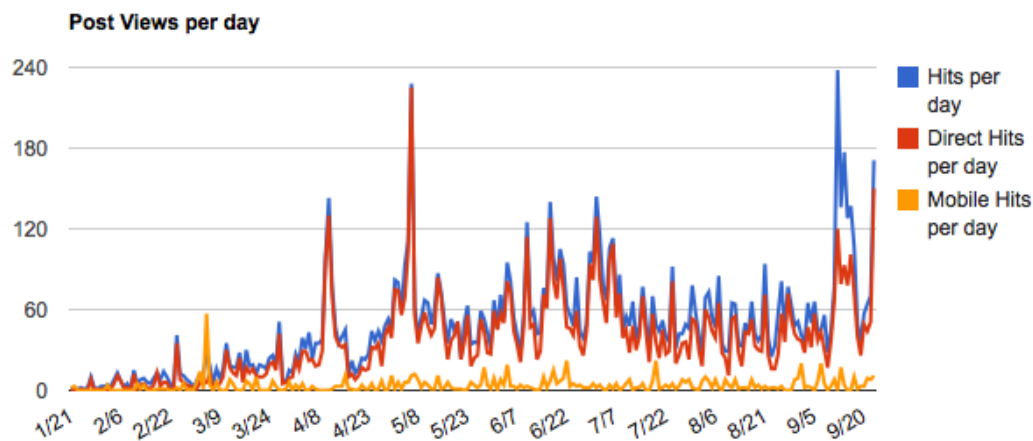
## **VIRTUAL HONEY BEE HAVEN**

### ***Social media***

A Facebook page was launched at the end of 2012. In December 2013 I initiated a regular schedule of posting three days per week that has generated an increasing number of page views (average is 59) and likes (currently 462):



A garden blog, [The Bee Gardener](#), and garden Twitter (@HDhoneybeehaven), [YouTube](#), and [Flickr](#) accounts were also created in 2014. The Twitter, YouTube, and Flickr accounts will be expanded over the next few months. I post every other week to the garden blog and have seen a steady increase in hits since it went live in January 2014:



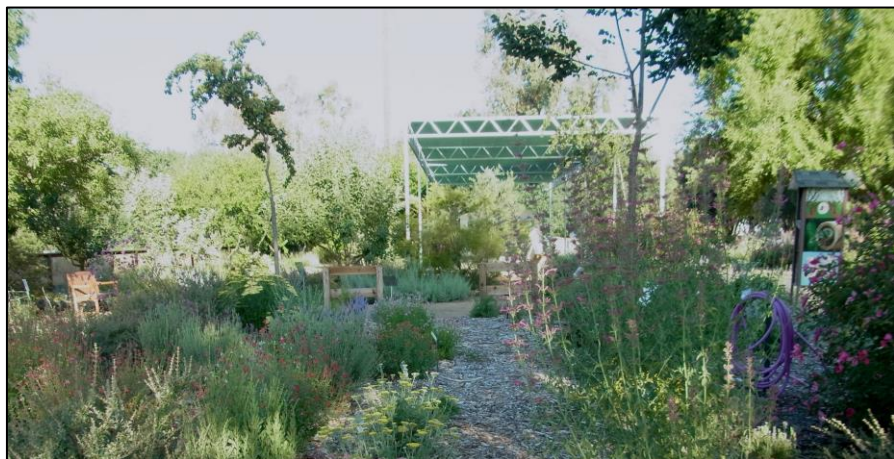
***Web resources***

A new [garden web page](#) came online in early 2014. The site includes a history of the garden and provides easy access to gardening information and tips for visiting the garden, as well as a link for donations. It also supports an online tour registration and payment system.



## Appendix I. Replanting of the garden's My Back Yard area.

The goal of this area of the garden is to represent a typical California back yard that has been developed to support bees. When I became garden manager in early 2013, the area had become overgrown and contained many plants not in the original design. Selective plant removal and replacement, along with new hardscape features, have brought it back to its original mission.



**Figure 1.** My Back Yard overview, Summer 2014.



**Figure 2.** Sample patio designed to show how to create access for ground-nesting bees.



**Figure 3.** Bee blocks in My Back Yard in use by cavity nesting bees

## Appendix II. Results of the June 20, 2014 survey of garden visitors.

A survey of garden visitors was conducted at the June open house. Surveys were completed anonymously and placed into a sealed box to ensure confidentiality. The event was attended by 118 visitors and 48 surveys were completed.

### Questions:

1. How did you learn about today's event?  
Facebook   Web page   Sign at garden   Newspaper
2. Have you been to the garden before?  
Yes   No
3. Will you return to visit the garden again?  
Yes   No
4. Are you here to learn primarily about  
Plants   Bees   Both
5. Rate your visit on a 1 to 5 scale, with 5 being the best  
1   2   3   4   5
6. What did you like best about the garden?  
Left blank for respondents to write in an answer
7. What did you like least about the garden?  
Left blank for respondents to write in an answer

### Answer summary:

1. How did you learn about today's event?

Source	Number
Newspaper	14
Web page	13
Sign	8
Friend	5
Facebook	4
Email	2
No reply	2

2. Have you been to the garden before?

New visitor	Number	Mean visit rating	p value
Yes	32	4.55	0.2376
No	16	4.73	

There was no significant effect of visitor status on visit rating.

3. Will you return to visit the garden again?

Will return	Number
Yes	46
Maybe	2
No	0

4. Are you here to learn primarily about bees, plants, or both?

Primary interest	Number	Mean visit	p value
Bees and plants	34	4.69	0.1070
Bees	12	4.5	
Plants	2	4	

There was no significant effect of primary interest on visit rating, although there was a trend towards a higher rating by visitors interested in both bees and plants.

5. Rate your visit on a 1 to 5 scale, with 5 being the best

Visit rating	Number
5	28
4	18
3	0
2	0
1	0
No reply	2

The average rating was 4.61.

6. What did you like best about the garden?

Like best	Number
Plants	25
Bees	9
Signs/labels	7
Volunteers	4
Beauty	2
Everything	1

7. What did you like least about the garden?

Like least	Number
No reply	15
Nothing	10
Signs/labels	8
Heat	5
Too small	3
Allergic to bees	1
Decline of the raised beds	1
Lack of drinking water	1
Not enough bees	1
Plants going wild	1
Possibility of being stung	1
Wanted to see beekeeping	1

More than half the respondents (n=25; 52%) either gave no reply or indicated that there was nothing they did not like.



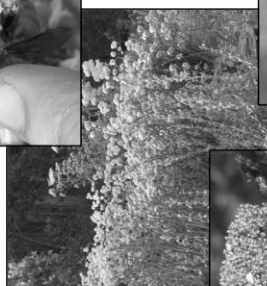
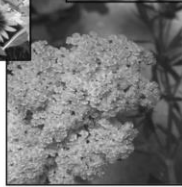
## Providing a Home for Bees in Your Garden

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## Basic requirements: food, water, shelter.

**FOOD:** Design your garden to have year-round bloom.

- Use a mix of plant families. Good choices include the mint, sunflower, rose, buckthorn, figwort, and plantain families.
- Bees vary in size, flower color preference, and feeding styles. Accommodate this with flowers of varying shapes, sizes, and colors.
- Place several of the same plant together, rather than spreading them around the garden.



**WATER:** Honey bees need water! Provide a shallow birdbath with stones for perching.

**SHELTER:** Three types of shelter are needed:

Ground level

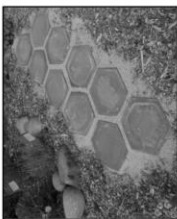
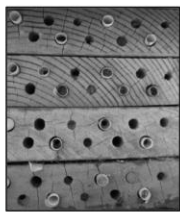
- Bare soil
- Pavers set in sand
- Rock crevices
- Stumps and logs

Above ground

- Bee houses
- Grasses
- Redwood fence posts

Plant material

- Resin for propolis
- Foliage for leafcutter bees



### For more information:

hbbhgarden.ucdavis.edu  
http://ucanr.edu/blogs/TheBeeGardener  
www.facebook.com/HoneyBeeHaven.UCDavis  
@HDHoneyBeeHaven  
www.flickr.com/photos/HDHoneyBeeHaven  
www.youtube.com/HDHoneyBeeHaven