

Häagen-Dazs Honey Bee Haven 2015 Annual Report

University of California Department of Entomology and Nematology

January 2016



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Prepared by Christine Casey, Program Representative
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“That was awesome!” exclaimed a young Haven visitor at the end of our open house on Take Your Sons and Daughters to Work Day in April, and 2015 has indeed been an awesome year at the Haven. Visitor numbers continue to grow, along with increasing engagement via Facebook and Twitter. New plantings to refresh existing material are on-going; the Haven continues to educate and inspire garden visitors to create or expand their own bee gardens.

Faculty Director Dr. Elina Niño joined the Haven in late 2014. Dr. Niño serves as an apiculture specialist in the department and comes to us from a postdoctoral position at Penn State University. Elina brings new expertise and ideas to the garden.

SUPPORT

Financial

In addition to ongoing support from Häagen-Dazs, we continue to rely on individual donors. A GoFundMe [campaign](#) has been launched to fund renewal of our Orchard Alley (Appendix I).

Volunteers

The Haven volunteer team continues to grow, with work taking place weekly on Tuesday mornings and monthly on the second Saturday. Volunteers contributed 220 hours of garden maintenance in 2015. The backgrounds and skill sets of our volunteers are diverse and have allowed us to tackle construction projects and add outreach events. Volunteer projects include building bird houses, bee houses, and a compost bin. A volunteer docent program is being added in 2016.

PLANTINGS

An assessment was made of the garden’s plantings in 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. The replanting program that began in late 2013 was completed this year. As of this fall, many of our shorter-lived ceanothus are starting to decline and will be replaced over the course of the next year.

Upgrades to the garden’s irrigation system are also ongoing. An important feature installed this year was a storage tank and booster pump system. The Haven shares a water supply with surrounding research plots and the water pressure is not sufficient to provide for all of our needs. Thanks to the department’s former chair Michael Parrella for donation of the tank.

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 we average five to 10 daily self-guided visitors. Visitor questions and comments indicate that most come to the garden to learn about what to plant for bees. This education component was enhanced this fall with the addition of new plant

labels. These include the plant's common and scientific name, plant family, bee resource provided, and water use information from [WUCOLS](#).



Plant labels are printed on wine bottle labels and mounted to a waterproof card. Although useful, they are not especially attractive, nor do I know how durable they will be.

We continue to seek a source of funds for permanent, botanic-garden quality labels.

GARDEN OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Events and guided tours

In addition to public events, guided tours are given from mid-March to mid-October. In 2015, 1400 visitors attended events and tours; the affiliation of visitors is shown in Appendix II. By comparison, there were 921 event and tour participants in 2014. The \$3 guided tour fee is used to support garden maintenance and planting and will increase to \$5 per person in 2016. Tour reservations and payment were streamlined this year by moving them online.

In addition to guided tours, events at the Haven in 2015 included five open houses ([California Native Plant Society](#) garden tour, April 11; Honey Bee Haven Fifth Anniversary, May 2; National Public Gardens Day, May 8; National Pollinator Week, June 19; and IPM in the Bee Garden, Oct. 2) and three lunchtime drop-in days (Take Your Sons and Daughters to Work Day, April 23; Native Ants, July 17; and Volunteer Information Day, September 25). We were also part of two educational programs on campus ([California Center for Urban Horticulture](#), "Your Sustainable Backyard: Creating a Living Landscape Workshop", March 28; and the [Robert Mondavi Institute's Honey and Pollination Center](#) "Keeping Bees Healthy" workshop, May 9). Surveys of garden visitors were conducted at our May and October open houses; results are in Appendix III.

I would also like to acknowledge the substantial assistance of Distinguished Professor Emeritus Robbin Thorp, who shared his knowledge and passion for bees at all of these events.

Off-site events

The Haven also participated in a number of off-site programs in 2015. These are listed in Appendix III.

Media coverage

The garden was covered in print, radio, and television in 2015. Links to each are given in Appendix III.

VIRTUAL HONEY BEE HAVEN

Social media

Our [Facebook page](#), [Bee Gardener blog](#), [Twitter](#), and [Flickr](#) accounts are updated regularly and serve as additional sources of bee gardening information. Our blog is in the top five (rated by views per post) of all University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources blogs devoted to urban gardening and entomology topics.

Web resources

The [garden web page](#) is updated regularly and serves as another source of information for bee gardeners. It is also the online portal for garden tour reservation. The graph in Appendix IV documents our year-over-year increase in readership.

Appendix I. Replanting of the garden's Orchard Alley

Orchard Alley runs along the [south side](#) of the garden and educates visitors about the importance of pollination in the production of many nut, stone fruit, and tree crops. It currently contains three crops: almonds, plums, and apples. These are standard-sized orchard trees and they have become overgrown and too large for the space (see photo below).

Thanks to a donation from [Otto and Sons Nursery](#) in 2013, we were able to plant four dwarf trees in the adjacent Grower's Grove: apple, 6-in-1 peach, and two almond trees. There is also an existing pomegranate tree in this area. Plans have been developed to extend this dwarf orchard into Grower's Grove. By using dwarf trees we will be able to include many more species in the same space. We'll include both plants that can self-pollinate and those that need cross-pollination. Dwarf trees will also be easier to maintain and harvest, which will allow us to donate produce to local food banks.

A GoFundMe [campaign](#) was started in late 2015 to raise the funds needed to purchase the trees and improve the irrigation system in this part of the Haven.



Almond trees in late 2015.

Appendix II. Results of Honey Bee Haven visitor surveys in 2015

Answer summary May 2, 2015	
48 surveys completed out of 100 visitors	
How did you learn about today's event?	
Facebook	5
Newspaper	13
Other	21
Sign	7
Web page	2
Have you been to the garden before?	
No	33
Yes	15
Will you return to visit the garden again?	
Yes	43
No	1
Maybe	3
Are you here to learn primarily about bees, plants, or both?	
Bees and plants	36
Bees	12
Both	0
Rate your visit on a 1 to 5 scale, with 5 being the best	
6	1
5	35
4	11
3	1
2	0
1	0
Mean rating = 4.75	
Are you interested in bee gardening classes?	
Yes	22
No	26
Are you a beekeeper?	
Yes	10
No	38

Answer summary October 2, 2015	
18 surveys completed out of 52 visitors	
How did you learn about today's event?	
Facebook	3
Newspaper	5
Other	7
Sign	2
Web page	1
Have you been to the garden before?	
No	15
Yes	3
Will you return to visit the garden again?	
Yes	18
No	0
Maybe	0
Are you here to learn primarily about IPM, bees, plants, or some combination? (This open house featured displays from the UC IPM program).	
IPM	1
Bees	3
Plants	3
Bees, plants, IPM	4
Bees and plants	6
Plants and IPM	1
Rate your visit on a 1 to 5 scale, with 5 being the best	
5	11
4	4
3	0
2	0
1	0
Mean rating = 4.78	
Are you interested in bee gardening classes?	
Yes	12
No	6
Are you a beekeeper?	
Yes	1
No	17

Appendix III. Honey Bee Haven guided tours, offsite events, and media coverage in 2015

Affiliation of garden event and tour participants

Ag industry	64
Ag nonprofit	2
Ag students	21
Beekeepers	310
Entomologists	58
Garden clubs	38
K-12 students	211
Master Gardener Volunteers	49
Public	479
Teachers	61
UCD	11
Undergraduates	67
University administrators	20
US government	9
TOTAL	1400

Attendance at off-site lectures and public events featuring the Haven and bee gardening

Yolo Basin "Duck Days"	289
City of Woodland "Waterwise Wednesdays"	54
California Native Plant Society "Wildflower Wonders"	113
Sun City Lincoln Healthy Eating Club monthly meeting	50
Robert Mondavi Institute Honey and Pollination Center "Keeping Bees Healthy"	360
Capital Public Radio "Lunch and Learn" lecture	20
Sacramento County Master Gardeners "Harvest Day"	235
California Native Plant Society fall plant sale educational program	20
TOTAL	1141

Media coverage. All were about the Haven and bee gardening except for the EcoCompany video, which was filmed in the garden but covered UC Davis bee research.

SacBee	http://www.sacbee.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article16210259.htm
SacBee	http://www.sacbee.com/entertainment/living/home-garden/article17311232.html
Vacaville Reporter	http://www.thereporter.com/general-news/20150429/learn-more-about-bees-at-uc-davis-bee-haven
Davis Enterprise	http://www.davisenterprise.com/local-news/ucd-celebrates-bee-gardens-five-years/
Davis Enterprise	http://www.davisenterprise.com/local-news/briefly/celebration-set-at-honey-bee-haven/
Daily Democrat	http://www.dailydemocrat.com/events/20150610/bulletin-board-for-thursday-june-11
Capital Public Radio	http://www.caprado.org/news/insight/2015/06/11/insight-061115b/
EcoCompany	http://www.eco-company.tv/video/bees-climate-change

Appendix IV. Growth in Honey Bee Haven web page views by month, January 2014 to September 2015

