



LOS TRANCOS WOODS & VISTA VERDE Newsletter - June/July 2011

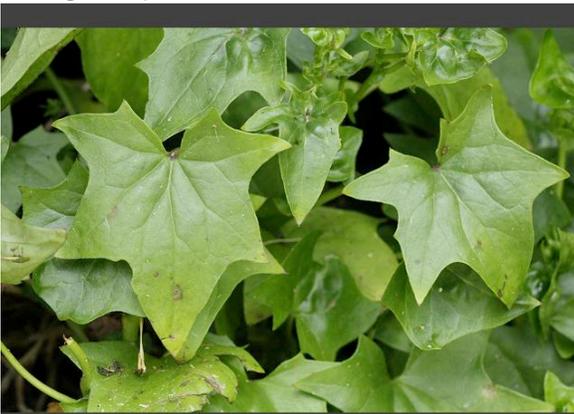
Uninvited Guests

No, I am not talking about summer travelers who just happen to be in the neighborhood. I am talking about those invasive plants that plop themselves down (in the ground) and do not leave. One of them happens to be Cape Ivy. It has been found in numerous locations up here and several of our residents have been working diligently to eliminate it before it takes over. The following information was from an online article by California Invasive Plant Council to help you identify and get rid of Cape Ivy.

Cape Ivy (*Delairea odorata*) is native to moist mountain forests of South Africa, where it has a limited natural range; however, in California's coastal forests it has found an ideal habitat and covered over 500,000 acres by 2006. Cape ivy is a perennial vine with shiny, five- to six-pointed leaves and yellow flowers. There is one leaf at each node. Foliage is green to yellow-green and has a distinct odor. In habitats without year-round moisture sources this vine dies back in the dry season, July to October, then grows rapidly during the wet season, February to June.

Cape ivy is unsuitable forage for most wildlife due to the presence of strong chemical compounds (alkaloids and xanthenes) in its leaves. This monoculture of a bully plant reduces habitat for pollinators, and drastically alters bird diversity. The ivy is also very good at colonizing new areas due to the fact that it reproduces from stem fragments as small as half an inch. Cape ivy apparently reproduces only vegetatively in California and does not form viable seeds. This particular ivy is difficult to eliminate for two reasons: stolons and underground parts readily fragment while being removed, and plants will grow from almost any remaining fragment. Even drying stolon fragments in full sun for ten weeks will not stop them from rooting. Cape ivy climbs over most other vegetation, forming a solid cover that blocks light and smothers other vegetation.

All removal methods require appropriate timing, and possibly supplemental revegetation by desirable species. It is necessary to monitor removal sites every two months the first year to locate and kill resprouts. Location and retreatment of resprouts is imperative or in six to eight months the ivy can reinfest the whole area from which it was removed. Cape ivy tissues should not be put through a chipper or sent unbagged to a dump site. Both would likely result in spread of Cape Ivy. Applications of Roundup must be done in late spring when the plant is photosynthesizing actively, but rains are not likely to wash the Roundup into the watershed. Freezing is also very effective in killing the plant.



(do not on confuse this leaf with the wild cucumber)

Submitted by Linda Drey-Nightingale

Save the Date, July 10th, for Neighborhood Summer Picnic

Come one, come all for fun, games, and emergency preparedness awareness activities being planned by Sonia Martinez and Steve Friedman. On **Sunday, July 10th, from noon to 3 p.m.** you will meet and greet your neighbors **at 179 Los Trancos Circle** on the lower portion of the property. LTW Community Association will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers, buns, ketchup, mustard and relish, soft drinks and beer. All you need to do is bring a potluck dish for eight to share. Those favoring wine are welcome to bring your favorite bottle. If you can help please contact Sonia @ 851-4763 or soniamrtnz@aol.com.

Submitted by LTWCA Board

Sudden Oak Death (SOD)

Research indicates that the biggest SOD risk for your oak trees (Black Oak, Coast Live Oak, Canyon Live Oak, Shreve Oak) comes from the California Bay Laurel tree. Valley/White Oak and Blue Oak are not susceptible. Frequently the Bay Laurel is adjacent to or overtopping the trunk of your oak trees. Oaks become infected when exposed to spores produced on the leaves of neighboring Bay Laurels. The most likely time for infection is during the warmer spring rains.

Guidelines for removing Bays: 1) Remove all Bays or Bay branches within 8 ft. of oak trunks. 2) If feasible, further remove Bays within 16 ft. to the south and west of the trunk or uphill from the trunk. 3) Do not forget to remove understory Bay seedlings near oaks. They will only grow up to get bigger and closer to your oaks. 4) When cutting Bays, be sure to do it in dry weather, and do not let the foliage touch the oak trunks. 5) Clean all equipment used, even shoes, so as not to spread the SOD pathogen. Long live our oaks!

Submitted by Linda Drey-Nightingale, SOD Task Force

Neighborhood Notes

- Keiko Sato-Perry and Autumn Stanley would like to organize a **children's story hour** for mothers and young children, where Autumn would read some of her stories for children. If you are interested, please contact Autumn at 851-1847 to discuss times, location, and age groups.

Submitted by Autumn Stanley

- JoAnn Loulan is involved with a **benefit concert for Breast Cancer Action**. It should be a rollicking evening with great music including our own musicians, Ronny Crawford and Andy Hewett, on June 18th from 8 p.m.-11p.m. at 1420 Westridge, Laure and Dave Kastanis's house. The entire amount of the \$75 ticket will go to Breast Cancer Action. For tickets go to: www.bcaction.org/summerparty. For questions call JoAnn 851-5778.

- **Alexandra Swan**, daughter of Richard Swan and Claudia Mazzetti, will be working on her master's degree in management from Duke University starting this summer.

Submitted by Claudia Mazzetti

(Editor's note: If anyone else has news about our graduates, please let me know and I will post it in the next Newsletter. dreynight@aol.com or 851-1787)

- Yet more **rainfall data** for our wet spring, as always from Gene Hunner.

April - .7", May 1.9" Total for the season - 44.6"

2011 Community Resource Guide Changes

Please make the following changes to your 2011 Guide.

Delete: Kevin Connell and Liza Miller, 76 Old Spanish Trail

Lori Martinucci (listed under Doug Wyatt)

Change: Margaret Wilmer from 851-4558 to **851-4548**

Jean Seto from jeanseato@yahoo.com to jeanwseto@yahoo.com

Natalia Casado from 9/10 to 7/10

Add: Donna Woodside and Cameron Fulton, 76 Old Spanish Trail, 380-0554 (D), 537-1339 (C), listentoyourmother@yahoo.com

Community Associations' Web Sites

The web site addresses are:

<http://lostrancoswoods.org/>

<http://www.vistaverdepv.org> **NEW**

The group e-mail list is:

VistaVerdeLTW@yahoogroups.com

VistaVerdeCommunityAssoc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Thank you, Jerry Jensen & Rob Kalman for maintaining web sites