



Verdugo Woodlands West
Neighborhood Association

THE WOODLANDS GRAPEVINE

MISSION To preserve the low-profile, single-family character and unique aesthetics of the Verdugo Woodlands, and provide a forum for discussion of civic issues that may affect our neighborhood and its residents.

Spring-Summer 2023

Woodlanders Go Native

More neighbors are replacing lawns with native plants. Lawns are ecological “dead zones” that do not support pollinators and birds and, if pesticides are used, actively harm them.

Sean and Anna on Hermosita were thinking of replacing their front lawn with artificial turf to reduce water consumption. But Sean spoke with his neighbors about it, and they were not enthusiastic. So instead of plastic he opted for plant natives, which have flourished in the recent rains. *(See photo on page 8.)*

We applaud Sean and Anna for being so considerate of their neighbors and for making their front yard another beautiful asset to the Woodlands.

Our Association recommends the Theodore Payne Foundation in Sunland. This 501(c)(3) non-profit has a well-stocked nursery and experts on hand to help you find the right plants. They also create a wide variety of wildflower seed blends, including varieties that attract hummingbirds or butterflies, are appropriate for sun or part-shade, and even packets just for low-height flowers that are perfect for the parkway, as Byron and Cindy on El Rito discovered when their tidy tips and baby blue eyes exploded in April. You are eligible to receive a rebate for replacing lawns with drought tolerant plants through the city’s turf replacement program. For details, search online for “GWP’s turf replacement program”.

The drought is not over, and we hope that more Woodlanders will go native!



Another Woodlander’s front yard recently landscaped with water-saving native plants. Photo by VVWNA member **Jack Foote**.

**FOR MEMBERSHIP
INFORMATION, CONTACT**

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From the Editor

Spring is here! After the torrential rains of this past winter, isn't it wonderful to see the flowers blooming and the trees thriving? If I look hard enough, I see them smiling. *This makes me happy.*

Walking in the Verdugo Woodlands, I enjoy seeing the wonderful gardens with cacti blooming and the various shades of green on the trees. I planted succulents a couple of weeks back and now, I see a flower growing at their center. *This makes me happy.*

Our wine social was yet another success. I was able to meet new neighbors and catch up with others. The setting in the backyard of our hosts was an escape to the vineyards of Paso Robles, France, or Italy. The Alberiño white varietal of Opolo Wines was my favorite to enjoy with my neighbors and dear friends. *This makes me happy.*

For me, to serve on your Board of Directors with such a group of talented and committed directors that are like-minded and want the best for our neighborhood is an honor. The opportunity to give time to the betterment of our community is a gift that I cherish. *This makes me happy.*

My message as the editor for this Spring issue of our newsletter is to find your happiness. Known fact that happiness is good for your mental health and total health. I find mine in the Verdugo Woodlands every day. (True fact, I crack the window open so that I can wake up to the birds chirping.) Let the Verdugo Woodlands be your source of happiness this Spring. I encourage you to walk the neighborhood, meet up with a neighbor, give a little back to our community by volunteering, check out one of the library boxes, attend one of our gatherings and find your happiness in our community. It's around us for the taking.

Yours truly,

Annet Arakelian

ECO INFO

Coffee Grounds

Have you been curious like me as to what to do with coffee grounds? How can I use them in my garden? Here are some tips:

- Great to add to your compost, but no more than 10 to 20 percent. You then add this compost to most gardens.
- Great to add a thin layer to most of your flowers (about half-inch) to provide vital nitrogen to soil that allows plants to absorb water and nutrients.
- Can be used for indoor and outdoor plants.
- Doesn't matter if caffeinated or decaf, and they should be brewed. The brewing neutralizes the acidity in coffee, removing potential harm to plants. Don't use fresh coffee grounds.
- Coffee grounds should be avoided on some plants, such as tomatoes and other vegetable plants.

- Contrary to some reports, it's not effective as pest control or keeping animals, such as cats, away from your plants. Your local garden shop is a good resource to advise, based on the type of soil and plants in your garden. Enjoy your coffee, and reuse the coffee grounds instead of dumping them in the trash.



Wine Tasting

Saturday, May 6, 2023, was a historic day around the globe with the coronation of a king, the running of the Kentucky Derby, and basketball championship games, to name a few events. We also made history here in Glendale at our neighborhood association's annual wine social.

The afternoon marked another successful event for our Association. A remarkable turnout of about sixty Woodlands neighbors enjoyed sunshine and cool temperatures in the beautiful backyard of our gracious hosts, **Robert Grossman and Traci Locke**. Thank you, Robert and Traci, for opening up your home amidst rows of grapevines for this occasion.

The Committee co-chairs **Loretta DeLange and Christine Saucedo** made it happen! Along with them, committee members **Rhonda Dillon, Marcia Hanford, Patrick Masihi, Rick Stern, Miriam Strysik, and Amy Yazzetta** and volunteers, **Diane Ferris, Marilyn Greborunis, and Daina Tesh**, set out the wine, appetizers, desserts, and the best homemade lemonade this author has had. We thank them for their contributions and support. We could not have done it without them.

Once again, the variety of Opolo wines from nearby Paso Robles was well received by our neighborhood wine connoisseurs. Thank you, Christine, for arranging.

The wine social is an annual event to bring our community together to meet and mingle with neighbors and meet the Board of Directors. This year, our very own member and Glendale City Mayor, **Dan Brotman**, attended. Neighbors were able to spend time with him and discuss issues impacting our neighborhood, in addition to talk about

England's new king, the Derby, and favorite basketball teams and news of the day in the *LA Times* (a couple of our very own Woodlanders made the front page that day, one as the author of a story, the other as the subject of another story). Most notably, neighbors new and old made new connections, with some that included plans to meet up soon.

We hope to see you and your family at next year's wine social or our next gathering, which will be the **Annual Meeting on October 14**.



Photos by **Loretta DeLange**

Who designed 1450 Capistrano?

Do some homes in our neighborhood make you wonder who designed them? If you've ever been curious about the striking two-story on the corner of Capistrano and Hermosita, the homeowners have kindly shared this information about the architect:

John P. Pedersen, A.I.A. was born in Kjerringøy-Bodø, Norway in 1888. While in Norway he attended BodøPedersen Tekniske Aftenskole, a night-school pre-Architecture program, before going on to the Pratt Institute in New York City. After completing an



Photo above by Jack Foote.

architectural apprenticeship in Southern California in 1928, he opened his own office in Beverly Hills.

He was the mastermind behind 1450 Capistrano which was completed in 1937. Many of the other homes he designed are in Hancock Park, Pasadena, Silver Lake, and San Marino, and included homes for R.J. Richards, the "Lettuce King" (Pasadena), Evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson (Silver Lake), and Bruno Walter, conductor for the Los Angeles Philharmonic. And, during World War II, Pedersen worked with the United States Maritime Commission to design concrete ships.



John P. Pedersen, A.I.A.
b. 1888- d. 1968



Has Jack photographed your home perhaps? Jack Foote, a longtime member of this Association, generously volunteered to photograph some of the captivating homes in Verdugo Woodlands to help in getting our neighborhood designated a historic district. You can view his gallery online at adobe.ly/3LVOLYc

Whether or not you find your home there, Jack welcomes your feedback at jackfoote@gmail.com. And, if you'd like, he also welcomes the opportunity to photograph interesting historical features inside your home or backyard.

Historic District Update We understand that the Glendale City Council will consider changes to the Historic District approval process in August. The changes would eliminate redundancies in the process and (eventually) allow applications to move forward more quickly but still with multiple opportunities for community input. We will let you know when a hearing date is set.

PRIDE OF THE WOODLANDS

Olympian Mark Chatfield

Mark Chatfield lived next door to 1450 Capistrano.

He grew up in England and the United States. When he was eight years old, Mark became interested in swimming after experiencing the pool on the *Queen Mary* during a return trip from England. He took lessons at the Verdugo Swim Stadium (now replaced by a parking lot) across from Glendale Community College. Mark competed in swimming as a student at Glendale High School, where he won Southern Sectional titles in the 100-meter breaststroke and the individual medley in 1971.

Mark just missed an Olympic medal, placing fourth in the 1972 100-meter breaststroke, after having won a gold medal in that event at the 1971 Pan American Games. He swam for USC, earning 12 All-American honors from 1972-75, and he was US Champion in the 100-yard breaststroke indoors in 1973.



For two decades starting in 1982, Mark coached West Hollywood Aquatics, the first US master's swim club whose mission focused on the inclusion of LGBTQ+ athletes.

Mark graduated with bachelor's and master's degrees in music composition from USC, where later in his career he would lecture on the baroque cello and viola da gamba. He was one of the founders of the baroque orchestra, Musica Angelica, now its 30th year as Southern California's preeminent historical performance ensemble.

Mark was the composer-in-residence at St. Cyril of Jerusalem Church for 18 years. He performed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Los Angeles Opera Company, the Los Angeles Master Chorale, and the St. Louis Symphony.

An Olympian and a musician, as a coach Mark was known for his complex mathematical swim sets. He continued to swim in meets with International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics. He died quite young from lymphoma when he was only 45, in 1998.

As a coach Mark brought credibility to some who had scoffed at the notion of a gay swim team.

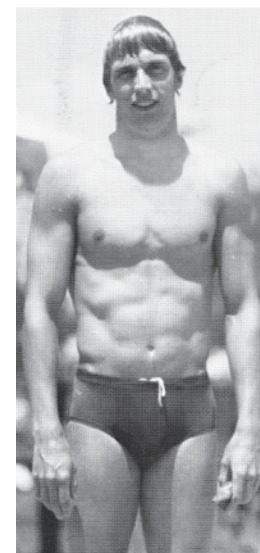


Photo of Verdugo Swim Stadium and Glendale Community College from TESSA Digital Collection Los Angeles Public Library. Circa 1938.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Join us today!

Join instantly at vwwhoa.org

Or return this form along with a \$30 check payable to:
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Email _____ *VWWNA will not share your information*

Name _____

Address _____

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Your Priorities _____

As needed, would you be willing to attend occasional City Council or Design Review Board meetings to show support for the position that the Association has taken? Yes No

Comments and/or Suggestions _____

Since 1994, the Verdugo Woodlands West Neighborhood Association has preserved the single-family characteristics and aesthetics that make our neighborhood beautiful and unique. Together with your support, the Association:

- > Represents Verdugo Woodlands West before the City Council, Design Review Board and at various City departments
- > Provides a forum for discussion of civic issues that directly affect us
- > Represents Verdugo Woodlands West at the Glendale Homeowners Coordinating Council
- > Focuses on protecting our trees, hillsides, parks, and air quality, preserving our historic architecture, and maintaining property values
- > Keeps you up to date with regular notifications, newsletters and vwwhoa.org website
- > Hosts Annual Meeting and Brunch, a Summer Wine Tasting and other fun events to deepen your connection to your neighborhood

For more information, please contact us at vwwhoa@gmail.com

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Verdugo Woodlands West Neighborhood Association

PO Box 343, Verdugo City, CA 91046

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Meeting

SATURDAY

OCTOBER 14

10am

*Rain
or shine!*



Native flowers just starting to bloom in a relandscaped front yard. Photo by Cathy Jurca.



Baby blue eyes are perfect for planting in the parkway between sidewalk and street. Photo by Byron Taylor.



Wildflower meadow where once was lawn in a backyard on Niodrara.