



Photo by Jim Johnson, Studio 7



Loralee Christiansen and Denny Geyer



Luv Planet



Zebop!



Petty Theft

THE ART & GARDEN FESTIVAL!

Pull-Out Section

by Shelley Shepherd Klaner

What makes Petaluma's Art & Garden Festival special is that it combines the beauty of nature with the arts, music, fine wine and food. The 8th annual edition is set for Sunday, July 12, from 11 AM to 5 PM on Kentucky and Fourth Streets in downtown Petaluma.

This family event is free and offers more than 100 booths featuring home and garden specialties, arts and crafts for sale. New this year is Petaluma Bounty's Victory Garden patterned on World War II Victory Gardens.

Bountiful gardening displays

"We are pleased to showcase Petaluma's Victory Garden at this year's festival," says Marie McCusker, Executive Director for the Petaluma Downtown Association, producers of the event.

Petaluma Bounty's mission is to assist the community to create their own home gardens, encouraging them to grow extra fruit and vegetables to help those in need. The agency's exhibit will feature an example of a garden with a variety of heirloom plants that thrive in Sonoma County.

J. Applesed Food Garden Company will show a sustainable gazebo and raised-bed gardening containers. North Coast Native Nursery will display many varieties of native plants and provide information on how to care for them. Garden fans won't believe the wide variety of gardening accessories available at the festival, and the Petaluma Garden Club and Sonoma Master Gardeners will be on hand to help home gardeners.

Much more music

The music at this year's festival will be better than ever with four bands. Lora-

lee Christensen and Denny Geyer will warm things up with their home-style songs from 11 AM to noon. The Petalumans have two CDs: *Worth the Wait* and *I'm Here for You*. Christensen is a vocalist, who has performed live with Clarence Clemons and Mikey Thomas. Geyer was Queen Ida's guitarist for eight years.

Luv Planet hails from Petaluma and the chemistry between vocalist Nicole Sutton and guitarist Mark McGee is the band's creative force. Luvplanet also includes bassist Tommy Sisco and drummer Scott McKenzie. Their albums have included: *Luvplanet* (2003), *State of Mind* (2005) and *Lucky One* (2008). They performed at the 2008 Rock 'n' Blues at the Lake with Third Eye Blind and have also performed with acts such as Boston, Elvin Bishop and the Tubes. McGee toured and recorded with Greg Allman for more than a decade and performed on the MTV *Headbangers Ball*. Luv Planet will rock the stage from 12:15 to 1:15 PM.

Santana tribute band Zebop! takes its name from the classic 1981 Santana album of the same title. The group was formed in 2005 by guitarist Antonio Marquez and always keeps the crowd on its feet. Zebop! plays from 1:15 to 3:15 PM.

Petty Theft members also make their home in Petaluma, but the band is a mainstay of nightclubs and venues all over the Bay Area. This Tom Petty tribute band makes everyone feel happy and dance to hit songs such as "American Girl" and "Refugee". Lead singer Dan Durkin may not look like Tom Petty, but Petty fans admit the sound is fantastic. Other band members include: Django Bayless, Adam Burkowitz, Chris Collins and Monroe Grisman. Petty Theft will perform from 3:30 to 5 PM.

Fun for the tykes

Children will have fun in their own corner of the festival with puppet shows, a bounce house, snake handling, free ice cream, art projects, a face painter and the opportunity to plant their own seeds.

Food, beer and wine in style

Food, wine and beer tasting tickets will be sold for \$20, including a commemorative wine or ale glass featuring the festival's artwork. Participating wineries include BR Cohen, Rodney Strong, Slanted House, Sonoma Vineyards, Corda Winery, Petaluma Market Wines, and Hook & Ladder. Participating breweries include Lagunitas IPA, Dempsey's and Santa Cruz Brewery.

Local restaurants will offer an amazing variety of menu items - cheeses, breads, fruits and all kinds of fine cuisine from Jerome's Mesquite Barbecue, Brixx, Tres Hombres, Maguire's Irish Pub, Preferred Sonoma Caterers, Velasco's North of the Border, Bert's Desserts, Humble Pie, Real Doner and many more local establishments.

Volunteers are still needed. Call 707-762-9348 to volunteer or go to petalumadowntown.com for additional information. No pets are allowed.

