

The Gardeners' Club

Santa Cruz County, California

May 2016

Writer/Editor: Lise Bixler

lisebixler@sbcglobal.net

Spring Plant Sale & Swap

Thursday, May 12th, 7 p.m.

Aptos Grange, 2555 Mar Vista Drive

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to get free and bargain-priced plants and paraphernalia for your garden. Our members have been industriously dividing their perennials, potting up seedlings and extra plants, collecting seeds, bagging bulbs, gleaned surplus harvest, thinning tool and décor collections—all to make our trade and sale event a rich and rewarding experience. Come choose from a limitless variety of plants, bulbs, perennials, shrubs, seeds, small trees, tools, pots, vases, planters, books, magazines, knick-knacks and anything/everything garden. If you don't have plants to trade, you can buy stuff at ridiculously low prices. You are sure to discover something new to try. Don't miss out—see you there!



(see inside back cover for more details)

Southern Garden
(Paul Klee)



UC Master Gardeners of Monterey Bay Garden Tour

Saturday, May 14 — 10 am to 3 pm

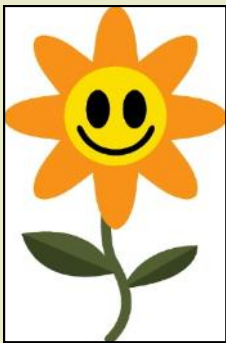
Pacific Grove and Monterey will be home to the 2016 Garden Tour sponsored by the UC Master Gardeners of Monterey Bay. Nine gardens in Monterey and Pacific Grove will be featured on this self-guided tour with Master Gardeners at each home to answer questions.

Activities will be at Jewell Park (corner Central and Grand Ave. Pacific Grove) and will include:

- Master Gardener Plant Sale
- A Garden Market
- Garden Demonstrations
- Silent Auction
- Raffle

\$25 in advance online (<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2518351>)

Gardeners' Club Open Gardens a Big Hit!



Open Gardens, now in its second year, is thriving, with six hosting members and more readying their gardens for visiting Gardeners' Club members.

The purpose is sharing, seeking support and encouragement rather than grandstanding. Bill

Patterson kicked off the season with fifteen enthusiastic gardeners offering suggestions, helping identifications and snipping cuttings. Deanne Lange followed, hosting on Saturday, April 30th 12-4 at 337 San Juan Ave, Santa Cruz. Valera Templeman's Open Garden was Sunday, May 1st, 1-4 at 514 Calle del Sol, Aptos, as was Joanna Hall's.

Dr Eurs, an avid garden supporter, offers our members a garden tour of his amazing ranch-garden-orchard on Sunday May 8th, 10-4 at Creekhaven (at the end of Cherryvale Ave), and Pat McVeigh will share her beautiful garden with us on Saturday, May 21st, 10-1 at 2573 Parker St. (off Winkle Ave), Santa Cruz.

More, more, more! Let Cherry know if you'd like to share your garden in late spring or summer.

Water Conservation Landscapes - Putting it All Together to See The Big Picture

Club Member Golden Love sent this invitation to his upcoming class: "See the **first ever installation of a Grey Flow Plug and Play Pro** at our project near Cabrillo College. It has a greywater system with self cleaning filters using air pressure after each irrigation (from Australia), as well as, 6 irrigation zones that automatically cycle through the garden. They also use the Metzerplas self cleaning in-line drip emitters from Israel. It has an CA native *Agrostis pallens* lawn watered by sub-surface irrigation from three 2,500 gallon underground tanks. It is a completely new landscape designed by Elemental Design Group (Rhadiante Van de Voorde, ASLA) and will be part of the workshop on May 14 at Cabrillo College. People will have an opportunity to see a resilient garden that will be able to withstand future droughts. There are 5 showers and a Jacuzzi tub in the house that will harvest water on a daily basis!"



**Saturday, May 14
9 am - 3 pm — Room 609
Cost: \$35**

Class description: Do you want landscaping that is more resilient for today and the climate changes ahead and less dependent on municipal or well water? Here is your opportunity to learn how many of the individual principles used to "design for water" can be integrated with a whole systems approach and a unified

plan. This class touches on all of the applications that are covered in our Green Home and Garden series - not in detail, but to address how they may be integrated. Learn how rain water in soil and cisterns, graywater, plants that require less water, pervious surfaces, and gardening and irrigation practices can be integrated into a water neutral landscape. Bring photos of your garden and a scaled plan or sketch. This will be important for our small design groups. The class will include a site visit to state-of-the-art examples of these principles.

Online registration: https://cabrillo.augusoft.net/index.cfm?method=ClassInfo.ClassInformation&int_class_id=3544&int_category_id=4&int_sub_category_id=106&int_catalog_id=0

Golden Love is a horticulturalist, arborist, licensed landscape contractor and lifelong avid gardener who has worked in sustainable landscaping for nearly 30 years. He specializes in local landscapes that are "water neutral" and is an expert on rain harvesting and greywater systems.

**SUCCULENT
PICTURE FRAME
WORKSHOP (MAY
21ST AT 2PM) \$189**



**MACRAME PLANT
HANGER WORKSHOP
(SATURDAY, MAY
28 2PM) \$50**

More info: <http://diggardens.com/collections/workshops>



Pronounce this species like this—joe-vi-bar-ba hoo-fell-ee-eye. Or you can just call them “huffies”, if you become as fond of them as I have. They are beautiful cold hardy and drought tolerant succulents with rich colors

(green, yellow, orange, red, purple, pink, bluish, chocolate brown, and many shades in between) that do not fade. There are several hundred named cultivars of *J. heuffelii*. The plants are usually distinctive and often very beautiful. Originating in eastern Europe, they form ornate rosettes to 3” in diameter with waxy, rigid leaves, and are much more sturdy than those of *Sempervivum* cultivars. The leaves are quite rigid, usually sharply pointed and often edged with gold or silver. The colors of the best types are brighter, (or darker), than any of the *Sempervivum* cultivars. They multiply from offsets which you cut with a knife to propagate. If left alone, the plants form a lovely, large clump . Or just call them “huffies”!

The plants seem distinct from *Sempervivum*, however they have some similarity and are related. The most obvious distinction of *J. heuffelii* is the way the rosettes will divide themselves by producing offsets in a sessile fashion (new offsets between older leaves) without a stolon. *Sempervivum* will do this too, however, it is most commonly observed later in the growing

A New Enthusiasm: *Jovibarba heuffelii*



season. Instead of forming chicks, or propagules that can be removed for propagation, *Jovibarba heuffelii* split at the crown of each rosette, resulting in a clustering effect as each one splits over successive seasons into a colony.

Every year, the mature rosettes can split into two, five or more new crowns. If left to its own devices, the crown splits into more new plants every year, creating a mounding cluster of lush color and texture.

J. heuffelii is also monocarpic like *Sempervivum*, meaning the rosette will die after flowering, however, with *Jovibarba* it just

seems to disappear amongst the profusion of other rosettes. *J. heuffelii* is best grown in full sun with very fast-draining soil. In locations where there is intense sun and dryness, some light

shade is advised. These are hybrids that have been developed for the stunning effect provided by their rich burgundy colors and contrasting pale yellowish-green leaf margins. Flowers are pale yellow. They are hardy to Zone 5.

There are also *Jovibarba* species, such as “rollers” which have tiny chicks that simply roll off of the mother plants.

This year I ordered *Jovibarba* from two mail order nurseries in Oregon. The first one, Mountain Crest Gardens, (<http://mountaincrestgardens.com/>) sends each perfect tidy rosette in its own pot. The other nursery, SMG Succulents (<http://www.smgsucculents.com/>) sends its’ huffies and rollers bareroot in individual small paper bags, and although they are priced a bit higher, they send larger plants, sometimes several plants per order. I’m very happy with my plant orders from both nurseries. I love that they specialize in HARDY succulents. Shipping costs were reasonable, and plants arrived quickly and in great condition.

I’ve been sorting through a lot of boxes of saved things lately. I was one of those lucky people whose parents sent Mother’s Day cards to their *daughters*, and I recently found this one, with a poem selected by my father, enclosed. It seems the perfect one to share with you this holiday.

The Wild Cherry Tree

Why does the wild cherry tree

blooming

on the Hudson

make everything

more so

more itself?

So the green

of the elm is greener than

when it stands alone,

the sky

bluer

So you

are one of those

who make others

more themselves

more what they

are!

Of those who draw them to

the extreme verge,

the edge

that crackles:

that is

your beauty;

that is

what

you do

— Hilda Morley

"The Wild Cherry Tree" from "To Hold in My Hand," published by Sheep Meadow Press, Riverdale, N.Y.

Dear Traci:
This poem says it all
Happy Mother's Day to you all
Mom & Dad



High School Scholarship Award!

The whole room was brimming with joy and pride at the April Meeting as we presented the Pat William's High School Scholarship Award to Jonathan Nunez-Esquivel. Jonathan is a senior who already has rented 7 acres in Gilroy and began his own organic farm, growing broccoli, cauliflower and other vegetables. He aspires to become a well-known organic vegetable garden like his father. Jonathan brought his whole family, including his four sisters to the meeting, and how happy we were to celebrate his achievements with all of them!



Jonathan's Environmental Horticulture and Agriculture Mechanics teacher, Pauline Correia, was there to let us know what an inspiration Jonathan is. She said he is a selfless and dedicated student, and a great leader. He is hardworking, motivated and will excel and flourish. She told us that another of her students was taking on the project of planting Ramsay Park with drought-tolerant plants—except, he didn't have any plants to start his project. We sent her off with some plants from the Plant Table, and later more donated plants came from Marcia Meyer, Lise Bixler, Ilene Wilson and Marie Beckam. Marie went the extra mile by approaching Cabrillo and the Arboretum for plant donations, and after telling him about the project,

Brett Hall, California Native Plant Program Director at the Arb, volunteered to participate in the project. It feels so good to be helping and connecting with the young people who are the future of horticulture and their teachers and programs.

A HUGE thank you to Marcia Meyer for continuing our outreach to high school students—she works hard to make this happen. She fosters real connections with the community.

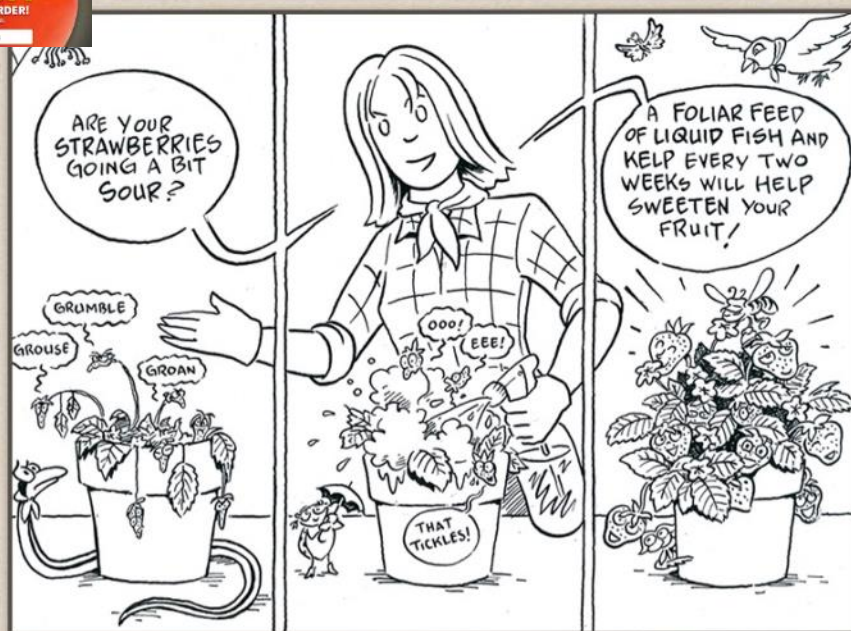


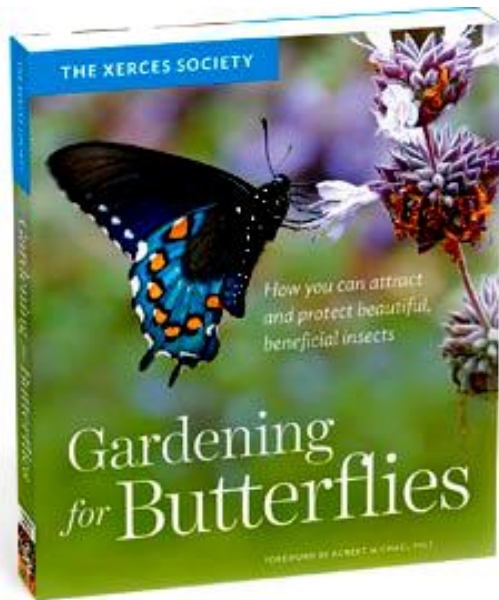
I subscribe to the Peaceful Valley Farm & Garden Supply newsletter and I love getting their weekly tips. Go to www.GrowOrganic.com to subscribe. When I signed up I got a pop-up giving me 10% off of my next order!

Speaking of sweetness, here's some more advice. For sweeter results from your fruit trees, remember that they need a minimum of at least half a day of sunlight each day during the growing season. The more sun, the sweeter your fruit will be. If your trees are in a bad location, consider transplanting when they are dormant in winter. That said, many times the fruits on trees are not as sweet as they could be, because the soil they are planted in is lacking phosphorus and potash. It is important to apply a fertilizer to the soil around your trees in November and again in January to provide these vital nutrients.

During the growing season, feed once after the blooms are finished, again in June and one more time in September with a complete fruit tree food. Make sure not to overwater, either. Allow the soil to dry out a little between waterings. Established fruit trees respond best to deep and infrequent watering.

Tricia's Gardening Tip of the Week





Gardening for Butterflies

How You Can Attract and Protect Beautiful, Beneficial Insects

My first significant encounter with a butterfly came when I was six or seven. We lived in a lonely house on the outskirts of town, surrounded by plenty of open woods, fields, and other insect-friendly habitats. I think the butterfly in question may have been a red-spotted purple; my main memory is of a dazzling blue iridescence when its wings were spread out. It was the most beautiful sight I'd ever seen in my young life.

Today, I'd be lucky to repeat the experience. In the United Kingdom, three-quarters of butterfly species are in decline. In the United States, five species have gone extinct since 1950, and an additional twenty-five are endangered. The reasons for these alarming statistics are many: loss of habitat, the widespread use of agricultural pesticides, climate change, and the proliferation of invasive species top the list.

Butterflies need our help. And one of the best ways to do this is to create the kind of garden that aids them in every stage of their life cycle. You'll find all the information you need in [Gardening for Butterflies: How You Can Attract and Protect Beautiful, Beneficial Insects](#), by the Xerces Society, a nonprofit organization that is at the forefront of invertebrate conservation.

The foundation of a successful butterfly garden is plants—but not just any plants. Natives are the best choice because they provide not only nectar for the adults, but also the right kind of food for the larvae (and many butterfly species are extremely picky). [Gardening for Butterflies](#) tells you exactly which native plants are best for your region, and whether they're most useful as a nectar source or as a host for larvae. You'll also find excellent advice on designing a butterfly garden (with sample plans) and on establishing and maintaining your garden.

A world without butterflies is too sad to contemplate. Your garden can make a difference.

Tom Fischer

Free Pamphlet!

You can download a free and informative pamphlet on best practices for attracting beneficials to your garden from Portland Nursery Pamphlet on Planting Beneficials from Portland Nursery. When you choose plants, Salvias, Monarda, Yarrow, Echinacea, Goldenrod,



Sunflowers, Asters and Honeysuckles are great choices, as are common herbs like Lavender, Thyme, and Oregano. Flowering cover crops, such as buckwheat and clover are very attractive food sources; clover can also be added to lawns or used as a lawn substitute. Even weeds, like dandelion and blackberry, can help.

<http://portlandnursery.com/docs/bestpractice-solutions/AttractingBeneficialsBP.pdf>

WHAT IS A BENEFICIAL?

Many insects, fungi, and bacteria can benefit your garden in one way or another. Beneficials come in many shapes and sizes and each help your garden in their own way, including controlling pests and pollinating plants. Creating a suitable habitat in your garden will attract beneficials, helping you to have a sustainable garden and support native wildlife. When relying on beneficials as a form of pest control you must be patient and tolerant of a few pests in your garden, and some damage to your plants. Without a few pests around your beneficials won't have anything to eat!

Attracting Beneficials

Enlisting Your Neighborhood Hit Squad to Stop Invaders Naturally



PORTLAND NURSERY
www.portlandnursery.com

The Traveling Gardener

In February, my husband Cliff and I went on a birding trip to Oaxaca, Mexico. It has taken me this long to find the time and space in the newsletter to share our trip with you!

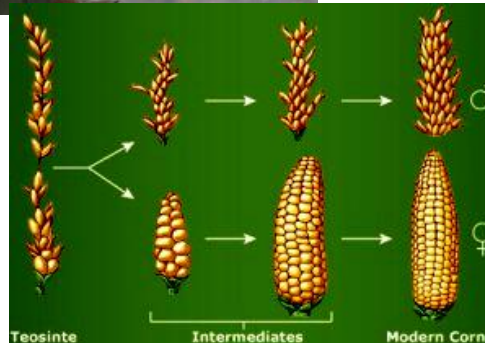
We had an over-night layover in Mexico City, so we had to delay tasting the Oaxacan mole negro we were eager to try and “suffer” through dinner at our hotel. You might be inspired to try a variation on our first course. Here is their guacamole flower with guava, cucumber and peach, served in a traditional Mexican molcajete, with fried corn tortilla petals. Lovely. Yum.



We visited the archaeological site of Monte Alban, a UNESCO World Heritage site. This was the first urban center of Mesoamerica and the capital of Zapotec civilization. Known as Dani Baá to the Zapotecs, and Ocelotepec to the Aztecs, it is now named Monte Alban (“white mountain”) for the white flowering

trees called casahuates (Morning Glory Tree) which flourish in the area.

The history of modern-day corn begins at the dawn of human agriculture, about 10,000 years ago. Ancient farmers in Mexico took the first steps in domesticating corn when they simply chose which kernels (seeds) to plant. It was started from a wild grass called teosinte. Teosinte was very different from our corn today. The kernels were small, loose and in a single row, and there was no husk.



Does anyone know what this composite white-flowered shrub is? It seemed like an aster. It grew everywhere, and attracted all kinds of butterflies.



I found the most beautiful book, stunning photographs by Cecilia Salcedo of the Ethnobotanical Garden of Oaxaca, and anthropologist Alejandro de Avila's reflections on the plants and the oral traditions of Oaxaca. Myths, legends, stories, history. And poems! Here's one:

CORN

Mazatec Poem by Juan Gregorio Regino

When the corn begins to sprout,
I feel our days getting longer.
It is our heart that germinates and grows,
It is the *pozol*, it is the tortilla,
It is the world, it is life.



I told myself, “You can’t take photos of agaves”. Why? Because magnificent agaves were everywhere, and if I started photographing agaves I wouldn’t see the birds or anything else. But these were too beautiful not to share with you.



LOVE IS A MANY GENERA THING



This spring, Timber Press added four new books to their Plant Lover's Guides—which the New York Times called "an excellent series" and "lavishly illustrated." With PRIMULAS by Jodie Mitchell and Lynne Lawson, HARDY GERANIUMS by Robin Parer, MAGNOLIAS by Andrew Bunting, and CLEMATIS by Linda Beutler, there are now twelve books to further kindle your love of plants. And...if you order online, the whole series is 30% off until May 7. http://www.timberpress.com/books/tag/plant_lovers_guides?a=5b&pr=plgs&utm_source=OneOff&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=PlantLoversGuides

FREE and Excellent E-book

<http://www.hortmag.com/heres-free-horticulture-1904-download>



Upcoming Classes at



<http://www.nativerevival.com/>

GROWING AND HARVESTING

by Allen Morgan of Santa Cruz Heirloom Seed

Saturday, May 14, 2016, 11:00am 12:00pm

Class includes techniques to enhance productivity, extend growth production, and demonstrate harvest methods. Times: Two options for class times: 11:00am-12:00pm or 1:30pm-2:30pm
Cost: \$15 per person if purchased in advance or \$20 on day of event Registration: Not required but recommended as classes do fill up. Contact us today to reserve your spot!

MAINTAINING YOUR NATIVE AND DROUGHT TOLERANT GARDEN

by Sherri Osaka, landscape architect

Saturday, May 21, 2016, 10:30am 12:00pm

Topics will include the proper planting, care and maintenance of California native and other low-water plants. Learn why soil is so important and how drip irrigation can save you money. Find out when to prune specific plants in order to use less water. Finally, see how sheet mulching can substantially reduce the time you spend weeding.

Cost: \$25 per person. Registration required. Call us today at 831-684-1811 to reserve your spot!



Good GARDENING VIDEOS

Good Gardening Videos.org is a nonprofit, ad-free website for curated videos about gardens and gardening. Started by Susan Harris of Garden Rant, (<http://gardenrant.com/2016/04/new-305-curated-videos-and-seeking-more.html>) the motivation for this project was a lack of good local TV shows about gardening, and too much misinformation out on the Internet for gardeners.

The mission of this project is:

- To inspire more people to start gardens and succeed as gardeners.
- To improve the environment, thanks to more plants being grown that clean waterways and encourage pollinators and are grown in ways that are good for the environment.
- To elevate the role of universities, public gardens, local garden centers and evidence-based garden communicators as sources of gardening information.

Initial screening for accuracy is done by a horticultural consultant, and more guidance will be sought as needed from the [Garden Professors](#) group [on Facebook](#). [Click here](#) for bios of the Good Gardening Videos team.

Good Gardening Videos is doing three things:

- Compiling reliable and inspirational videos for viewing by the gardening public.
- Encouraging and helping more people and organizations to create good videos, and giving tips on how to do it.
- Helping new videos that are both accurate and watchable get seen.

Accurate information, inspiring gardens



website have been screened and found to be useful, watchable, and free of statements contrary to known evidence. They feature a range of experts, including those at 18 U.S. Extension universities, but also from regular gardeners anywhere in the U.S. and Canada. To help guide viewers to videos most helpful in their own gardens, video locations are prominently displayed.

You are viewers can help improve this website by:

- Clicking the thumb's-up next to videos you like, so they'll be featured as Most Popular and at the top of search results for each category.
- Letting us know if there's a topic you'd like covered in a new video.
- Sharing videos you like via email or social media.
- Recommending videos you like or sending us your own!

To find out about new batches of videos on this site, sign up for Updates on the website, <http://goodgardeningvideos.org/the-website>. No more than twice a month you'll receive updates of videos by category, with brief descriptions.

The curating doesn't stop with videos. The team has also compiled lists of the [gardening websites and books](#) that they frequently recommend. the curating doesn't stop with videos. The team has also compiled lists of the [gardening websites and books](#) that they frequently recommend.

Videos promoted on this



UCSC Farm & Garden Wish List: Bicycles for New Apprentices

This year's group of newly arrived participants in the 6-month Apprenticeship in Ecological Horticulture includes several international students, and they are looking for bikes that they can use during their time in Santa Cruz.

If you have a used mountain or road bike in rideable condition that you'd like to donate, please contact us at 841-459-3240 or casfs@ucsc.edu and we'll arrange to pick it up. Thanks!



Instructions & Tally Sheet for Plant Swap and Sale

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to get free and bargain-priced plants and paraphernalia for your garden. Come choose from a limitless variety of plants, bulbs, perennials, shrubs, seeds, small trees, tools, pots, vases, planters, books, magazines, surplus harvest, knick-knacks and anything/everything garden. If you don't have plants to trade, you can buy stuff at ridiculously low prices. You are sure to discover something new to try.

You can take plants home by either by paying cash with cash or check, or by bringing plants and other items for trade tickets to use instead of cash. Fill out this form before the meeting if you are going to trade. This is what you'll get for what you bring:

- 2", 3" & 4" pots: 1 ticket each
- 6" pot or 6-pack: 1.5 ticket each
- 1 gallon pot: 2 tickets each
- 2 gallon pot: 3 tickets each

Miscellaneous items are priced at the meeting.



Label your plants with their common or botanical names, and put your name on them in case purchasers have questions.

Please don't bring loose, dirty plants that would make a mess, or plants you wouldn't be proud to put your name on.

We appreciate all of you who come early to help set up – it's a lot of work! And if you can, plan on staying to help with clean-up.

We'll start accepting plants at 6:40 p.m. The purchase prices are:

- 2", 3", or 4" pots: 2 tickets or \$1 each
- 6" pot or 6-pack: 3 tickets, or \$1.50 each
- 1 gallon pot: 4 tickets or \$2.00 each
- 2 gallon pot: 6 ticket or \$3.00 each

When there are multiples of the same plant available, please take only one until other members have had a chance to buy one. If there are multiples left over, then you can grab them! Plants that don't get sold or given away go home with the person who brought them.

Good luck, and have fun!

Please complete this form at home and bring it with you to the meeting.

Number of 2, 3 or 4" pots: _____ X 1 = _____ tickets

Number of 6" pots or 6-packs: _____ X 1.5 = _____ tickets (round up to whole number)

Number of 1-gal. pots: _____ X 2 = _____ tickets

Number of 2-gal. pots: _____ X 3 = _____ tickets

Miscellaneous items (to be priced at meeting): _____ tickets

TOTAL TICKETS: _____



38th Annual Spring Plant Sale

May 6,7, and 8, 2016
Mother's Day Weekend

Friday 3:00-7:00 p.m.
(member presale - \$25 donation at the gate)
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Sunday 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Cabrillo College
Environmental Horticulture
Center & Botanic Gardens

6500 Soquel Drive
(top of campus)
Aptos, CA



www.thegardenersclub.org

President
Cherry Thompson, 475-0991
cherrylea@comcast.net
Vice President & Publicity
Ilene Wilson, 724-4609
mygardensup@aol.com
Secretary
April Barclay, 688-7656
AABarclay@aol.com
Treasurer
Denise Rossi
475-3081
drossi342@comcast.net
Membership
Suzanne Caron 609-6230
Suzanne.bottomline@gmail.com
Hospitality
Lydia Johnson, 475-0912
Newsletter Writer/Editor
Lise Bixler, 457-2089
lisebixler@sbcglobal.net
Webmaster
Joe Thompson
joe@joehometech.com
Members-at-Large
Dee Weybright, 426-3028
DEENART@aol.com
Joanna Hall, 662-8821
jhavelock@sbcglobal.net
Debbie Kindle, 462-6296
poppy-54@live.com
Plant Table
Patty Connoie, 335-4134
pattyconnoiertr@aol.com
Lupe Allen, 247-2705
lupeda@ucsc.edu
Allan Neymark
457-2505
aneymark@hotmail.com
Refreshments
Jean Favre, 840-4562
jeanfayre@gmail.com
Webmaster
Joe Thompson
joe@joehometech.com

P.O. Box 3025, Ben Lomond CA 95005

The Gardeners' Club



Printed on 100% recycled paper

It's easy-peasy to join our club!
Dues are \$12 per calendar year. Make check to "The Gardeners' Club" and mail to P.O. Box 3025, Ben Lomond, CA 95005. Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Aptos Grange, 2555 Mar Vista Dr., Aptos

