

# The Gardeners' Club

Santa Cruz County, California

March 2016

Writer/Editor: Lise Bixler

[lisebixler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lisebixler@sbcglobal.net)

At our next meeting, Club Member Lydia Johnson will introduce us to the concepts of ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arrangement. While living in Japan, where her husband was stationed, she was always looking for activities which had to do with the local culture. So she started studying ikebana, flower arranging. She studied for two years and attained a master certification in ikebana. Although she intended to teach when they returned, having a family intervened. Over the year she has used her skills to make arrangements for her home and friends. Now we get to benefit from her expertise!



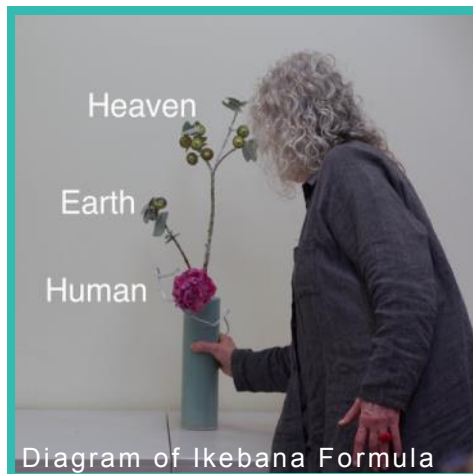
Ikebana is more than simply putting flowers in a container. It is a disciplined art form in which the arrangement is a living thing where nature and humanity are brought together. It is steeped in the philosophy of developing a closeness with nature.

As is true of all other arts, ikebana is creative expression within certain rules of construction. Its materials are living branches, leaves, grasses, and blossoms. Its heart is the beauty resulting from color combinations, natural shapes, graceful lines, and the meaning latent in the total form of the arrangement. Ikebana is, therefore, much more than mere floral decoration.

The growing appreciation of Japanese art and architecture in the West has extended to the



Japanese way with flowers. Ikebana is an art, in the same sense that painting and sculpture are arts. The remarkably high development of floral art in Japan can be attributed to the Japanese love of nature. People in all countries appreciate natural beauty, but in Japan, the appreciation amounts almost to a religion.



Nature is always changing. Plants grow and put forth leaves, flowers bloom, and berries are borne regularly and repeatedly throughout the seasons. Nature has its own rhythm and order. The awareness of this is the first step



in involving oneself in ikebana.

In principle, ikebana aims not at bringing a finite piece of nature into the house, but rather at suggesting the whole of nature, by creating a link between the indoors and the outdoors. This is why arrangers are likely to use several different types of plants in a single arrangement, and to give prominence to leaves and flowerless branches as well as blossoms. Even when a single type of flower is used, an attempt is made to bring out its full implications as a symbol of nature.



Thank you to Ikebana International (<http://www.ikebanahq.org/whatis.php>) for their explanation of what ikebana is. We look forward to Lydia telling us more about HOW to do it!



Meeting  
Thursday, March 10th  
7:00 p.m

Aptos Grange  
2555 Mar Vista Dr.

Refreshments will be served. Thanks to Jean Favre for snack, Lupe Allen for desert and Carol Rosenoft for beverages.

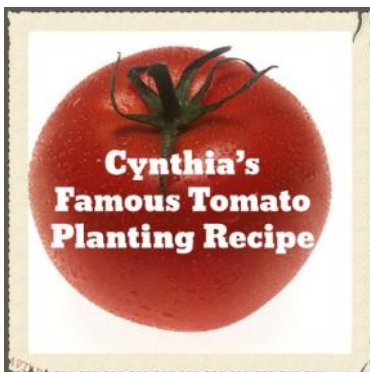
Remember to bring plants for the Plant Table! As an extra incentive, we will have an special give-away plant from the Board for a lucky winner.



This online store is for Love Apple customers to pre-order their biodynamic-certified tomato and other plants for pick up on March 26th and 27th, 2016 (opening weekend) at their annual plant sale at Ivy's Porch in Scotts Valley, CA. Please note that Love Apple Farms will not be shipping plants or other products from this store.

The plant sale will open on March 26th at Ivy's Porch, 5311 Scotts Valley Dr, Scotts Valley. All orders placed here are to be picked up during the opening weekend at Ivy's Porch. This site is for those happy customers who want to avoid the crowds, ensure they get what they want, and can pick up on the designated weekend. Go [to http://loveapplepresale.tictail.com/](http://loveapplepresale.tictail.com/) to see the many enticing varieties offered.

Also available is a bundled package of the ingredients of Cynthia's Secret Recipe for growing out-of-this world tomatoes.



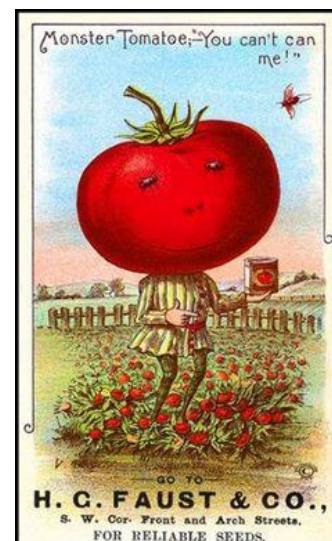
Tried and proven by hundreds of Love Apple Farms' tomato customers, Cynthia's planting hole recipe is the way to get great tomatoes. Soils become depleted after just one year of growing tomatoes or veggies, and you've got to put back into the ground what the plants took out

over the growing season. After years of experimentation, research, and trial growing, Cynthia Sandberg, owner of Love Apple Farms, has developed a planting method for tomatoes known far and wide. When she grows tomatoes for world-famous 3-Michelin star Manresa restaurant in Los Gatos, she always adds this mix to the 2-foot deep planting hole:

1/2 cup G&B Tomato, Vegetable, and Herb Fertilizer  
 1/2 cup G&B Bone Meal  
 1/2 cup G&B Fish Meal (or fish head)  
 1/3 cup Mykos Mycorrhizal Fungi  
 1/2 cup 100% Pure Worm Castings  
 Several crushed egg shells  
 2 uncoated aspirin tablets

Every year, more customers who have tried her method come into the sale waxing ecstatic over the results their garden has given them using Cynthia's method. Get on the bus and start busting out the best tomato year ever!

This package offering (\$49) includes enough planting hole recipe mix for 12 tomato plants. Also great for peppers and eggplants, using 50% quantities per plant.



## Hummingbird Days - Saturday and Sunday, March 5 & 6, 2016

Time: 10am-4pm. Admission: \$10 Public, \$5 Members, Free: UCSC students & children under 17.

Visit the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum for the central coast's premier family-oriented educational event celebrating one of nature's vibrant aerial acrobats, the Hummingbird.

During the event, nature lovers of all ages will experience and learn about these amazing birds and the particular flowers at the Arboretum that host and support them. There will be many interesting talks and activities. At 11:00 a.m. each day the subject will be "Gardening for Hummingbirds". For more information, go to <http://arboretum.ucsc.edu/news-events/events/recurring-events/hummingbird-days/index.html>.

**MARCH 5&6**

**HUMMINGBIRD  
DAYS**

Two days of natural wonders and outdoor fun for the whole family





# Welcome

San Francisco  
Flower & Garden  
Show  
2016



# Discovery

San Mateo  
Event Center

**March 16-20**

The San Francisco Flower & Garden Show with this year's theme "Discovery." More than five acres of the event center will be in full bloom with spectacular display gardens, more than 125 seminars, hands-on DIY projects, thousands of flowers and plants for sale and more. From plant gurus to horticulture newbies, this is the place for everyone to immerse themselves in the world of gardening. There will more seminars than ever packing the five stages with the industry's top designers, authors and bloggers covering everything from bee-friendly gardening to lawn substitutions. This year's world of "discovery" begins in the main hall where showgoers will enter the Insecta Gianteum, an oversized world of insects set in a lush landscape of palms, plants and gushing water. The giant creatures will tower over attendees who are invited to snap photos with a giant Grasshopper as it spreads its wings, as well as a Praying Mantis that rears up and extends its limbs. The insects lead the way to the full-size showcase gardens, masterpieces of color and creativity from leading landscape designers and gardening experts. Visitors can explore the amazing full-size showcase garden displays created by top West Coast designers utilizing thousands of water-wise and exotic plants.

If you love flowers, the Flower Pavilion Stage is the place to be. The country's leading designers will take the stage for floral design demonstrations with an emphasis on California-grown flowers and branches. More than a dozen experts will share techniques and tips as part of this non-stop seminar series including Living Centerpieces; Flowers for All Ages; Large-scale Branch Arrangements; and more.

For the first time ever, the DIY stage will offer attendees a "make and take," hands-on experience at workstations where they will learn seed starting; plant propagation; bonsai trimming, wiring and growing; how to create a bee hotel; and more.

Urban gardeners should head to the Urban Homestead stage featuring a packed schedule covering an array of topics including

bee-keeping, edible gardening, seed saving, sheet mulching, urban chicken keeping and more. From beginner to expert gardeners, there is something for everyone at the Discovery Stage. This stage will host a variety of seminars from the best in the industry. Hot topics include: Creative Succulent Container Gardens with Debra Lee Baldwin; Saving Pollinators One Garden at a Time with David Mizejewski; California Gardens: Glorious Despite the Drought with Sharon Lovejoy; Design Like a Pro with Billy Goodnick; and more. The Sequoia Stage will be home to mini-courses featuring a panel of three experts each presenting one aspect of the same topic. Mini-course topics will include Small Space Solutions, The Water-Wise Garden, The Edible Garden, The Lawn Free Garden and the Native Garden.

At the Plant Market, shop a variety of hundreds of plants – everything from water-wise natives to bulbs and annuals to perennials. At the Marketplace, more than 200 exhibitors will offer the hottest new tools, gardening gear, art for the garden and more. There will be fun for the little ones—families are invited to stop by the fun-filled, kid-friendly area to enjoy hands-on activities and interactive education! Also, children 16 and under are admitted free to the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show when accompanied by a paying adult.

The Show will be open to the public Wednesday, March 16 through Sunday, March 20, at the San Mateo County Event Center, located at 1346 Saratoga Drive, in San Mateo, Calif. Show hours are Wednesday Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is \$17.50 for a one-day advance ticket purchased online or at select nurseries by February 28; an all show pass good for up to five days is \$40. Tickets purchased after February 28 are \$22 for a one-day adult admission, \$20 for a one-day senior admission and children 16 and under are admitted free. Special workshops tickets are also available. For advance tickets and more information please visit [www.sfgardenshow.com](http://www.sfgardenshow.com).

## Name Our Newsletter

Member Bill Patterson has suggested we come up with a more exciting name for our monthly newsletter, and has offered to donate 3 hours of his gardening time to the person who suggests the winning title. Your fearless editor is quite fussy, though, and hopes members will suggest a title that reflects the unique things our Club contributes to our community. Bring your suggestions to the next meeting, or email or call President Cherry Thompson (contact information on last page).

## Cabrillo Horticulture Volunteers Invited to Join



Cabrillo College's Horticulture Department has an enthusiastic group of volunteers that began meeting in February for the 2016 year that will culminate in the school's May Sale.

We are lead by volunteer instructor and trainer Jan Shaw, a professional landscaper with decades of horticultural experience.

The group meets Thursday mornings, 9:30 to noon. Parking is free within the department's area.

Members participate in growing plants from seeds to cultivation, along with many other garden related projects. Volunteer opportunities include working in the Horticulture Learning Center, including a 2000 volume library, providing administrative assistance, coordinating volunteer and member programs, event publicity

Gardeners' Club members are encouraged to come and be a part of the activities to any level they wish, from a short observation to a hands-in-the-dirt involvement.

The Horticulture Center has many ways for the public to become involved with the Program. There are many benefits of becoming an active volunteer including free admission to the Fall Lecture Series, Free admission to the Mother's Day sale as well as interacting with wonderful people that share the same love of plants and helping with the next generation of horticulturists.

Pat McVeigh is the leader and contact person at 566-4553 for the Thursday morning group. If you would like more information about other ways to volunteer, please call 477-3282 or 479-6241 for details and an application form.

# How to Grow **Bonnie** LETTUCE



## START to HARVEST

21 Days for Leaf  
45-80 Days for Head



## SPACING

(Ground or Bed)  
**6"-18" APART**  
Depending on Variety  
(Check Tags)



## SPACE SAVER

TUCK LETTUCE UNDER OR BETWEEN TALLER VEGETABLES



## KEEP MOIST



## FEED REGULARLY

WITH LIQUID PLANT FOOD



## PLANT IN FALL OR IN SPRING

**GREAT FOR CONTAINERS**  
One plant per 10" pot or  
Three per 14" pot



For continuous harvesting pick outer leaves and leave inner ones to grow.



Join us for a **FREE** Workshop!

## TIPS FROM A PRO:

All You Need to Know to Successfully Grow Citrus on the Central Coast

**Saturday, March 19th • 10am – 12pm**

Aaron Dillon, owner of Four Winds Growers, Northern California's largest wholesale citrus grower, will be joining us to discuss variety selection and growing citrus in a container vs. in the ground. He will also share his expert tips on pruning, fertilizing, pest control and more. If you've ever wanted to grow your own citrus, or would like advice on caring for your existing plants, you won't want to miss this talk!

235 River St., Santa Cruz, CA | 831-423-0223  
From 3/8 to 3/13: Monday - Friday 8am - 5:30pm | Saturday 8am - 5pm | Sunday 9am - 5pm  
From 3/14 to 3/20: Monday - Friday 8am - 6pm | Saturday 8am - 6pm | Sunday 9am - 6pm

**San Lorenzo**  
GARDEN CENTER



## "Garden Cruz" is back!

Garden Cruz: Organic Matters Organic Gardening Workshop  
Center for Agroecology & Sustainable Food Systems



Don't miss this chance to learn from the best as Christof Bernau, Sky DeMuro and Orin Martin team up to teach you the art of French-intensive gardening, from 19th century Parisian market gardener to Alan Chadwick's synthesis of biodynamics, to its present-day practice at the UCSC Farm & Garden. You can join them the first three Saturdays in March, or choose the à la carte option and pick one or two workshops.

Topics covered will include garden bed preparation, technique to ensure soil health and fertility, seed propagation and proper care of seedlings, planting plans, direct seeding and transplanting practices, intercropping, and raised bed philosophy. Get an overview of spring vegetable and flower crops, with a "sneak preview" of summer favorites.

Learn how the "the three Cs" cultivation (proper bed preparation), compost, and cover crops and green manures form the basis of healthy soil. Get familiar with the "holy grail" of organic matter and how to get more from your garden beds by harnessing the soil's biology to work on your behalf smart, not hard, and grow great crops!

Workshops include demonstration and hands-on practice with a focus on planning, preparing, and planting raised beds, sowing and pricking out/growing out vegetables and flowers, managing environmental conditions of young seedlings, irrigating seeds and seedlings, and selecting and making sowing mixes. You'll practice sowing seeds and take home vegetables and flowers you've sown and transplanted. Get ideas for your own garden on tours of the Alan Chadwick Garden and UCSC Farm Garden.

This class is appropriate for all levels, from beginners to experienced gardeners, as there is always more to learn in the garden. An ideal option for community members and students involved in campus and community gardens, or for anyone looking to enhance their ability to grow food and flowers at home.

Workshop Descriptions: Workshop 1, March 5: Soils, Cover Crops, Compost, and Cultivation (bed preparation). Workshop 2, March 12: Greenhouse Skills, Starting Plants from Seeds, and producing your own vigorous seedlings to transplant in the

garden Workshop 3, March 19: Seeding and Transplanting into Garden Beds (crop spacing, intercropping, crop planning); irrigation with an emphasis on water-conserving techniques Workshops 1 and 3 take place in UCSC's Alan Chadwick Garden; Workshop 2 takes place at the UCSC Farm.

Cost for all 3 workshops: \$300 (general), \$250 (Friends of the UCSC Farm & Garden), \$175 (Farm & Garden Docents and Educators), \$150 (students and limited income). Cost for individual workshops: \$125 (general), \$100 (Friends), \$75 (docents/educators), \$60 (students and limited income).

Please note: If you are interested in signing up for one or two individual workshops please call Pam Dewey at 831.459-3240 or by email at [casfs@ucsc.edu](mailto:casfs@ucsc.edu) after January 4 for details.

To pay for Garden Cruz by check (no service fee), send your check made payable to UC Regents to:

Pam Dewey/CASFS

1156 High Street

Santa Cruz, CA 95064

Attn: Garden Cruz workshop

Please include your contact information (phone and email) with your check.

If you are paying by check for one or two individual workshops, please include a note indicating the Workshop number and date.

Coffee, tea, and snacks provided. Bring your lunch (refrigerator provided) and a coffee/tea mug. Class size limited, pre-registration required by March 1. For additional details contact Pam Dewey at 459-3240 or [casfs@ucsc.edu](mailto:casfs@ucsc.edu) or get info at [casfs.ucsc.edu](http://casfs.ucsc.edu)



## ORCHIDS Demystified!

**Saturday, March 12th | 10am – 12pm**

Who isn't in awe of exotic orchids and their stunning blooms? Let us take the mystery out of these beauties! We will tell you everything you need to know to confidently select and care for them. Our local expert and grower Vicky Smith will be here with us to offer tips and answer your questions.

**20% OFF** Orchids

235 River St., Santa Cruz, CA | 831-423-0223

From 3/8 to 3/13: Monday - Friday 8am - 5:30pm | Saturday 8am - 5pm | Sunday 9am - 5pm  
From 3/14 to 3/20: Monday - Friday 8am - 6pm | Saturday 8am - 6pm | Sunday 9am - 6pm

**San Lorenzo**  
GARDEN CENTER



is for March

Spring Forward

Don't forget to set your clocks  
ahead 1 hour  
Saturday Night March 12<sup>th</sup>.



"The beautiful  
spring came; and  
when Nature  
resumes her  
loveliness, the  
human soul is apt  
to revive also."

-Harriet Ann Jacobs

## The Gardeners' Club

P.O. Box 3025, Ben Lomond CA 95005

### President

Cherry Thompson, 475-0991

**Vice President & Publicity**  
cherrylea@comcast.net

Ilene Wilson, 724-4609

**Secretary**  
mygardensup@aol.com

April Barclay, 688-7656

**Treasurer**  
AABarclay@aol.com

Denise Rossi

475-3081

drossi3342@comcast.net

### Membership

Suzanne Caron 609-6230

Suzannebottomline@gmail.com

### Hospitality

Lydia Johnson, 475-0912

**Newsletter Writer/Editor**

Lise Bixler, 457-2089

lisebixler@sbcglobal.net

[www.thegardenersclub.org](http://www.thegardenersclub.org)

joe@joeohometech.com

Specialist

Computer Frustration

Joe Thompson

**Webmaster**

jeancfavre@gmail.com

Jean Favre, 840-4562

**Refreshments**

[aneymark@hotmail.com](mailto:aneymark@hotmail.com)

457-2505

Allan Neymark

[lupeda@ucsc.edu](mailto:lupeda@ucsc.edu)

Lupe Allen, 247-2705

pattyconnoletr@aol.com

Patty Connole, 335-4134

**Plant Table**

poppy-54@live.com

Debbie Kindle, 462-6296

jhaveilock@sbcglobal.net

Joanna Hall, 662-8821

**Members-at-Large**



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

