

Newsletter of
The Gardeners' Club,
Santa Cruz County,
California



November 2017
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November Meeting: Making Garden Mosaics

Mosaic art is a form of breaking tile and/or plates to create beautiful designs on a variety of objects or surfaces. Dena Gonsalves and Gayle Larson have been making mosaic art projects and teaching mosaic art classes for over 15 years. We are grateful to have them come and give us a demonstration and to inspire us with all of the possibilities of mosaic.

This presentation will teach you how to make mosaic art, which can be used in your garden or other areas of your home, from start to finish.

Dena is a recently retired physical education teacher who loves the outdoors and gardening. When she is not adventure traveling (bicycling 900 miles across Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand!), she is making, selling and teaching mosaic art. For 15 years she has found it be a fun creative way to make beautiful garden decor.

Gayle and her husband Paull own the business Mosaic Elements Mosaic Elements which offers classes, workshops, tiles, kits and unique design elements for mosaic and pique assiette artists. You can visit Gayle's website mosaicelements.com to find tips, hints and a beautiful variety of mosaic elements that can be used to make your designs even more fabulous.

Come check out this fun and informative presentation and you too can make beautiful art for your garden.



Mosaic by Dena Gonsalves



Gayle at work on a mosaic table top

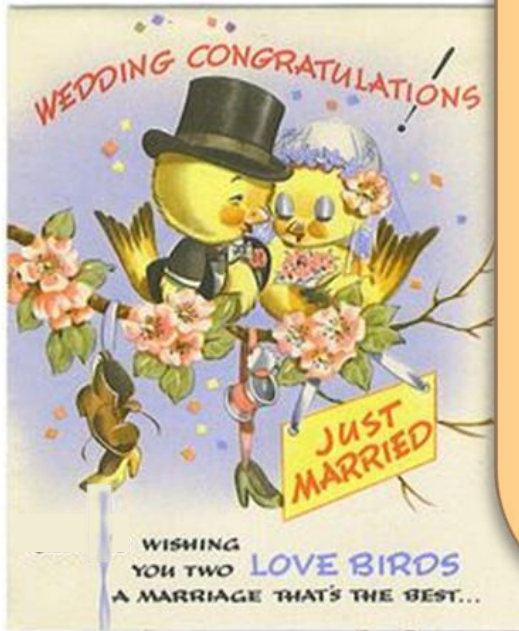
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH, 7:00 P.M.

APTOS GRANGE, 2555 MAR VISTA DRIVE

Refreshments will be served. Thanks to Pat McVeigh for snacks,
Dorothy Kukla for dessert and Jean Favre for beverages.

When Gardeners Marry....Beauty!!! . . .

Scott and Nikolara got married October 11th in a gorgeous private garden in Santa Cruz. We wish you great joy, Mr. and Mrs. Dunbar-Jansons!



Fall Orchid Festival
presented by the
Carmel Orchid Society

Friday,
Saturday
November
10 & 11
9am - 4pm

Orchid Sales
Orchid Display
Silent Auction
Orchid Care Classes
Potting Demonstrations

Community
Church of the
Monterey
Peninsula

4590 Carmel Valley Rd.
Carmel CA

CarmelOrchidSociety.org

Grow Great Garlic: Cultivating Organic Garlic in the Home Garden

**Sunday, November 5, 9:30 am - 12 pm,
Hay Barn, UCSC**

Led by Sandhill Farms garlic grower Pete Rasmussen and Chadwick Garden manager Orin Martin, this workshop will include in-depth discussions of all aspects of growing great garlic, from soil preparation and seed selection, to planting and harvesting tricks of the trade. We'll also have roasted garlic available for workshop participants to taste. This workshop takes place rain or shine!

Following the workshop there will be a selection of rare and heirloom garlic available for sale to plant in the home garden. Note that garlic seed available at the workshop is limited; if you'd like to pre-order prior to the workshop, see www.sandhillfarms.org. Cost of the workshop is \$30 general admission (pre-registered) or \$40 (at the door); \$20 for Friends of the Farm & Garden members (pre-registered) or \$30 (at the door); \$15 for UCSC students and limited-income (pre-registered) or \$20 (at the door). <https://garlic2017.brownpapertickets.com/>

FOR THE BIRDS: A GARDEN WEBINAR WITH MARGARET ROACH

Monday, Nov. 6 at 3:30 PM (PST) \$20



Margaret Roach writes the nationally acclaimed blog **A Way to Garden** (<https://awaytogarden.com>). For 30 years, she's been cultivating a garden that's "a visual treat every day of the year." She loves

birds, and when planning her own bird-attractive garden, she has focused mostly on fruit (Viburnum, Aronia, Malus, Lindera, Cornus, Ilex, and Sambucus to name a few) and shelter (varied kinds of protection, such as from wind and winter in conifers, and from predators in thorny thickets of mixed shrubs and vines). Here's Margaret's description of her webinar:

I ALWAYS say the birds taught me to garden. And I thank them.

What started out decades ago as merely a semi-conscious wish to see more birds while I started a garden on a former blank canvas, ended up bringing about 65 avian species into the garden each year, each in its own time, with a smaller but substantial number nesting in it or at its periphery.

In this 90-minute webinar, I'll share all my "if I knew then what I know now" aha's about setting realistic aims (no, not every site is going to attract bluebirds no matter how many boxes you buy!) and accomplishing them—all with in the context of a visually pleasing home landscape.

The class includes Q&A time after the slide talk, so come prepared with your questions. We'll cover:

Take proper aim: Before you misdirect efforts, how to evaluate what birds you can potentially attract, anyway

The top 7 guidelines for making a garden that makes birds right at home, including..... how to "retrofit" an existing garden that may be more aesthetically driven or a collector's garden

The powerhouse plant genera that are key elements of inviting birds, wherever you garden

Creating what I call bio-hedges and other mixed plantings to make birds at home—and finding room for them in your yard

Best practices for bird-feeding, nest boxes, and other non-plant garden elements(both do's and don'ts)

Plus lots of amazing avian "aha's" I've gleaned along the way, and.....the "must" resources online and off that will plug you into the location-specific info you need

This class will be broadcast live using GoToWebinar software, accessible on your computer, iPad or even phone—but I recommend a bigger screen to see the photos best. Once you purchase a ticket, you'll receive instructions for how to get into

the GoToWebinar system and download the software, and reminders along the way before class time.

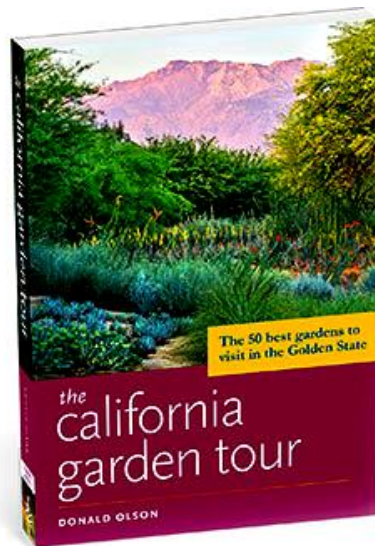
A handout will be provided including top plants, links to online resources to continue your learning, and more.

I hope you'll join me for my newest webinar, about my favorite subject.—Margaret

Sign up here: <https://awaytogarden.com/bird-gardening-garden-writing-365-day-garden-fall-webinars-margaret/>



"A Pink Birdy Told Me" - graffiti mural in Lisbon, Portugal



New Book from Timber Press

Member Bill Patterson recommends this book highly, and has bought a copy to share with the Club.

In [The California Garden Tour: The 50 Best Gardens to Visit in the Golden State](#), veteran travel writer Donald Olson highlights 50 outstanding public gardens and provides

all the information you need to make the most of your visit. From San Francisco and the East Bay to Palm Springs and San Diego, Olson includes iconic gardens like the Getty Center, new favorites like Alcatraz, and uniquely Californian destinations like Lotusland and Sunnylands. The easy-to-use format includes visitor information, an evocative description, and full color photography for each garden.

A more detailed review by Tom Karwin can be found in the Sentinel at <http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/article/NE/20171026/FEATURES/171029760>. We should all find time to visit public gardens to broaden our knowledge and stoke our imaginations. When you visit a garden, you are encouraged to write about your experience and share it here in our newsletter!



Habitat Network is a collaboration between The Nature Conservancy and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to bring people together to explore the effects of new conservation practices in urban, suburban, and rural landscapes. If you are interested in learning about and supporting sustainability, gardening, wildlife, the natural world, or human health, then Habitat Network is the tool to provide you with the information and actions you seek. It is available to anyone with access to the internet (habitat.network). No matter the size or location of your property, Habitat Network can help you learn about practices that can support a diversity of plants and animals, and build resilience into residential landscapes. So many resources for gardeners!

One of Habitat Network's campaigns is "Garden Messy for Wildlife". Gardens are havens for wildlife—even at the end of the growing season. Overgrown grassy reeds, dried flower stalks, and shrubby fruit-filled branches provide food, cover, and protection in the fall and winter for animals big and small. You can Take the Pledge to be a Lazy Gardener and join thousands of other gardeners who vow to not clean-up their gardens until spring 2018 (<http://content.yardmap.org/special-pages/pledge-to-be-a-lazy-gardener>).



9 am to 10 am Members Only, 10 to 4 pm Open to Public

Arboretum Road, west of Western Drive

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS AND GIFTS UNLIKE ANYTHING YOU'VE SEEN ANYWHERE!

INSPIRATIONS FROM GAYLA TRAIL

Lately I have been revisiting the writings of Gayla Trail, whose You Grow Girl website (<http://yougrowgirl.com>) and blog are thoughtful and informative. She describes her site as “a place for gardeners, plant lovers, explorers, cooks and eaters, readers and writers, walkers, lookers, wonderers and wanderers, collectors, creators, tinkerers, savers, builders, and those born curious.” There I found an exchange of letters from several years ago between her and garden guru Margaret Roach (see Page 3). In a letter to Margaret, she writes about her disappointment in herself of having a messy garden, and about working towards accepting this. Trying to prepare for The Gardeners’ Club Board visit to my garden last month, I took comfort and hope from her words and her description of her happy, little (big) mess:

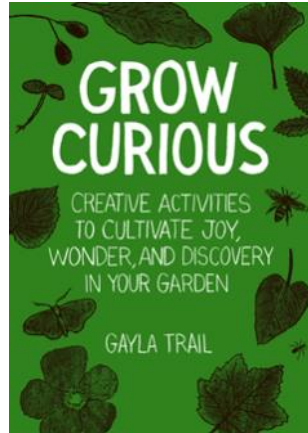
“I have always been a dabbler, a mad scientist(ish), someone who messes about. I have long thought of my gardens as working gardens and labs in which I learn and experiment. Tinkering is serious play. It is messy, filthy work..

.. This is who I am and who I am as a gardener. I have an appreciation for making things beautiful, but ultimately, I have a stronger drive to take things apart. I make messes, on purpose, and then chastise myself for it afterward.

...The truth is I may never be a tidy gardener who maintains the sort of inspiring landscape that is shown and opened up for public viewing and scrutiny. In trying to make peace with my messiness, I have come to realize that this is a goal that I have internalized and what I believed I was supposed to be, but it is not what I desire. What I really want — what I aspire to most — is to be the sort of gardener who will invite you in and show you around happily no matter the conditions, and without apology or shame.”

I purchased one of her newest books, Grow Curious, a guidebook and manifesto to help gardeners interact and connect more deeply with their gardens through seasonal as well as open-ended activities that promote

exploration, discovery, inspiration, and creativity. It is full of wonderful prompts and challenges to go out and actually BE with your garden in different ways. You can order it as a book or ebook at <https://thefluffcompany.com/collections/grow-curious>.



Here’s are two timely excerpts:

IMPERFECTION AND DECAY

We tend to prefer plants when they are freshly blooming and in their prime. As a photographer, I am not alone in removing individual flowers and leaves from a shot if they are a little bit withered or dead.

White flowers seem to bring out the worst of this trait. Some turn from bright white to brown very quickly and the impulse to pluck them is strong. Unsightly and distracting is what I tell myself. Why do we ignore if not outright revile flowers and plants that are no longer perfect? Is there a different sort of beauty there that we are missing in our pursuit of the youthfulness of a new bud, a freshly opened bloom, or an unblemished leaf? Years ago, while out on a winter walk with my camera in tow, I happened upon a community garden with open gates. Some of the plots had been cleaned up thoroughly, but there remained a few forgotten remnants of the summer garden season: a shrivelled eggplant hanging like a pendant from the leafless stalk of a dead plant, rosehips frozen on a bush, seed pods with snowy caps, the tall skeletons of giant sunflowers. I found myself taken in by the beauty of these less-than-perfect specimens and began to seek them out in other gardens I visited no matter the time of year.

- Visit your own garden with the express purpose of looking for withering, old, or dying flowers, produce, and plants. Survey for leaves that have been pocked or deformed by insect and slug predation. Take photos or sketch them in a notebook.

- Are there aspects of these decaying or blemished plant bits that you can appreciate from an aesthetic point of view?

TINY COLLECTIONS

Collect bits and pieces from your garden that interest you. Place them somewhere that you pass by daily and observe how plants bits age and dry. How do their colors change as they decay? You can take this further. Store the bits and pieces in a series of tiny jars, a small tin or shoebox, muffin tins, a shadowbox, etc. Arrange them artfully. Make little tags for your display, listing when and where you grew each piece.



I tried this while wandering and wondering in my garden, this time of the year when it is in “graceful demise”, or not-so-graceful disarray and collapse. I had collected a large bag of nigella (Love-in-a-Mist) seedpods a while ago and was storing them in a large paper bag. I took a few of them out and put them in a small ceramic bowl, then placed it on the dining room table. Suddenly it became art, a still life, something to learn from.

“A garden is always a series of losses set against a few triumphs, like life itself.”

—May Sarton

The Travelling Gardener



By Lise Bixler

Continuing my saga of our recent trip to Madagascar, this month I'll tell you about our visit to Ankarafantsika National Park. Located in the northwest, it is one of the largest and last

remaining sections of dense dry deciduous forest in Madagascar. Other vegetation types include dense forests on the banks of the rivers and lakes, marshes, swamps, raffia forests, floating vegetation on lakes and ponds and "recolonization" steppes, including eroded

grand canyons. So far 830 plant species have been listed in the park.

Although we were hiking to see birds, I was hopelessly distracted by flowers and bugs. Considering we were there in the dry season, it was amazing to see a variety of bright, lush flowering vines.



This fuzzy white plant fascinated me. Our guide said it was a *Diplectria*, and that during the dry season it loses all of its leaves and grows this fuzzy coating to conserve water. At the tips of the branches there are tiny flowers. The *Diplectria* genus includes natives to China and India. Given that Madagascar was once connected to India, that makes sense.



The guides we had each day were amazing. Every protected area managed by Madagascar National Parks is embedded in its local community, who are given half the entry money taken at the gates. The local community also provides trained wildlife guides to escort visitors—you can't enter without one. The guides participate in paid extensive training programs for at least a year, sometimes longer, to ensure they are knowledgeable about the flora, fauna, and other details of the protected area. Many are very good, having wide knowledge in many fields—orchids, medicinal plants, herpetology, bugs, birds, lemurs, trees, geology and culture.

Do you know what these white flowers are?



Gotcha! They aren't flowers, but the larvae of the Flacid Leaf Bug. The insects live together in large groups, collectively creating the illusion of a plant in bloom. The mature planthoppers look like red leaves.



Madagascar's national parks are subject to strong pressures caused by charcoal production, slash and burn agriculture, logging, expansion of grazing, hunting and collecting forest by-products. Every dry



season, the park is also exposed to severe fires caused by humans. But the principal goals of the park are to enable local communities to learn about and directly benefit from conservation. The greatest support for the park comes from thirteen communes and fifty-eight large villages with a total of 56,000 inhabitants. Working with the park, the villagers fight against fire, both preventively and as emergency fire fighters. The money from park fees and non-government organizations funds micro-projects for the economic and social development of the region. For example, FEM, the Women Entrepreneurs of

Mahajanga, provides training in the weaving of raffia textiles. Ankarafantsika also serves as a water reservoir for the whole region of Marovoay, where many residents grow rice in the paddies you see everywhere.

So much was exotic in this park, it was a surprise to come across something familiar—a Monarch butterfly caterpillar on a milkweed plant! Of course, it is a different monarch species,

the African monarch (*Danaus chrysippus*) and a different milkweed (perhaps *Asclepias physocarpa*).

More next month, when I'll tell you about Madagascar succulents,



Raphia farinifera
(palm)



baobabs, and more.

Savings on Rooting Powder

Members George and Evelyn Segara have been experimenting with propagating various plants. They've had some luck using Hormex Rooting Powder and have ordered some in bulk. If you buy it in a store or online, it is pretty expensive, up to \$14 for just 3/4 of an ounce. George and Evelyn don't need all that they ordered for their personal use, so they are going to bring it to the next meeting. They are going to pass on the savings by only charging \$4 per ounce to us, and they are donating the proceeds for 8 ounces to the Club.

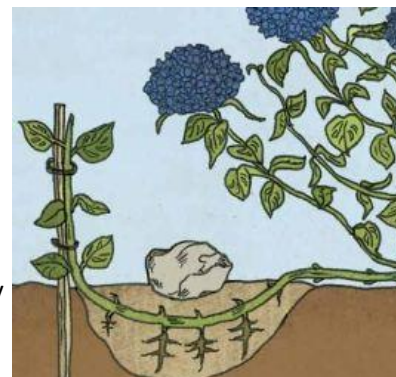
You can try this to grow plants fast from cuttings, including fruits and vegetables, with this "snip 'n' dip" powder, available in five strengths to ensure the perfect level of accelerated rooting. It is supposed to help prevent root rot as well. George ordered the 3 most popular strengths. Hormex #1 is for easy to root plant, #3 is for moderately easy to roots plants and #8 is for moderately difficult to root plants. If you are not sure about your plant, try #3. You can also look up plants on this chart: <https://hormex.com/plantlist>.

We'll have some containers available to dole out the powder to those who want to purchase some, but we may need more—something like dietary supplement bottles are nice, or empty prescription containers.



other Propagation Methods

There is another propagation method you might want to try for plants like hydrangeas, rhododendrons and lavenders: layering. Select a low, flexible stem almost parallel to the ground. Leave foliage on only the top 12 inches of the branch and strip off the rest. Scratch the bottom of the stem and dust with rooting hormone (optional). Bury the leafless section several inches deep, leaving the top 12 inches of stem above ground. Use a rock to keep the buried section from popping up and stake the portion above-ground so that it stands straight. After a year or so, give the branch a slight tug—if it resists, it's rooted. Snip the stem near the base of the mother plant. Then, to help prevent the rooted branch from going into shock, wait a few weeks before digging it up and transplanting.



A variation on this method, suggested by Singing Tree Gardens & Nursery, is to follow the same steps above but instead of putting the branchlet into the ground you thread it into a cut 1-gallon plastic pot and then fill the pot with a damp mixture of half perlite and half peat. Water well. In 6 months to one year your plant will be rooted in the pot and you can cut it off. When you see new growth in the spring, fertilize. Soon, after you can see the pot is full of roots you will be able to plant your new duplicate in the ground.



Propagating Rhododendrons from Cuttings

Saturday November 11, 2017 | 10am-12pm

Experts from the **American Rhododendron Society of Monterey Bay** will be here demonstrating how to create plants from cuttings.

This is a hands-on project! You will be able to create your own plants and take them home. Featured will be cutting material from the Maddenii Series and Vireya Series Rhododendron which thrive in our climate.

By the way, I have ordered plants from Singing Tree before, and I subscribe to their weekly newsletter. They are a small specialty plant nursery near McKinleyville, California. They have specials every week for 1-gal. and 3-gal. plants, and I drool over them but don't want to pay shipping. However, they have a fall special—free shipping on a \$149 order. Maybe someone would like to combine an order with me? They specialize in rhodies, azaleas, hydrangeas, dwarf conifers, trees, grasses, heathers and other unique shrubs and plants, with a really varied and unusual selection. Check them out at <https://www.singtree.com/plants>.

Cauliflower Rice Recipe

Debbie Kindle brought a delicious dish to our last Board meeting potluck, and many of us SWORE we were eating a tasty grain. But no, it was made out of cauliflower rice, which you can buy at Trader Joe's, or you can make your own with a grater or a food processor. Try this!

Cauliflower "Risotto"

2T oil

1 small onion, chopped

2 cloves garlic, chopped

1 tsp 21 salute seasoning

2 bags cauliflower rice

1 jar sun-dried tomatoes

4 cups arugula

2 cans cannellini beans

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup pine nuts

Cheese blend, to your liking

Sauté onions, garlic, and seasoning in oil. Add cauliflower, sun-dried tomatoes, and arugula. Top with cheese and pine nuts.

Serve and Enjoy!

Trader Joe's Canicola #64



November Board Meeting

Monday, November 27 at 6 PM

Join us at the home of Debbie Kindle, 3320 Putter Drive, Soquel, for a potluck dinner and a meeting to discuss Gardeners' Club business, plans, ideas and events. You don't have to be a Board Member to attend.

Coming Up

We still have T-shirts available—you can buy them at the next meeting.

It's time to renew memberships. Dues are \$15, and you can mail in the membership form on the next page, or pay your dues at the meeting.

Membership for a friend or family member makes a great holiday gift.



Speaking of holidays, December always brings our craziest event of the year, our White Elephant sale and potluck dinner. This is a heads up to start collecting and setting aside your white elephant treasures!



The Gardeners' Club Membership

The time has come for membership renewal. Annual membership dues, which include all benefits, are only \$15.00, due by January 1st. The membership year lasts through the end of December, 2017. Dues entitle members to all club educational programs, our special events, plant trades and our awesome monthly newsletter. The "green" option is to receive an electronic PDF **FULL-COLOR** version of the newsletter by checking the newsletter e-mail option below. And...with gift-giving season almost here, consider sharing your passion for gardening, and supporting our club, by giving your favorite gardening enthusiast an opportunity to connect,



share and learn with us. A gift membership is a gift nobody will want to return!

Ours is a club celebrating the joys of gardening, friendship, community, learning, nature and growth. We have a history of giving to the community, and have focused this giving in the last few years on scholarships for high school and

Cabrillo College students who are working towards careers in horticulture. Because our dues are so low and we'd like to be able to continue to give at least one additional scholarship, we are giving you the option of making an additional gift with your membership. Thank you!

Your Membership

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address _____ Email: _____

Newsletter Preference (check one): _____ Full color PDF via e-mail _____ Paper copy (B&W) via snail mail

Gift Membership

Name: _____ Phone: _____

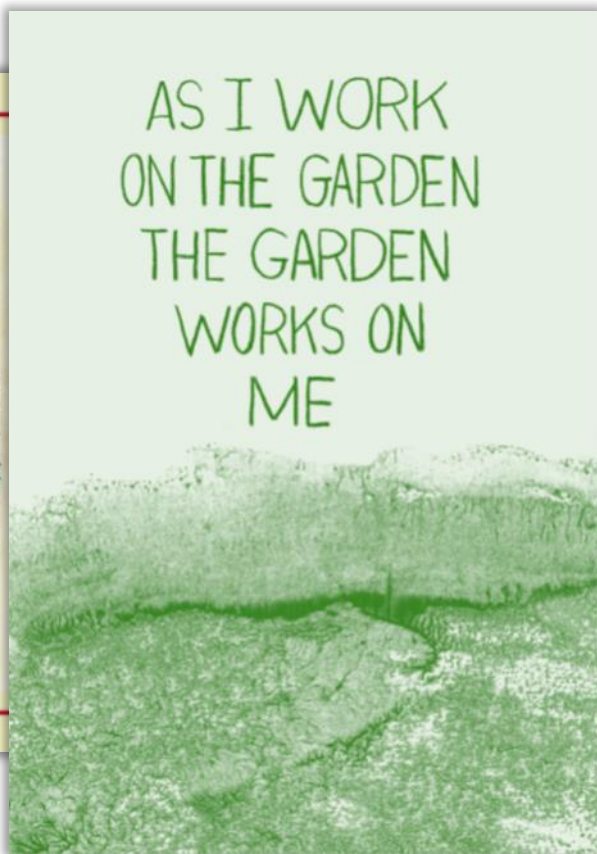
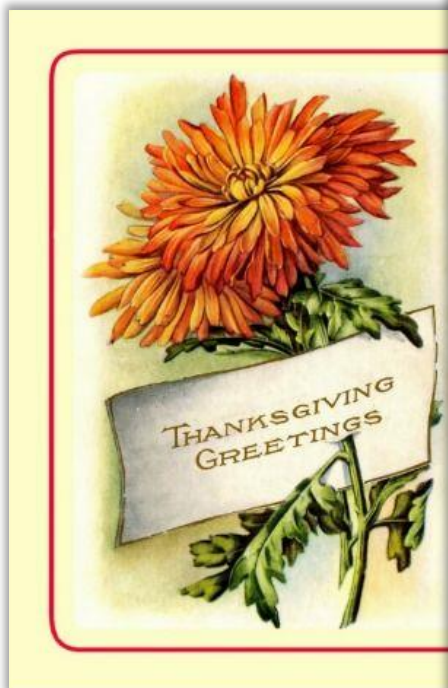
Address _____ Email: _____

Newsletter Preference (check one): _____ Full color PDF via e-mail _____ Paper copy (B&W) via snail mail

Enclose check for \$15 per member, plus any additional contribution to our scholarship fund, made out to *The Gardeners' Club*.

Mail to The Gardeners' Club
c/o Suzanne Caron, P.O. Box 3025, Ben Lomond CA 95005.

Membership amount	\$ _____
I would like to make an additional gift	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____



—Gayla Trail

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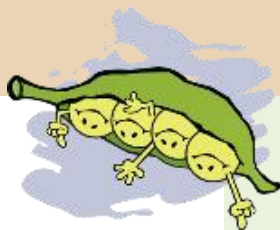
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It's easy-peasy to join our club!

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

Our front page logo is graciously shared with us by artist Lisa Zador. Order a print or see more of her